

# COMMUNITY FACTS

## SCOTTSBLUFF/GERING, NEBRASKA

[www.tcdne.org](http://www.tcdne.org)  
[www.scottsbluff.org](http://www.scottsbluff.org)  
[www.gering.org](http://www.gering.org)  
[www.scottsbluffcounty.org](http://www.scottsbluffcounty.org)



**DECEMBER 2009**

### POPULATION (Official U.S. Census)

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008 Est.</u>
Scottsbluff	14,732	14,785
Gering	7,751	7,679
Terrytown	646	1,190
Scotts Bluff County	36,951	36,554
Scottsbluff Micropolitan Area*	37,770	37,289
Labor Market**	69,381	66,680

\*Includes Scotts Bluff and Banner Counties

\*\*Includes Scotts Bluff County and contiguous counties

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 Scottsbluff/Gering, Nebraska. This material was compiled by the Twin Cities Development Association, Inc., and Nebraska Public Power District in order to promote community development.

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

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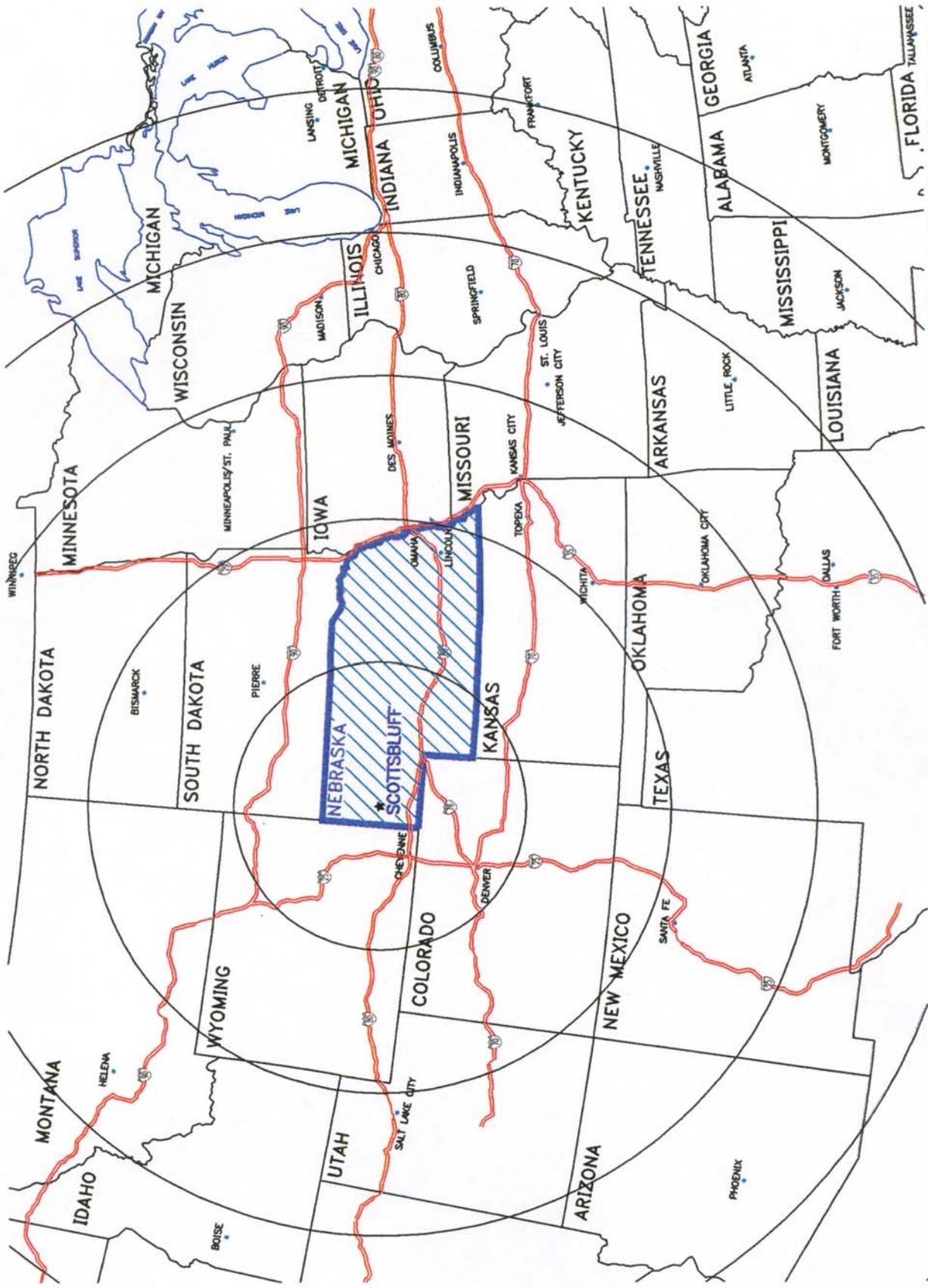
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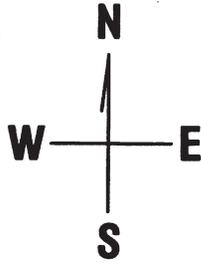
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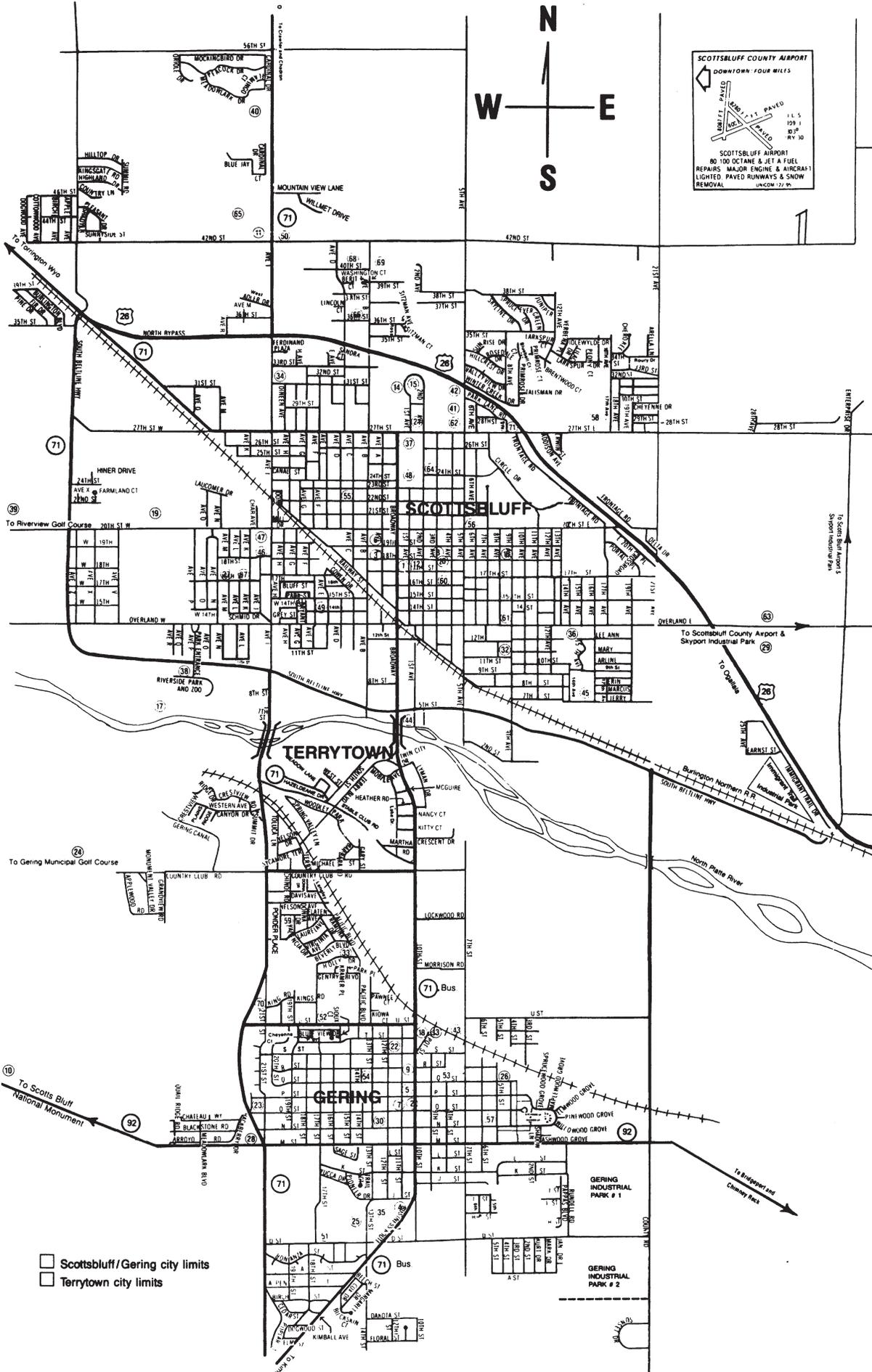


SCALE: EACH CIRCLE REPRESENTS APPROXIMATELY 200 MILES



**SCOTTSBLUFF COUNTY AIRPORT**  
DOWNTOWN - FOUR MILES

SCOTTSBLUFF AIRPORT  
80 100 OCTANE & JET A FUEL  
REPAIRS - MAJOR ENGINE & AIRCRAFT  
LIGHTED PAVED RUNWAYS & SNOW  
REMOVAL UNCDM-72 99



- ▬ Scottsbluff/Gering city limits
- - - Terrytown city limits

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## LOCATION

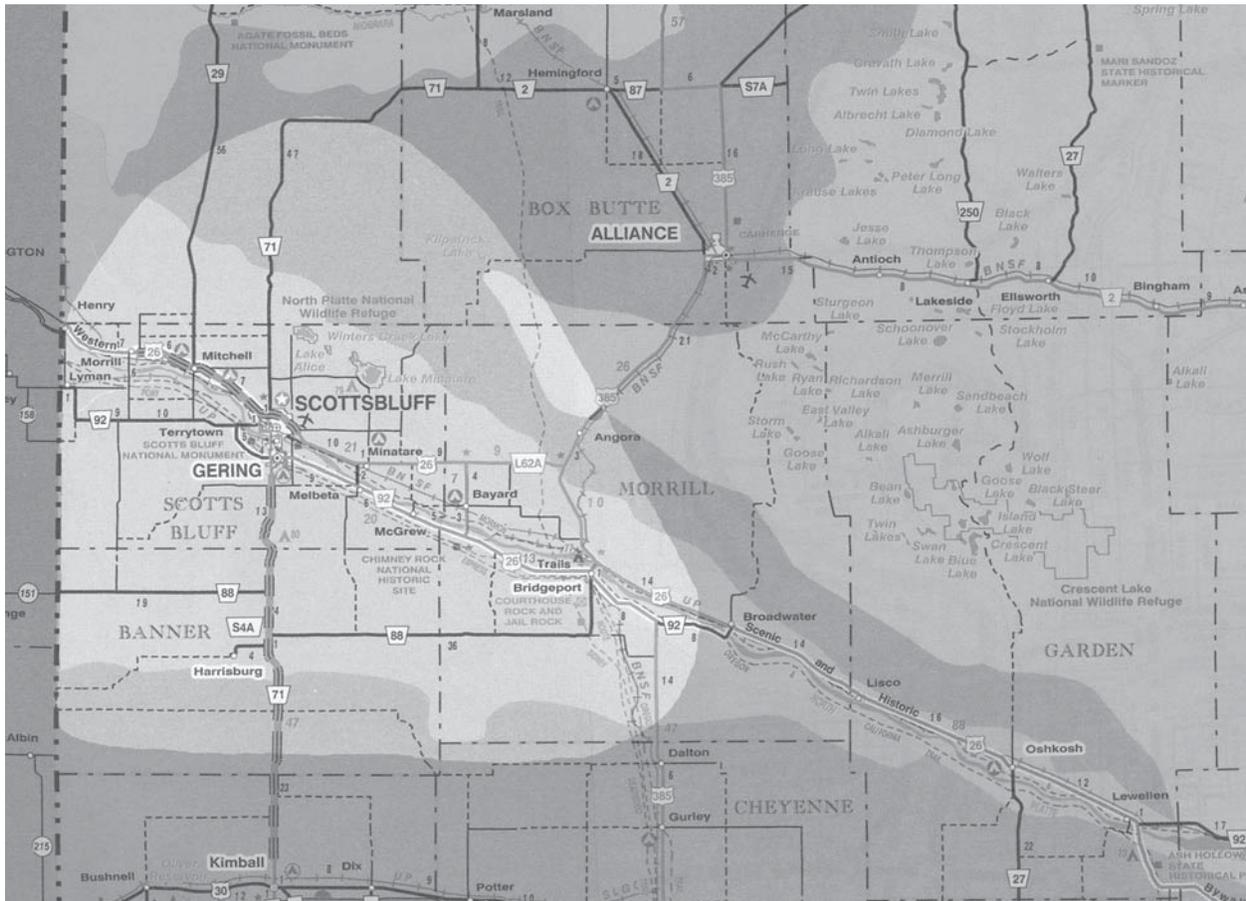
Scottsbluff/Gering, a twin-cities community separated by the North Platte River, is located in Scotts Bluff County in western Nebraska. Scottsbluff is located on the north side of the river and Gering on the south. The city of Terrytown lies between the two cities. Gering is the county seat of Scotts Bluff County and Scottsbluff is the largest city in Nebraska's Panhandle region. The twin cities are 20 miles from the Wyoming border and 150 miles from Colorado's Front Range.

U.S. Highway 26 and Nebraska Highways 71 and 29 serve Scottsbluff. Gering is served by Nebraska Highways 92 and 71. The twin cities are 40 miles north of Interstate 80. The communities are 109 miles east of Cheyenne, 210 miles from Denver, 420 miles from Lincoln, and 472 miles from Omaha.

## POPULATION (U.S. Census)

Year	Scottsbluff	Gering	Scotts Bluff County
1970	14,507	5,639	36,432
1980	14,156	7,760	38,344
1990	14,029	8,025	36,025
2000	14,732	7,751	36,951
2008 (Est.)	14,785	7,679	36,554

The 2008 U.S. Census estimates 66,680 people live in Scotts Bluff County and the contiguous Nebraska counties of Banner, Box Butte, Morrill, and Sioux as well as Goshen County in Wyoming. The Scottsbluff Micropolitan Area, comprised of Scotts Bluff and Banner Counties, has an estimated population of 37,289.



Primary Retail Trade Area

<b>Scotts Bluff County Population by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2008 U.S. Census</b>	
One Race	
White	95.0%
Black	0.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.7%
Asian	0.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	*
Two or More Races	0.9%
Hispanic or Latino Origin**	19.1%
Persons Not Hispanic	77.5%

\*Value greater than zero but less than one-half unit of measure shown.

\*\*Hispanics may be of any race, so also are included in applicable race categories.

## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

The Scottsbluff Micropolitan Area has a diversified economic base including medical, agribusiness, manufacturing, retail, wholesale, education, and tourism. As in many Nebraska communities, agriculture is an important factor.

The primary retail trade area extends approximately 25 miles northeast, 36 miles southeast, 33 miles south, and 22 miles west and contains approximately 37,730 people.

Firms with retail sales tax permits reported 2008 annual net taxable retail sales of \$347,109,436 in Scottsbluff, \$58,306,198 in Gering, and \$423,976,407 in Scotts Bluff County.

More than 150 wholesale firms in the area distribute groceries; agricultural products; automotive, electronic, electrical, and plumbing supplies; beverages; hardware; and farm equipment. Scotts Bluff County has a regional mall and several shopping districts.

## **ELEVATION**

Scottsbluff and Gering are 3,890 feet above sea level.

## **TOPOGRAPHY**

Scottsbluff/Gering lies in the heart of the North Platte Valley, which extends from Wyoming southeastward across western Nebraska. The valley is approximately 20 miles wide with ranges of hills parallel to the river on both sides. To the south, the hills average 600 to 700 feet. To the north, rolling hills are elevated 300 to 400 feet above the river. The rich sandy-loam soil in the valley is level to gently rolling, and drainage to the North Platte River is good.

## **HISTORY**

### **Scotts Bluff County**

A rebuilt 1851 Trading Post tells the story of the famous Robidoux brothers who trapped and traded here from the early 1820s through the pioneer migration of the 1850s.

A fur trapper by the name of Hiram Scott gained a certain immortality by dying, alone and deserted by his companions, at the base of a magnificent formation of bluffs along the North Platte River about 1828. Many others died near this spot on the old Oregon and Mormon Trails, but it was Hiram Scott for whom Scotts Bluff, Scotts Bluff County, and the city of Scottsbluff were named.

Scotts Bluff County was originally a part of Cheyenne County, but as the homesteaders began to stream into western Nebraska in 1886 and 1887, they wanted a county seat much closer than far-away Sidney. In 1888 an election resulted in the creation of Scotts Bluff, Kimball, Banner, and Deuel Counties and a greatly reduced Cheyenne County. Gering, one of the first towns in the Panhandle and a leader in the movement for partition, became the county seat of Scotts Bluff County.

### **City of Scottsbluff**

Like many towns along the North Platte River, Scottsbluff came into existence as a result of the extension of the Burlington Northern Railroad through the valley. The town site was laid out on land purchased from the McClenahan family

by the Lincoln Land Company, a Burlington subsidiary, in December 1899. Railroad tracks reached the town site in February 1900.

By March 1900, the newborn town began to take form. Winfield Evans built the first store, and the Emery Hotel was started thereafter. The Republican was the first weekly newspaper. The Herald was founded by Ernest F. Moon in 1901. The Star was moved from Mitchell by P. J. Barron. These weekly newspapers were consolidated by H. J. Wisner and A. B. Wood into the Star-Herald in 1912.

Traveling along with the Burlington Northern Railroad, the town progressed, steadily but slowly, until 1904. Then came the era of the big ditches and the construction of the Big Laramie and Tri-State irrigation canals. These projects brought several thousand construction workers into the valley, and alert Scottsbluff businessmen brought them into Scottsbluff to trade.

Before the ditch construction began to taper off, the Great Western Sugar Company completed the erection of a beet sugar factory in Scottsbluff in 1910. The development of irrigation plus the proximity of the sugar factory soon made the raising of sugar beets a great agricultural industry in Scotts Bluff County and surrounding areas. From miles around, farmers hauled sugar beets to the Scottsbluff factory.

With the aid of the canal-building crews and the sugar factory, Scottsbluff was rapidly becoming the principal trading center of the valley. As people in surrounding farms and villages acquired automobiles, they started coming to Scottsbluff to trade.

The town kept pace with its business growth. It shook off its juvenile boisterousness by voting out saloons temporarily in 1907. During that same year frame buildings were beginning to be replaced by brick stores, many of which are still in use. Concrete sidewalks began to replace wooden walks, and an electric light system started replacing the gas lamp about the same time. A telephone system had been installed by the Platte Valley Telephone Company several years earlier.

The area is rich in prehistoric artifacts as well as rich in the American tradition of pioneer days, being on the routes of the Oregon and Mormon Trails and the Pony Express. Scotts Bluff National Monument, six miles southwest of Scottsbluff, is designated in most of the "Immigration Journals" of those traveling west along these trails. The covered wagons of early-day explorers were awed at the sight of jutting bluffs and rugged hills rising above the flat Nebraska plains. These landmarks can still be enjoyed by today's traveler. The covered wagon trails are still visible in the passes between the bluffs.

### **City of Gering**

Gering was founded April 27, 1887, and at that time was known as Vendome, Nebraska, located in Cheyenne County. The first issue of The Courier was also published on that date by Asa Woods. The name of the city was changed to Gering shortly thereafter, named for Martin Gering, the city's first banker. The new city's biggest promoter was Oscar Gardner who was named the first postmaster. The site for the city was chosen based on a survey by the Union Pacific Railroad; however, the building of the railroad did not progress as quickly as planned and did not arrive in Gering until 1910. Gering was named county seat of Scotts Bluff County in 1888.

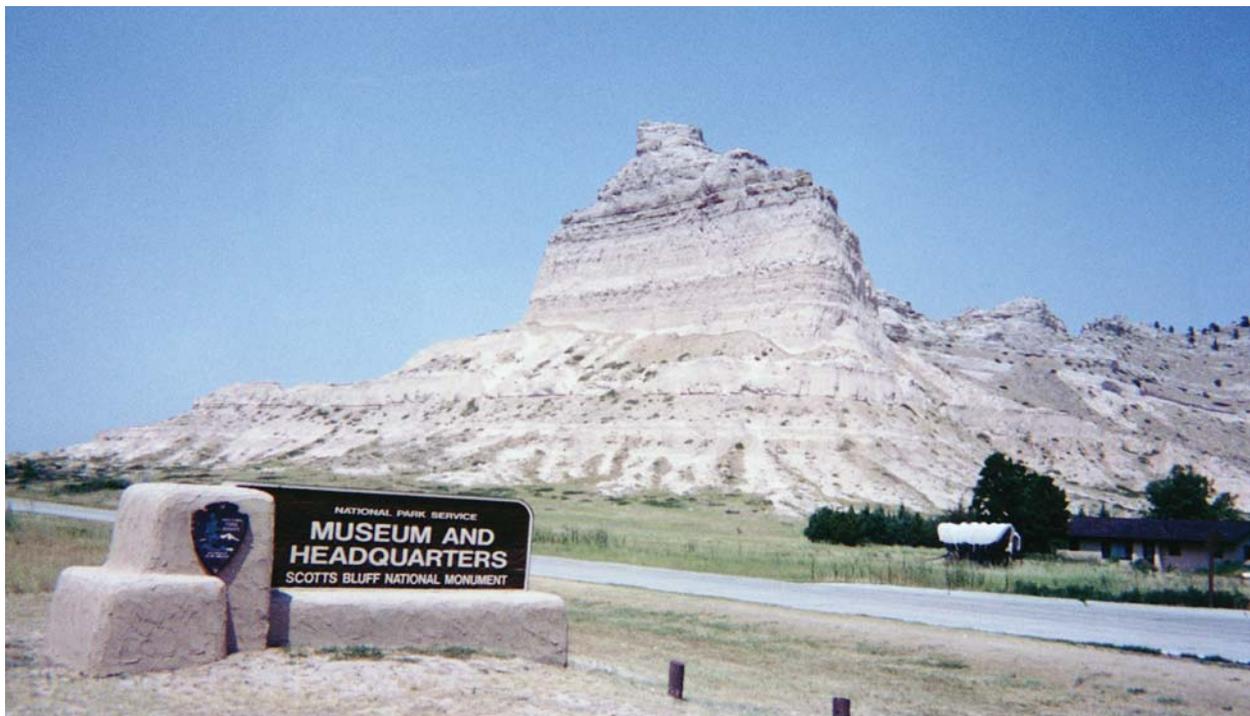
Gering is rich in history, lying just east of the Scotts Bluff National Monument, a well-known landmark on the Oregon Trail. The monument was incorporated into the national park system in 1919. The Oregon Trail Museum, at the base of the monument, tells a vivid story of the building of the West by means of paintings, sketches, and other effective illustrations. Mitchell Pass, on the Oregon and Mormon Trails, is one of the most famous of all gateways for human migration, dividing the huge bluffs. Robidoux Pass lies south of Gering in the beautiful Wildcat Hills. Trail ruts made by the traffic of the fur traders and immigrants to the Rocky Mountains and the West Coast are still visible in both passes. A rebuilt 1851 Trading Post tells the story of the famous Robidoux brothers who trapped and

traded here from the early 1820s through the pioneer migration of the 1850s.

Gering is home to the North Platte Valley Historical Museum, which was completed in 1974. The museum displays thousands of historical articles in authentic period displays.

### **City of Terrytown**

Terrytown, nestled between Scottsbluff and Gering, began in 1949 under the founding and direction of famed visionary Terry Carpenter, who served in the Senate and represented the interests of western Nebraska with incredible vigor. In founding the village, Terry Carpenter left behind a legacy that continues to make the village a source of welcome for many.



Scottsbluff National Monument



Downtown Scottsbluff



Downtown Gering



Strip Mall



Monument Mall



Cinema 6 at Monument Mall

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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### MANUFACTURERS

<u>Company/Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
Aluma Fab, Inc. 1970	Custom aluminum windows	Local	3	None
Aulick Industries 1958	Machine shop	National	60	None
B & C Steel 1946	Steel prefabricated buildings & fabricated structural steel members	International	40	None
Bare Manufacturing, Inc. 1972	Prototype machine work	National	2	None
Business Farmer Print Express 1925	Commercial printing	Regional	20	None
C S Precision Manufacturing, Inc. 1999	Hydraulic fittings	International	35	None
Cementer's Inc. 1970	Ready-mix cement	Regional	5	None
Century Lumber 2009	Wood cabinets, solid surface materials fabricator	Local	9	None
Chicory USA 2001	Roasted chicory	International	15	None
Couplamatic Systems, Inc. 1965	Hydraulic hose coupling, machinery & assemblies	National	30	None
Cowan's Custom Cabinets 1974	Cabinets & countertops	Local	4	None
Creative Signs 1978	Storefront signs	Regional	4	None
Ferguson Signs, Inc. 1949	Signs	Regional	5	None
Furst McNess 1908	Livestock pre-mix	National	7	None
Herstead Monument Company 1919	Gravestones, building stone & burial vaults	Regional	8	None

<b><u>Company/Year Established</u></b>	<b><u>Product</u></b>	<b><u>Market</u></b>	<b><u>Employees</u></b>	<b><u>Union</u></b>
Irrigation Specialties Mfg., Inc. 1974	Irrigation equipment & sprayers	International	18	None
Kelley Bean Co. 1970	Dry edible bean processing	International	225	None
Kurt Manufacturing Co. 1984	Machine components	International	135	None
La Plaza Tortilleria 2005	Tortillas	Local	7	None
Lass Inc. 1983	Liquid feed & nutrition supplement	International	3	None
Magnolia Homes 2001	Mobile & modular homes	National	115	None
Midwest PMS Inc. 1990	Feed supplements	Regional	100	None
Panhandle Concrete Products, Inc. 1975	Concrete blocks, pipe, feed bunks & ready mixed concrete	Regional	20	None
Platte Valley Pet Foods, Inc. 1987	Slaughtering of animals except for human consumption	Regional	12	None
R & C Welding & Fabrication 1985	Fabricated structural metal	National	50	None
Scottsbluff Sash & Door 1939	Mill work, doors & casework	Regional	6	None
Simplot Soilbuilders 1960	Dry & liquid fertilizer	Regional	10	None
Snell Services, Inc. 1979	Sheet metal work & ductwork	Regional	30	None
Southwest Hide, Inc. 1982	Cattle hides	International	20	None
Star-Herald Publishing Co. 1912	Daily newspaper & commercial printing	Regional	70	None
Strom's Inc. 1988	Electroplating	Regional	2	None



B & C Steel



C S Precision Manufacturing, Inc.



Couplamatic Systems, Inc.



Kelley Bean Company



Magnolia Homes



Western Sugar Cooperative

<u>Company/Year Established</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Market</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
Townsend Furniture Custom Manufacturing 1990	Wood furniture	National	2	None
Trim Line Springcrest Drapery, Inc. 1967	Draperies & wall coverings	International	3	None
Western Sugar Cooperative 1985	Pure beet sugar & sugar beet by-products	National	260	Teamsters

**MAJOR NONMANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS** (employing 40 or more)

<u>Company</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
Aurora Loan Services, Inc.	Mortgage servicing	565	None
Big K Store	Discount store	50	None
City of Gering	Government	83	None
City of Scottsbluff	Government	144	Police/ Fire
Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska	Social services	250	None
Embarq	Communications	42	None
Family Thrift Center	Grocery store	90	None
First State Bank	Financial	58	None
Fremont Motors	Auto dealership	40	None
Gering Public Schools	Education	313	GEA
Golden LivingCenter	Nursing home	150	None
Health & Human Services	Human services	91	None
Herberger's	Retail	86	None
Heritage Health Care Center	Nursing home	150	None
Ideal Linen	Laundry/dry cleaner	83	None
Nebraska Transport Company	Freight	275	None
Northfield Villa, Inc.	Retirement home	150	None
Panhandle Coop Association	Farm & home center	225	None
Platte Valley Companies	Financial services	150	None

<u>Company</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Employees</u>	<u>Union</u>
Regional West Medical Center	Hospital	1,800	None
Safeway	Grocery store	50	None
Scotts Bluff County	Government	285	CWA (Sheriff's Dept. only)
Scottsbluff Public Schools	Education	440	NSEA/ SSCA
SourceGas	Gas utility	199	CWA
Super Wal-Mart	Discount store	490	None
Target	Discount store	90	None
Team Chevrolet	Auto dealership	64	None
The Residency	Assisted living	53	None
US Bank	Financial	35	None
U.S. Postal Service	Government	61	APWU/ NALC
University of Nebraska Panhandle Research & Extension Center	Education & research	80	None
Valley Bank & Trust	Financial	80	None
Vertex	Call center	400	None
Western Nebraska Community College	Education	250	Faculty
Western Nebraska Veterans Home	Retirement home	100	None

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Twin Cities Development Association, Inc. (TCD), is the economic development organization for the Scottsbluff/Gering area. This nonprofit organization was formed to work with prospective and existing industries to stimulate new investments and create new payrolls in the area.

The cities of Scottsbluff, Gering, Terrytown, Bayard, Bridgeport, and Mitchell, along with Scotts Bluff County, and contributions from the private sector fund an aggressive economic development program for the area. TCD operates

under the control of a nine-member board of directors. This board works in close cooperation with the Scottsbluff/Gering Chamber of Commerce.

The cities of Scottsbluff and Gering administer economic development programs under Nebraska's LB840. This program provides a dedicated stream of sales tax revenue to be used for economic development projects, which create jobs in and around the communities. The program is expected to generate nearly \$800,000 per year in Scottsbluff and \$300,000 per year in Gering to be used for economic development.

Approximately 100 acres of land in and adjacent to Scottsbluff and Gering are zoned for industry. Industrial parks owned by the two cities are within Enterprise Zones. The parks provide a variety of advantages ranging from modest, low-cost sites to airport locations to image locations on major highways protected by covenants. Industrial land prices range from \$1,600 to \$10,000 per acre, depending upon parcel size, location, and degree of development.

Several industrial buildings suitable for light to medium manufacturing or warehousing and distribution are available at reasonable prices. The buildings range in size from 5,000 to 200,000 square feet with ceiling heights from 12 to 45 feet.

## INDUSTRIAL SITES AVAILABLE

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



Aurora Loan Service, Inc.



Family Thrift



The Home Depot



Menards



Nebraska Transport Company



Vertex

# LABOR

## LABOR SUPPLY

- A. Employment in the Scottsbluff/Gering labor market, which is defined as the whole of Scotts Bluff County and the total labor market consisting of Scotts Bluff County and the contiguous counties of Banner, Box Butte, Morrill, and Sioux. Figures for Goshen County in Wyoming were not available. Twelve-month average (October 2008 to September 2009).

	<b>Scotts Bluff County</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b><u>Nonfarm Employment</u></b> (wage and salary workers)		
Goods-Producing	2,133	2,737
Manufacturing	1,103	(D)
Natural Resources & Construction	1,029	(D)
Trade, Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	4,168	7,038
Wholesale Trade	836	(D)
Retail Trade	2,298	(D)
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	1,034	(D)
Information	216	(D)
Financial Activities	1,307	(D)
Professional & Business Services	1,227	(D)
Education & Health Services	3,258	(D)
Leisure & Hospitality	1,654	(D)
Other Services	437	606
Government	3,194	4,968
<b>TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS</b>	<b>17,594</b>	<b>24,611</b>
Farm Employment	954	2,952
<b>TOTAL EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>18,693</b>	<b>27,906</b>
B. Commuting Out of County	936	N/A
C. Unemployment	980	1,496
<b>TOTAL LABOR FORCE</b>	<b>19,673</b>	<b>29,401</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.	5,290	
E. Estimated number of county high school graduates annually	300	
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL LABOR SUPPLY (B, C, D &amp; E)</b>	<b>7,506</b>	

(D) Data not available due to disclosure suppression.

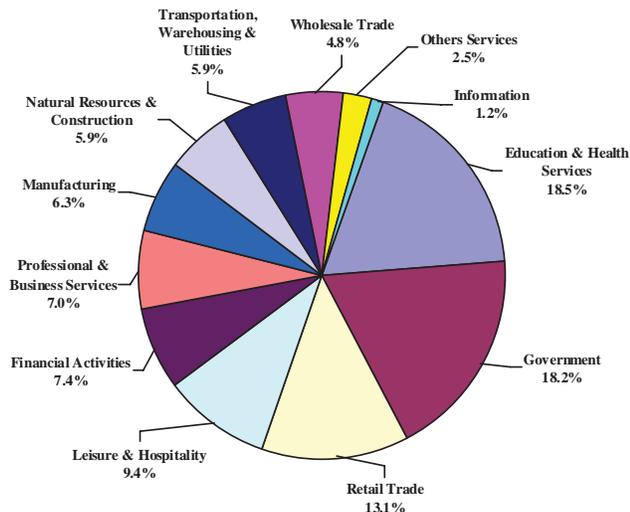
Source: Nebraska Workforce Development

U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), data for 2005

U.S. Census

The communities are willing to conduct a labor survey for a prospective industry.

**NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT  
SCOTTS BLUFF COUNTY  
12-MONTH AVERAGE  
OCTOBER 2008 TO SEPTEMBER 2009**



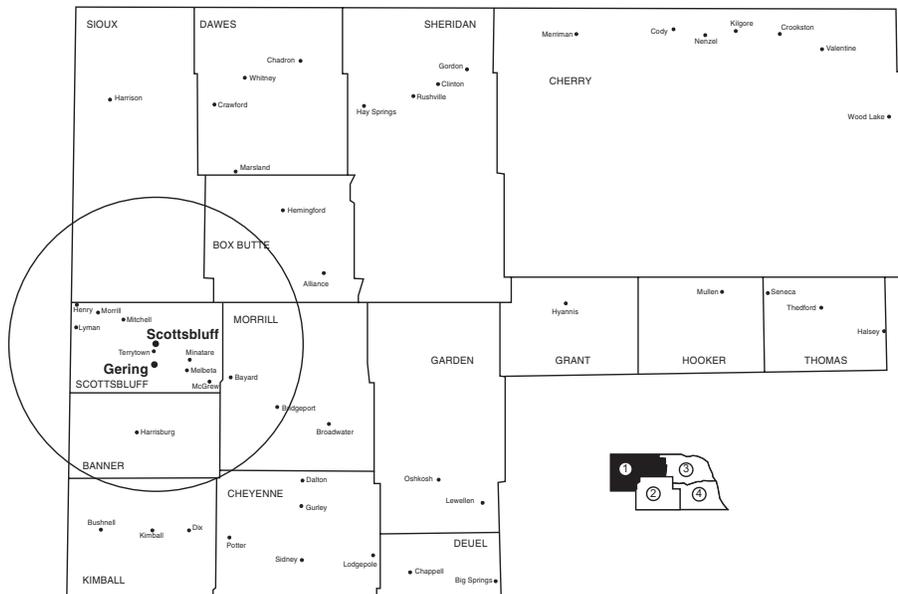
## POPULATION DATA

Location	2000			2008		
	Density/Sq. Mile	% High School Graduate or Higher	% Bachelor's Degree or Higher	% 65 Yrs. & Over	Median Age	County Median Family Income
Scotts Bluff Co.	50.0	79.6	17.3	17.2	39.1	\$48,400
Nebraska	22.3	86.6	23.7	13.5	36.2	\$59,800
U.S.	79.6	80.4	24.4	12.8	36.8	\$61,500

Scotts Bluff County had 23,845 registered voters in 2008; 63.3 percent voted in the national election compared to 70.2 percent in Nebraska.

Source: U.S. Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)  
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009  
 Statewide General Election 2008 Results, [www.sos.state.ne.us](http://www.sos.state.ne.us)

### LABOR POTENTIAL IN THE SCOTTSBLUFF AREA



### POPULATION DATA U.S. Census Estimates

2008 Estimate	
City of Scottsbluff	— 14,785
City of Gering	— 7,679
City of Terrytown	— 1,190
Scotts Bluff County	— 36,554
Scottsbluff Micropolitan Area	— 37,289
30-Mile Radius of Scottsbluff	— 48,185

Scotts Bluff County Population by Age/Gender, 2008		
Ages	Male	Female
18-24	1,536	1,612
24-44	4,155	4,403
45-64	4,623	4,918

## UNIONIZATION

Nebraska has a right to work provision in its constitution. In 2006, 7.9 percent of Nebraska's nonfarm wage and salary workers were members of labor unions compared to a national figure of 12.0 percent.

Labor organizations operating in the Scottsbluff/Gering area:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Union</u>
City of Scottsbluff	Scottsbluff Police Officers Association/ International Association of Fire Fighters
Embarq	Internal Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Gering Public Schools	Gering Education Association
Scotts Bluff County	Communication Workers of America
Scottsbluff School District	Nebraska State Education Association/ Scottsbluff Schools Classified Association
SourceGas	Communication Workers of America
U.S. Postal Service	National Association of Letter Carriers/ American Postal Workers Association
Western Nebraska Community College	Faculty Association
Western Sugar Cooperative	Teamsters-Sugar Workers

## WAGES

Occupation Title	Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile		
	10th	50th	90th
<b>Professional</b>			
Accountants & Auditors	16.88	23.42	38.17
Engineers			
Civil Engineers	20.20	29.69	39.93
Electrical Engineers	27.85	37.59	42.77
Industrial Engineers	26.03	30.74	39.38
Mechanical Engineers*	19.55	31.58	47.36
Computer Programmers	13.11	17.30	31.55
Computer Systems Analysts	17.62	22.49	34.73
Registered Nurses	18.15	25.52	38.81
<b>Retail</b>			
Hotel, Motel & Resort Desk Clerks	6.81	8.95	12.34
Retail Salespersons	6.44	8.77	16.38
Truck Drivers-Light or Delivery Services	7.58	11.95	24.95
Driver/Sales Workers	6.98	13.27	20.26
Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	6.71	9.30	14.06
Shipping, Receiving & Traffic Clerks	8.35	11.95	23.93
<b>Clerical</b>			
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerks	8.75	12.78	18.91
Customer Service Representatives	8.82	11.66	17.15

\*Wage information taken from Balance of the State

<b>Occupation Title</b>	<b>Hourly Wage (\$)/Percentile</b>		
	<b>10th</b>	<b>50th</b>	<b>90th</b>
Data Entry Keyers	8.15	11.81	14.78
Secretaries, excl. Legal, Medical & Executive	9.08	11.87	16.06
Office Clerks, General	6.93	10.03	15.25
Receptionists & Information Clerks	7.28	9.92	16.14
Telemarketers*	7.83	9.30	12.62
<b>Unskilled</b>			
Laborers & Freight, Stock & Material Movers, Hand	8.46	11.18	14.91
Packers & Packagers, Hand	6.35	7.41	11.95
Assemblers & Fabricators, All Other	9.53	12.26	17.75
Nursing Aides, Orderlies & Attendants	8.60	10.69.	13.21
<b>Semi-Skilled</b>			
Industrial Truck & Tractor Operators	9.47	15.33	19.26
Truck Drivers, Heavy or Tractor-Trailer	12.02	15.04	24.73
Maintenance Workers, Machinery*	13.19	19.19	25.04
Machine Operators			
Drilling & Boring Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	10.47	17.07	20.13
Milling & Planing Machine Setters/Oper.*	9.69	13.80	16.47
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing & Buffing Mach. Oper.*	11.05	14.89	19.26
Cutting & Slicing Machine Setters/Oper.*	8.54	11.12	17.04
Cutting, Punching & Press Machine Setters/Oper.	8.18	9.63	14.43
Multiple Machine Tool Setters/Oper.*	12.31	15.47	19.77
<b>Skilled</b>			
Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	9.38	13.45	23.46
Electricians	10.90	16.36	24.44
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	11.66	16.70	24.64
Machinists	10.37	12.52	17.73
Tool & Die Makers*	13.03	19.27	26.04
Welders, Cutters, Solderers & Brazers	8.13	10.04	16.40
Welding, Soldering & Brazing Machine Setters*	11.86	15.02	19.40
<b>Technical</b>			
Electrical & Electronic Engineering Technicians	11.79	14.29	25.39
Medical & Clinical Laboratory Technologists	18.35	24.29	30.92
Computer Operators	9.43	11.65	14.76

\*Wage information taken from Balance of the State

Source: Nebraska Workforce Development, Occupational Employment Statistics Program, Third Quarter 2009 wage estimates, All Industries, Panhandle Region, <http://neblswages.nwd.ne.gov>.

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 to range from 25 to 35 percent of wages.

# TRANSPORTATION

## RAILROADS

Scottsbluff and Gering are served by main lines of the BNSF Railway Company and the Union Pacific Railroad from the Wyoming coal fields to North Platte, Nebraska. An interchange is available at Northport, Nebraska, where the lines cross. The Union Pacific, with 1 local freight train and 80 coal trains daily, has 89 inbound (excluding through cars) and 172 outbound cars annually. The BNSF Railway Company, with 3 freight trains and 24 coal trains daily, has 1,250 inbound cars (excluding through cars) and 680 outbound cars annually. Switching is performed by local switch crews and a daily switch engine.

For further information regarding BNSF Railway Company contact John Rider, (817) 867-6246, [www.bnsf.com](http://www.bnsf.com). Contact Cheryl Schow, (308) 239-2427 or (308) 289-1911, [www.uprr.com/customers/ind-dev](http://www.uprr.com/customers/ind-dev) for further information about Union Pacific Railroad.

## MOTOR

### Highways

East-west U.S. Highway 26 (four-laned from Scottsbluff to Morrill) and north-south Nebraska Highways 29 and 71 (four-laned from Gering to Kimball) pass through Scottsbluff; Nebraska Highways 92 (east-west) and 71 (north-south) pass through Gering. There are no local load limits. Interstate 80 is 40 miles south and Interstate 25 is 80 miles west.

Highway mileage from Scottsbluff to major cities:

Destination	Mileage
Lincoln	420
Omaha	472
Cheyenne	109
Chicago	937
Dallas	960
Denver	210

Destination	Mileage
Detroit	1,204
Kansas City	611
Los Angeles	1,209
Minneapolis	765
New York	1,710
Rapid City	194
St. Louis	862
San Francisco	1,281

The Heartland Expressway, expected to be completed in 2010, will reach from Scottsbluff to Rapid City, South Dakota.

### Trucklines

More than 11,500 licensed motor carriers with worldwide connections are based in Nebraska and serve businesses throughout North America.

Motor carriers based in Scottsbluff/Gering include Nebraska Transport Company, Brown Transfer, North Park Transportation Company, Smith Systems Transportation, Western Home Transport, Kat's Trucking, Dick Drumheller Trucking, Haug and Snyder Trucking Shop, Platte River Express, Leisy Trucking, and Kiltbau Transports.

### Bus Line

Denver Coach of Scottsbluff provides daily passenger service to/from Denver by reservation from the Panhandle communities of Alliance, Chadron, Gering, Kimball, Mitchell, Morrill, Scottsbluff, as well as Torrington, Wyoming.

AmeriStar Tours is headquartered in Gering. AmeriStar provides nationwide bus transportation on a charter basis.

### Taxi

Cabco, Inc., serves the Scottsbluff/Gering area with two radio-equipped cabs.

## AIR

The Western Nebraska Regional Airport (Scotts Bluff County Airport) is located 3.5 miles northeast of Scottsbluff and provides passenger and air freight services. Direct service is available to Denver International Airport with a flight time of 50 minutes.

Airline serving Scottsbluff:

Airlines	Flights Daily	Destination
Great Lakes	3 (Monday–Friday) 2 (Saturday & Sunday)	Denver

Runway identification:

Number	Length	Surface	Lighted
12-30	8,280'	ASPH/ concrete	Yes
5-23	8,001'	ASPH/ concrete	Yes

Facilities at the Western Nebraska Regional Airport include beacon, instrument landing systems, windsock, tie down, hangars, Unicom, major and minor repair, 100-octane and jet fuel, car rental, and restaurant. Runways are capable of handling planes up to 250,000 pounds. Crop dusting and flight instructions are available. A flight service station is located on site. Eight of the 44 private planes hangared there are available for charter. The elevation at the airport is 3,967 feet, the latitude is N41°52.44', and the longitude is W103°35.74'.

Valley Airways, Inc., is a private charter service also providing flight training maintenance and aircraft rental.

## WATER

The Scottsbluff area has no nearby water transportation.



Western Nebraska Regional Airport



Valley Airways Charter Service



Federal Express Building at  
Western Nebraska Regional Airport



Nebraska Highway 71 to Kimball, 47 miles  
Four-Lane Bypass with Overpass



Nebraska Highway 92  
Dedicated as a Nebraska Scenic Byway, the First in the State



U.S. Highway 26  
Four-Lane Highway from Scottsbluff to Morrill, 17 miles

# UTILITIES

## ELECTRICITY

### City of Scottsbluff and City of Terrytown

Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) provides retail electric service to Scottsbluff and operates Scottsbluff's distribution system. The Scottsbluff area is fed by two 115 kV lines. Five main distribution substations in Scottsbluff have a total capacity of more than 80 MVA. Two peripheral distribution substations in the city are capable of serving 7 MVA. All seven substations mentioned can be served from at least two different 34.5 kV sources. The heart of the Scottsbluff distribution system is served by 12.47 kV lines with peripheral areas being served by 12.47 kV distribution lines. All of the substations and lines were designed and built with future load growth in mind.

#### BASE ELECTRIC RATES (effective 1/1/10)

Summer bills run from June–September.  
Winter bills run from October–May.

#### Residential Service:

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$15.00 per month		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
8.88¢	7.01¢	per kWh for the first 750 kWh used per month
8.88¢	4.54¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD 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 \$17.00 per month
		Three Phase \$21.00 per month
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
9.38¢	7.57¢	per kWh for the first 1,000 kWh used per month
9.38¢	6.30¢	per kWh for the next 2,000 kWh used per month
9.38¢	6.00¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD 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 \$45.00 per month
		Three Phase \$50.00 per month
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
10.65¢	6.77¢	per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
4.19¢	2.92¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD 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		\$80.00 per month
Three Phase		\$90.00 per month
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
10.80¢	7.29¢	per kWh for the first 200 kWh per kW of demand used per month
3.90¢	2.99¢	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

Customers who are served from distribution facilities for which NPPD 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.

NPPD has off-peak and load management rates available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh for General Service Demand:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
100	30,000	8.48
100	50,000	6.67
300	90,000	8.24
300	150,000	6.53
500	150,000	8.19
500	180,000	7.49

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

**High Tension Service:**

<b>Customer Charge:</b> \$310.00 per month		
<b>Demand Charge:</b>		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
\$12.75	\$7.80	per kW of billing demand
<b>Energy Charge:</b>		
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
4.45¢	3.23¢	per kWh for all on-peak energy
3.22¢	2.16¢	per kWh for all off-peak energy
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> The Customer Charge, subject to applicable Base Rate adjustments		

This rate is subject to application of the Retail Production Cost Adjustment (PCA).

**Energy Time Periods** - For the monthly billing periods, the on-peak and off-peak hours for energy (all based on “Central” time) are as follows:

Energy Season	On-Peak Hours	Off-Peak Hours
<b>Summer</b>	10:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday	All Other Hours
<b>Winter</b>	8:01 a.m.–10:00 p.m. Monday–Saturday	All Other Hours

All hours on New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day shall be considered off-peak hours.

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 NPPD 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.

NPPD has off-peak and load management rates available to qualifying customers.

**Sample Cost per kWh for High Tension Service:**

kW	kWh	Annual Average ¢/kWh <sup>1</sup>
1,000	300,000	7.20
2,500	750,000	7.13
2,500	1,250,000	5.68
5,000	1,500,000	7.10
5,000	2,500,000	5.66
10,000	6,400,000	5.18

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

The annual average ¢/kWh cost assumes 46 percent of monthly energy is consumed during on-peak hours of the four summer months and 53 percent during on-peak hours of the eight winter months.

Prospective customers should contact Nebraska Public Power District, (877) ASK-NPPD or (877) 275-6773, [www.nppd.com](http://www.nppd.com), for further information regarding electric rates and service.

**City of Gering**

Gering operates a municipal distribution system, purchasing power from the U.S. Department of Energy (Western Area Power Administration), Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, and Nebraska Public Power District. There are seven substations with a total capacity of 25,000 kW. The distribution voltage is 4,160 wye, and the transmission voltage is 34,500 volts. Five 115 kV lines tie the city into the statewide electrical grid. The transmission substation has a capacity of 100 MVA.

**BASE ELECTRIC RATES - City of Gering (effective 9/28/09)**

**Residential:**

Summer	Winter	
\$0.437	\$0.437	per kWh for the first 50 kWh or less used per month
\$0.146	\$0.113	per kWh for the next 100 kWh used per month
\$0.101	\$0.093	per kWh for the next 500 kWh used per month
\$0.097	\$0.075	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$21.85 both summer and winter		

**Commercial:**

Summer	Winter	
\$0.254	\$0.223	for the first 100 kWh or less used per month
\$0.173	\$0.152	per kWh for the next 400 kWh used per month
\$0.111	\$0.094	per kWh for the next 2,500 kWh used per month
\$0.096	\$0.079	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$25.40 summer \$22.30 winter		

**Industrial:**

<b>Demand Charge</b>	
<b>Summer</b>	<b>Winter</b>
\$13.91	\$11.77
per kilowatt of maximum billing demand per month	
<b>Plus and Energy Charge of</b>	
\$0.0828	per kWh for the first 2,000 kWh used per month
\$0.0762	per kWh for the next 3,000 kWh used per month
\$0.0661	per kWh for the next 20,000 kWh used per month
\$0.0606	per kWh for the next 25,000 kWh used per month
\$0.0490	per kWh for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$1,214.20 summer	
\$1,064.40 winter	

Prospective customers should contact the city of Gering, (308) 436-6800, for further information regarding electric rates and service.

**NATURAL GAS**

Natural gas is supplied to the community of Scottsbluff/Gering by SourceGas through a 16-inch transmission pipeline with an operating pressure of approximately 800 pounds per square inch.

SourceGas is also the distributor of natural gas within Scottsbluff/Gering, serving approximately 10,000 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 SourceGas’s Service Center at (800) 563-0012.

**OTHER FUELS**

**LP Gas**

LP gas is available for residential, commercial, and industrial uses from Van Gas in Gering and Panhandle Coop in Scottsbluff.

**Oil**

Oil is available from Valley Oil Company, Double T Oil, Standard Oil Service, Haiston Oil, Panhandle Coop, Miller Farm-Home, and Slafter Oil Company for residential, commercial, and industrial uses.

**WATER**

**City of Scottsbluff**

The municipal water system in Scottsbluff is supplied by 10 wells, which have an average depth of 100 feet. The system, serving 99 percent of the city’s population, has a pumping capacity of 13,400 gallons per minute and an overhead storage capacity of 2,500,000 gallons. The average daily demand is 4,000,000 gallons, and the historic peak daily demand is 11,200,000 gallons. The system has a maximum capacity of 21,796,000 gallons per day. The static pressure varies from 40–60 pounds per square inch.

Two additional wells at the airport have a pumping capacity of 1,100 gallons per minute. This system, with a 200,000-gallon overhead storage facility, has maximum daily capacity of 1,784,000 gallons. The static pressure is 55 pound per square inch.

Groundwater is available for industrial uses. A 90-foot well with an 12-inch casing in Scottsbluff should produce 750 gallons of water per minute. The quality of water in Scottsbluff does not necessitate a water treatment plant; however, Scottsbluff uses 12.5 percent solution of hypochlorite to disinfect the water supply. The water table has not changed significantly during the last five years.

The color of the water is clear and the hardness, in grains per gallon, is 21.14. The tap water temperature varies from 50 degrees in the winter to 60 degrees in the summer.

**Chemical Analysis**

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.8 ppm
Calcium	98.86 ppm
Total Solids	739 ppm
Magnesium	None
Iron	None
Nitrate	6.27 ppm
Manganese	22.49 ppb
Chloride	24.58 ppm
Fluoride	0.39 ppm
Sulfate	270 ppm
Total Alkalinity	271 ppm
Sodium	95.29 ppm
Total Hardness	21.14 gpg
Potassium	None

ppm - parts per million  
 ppb - parts per billion  
 gpg - grains per gallon

**WATER RATES - City of Scottsbluff** (effective 1/1/09)

**Residential, Commercial & Industrial:**

Gallons	\$/1000 gal.
Up to 10,000	1.530
10,001–20,000	1.247
20,001–60,000	1.241
60,001–100,000	1.226
100,000+	1.215
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> Based on size of meters ranging from 5/8-inch to 3/4-inch meter for \$15.30 to an 8-inch meter for \$369.45 bimonthly	

Future plans include the installation of a new well in the city’s well field east of town to replace older abandoned wells at an anticipated cost of \$500,000.

For additional information on the city utilities, call the city office at (308) 630-6258.

**City of Gering**

The municipal water system in Gering is supplied by 12 groundwater wells with an average depth of 100 feet. The water system has a combined daily pumping capacity of 14,400,000 gallons per day and a 1,000,000 gallon storage tank. The average daily demand is 2,900,000 gallons and the historic peak daily demand is 9,500,000 gallons. The average system pressure is approximately 95 pounds per square inch.

Groundwater may be available for industrial uses. A 100-foot well should produce 1,500 gallons of water per minute.

The color of the water is clear and the average water temperature varies from 50 degrees in the winter to 60 degrees in the summer.

**Chemical Analysis** (parts per million)

Hydrogen Ion Concentration	7.8
Calcium	94.7
Total Dissolved Solids	791
Magnesium	0.0
Iron	0.08
Nitrate	7.33
Manganese	0.08
Chloride	42.9
Fluoride	1.0
Sulfate	229
Total Alkalinity	349
Sodium	163
Total Hardness	339
Potassium	0.0

**WATER RATES - City of Gering** (effective 10/1/09)

Water service connection fees range from a 1-inch service line at \$300 to a 2-inch service line at \$450.

**Residential, Commercial, Business & Industrial:**

<b>Water Meter Size</b>	<b>Minimum Monthly Charge</b>
5/8" & 3/4"	\$12.50 for the first 7,500 gallons
1", 1 1/4" & 1 1/2"	\$18.00 for the first 15,000 gallons
2"	\$32.00 for the first 30,000 gallons
3" & 4"	\$75.00 for the first 75,000 gallons
6"	\$115.00 for the first 150,000 gallons
<b>Additional Usage/Additional Charges</b>	
<b>Gallons</b>	<b>\$/Per 1,000 Gallons</b>
150,001–500,000	1.28
500,001–1,000,000	1.26
1,000,000+	1.20

Construction began in August for a new source water well field pipeline, pumping station, and two additional one-million gallon storage tanks. The water system improvements are needed to comply with new federal drinking water regulations. The capacity of the water system will remain at 14.4 million gallons per day. The estimated cost of the project is \$6.4 million. This project is being financed through State of Nebraska Drinking Water Revolving Loan with an estimated completion date of June 2010.

For more information on Gering water system, contact the city of Gering, (308) 436-6800.

**SEWERAGE**

**City of Scottsbluff**

Scottsbluff has a municipal sanitary sewerage system and a storm sewer system. The sewage treatment plant is an extended aeration activated sludge system, which was upgraded in 2002 and has a daily capacity of 4.0 million gallons. The average daily flow is 2.5 million gallons, and the historic peak daily discharge is 3.8 million gallons.

**SEWER-USE CHARGES - City of Scottsbluff**  
(effective 1/1/09)

**Residential, Commercial & Industrial:**

\$39.80	first 10,000 gallons
\$2.97	per 1,000 gallons for all additional use
<b>Minimum Bill:</b> \$39.80 bi-monthly or \$19.90 per month	

The treatment plant is currently being upgraded to ultraviolet disinfection. An estimated completion date is scheduled for February 2010. This \$3.5 million project is being financed by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

**City of Gering**

The city of Gering recently completed a wastewater treatment plant upgrade in 2008. The plant has a total capacity of 1.3 million gallons per day.

The treatment process consists of two anaerobic basins for industrial flows and a modified sequencing batch reactor basin for the primary treatment and facultative lagoons for the final treatment prior to discharge to the North Platte River.

Current domestic influent flows average 700,000 gallons per day and 90,000 gallons per day for industrial influent flows. The plant meets all federal and state requirements for discharge to the North Platte River.

**SEWER-USE CHARGES - City of Gering** (effective 10/1/08)

Sewer connection fees are \$10.00 for a service line and \$50.00 for the sewer system investment fee.

**Residential:**

City	\$14.00 per month flat fee
Rural	\$17.50 per month flat fee

**City Institutional/Commercial:**

\$14.00	for the first 7,500 gallons
\$0.77	per 1,000 gallons over 7,500 gallons

**Outside City Limits Institutional/Commercial:**

\$15.07	for the first 7,500 gallons
\$0.84	per 1,000 gallons over 7,500 gallons

**Industrial:**

\$0.50	per 1,000 gallons and
\$0.09	per pound of BOD

Based on these unit charges, a separate contract may be entered into between the city and industry to develop the format for the user charges.

Contact the Gering city office, (308) 436-6800, for information on city utilities.

**SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL**

**City of Scottsbluff**

Municipally owned waste removal services are available in Scottsbluff. An automated, side-arm refuse collection system is currently used for residential collection. The residences abutting the alleys are served by 1 1/2-cubic yard containers and the remainder of the residences by 90-gallon plastic rollout containers.

**SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES (effective 1/1/09)**

**Residential:**

Units	Rates per Unit
2-4	\$14.05
5-6	\$12.63
7-10	\$11.94
11-16	\$11.24
17-39	\$10.51
40-59	\$9.81
60 or more	\$9.13

**Institutional, Business, Commercial & Industrial:**

Container Size	Each Time Emptied	Monthly Minimum
90 gallon	\$7.27	\$29.08
1.5 cubic yard	\$9.70	\$38.80
3.0 cubic yard	\$18.44	\$73.76

**City of Gering**

City-owned waste removal services are available in Gering. The disposal site is owned by the city and has an estimated life of 20 years.

**SOLID WASTE REMOVAL RATES (effective 10/1/08)**

**Residential:**

\$11.00 per month
-------------------

**Commercial & Industrial:**

Monthly charge based on volume and service. Existing rates of \$42.00 per container are based upon a rate for a 3-cubic yard container per month for once a week collection. Additional pick-ups are \$42.00 each.
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**RECYCLING**

The city of Scottsbluff has public and private recycling of paper products and aluminum cans. Drop-off bins are located throughout the city.



Nebraska Public Power District

# COMMUNICATIONS

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## TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Embarq**, a global telecommunications company, is the incumbent local exchange for the Scottsbluff/Gering area. Embarq serves 30,000 access lines with a 100 percent digital network featuring more than 500 miles of fiber optic cable including an OC192 SONET ring that provides toll redundancy throughout Embarq's service territory. Embarq provides business and wholesale customers integrated local service and product support including: voice lines, DSL, ISDN-BRI, frame relay, ATM, dedicated Internet access, private line, integrated TI, MPLS VPN, managed network services, conferencing services, key and PBX trunks, ISDN-PRI, Centrex, Ethernet, long distance, and voicemail. Embarq also provides residential service plans including home phone packages, high-speed Internet, and satellite TV.

Embarq's Local Telecommunications Division, with headquarters in Scottsbluff, services 17 exchanges in Nebraska.

**Allo Communications**, a Nebraska-based telecommunications company, is Scottsbluff and Gering's only telephone provider utilizing all fiber optic lines for local service. Allo offers local, long distance, broadband, and Internet services and equipment.

Allo's broadband solutions include: connections between locations within Scottsbluff/Gering of up to 500 Mbps, hosted PBX services, and redundant long distance and Internet routes.

The operation headquarters are located in Scottsbluff and the customer service and corporate headquarters are located in Imperial, Nebraska.

**Alltel** and **Viearo** offer cellular phones, pagers, and two-way radios.

## INTERNET

**Action Communications** is an Internet service provider serving the Nebraska Panhandle and eastern Wyoming. Services are offered to the

Scottsbluff/Gering area and Goshen County calling areas as well as outlying areas such as Potter and Chadron, Nebraska. The main office is located in Scottsbluff.

Action Communications has dial-up, DSL, and wireless access to the Internet and supports modem speeds to 3 Mbps. Internet services include: dial-in access with email, virtual server hosting, web page creation and design, wireless Internet business, and wireless Internet home.

**Charter Communications** offers high-speed Internet in a number of speed configurations up to 20 Mbps.

**Allo Communications** offers Internet connections using fiber optic lines resulting in virtually unlimited Internet speeds.

**Inventive Media** provides management, financial planning, network deployment, and wireless service analysis for Internet service providers and businesses with extensive Internet connectivity.

**Embarq Fast Connect DSL** carries both voice and data simultaneously using existing phone lines. It delivers high-speed Internet connectivity using existing telephone lines at speeds that allow more than dial-up.

Other Internet providers include **Alltel**, **Viearo**, and **Mobius Communications Company**.

## POST OFFICE

The U.S. Post Office in Scottsbluff, with three contract stations, has two mail receipts and two dispatches daily. House-to-house delivery is provided.

The U.S. Post Office in Gering, providing house-to-house delivery, has two mail receipts and two dispatches daily.

Express mail service is available at both post offices. Guarantees of "next-day delivery" are on a city-by-city basis.

## PACKAGE DELIVERY SERVICES

Overnight express service availability in the Scottsbluff/Gering area include:

	Federal Express	UPS	U.S. Postal Service
<b>Latest Pick-up Time</b>	6:30 p.m.	6:30 p.m.	4:30 p.m.
<b>Earliest Delivery</b>	8:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.	9:30 a.m.
<b>Next Day Delivery Guarantee</b>	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	In some areas
<b>Saturday Delivery Guarantee</b>	12:00 p.m.	12:00 p.m.	In some areas

**United Parcel Service (UPS)**, a national package delivery company serving all Nebraska, provides Scottsbluff/Gering with daily service from a distribution center in North Platte, Nebraska. Service is available to all 50 states and more than 200 countries from Scottsbluff/Gering. Packages must weigh less than 150 pounds and have a maximum combined length and girth of 130 inches.

**Federal Express** and **DHL**, full-service customer centers, provide overnight delivery by 10:30 a.m. and all other delivery services to and from the Scottsbluff/Gering area.

**Railway Package Systems** is a national package delivery company, with daily service to businesses.

**Bluffco, Inc.**, provides delivery service to the Southern Panhandle. Its associate, **Packaging Unlimited**, offers packing and shipping through UPS.

## NEWSPAPER

The Scottsbluff Star-Herald, published daily except Monday, has 17,000 subscribers. The Business Farmer, with 2,900 subscribers and the Gering Courier, with 1,700 subscribers, are published weekly. The Bayard Transcript has

1,300 subscribers and the Mitchell Index has 1,200 subscribers. The Bridgeport News-Blade has 1,700 subscribers.

Other newspapers available locally include the Omaha-World Herald and USA Today. The Denver Post and Rocky Mountain News are available through home delivery.

## RADIO

Radio stations serving the Scottsbluff/Gering area:

Call Letters	Frequency	Location
KOAQ-AM	690 KHz	Scottsbluff
KNEB-AM	960 KHz	Scottsbluff
KOLT-AM	1320 KHz	Scottsbluff
KNEB-FM	94.1 MHz	Scottsbluff
KMOR-FM	92.9 MHz	Scottsbluff
KCMI-FM	96.9 MHz	Scottsbluff
KOZY-FM	103.9 MHz	Scottsbluff
KTNE-FM	91.1 MHz	Alliance
KPNY-FM	102.2 MHz	Alliance
KAAQ-FM	105.9 MHz	Alliance

## TELEVISION

Television stations carrying local news:

Call Letters	Channel	Network
KSTF	10	CBS
KOTA	4	ABC

KOTA maintains a full-service news department, providing extensive local coverage for community activities.

Charter Communications provides cable service to the Scottsbluff/Gering area with 20 basic and 47 expanded basic channels. Twenty-seven premium channels are available. Digital cable provides subscribers 36 additional video channels, access to 19 channels of on-demand pay-per-view movies and events, and 45 channels of CD quality digital music.



Allo Communications



Embarq



Scotts Bluff Country Club



Monument Shadows Golf Course & Clubhouse

## TAX STRUCTURE

### VALUES FOR TAX LEVY PURPOSES—CITIES OF SCOTTSBLUFF AND GERING

All real property is subject to tax at market value. Agricultural land is valued at 75 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.

City of Scottsbluff	Actual Valuation		
	2006	2007	2008
Real Estate	\$618,765,458	\$642,254,648	\$668,986,433
Personal Property	35,581,552	37,454,263	41,959,263
Special (railroad and utilities)	10,985,840	11,129,967	12,728,371
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$665,332,850</u>	<u>\$690,838,878</u>	<u>\$723,674,067</u>

City of Gering	Actual Valuation		
	2006	2007	2008
Real Estate	\$276,497,364	\$289,402,330	\$302,576,769
Personal Property	7,695,467	7,985,050	10,331,668
Special (railroad and utilities)	6,041,533	6,330,070	6,154,492
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$290,234,364</u>	<u>\$303,717,450</u>	<u>\$319,062,929</u>

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

City of Scottsbluff	2006	2007	2008
City	\$0.21399	\$0.21399	\$0.21399
County	.40356	.43348	.42704
School District	1.10305	1.11437	1.08521
Community College	.12259	.08946	.09849
Educational Service Unit	.01602	.01641	.01695
Natural Resource District	.07830	.07808	.05737
Scotts Bluff County Agricultural Society	.01254	.01270	.01241
Scotts Bluff County Airport Authority	.03496	.03500	.03927
<b>TOTAL GENERAL LEVY</b>	<u>\$1.98501</u>	<u>\$1.99349</u>	<u>\$1.95073</u>
Scottsbluff Parking	.20371	.19571	.18099
<b>TOTAL BUSINESS DISTRICT</b>	<u>\$2.18872</u>	<u>\$2.18920</u>	<u>\$2.13172</u>

Most of Scottsbluff is surrounded by Tax District 68. The 2008 tax levy for Tax District 68 was \$1.77674.

<b>City of Gering</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
City	\$0.29787	\$0.29792	\$0.29777
County	.40356	.43348	.42704
School District	1.07502	1.09282	1.04995
Community College	.12259	.08946	.09849
Educational Service Unit	.01602	.01641	.01695
Natural Resource District	.07830	.07808	.05737
Scotts Bluff County Agricultural Society	.01254	.01270	.01241
Scotts Bluff County Airport Authority	.03496	.03500	.03927
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>\$2.04086</u>	<u>\$2.05587</u>	<u>\$1.99925</u>

## CITY SALES TAX

Both Scottsbluff and Gering impose a 1.5 percent city sales tax.

## LOCAL BONDED INDEBTEDNESS

As of September 30, 2008:

<b>City of Scottsbluff</b>		
Revenue Bonds		\$360,000
General Obligation Bonds		None
Lease Rental		\$2,215,000
Tax Anticipation		\$710,000
<b>City of Gering</b>		
Revenue Bonds		\$4,525,000
General Obligation Bonds		\$347,195
<b>County</b> (as of 7/1/09)		\$13,965,000
<b>School District</b> (as of 7/1/09)		\$19,835,000

## CITY BOND ISSUES

<b>Type</b>	<b>Date Issued</b>	<b>Original Amount</b>	<b>Unpaid Balance As of 9/30/08</b>	<b>Interest Rate (%)</b>	<b>Date Due</b>
<b>City of Scottsbluff</b>					
<b>Revenue</b>					
Sanitary Landfill	8/15/93	\$3,090,000	\$360,000	4.6–5.75	12/15/08
<b>Lease Rental</b>					
Lease Rental Bonds	2/20/03	\$2,950,000	\$2,215,000	1.35–5.05	12/1/22
<b>Tax Anticipation</b>					
Public Safety	11/5/02	\$880,000	\$710,000	1.75–4.85	12/1/22

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 9/30/08	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
<b>City of Gering</b>					
<b>Revenue</b>					
Water	8/29/03	\$655,000	\$230,000	3.15	12/15/09
Municipal Building	8/29/03	\$1,080,000	\$610,000	1.35–4.10	12/15/13
Convention Center Golf Course Building	3/15/04	\$2,565,000	\$1,955,000	1.1–4.2	12/15/17
Solid Waste Facility	7/1/08	\$1,730,000	\$1,730,000	2.45–4.60	7/1/23
<b>General Obligation Bonds</b>					
TIF Bonds	7/23/01	\$120,000	\$84,400	8.0	10/15/15
TIF Bonds	3/29/07	\$285,042	\$262,795	7.0	12/15/21

## COUNTY BOND ISSUES

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 7/1/09	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Highway	11/15/02	\$400,000	\$230,000	1.7–3.7	11/15/12
Jail Project	7/12/06	\$6,100,000	\$5,925,000	4.51	1/15/31
2006 (b)	12/14/06	\$3,700,000	\$3,590,000	4.32	1/15/31
2007	2/1/07	\$2,200,000	\$2,135,000	4.36	1/15/31
Limited Tax Building Bond	5/23/07	\$2,355,000	\$2,085,000	4.09	1/15/22

## SCHOOL BOND ISSUES - SCOTTSBLUFF

Type	Date Issued	Original Amount	Unpaid Balance As of 7/1/09	Interest Rate (%)	Date Due
Hazardous Materials Abatement Bonds	7/03	\$3,170,000	\$2,885,000	1.2–3.95	2014
General Obligation School Building Bonds Series 2009A	4/13/09	\$14,000,000	\$14,000,000	4.98	12/29
Quality Capital Purpose Undertaking Funds Bond	6/1/09	\$2,950,000	\$2,950,000	4.61	12/19



Scotts Bluff County Courthouse



Scotts Bluff County Administrative Building



Scottsbluff City & Administrative Offices



Scottsbluff Police Department



Scottsbluff Fire Department

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Scotts Bluff County is governed by five county commissioners, elected by popular vote for four-year terms. The next election will be held in 2010. The 2008–09 actual budget was \$24,921,827. Zoning classifications are:

- Airport
- Agricultural
- Agricultural Residential
- Community Commercial
- Flood Plain
- General Commercial
- General Industrial
- Highway Commercial
- Limited Industrial
- Mobile Home
- Recreational Cabin
- Rural Resident Estates
- Suburban Residential
- Urban Residential

### MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Scottsbluff, a first-class city, has a mayor-council form of government with a city manager. The 2008–09 actual budget was \$41,600,000. Gering, also a first-class city, has a mayor-council form of government with a city administrator. The 2008–09 actual budget was \$34,057,503. The next election will be held in 2010.

Scottsbluff municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected at Large</b>	
Mayor	2 Years
Council Members (5)	4 Years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Manager	Indefinite
City Clerk	Indefinite
Library Director	Indefinite

Title	Term of Office
Director of Parks & Rec.	Indefinite
Director of Dev. Services	Indefinite
Director of Public Works	Indefinite
Director of Finance	Indefinite
Police Chief	Indefinite
Fire Chief	Indefinite
City Attorney	Indefinite

Gering municipal officials are:

Title	Term of Office
<b>Elected</b>	
Mayor	4 Years
Council Members (8)	4 Years
<b>Appointed</b>	
City Administrator	Indefinite
City Clerk	Indefinite
City Treasurer	Indefinite
Police Chief	Indefinite
Fire Marshal	Indefinite
Electric Superintendent	Indefinite
Street Superintendent	Indefinite
Water & Sewer Superintendent	Indefinite
Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Superintendent	Indefinite
Library Director	Indefinite
City Engineer	Indefinite
Sanitation Superintendent	Indefinite
City Attorney	Indefinite

### FIRE PROTECTION

#### City of Scottsbluff

The Scottsbluff Fire Department provides 24-hour fire suppression and emergency medical services to the community. The department uses a combined staffing approach, with 17 paid and 6 volunteer members. The Rural Fire Department provides coverage outside the city limits. Along with fire suppression and Basic Life Support

emergency medical response, the department is equipped to provide specialized responses, such as hazardous materials, dive rescue/recovery, and high-angle/low-angle rescue.

Approximately 1,000 fire hydrants are located in Scottsbluff. The fire insurance classification is 3 inside the corporate limits, 6 up to five miles outside the corporate limits, and 10 over five miles outside the corporate limits. Average annual expenditures for the fire protection during the past three years were \$1,250,000.

Equipment in the fire department:

<u>Year/Make</u>	<u>Description</u>
2008 Dodge Pickup	Special response unit
2000 Ford Explorer	Fire prevention
2000 Chevy Van	Personnel unit
2000 Chevrolet	Grass unit
1990 Ford	Rescue truck
1998 Trailer	Haz-Mat unit
1997 Freightliner	1,500 gpm fire truck
1996 Freightliner	1,500 gpm fire truck
1989 Chevrolet	Rescue truck
1988 Chevy Van	Fire prevention unit
1985 Trailer	Command unit
1976 Pierce	1,250 gpm fire truck
1977 Oshkosh	1,250 gpm elevated platform truck 85'
School Bus	Water rescue dive unit

Fire losses for the past five years have been:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2008	\$134,550
2007	\$58,550
2006	\$87,520
2005	\$227,000
2004	\$125,650

### City of Gering

The Gering Fire Department consists of 1 paid and 36 volunteer firefighters. The Rural Fire Department provides coverage outside the city.

Gering has approximately 300 fire hydrants. The fire insurance classification inside the corporate

limits is 4; outside it is A-7. Average annual expenditures for fire protection for the past three years were \$225,000.

The Gering Fire Department won the Nebraska State Volunteer Fire Fighter Association Fire Prevention Award 24 out of 28 years.

<u>Year/Make</u>	<u>Description</u>
<b>City</b>	
2008 Smeal	1,500 gpm cyclone custom pumper
1999 Freightliner	1,500 gpm
<b>Rural</b>	
1993 Simon Duplex	1,500 gpm custom pumper
1980 Chevy	150 gpm grass rig
1972 Kaiser 6X6	200 gpm grass rig
2000 GMC	2,000 gal. tanker
1986 Chevy 4X4	150 gpm grass rig
1989 Ford F250 4X4	150 gpm grass rig
2006 Freightliner	250 gpm/1,500 gal. tanker
1985 Ford Rescue & Quick Attack	500 gpm
<b>City/Rural</b>	
2008 Ford	Walk-around rescue unit
1999 Freightliner	1,500 gpm

Fire losses in Gering for the past five years were:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2008	\$307,135
2007	\$167,180
2006	\$36,750
2005	\$45,500
2004	\$165,000

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

### Police Department

Scottsbluff employs 33 full-time police officers, 4 record technicians, 1 animal control officer, and 8 crossing guards. Three of the officers serve as full-time plain clothes detectives.

One detective and one patrol officer are assigned to the Western Intelligence Narcotics Group, which is a multi-agency drug task force, as well as one officer assigned as a School Resource Officer. The department has 10 marked patrol units, 5 unmarked vehicles, 11 bicycle patrol units, sophisticated investigative and surveillance equipment, and Emergency 911. The village of Terrytown contracts with the Scottsbluff Police Department for police protection.

**Gering** employs 15 full-time police officers, 3 support personnel, and 3 crossing guards. The department has 16 authorized police vehicles, surveillance equipment, state-of-the-art communications equipment, computers, mobile data terminals, and other standard equipment.

**Corrections Department**

The Scotts Bluff County Adult and Juvenile Detention Center opened in 2007. The center has a maximum capacity of 171 adult inmates and can hold a maximum of 25 juveniles. The center employs 60 full-time and 20 part-time workers. The facility is certified to house federal prisoners.

**Sheriff’s Department**

The Scotts Bluff County Sheriff’s Department in Gering is staffed by 29 employees. The department is divided into Civil Process, Road Patrol, Administrative, and Investigative Divisions.

Crime rates per 1,000 population, 2008:

<b>Location</b>	<b>Violent Crimes</b>	<b>Property Crimes</b>
Scottsbluff	3.7	58.6
Gering	0.5	24.0
Scotts Bluff County	2.0	33.2
Nebraska	3.0	30.9
U.S.	4.5	32.1

**Consolidated Communications Center**

The Scotts Bluff County Consolidated Communications Center, centrally located in Gering, serves all residents in Scotts Bluff County

as well as southern Sioux and northern Banner Counties with police, fire, medical, and weather services. The center, employing 11 full-time and 4 part-time, has an Enhanced 911 emergency telephone service, receiving and dispatching calls for 30 agencies.

**State Patrol**

Troop E of the Nebraska State Patrol is headquartered in Scottsbluff and serves the 11 Panhandle counties. The troop has 54 sworn officers, 20 of whom are stationed in the Scottsbluff area along with 10 civilian support personnel.

**STREETS**

**City of Scottsbluff**

Scottsbluff has 101 miles or 336 lane miles of streets, 95 miles of which are hard-surfaced with asphalt or concrete. Truck routes are established for trucks weighing more than 40 tons. Ninety percent of the streets have curbs and 75 percent have sidewalks.

The Transportation Department is responsible for all signal lights in the community and on the state highway system within the city limits. They are also responsible for sign maintenance, Christmas decorations, mosquito control, mowing right of ways, blading alleys and gravel, street inventory, and repair of catch basins.

Street maintenance in Scottsbluff consists of sweeping, flushing, snow removal, seal coating, crack filling, street painting, installation and removal of snow fencing, paving repair, curb and gutter replacement, and weed control.

**City of Gering**

Gering has 88 miles of streets, 87 miles of which are hard-surfaced with asphalt or concrete. Trucks 20,000 pounds or heavier are not allowed on residential streets. Ninety-nine percent of the streets have curbs and 95 percent have sidewalks.

Street maintenance in Gering consists of sweeping, snow removal, crack filling, resurfacing, and paint striping.

## BUILDING AND ZONING REGULATIONS

The 2006 International Building Code, the 2006 International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings, 2005 National Electrical Code, 2009 Uniform Mechanical and Plumbing Code, 2006 Uniform Solar Code, 2003 International Energy Conservation Code, 2002 National Fuel Gas Code, and local amendments to these codes are enforced in Scottsbluff, Gering, and Terrytown.

Local zoning classifications in Scottsbluff are:

R-1	Single-Family Residential
R-1a	Single-Family Residential
R-1b	Rural Residential
R-4	Heavy Density Residential
R-6	Mobile Home
O-P	Office & Professional
PBC	Planned Business Center
C-1	Central Business
C-2	Neighborhood Commercial
C-3	Heavy Commercial
M-1	Light Manufacturing/Industrial
M-2	Heavy Industrial
A	Agricultural
AR	Agricultural/Residential
F	Flood Plain
GG-O	Gateway Green Overlay



Gering City Hall & Police Department

Local zoning classifications in Gering are:

AAG	General Agriculture
RL	Residential Low-Density
RM	Residential Medium-Density
RML	Multi-Family Residential Low-Density
RMH	Multi-Family Residential High Density
BNC/C-1	Neighborhood Commercial District
BCB/C-2	Central Business District
BHC/C-3	Highway Commercial District
BTS/C-4	Transfer Services
BEC/C-5	Employment Center
BHC	Highway Commercial
ML	Light Industrial & Manufacturing
MH	Heavy Industrial & Manufacturing
GCE	Golf Course

## PLANNING

**Scottsbluff** has a nine-member planning commission. Members are appointed by the city manager for three-year overlapping terms. A Comprehensive Plan was prepared for Scottsbluff by Stoff & Oblinger-McCaleb Consultants of Denver and updated by Panhandle Area Development District in 2004.

**Gering** has a nine-member planning commission. Members serve three-year staggering terms. A Comprehensive Plan for Gering was prepared in 1972 by Oblinger-Smith Corporation of Wichita, Kansas. The plan was updated by the Panhandle Area Development District and adopted in 1995 by the Gering City Council.

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES

### SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

Type of School	Classrooms	Students	Teacher/ Pupil Ratio	Computer/ Pupil Ratio
<b>Scottsbluff School System</b>				
Pre-K–Elementary (4)	100	1,398	1:18	1:4
Middle School	46	540	1:11	1:3
High School	51	848	1:15	1:3
<b>Gering School System</b>				
Elementary (4)	55	1,121	1:19*	1:5
Junior High	19	298	1:19*	1:5
High School	36	469	1:19*	1:3
*Full-time teachers only (does not include support or special certified staff)				

#### Scottsbluff School System

School District No. 32 in Scotts Bluff County covers approximately 57 square miles and has an actual valuation of \$1,072,092,336. This Class 3, Type K5-3-4 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.

The 2008–09 total instructional and operating expenses totaled \$25,577,393, with an average cost per pupil of \$9,377. The actual valuation per pupil is \$384,814.

The maximum capacity of the public pre-K–elementary schools is 2,500. The public middle school has a maximum capacity of 1,150. The high school was built in 1962 and has a maximum capacity of 1,275.

All elementary music classrooms use digital music textbooks. The new technology opens up a whole new world of music education in which to educate students. A total of 28 digital interactive whiteboards are in place throughout the school district. These new digital interactive whiteboards provide the instructors a myriad of new interactive ways to teach students, including:

- Teachers can present anything from computer software to web-based education resources.
- The lessons can be recorded and posted, and then later reviewed by students who benefit from

repetition or need to catch up from a recent class absence. The lessons can also be saved for later use.

- Instructors can create video files to teach software applications, specific lessons, or as a review to be posted to the server or web.
- Instructors can utilize a number of built-in features including maps to teach continents, oceans, countries, states, and capitals; a tool for editing and highlighting, note taking directly in a power point presentation; a tool to diagram activities and create project calendars.
- Students can create e-folios including samples of their work and narration.
- Students can illustrate and write a book as a class. Then they can use the record feature to narrate the text.
- Students can share projects during Parent/Teacher/Student conferences.

The district recently purchased a new universal library system which allows students to review and check-out books online from home. The new system has additional features that help students create bibliographies and indices for research projects.

A gifted program for High Ability Learners is in place for grades 3–12 with honors courses

available at the middle school level. Advanced Placement courses, which provide opportunities for high school students to receive college credit include Literature and Language, Statistics, Chemistry, Calculus, U.S. History, and World History. Dual credit courses which also allow students to earn credit while in high school and/or college include Algebra I, Calculus, College Composition, and Physics. In addition, Western Nebraska Community College and the Scottsbluff High School have teamed up to offer Career Academics in the areas of Health Sciences and Human Services and Resources.

Vocational courses offered in the high school include: music technology; marketing analysis; research and promotion; visual design; digital video; business and marketing skills for the lodging, tourism, and retail industries; upper level culinary food preparation and training; animal science; companion animals; equine science; floral design and interior landscape development; landscape design, construction and maintenance; horticulture plant production; computer applications; leadership development; entrepreneurship in agribusiness; agricultural mechanics; agricultural metal fabrication; mechanical; architectural and computer drafting, woodworking and machine woodworking technology; and basic and advanced welding.

The Scottsbluff Public School District has a complete Student Services Department. Adult education programs are available in public schools through Western Nebraska Community College. The Scottsbluff School District offers a comprehensive program for students with special needs. The district also contracts for student services with Educational Service Unit 13, the Office of Human Development, and the Panhandle Mental Health Center.

#### Terra Nova Test Results

	Reading	Math
Grades 3–6	70.2%	72.3%
Grades 5–8	66.5%	57.7%
Grades 9–12	84.3%	73.1%

#### ACT Test Results

Testing Area	Local Score*	Statewide Score
English	22.7	21.8
Mathematics	21.3	21.8
Reading	23.1	22.5
Science	21.5	21.9
Composite Average Score	22.2	22.1

\*Based on 69 percent of students taking test

Of the 203 high school graduates in 2008, 68.0 percent pursued a college education, 2.5 percent pursued a technical/vocational education, 20.2 percent of the graduates entered the work force, and 3.9 percent entered the military after graduation.

From academics to athletics and co-curricular activities, Scottsbluff Public Schools strives to create an education system that affords every student multiple opportunities to advance and learn.

Each year the Nebraska School Activities Association and U.S. Cellular recognize the most successful activities programs in the state by presenting the U.S. Cellular Cup. U.S. Cellular Cup winners are determined by a point system based on participation in NSAA education-based activities and performance in state championship events within each division and class. Scottsbluff Public Schools was the top public school district in the state in its division in 2008.

#### Gering School System

School District No. 79-0016 in Scotts Bluff County had an assessed valuation of \$523,308,710 for 2008–09. This Class 3, Type Pre-K-6-3-3 district is accredited by the state of Nebraska and the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. The 2008–09 school operating expenses totaled \$20,148,152, with an average cost per pupil of \$7,137.

The maximum capacity of the public elementary schools is 1,200. The public junior high school was built in 1974 and has a maximum capacity of 600. The public high school was built in 1965 and has a maximum capacity of 600.

**Terra Nova Test Results**

	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Math</b>
Grades 3–6	56.9%	52.1%
Grades 5–8	60.2%	68.4%
Grades 9–12	55.6%	59.3%

**ACT Test Results**

<b>Name</b>	<b>% Students Taking Test</b>	<b>Average Score</b>
ACT	73	21.7

A full program of vocational courses in business, secretarial, family and consumer sciences, drafting, woods, welding, and auto mechanics is available in the high school. Enrichment programs for gifted students are also offered.

The Gering School District has districtwide Title I and special classrooms for the handicapped. The district also contracts with Educational Service Unit 13, the Office of Human Development, and the Panhandle Mental Health Center for programs for students with special needs.

**Scottsbluff/Gering Parochial Schools**

<b>Name of School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Teacher/ Pupil Ratio</b>	<b>Annual Tuition</b>
St. Agnes Catholic School	K–5	81 1:16	N/A
Seventh Day Adventist	K–8	6 1:6	N/A
Community Christian School	Pre-K–8	204 1:16	\$1,755
Twin Cities Christian Academy	7–12	20 1:10	\$1,320

**Educational Service Unit**

Educational Service Unit 13, headquartered in Scottsbluff, serves the 11 counties in the Panhandle of Nebraska. ESU 13 operates two satellite offices—one in Chadron and one in Sidney. Services include early intervention, alternative education, online classes, professional development, distance education, center-based classrooms for special needs students and transportation to the program, transition services, education component of the West Nebraska Juvenile Detention Center, technology services, speech/language, occupational and physical therapy, school psychological services, school health, cooperative purchasing program, and grant management.

**Special Services**

The **Region I Office of Human Development (OHD)** is a unit of local government created through an interlocal agreement among the 11 counties of the Nebraska Panhandle. The agency is certified and primarily funded through the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Developmental Disabilities System. OHD provides community-based services and support to persons of all ages with developmental disabilities. Services for adults (over the age of 21) include residential, vocational, employment, rehabilitation, retirement, and other general services such as transportation and recreation. A year-round educational program is available to children through contractual arrangement with his or her school district.

Direct care service is provided in Scottsbluff/Gering and surrounding communities. The residential program includes staffed group homes for youth and adults, supervised apartments, and independent living arrangements. Vocational training and employment services are provided through a supervised workshop (High Plains Products and Services) which includes on-site contract work, work stations in industry, supervised employment programs, and job coaching. Individuals who have reached

retirement age are served through an alternative day program which emphasizes recreation, leisure, and maintenance of daily living skills. Alternative day services are also available for other adults whose rehabilitation needs do not include vocational or employment goals. The Child Development Center provides a 12-month educational program for preschool and school age children with developmental disabilities.

**Panhandle Independent Living Services (PILS)** is a community-based, nonprofit agency funded through a grant from the Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council. PILS is a nonresidential program promoting full participation of disabled persons in activities and opportunities of the community. Serving the Nebraska Panhandle, PILS offers services in the four core areas of information and referral, advocacy, peer counseling, and independent living skills training.

**Community College**

**Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC)** encompasses 12-1/2 counties in the Nebraska Panhandle. WNCC, a comprehensive community college, is governed by an 11-member board of governors. The college has campuses located in Scottsbluff, Sidney, and Alliance. The college also has the John N. Harms Advanced Technology Center (HATC) in Scottsbluff. Through these sites, the college offers various classes at other communities in the Nebraska Panhandle.

The fall enrollment as of August 20, 2009, for the area was:

<b>Campus/Center</b>	<b>Full-time</b>	<b>Part-time</b>
Scottsbluff	596	662
Sidney	99	127
Alliance	54	116
Online	34	639
HATC	0	5,660*

\*Fall semester 2008

Western Nebraska Community College was established in Scottsbluff in 1926. In 1973, the State Legislature formed the Western Technical

Community College Area, which included Nebraska Western College (Scottsbluff), Western Nebraska Technical College (Sidney), and the Alliance School of Practical Nursing. The Board of Governors changed the name to Western Nebraska Community College in 1988.

WNCC offers more than 80 program options in vocational and academic transfer education. These programs include business and vocational education, language and arts, science and mathematics, social science, health occupations, and applied technologies (automotive, auto body, welding, aviation, powerline construction and maintenance, and electronics).

Western Nebraska Community College offers four associate degrees: associate of arts, associate of science, associate of applied science, and associate of occupational studies. There are also diploma and/or certification and professional skill award options through WNCC.

WNCC is part of the Western Nebraska Distance Learning Consortium. The consortium membership includes 20 area high schools, Educational Service Unit 13, Western Nebraska Community College, and Chadron State College. Utilizing the consortium distance learning system, high school campuses, and the three WNCC campuses, the college offers dual credit courses to area high schools in foreign language, math, English, automotive, welding, CISCO, CADD, and social sciences.

Harms Advanced Technology Center (HATC) continues to work with businesses and industries to identify and provide training needs. Specific activities include but are not limited to partnerships with businesses, the CISCO Networking Academy, Discovery Lab, Entrepreneurial Lab, Career Design Technology Program, and Certified Testing Lab. Other activities include customized training with businesses, public seminars, management and supervisory skills training, computer training, technical skills training, continuing professional education, and training in the health and safety fields.

2008–09 Program Graduates	
Program	# of Graduates
<b>Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN)</b>	
Nursing	19
<b>Associate of Arts (AA)</b>	
Business Administration	25
Business Management	1
Criminal Justice	4
Elementary Education	8
English	2
General Studies	41
Human Services	2
Information Technology	2
Journalism	2
Law (pre)	1
Psychology	5
Secondary Education	4
Social Work	3
<b>Associate of Science (AS)</b>	
Biology/Ecology	1
Business Administration	2
Computer Science	2
Dental Hygiene (pre)	2
Forestry/Wildlife Management (pre)	1
General Studies	6
Medicine (pre)	2
Professional Nursing (pre)	4
Radiologic Technology (pre)	4
<b>Associate of Applied Science (AAS)</b>	
Business Technology	3
Cosmetology	1
Criminal Justice	1
Early Childhood Education	1
Health Information Management Services	6
Human Services	2
Office Technology	1
<b>Associate of Occupational Studies (AOS)</b>	
Automotive Technology	3
Aviation Maintenance	3
Business Technology	1
Information Technology	4

2008–09 Program Graduates	
Program	# of Graduates
Power Line Construction & Maintenance	14
<b>Diploma</b>	
Automotive Technology	1
Aviation Maintenance	2
Coding Technician	2
Cosmetology	1
Power Line Construction & Maintenance	3
Practical Nursing	33
<b>Certificate</b>	
Aviation Maintenance	4
Criminal Justice	4
Welding Technology	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>235</b>

For more information on Western Nebraska Community College, visit [www.wncc.edu](http://www.wncc.edu).

### Colleges and Universities

**Summit Christian College** was established in Scottsbluff in 1951 and has both full-time and part-time instructors. A bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science degree are offered, with majors in Bible Ministry, Christian Education, and Missions. An associate of arts degree in Bible and a one-year certificate in Bible are also offered. For more information, visit [www.summitcc.net](http://www.summitcc.net).

**University of Nebraska Panhandle Research and Extension Center** is the Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension Service headquarters for the panhandle of western Nebraska and is a regional leader in agricultural research, teaching, and extension services. The facility is located in the University of Nebraska Complex on the north edge of Scottsbluff. For more information, visit [www.panhandle.unl.edu](http://www.panhandle.unl.edu).

Four research and demonstration units, covering nearly 4,200 acres, include satellite agricultural research laboratories in Mitchell, Alliance, and Sidney, Nebraska. The Cooperative Extension Service commitment includes a total of ten county offices to serve the people of western Nebraska.

Each professional staff member is a faculty member of the University of Nebraska Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Research programs are focused on increasing the productivity and profitability of existing and potential crops for the Panhandle. Issues are addressed from a team perspective to enhance the success of investigative activities.

In 1987 the **University of Nebraska Panhandle Learning Center** was added, representing the Division of Continuing Studies and the Cooperative Extension Service. The center is a cooperative effort by the University of Nebraska, Chadron State College, and Western Nebraska Community College. Together, a seamless, higher level of education is offered locally, significantly enhancing the educational opportunities for western Nebraska residents.

**University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing** is the West Nebraska Division located in the University of Nebraska Complex. Opened in 1987, the College of Nursing prepares students for a bachelor and/or master of science nursing degree(s) and nurse practitioner certification. More than 50 students graduate from UNMC annually, and more than 80 percent of nursing graduates find employment in the immediate region. For more information, visit [www.unmc.edu/nursing](http://www.unmc.edu/nursing).

**D. A. Murphy Memorial Library**, located at the University of Nebraska Complex, is part of the University of Nebraska Library System. It offers videotapes; audio tapes; and books on leadership, management, human resources development, supervision, and marketing. There are also agricultural references specific to the region.

**D. A. Murphy Panhandle Arboretum** is an affiliate site of the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum and located on 40 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and research plots at the University of Nebraska Research and Extension Center. The Arboretum is an important tool in the research, teaching, and extension mission of the center. For more information, visit [www.panhandle.unl.edu/arboretum/arborbros.htm](http://www.panhandle.unl.edu/arboretum/arborbros.htm).

**Regional West Medical Center School of Radiologic Technology** was founded in 1951. This hospital-based, two-year program is the only radiographer education program in western Nebraska. In 1996 a partnership was formed with Western Nebraska Community College in Scottsbluff to enhance education opportunities for students. An affiliation agreement is also in place with the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

### Other Schools

Colleges, universities, and community colleges frequently attended by area high school graduates include:

<b>Community/ College or University</b>	<b>Mileage from Scottsbluff</b>
<b>Torrington, WY</b>	32
Eastern Wyoming College	
<b>Sidney, NE</b>	77
Western Nebraska Community College	
<b>Chadron, NE</b>	99
Chadron State College	
<b>Fort Collins, CO</b>	153
Colorado State College	
<b>Laramie, WY</b>	158
University of Wyoming	
<b>Greeley, CO</b>	177
University of Northern Colorado	
<b>Boulder, CO</b>	199
University of Colorado	
<b>Denver, CO</b>	210
Denver University	
<b>Kearney, NE</b>	292
University of Nebraska at Kearney	
<b>Lincoln, NE</b>	420
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	
<b>Omaha, NE</b>	472
University of Nebraska at Omaha	



University of Nebraska Extension Service  
School of Business & Nursing



Western Nebraska Community College



Scottsbluff High School



Regional West Medical Center,  
The Largest Hospital Between Omaha & Denver



Regional West Emergency Entrance,  
A \$65 Million Addition

## CHURCHES

Denomination	Number of Churches
Assembly of God	3
Baptist	4
Catholic	2
Church of Christ	6
Church of God	1
Congregational	3
Episcopal	2
Jehovah's Witness	1
Lutheran	7
Methodist	3
Nazarene	2
Presbyterian	1
Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints	1
Seventh Day Adventist	1
Evangelical	3

There are 13 other churches of various denominations in the area.

## HEALTH CARE

There are approximately 130 physicians and 10 outpatient clinics within 50 miles of Scottsbluff.

### Hospital

**Regional West Medical Center** is a 180-bed acute care hospital and Level II Trauma Center accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. Established as a community hospital in 1924 by the Methodist Church, it now provides tertiary care for hospitals throughout the panhandle. The medical staff includes more than 110 physicians, 95 percent of whom are board certified or board eligible, plus an additional 25 consulting specialists.

Health care services at Regional West Medical Center span a broad spectrum of medical specialities and include:

- Acute Rehabilitation
- Allergy
- Anesthesiology
- Audiology
- Behavior Health
- Blood Bank
- Breast Health
- Cancer Treatment
- Cardiac Catheterization
- Cardiology
- Cardiopulmonary
- Community Health
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Endoscopy
- Family Practice
- Genetic Counseling
- Home Health
- Hospice
- Intensive Care/Critical Care
- Internal Medicine
- Laboratory Services
- Lithotripsy
- Neonatal Intensive Care
- Neuro Surgery
- Neurology
- Obstetrics/Gynecology
- Occupational Therapy
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Oral/Maxillofacial Surgery
- Orthopedics/Orthopedic Surgery
- Otolaryngology
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy

Physiatry  
Physical Therapy/Sports Medicine  
Podiatry  
Psychiatry  
Pulmonology  
Radiation Oncology  
Rehabilitation Services  
Renal Dialysis  
Restorative Care  
Sleep Studies  
Speech/Language Pathology  
Surgery  
Trauma Services  
Urology  
Vascular Services/Surgery  
Women's Health

The hospital is governed by a local board of directors and is a subsidiary of Regional West Health Services. Employing more than 1,800, Regional West Health Services provides comprehensive and innovative health care services for the people and communities of western Nebraska and the neighboring states of Colorado, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

The hospital has been recognized twice by *Hospitals & Health Networks* magazine as one of the nation's top 25 "most wired" small and rural hospitals for its use of information technology. Its Air Link air ambulance program has been fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Flight Transport System for its adherence to nationally established medical transport quality standards.

The hospital is committed to the importance and benefit of education, Regional West offers two medical residency programs—family practice and emergency medicine—through the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The hospital recently partnered with Western Nebraska Community College to develop a Health Care Academy, which provides continuing education for hospital employees as well as college programs for health careers. In addition, the hospital serves as a training site for numerous health professions, including nursing, pharmacy,

dietetics, and rehabilitation among others. Since 1951, Regional West has offered its own two-year school of radiologic technology.

Comprehensive health care means providing a full spectrum of services to meet the needs of patients and their families. At Regional West, services are as varied as providing overnight accommodations, a retail pharmacy, and an employee assistance program available to local businesses. For more information, visit [www.rwmc.net](http://www.rwmc.net).

## Clinics

**Community Action Partnership of Western Nebraska (CAP)** provides a wide range of health and human services in the central and southern panhandle. The CAP Health Center offers primary medical and dental care, as well as laboratory and x-ray services and nutrition counseling. In addition, the Health Center is home to the WIC program, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, HIV/AIDS testing, Reproductive Health Services, Immunizations, the Diabetes Control Program, Maternal and Child Health Service, and Migrant Health Program. CAP, providing presumptive eligibility services, works closely with Kids Connecting, a program for uninsured children. Other human service programs include youth services, housing services, and community and family services.

CAP Head Start provides health services to the Head Start Children and their families. CAP staff work with the Children's Outreach Program that provides visitation to families of newborns and with Breath for Baby, which provides health information to reduce tobacco use by parents.

The **Panhandle Mental Health Center** offers community mental health services to 11 counties in western Nebraska. Outpatient, intensive outpatient, inpatient, day care, substance abuse treatment, and emergency services are provided. The center's focus is to aide those experiencing, or who have experienced, family or marital problems, anxiety and/or depression, grief, confusion, and trauma. It specializes in the treatment of anger and domestic problems as well as the variety of symptoms children may

experience. In addition, the center provides psycho-educational workshops, consultation to other agencies, psychological assessments, and psychiatric services, including evaluation and medication checks.

### **Rescue Squad**

The Scottsbluff Fire Department provides basic life support emergency medical response to the area and is equipped to provide specialized responses, such as hazardous materials, dive rescue/recovery, and high-angle/low-angle rescue. The department has 14 trained emergency medical technicians.

Valley Ambulance Service is a private, full-time, paid ambulance service. Valley Ambulance, with five ambulances operating in the Scottsbluff/Gering area, provides local and long distance emergency and non-emergency transport with advanced life support capability.

## **NURSING HOMES**

**Heritage Estates**, built in 2006, is a licensed “Skilled Care Facility” accredited by the state of Nebraska. The facility is located west of Gering and has the capacity for 102 residents. Medical services are provided as needed. In addition, 22 cottages are available for independent living. This is a neighborhood concept facility with six separate neighborhoods. Three neighborhoods provide memory support services.

**Golden LivingCenter** in Scottsbluff is a 188-bed “Skilled Facility” certified by Medicare and Medicaid. Nursing services are provided 24-hours a day, along with an expanding rehab department that includes physical, occupational, speech, and respiratory therapies. A registered dietician and recreational therapist are on staff and an audiologist and psychologist are available when necessary.

**Emerald Court** in Scottsbluff is a 21-unit facility specializing in Alzheimer’s and Dementia care and offers private and semiprivate rooms with a 24-hour professional nursing staff.

**Mitchell Care Center** is located in Mitchell, Nebraska, 10 miles northwest of Scottsbluff. It is

a 62-bed facility which provides a diverse range of medical and community outreach services such as dental, pharmacy, mental health, social work, and physician and nursing services.

**Western Nebraska Veteran’s Home** is a division of the Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services System. The home is licensed for 50 skilled beds and 90 residential care beds. Those eligible for admission include veterans, veterans’ wives or widows, and Gold Star Parents. Application for admission is made through the Scotts Bluff County Veterans Service Office. The facility is committed to quality of life by providing the services of a physician, pharmacist, dentist, and dietician as well as speech, occupational, and physical therapy. Other medical and religious needs are available as well as select menus and varied activities.

## **LIBRARY**

The **Scottsbluff Public Library** contains more than 50,000 titles, 200 magazine subscriptions, newspapers, recordings, audio cassettes, video cassettes, films, filmstrips, art prints, large print books, games, toys, puzzles, and projection equipment available for use and loan. Back files of magazines and the local newspaper are available on microfilm. The library provides services to local area residents without charge. Trained librarians are available to assist with reference/information needs at the library or via telephone. The library is a selective depository for United States Government publications and is a State Documents depository. Service is provided to the institutionalized and homebound and access to materials for the blind and physically handicapped are available. The library serves as a resource center providing interlibrary loan and reference service for other libraries in six Panhandle counties. A community meeting room is available. Library activities include cultural and arts promotion, summer reading programs for young people, and preschool story hours.

The **Gering Public Library** houses more than 35,000 volumes with an annual circulation of 60,000. The library has an automated card

catalog with keyword search capability and an automated check out system. In addition to books in regular and large print on a variety of topics, the collection includes videos, books on tape and CDs, as well as more than 80 magazines and newspapers. An overhead and slide projector are available for rent; an opaque projector and VCR may be used within the library. A community room with a kitchenette may be reserved for use free of charge by nonprofit, educational, training, or community groups. The library has a microfilm/fiche reader-printer and the local newspaper, Gering Courier, is available on microfilm from its beginning in 1887. The library provides computers with access to the Internet, word processing, electronic books, and databases. Other services include interlibrary loan, reference assistance, morning and evening story times, summer reading program, and other innovative programs throughout the year.

## RECREATION

The Scottsbluff/Gering area has 23 parks covering 275 acres of land. There are 26 playgrounds with standard playground equipment. Twenty-two acres of land are devoted to parks and playgrounds per 1,000 population.

**Riverside Zoo** is an Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoological facility located on 23 acres adjacent to the North Platte River with the Scotts Bluff National Monument in clear view to the southwest. Riverside Zoo has more than 200 animal residents representing 73 species. The zoo is open daily from April to November, including holidays. The zoo offers a playground and petting area as well as opportunities to feed waterfowl and fish. Guests can visit Bengal tigers, African lions, bison, and other hoofstock, chimpanzees, South American primates, a variety of birds, and much more.

The Scottsbluff Department of Parks and Recreation is staffed with 1 full-time recreation supervisor, 23 full-time and 19 seasonal park employees as well as 44 seasonal aquatic staff and 43 regular part-time aquatic staff. Annual expenditures for the past three-years for the parks, cemetery, recreation program, and swimming pools averaged \$1,876,765.

Programs offered include volleyball, basketball, softball, tennis, canoeing, archery, soccer, badminton, exercise class, swimming, children's dance, track and field, tumbling, and ping-pong. The department also sponsors playgrounds, after-school recreation programs for children of all ages, and programs with the Scottsbluff Office of Human Development, the Panhandle Mental Health Center, and the West Nebraska Arts Center.

The Gering Parks and Recreation Department is staffed with 10 full-time and 30 part-time/seasonal employees. Annual expenditures during the past three years averaged \$1,100,000, which includes parks, cemetery, RV park, amphitheater, golf course, and swimming pool.

Other summer programs include the Panhandle Saddle Club Horse Show, stock car racing, Arts Center classes, YMCA activities, swimming and diving lessons, baseball/softball programs and tournaments, and horseshoe tournaments.

### Area facilities:

Amphitheater	—	Outdoor theater, seating 2,500 (1,000 on grass area)
Boating	—	Lake Minatare, 10 miles; Lake McConaughy, 120 miles
Bowling	—	3 alleys with 40 lanes
Camping	—	Riverside campground and Robidoux RV Park
Golf Courses	—	1 private and 2 public 18-hole grass green courses with clubhouses
Fishing	—	Numerous area streams and ponds at Big and Little Lake Alice, 8 miles; Lake Minatare, 10 miles; and Lake McConaughy, 120 miles
Handball Courts	—	YMCA, Scottsbluff Country Club, and Western Nebraska Community College
Horseshoe	—	Pits in both Scottsbluff and Gering



Scottsbluff Public Library



Gering Public Library



YMCA



YMCA Camp Pavillion & Pool



Centennial Park  
(built by citizens and private donations)

- Hunting — Ducks, geese, and pheasant nearby; turkeys, deer & antelope within 60 miles
- Skating — Indoor roller skating in Gering
- Senior Center — Scottsbluff & Gering have senior centers with many classes and activities
- Soccer — 44-acre, 8 field complex in Scottsbluff
- Swimming — 2 outdoor pools and 1 indoor pool in Scottsbluff; outdoor pool in Gering
- Tennis — 4 courts in Scottsbluff; 6 in Gering
- Theaters — 2 indoor theaters in Scottsbluff, 1 with 5 screens and 700 seats and 1 with 2 screens and 500 seats; WNCC's Little Theatre seats 500 for stage performances and productions
- Walking/Biking — 2.5 mile trail system

**Annual Area Celebrations**

Annual celebrations include the Sugar Valley Rally and the Gering Arts Festival in June, the Oregon Trail Days in July, the Scotts Bluff County Fair and Rodeo in August, and the Farm & Ranch Harvest Festival in September.

**Water Sports**

The water at Lake Minatare is great for swimming, boating, or fishing. The lake is one of the state's best walleye lakes, with many 2–4 pound fish. An abundance of rainbow trout are found in many of the nearby creeks and streams. Field & Stream magazine has identified Nine Mile Creek as an outstanding trout stream. Within three hours of Lake McConaughy, Nebraska's largest lake, are many other opportunities for water sports, Oliver Reservoir, Crescent Lake, Box Butte State Recreation Area, Walgreen Lake State Recreation Area, Whitney Lake, Piester Lake, and Bridgeport

State Recreation Area in Nebraska; as well as Guernsey, Glendo, and Grayrocks Reservoirs in Wyoming; Angostura Reservoir in South Dakota; and Sterling Reservoir in Colorado.

**Hunting**

Lake Minatare, a federal wildlife refuge, attracts a quarter million ducks and geese annually. These birds often winter in the area and offer hunters excellent waterfowl shooting. Wild turkey, pheasant, grouse, antelope, and deer are hunted within a 60-mile radius.

**Scenic Attractions**

Historical sites abound throughout the area, including the Scotts Bluff National Monument, Rebecca Winter's Grave, Mormon Trail, the site of the Pony Express Station, Oregon Trail Wagon Train campsite, Chimney Rock, Fort Laramie, the Oregon Trail, North Platte Valley Museum, Chimney Rock Visitor's Center, and the Wildcat Hills Nature Center.

Fort Robinson State Historical Park and Chadron State Park offer regional opportunities to explore and enjoy the outdoors. Horseback riding, jeep rides, tennis, picnics, camping, and fishing are among the activities enjoyed at the parks. The remains of animals long-since extinct can be viewed at Agate Fossil Beds National Monument. A visitor center and museum display more than 500 Sioux artifacts.

Mount Rushmore, Black Hills, South Dakota Badlands, Wyoming's Snowy Range, Denver, Rocky Mountain National Park, and numerous ski areas are within a half-day's drive.

**Area Cultural Activities**

**West Nebraska Arts Center** is a hub of activity for painting, sculpture, artists-in-residence, and the performing arts. Other cultural opportunities are offered by the Sugar Valley Barbershop singers, the Valley Voices Musical Arts group, and the Platte Valley Artists. The Community Concert Association brings professional performing artists to the community providing residents the opportunity to enjoy pianists, ensembles, orchestras, ballet, jazz, plays, opera, and many other programs.

**North Platte Valley Museum**, located in Gering, traces the area’s history back to its first inhabitants, the Indians, followed by trappers, cattlemen, and homesteaders. The historical complex consists of a log house, 19th century sod house, a modern museum building filled with relics of pioneer days, and displays of antique farm equipment. The Wyo-Braska Museum of Natural History features animal dioramas and educational displays. It is open year-round.

The **Gering Civic Center**, a 25,500 square foot multi-functional facility, can seat 1,000 theatre style or 600 banquet style for a variety of functions including conventions, seminars, receptions, banquets, and trade shows.

The **Five Rocks Amphitheater** is a 1,500 seat outdoors venue surrounded by grass for accommodating an additional 1,000 spectators. An on-site pavilion allows covered seating for 500 people. Numerous events are held from May through September.

The **Farm and Ranch Museum** by the Scotts Bluff National Monument and Wildlife World are housed in the old Union Pacific Depot in Gering.

During the summer, the Scotts Bluff National Monument offers a Thursday night film series for ten weeks as well as living history programs on three nights a week and two open houses in June and August.

## HOUSING

### New Construction

There were 101 new homes and 83 multiple family homes constructed in the past two years. The cost of new home construction averages \$135 per square foot.

### Scottsbluff/Gering Housing Market (as of 10/09):

#### Number of Homes on the Market

Single Family - 143

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

Single Family Home	
2,300–2,500 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	\$251,000
1,600–2,300 sq. ft. - 3 bedroom	\$193,794
1,000–1,500 sq. ft.	\$105,098

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

Less than \$100,000	54
\$100,001–\$150,000	38
\$150,001–\$200,000	27
\$200,001–\$250,000	12
\$250,001–over	12

### Rentals

Executive Style Home - 3,000 sq. ft.	\$1,000– 1,200
Apartment - 2 bedroom	\$450–550
Apartment Vacancy Rate	7.2%

### Low Cost and/or Retirement Housing

Low-cost housing facilities in Scottsbluff include the 50-unit **R. C. Scott Apartments**, the 32-unit **Harmony Apartments**, 32-unit **Carol Ann Apartments**, and the 16-unit **Summit Apartments** built in 2009. The **Rebecca Winters Apartments** has 54 low-cost units and was constructed in 1981 by the Scottsbluff Housing Authority.

Retirement facilities in the area include **Dome Rock Manor**, with 41 units, built in Gering in 1972, and **Bluff View Manor**, in nearby Terrytown, built in 1969 with 32 units and a 24-unit addition in 1982.

**The Village** at Regional West is a retirement community adjacent to Regional West Medical Center. The handicapped accessible facility has 100 independent and dependent living apartments providing residents with three levels of care. Meals, basic housekeeping, and laundry services are available for those who require them, and pets are allowed in designated apartments.

## Assisted Living

**Northfield Villa** in Gering is a nonprofit company owned and operated by Northfield Villa, Inc. The facility with 145 apartments opened in 1974.

**The Residency** in Scottsbluff is owned and operated by Northfield Villa, Inc. This facility opened in 1993 and offers 94 apartments. Both Northfield Villa and The Residency offer life care, with 24-hour licensed nursing and worry-free apartment dwelling.

**WEL-Life** in Scottsbluff, a licensed assisted living community built in 1998, has 44 apartments ranging in size from 306 to 612 square feet and 5 handicapped units with roll-in shower stalls. The main entry of this ground level facility is automated. Services include meals, housekeeping, personal laundry, scheduled transportation, and

24-hour staffing. Four levels of care are offered depending on an individual's needs. Apartment includes small refrigerator and microwave.

## FINANCIAL

Financial institutions in Scottsbluff/Gering:

First National Bank  
First State Bank  
US Bank  
Valley Bank & Trust Co.  
TierOne  
Platte Valley National Bank

Other financial firms in the area include one major finance company, one credit union, three federal credit unions, and Farm Credit Services.



Five Rocks Amphitheater



West Nebraska Arts Center



Riverside Zoo

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

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### PROFESSIONAL

Architects .....	2
Certified Public Accountants .....	20
Chiropractors.....	11
Dentists .....	21
Engineering Firms.....	3
Law Offices.....	17
Medical Doctors (residing in Scottsbluff/Gering)	
—anesthesiologists.....	4
—cardiologists.....	1
—dermatologists.....	2
—emergency medicine.....	5
—family physicians.....	15
—general surgeons.....	8
—internists.....	10
—neurosurgeons.....	7
—obstetricians/gynecologists.....	6
—oncologists.....	2
—ophthalmologists.....	2
—orthopedic surgeons.....	6
—otolaryngologists.....	3
—pathologists.....	5
—pediatricians.....	5
—physical therapists.....	4
—plastic surgeons.....	2
—psychiatrists.....	5
—psychologists/psychotherapists.....	6
—radiologists.....	6
—urologists.....	3
Nurse Practitioners.....	9
Nurses, Licensed Practical.....	87
Nurses, Registered.....	267
Nursing Assistants/Certified.....	12
Optometrists.....	8
Orthodontists.....	19
Pharmacists.....	11
Podiatrists.....	2
Veterinarians.....	77

### BUSINESS AND COMMERCIAL

Accounting/Bookkeeping Agencies.....	5
Advertising Agencies.....	1
Agricultural Implement Dealers.....	6
Antique Shops.....	4

Apparel Stores—combination.....	5
—men’s .....	1
—women’s .....	9
Appliance Stores .....	7
Auto Repair & Service.....	32
Auto Supply Parts .....	10
Automobile Dealers (new & used) .....	31
Automobile Renting & Leasing.....	5
Bakeries.....	8
Banquet Facilities, Halls & Auditoriums .....	5
Barber Shops.....	6
Beauty Salons.....	36
Bed & Breakfast.....	1
Carpet & Rug Dealers .....	5
Caterers .....	7
Computer Stores/Equipment/Service.....	7
Contractors—building.....	60
—concrete .....	8
—electric .....	11
—gravel .....	2
—heating & air conditioning.....	10
Convenience Stores.....	9
Copying & Duplicating Services .....	16
Craft Stores .....	3
Dance Studios .....	3
Day Care (licensed) .....	5
Department Stores.....	8
Discount Stores .....	3
Drug Stores .....	10
Dry Cleaning & Laundries.....	3
Electric Motor Repair .....	1
Employment Services, Temporary.....	1
Farm/Ranch Supplies .....	6
Fast Food Establishments .....	20
Feed & Seed.....	7
Fertilizers .....	6
Floral Shops .....	6
Funeral Homes .....	4
Furniture Rental .....	2
Furniture Stores.....	10
Garbage Collectors.....	1
Gift Shops .....	14
Grain Dealers .....	1
Grocery Stores & Meat Markets .....	12
Hardware Stores.....	6
Health Clubs.....	3
Heat Treating Metal Services.....	1
Heavy Equipment Repair.....	1
Industrial Gas Suppliers.....	2
Insurance Companies .....	64

Interior Decorators & Designers .....	1	
Jewelry Stores .....	9	
Landscaping Equipment & Supplies.....	18	
Laundromats .....	4	
Lawn Services.....	9	
Lumberyards .....	5	
Machine Shops.....	4	
Meat Lockers .....	4	
Motels .....	19	(989 rooms)
Nurseries & Garden Centers .....	5	
Office Services.....	5	
Office Supplies & Equipment.....	6	
Photography Studios .....	9	
Preschools .....	7	
Printers .....	8	
Real Estate Firms .....	38	
Restaurants.....	70	
Service Stations.....	10	
Shoe Stores.....	6	
Television & Radio Repair Shops.....	10	
Theatres.....	3	(8 screens)
Tool & Die Makers .....	2	
Travel Agencies & Bureaus .....	4	
Upholstery Shops.....	4	
Welding Shops .....	9	

### New Businesses in Scottsbluff



Horizons Walk-In Urgent Care



Webb Orthodontics



Wildcat Hills Nature Center



Farm and Ranch Museum

## AGRICULTURE & RAW MATERIALS

### AGRICULTURE

2007 Statistics	Scotts Bluff County	State of Nebraska
Number of Farms	730	47,712
Land in Farms (acres)	360,286	45,480,358
Average Size of Farms (acres)	494	953
Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold	\$214,509,000	\$15,506,035,000
Market Value Per Farm	\$293,848	\$324,992
Total Acres Irrigated	155,576	8,558,559
Percent of Farmland Irrigated	43.2%	18.8%
<b>Five-Year Average Production of Leading Crops (2004–2008)</b>		
Hay Alfalfa (Dry)	157,624 tons	4,232,000 tons
All Wheat	464,520 bu.	69,730,000 bu.
Beans Dry Edible	672,308 hwt.	2,848,000 hwt.
Corn for Grain	12,212,100 bu.	1,326,770,000 bu.
Sugarbeets	160,444 tons	1,041,000 tons
<b>Five-Year Average Livestock Population (2005–2009)</b>		
All Cattle	114,000	6,470,000

Scotts Bluff County ranked number one in the top ten counties in Nebraska in the production of dry edible beans, number two in the production of sugarbeets, and in the top ten counties in the production of hay alfalfa each of the past five years.

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2004–2009  
2007 Census of Agriculture

### RAW MATERIALS

Unlimited quantities of nonmetallic minerals of sand, gravel, clays, sandstone, oil, and gases are available. There are no known metallic minerals available in the area.

Western Nebraska is the major oil producing area in the state; 1,157,756 barrels of crude oil were produced in 2008 in the seven-county area of Scotts Bluff, Morrill, Banner, Cheyenne, Garden, Kimball, and Sioux Counties.

Low sulfur coal is available in good supply in the nearby coal fields of Wyoming and Montana.

# CLIMATE

## TEMPERATURE, PRECIPITATION, AND HUMIDITY

Month	AVERAGES						
	Temperature			Precipitation		Humidity	
	Min.	Mean	Max.	Rain (Inches)	Snow (Inches)	Morning	Afternoon
January	12.3	25.9	39.3	0.40	5.4	74	58
February	15.4	29.3	43.2	0.50	5.5	75	48
March	22.5	36.7	50.8	0.92	7.6	77	43
April	32.0	46.8	61.5	1.76	5.1	77	40
May	42.4	56.9	71.3	2.61	0.9	80	42
June	52.1	67.1	82.0	2.68	0.0	81	40
July	58.0	73.7	89.4	1.84	0.0	81	37
August	55.7	71.6	87.5	1.24	0.0	83	39
September	45.2	61.7	78.2	1.27	0.3	80	37
October	33.2	49.6	66.0	0.91	2.3	76	41
November	21.9	36.5	51.1	0.55	4.8	76	53
December	14.0	27.4	40.9	0.50	5.9	75	58
<b>Annual</b>	33.7	48.6	63.4	15.18	37.8	78	45

## FROST DATA

Average date of spring freeze probability .....	May 8
Average date of fall freeze probability.....	September 29
Average length of freeze free season probability.....	143 days
Average number of heating degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit .....	6,655
Average number of cooling degree days based on 65° Fahrenheit.....	698
Wind speed in miles per hour (annual average).....	11
Prevailing wind direction (annual average) .....	West northwest

Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center, University of Nebraska, 1893–2009, [www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)