

# COMMUNITY FACTS PONCA, NEBRASKA

[www.ci.ponca.ne.us](http://www.ci.ponca.ne.us)

JULY 2006

## POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005 Est.</u>
Ponca	1,062	1,042
Dixon County	6,339	6,155
Sioux City Metropolitan Statistical Area	143,053	143,192*

\*2004 Estimate

Northeast Nebraska Public Power District  
Wayne, Nebraska 68787  
[www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com)

Economic Development Department  
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## INTRODUCTION

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

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Section headings are hot linked within this Facts Book. Click on the blue text links to jump to a new section. Clicking on the blue section headings will return you to the Table of Contents.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

### GENERAL INFORMATION

LOCATION .....	1
POPULATION .....	1
LOCAL ECONOMY .....	2
ELEVATION .....	2
TOPOGRAPHY .....	2
HISTORY .....	2

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS .....	3
OTHER MAJOR AREA EMPLOYERS .....	4
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION .....	7

### LABOR

LABOR SUPPLY .....	9
UNIONIZATION .....	11
WAGES .....	11

### TRANSPORTATION

RAILROADS .....	13
MOTOR .....	13
AIR .....	13
WATER .....	14

### UTILITIES

ELECTRICITY .....	15
NATURAL GAS .....	16
OTHER FUELS .....	17
WATER .....	17
SEWERAGE .....	17
SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL .....	18
RECYCLING .....	18

### COMMUNICATIONS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS .....	19
INTERNET .....	19
POST OFFICE .....	19
PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES .....	19
NEWSPAPER .....	19
RADIO .....	19
TELEVISION .....	19

**TAX STRUCTURE**

VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES – CITY OF PONCA ..... 21  
TAX RATE ..... 21  
CITY SALES TAX ..... 21  
LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS ..... 21  
CITY BOND ISSUES ..... 22  
SCHOOL BOND ISSUES ..... 22

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

COUNTY GOVERNMENT ..... 23  
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT ..... 23  
FIRE PROTECTION ..... 23  
LAW ENFORCEMENT ..... 23  
STREETS ..... 23  
BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS ..... 24  
PLANNING ..... 24

**COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ..... 25  
CHURCHES ..... 29  
HEALTH CARE ..... 29  
NURSING HOMES ..... 30  
LIBRARY ..... 35  
RECREATION ..... 35  
HOUSING ..... 36  
FINANCIAL ..... 36

**COMMUNITY SERVICES**

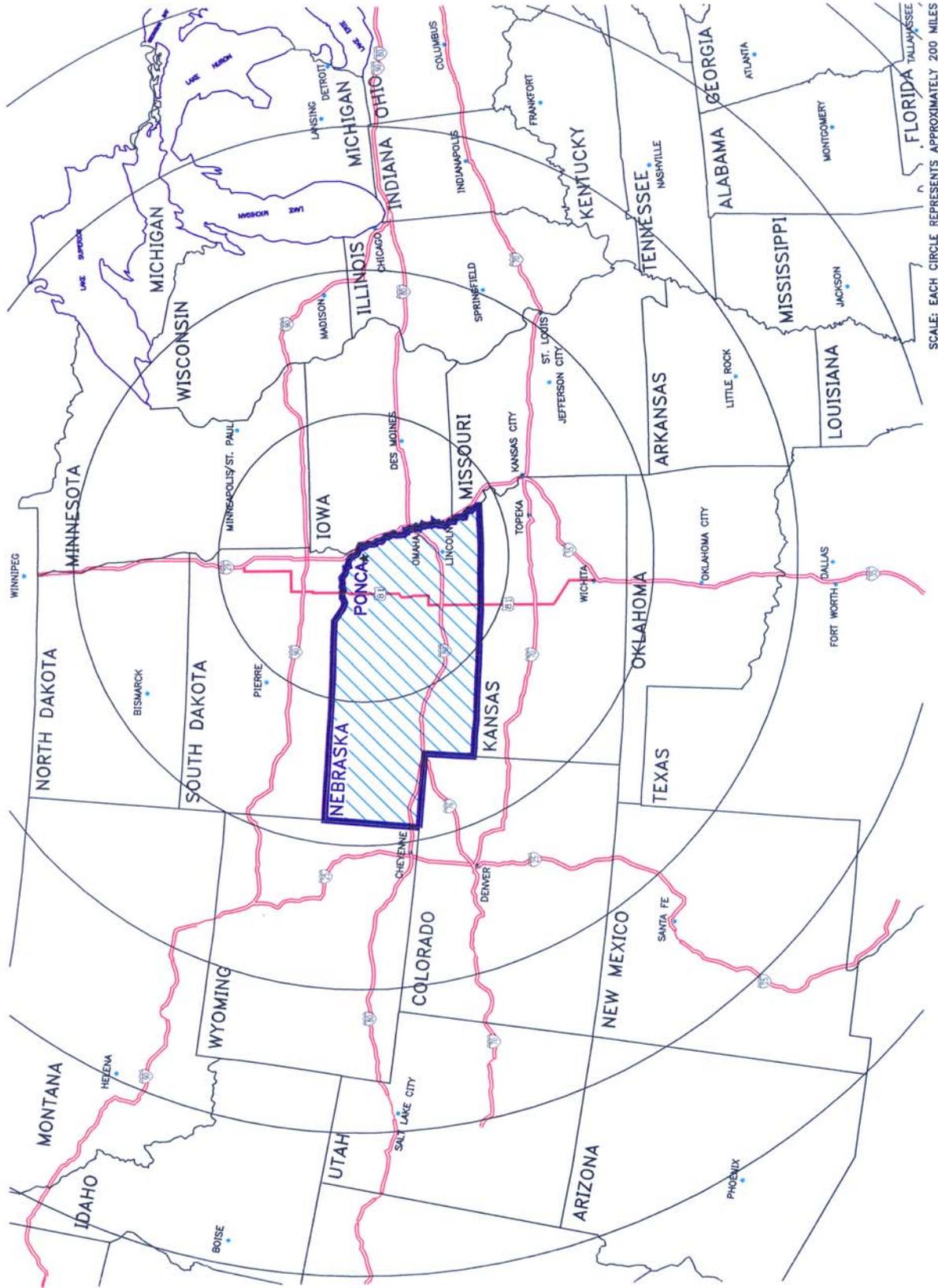
PROFESSIONAL ..... 37  
BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL ..... 37

**AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS**

AGRICULTURE ..... 39  
RAW MATERIALS ..... 39

**CLIMATE**

TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY ..... 40  
FROST DATA ..... 40

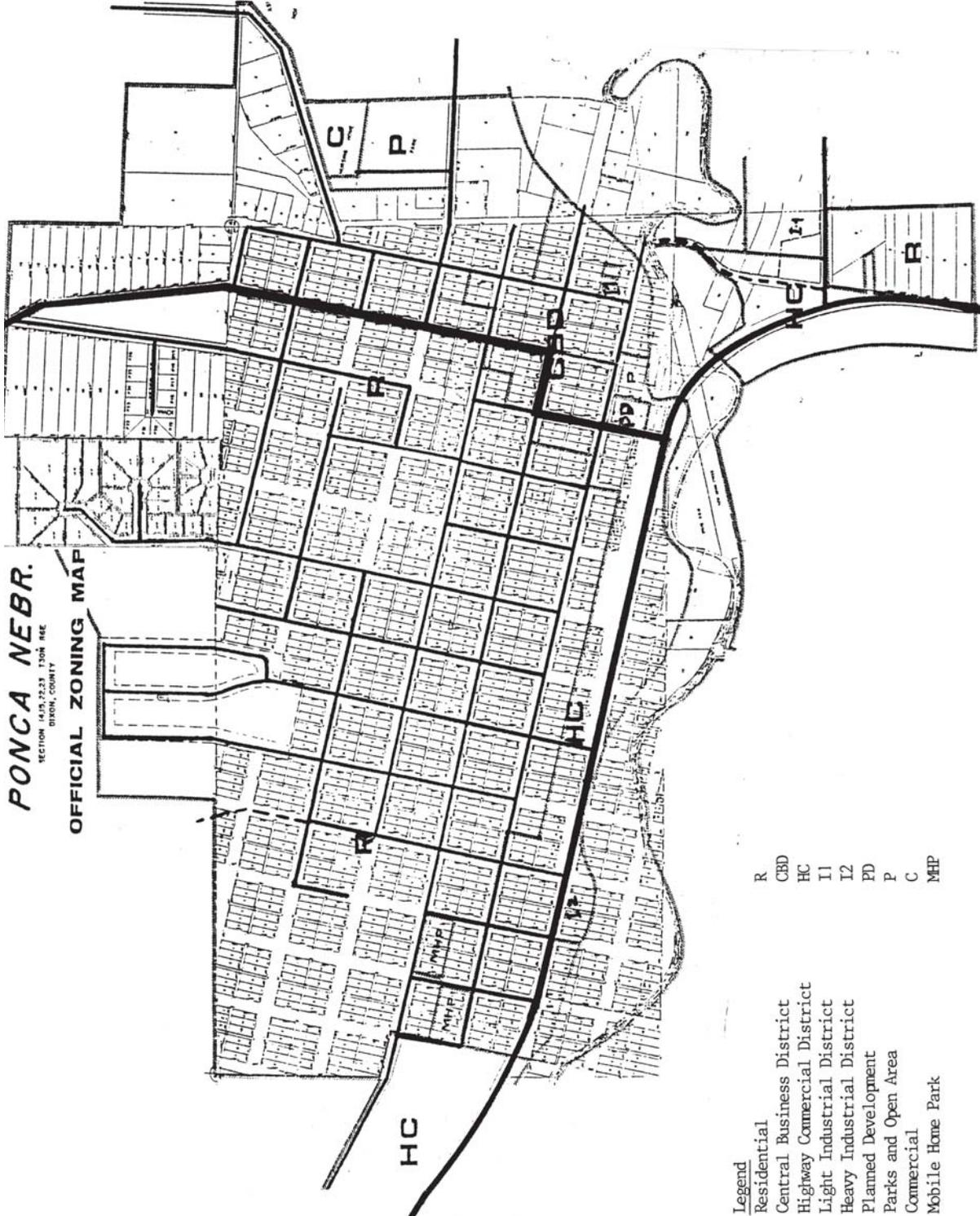


SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES

# PONCA NEBR.

SECTION 14, 15, 22, 23, T100N, R06E  
DIXON, COUNTY

## OFFICIAL ZONING MAP



NE Scenic Hwy 12

NE Scenic Hwy 12

- Legend
- Residential
  - Central Business District
  - Highway Commercial District
  - Light Industrial District
  - Heavy Industrial District
  - Planned Development
  - Parks and Open Area
  - Commercial
  - Mobile Home Park
- R
  - CBD
  - HC
  - I1
  - I2
  - PD
  - P
  - C
  - MHP

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### LOCATION

Ponca, a part of the Sioux City Metropolitan Statistical Area, is located in the northeast corner of Nebraska in Dixon County. The city is nestled in a valley two miles from the banks of the Missouri River, a national recreational river. The community is served by scenic State Highway 12, and U.S. Highway 20 is five miles south of the community. Ponca is 24 miles northwest of Sioux City, Iowa, and 115 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska.

One race	6,289
White	5,999
Black or African American	2
American Indian and Alaska Native	31
Asian	17
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
Some other race	240
Two or more races	50
Total Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	348

### POPULATION (U.S. Census)

Year	Ponca	Dixon County
1970	984	7,453
1980	1,057	7,137
1990	929	6,143
2000	1,062	6,339
2005 (est.)	1,042	6,155

The estimated 2004 population of the Sioux City Metropolitan Statistical Area was 143,192.



## LOCAL ECONOMY

Basic economic activities of Ponca, the county seat of Dixon County, include farming, government services, tourism, outdoor recreation, and retail sales. Firms in the community with sales tax permits reported net taxable retail sales of \$3,387,693 in 2004 while Dixon County reported retail sales of \$10,894,570. The one wholesale firm in the community distributes mist sprayers.

## ELEVATION

The elevation in Ponca ranges from 1,143 to 1,211 feet above sea level.

## TOPOGRAPHY

Ponca lies along the Missouri River bluffs. The terrain in Dixon County varies (20 to 100 feet) from rugged hills in the north to the uplands. In most cases, the ascent is gentle but in some places it is steep and difficult.

The soil in Dixon County is deep and fertile and its composition varies from a dark sandy loam to a black vegetable mold.

## HISTORY

In August 1856 it became apparent that a settlement was forming at the confluence of the Aowa and South Creeks. Frank West, realizing

the speculative potential of an area rich in timber, farmland, and a bountiful water supply, platted the first 300 acres in October of 1856.

In 1857 a well organized effort to capture a seat in the Territorial Legislature proved successful when D.T. Bramble, a local Ponca merchant, was elected to the Omaha body. This event proved to be a major turning point in the history of Ponca. One of the first actions taken by Mr. Bramble was the introduction of legislation organizing Dixon County, with subsequent provisions for the selection of the county seat. Ponca, determined to capture the seat, made alliances with nearby towns and managed to acquire enough political influence to win the seat.

Growth in the following years was largely dependent on the economic prosperity of the area. Ponca remained a small and slowly growing community until the introduction of the railroad in the mid-1870s. General economic prosperity and the new transportation facility combined to improve the prospects for Ponca's increased growth and eventually made the town a thriving commercial center and a desirable place to live.

The development of Ponca State Park represents one of the most important elements in the history of Ponca. Originated in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, the 2,200-acre park is one of the finest recreational facilities in Nebraska and represents a significant contribution to the Ponca economy.



Ponca State Park

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS (employing 5 or more)

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>		<u>Union</u>
		<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
A-1 Mist Sprayers 2000	Retail	3	1	None
Bank of Dixon County 1881	Finance	4 1*	6 6*	None
City of Ponca 1856	Government	14	10	None
Cooks Country Store 1980	Quick shop	1 1*	0 15*	None
Dixon County 1859	Government	38	24	CWA
DruZak's 2003	Restaurant	0 1*	4 7*	None
Elms Health Care Center 1951	Nursing home	3	20	None
Farm Service Agency & Natural Resource & Conservation Services 1961	Federal agricultural programs	5	6	None
Keller Pharmacy 1976	Pharmacy, gift shop	0	1 6*	None
Nebraska Journal Leader 1871	Newspaper & commercial printing	1	2 4*	None
Ponca Medical Clinic & Home Health Care 1974	Medical	2	5 5*	None
Ponca Nursing & Assisted Living 2003	Assisted living	3	28	None
Ponca Public School System 1859	Education	10	50	NSEA

\*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>	
State of Nebraska Ponca State Park 1934	State recreation park	4	1	None
Trading Post 1990	Grocery	0	3 5 *	None

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

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
<b>Wakefield, Nebraska, 24 miles</b>			
Michael Foods, Inc.	Egg products	694	None
<b>South Sioux City/Dakota City, Nebraska, 24 miles</b>			
BPI, Inc.	Beef processing	250	UFCW
City of South Sioux City	Government	80 38*	AFSCME/ SSCPOA
South Sioux City Schools	Education	577	NSEA/ UE801, UE1199
Gerkin Windows & Doors	Windows & doors	160	None
Great West Casualty Co./ Joe Morten & Son, Inc.	Insurance	393	None
Marina Inn	Motel/restaurant	150	None
Phillips Kiln	Industrial rotary equipment repair	113 40*	None
Sara Lee Bakery Group	Bakery products	165	BCW
Sioux City Foundry, Inc.	Ductile gray iron foundry	106 6*	IMA
Tyson Fresh Meats	Beef slaughter & processing	5,256	UFCW

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

<u>Employer</u>	<u>Type of Activity</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
<b>Sioux City, Iowa, 26 miles</b>			
American Popcorn Company	Popcorn processing	150	None
Belle of Sioux City Riverboat	Gambling/recreation	400	Yes
Bomgaars	Retail	124	None
Boys & Girls Home Family Services	Social services	707	None
Briar Cliff University	Education	150	None
Chesterman Company	Carbonated beverages	180	None
City of Sioux City	Government	780	Yes
Countryside Retirement Home	Nursing home	109	None
Fareway Stores	Grocery	110	None
First Federal Savings Bank	Financial services	250	None
GATEWAY 2000	Computers	1,200	None
Hardees	Fast foods	118	None
Hy-Vee (3 stores)	Grocery	1,000	None
Indian Hills Nursing Rehabilitation	Care home	120	None
Interbake Foods	Food processing	450	Yes
Jensen Irving Company	Construction	150	None
Kind & Knox Gelatin, Inc.	Gelatin	150	None
W. A. Klinger, Inc.	Commercial construction	150	Yes
Knoepfler Chevrolet	Car sales	100	None
McCracken Concrete Pipe Mach. Co.	Concrete pipe	120	None
McDonald's of Siouxland	Fast foods	375	None
MCI Services Marketing	Telemarketing	800	None
Mercy Medical Center	Medical	1,996	Yes

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

<b><u>Employer</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Employees</u></b>	<b><u>Union</u></b>
Metz Baking Company	Baked goods	290	Yes
Mid-Step Services	Business forms printing	380	Yes
Morningside College	Education	260	None
John Morrell & Co.	Pork processing & packing	1,400	Yes
J.C. Penny Co., Inc.	Retail	100	None
Prince Manufacturing	Hydraulic pumps, motors, valves, breathers & cylinders	425	Yes
Qwest	Communications	200	Yes
Sears	Retail	225	None
Security National Bank	Financial services	175	None
Sioux City Brick & Tile	Brick	240	None
Sioux City Community School	Education	1,750	Teachers
Sioux City Convention Center	Conventions	223	Yes
Sioux City Journal	Newspaper & typesetting	165	Yes
Sioux City Foundry Company	Iron castings & structural steel fabrication	108	Yes
St. Lukes Regional Medical Center	Medical	1,592	None
Stone Container Corp.	Corrugated containers	280	Yes
Sunrise Retirement Community	Nursing home	160	None
Terra Industries Inc.	Chemicals	120	None
U.S. Postal Service	Postal services	300	Yes
Wal-Mart Stores	Retail discount store	900	None
Wells' Blue Bunny	Food processing	1,500	None
Western Hills AEA	Education	222	None
Western Iowa Tech Community College	Education	330	Yes

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

<b><u>Employer</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Activity</u></b>	<b><u>Employees</u></b>	<b><u>Union</u></b>
Wilson Trailer	Semitrailers	750	Yes
Woodbury County	Government	412	Yes
<b>Wayne, Nebraska, 28 miles</b>			
First Bankcard Center	Credit card collections	96 24*	None
Great Dane Trailers	Refrigerated semitrailers	561 4*	None
Heritage Homes of Nebraska, Inc.	Modular homes & light commercial buildings	123	None
NorthStar Services	Support services for developmentally disabled	28 76*	None
Providence Medical Center	Medical	65 90*	None
Pacific Coast Feather Co.	Mattress pads	237 6*	None
Wayne City Schools	Education	116 11*	WEA
Wayne State College	Education	342 86*	NSEA, NSCPA, NAPA
<b>Pender, Nebraska, 39 miles</b>			
Automatic Equipment Mfg. Co. (Blue Ox)	Agricultural & recreational equipment, trailers for towing	110	None

\*Part-time and/or seasonal

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION**

The Better Ponca Foundation, Ponca Area Community Club, and the City of Ponca work together for economic development in the community.



Druzak's



Trading Post



USDA Service Center

# LABOR

## LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Ponca is included in the Sioux City Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA), which includes Dakota and Dixon counties in Nebraska, Woodbury County in Iowa, and Union County in South Dakota. Below are labor market statistics for the Sioux City Metropolitan Statistical Area (12-month average, June 2005 through May 2006):

<u>Nonfarm Employment (wage and salary workers)</u>	<u>Total</u>
Goods-Producing	16,400
Service Providing	56,267
Manufacturing	12,858
Trade, Transportation	14,917
Retail Trade	8,592
Professional & Business Services	7,367
Leisure & Hospitality	7,308
Government	9,025
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	72,667
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	72,700
B. Unemployment (4.3% in SMA)	3,600
TOTAL LABOR FORCE	76,300
C. 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	34,344*
D. Estimated number of Dixon and Dakota counties high school graduates annually	413
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D &amp; E)</b>	<b>38,357</b>

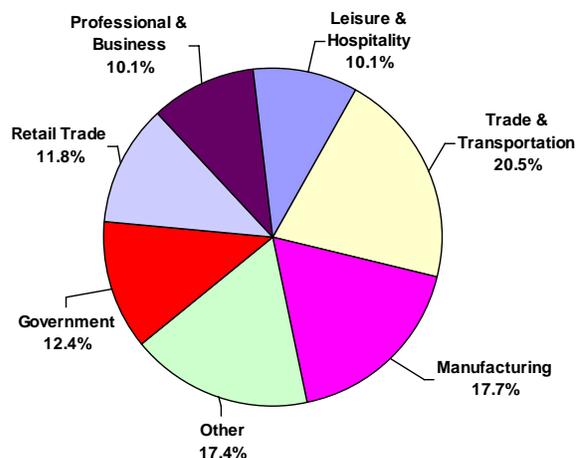
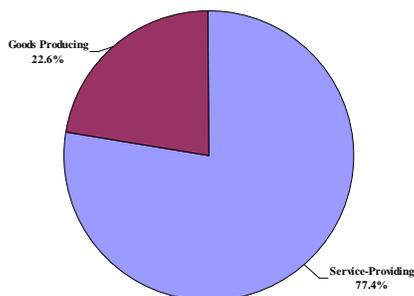
\*The 2004 Siouxland Regional Laborshed Report; results are available on request.

Source: Iowa Labor Market Information

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

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

**NONFARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
SIOUX CITY METROPOLITAN  
STATISTICAL AREA  
12-MO. AVG., JUNE 2005 THRU MAY 2006**

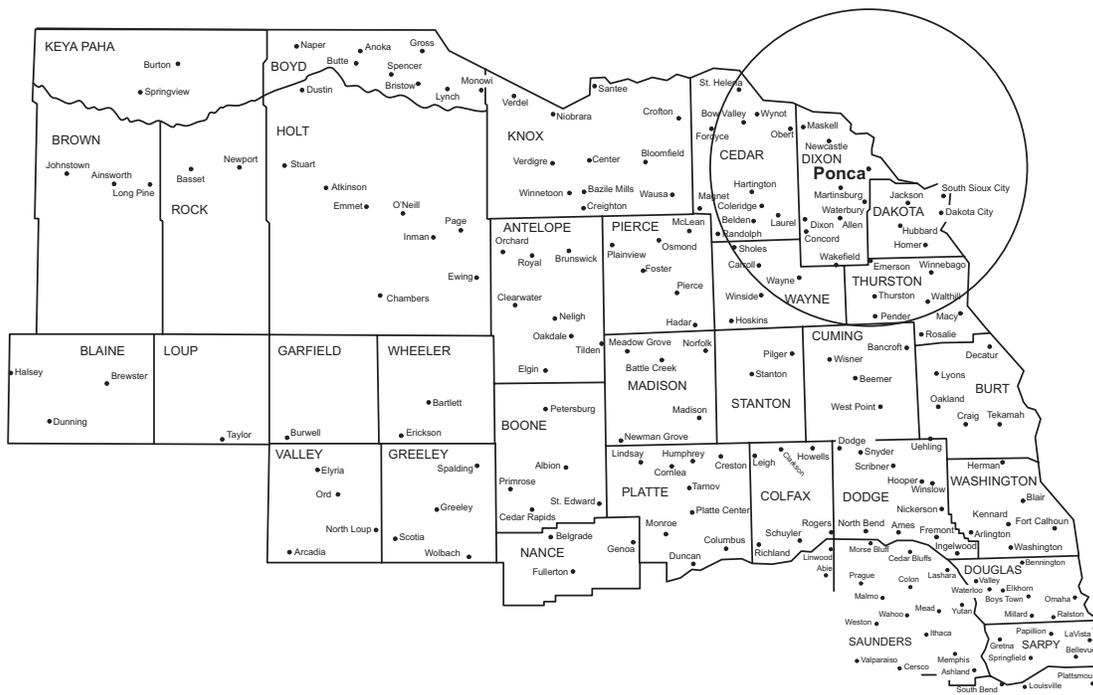


2000 POPULATION DATA						Median Household Effective Buying Income (2005)
Location	Density/ Sq. Mile	% 65 Yrs. & Over	Median Age	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
Dixon Co.	13.3	18.2	38.7	82.1	14.1	\$33,093
Nebraska	22.3	13.6	35.3	86.6	23.7	\$36,910
U.S.	79.6	12.4	35.9	84.0	26.0	\$39,324

Dixon County had 4,119 eligible voters in 2004; 74.1 percent voted in the national election compared to 68.3 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)  
Sales and Marketing Management, 2005  
Statewide General Election 2004 Results, [www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004](http://www.sos.state.ne.us/elec/canvass/general2004/General2004)

### LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE PONCA AREA



### POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2005 Estimate		
City of Ponca	—	1,042
Dixon County	—	6,155
30-Mile Radius	—	171,381 (2004)

Dixon County Population by Age/Gender, 2004		
Ages	Male	Female
18–24	297	309
25–44	684	651
45–64	829	783

## UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right-to-work provision in its constitution. In 2004, 10.8 percent of Nebraska's manufacturing workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 12.9 percent. Union membership in Nebraska is concentrated in the railroad and packinghouse industries.

Labor organizations operating in Ponca:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Union</u>
Dixon County Sheriff's Office	Communications Workers of America
Ponca Public School System	Nebraska State Education Association

It is estimated that less than 1 percent of the total nonagricultural labor force in Ponca is unionized. There have been no known strikes.

## WAGES (SIOUX CITY METRO AREA)

<u>Occupation Title</u>	<u>Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile</u>		
	<u>10th</u>	<u>50th</u>	<u>90th</u>
<b>Professional</b>			
Accountants & Auditors	15.10	21.63	33.40
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	24.94	32.99	44.35
Electrical Engineers*	21.27	34.33	50.30
Industrial Engineers	16.21	24.62	37.30
Mechanical Engineers	19.93	25.86	36.69
Computer Programmers	18.20	25.34	33.90
Computer Systems Analysts	19.91	29.65	43.81
Registered Nurses	15.73	20.69	27.31
<b>Retail</b>			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.13	8.24	10.33
Retail Salespersons	5.89	7.98	14.39
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.52	10.31	24.74
Driver/Sales Workers	6.45	12.03	21.53
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.11	8.55	14.38
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	8.08	12.12	16.47
<b>Clerical</b>			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	9.39	12.52	17.43
Customer Service Representatives	7.46	10.19	15.92
Data Entry Keyers	8.00	10.10	13.07
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	7.76	11.04	16.50
Office Clerks, General	6.37	9.79	13.76
Telemarketers**	6.84	8.23	10.53

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

\*\*Wage information taken from Northeast Nebraska

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Unskilled</b>			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	6.29	8.62	12.54
Packers & Packagers, Hand**	6.01	9.62	13.18
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Others**	8.99	11.69	13.88
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	6.51	10.11	12.84
<b>Semi-Skilled</b>			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	8.50	11.88	14.63
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	9.68	15.30	22.09
Maintenance Workers, Machinery	9.30	16.67	26.90
Machine Operators			
Lathe & Turning Machine Tool Setters/Oper.**	11.38	13.78	17.45
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.***	9.23	11.62	17.06
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.***	9.59	12.33	15.69
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.**	10.32	12.63	15.27
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.	7.53	8.93	16.35
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	9.72	12.55	16.86
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.**	10.09	14.84	17.33
<b>Skilled</b>			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	6.62	11.94	20.96
Electricians	14.49	23.44	28.31
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	12.25	17.10	27.06
Machinists	10.78	15.64	19.22
Tool & Die Makers**	15.60	19.41	22.87
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	12.15	16.11	24.44
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters***	10.49	14.21	21.42
<b>Technical</b>			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	18.76	22.25	27.28
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	14.26	20.20	27.12
Computer Operators	7.34	12.02	17.58

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

\*\*Wage information taken from Northeast Nebraska

\*\*\*Wage information take from Nebraska Statewide

Source: Iowa Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Sioux City Metropolitan Area. Reference period for the data is the second quarter of 2005. Data were developed from the May 2004 Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Survey and updated to 2005 using Employment Cost Index, [www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi](http://www.iowaworkforce.org/lmi).

Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Fourth Quarter 2005 wage estimates, All Industries, Northeast Region, Balance of the State, and Statewide, [www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiwages/toc000.htm](http://www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiwages/toc000.htm)

# TRANSPORTATION

## **RAILROADS**

The BNSF Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad provide rail service to South Sioux City, Nebraska, 24 miles southeast of Ponca.

Amtrak provides Omaha, 115 miles (2 hours) south of Ponca, 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 10 hours to Chicago and 43 1/2 hours to the West Coast. Amtrak has one train each way daily.

## **MOTOR**

### **Highways**

Scenic east-west Nebraska Highway 12 serves Ponca and connects with east-west U.S. Highway 20, five miles south of Ponca. North-south Interstate 29 is 24 miles east and Interstate 80 is 115 miles south of Ponca. A bridge, constructed over the Missouri River, connects to Vermillion, South Dakota, 26 miles northwest of Ponca.

Highway mileage to major cities:

<b>Destination</b>	<b>Mileage</b>
Lincoln	171
Omaha	115
Chicago	549
Dallas	777
Denver	652
Detroit	815
Kansas City	297
Los Angeles	1,665
Minneapolis	360
New York	1,323
St. Louis	548
San Francisco	1,781
Sioux City	24

## **Trucklines**

There are 8,000 licensed motor carriers based in Nebraska with worldwide connections, which can serve businesses in Ponca and the entire state.

Rush Trucking, with three trucks, has a terminal in Ponca.

## **Bus Line**

Through bus service is provided in Siouxland, 20 miles, by Greyhound Buslines, Arrow Stage Lines, and Crusador Stage Lines. Bus parcel service is available.

## **AIR**

The Sioux Gateway Airport in Sioux City, Iowa, is 26 miles southeast of Ponca. This major metropolitan airport, conveniently located adjacent to Interstate 29, is a Class A, all-weather commercial airport serving the tri-state area.

Airline serving Sioux Gateway Airport:

<b>Airline</b>	<b>Flights Daily</b>	<b>Destination</b>
Northwest	5	Minneapolis

The Sioux Gateway Airport has two paved and lighted runways (6,599 feet and 9,002 feet), hangars, fuel, maintenance, storage, training cargo, ticket counters, car agency counters, dining area, and baggage claim facilities. A full-service fixed based operator (FBO) with hangars and service is available for all types of corporate aircraft. The FBO can meet any charter aircraft needs. There are 100 to 150 private planes hangared there; 3 are available for charter. The elevation at the airport is 1,100 feet, the latitude is 42°27'25"N, and the longitude is 96°28'35"W.

The nearest air field for private planes is Martin's Field, located 20 miles southeast of Ponca. Martin's Field has two runways (a 3,323-foot paved and

lighted and a 1,950-foot turf), hangars, and fuel. There are 28 private planes hangared there; none are available for charter. The elevation at the airport is 1,100 feet, the latitude is 42°27'25"N, and the longitude is 96°28'35"W. A 40 foot x 40 foot helipad is available.

## **WATER**

Barge service is available at 10 barge terminal facilities on the Missouri River in Nebraska. These river ports are navigable approximately eight months per year. The Sioux City river port

is 35 miles southeast of Ponca. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers maintains a 9-foot deep, 300 foot wide channel for 735 navigable miles from Sioux City to the mouth of the Missouri River. Commodities transported by towing companies are grain and grain products, fertilizer, feed ingredients, cement, rock-aggregate, and salt.



Barge Traffic on the Missouri River

# UTILITIES

## ELECTRICITY

Northeast Nebraska Public Power District (NeNPPD) retails electricity to the city of Ponca. NeNPPD provides service through a 2,499 kVA substation located within the corporate limits. The Ponca substation is fed at 69,000 volts from two directions for redundancy. NeNPPD takes delivery of wholesale power from Nebraska Public Power District's statewide grid system.

### BASE ELECTRIC RATES - NeNPPD (effective 02/01/03)

Summer bills run from June - September.

#### Residential Service (electric water heat):

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$13.00 per month	
<b>Summer Winter</b>	
8.51¢	6.26¢ per kWh for the first 750 kWh used per month
6.98¢	3.74¢ per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NeNPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

#### General Service:

<b>Customer Charge:</b>	
Single Phase	\$15.00 per month
Three Phase	\$18.50 per month
<b>Summer Winter</b>	
9.72¢	7.56¢ per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month
7.75¢	5.62¢ per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month
7.75¢	5.02¢ per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NeNPPD has a Lease Payment

or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

#### Commercial Electric Space Heating:

<b>Customer Charge:</b>	
Single Phase	\$27.50 per month
Three Phase	\$32.50 per month
<b>Summer Winter</b>	
8.40¢	5.17¢ per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.40¢	2.22¢ per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NeNPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

#### General Service Demand:

<b>Customer Charge:</b>	
Single Phase	\$60.00 per month
Three Phase	\$70.00 per month
<b>Summer Winter</b>	
8.20¢	5.62¢ per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.25¢	2.35¢ per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments	

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NeNPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations. This rate is also subject to various adders and discounts depending upon the customer's requirements, metering, etc.

NeNPPD has an off-peak service rate available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
100	30,000	6.55
100	36,000	5.99
300	90,000	6.36
300	150,000	5.09
500	150,000	6.33
500	180,000	5.80

<sup>1</sup>Includes Lease Payment and Gross Revenue Tax.

**High Tension Service\*:**

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$250.00 per month			
<b>Monthly Demand Charges</b> (base rate charge per kW):			
Summer:	\$11.00 per kW of billing demand		
Winter:	\$ 6.00 per kW of billing demand		
Spring/Fall:	\$ 6.00 per kW of billing demand		
<b>Monthly Energy Charges</b> (base rate charge per kWh):			
<b>Seasons</b>	<b>On-Peak</b>	<b>Mid-Peak</b>	<b>Off-Peak</b>
Summer	4.77¢	3.78¢	3.03¢
Winter	2.57¢	2.06¢	1.48¢
Spring/Fall	2.44¢	N/A	1.48¢
Summer rate applies to the Customer’s demand and energy use from July 1 through August 31.			
Winter rate applies to the Customer’s demand and energy use from December 1 through March 31.			
Spring/Fall rate applies to the Customer’s demand and energy use from April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through November 30.			

\*Industries must take delivery at or be adjacent to a substation and own and maintain the primary dedicated line and any other facilities beyond the substation delivery point.

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NeNPPD has a Lease Payment or Debt Service obligation and/or a Gross

Revenue Tax obligation will have the Base Rate adjusted to include such obligations.

NeNPPD has several off-peak and curtailable service rates available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
150	30,000	7.46
150	100,000	4.08
500	100,000	6.79
500	300,000	4.02
1,000	200,000	6.65
1,000	650,000	3.87

<sup>1</sup>Includes Lease Payment. Does not include Gross Revenue Tax.

The ¢/kWh cost is estimated using the following assumption concerning the distribution of electricity used during on-peak, mid-peak, and off-peak periods which are specified in the National Data Standards adopted by the International Economic Development Council.

Seasons	On-Peak %	Mid-Peak %	Off-Peak %
Summer	31.0	30.2	38.8
Winter	38.2	23.6	38.2
Spring/Fall	54.5	N/A	45.5

Prospective customers should contact Northeast Nebraska Public Power District, (402) 375-1360 or (800) 750-9277, email [mschults@nnppd.com](mailto:mschults@nnppd.com), [www.nnppd.com](http://www.nnppd.com), for further information regarding electric rates and service.

**NATURAL GAS**

Natural gas is distributed in the community by Ponca Public Utilities. Northern Natural Gas is the pipeline supplier.

The pressure of the 16-inch pipeline serving the community is 450 pounds. Natural gas is available for residential and commercial uses. A firm supply of gas for industrial uses can be made available subject to individual situations.

## NATURAL GAS RATES

### Residential:

**Base Meter Fee:** \$8.00 per month  
Cost per therm is determined monthly

### Commercial:

**Base Meter Fee:** \$9.00 per month  
Cost per therm is determined monthly

Prospective customers should contact Denise Peterson, city administrator, City of Ponca, (402) 755-4165, [poncane@gpcom.net](mailto:poncane@gpcom.net), for further information regarding natural gas rates and services.

## OTHER FUELS

### LP Gas

Propane gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Ponca Cooperative.

### Oil

Oil is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses at Ponca Cooperative.

## WATER

The municipal water system in Ponca is supplied by three wells, which have an average depth of 260 feet. The system, serving the city's entire population, has a combined pumping capacity of 1,000 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 200,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 360,000 gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 700,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 1,640,000 gallons per day. The static pressure is 63 pounds and the residual pressure is 58 pounds per square inch.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 284-foot well will produce 645 gallons of water per minute. The quality of water in Ponca does not necessitate a water treatment plant. The water table has not changed significantly during the last five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in parts per million, is 411. The tap water temperature averages 51° year round.

### Chemical Analysis (parts per million)

Nitrate	2.6
Fluoride	1.2
Sulfate	110

### WATER RATES (effective 10/05)

A connection fee of \$600 is charged for new water service inside the city limits and \$2,850 is charged for new service outside the city limits.

### Residential & Commercial:

<b>Base Rate:</b> Determined by meter size		
<u>Usage</u>	Inside	Outside
	City Limits	City Limits
	---Per 1,000 gal.---	
First 100,000	\$0.50	\$1.00
100,001–500,000 gal.	\$0.30	\$0.30
500,001–1,000,000 gal.	\$0.20	\$0.20
Over 1,000,000 gal.	\$0.10	\$0.10
<u>Meter Size</u>	Inside	Outside
	City Limits	City Limits
3/4"	\$ 13.00	\$ 26.00
1"	\$ 16.85	\$ 33.70
1 1/2"	\$ 30.70	\$ 61.40
2"	\$ 41.25	\$ 82.50
4"	\$ 91.00	\$182.00
6"	\$101.00	\$202.00

## SEWERAGE

Ponca has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. A new mechanical fine screen system, flow metering capability, extended aeration facility with circular fine clarifiers and bulk biosolids began operations in March 2006. This \$1.9 million project was financed by USDA Rural Development. The system has a daily capacity of 165,000 gallons and a peak daily discharge of 500,000 gallons.

**SEWER-USE CHARGES** (effective 10/04)

A tapping fee of \$75.00 is charged for new sewer service.

**Residential & Commercial** (based on average water usage during the preceding January, February, and March):

<b>Customer Charge:</b>	\$24.50 per month
	\$2.45 per 1,000 cu. ft. of water used
<b>Minimum Bill:</b>	\$24.50 per month

**SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES** (effective 2005):

**Residential:**

Small	\$10.85 per month
Medium	\$11.50 per month
Large	\$12.05 per month

**Commercial & Industrial:**

Negotiated based on volume	
----------------------------	--

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

Privately owned waste removal services are available in Ponca. The privately owned disposal site, with an estimated life of 100 years, is located in Jackson, Nebraska, 15 miles southeast of Ponca.

**RECYCLING**

A privately operated recycling firm provides services in Ponca. Items accepted include aluminum, tin, plastic, paper, newspapers, and corrugated cardboard.



Evangelical Free Church



Salem Lutheran Church



St. Joseph's Catholic Church



United Methodist Church

# COMMUNICATIONS

## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Great Plains Communication provides telecommunication services in the area. Ponca features a digital central office served by a self-healing fiber ring. Linear and ring diverse routing are available. Resident technicians are available through Great Plains Communications for wiring, digital key systems, and other technical needs. A variety of service packages, tailored to suit business needs, are available.

### TARIFFED RATES (effective 2000)

Business, first line	\$27.50
Business, second line	\$24.50
Residential	\$17.50

For more information on telecommunications services, call Great Plains Communication at (888) 343-8014 or visit [www.gpcom.com](http://www.gpcom.com).

## INTERNET

Local dial and high-speed Internet services are provided by Great Plains Communications Netlink. Wild Blue® High Speed Satellite Internet is available to rural homes from Great Plains Communications.

## POST OFFICE

The post office in Ponca has one mail receipt daily and one mail dispatch daily. The nearest general mail facility is 70 miles from Ponca.

## PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability:

	US Postal
Latest Pick-up Time	6:15 p.m.
Earliest Delivery	7:30 a.m.
Next Day Delivery Guarantee	Yes
Saturday Delivery Guarantee	Yes

Federal Express and United Parcel Service also deliver packages to Ponca.

## NEWSPAPER

The Nebraska Journal Leader, with 1,795 subscribers, is the local weekly paper. Other daily papers delivered locally are the Sioux City Journal and the Omaha World-Herald.

## RADIO

Radio stations which carry local news include:

Call Letters	Frequency	Location
KGLI	95.5 MHz	Sioux City, IA
KMNS	620 KHz	Sioux City, IA
KSCJ	1360 KHz	Sioux City, IA
KSEZ	97.7 MHz	Sioux City, IA
KSUX	105.7 MHz	Sioux City, IA
KWIT	90.3 MHz	Sioux City, IA
KWSL	1470 KHz	Sioux City, IA
KTCH	1590 KHz	Wayne, NE
KTCH	104.9 MHz	Wayne, NE

## TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news include:

Call Letters	Channel	Location
KCAU	9	Sioux City, IA
KMEG	14	Sioux City, IA
KTIV	4	Sioux City, IA
KPTH	44	So. Sioux City, NE

Great Plains Communications provides cable television services on 42 basic, 9 extended basic, 2 premium, 75 DigiCable, 30 digital music, and 6 pay-per-view channels.

DirecTV® service is also available through Great Plains Communications.

For more information on Great Plains Communications service, call (888) 343-8014 or visit [www.gpcom.com](http://www.gpcom.com).



Nebraska Journal Leader



U.S. Post Office

## TAX STRUCTURE

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

All real property is required to be appraised at its 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		
	2003	2004	2005
Real Estate	\$26,048,259	\$26,277,325	\$26,862,370
Personal Property*	<u>602,609</u>	<u>565,148</u>	<u>481,197</u>
TOTAL	\$26,650,868	\$26,842,473	\$27,343,567

\* Includes Special (railroads and utilities)

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

	2003	2004	2005
Township	\$0.168120	\$0.173910	\$0.164350
City	.713860	.694180	.686310
County	.343630	.339040	.416730
School District	1.114410	1.099760	1.102440
Community College	.081123	.082711	.089622
Educational Service Unit	.018000	.017822	.017647
Natural Resource District	.034750	.033420	.030290
Agricultural Society	.006600	.006690	.006680
Fire District	<u>.046770</u>	<u>.059970</u>	<u>.056350</u>
TOTAL	\$2.527263	\$2.507503	\$2.570419

### CITY SALES TAX

Ponca has no city sales tax.

### LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of December 1, 2005:

City—Revenue Bonds	\$ 60,000
City—General Obligation Bonds	\$370,000
School District (as of 3/29/06)	\$575,000
County	None

## CITY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 12/1/05	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
<b>Revenue</b>					
Refunding Bonds	11/1/99	\$ 90,000	\$ 60,000	5.0	7/15/14
<b>General Obligation</b>					
Various Purpose	9/30/03	\$ 170,000	\$ 125,000	2.75	12/1/12
Various Purpose	7/17/00	\$ 105,000	\$ 70,000	5.1	7/15/10
Municipal Building	8/1/02	\$ 195,000	\$ 175,000	4.35	8/1/17

## SCHOOL BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 3/29/06	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Elementary	7/94	\$1,100,000	\$575,000	4.5 Avg.	7/2014



Ponca Volunteer Fire & Rescue



City Office

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Dixon County has 13 townships and is governed by a seven-member board of supervisors who are elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2006. The county belongs to the Siouland Interstate Metropolitan Planning Council (SIMPCO) along with more than 55 other entities in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota. The 2005–06 actual budget is \$6,075,370. Dixon County is currently working on zoning.

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Ponca, a second-class city, has a mayor-council form of government. The next election will be held in 2006. The 2005–06 actual budget is \$3,590,157. Municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected</b>	
Mayor	4 Years
Council Members (6)	4 Years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Staff	Indefinite

### FIRE PROTECTION

Fire protection is provided in the community by a 37-member volunteer fire department. The fire department also provides protection outside city limits by operating the rural fire district's equipment and providing mutual aid.

Ponca has 90 fire hydrants. The fire insurance classification code is 6 inside the corporate limits and 9 outside the corporate limits. Annual expenditures for fire protection during the last three years averaged \$27,000.

Equipment in the joint city/rural fire department:

Year/Make	Description
1982 Chevrolet	1-ton pickup w/equip.
1968 IHC	Fire truck
1993 Ford	Fire truck
1984 IHC 6x6	1,000-gal. tanker
1988 Ford	Rescue unit
1990 IHC	Equipment truck
1982 Ford	800 gal. per min.
1995 Ford	Ambulance
1989 Chevrolet	1-ton pickup w/equip.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### Police Department

Ponca employs two full-time police officers. The department cooperates on an informal basis with the Dixon County Sheriff's Department, based in Ponca. Annual expenditures for the past five years averaged \$96,200.

#### Sheriff's Department

The Dixon County Sheriff's Department in Ponca is comprised of 10 sworn officers and 9 support personnel. Regular patrol provides protection to existing industries.

The crime rate per 1,000 population in Dixon County in 2004 was 9.7 compared to a state crime rate of 37.7 and a national rate of 39.8.

#### State Patrol

Troop B of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Norfolk. Four patrol officers serve the Ponca area.

### STREETS

Ponca has 9.38 miles of streets, 8.75 miles are hard-surfaced with asphalt. There are no local load restrictions. Ninety percent of the streets have curbs and 60 percent have sidewalks.

The city has a street sweeper and snow removal equipment.

## **BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS**

The International Building Codes are enforced in Ponca. Local zoning classifications are:

- Agriculture
- Residential
- Central Business District
- Highway Commercial
- Light Industrial
- Heavy Industrial
- Flood Plain
- Mobile Home Park

## **PLANNING**

The planning commission is comprised of seven members who serve three-year staggered terms. Members are appointed by the mayor and council.

A comprehensive plan for Dixon County, prepared by SIMPCO of Sioux City, Iowa, was approved in March 2001.

A comprehensive plan for Ponca was prepared by SIMPCO of Sioux City, Iowa, and approved in 2006.



Dixon County Courthouse

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

#### Ponca School System

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio
Elementary	11	200	1:13
Jr.-Sr. High School	20	200	1:11

School District No. 1 (26-0001) in Dixon County covers 250 miles and has an actual valuation of \$138,672,715. This Class 3, Type K-6, 6 district is accredited by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The 2004-05 school operating expenses totaled \$2,941,522, with an average cost per pupil of \$7,401. The actual valuation per pupil was \$346,682.

The elementary school was built in 1994 and has a capacity of 275 (including the portable classroom). The junior-senior high school, built in 1917 with additions in 1939 and 1974, has a maximum capacity of 350.

#### Test Results

Name	% Students Taking Test	Average Score
7th Grade ITBS	100	56
ACT	63	20.9

It is estimated that 96 percent of the ninth grade students finish high school, 80 percent of the graduating seniors pursue a college degree, and 20 percent of the seniors enter the job market or join the military immediately after graduation.



Ponca Public School

## Educational Service Unit

Ponca participates in Educational Service Unit 1, which is headquartered in Wakefield and serves six counties. Services available in Ponca include speech therapy; psychological testing; physical therapy; occupational therapy; early childhood screening; and screening for auditory, visual, and physical conditions. Other services are available as needed.

## Community College

Ponca is part of the **Northeast Community College (NECC)** service area. The college, governed by an 11-member elected board, serves 20 counties in northeast Nebraska from the main campus located in Norfolk, 72 miles southwest of Ponca, and through regional education centers located in O'Neill, West Point, and South Sioux City.

Enrollment at NECC for 2004–05 included 7,291 students taking credit courses and 19,007 students taking noncredit, continuing education classes.

NECC offers more than 70 technical, vocational, business, and liberal arts majors preparing the student for immediate employment or transfer to a four-year college or university. In May 2005 the college awarded 671 diplomas and degrees. According to the latest Graduate Employment Report, approximately 99 percent of the 2004 graduates seeking employment found jobs.

The Graduate Employment Report also showed that 29 percent of the 2004 graduates chose to continue their education, with most transferring to a four-year school. Other data confirm that college transfer students from NECC who continue their educations at four-year institutions do as well as or better than native and other transfer students.

The Business and Industry Division at NECC works with area industries, retail and service establishments, agriculture, and other agencies in planning employee development and training. The programs can be delivered on site at the company or at the state-of-the-art facilities at NECC. Training is arranged at any time of the day or evening to meet the organization's special needs.

The Business and Industry Division served 247 employers and trained more than 5,500 employees through customized training workshops and seminars in fiscal year 2004–05. The division also worked with 18 communities on strategic planning and economic development initiatives. More than 40 individuals seeking to start or expand their businesses received assistance through this division. An additional 15 minority-owned businesses were provided start-up assistance and consulting services. NECC also assisted in recruiting several new companies and divisions to the region, resulting in more than 600 new jobs.

The 205-acre main campus includes 19 buildings with classroom, shop, and lab facilities; library/resource center; student center; an activities

<b>Northeast Community College Representative Sample of the Class of 2005</b>		
<b>Program</b>	<b>Degree/Certificate</b>	<b>Conferred</b>
Administrative Assistant	AAS	19
Administrative Assistant	1-year diploma	10
Agriculture	AAS	72
Audio Recording Technology	AAS	5
Auto/Auto Body Technology	AAS	40
Computer Science/MIS	AAS	19
Electromechanical	AAS	9
General Studies (academic transfers)	AAS & AA	61
Nursing-LPN	1-year diploma	42
Nursing-ADN	AAS	25
Utility Line	AAS	36

center with gym and theater; the Lifelong Learning Center; residence hall for students; and two apartment buildings for student living. In 2004 Burkhardt Hall, a 147-bed residence hall addition, and the \$2.4 million Agriculture Complex, one mile east of the main campus, were dedicated. The Agriculture Complex includes a 550-seat arena and four classrooms. NECC also owns a 566-acre college farm with all facilities necessary for teaching farm operations. The college is one of the best computer-equipped educational institutions in the state. In 2005 a \$2.57 million addition was completed to the Cox Activity Center. The addition added approximately 30 rooms that house the radio/TV broadcasting, audio recording technology, and music departments.

The South Sioux City Education Center moved into a new 10,000-square-foot facility in South Sioux City in 2005. The state-of-the-art education center houses several classrooms, a large business-industry training room, computer lab, distance-learning classroom, conference room, and administrative offices. The center has classes leading to an associate of arts degree with a business administration or general studies emphasis and associate of applied science degree in administrative assistant-medical and business management.

The presidents of NECC and Wayne State College signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a proposed campus in South Sioux City. When the campus is complete, students will be able to take their freshman- and sophomore-level courses from NECC and then take junior- and senior-level or graduate-level courses from Wayne State College at the same location in South Sioux City.

For more information on Northeast Community College, call (800) 348-9033 or visit [www.northeastcollege.com](http://www.northeastcollege.com).

### **Lifelong Learning Center**

The **Lifelong Learning Center** at Northeast Community College in Norfolk serves the business and professional community through a variety of uses. The 20,000-square foot educational wing includes two classrooms, which can be opened into one large room, two distance learning classrooms,

and a computer center that can be divided into six rooms and accommodate up to 700 people. Full technology and food services are available to make the center a highly desirable location for meetings, training activities, and conferences.

In addition to the associate degree and continuing education programs offered through NECC, the Lifelong Learning Center serves as a clearinghouse for educational offerings from Educational Service Unit 8, Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, UNL Northeast Research and Extension Center, University of Nebraska Cooperative Extension Madison County, and Wayne State College, as well as other public and private institutions. Using state-of-the-art distance education technology and live instruction, several bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees are offered, including computer science and engineering, industrial management systems engineering, and two MBA programs.

For more information on the Lifelong Learning Center, its programs and facilities, call the facility's coordinator at (402) 844-7246.

**Wayne State College (WSC)** located in Wayne, 40 miles southwest of Ponca, serves approximately 3,400 students from throughout Nebraska and Iowa as well as more than 29 other states and 20 foreign countries. At the undergraduate level, WSC offers more than 70 nonteaching majors and minors plus 38 various teaching endorsements in four academic schools including arts and humanities, business and technology, education and counseling, and natural and social sciences. Masters degrees are also available in business and education.

Of those undergraduate students declaring a major, approximately 14 percent major in the arts and humanities, 20 percent in education and counseling, 29 percent in business and technology, and 37 percent in natural and social sciences.

Founded in 1891, the college became a State College in 1909. The picturesque 128-acre campus serves as a state arboretum and features a walking/jogging trail, numerous indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, a renovated and expanded Student Center, a state-of-the-art business building, and a new studio arts building.

Program	Wayne State College			
	Undergraduate		Graduate	
	Majors*	Degrees**	Majors*	Degrees**
Applied Human & Sport Physiology	20	1	—	—
Art	42	5	—	—
Business	534	147	60	16
Chemistry	47	24	—	—
Computer Information Systems	69	19	—	—
Computer Science	31	1	—	—
Counselor Education/Counseling	0	0	72	13
Criminal Justice	172	29	—	—
Curriculum & Instruction	0	0	306	149
Early Childhood	73	12	—	—
Elementary Education	363	74	—	—
English	83	18	—	—
Exercise Science	68	15	4	3
Family & Consumer Sciences	47	19	—	—
French Education	2	—	—	—
Geography	24	9	—	—
Graphic Design	47	7	—	—
Health & PE	55	12	—	—
History	41	6	1	—
Human Service Counseling	88	29	—	—
Industrial Technology	90	16	—	—
Interdisciplinary Studies	6	2	—	—
Life Sciences	103	20	—	—
Mass Communications	54	10	—	—
Mathematics	42	14	—	—
Middle Level Education	24	—	—	—
Modern Language and Culture	0	—	—	—
Music	49	4	—	—
Natural Sciences	7	3	—	—
Physical Science	0	1	—	—
Political Science	28	7	—	—
Pre-Professional	192	—	—	—
Psychology	73	25	—	—
School Administration	0	0	61	23
Social Sciences	47	10	5	3
Sociology	25	6	—	—
Spanish	30	3	—	—
Special Education	47	8	2	4
Speech Communications	55	11	2	2
Sport Management/Leisure Services	98	18	17	6
Technology	11	3	—	—
Theatre	20	7	—	—
Undeclared	351	—	—	—

\*Includes first and second majors as of fall 2005

\*\*Degrees awarded December 2004 through August 2005

The Office of Continuing Education at Wayne State College offers undergraduate and graduate coursework via Internet and distance learning. In addition, a variety of courses are also offered on-site in several area cities. Schedules and course offerings vary.

For more information, contact Wayne State College at (800) 228-9972 or visit [www.wsc.edu](http://www.wsc.edu).

### Other Schools

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

Community/College or University	Mileage
<b>Sioux City, IA</b>	24
Briar Cliff College	
Morningside College	
St. Lukes School of Nursing	
Western Iowa Tech	
<b>Vermillion, SD</b>	26
University of South Dakota	
<b>Wayne, NE</b>	40
Wayne State College	
<b>Norfolk, NE</b>	72
Northeast Community College	
<b>Omaha, NE</b>	115
University of Nebraska at Omaha	
<b>Lincoln, NE</b>	171
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	

### CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Catholic	1
Evangelical Free	1
Lutheran–Evangelical	1
United Methodist	1

### HEALTH CARE

More than 100 physicians practice within a 50-mile radius of Ponca.

### Clinics

The **Ponca Medical Center** is staffed with one doctor and one physician assistant. The clinic is open five days a week.

### Rescue Squad

The rescue squad, a part of the Ponca Volunteer Fire Department, is comprised of 19 certified Emergency Medical Technicians. There are two fully equipped ambulances and one equipment/rescue truck in the community.

### Hospitals

**Mercy Medical Center-Sioux City** is a 480-bed tertiary care facility established in 1890. The facility serves a tri-state, 33-county area at the intersection of Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota and provides a complete continuum of preventive, primary, acute, and tertiary health care for more than 100,000 patients annually. Mercy Medical Center serves as a designated trauma center for the region and provides a vital, life saving link to rural areas via Mercy Air Care, the hospital’s helicopter ambulance service. The medical center provides a full range of comprehensive medical services. The state-of-the-art Mercy Heart Center is regionally and nationally renowned for its expertise in cardiac care, interventional cardiac procedures, and open-heart surgery. Mercy is also well known for its capabilities in surgery, oncology, pediatric, and obstetrics. The hospital is home to the area’s only CARF-accredited inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation program. Mercy Medical partners with other community healthcare providers to sponsor a regional cancer center, paramedic services, a blood bank, a federally funded community health center, a physician-hospital organization, a freestanding surgery center, and a variety of other health services. The hospital also manages three rural hospitals and a long-term care facility.

Mercy leads the region with multiple Centers of Excellence. Mercy Heart Center continues to achieve better than national norms for clinical outcomes, and door-to-dilation time. The Mercy Comprehensive Stroke Center was the first stroke

center in the region to earn the prestigious program approval of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Mercy Trauma Center is a verified Level II trauma center by the American College of Surgeons and is one of only three in Iowa and the only Trauma Center within a 90-mile radius. Mercy's neurosciences, orthopedics, and rehabilitation services also lead in the region. Mercy was the first hospital in Iowa to use the Stealth, a new neurosurgical navigational device that takes up to 100 minutes off traditional procedures and reduces a patient's hospital stay by an average of three days. Mercy Pain Management Center uses a multidisciplinary team of board-certified physicians, physical therapists, pharmacists, and experts in massage and wellness to evaluate patients with chronic pain.

Mercy Medical Center is comprised of a hospital, network of 36 primary care and specialty clinics, home health services, occupational health and behavioral health services, blood bank, community education and outreach, elder adult services (Silver Advantage Program, geriatric assessment clinic, and other chronic disease programs for persons 55 years of age and older), children-at-risk programs, and many other community health services.

**St. Luke's Health System** with headquarters in Sioux City, Iowa, includes St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, St. Luke's Clinic Network, St. Luke's College, and St. Luke's Health Foundation.

**St. Luke's Regional Medical Center** is a 180-bed acute care hospital with 12 inpatient care units, a 24-hour emergency department, outpatient services, and a wide variety of support services for patients and the community. St. Luke's, whose service area includes numerous counties in Nebraska, Iowa, and South Dakota, annually admits approximately 9,000 patients, records nearly 2,000 births, 90,000 outpatient visits, and nearly 9,000 surgeries.

In 2005 St. Luke's began a \$10-million project to make enhancements to its women's and children's services within the Birth Center at St. Luke's. In July 2005, a new state-of-the-art Neonatal

Intensive Care Unit opened. It is the area's highest ranked neonatal unit. Enhancements to the labor and delivery rooms, and mother/baby units were completed in spring 2006.

Other major patient care units at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center include hospital-based surgery, the community's only Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Acute Rehab Unit, Orthopedic Care Unit, Center for Digestive Disorders, diagnostics, and the Bomgaars Center for Cancer Care. A freestanding Same Day Surgery Center opened in 2003 across from the medical center.

St. Luke's College has three associate programs of nursing, radiology, and respiratory care and the certificate program in medical technology. St. Luke's College, located just one block from the medical campus, enrolled a record 166 students in 2005.

St. Luke's Health Foundation supports the mission of St. Luke's to enhance the quality of life and health of Siouxland by funding health-related projects. St. Luke's Health Foundation also sponsors Children's Miracle Network to enhance pediatric healthcare and education.

St. Luke's became an affiliate of Iowa Health System (IHS) in 1996. IHS is a strong, statewide network of hospitals and physician clinics and has nine hospitals in Iowa cities. St. Luke's and Iowa Health System support the Iowa Statewide Poison Center and My Nurse, a 24-hour call center for health-related questions and physician referrals. St. Luke's Health System also partners with Mercy Medical Center to sponsor the June E. Nylen Cancer Center, Hospice of Siouxland, and the Siouxland Paramedics.

## NURSING HOMES

The **Elms Health Care Center** in Ponca was built in 1976 and has a capacity for 53 beds. The fully accredited center, certified by Medicare and Medicaid, is a member of the Nebraska Health Care Association. The center provides 24-hour nursing care, physical therapy, and restorative care activities as well as special dietary, daycare, and social services.



Ponca Medical Clinic



Elms Health Care Center



Ponca Public Library



Senior Citizens Center



Highland Oaks Golf Club



City Ball Park



Rodeo Grounds



City Park Scenes

The Elms Health Care Center added a wing in 2003 for a nine-unit assisted living facility, which is called Ponca Nursing and Assisted Living.

## LIBRARY

The **Ponca Public Library** contains more than 11,000 items in its collection with an average annual circulation exceeding 54,000. The fully automated library has three computers with Internet access, printers, facsimile, copier, TV/VCR, and microfiche reader/printer. Activities include a story hour, reading contests, and a summer reading program. A \$350,000 improvement project to be completed in 2006 will make the library handicap accessible. This project will be financed by donations and grants.

## RECREATION

There are four parks in Ponca covering 20 acres. Chief Standing Bear Park has a ball field, basketball area, horseshoe pits, sand volleyball court, shelter house, picnic area, playground area, and a locally carved totem pole. Friendship Park has a playground area, shelter, and picnic area. Athletic Park has a combination football/baseball field and a smaller baseball field. The rodeo arena is available for the PRCA Days of '56 rodeo, held annually in June, and local horse shows, play days, etc.

The city sponsors PeeWee Jrs., PeeWee, Pony, and Little League baseball, and softball teams for girls.

Area facilities:

- Boating — Excellent boating on the Missouri River and Ponca State Park
- Fishing — Excellent fishing on the Missouri River, 2 miles
- Golf Courses — Public 9-hole grass greens course with clubhouse
- Hike/Bike Trail — 2 1/2 mile trail from city limits to state park

- Hunting — Excellent hunting for pheasant, grouse, dove, duck, turkey, geese, and deer
- Rodeo — PRCA Arena
- Swimming — Outdoor pool at Ponca State Park
- Other — Trail riding at Ponca State Park

Annual events include the **PRCA Rodeo** held the last weekend in June. The **Nifty 50's**, an all-day celebration relating back to the 1950s, is held the first weekend in August in conjunction with an all school alumni reunion. Activities include a car show, kids games, frog jumping contest, and street dance. The **Dixon County Fair** is held annually in August in Concord, 25 miles southwest of Ponca. The city celebrated their 150th birthday in August 2006.

The **Ponca Historical Society** was formed in the early 1970s. One home made of native Ponca brick is used to house historical displays and scrapbooks. The Cook's Blacksmith Shop is filled with one of the nation's finest collections of original blacksmithing tools. The Historical Society also sponsors a Christmas Tour of Homes.

The **Senior Citizens Center** is open five days a week for quilting, crafts, games, cards, dancing, and potluck dinners. The center provides information on matters and programs concerning the senior population along with health and educational programs.

**Ponca State Park**, 2,200 acres of wooded hills, is located two miles north of Ponca on the banks of the Missouri River. Facilities include boat access to the river for boating, skiing, and fishing; swimming pool; trail ride; camping facilities with bath houses, electrical hook ups, and dumping station; hiking and snow skiing trails; picnic shelters; playground areas; and modern cabins.

A \$7.4 million visitor and education center was constructed in 2001. The center focuses on the history of the Missouri River, a designated National Recreation River.

**Highland Oaks Golf Course** at Ponca State Park combines the advantages of open rolling hills and heavily wooded areas showcasing huge oaks. Mounded fairways, hidden grass traps, and huge greens add to the native surroundings of this double row, irrigated, nine-hole course. This public course opened in 1996 with the clubhouse opening in 1997. The clubhouse offers a pro shop, lockers, showers, meeting rooms, lounge, and a light menu.

## HOUSING

### New Construction

Ten new homes were constructed in 2003–04 and one was built in 2005. The cost of new home construction averages \$100 per square foot.

**Housing Market** (as of 2/2006):

<b>Number of Homes on the Market</b>	
Single Family -	9
<b>Avg. Selling Prices</b> (New and Existing)	
Single Family Home	
1,001–2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bed	\$104,000
<b>Rentals</b>	
New 2 bedroom home	\$550
Apartment Vacancy Rate	less than 60%

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

Less than \$100,000	20
\$100,001–\$150,000	2

### Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing

**Pioneer Square** is a 22-unit, low-cost elderly housing facility built in 1980. The three-story brick facility, with an on site manager, has a common meeting room.

**Ponca Heights** built in 1981, is an 8-unit low cost family housing facility.

### Assisted Living

A nine-unit assisted living facility, Ponca Nursing and Assisted Living, opened in 2003. The facility is attached to the Elms Health Care Center.

## FINANCIAL

As of December 31, 2005:

	Capital		
Name	Accounts	Deposits	Loans
-----thousand dollars-----			
Bank of Dixon County	\$5,600	\$45,000	\$34,100



Bank of Dixon County

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

Auctioneers .....	1
Dentists .....	1
Medical Doctors (residing in Ponca) —family practice .....	1
Nurses, Registered .....	12
Pharmacists .....	1
Physician Assistants .....	1
Veterinarians .....	1

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies .....	1
Auto Repair & Service .....	2
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums .....	1
Beauty Salons & Barber Shops .....	6
Child Care Services .....	3
Contractors—building .....	2
—concrete .....	1
—painting .....	1
Convenience Stores .....	1
Drug Stores .....	1
Dry Cleaning & Laundry .....	1
Gift Shops .....	1
Grocery Stores .....	1
Insurance Companies .....	2
Laundries, Self-Service .....	1
Motels .....	1 (16 rooms)
Nurseries & Garden Centers .....	1
Real Estate Firms .....	1
Restaurants .....	1
Service Stations .....	2



Pioneer Square Apartment Building



Ponca Heights Apartment Building



Cook's Blacksmith Shop



Adams House Museum 1800s

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

2002 Statistics	Dixon County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	660	49,355
Land in Farms (acres)	276,722	45,903,116
Average Size of Farms (acres)	419	930
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$101,788,000	\$9,703,657,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$154,224	\$196,609
Total Acres Irrigated	17,280	7,625,170
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	6.2%	16.6%
<b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2001-2005)</b>		
Alfalfa Hay (dry)	46,012 tons	4,685,600 tons
Corn for Grain	11,078,840 bu.	1,158,890,000 bu.
Oats	153,240 bu.	4,075,000 bu.
Soybeans	2,853,300 bu.	207,072,000 bu.
<b>Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2002-2006)</b>		
All Cattle	42,600	6,350,000

Source: National Agriculture Statistics, 2001–2006  
2002 Census of Agriculture

Dixon County ranked in the top five counties in Nebraska in the production of oats during the last five years.

### RAW MATERIALS

Metallic minerals are not available in the area; however, nonmetallic minerals of sand and gravel are available in commercial quantities.

Limited quantities of walnut, elm, oak, and cottonwood are available.



Area Crops

## CLIMATE

### TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity*	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	8.2	18.1	28.0	0.64	6.8	76	65
February	14.6	24.2	33.9	0.77	6.2	79	65
March	24.8	34.9	45.0	1.83	7.7	80	62
April	37.5	49.5	61.5	2.53	1.6	79	52
May	49.6	61.3	72.9	3.64	0.0	80	53
June	59.4	70.7	82.0	3.93	0.0	82	55
July	64.1	75.1	86.1	3.38	0.0	84	56
August	61.8	72.8	83.8	3.06	0.0	86	58
September	51.4	63.6	75.8	2.59	0.0	83	54
October	39.5	51.9	64.3	1.82	0.8	79	52
November	25.7	35.9	46.2	1.17	3.8	80	60
December	13.8	23.2	32.6	0.68	6.4	79	66
<b>Annual</b>	37.5	48.4	59.3	26.04	33.4	81	58

\*Recorded at Norfolk Weather Station

### FROST DATA

Average date of last frost in spring .....	May 4
Average date of first frost in fall .....	September 28
Average length of growing season .....	177 days
Average number of "heating degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	6,937
Average number of "cooling degree days" based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	925
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average) .....	12
Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....	South

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1948–2004,  
[www.hpccsun.unl.edu](http://www.hpccsun.unl.edu)



Scenes from Ponca State Park



Scenes from Ponca State Park