

# COMMUNITY FACTS MINDEN, NEBRASKA

[www.mindenne.org](http://www.mindenne.org)

MARCH 2005

## POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2003 Est.</u>
Minden	2,964	2,996*
Kearney County	6,882	6,862
Labor Market	154,994	155,691

\*2003 Minden population estimate provided by Minden Chamber of Commerce

Economic Development Department  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Columbus, Nebraska 68601  
[www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com)  
[sites.nppd.com](http://sites.nppd.com)

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## INTRODUCTION

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The following pages contain basic information about Minden, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Minden Chamber of Commerce and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

Additional and more detailed information about Minden may be obtained by contacting any of the following:

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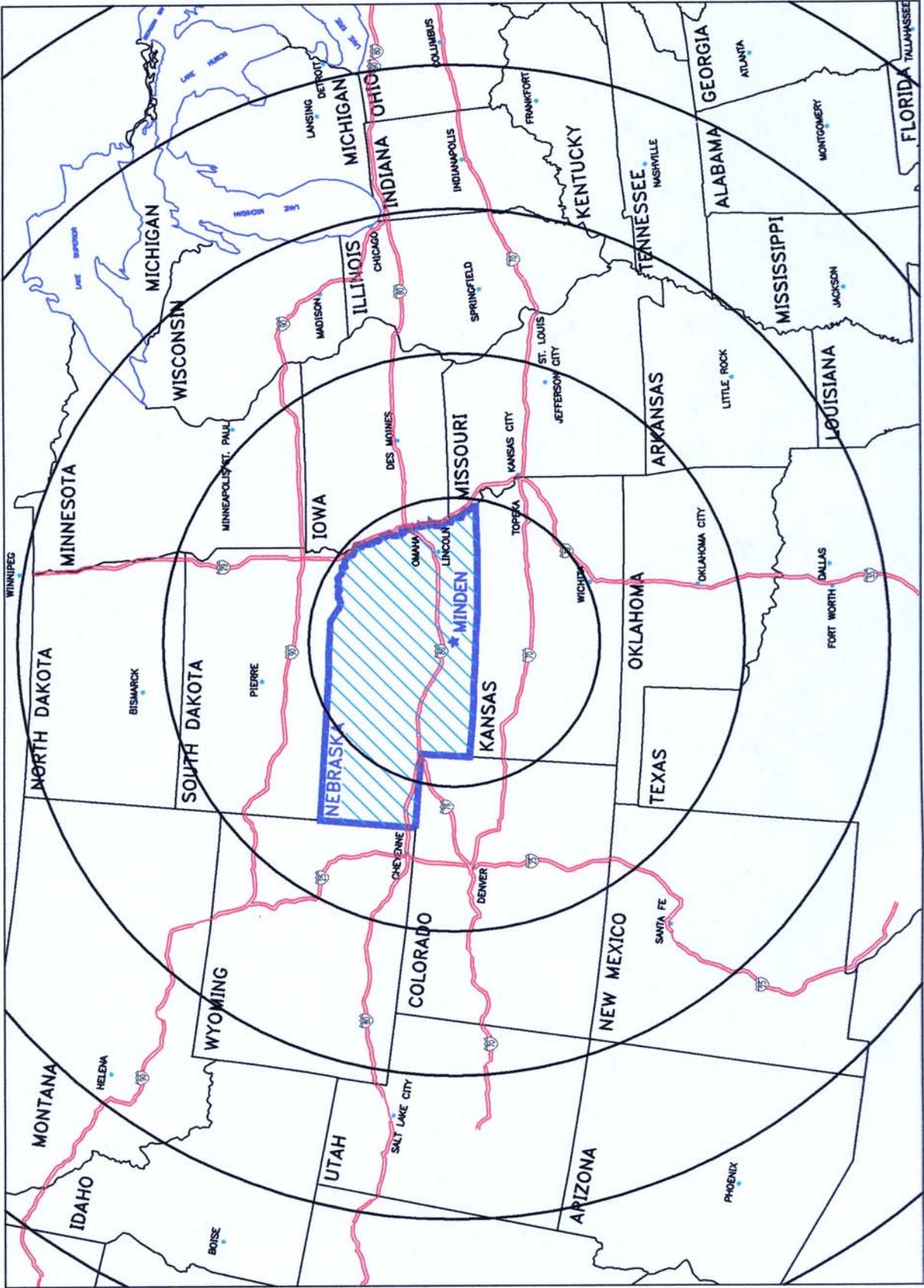
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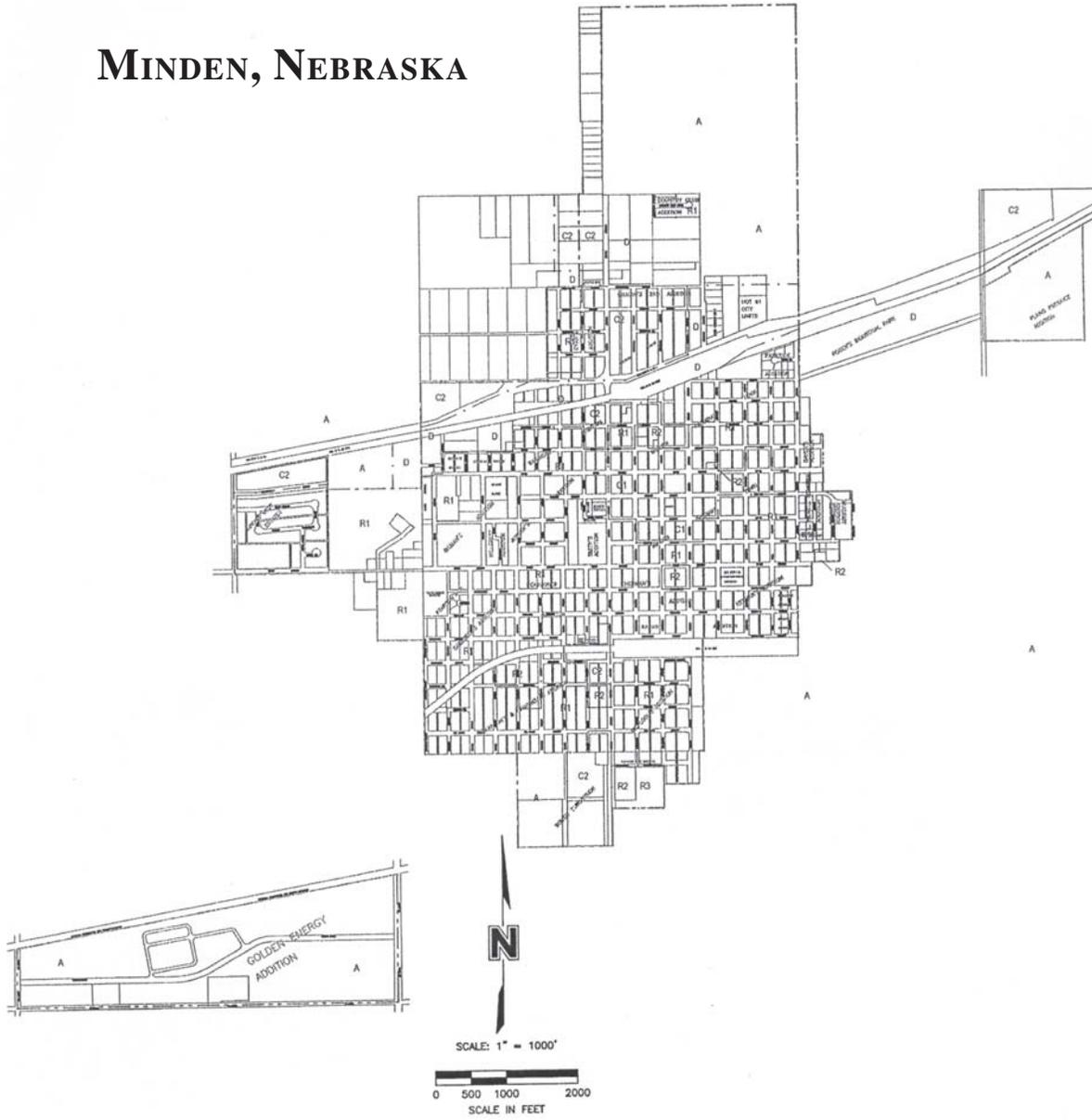
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SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

# MINDEN, NEBRASKA



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATION

Minden, the county seat of Kearney County, is located in south-central Nebraska on U.S. Highways 34 and 6 and State Highways 10 and 74. Minden is 55 miles southwest of Grand Island, 190 miles west of Omaha, and 378 miles east of Denver.

### POPULATION (U.S. Census)

Year	Minden	Kearney County
1970	2,669	6,707
1980	2,939	7,053
1990	2,749	6,629
2000	2,964	6,882
2003 (Est.)	2,996	6,862

The 2003 U.S. Census estimates 155,691 people live within Kearney County and the contiguous counties of Adams, Buffalo, Franklin, Hall, Harlan, Phelps, and Webster.

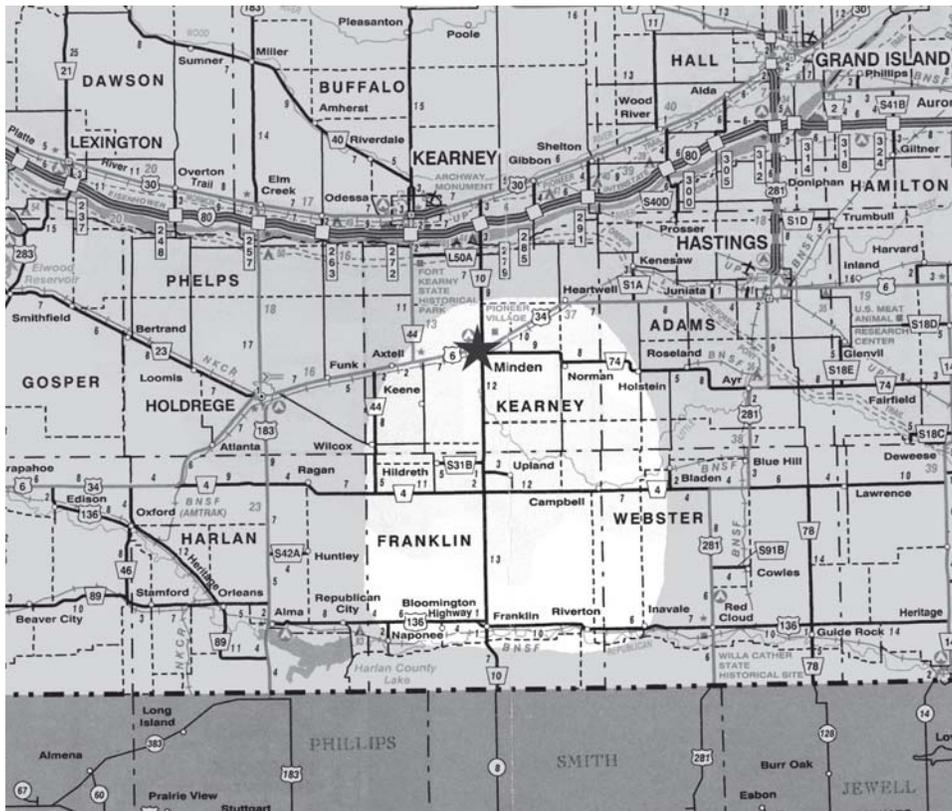
### County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2000 U.S. Census

One race	6,842
White	6,732
Black or African American	11
American Indian and Alaska Native	14
Asian	16
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1
Some other race	68
Two or more races	40
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	161

### LOCAL ECONOMY

Basic economic activities of Minden, a county seat town, include manufacturing, farming, cattle feeding, tourism, and wholesale and retail sales.

The primary retail trade area extends 4 miles north, 8 miles east, 29 miles south, and 10 miles west and contains approximately 8,740 people. Firms with



Primary Retail Trade Area

retail sales tax permits in the community reported net taxable sales of \$24,366,775 in 2003.

The 14 wholesale firms distribute automotive parts, chemicals, irrigation pipes, aircraft parts, cement products, fertilizer equipment, hydroponic tomatoes, aerospace equipment, and modular houses.

## **ELEVATION**

Minden is 2,174 feet above sea level.

## **TOPOGRAPHY**

The terrain is flat in the immediate area with ranges of small hills eight miles north and eleven miles south.

The soil is predominantly Holdrege silt loam. The thickness of the topsoil and subsoil is approximately 41 inches.

## **HISTORY**

The name “Minden” is linked with the name of Frederick Bredemeier who emigrated from Minden, Germany, to America in 1854. After spending twenty years in New Orleans, Louisiana, the Nebraska frontier beckoned; and Bredemeier, his brother August, and their families came to Nebraska and settled on homesteads just west of the present site of Minden. They were the first settlers in Hayes Township, Kearney County, in 1874.

In 1876 the people of Kearney County voted to remove the county seat from Lowell, Nebraska, to a site nearer the center of the county. Bredemeier’s home was designated as a post office for the settlement in 1877, and he chose the name

of his native city of Germany as the name of the newly founded post office in Nebraska.

The first building erected on the new site in 1877 was for school purposes. The second building, located on the northeast corner of the square and completed in 1878, was occupied by W. T. Thorn who had a general merchandise business. In 1878 the post office was moved from Bredemeier’s home to this location. Thorn became postmaster upon the resignation of Bredemeier.

Minden was organized as a village on February 12, 1883, with a population of 200. An important factor in Minden’s growth was the coming of the CB & Q Railroad in 1883. In March 1888 the community changed from a village to that of an incorporated second-class city.

This area was settled by citizens who came from the East in covered wagons or by rail to make their living from the fertile soil of Nebraska. Later Scandinavians and other northern Europeans settled in Minden and built a fine city and community.

Minden’s claim to the title of the “Christmas City” was launched in 1915 when colored lights were first used to decorate the courthouse square. Since that time, the lighting spectacle has been expanded to its present proportion, which features more than 12,000 lights in an extravaganza of Christmastime color adorning the courthouse dome and City Business Square.

The Harold Warp Pioneer Village was founded in 1953 by Harold Warp as a monument to the pioneer spirit of his parents who homesteaded near Minden in the 1870s. Internationally known, Pioneer Village, open year-round, has 26 buildings containing 50,000 historic items since 1830 chronologically displayed.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/ Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
			<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Burgess Well Company, Inc. 1953	Fiberglass pipe, plastic well casing, well screen & pump column pipe	International	7 3*	1	None
Fifth Street Printing 1983	Commercial printing	Local	1	1	None
Grayson Tool Company, Inc. 1965	Precision manual & CNC machining, custom fabrication & welding	International	18 3*	1	None
Heartland Pottery 1985	Pottery	International	1 2*	1	None
Hollman Foods 1993	Poultry, seasonings, jellies, popcorn, coffee, fudge & barbecue sauce	Regional	1 3*	1	None
KAAPA Ethanol LLC 2004	Ethanol	National	28	6	None
The Minden Courier 1890	Weekly newspaper & commercial printing	Local	3	2	None
Machine Technologies, Inc. 1971	Industrial equipment	Regional	3	0	None
Minden Lumber & Concrete Company 1965	Lumber & ready-mix concrete	Regional	13 1*	1	None
Minden Machine Shop 1984	Livestock & other equipment	National	19	1	None
Minden Printing Company 1992	Commercial printing	Regional	2	0	None
Nu Vu Farms 2001	Hydroponic tomatoes	International	15 1*	15	None

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

<b><u>Company/ Year Established</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Market</u></b>	<b>Employees</b>		<b><u>Union</u></b>
			<b><u>Male</u></b>	<b><u>Female</u></b>	
Royal Plastic Mfg., Inc. 1949	Advanced composites for aerospace & defense	International	42	23 6*	None
Sew What Embroidery 2001	Custom embroidery, apparel & vinyl lettering	Regional	0	2	None
Twin Diamond Industries, LLC 2003	Tillage equipment	Regional	3	0	None
Wardcraft Homes 1993	Modular housing	Regional	40	6	None

### **MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS** (employing 10 or more)

<b><u>Employer</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Activity</u></b>	<b>Employees</b>		<b><u>Union</u></b>
		<b><u>Male</u></b>	<b><u>Female</u></b>	
Bethany Home Inc.	Nursing care & assisted living	11	87 20*	None
City of Minden	Government	22	4 33*	None
Cargill AgHorizons	Grain, fertilizer & farm supplies	9	2 2*	None
Harold Warp Pioneer Village	Historical tourist attraction	38	44 52*	None
Heartland Co-Op	Grain, fertilizer & farm supplies	33	6 8*	None
Kearney County	Government	41	28 9*	None
Kearney County Health Services	Medical	15	125 57*	None
Minden Public Schools	Education	32	95	None
Minden Terminal, Inc.	Implement dealer & repairs	21	3 2*	None
Morton Buildings, Inc.	Building sales	13	1	None

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

**OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS** (employing 100 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<b>Axtell, 9 miles</b>				
Mosaic at Bethpage Village	Intermediate care facility	65	147	None
<b>Kearney, 20 miles</b>				
Baldwin Filters Mfg., Co.	Oil, air & fuel filters	417	316	None
Bob's Superstore	Grocery	18 39*	5 38*	None
The Buckle	Retail clothing	75	239	None
Builders How-To Warehouse	Building supplies	65 25*	15 15*	None
Cabela's Inc.	Catalog sales	28 103*	170 368*	None
Cash-Wa Distributing	Food distribution	176 9*	31 11*	None
Chief Industries, Inc. (Agri/Industrial Division)	Grain drying equipment, correctional equipment	130 3*	22	None
City of Kearney	Government	173 9*	38 18*	None
Coleman Powermate	Generators	226 1*	105 2*	None
County of Buffalo	Government	98 14*	80 11*	None
Eaton Corp.	Automotive valves & forged gears	520	180	None
Good Samaritan Health Systems	Medical		910 Total 468 Total*	None
Herberger's	Retail	7 18*	30 79*	None
Holiday Inn	Lodging/dining	33 46*	18 62*	None

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Kearney Clinic	Medical	19	101 34*	None
Kearney Event Center	Entertainment	7 51*	2 46*	None
Kearney Family YMCA	Health club/daycare	7 34*	15 96*	None
Kearney Public Schools	Education	116 57*	382 187*	KEA
Marshall Engine, Inc.	Rebuilt engines	152 1*	22 1*	None
Mid Nebraska Community Action	Community services	22 11*	52 33*	None
Morris Publishing Group	Cookbooks, printing	80 3*	130 18*	None
Nebraska Public Power District	Electric utility	81	19	None
Platte Valley Medical Group	Medical	15	77 24*	None
Platte Valley State Bank	Financial	28 3*	62 14*	None
St. John's Good Samaritan Center	Care home	8 1*	76 40*	None
University of Nebraska at Kearney	Education	328 259*	336 557*	NSEA
Wal-Mart	Retail, discount	171 69*	230 81*	None
West Company	Pharmaceutical stoppers & closures	143 1*	88	URW
Youth Rehabilitation & Treatment Center	Education	103 10*	38 10*	SCATA

\* Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
<b>Gibbon, 22 miles</b>				
Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative	Processed turkey	102	76	None
Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc.	Beef processing	390	96	None
<b>Holdrege, 23 miles</b>				
Agri Co-Op	Mixed grain, feed & fertilizer	97 29 *	15 5*	None
Allmand Brothers	Floodlighting units, heating units, & traffic control devices	113 8 *	24 3*	None
B D	Disposable medical supplies		590 Total 12 Total*	None
Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District	Electric utility	99 7*	13 1*	IBEW
Christian Homes, Inc.	Long-term care/retirement center	7	100 40*	None
City of Holdrege	Government	43 19*	14 26*	FOP, IBEW
Holdrege City Schools	Education	54	114 10*	NEA
Holdrege Memorial Homes, Inc.	Long term care/retirement center	6 4*	80 55*	None
Kayton Electric, Inc.	Electrical contractor	140	10	None
Phelps Memorial Health Center	Medical	23	123 45*	None
The Connection	Inbound call center		86 Total 36 Total*	None
<b>Hastings, 30 miles</b>				
Ag Processing	Soybean meal & oil		144 Total	None
Central Community College	Education		166 Total	None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
City of Hastings	Government	200 Total		None
ConAgra Food Company	Processed beef & pork, portion controlled & frozen cooked foods	550 Total		None
Dutton-Lainson Company	Boat trailer accessories, couplers, fuel filters, electric winches, fence stretchers, agriculture & industrial jacks	300 Total		None
Eaton Corporation	Automotive valves & forged gears	115 Total		None
FlowServe	Irrigation well vertical turbine pumps	150 Total		None
Good Samaritan Village	Health care	376 Total		None
Great Plains Packaging Co.	Corrugated paperboard shipping containers & displays	158 Total		None
Hastings College	Education	270 Total		None
Hastings Public Schools	Education	469 Total		NSEA
Hastings Regional Center	Health care	155 Total		None
Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital	Medical	800 Total		None
P.W. Eagle	PVC, polyethylene piping & tubing	115 Total		None
Sara Lee Baking Group	Breads	167 Total		None
T & L Irrigation	Center pivot & linear move irrigation systems	240 Total		None
Thermo King	Transport refrigeration units	294 Total		None

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Kearney County Joint Economic Development Agency works with the Minden, Axtell, and Wilcox Chambers of Commerce and the city of Minden for development in the county. The Kearney County Joint Economic Development Agency's

mission statement is to promote a spirit of unity and cooperation to foster growth and development in Kearney County. For more information visit [www.kearneycounty.net](http://www.kearneycounty.net).

Economic development projects announced in Minden during 2004 include the expansions of Twin Diamond Industries, LLC., a farm equipment manufacturer creating 10 to 15 additional jobs, and

Royal Plastic Manufacturing, Inc. providing aerospace and defense composites creating more than 20 new jobs.

The price of industrial land surrounding Minden ranges from \$1,750 to \$2,200 per acre.

### INDUSTRIAL SITE AVAILABLE

Click here to go to Nebraska Public Power District's [searchable sites and building database](#).



Burgess Well Company, Inc.



Grayson Tool Company



Heartland Co-Op Grain & Supply Company



Morton Buildings, Inc.



Royal Plastics Manufacturing, Inc.



Wardcraft Homes

# LABOR

## LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Minden labor market which is defined as the whole of Kearney County and the total labor market consisting of Kearney County and the contiguous counties of Adams, Buffalo, Franklin, Hall, Harlan, Phelps, and Webster (annual average, 2004).

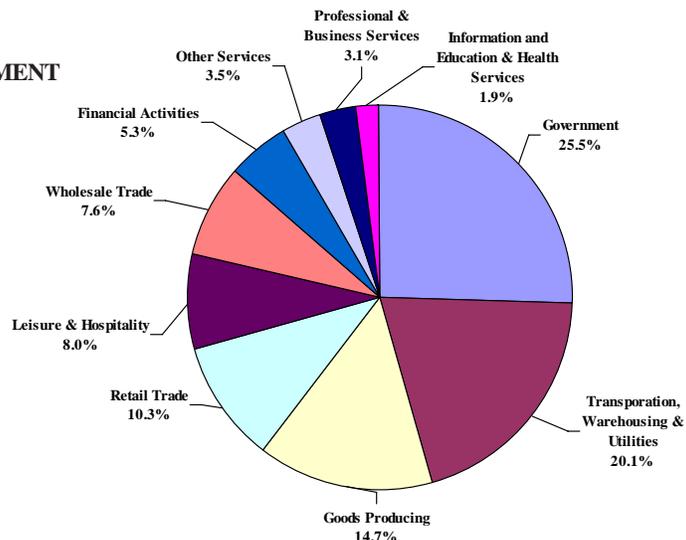
	<b>Kearney County</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)</u></b>		
Goods Producing (Manufacturing, Natural Resources, Mining & Construction)	292	17,853
Trade, Wholesale	151	(D)
Trade, Retail	205	(D)
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	400	18,364
Information	(D)	(D)
Financial Activities	105	3,599
Professional & Business Services	61	(D)
Education & Health Services	(D)	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	160	8,657
Other Services	69	3,170
Government	506	13,832
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>82,961</b>
Farm Employment*	690	5,795
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>3,997</b>	<b>90,848</b>
B. Commuting Out of County	1,755	
C. Unemployment	115	3,031
<b>TOTAL LABOR FORCE</b>	<b>4,112</b>	<b>93,880</b>
D. Estimated number of homemakers, seasonal and part-time workers, and workers who would shift from low-paying jobs who could be expected to work for industry	260	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	100	
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D &amp; E)</b>	<b>2,230</b>	

(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

\*Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2002

Minden is willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industry.

**NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
KEARNEY COUNTY  
ANNUAL AVERAGE, 2004**



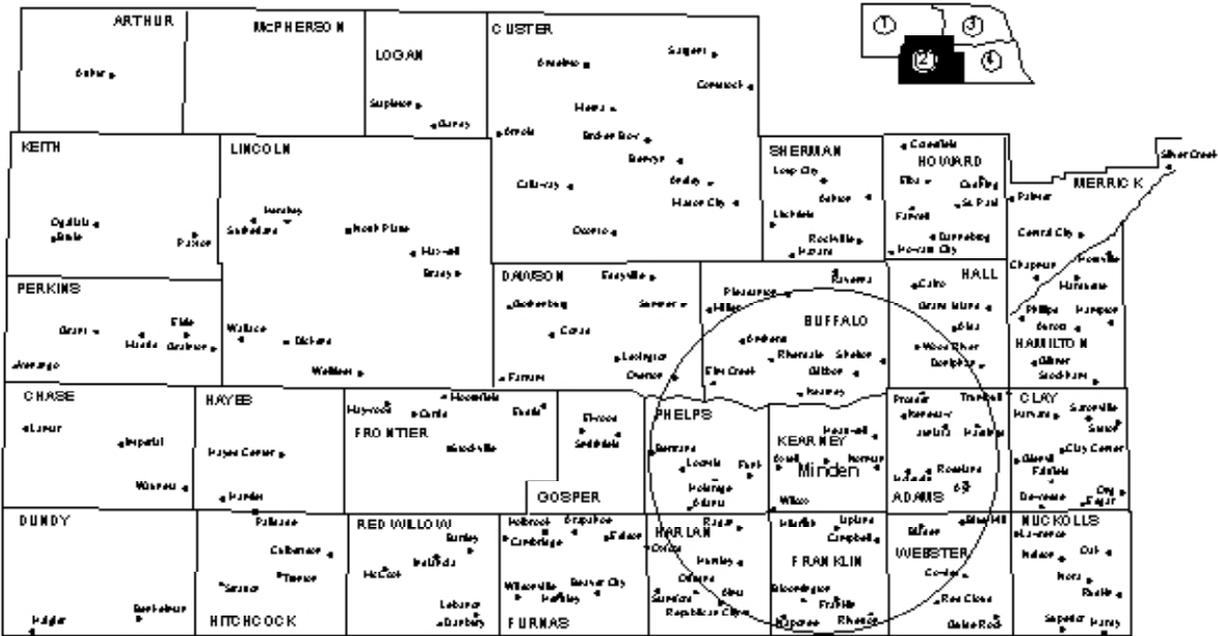
2000 POPULATION DATA

Location	Density/Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	Median Household Effective Buying Income (2003)
Kearney Co. Nebraska	13.3	16.7	38.7	88.5	16.5	\$35,590
U.S.	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$35,948
	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$38,201

Kearney County had 4,820 eligible voters in 2004; 65.4 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

SOURCE: U.S. Census, www.census.gov  
 Sales and Marketing Management, September 2004  
 Statewide General Election 2004 Results, www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004.htm

LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE MINDEN AREA



2003 Estimate	
City of Minden	— 2,996
Kearney County	— 6,882
30-Mile Radius	— 88,856

Kearney County Population by Age/Gender, 2003		
Ages	Male	Female
18-24	310	288
25-44	873	856
45-64	887	853

## UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right-to-work provision in its constitution. In 2000, 13.1 percent of Nebraska's manufacturing workers were members of labor unions, compared to a national figure of 14.8 percent. Union membership in Nebraska is concentrated in the railroad and packinghouse industries.

Labor organizations operating in Minden:

Company	Union
Kinder Morgan	Communications Workers of America
Qwest Communications	Communications Workers of America

Less than one percent of the total nonfarm labor force in Minden is unionized. There have been no strikes in recent years.

## WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Professional</b>			
Accountants & Auditors	13.28	22.01	44.11
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	19.00	27.68	39.01
Electrical Engineers	19.16	28.71	44.03
Industrial Engineers	15.56	22.07	36.27
Mechanical Engineers	20.19	27.45	37.57
Computer Programmers	10.67	18.85	25.92
Computer Systems Analysts	13.80	25.49	36.48
Registered Nurses	16.15	21.29	27.76
<b>Retail</b>			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.18	7.55	9.84
Retail Salespersons	5.88	8.05	15.38
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.12	9.04	18.25
Driver/Sales Workers	5.90	11.23	22.42
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.26	8.57	13.69
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	7.04	10.45	14.86
<b>Clerical</b>			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	7.46	10.70	15.45
Customer Service Representatives	7.43	9.80	14.10
Data Entry Keyers	7.16	8.69	10.86
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	6.89	9.99	14.11
Office Clerks, General	5.93	8.18	12.62
Receptionists & Information Clerks	6.81	8.74	12.54
Telemarketers	7.04	8.87	11.02

\*Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Unskilled</b>			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	6.44	9.46	12.58
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.24	8.20	11.72
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Others	7.33	9.20	14.08
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	7.43	9.57	12.02
<b>Semi-Skilled</b>			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.38	13.25	19.96
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.43	15.41	21.55
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	8.21	12.70	16.88
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	9.71	12.93	17.24
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	9.77	13.86	17.81
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.*	10.53	12.71	16.08
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.*	9.82	12.53	15.83
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	9.14	10.66	16.15
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	9.37	12.32	17.22
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.	10.26	14.22	17.15
<b>Skilled</b>			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	8.22	12.17	20.20
Electricians	12.03	16.40	22.26
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	14.45	16.32	21.71
Machinists	9.86	12.87	17.43
Tool & Die Makers	10.45	16.28	23.73
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	9.60	12.66	19.79
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters	10.37	16.17	19.76
<b>Technical</b>			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	12.05	24.62	38.90
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	15.77	20.80	26.12
Computer Operators	8.07	10.41	13.86

\*Wage information taken from Balance of the State (nonmetropolitan areas)

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Fourth Quarter 2004 wage estimates, All Industries, Central Region, [www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiwages/toc000.htm](http://www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiwages/toc000.htm)

Production workers are paid, for the most part, on a straight time basis rather than an incentive basis.

## FRINGE BENEFITS

Local industries estimate fringe benefits range up to 30 percent of wages including vacation; holidays; sick-leave; health, life, disability, dental, and vision insurance; retirement; and education reimbursement.



Minden Main Street



Minden Opera House



Mural in Minden Opera House

# TRANSPORTATION

## RAILROADS

Minden is served by a main line of the BNSF Railway Company with 14 freight trains daily. Minden has 1,200 inbound cars (excluding through cars) and 1,200 outbound cars annually. Switching is done by a local switch crew once a day.

Railroad mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Omaha	184
Chicago	657
Dallas	704
Denver	352
Detroit	977
Kansas City	330
Los Angeles	1,716
Minneapolis	572
St. Louis	623
San Francisco	1,750

Amtrak provides Holdrege, 23 miles west of Minden, with rail passenger service east to Chicago and west to Denver and San Francisco/Oakland. The Superliner features a lounge car, coach and first-class accommodations, dining car service, and checked baggage service from most cities. Travel time is 14 hours to Chicago and 40 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

## MOTOR

### Highways

Minden is located at the intersection of east-west U.S. Highways 34 and 6 and north-south State Highway 10. State Highway 74 runs southeast out of Minden. There are no local load restrictions. Interstate 80 is 12 miles north and Interstate 70 is 138 miles south of Minden.

Highway mileage to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	137
Omaha	190
Chicago	655
Dallas	630
Denver	378
Detroit	922
Kansas City	324
Los Angeles	1,392
Minneapolis	564
New York	1,429
St. Louis	579
San Francisco	1,507

### Trucklines

Interstate trucklines serving Minden:

Nearest Terminal/ Company	Trucks Daily
<b>Hastings</b>	
Consolidated Motor Freight	1
<b>Kearney</b>	
Beeline	1
Brown Transfer	1
Yellow Freight Systems	1
<b>Omaha</b>	
Saia	1

### Bus Line

The Senior Citizens Handi-bus serves senior citizens in the county. Pioneer Village Bus provides transportation for tourists from the airport to Harold Warp Pioneer Village Motel and downtown Minden during conventions.

The Dash-about Shuttle is available by appointment to county residents for transportation to Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Grand Island, and McCook.

Eppley Express provides transportation services from Kearney, Grand Island, Hastings, and York to Lincoln and Omaha. Denver Coach provides transportation services to Nebraska cities west of Kearney.

## AIR

The Pioneer Village Airport has a 3,900-foot lighted, concrete runway and a 2,175-foot turf runway. Facilities include hangars, tie downs, fuel, beacon, courtesy car, and maintenance. One of the 23 private planes hangared there is available for charter. The elevation at the airport is 2,159 feet, the latitude is 40°30'89"N, and the longitude is 98°56'76"W.

The nearest point of scheduled air service is at the Kearney Municipal Airport, located 23 miles (30 minutes) northwest of Minden. Passenger, air freight, and air express services are provided. Nonstop air service is available to Denver International Airport. Public ground transportation is available via rental cars, motel shuttles, and taxi.

Airline serving Kearney:

<b>Airline</b>	<b>Flights Daily</b>	<b>Type of Aircraft</b>
Great Lakes Aviation	4	Beech 1900D

Runway identification:

<b>Number</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Surface</b>	<b>Lighted</b>
18/36	7,100'	asphalt	high intensity
13/31	4,500'	concrete	med. intensity

Facilities at the Kearney Municipal Airport include a pilot's lounge, aircraft maintenance and repair, refueling, pilot training, charter, air ambulance, agriculture crop spraying, hangar storage, tie down, and other services. Four of the 64 private planes hangared at the airport are available for charter. The elevation at the airport is 2,131 feet, the latitude is 40°43'29"N and the longitude is 99°00'19"W.

Car rental and free Internet access are available in the terminal. Terminal hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## WATER

Minden has no nearby water transportation.

## UTILITIES

### ELECTRICITY

The Minden Water and Light Department operates a municipally owned 4.16 kV distribution system. The city, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD), takes 34,500 volt power from the 115 substation located northeast of Minden. The city distribution system includes two substations with a total capacity of 14,811 kVA. The substation is connected to the statewide grid system by means of 115,000 volt transmission lines and can be fed from two directions. The distribution system is operated and maintained by NPPD under an agreement with the city of Minden.

In 2000, a 5,000 kVA substation was built adjacent to the original substation and integrated into the city's SCADA monitoring system.

#### ELECTRIC RATES – CITY OF MINDEN (effective 2/1/03)

##### Residential:

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$10.00 per month	
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>
\$0.0991	\$0.0879
per kWh for the first 250 kWh used per month	
.0881	.0650
per kWh for the next 500 kWh used per month	
.0754	.0404
per kWh for all additional use	
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge	

##### Commercial:

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$11.75 per month	
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>
\$0.1043	\$0.1067
per kWh for the first 500 kWh used per month	
.0846	.0846
per kWh for the next 2,500 kWh used per month	
.0846	.0667
per kWh for all additional use	
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge	

#### Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh
100	30,000	8.00¢
100	36,000	7.97¢
300	90,000	7.91¢
300	150,000	7.89¢
500	150,000	7.89¢
500	180,000	7.89¢

#### Large Light & Power Service:

<b>Demand Charge:</b> \$9.84 per kW
Plus an Energy Charge of \$0.0293 per kWh used per month
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Demand charge, but not less than \$200.00 per month

#### Sample Cost per kWh:

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh
150	30,000	7.85¢
150	100,000	4.41¢
500	100,000	7.85¢
500	300,000	4.57¢
1,000	200,000	7.85¢
1,000	650,000	4.44¢

All rates are subject to application of the Production Cost Adjustment.

Prospective customers should contact Brent Lewis, Minden city administrator, (308) 832-1820, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

The Southern Nebraska Rural Public Power District, a wholesale power customer of Nebraska Public Power District, serves the rural area surrounding Minden. For information regarding electrical services in the Southern Nebraska Rural Public Power District service area, contact Gary Hedman, manager, Grand Island, Nebraska, (308) 384-2350, or visit [www.southernppd.com](http://www.southernppd.com).

## NATURAL GAS

Natural gas is supplied to the community of Minden by Kinder Morgan, through a 12-inch transmission pipeline with an operating pressure of approximately 800–900 pounds of pressure.

Kinder Morgan is also the distributor of natural gas within the community, serving approximately 1,329 residential, commercial, and industrial customers.

Natural gas is available for residential and commercial uses. Availability of natural gas for industrial uses is subject to individual situations. As specific requirements of an industrial prospect become available, information on gas service availability and applicable rates can be obtained from Kinder Morgan's Service Center, (800) 563-0012.

## OTHER FUELS

### LP Gas

LP gas is available from the Farmers Union Oil Company in Minden for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

### Oil

Oil is available from Farmers Union Oil Company and Kimple Oil Company, Inc. for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

## WATER

The municipal water system in Minden is supplied by four wells, which have an average depth of 190 feet. The system, serving 100 percent of the city's population, has a combined pumping capacity of 3,400 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 750,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 639,400 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 1,850,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 5,646,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 45 pounds.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 130-foot well will produce 1,000 gallons of water

per minute. The filtration water treatment plant has a capacity of 2,880,000 gallons. There have been no significant changes in the water table during the past five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 248. The average tap water temperature varies from 54° in winter to 58° in summer.

### Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	8
Calcium	8.5
Total Solids	342
Magnesium	0.0
Iron	<0.1
Nitrate	LTM OL
Manganese	.05
Chloride	10
Fluoride	0.4
Sulfate	71
Total Alkalinity	220
Sodium	31
Total Hardness	248
Potassium	11

Repairs to the plant's chemical feed and sand filter systems (\$650,000) and a new storage tank and related water transmission facilities (\$1,485,000) were completed in 2000. The projects were funded by bonds.

### WATER RATES (effective 3/1/00)

#### Residential, Commercial & Industrial:

\$17.00 for the first 500 cu. ft. .71 per 100 cu. ft. for all additional use <b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$17.00 per month
---

## SEWERAGE

Minden has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The Smith & Loveless oxigest treatment plant, built in 1971, has a daily capacity of 1,600,000 gallons. The average daily flow is 250,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily discharge is 500,000 gallons.

A new lift station was installed in 2002 at a cost of \$80,000 and funded by revenue bonds. The city

of Minden is also planning to install a trunk line that will serve 60 resident units, two current businesses, and four future businesses.

**SEWER-USE CHARGES** (effective 3/1/00)

**Residential:**

\$13.00 for first 500 cu. ft.  
.25 per 100 cu. ft. for all additional use  
**Minimum Bill:** \$13.00 per month  
**Maximum Bill:** \$16.75 per month

**Commercial:**

\$13.00 for first 500 cu. ft.  
.25 per 100 cu. ft. for over 500 cu. ft.  
**Minimum Bill:** \$13.00 per month

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

Municipally owned waste removal services are available in Minden. The disposal site, 26 miles west of Minden, is owned by the city of Holdrege, and has an estimated life of 20 years.

**SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES** (effective 8/17/98)

**Residential, Commercial & Industrial:**

\$11.50 per month for one collection per week  
\$ 6.00 fee for an extra pickup

**RECYCLING**

The city of Minden operates a curbside recycling program for residential customers. In 2004 the recycling center expanded to a new 10,500 foot building and has one horizontal and two vertical balers. A portion of this project was funded by a Waste Reduction Grant from the Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ). Materials accepted include cardboard, tin, phone books, magazines, aluminum, #1 and #2 plastics, newsprint, and high grade paper. Business, commercial, and industrial customers' recyclables are collected on a predetermined schedule or on an on-call basis. The city also operates a drop-off site for used motor oil.



Minden City Hall & Fire Hall



Minden Country Club Golf Course



Augie Nelson Ball Park



Football & Track Field

## COMMUNICATIONS

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunication services are provided in the Minden area by Qwest Communications and Pinpoint Communications, both with digital central offices served by fiber. Installation and maintenance personnel are located in Minden. For more information regarding rates and service call Qwest at (800) 244-1111 for residential or (800) 777-9594 for business or visit [www.quest.com](http://www.quest.com). For information on service from Pinpoint, call (800) 793-2788.

#### Tariffed Rates:

##### PINPOINT

Resident Line	\$17.50
Commerical Line	\$27.50

### INTERNET

Local Internet access is provided by Alltel at First National Bank, Minden Charter Communications in Kearney, Pinpoint Communications in Cambridge, Axtelltech in Axtell, and Glenwood Telephone Membership Corporation in Blue Hill.

### POST OFFICE

The post office in Minden provides house-to-house delivery and has one mail receipt and one mail dispatch daily. Postal receipts for the last five fiscal years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Receipts</u>
2003	\$497,511
2002	\$476,027
2001	\$464,762
2000	\$478,314
1999	\$454,000

### PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

United States Postal Service provides package delivery in Minden. United Parcel Service provides one pickup point. FedEx provides pick-up service

upon request. Overnight express service availability:

	UPS	U.S. Postal Service
<b>Latest Pick-up Time</b>	3:00 p.m.	4:00 p.m.
<b>Earliest Delivery</b>	9:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.
<b>Next Day Delivery Guarantee</b>	10:30 a.m.	4:00 p.m.
<b>Saturday Delivery Guarantee</b>	12:00 p.m.	10:00 a.m.

### NEWSPAPER

The Minden Courier, with 2,500 subscribers, is the local weekly newspaper. Daily papers delivered locally are the Hastings Tribune, Kearney Hub, Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star, and Holdrege Citizen.

### RADIO

Radio stations which carry local news include:

Location/ Call Letters	Frequency
<b>Hastings</b>	
KHAS	1230 KHz
KICS	1550 KHz
<b>Holdrege</b>	
KUVR	97.7 MHz
KUVR	1380 KHz
<b>Lexington</b>	
KRVN	1010 KHz
<b>Kearney</b>	
KGFW	1340 KHz
KGFW	105.9 MHz
KRNY	1460 KHz
KRNY	102.3 MHz
KQKY	106 KHz
KKPR	98.9 MHz

# TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news include:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KHAS	5	Hastings
KHGI	13	Kearney
KGIN	11	Grand Island
KTVG	17	Grand Island
KLNE	3	Lexington

Charter Communications of Kearney provides cable television viewing on 44 basic, 17 extended basic, and 3 premium channels. Satellite television systems are provided by Dish Network.



Municipal Pool at JC Park



Minden Outdoor Classroom

## TAX STRUCTURE

### VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – CITY OF MINDEN

All real property is subject to be appraised at actual value. Agricultural land is valued at 80 percent of its actual value. Personal property that is used in a trade or business and is depreciable is subject to tax at its “net book value.” All other personal property is exempt from taxation.

	Actual Valuation		
	2002	2003	2004
Real Estate	\$556,428,740	\$567,586,150	\$596,774,490
Personal Property	37,618,641	37,834,516	67,658,932
Special (railroad & utilities)	16,125,497	20,117,483	17,388,705
TOTAL	\$610,172,878	\$625,538,149	\$681,822,127

### TAX RATE (dollars and cents per \$100 of actual value)

	2002	2003	2004
City	\$0.363639	\$ 0.427992	\$0.357125
County	.329577	.330675	0.335601
School District	1.140488	1.172325	1.160028
Community College	.070000	.079063	0.082411
Educational Service Unit	.018203	.018173	0.017981
Natural Resources District	.027917	.026354	0.025770
Agricultural Society	.006883	.006714	0.006160
Airport	.038955	.039756	----
TOTAL	\$1.995662	\$2.101052	\$1.985076

The tax rate at the industrial site outside the city limits is \$1.660523 per \$100 of actual value.

### CITY SALES TAX

A one percent city sales tax is imposed in Minden.

### LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

City—Revenue & Refunding Bonds	\$4,450,000
City—General Obligation Bonds	None
County	\$905,000
School District	\$2,600,000

## CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 6/09/04	Interest Rate	Date Due
<b>Revenue Bonds</b>					
Combined Utilities	5/25/04	\$4,450,000	\$4,450,000	4.02%	7/15/19

## COUNTY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 6/09/04	Interest Rate	Date Due
General Obligation Bonds	8/01/02	\$1,015,000	\$905,000	2.0–4.9 %	8/01/17

## SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 6/09/04	Interest Rate	Date Due
Building Bonds (Refunded)	6/15/99	\$4,085,000	\$2,600,000	4–5%	12/15/14



Kearney County Courthouse in Minden

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Kearney County has 14 townships and is governed by a seven-member board of supervisors, each elected by popular vote for a four-year term. The next election will be held in 2006. The 2004–05 actual budget is \$13,449,184. County zoning classifications are:

- Agriculture
- Commercial
- Residential

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Minden, a second-class city, has a mayor-council form of government with a city administrator. The 2004–05 budget is \$8,552,116. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected</b>	
Mayor	4 years
Council Members (4)	4 years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Clerk/Treasurer	Indefinite
City Administrator	5 years

### FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided in the community by a 35-member volunteer fire department. Fire protection is also provided outside the city limits by an agreement between the city of Minden and the Rural Fire Protection District.

There are 178 fire hydrants in Minden. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate limits is 5; outside it is 7. Average annual expenditures for fire protection in the city during the last three years were \$65,000.

Equipment in the fire department:

Year/Make	Description
<b>City</b>	
1986 Ford	Pumper/750 gal.
<b>Rural</b>	
1996 Ford	Grass rig/350 gal.
1995 Pierce	Pumper/1000 gal.
1986 GMC	Grass rig/300 gal.
1974 International	Tanker/6500 gal.
<b>Rural/City</b>	
1999 Ford	Ambulance
1982 Ford	Ambulance
1994 International	Equipment truck
1995 Chevy Suburban	Command vehicle

Fire losses for the past five years have been:

Year	Amount
2003	\$50,000
2002	\$45,000
2001	\$65,000
2000	\$50,000
1999	\$90,000

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Police Department

Minden employs five full-time police officers and a full-time secretary. Equipment in the department includes five cruisers, two in-car videos, four rifles, three shot guns, four computers, fax machine, copy machine, and a mobile communication/command post. Annual expenditures for police protection during the last three years averaged \$271,000.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in Kearney County in 2002 was 24.4 compared to a state crime rate of 42.6 and a national rate of 41.2.

#### Sheriff's Department

The Kearney County Sheriff's Department is staffed by seven sworn officers and a secretary and has seven radio-equipped patrol cars and investigative equipment. Routine patrol is provided

to existing industries by the police and sheriff's departments. The sheriff's department supports the E911 system.

### **State Patrol**

Troop C of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered at Grand Island. Two patrol officers are stationed in Minden.

### **STREETS**

Minden has 30 miles of streets, 25 miles of which are hard-surfaced with concrete or asphalt. There are no local load restrictions. Eighty percent of the streets have curbs and sidewalks.

Street maintenance equipment in Minden includes a street sweeper, maintainer, two front-end loaders, two pickups, two dump trucks with snow plows, sand spreader, four tractors and mowers, skid loader, one 1-ton truck, and one chipper.

Improvement plans for the next five years include changing the driving surfaces to six-inch asphaltic concrete at an estimated cost of \$500,000 to be funded through warrants paid off with sales tax revenues.

## **BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS**

The Uniform Building Code and Uniform Plumbing Code are enforced within the city. Local zoning classifications are:

- A      Agriculture
- R1     Residential District 1
- R2     Residential District 2
- R3     Residential District 3
- C      Central Commercial
- C2     Outlying Commercial
- D      Industrial

The city planning and zoning commission is reviewing the current zoning classifications and plans to revise a portion of the codes.

### **PLANNING**

Minden has a nine-member planning commission. Each member serves a three-year term, with three members being appointed each year by the Mayor and City Council.

A new Comprehensive Plan for Minden was prepared by Hanna:Keelan & Associates, P.C., of Lincoln in 2001.



Minden Volunteer Fire Department

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### Minden School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary	16	226	1 to 14	1 to 4
Middle School	20	333	1 to 14	1 to 4
High School	20	260	1 to 14	1 to 4

School District 503 in Kearney County covers approximately 500 square miles and has a 2003–2004 actual valuation of \$433,826,000. This Class 3 district is accredited by North Central Association.

The 2003–04 school operating expenses totaled \$5,336,139, with an average cost per pupil of \$6,500. The actual valuation per pupil was \$532,000.

#### Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Grade Iowa Test of Basic Skills	98	73%
ACT	80	21.8

It is estimated that 98 percent of the eighth grade students finish high school, 88 percent of the 2004 graduating seniors pursued a college degree, 11 percent enter the job market upon graduation, and 1 percent join the military.

The elementary school has a maximum capacity of 250. The middle school was built in 1958 and has a maximum capacity of 600. The high school was built in 1936 and has a maximum capacity of 400. Internet access is available in all schools.

Vocational courses offered at the high school include consumer education, business education, industrial woods, and industrial technology.

A school-to-work program is available to high school students. Adult education classes are available in the high school in conjunction with Central Community College, Hastings Campus.

A distance learning program began in the 1999–00 school year. The University of Nebraska at Kearney and Central Community College provide courses at the distance learning facility located at the high school media center. High school classes are also available from the distance learning lab, equipped with an all digital system and wireless technology. Introduction to Internet is available in the evening.

The school district owns and operates special facilities for the trainable handicapped, plus full educational programs for other special education students. For the 2004–05 school year, Minden began operating its own preschool, located next to C.L. Jones Middle School.

The Minden Public School District opened the Bioregional Learning Center in 2000. This outdoor classroom site includes a six-acre nature center and three acres of recreational fields. Special features of the nature center include a one-half acre pond, a one-acre midgrass prairie restoration, formal and informal gardens, wildflowers, wildlife habitats and plantings, learning centers created by and for students of all ages, and an arboretum containing more than fifty varieties of trees and shrubs. Paved walkways and a handicapped accessible deck and bridges allow full access to all areas of the nature center.

#### Educational Service Unit

The school district is an active participant in the Educational Service Unit #11, which is headquartered in Holdrege and serves 17 school districts. Services available include special education services, co-op purchasing, Internet access, library, management and staff

development programs, special education programs, and gifted education programs.

### Community College

Minden is part of the Central Community College, [www.cccneb.edu](http://www.cccneb.edu), which encompasses a 25 county area. The college is governed by an 11-member Board of Governors elected by the citizens of the area served. Administrative offices are located in Grand Island with full-service campuses in Hastings, Columbus, and Grand Island and off-campus centers in Holdrege, Lexington, and Kearney. Classes are available through extended learning programs in approximately 80 communities within the college's service area. During the 2003–04 academic year, 25,750 students were enrolled in Central Community College courses, with approximately 7,700 participating in off-campus programs.

The Learning Center in Minden provides students with an opportunity to take college credit courses on an individualized basis. The students work on courses independently, using course material from the campus. The Learning Center manager helps students as they work through the courses and the manager serves as a contact with the campus faculty.

### Certificate, Diploma, and Degree Programs

Coursework in nearly all major areas of study is available, including more than 100 vocational-technical and academic transfer college credit courses. Classes are available through various delivery methods, including:

–**Independent Study:** allows students to work on college credit classes at their own pace, using course materials from the campuses. The staff serve as a contact between the student and campus faculty and administration.

–**Distance Learning:** uses several state-of-the-art teaching technologies, including video conferencing, satellite broadcasts, and Internet to deliver college credit courses.

–**Adult Basic Education Program:** This program is offered by Central Community College in cooperation with the Nebraska Department of

Education and the federal government. The program is designed to provide the opportunity to gain basic education skills at no cost to the student. The program has four major components:

–**Adult Basic Education** for those with less than an eighth grade education.

–**English as a Second Language** for non-English speaking persons wishing to speak, read, and write English.

–**High School Completion** (General Educational Development (GED)) for those with less than a high school diploma.

–**Living Skills** for adults wishing to improve their basic life skills in consumer economics, health, community resources, government and law, and occupational knowledge.

**Community Education Program:** Avocational/recreational courses are offered to provide students an opportunity to explore and develop skills for personal interest, leisure, and recreational activities.

**Business and Professional Training:** Central Community College is a primary source of training and education for business, industry, agricultural associations, civic groups, governmental agencies, and other organizations within its 25-county service area. College staff provide expertise in their fields of study to develop and coordinate specially-tailored short courses, workshops, and seminars to meet specific training needs.

Central Community College works with area industries, retail establishments, and other agencies and organizations in planning in-service and/or in-plant training programs.

### Graduate Report 2003–04

<u>Program</u>	<u>Number of Graduates</u>
Accounting	26
Academic Transfer	85
Agriculture Occupations	18
Art, Commercial	7
Associate Degree in Nursing	39
Auto Body Technology	35
Automotive Technology	24



Minden East Elementary School



C. L. Jones Middle School



Minden High School



Kearney County Health Services



Bethany Home



Jensen Memorial Library

<b><u>Program</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Graduates</u></b>
Business Administration	62
Commercial Horticulture	11
Construction Technology	53
Criminal Justice	10
Dental Assisting	21
Dental Hygiene	15
Diesel Technology	12
Drafting Occupations	37
Electrical Technology	20
Electronics Technology	11
Family and Consumer Science	42
Health Care Administration	1
Health Information Management Services	32
Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration	15
Hospitality Management & Culinary Arts	11
Human Services	20
Industrial Technology	45
Information Technology	53
Machine Tool Technology	20
Media Arts	18
Medical Assisting	6
Office Technology	36
Paralegal Studies	18
Parts Sales and Management	7
Practical Nursing	91
Quality Control	22
Welding Technology	13

### **Colleges and Universities**

Excellence in classroom teaching is the University of Nebraska at Kearney's (UNK), [www.unk.edu](http://www.unk.edu), core mission. More than 300 faculty members are dedicated to providing intellectual challenges in a nurturing environment. Its personalized approach, academic support, and affordability combine to make UNK's programs accessible and very attractive to students from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Because careers of the future revolve around technology, UNK is preparing students by integrating the latest technology into its curriculum and everyday life.

UNK offers practical programs preparing students to enter the workforce immediately or as preprofessional courses of study. The university's emphasis is on high quality undergraduate teaching and selected graduate programs in liberal arts, business, technology, and education.

Founded in 1903 as the Nebraska State Normal School at Kearney, the institution has grown from 96 students its first year to nearly 6,500 today. The Normal School became Nebraska State Teacher's College in 1921 and then Kearney State College in 1963, when its mission broadened to include a more diverse curriculum. Through an act of the state legislature, Kearney State College became the University of Nebraska at Kearney on July 1, 1991.

Today's student population comes from all 93 Nebraska counties, 40 states, and 50 foreign countries. Eighty undergraduate degree programs are offered through the colleges of business and technology, education, natural and social sciences, and fine arts and humanities. More than 1,000 undergraduate degrees are awarded annually. Twenty-one preprofessional and two specialist degree programs are also offered. UNK conducts an aggressive outreach program in western and rural parts of Nebraska, with classes offered in McCook, North Platte, Grand Island, Broken Bow, Holdrege, Lexington, Hastings, Columbus, Aurora, Scottsbluff, and others.

UNK varsity men's and women's athletic teams compete as members of the NCAA Division II in

<b>Enrollment &amp; Degrees Conferred by Department, 2003-2004 Academic Year</b>			
<b>Department</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Degrees</b>	
		<b>Baccalaureate</b>	<b>Masters/Specialist</b>
Business & Technology	1,388	327	17
Education	1,723	265	168
Fine Arts & Humanities	824	173	13
Natural & Social Sciences	1,838	242	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,382</b>	<b>1,007</b>	<b>205</b>

16 sports within the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC). For eight consecutive years UNK has won the RMAC trophy.

The Calvin T. Ryan Library at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, primarily serving the students, faculty, and staff of the University, is also open to the general public. The library offers free access to a wide array of computer and Internet-based resources. Collections include more than 300,000 volumes along with depository collections of U.S. and Nebraska documents, a curriculum/nonbook collection containing resources supporting UNK's teacher preparation program, plus the UNK Archives.

### Other Schools

Colleges, universities, and community colleges frequently attended by Minden High School graduates include:

College or University	Mileage
<b>Kearney</b> University of Nebraska at Kearney	23
<b>Hastings</b> Hastings College Central Community College, Hastings Campus	32
<b>Grand Island</b> College Park Central Community College, Grand Island Campus Grand Island College	55
<b>York</b> York College	90
<b>McCook</b> Mid Plains Community College, McCook Campus	96
<b>Crete</b> Doane College	105
<b>Milford</b> Southeast Community College, Milford Campus	119
<b>Lincoln</b> University of Nebraska-Lincoln	136
<b>Omaha</b> University of Nebraska at Omaha	190

## CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Baptist	1
Catholic	1
Christian	1
Evangelical Free	1
Lutheran, American	1
Lutheran, Missouri Synod	1
Lutheran, Wisconsin Synod	1
Methodist	1
Presbyterian	1

## MEDICAL

### Hospital

**Kearney County Health Services (KCHS)**, [www.kchs.org](http://www.kchs.org), provides for the healthcare needs of Kearney County and the surrounding communities. Its facilities consist of a 25-bed critical access hospital, a state of the art medical clinic, a 34-bed nursing home, and a 17-room assisted living facility, all on a shared campus. KCHS offers a 24-hour emergency room, an intensive care unit, surgery and obstetrical suites, in-house laboratory, radiology, skilled swing bed, and outpatient services. Rehabilitation services include physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and restorative care. KCHS is Medicare and Medicaid certified.

### Clinics

The **Minden Medical Clinic**, [www.kchs.org](http://www.kchs.org), is a certified rural health facility providing primary healthcare services for the residents of Kearney County and the surrounding communities. This state-of-the-art facility was built in 2003 on the shared campus of the hospital, nursing home, and assisted living facility. It accommodates eight modern medical exam rooms, an outpatient procedure suite, and physician offices. Specialty clinics are available in cardiology, orthopedics, nephrology, urology, podiatry and obstetrics.

### Rescue Squad

Twenty-two certified Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT-AD) respond to emergency

calls in the community. The two ambulances, owned by the city and the fire department, are fully equipped and approved by the state.

## NURSING HOMES

**Bethany Home**, a nonprofit facility licensed by the state of Nebraska, was founded in 1920 and has undergone several additions and renovations. The nursing facility has 53 nursing facility beds that are certified for Medicaid and 24-hour professional nursing services. The facility offers full services including physical therapy, speech therapy, restorative nursing services, social services, organized activities, and a meals on wheels program. Bethany Home has a beautiful chapel and many congregate areas for gathering and visits.

**KCHS Long Term Care**, [www.kchs.org](http://www.kchs.org), is a 34-bed Medicaid certified facility sharing a campus with the hospital, medical clinic, and assisted living facilities. The facility provides 24-hour professional nursing services; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; restorative care; social services; and organized activities. Located right down the hall are 24-hour Emergency Services and Telemedicine.

## LIBRARY

The Jensen Memorial Library contains more than 30,000 volumes and has an average annual circulation of 41,339. Library activities include a summer reading program and used book sales. Materials available for check-out include books, magazines, books-on-cassette, DVDs, videos, and cake pans. Services available at the library include a copy machine, wireless Internet access, and inter-library loan access. The library is surrounded by an arboretum.

## RECREATION

Minden has seven parks covering 31.5 acres. Park facilities include a swimming pool, playground equipment, large picnic areas, shelter houses, a band shell, and rest rooms. Five playgrounds, with part-time supervision, are available.

Minden has a part-time recreation director with one employee. The annual budget for the recreation department for the last three years averaged \$17,000.

Area facilities:

Baseball/ Softball/T-ball	— Four ball diamonds
Boating	— Harlan County Reservoir (35 miles) and Johnson Lake (60 miles)
Bowling	— One 8-lane bowling alley
Fishing	— Numerous sandpits, Platte River (10 miles), Harlan County Reservoir (35 miles), and Johnson Lake (60 miles)
Golf	— A public 9-hole grass greens course with clubhouse
Hunting	— Deer, pheasant, and quail
Racquetball	— One court at fitness center
Roller blading/ Skate Boarding	— JC Park
Swimming	— Olympic-size pool in park
Tennis	— Two lighted hard-surfaced courts
Other	— Miniature golf course and youth center

The Minden Health Club, with 24-hour security key access, has tanning beds, racquetball court, weight machines, treadmills, sauna, stationary bikes, and an elliptical machine.

Annual celebrations in Minden are the Kearney County Fair held during July, Food Fair on the Square in August, and the pageant, “The Light of the World,” held the Saturday and first two Sundays after Thanksgiving.

The Senior Citizens Center provides Monday–Friday noon luncheons, cards, pool, etc. Bus services are provided by Community Action Partnership of Mid-Nebraska.

Millions of visitors have acclaimed the Harold Warp Pioneer Village, [www.pioneervillage.com](http://www.pioneervillage.com), in Minden as one of the leading tourist attractions in North America. There are 26 buildings housing more than 50,000 items, arranged chronologically to display man’s progress since 1830. Pioneer

Village features a sod house, one-room school, frontier stockade, pioneer church, and railroad depot. Open year-round, historic demonstrations include weaving, spinning, and broom-making. More than 350 automobiles, 100 tractors, and 20 aircraft are displayed. Pioneer Village was built by a native of Minden and is a “must see” attraction for Nebraska. A motel, R.V. park, campground, restaurant, and lounge complete the 20-acre complex.

Minden’s claim to the title of the “Christmas City” was launched in 1915 when colored lights were first used to decorate the courthouse square. Since that time, the lighting spectacle has been expanded to its present proportions and features more than 12,000 lights in an extravaganza of Christmas-time color adorning the courthouse dome and the city business square.

To further emphasize the “Christmas City” title, Minden began staging the Nativity Pageant, “The Light of the World,” in 1946. Written and directed by local citizens, the pageant is presented after Thanksgiving and a Sunday evening in December with a cast and crew including approximately 120 people from Minden and the surrounding area.

In all, four major factors contribute to Minden’s nationally famous “Christmas City” reputation: the brilliant lighting display, the beautiful Nativity Pageant, the nightly Carillonic Bell concerts projected through the courthouse tower sound system during each yuletide season, and the consistent volume of residential Christmas displays.

Items reflecting the history of Kearney County are displayed at the Kearney County Historical Society Museum in Minden. The museum is housed in the first school building built in the county. On display are a wide variety of items including old guns, uniforms, pictures, musical instruments, books, rock collections, seashell collections, farm equipment, and a variety of other items.

Built in 1891 by Wray Thorn, the Minden Opera House building, located on the courthouse square, is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places. The Kearney County Community Foundation completed renovation of the historic Minden Opera

House building. The building is a multi-use facility, featuring a modern theater on the second floor, a full-size stage, and a ceiling mural depicting the history of Kearney County. The theater is equipped for both movie theater and stage theater capability as well as having flexible floor arrangements to allow for banquets and a dance floor. With a gallery, conference room, gift shop, and kitchen on the first floor, the building houses many special events including musical and drama performances, dinner theaters, traveling exhibits, art displays, films and documentaries, educational events, youth activities, dances, speaking engagements, wedding receptions, and conferences. For more information, visit [www.mindenoperahouse.com](http://www.mindenoperahouse.com).

Fort Kearny, located 12 miles northwest of Minden, is a popular tourist attraction with a visitor center museum, reconstructed fort stockade, and blacksmith shop. Fort Kearny, established more than 125 years ago, was the first fort set up on the historical Oregon Trail. During its colorful history, thousands of early miners and settlers stopped at the fort, which was on the Overland Stage Route and the Pony Express Route and was one of the first telegraph stations west of the Mississippi. Near the historical park is a large recreation area for picnics, camping, swimming, and fishing.

## HOUSING

### New Construction

Two new homes were built in Minden during 2004 and it is estimated ten will be built in 2005. The average cost of new home construction during the past five years was \$75 per square foot. Twenty building permits were issued in the last five years for single-unit houses and one permit for a 22-unit assisted living facility.

### As of 5/12/2004:

#### Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family - 29

#### Avg.2 Selling Prices (New and Existing)

Single Family Home	
3,500 sq. ft.–4 bedrooms	\$190,000
2,500 sq. ft.–3 bedrooms	\$120,000
1,000 sq. ft.–3 bedrooms	\$ 75,000

**Rentals**

Executive Style	
3,000 sq. ft.–3 bedrooms	\$750
New 2 bedroom home	\$450
Apartment Vacancy Rate	less than 5%

**Number of Single Family Homes for Sale by Price (New and Existing)**

Less than \$100,000	20
\$100,001–\$150,000	5
\$150,001–\$200,000	1
\$200,001–\$250,000	0

**Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing**

**East View Court**, a low-cost housing facility, was built in 1964. Financed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the 28 units provide public housing for elderly and disabled persons. Rent is based on income. The housing facility is managed by Kearney Housing Agency with approval from the Mayor’s appointed board.

**The Virgil Enterprises Apartments** is a two-story, 18-unit complex completed in 1973.

**Countryside Apartments of Minden** is a low-cost elderly apartment complex completed in 1995. Each of the six units have two bedrooms, an attached garage, and appliances.

**Assisted Living**

**Bethany Home Assisted Living**, a nonprofit facility, offers 55 units, most of which are large enough for couples. Services include a 24-hour staff offering personal assistance including medication monitoring, meals, laundry, housekeeping, organized activities, social services, adult daycare, and transportation. Medicaid is accepted as a payment source. For more information, visit [www.mybethanyhome.com](http://www.mybethanyhome.com).

**HinterLong Living**, [www.kchs.org](http://www.kchs.org), is a 17-room, 20-bed Medicaid certified facility constructed in 2001. It shares a campus with KCHS hospital, medical clinic, and nursing home. An array of services and activities are offered along with 24-hour emergency services available on the same campus.

**FINANCIAL**

As of September 30, 2004:

Name	Capital		
	Accounts	Deposits	Loans
	----- <i>Thousand dollars</i> -----		
First National Bank & Trust Company	\$6,313	\$38,097	\$32,254
Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Company	\$135,333	\$103,554	\$94,730



New Housing and Commercial Subdivision



First National Bank & Trust Company of Minden



Minden Exchange Bank & Trust Company

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

Attorneys .....	5
Certified Public Accountants .....	2
Chiropractors .....	1
Dentists .....	3
Massage Therapists .....	1
Medical Doctors (residing in Minden)	
—general practitioners .....	2
Medical Doctors (on hospital consulting staff)	
—cardiologists .....	3
—general surgeons .....	1
—nephrologists .....	1
—obstetricians & gynecologists .....	1
—ophthalmologists .....	1
—orthopedic surgeons .....	1
—pathologists .....	8
—podiatrists .....	1
—radiologists .....	8
—urologists .....	1
Mental Health Practitioners (licensed) .....	1
Nurse Practitioners .....	1
Nurses, Registered .....	28
Optometrists .....	1
Oral Surgeons .....	3
Pharmacists .....	2
Physician Assistants .....	3
Veterinarians .....	2

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies .....	1
Advertising Agencies .....	1
Agricultural Implement Dealers .....	2
Air Conditioning/Heating/Plumbing Services .....	3
Antique Stores .....	3
Apparel Stores .....	1
Appliance Stores .....	2
Art Galleries .....	1
Auto Repair Garages .....	4
Auto Supply Parts .....	2
Automobile Dealers .....	1
Bakeries .....	1
Beauty Shops/Barbers .....	4
Bowling Alleys .....	1
Car Washes .....	2

Contractors—carpentry .....	14	
—concrete .....	3	
—electrical .....	4	
—general .....	3	
Convenience Stores .....	2	
Custom Framing Shops .....	1	
Custom Embroidery Shops .....	2	
Day Care, Licensed .....	10	
Discount Stores .....	1	
Drug Stores .....	1	
Electric Motor Repair .....	1	
Ethanol Facilities .....	1	
Fast Food Establishments .....	3	
Feed & Seed .....	2	
Floral Shops .....	1	
Funeral Homes .....	1	
Gift Shops .....	3	
Grocery Stores .....	2	
Hardware Stores .....	2	
Health Clubs .....	1	
Hydroponic Operations .....	1	
Insurance .....	4	
Interior Designers .....	2	
Laundromats .....	1	
Locksmiths .....	1	
Lumberyards .....	1	
Machine Shops .....	2	
Motels .....	1	(70 units)
Nail Salons .....	2	
Office Supplies .....	1	
Photography Studios .....	1	
Preschools .....	2	
Print Shops .....	3	
Real Estate Agencies .....	3	
Restaurants .....	9	
Service Stations .....	2	
Tanning Salons .....	2	
Television & Radio Repair .....	1	
Thrift Stores .....	1	
Title & Abstract Companies .....	1	
Tool & Die .....	1	
Travel Agencies .....	1	
Variety Stores .....	2	
Video Rental Stores .....	3	
Welding Equipment & Supplies .....	1	
Well Drillers .....	1	



Scenes from Harold Warp Pioneer Village Museum



Scenes from Harold Warp Pioneer Village Museum

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

2002 Statistics	Kearney County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	412	49,355
Land in Farms (acres)	331,283	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	804	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$205,090,000	\$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$497,791	\$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	215,838	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	65.2%	16.6%
<b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (1999-2003)</b>		
All Alfalfa Hay	30,838 tons	4,721,000 tons
Corn	26,445,160 bu.	1,074,450,000 bu.
Sorghum Grains	215,080 bu.	31,894,000 bu.
Soybeans	3,832,560 bu.	187,210,000 bu.
All Wheat	474,780 bu.	66,816,000 bu.
<b>Five-Year Average Livestock Population (1999-2003)</b>		
All Cattle	83,400	6,462,200

SOURCE: Nebraska Agriculture Statistics Service, [www.nass.usda.gov:81/ipedb](http://www.nass.usda.gov:81/ipedb)  
2002 Census of Agriculture, [www.nass.usda.gov/census](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census)

### RAW MATERIALS

Sand and gravel, nonmetallic minerals, are available in commercial quantities in the Minden area; however, no metallic minerals are found.

Approximately 10,624 acres of forested land are located within a 30-mile radius of Minden. Cottonwood is the major producer of lumber with some quantities of black walnut, green ash, red cedar, silver maple, and hackberry.

## CLIMATE

### TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity*	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	13.0	24.6	36.3	0.44	5.5	77	65
February	18.2	30.1	42.2	0.66	5.9	78	63
March	26.2	38.9	51.7	1.71	5.8	79	59
April	37.6	51.2	64.8	2.09	1.8	79	53
May	49.1	61.6	74.1	4.19	0.0	82	56
June	58.8	71.6	84.3	4.05	0.0	82	54
July	64.2	76.9	89.5	3.49	0.0	84	57
August	62.3	74.9	87.6	3.08	0.0	86	58
September	52.3	65.9	79.5	2.45	0.1	84	55
October	40.2	54.3	68.3	1.40	0.5	79	51
November	26.5	38.7	50.9	0.88	2.9	80	60
December	17.3	28.6	39.8	0.46	4.3	79	65
<b>Annual</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>51.4</b>	<b>64.1</b>	<b>24.90</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>58</b>

\* Recorded at Grand Island Weather Station.

### FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring .....	May 1
Average date of first frost in fall .....	October 7
Average length of growing season .....	160 days
Average number of "heating degree days" per season based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	6,020
Average number of "cooling degree days" per season based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	1,099
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average) .....	12
Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....	South

SOURCE: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, [www.hpccsun.unl.edu](http://www.hpccsun.unl.edu)