

NEBRASKA COUNTY AND CITY MIGRATION, 1960 TO 1970

For each county, and for many cities, in addition to 1960 and 1970 population totals, birth and death figures for the decade are now available, classified by place of residence. The births minus the deaths constitute the natural increase—the increase that would have taken place in the absence of any migration across boundary lines. The population at the beginning of the period (1960) plus the natural increase, is the population we should find in 1970 if there had been no migration. If the actual change in population during the period is less than the natural increase, there has been a net out-migration.

In Table 1 we show, for each county, the population for 1960 in column 1, the population for 1970 in column 2, and the actual change (obtained by subtracting column 1 from column 2) in column 3. The natural increase (births minus deaths) is in column 4, and the migration in column 5. If the actual change (column 3) minus the natural increase (column 4) is negative, the result is net out-migration; if positive, net in-migration. The percentage of the 1970 population represented by the net migration is shown in the last column. If no net migration had taken place, the population would have been this percentage higher or lower than it is.

For only six counties in the state was there a net in-migration from 1960 to 1970, and, strangely enough, these do not include Douglas or Lancaster. Four of the counties showing a net in-migration are along the Interstate Highway: Sarpy, Seward, Hall, and Buffalo; the other two, Saline and Washington, are not far away from it. In the case of Sarpy County, the military installation there is the chief factor, and, like Washington County, it is suburban to Omaha.

TOTAL MIGRATION

For the state as a whole net out-migration for the decade was 73,291, which is 36.5 percent below the previous decade. It should be emphasized that net migration is only a small part of the total migration. Unfortunately we cannot at present compute the total migration into and out of Nebraska during the decade, since census figures to aid in this computation will not be released until next year. According to one method of estimation, however, total out-migration is nearly six times the net figure. This would mean total out-migration during the decade of about 418,000, offset by an in-migration of about 345,000. We may be raising and educating a great many persons for service in other states, but we are also receiving almost as many, similarly raised and educated, from other states.

The State Board of Education compiles figures on the number of school pupils (public and nonpublic) entering school from other states and withdrawing from school to go to other states during the school year. These are the most definite figures available on annual migration, and from these can be estimated the migration of all persons, adults as well as children. Such an estimate is based upon assumptions, of course, and is in no sense a count, but it is believed to be somewhere near the true figure. This estimate is presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED NEBRASKA POPULATION AND MIGRATION,
1960-1970

| Period | Population, Beginning of Period | Natural Increase | Out- Mi- gration | In- Mi- gration | Net Out- Migra- tion |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Apr., 1960- July, 1961 | 1,411,921 | 25,504 | 46,156 | 37,728 | 8,428 |
| 1961-1962 | 1,428,997 | 20,157 | 36,053 | 29,360 | 6,693 |
| 1962-1963 | 1,442,461 | 18,774 | 38,755 | 32,160 | 6,595 |
| 1963-1964 | 1,454,640 | 16,968 | 38,241 | 33,205 | 5,036 |
| 1964-1965 | 1,466,572 | 14,500 | 46,376 | 32,963 | 13,413 |
| 1965-1966 | 1,467,659 | 11,925 | 49,314 | 34,379 | 14,935 |
| 1966-1967 | 1,464,649 | 10,306 | 44,403 | 37,268 | 7,135 |
| 1967-1968 | 1,467,820 | 9,507 | 42,733 | 37,522 | 5,211 |
| 1968-1969 July, 1969- | 1,472,116 | 9,620 | 43,559 | 38,317 | 5,242 |
| Apr., 1970 | 1,476,494 | 7,900 | 32,649 | 32,046 | 603 |
| Total, Apr., 1960- Apr., 1970 | | 145,161 | 418,239 | 344,948 | 73,291 |
| Apr., 1970- July, 1970 | 1,483,791 | 2,633 | 10,883 | 10,682 | 201 |
| July 1, 1970 | 1,486,223 | | | | |

The table indicates that out-migration was greatest around the middle of the decade and that it has slackened since. Out-migration from July, 1969, to July, 1970, was almost balanced by in-migration. The in-migration has been gradually rising throughout the decade, while the out-migration reached a peak in 1965. The decrease in the excess of births over deaths is notable. Due to the fall in the number of births, the natural increase in population dropped from over 20,000 per year at the beginning of the decade to less than 10,000 at the end.

AGE OF MIGRANTS

There is an idea in some quarters that many of the out-migrants are older persons, moving to warmer climates upon retirement. This is, however, not true in a proportionate sense. Figures by age are available from the 1960 Census for the period 1955-1960, and the results are shown in Table 3.

TABLE 3
NEBRASKA MIGRATION BY AGE, 1955-1960
PERCENT OF 1960 POPULATION, BY AGE GROUP

| Age Group | In-migrants | Out-migrants | Net Out-migrants |
|-------------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| Total population | 7.89 | 12.24 | 4.35 |
| Under 20 years | 6.41 | 10.28 | 3.87 |
| 20 to 30 years | 20.34 | 27.93 | 7.49 |
| 30 to 60 years | 7.77 | 12.64 | 4.87 |
| 60 years and over | 2.67 | 4.86 | 2.19 |

Thus it appears that less than 5 percent of the population which was 60 years and over left the state in the five-year period, and this was balanced in part by almost three percent of the same age group coming in. The really heavy migration in both directions occurred among the young adults (20 to 30 years of age). While we lost over a quarter of these young people in five years, we

gained a fifth in return.

CITY MIGRATION

The same type of analysis as in Table 1 is carried out for the 12 largest cities of the state in Table 4. All of these cities except two show a net in-migration, in spite of the fact that the counties in which they are located, except in the cases of Sarpy (Bellevue), Hall (Grand Island), and Buffalo (Kearney), show a net out-migration.

It is rather puzzling that there is a small net out-migration from Douglas County, in spite of the net in-migration to Omaha. One would suppose that Douglas County outside of Omaha, being largely suburban, would have had an even larger in-migration than the city itself. But the figures speak for themselves.

The last column of the table gives the total population of the territories annexed to each city during the decade. These figures were secured, where possible, from the authorities of the cities in-

TABLE 1
NEBRASKA COUNTY MIGRATION, 1960-1970

| County | (1) Popu- lation 1960 | (2) Popu- lation 1970 | (3) Actual Change 1960- 1970 | (4) Natural Increase 1960- 1970 | (5) Mi- gration 1960- 1970 | (6) Percent of 1970 | County | (1) Popu- lation 1960 | (2) Popu- lation 1970 | (3) Actual Change 1960- 1970 | (4) Natural Increase 1960- 1970 | (5) Mi- gration 1960- 1970 | (6) Percent of 1970 |
|-----------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|---|--|------------------------------|
| Adams | 28,944 | 30,653 | + 1,609 | + 1,922 | - 313 | - 1.02 | Jefferson | 11,620 | 10,436 | - 1,184 | + 20 | - 1,204 | -11.54 |
| Antelope | 10,176 | 9,047 | - 1,129 | + 424 | -1,553 | -17.17 | Johnson | 6,281 | 5,743 | - 538 | + 172 | - 710 | -12.36 |
| Arthur | 680 | 606 | - 74 | + 54 | - 128 | -21.12 | Kearney | 6,580 | 6,707 | + 127 | + 223 | - 96 | - 1.43 |
| Banner | 1,269 | 1,034 | - 235 | + 81 | - 316 | -30.56 | Keith | 7,958 | 8,487 | + 529 | + 1,032 | - 503 | - 5.93 |
| Blaine | 1,016 | 847 | - 169 | + 80 | - 249 | -29.40 | Keya Paha | 1,672 | 1,340 | - 332 | + 116 | - 448 | -33.43 |
| Boone | 9,134 | 8,190 | - 944 | + 522 | -1,466 | -17.90 | Kimball | 7,975 | 6,009 | - 1,966 | + 1,124 | - 3,090 | -51.42 |
| Box Butte | 11,688 | 10,094 | - 1,594 | + 761 | -2,355 | -23.33 | Knox | 13,300 | 11,723 | - 1,577 | + 687 | - 2,264 | -19.31 |
| Boyd | 4,513 | 3,752 | - 761 | + 198 | - 969 | -25.56 | Lancaster | 155,272 | 167,972 | +12,700 | + 22,071 | - 9,371 | - 5.58 |
| Brown | 4,436 | 4,021 | - 415 | + 153 | - 568 | -14.13 | Lincoln | 28,491 | 29,538 | + 1,047 | + 2,653 | - 1,606 | - 5.44 |
| Buffalo | 26,236 | 31,222 | + 4,986 | + 2,371 | +2,615 | + 8.38 | Logan | 1,108 | 991 | - 117 | + 43 | - 160 | -16.15 |
| Burt | 10,192 | 9,247 | - 945 | + 243 | -1,188 | -12.85 | Loup | 1,097 | 854 | - 243 | + 48 | - 291 | -34.07 |
| Butler | 10,312 | 9,461 | - 851 | + 362 | -1,213 | -12.82 | Madison | 25,674 | 27,402 | + 1,728 | + 1,988 | - 260 | - 0.95 |
| Cass | 17,821 | 18,076 | + 255 | + 1,784 | -1,529 | - 8.46 | McPherson | 735 | 623 | - 112 | + 38 | - 150 | -24.08 |
| Cedar | 13,368 | 12,192 | - 1,176 | + 1,424 | -2,600 | -21.33 | Merrick | 8,363 | 8,751 | + 388 | + 639 | - 251 | - 2.87 |
| Chase | 4,317 | 4,129 | - 188 | + 185 | - 373 | - 9.03 | Morrill | 7,057 | 5,813 | - 1,244 | + 439 | - 1,683 | -28.95 |
| Cherry | 8,218 | 6,846 | - 1,372 | + 829 | -2,201 | -32.15 | Nance | 5,635 | 5,192 | - 493 | + 220 | - 713 | -13.87 |
| Cheyenne | 14,828 | 10,778 | - 4,050 | + 1,385 | -5,435 | -50.43 | Nemaha | 9,099 | 8,976 | - 123 | + 164 | - 287 | - 3.20 |
| Clay | 8,717 | 8,266 | - 451 | + 218 | - 669 | - 8.09 | Nuckolls | 8,217 | 7,404 | - 813 | + 225 | - 1,038 | -14.02 |
| Colfax | 9,595 | 9,498 | - 97 | + 287 | - 384 | - 4.04 | Otoe | 16,503 | 15,576 | - 927 | + 689 | - 1,616 | -10.37 |
| Cuming | 12,435 | 12,034 | - 401 | + 1,021 | -1,422 | -11.82 | Pawnee | 5,356 | 4,473 | - 883 | - 162 | - 721 | -16.12 |
| Custer | 16,517 | 14,092 | - 2,425 | + 507 | -2,932 | -20.81 | Perkins | 4,189 | 3,423 | - 766 | + 203 | - 969 | -28.31 |
| Dakota | 12,168 | 13,137 | + 969 | + 1,797 | - 828 | - 6.30 | Phelps | 9,800 | 9,553 | - 247 | + 477 | - 724 | - 7.58 |
| Dawes | 9,536 | 9,761 | + 225 | + 580 | - 355 | - 3.64 | Pierce | 8,722 | 8,493 | - 229 | + 576 | - 805 | - 9.48 |
| Dawson | 19,405 | 18,467 | + 62 | + 1,665 | -1,603 | - 8.23 | Platte | 23,992 | 26,508 | + 2,516 | + 3,448 | - 932 | - 3.52 |
| Deuel | 3,125 | 2,717 | - 408 | + 105 | - 513 | -18.88 | Polk | 7,272 | 6,468 | - 804 | + 136 | - 940 | -14.53 |
| Dixon | 8,106 | 7,483 | - 653 | + 308 | - 961 | -12.89 | Red Willow | 12,940 | 12,191 | - 749 | + 1,230 | - 1,979 | -16.23 |
| Dodge | 32,471 | 34,782 | + 2,311 | + 3,439 | -1,128 | - 3.24 | Richardson | 13,903 | 12,277 | - 1,626 | + 154 | - 1,780 | -14.50 |
| Douglas | 343,490 | 389,455 | +45,965 | +54,081 | -8,116 | - 2.08 | Rock | 2,554 | 2,231 | - 323 | + 184 | - 507 | -22.73 |
| Dundy | 3,570 | 2,926 | - 644 | + 49 | - 693 | -23.68 | Saline | 12,542 | 12,809 | + 267 | + 43 | + 224 | + 1.75 |
| Fillmore | 9,425 | 8,137 | - 1,288 | + 147 | -1,435 | -17.63 | Sarpy | 31,281 | 65,007 | +33,726 | + 10,901 | +22,825 | +35.11 |
| Franklin | 5,449 | 4,566 | - 883 | - 86 | - 797 | -17.46 | Saunders | 17,270 | 17,018 | - 252 | + 943 | - 1,195 | - 7.02 |
| Frontier | 4,311 | 3,982 | - 329 | + 155 | - 484 | -12.15 | Scotts Bluff | 33,809 | 36,432 | + 2,623 | + 4,343 | - 1,720 | - 4.72 |
| Furnas | 7,711 | 6,897 | - 814 | - 19 | - 795 | -11.53 | Seward | 13,581 | 14,460 | + 879 | + 726 | + 153 | + 1.06 |
| Gage | 26,818 | 25,719 | - 1,099 | + 696 | -1,795 | - 6.98 | Sheridan | 9,049 | 7,288 | - 1,764 | + 499 | - 2,263 | -31.06 |
| Garden | 3,472 | 2,929 | - 543 | + 114 | - 657 | -22.43 | Sherman | 5,382 | 4,725 | - 657 | + 328 | - 985 | -20.85 |
| Garfield | 2,699 | 2,411 | - 288 | + 118 | - 406 | -16.84 | Sioux | 2,575 | 2,034 | - 541 | + 115 | - 656 | -32.25 |
| Gosper | 2,489 | 2,178 | - 311 | + 78 | - 389 | -17.86 | Stanton | 5,783 | 5,768 | - 15 | + 401 | - 426 | - 7.40 |
| Grant | 1,009 | 1,019 | + 10 | + 130 | - 120 | -11.78 | Thayer | 9,118 | 7,779 | - 1,339 | - 9 | - 1,330 | -17.01 |
| Greeley | 4,595 | 4,000 | - 595 | + 222 | - 817 | -20.43 | Thomas | 1,078 | 954 | - 124 | + 41 | - 165 | -17.30 |
| Hall | 35,757 | 42,851 | + 7,094 | + 3,894 | +3,200 | + 7.47 | Thurston | 7,237 | 6,942 | - 295 | + 903 | - 1,198 | -17.26 |
| Hamilton | 8,714 | 8,867 | + 153 | + 441 | - 288 | - 3.25 | Valley | 6,590 | 5,783 | - 807 | + 132 | - 939 | -16.24 |
| Harlan | 5,081 | 4,357 | - 724 | + 81 | - 805 | -18.48 | Washington | 12,103 | 13,310 | + 1,207 | + 723 | + 484 | + 3.64 |
| Hayes | 1,919 | 1,530 | - 389 | + 89 | - 478 | -31.24 | Wayne | 9,959 | 10,400 | + 441 | + 775 | - 334 | - 3.21 |
| Hitchcock | 4,829 | 4,051 | - 778 | + 143 | - 921 | -22.74 | Webster | 6,224 | 5,396 | - 828 | - 82 | - 746 | -13.83 |
| Holt | 13,722 | 12,933 | - 789 | + 1,265 | -2,054 | -15.88 | Wheeler | 1,297 | 1,054 | - 243 | + 134 | - 377 | -35.77 |
| Hooker | 1,130 | 939 | - 191 | + 47 | - 238 | -25.45 | York | 13,724 | 13,685 | - 39 | + 608 | - 647 | - 4.73 |
| Howard | 6,541 | 6,807 | + 266 | + 450 | - 184 | - 2.70 | State Total | 1,411,921 | 1,483,791 | +71,870 | +145,161 | -73,291 | - 4.94 |

olved; otherwise they were estimated. They are somewhat puzzling, especially for Omaha, where the population annexed was, at the time of annexation, greater than the total population of Douglas County outside of Omaha in 1960. It is quite probable that much of the population in the annexed territories had moved out from the city itself between 1960 and the date of annexation. Thus they cannot be considered part of the migration for the city. The actual net migration into or out of each city could be more accurately determined if we knew (1) the population of the annexed territories in 1960 and (2) how many had moved from the city into these territories between 1960 and the date of annexation.

EFFECTS OF MIGRATION

It is not necessarily true that net out-migration is bad, and net in-migration good. If there are too many people in a given area for the industrial and other resources, the per capita income is likely to be depressed. For example, California had the largest net in-migration of any state during the past decade, but its rate of increase in per capita income was below that of the nation and considerably below that of Nebraska. It would be a monumental task to discover for any given set of economic conditions in an area what the optimum or best total population would be. We can only hope that the movement of population is in the direc-

tion of approaching that optimum.

The movement from the rural areas, and particularly from the farms, is a reflection of the improving productivity of agriculture per person working in that field, which also induces a movement from the small towns which serve the farm population. Where and when this movement will stop nobody knows, but it is a world-wide phenomenon, as true of the rapidly developing countries as of the developed countries.

That the departure from the counties is neither caused by nor a cause of a decreased prosperity in those counties is illustrated by the fact that every county in Nebraska except two had an increase in real per capita income between 1959 and 1968 (the latest year for which the Office of Business Economics in Washington supplies county income data). Moreover, there is absolutely no correlation between changes in population among the counties and changes in per capita income.

In fact, net out-migration itself is not a problem. It is a symptom of the lack of adequate resources and job opportunities to support a larger population at existing or higher levels of income. When and if such resources and opportunities are provided, the direction of net migration will be reversed. This is a goal that Nebraska may or may not wish to seek.

EDGAR Z. PALMER

TABLE 4
NEBRASKA CITY MIGRATION, 1960-1970

| City | Population, 1960 | Population, 1970 | Actual Change 1960-1970 | Natural Increase, 1960-1970 | Net Migration 1960-1970 | Percent of 1970 Population | Population Annexed, 1960-1970 |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Omaha | 301,598 | 347,328 | 45,730 | 44,905 | + 825 | + 0.24 | 56,898 |
| Lincoln | 128,521 | 149,518 | 20,007 | 19,782 | +1,215 | + 0.81 | 4,700 |
| Grand Island | 25,742 | 31,269 | 5,527 | 3,033 | +2,494 | + 8.13 | 689 |
| Hastings | 21,412 | 23,580 | 2,168 | 1,352 | + 816 | + 3.46 | 0 |
| Fremont | 19,698 | 22,962 | 3,264 | 2,639 | + 625 | + 2.72 | 1,199 |
| Bellevue | 8,831 | 20,760 | 11,929 | 3,839 | +8,090 | +38.97 | 2,801 |
| North Platte | 17,184 | 19,447 | 2,263 | 1,791 | + 472 | + 2.43 | 749 |
| Kearney | 14,210 | 19,181 | 4,971 | 1,563 | +3,408 | +17.77 | 50 |
| Norfolk | 13,640 | 16,607 | 2,967 | 1,497 | +1,470 | + 8.85 | 935 |
| Columbus | 12,476 | 15,471 | 2,995 | 1,737 | +1,258 | + 8.13 | 670 |
| Scottsbluff | 13,377 | 14,507 | 1,130 | 1,632 | - 502 | - 3.46 | 1,173 |
| Beatrice | 12,132 | 12,389 | 257 | 380 | - 123 | - 0.99 | 201 |

NEBRASKA FARM INCOME IN 1970

Because of the economic importance of Nebraska agriculture and the supportive and derivative agribusiness and service activities that are largely dependent on it, preliminary figures on 1970 farm income recently released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture have considerable significance. According to these figures total receipts from cash farm marketings exhibited a higher rate of increase (2.8 percent) in Nebraska last year than in the seven-state West North Central Region as a whole. With a total sales volume of \$1,987 million this state was third high in the region, exceeded only by Iowa and Minnesota.

Sales of livestock and livestock products constituted almost 72 percent of Nebraska's total marketings and slightly exceeded the regional proportion, 70 percent. Of the two states in the region with the largest volume of livestock marketings, Iowa experienced in 1970 a decline of about 5 percent, whereas Nebraska had an increase of almost two percent. As Iowa's total volume of sales in this category constitutes 32 percent of the regional total, its decrease depressed the regional rate of gain to 1.6 percent. In the nation as a whole the sales volume of livestock and livestock

products increased 2.3 percent over 1969 and constituted almost 60 percent of total cash farm marketings.

In cash receipts from food grains, feed crops, and other commodities Nebraska's rate of increase, 5.4 percent, not only was second high among the seven states in the region but was precisely twice as high as that of the region as a whole and 1.2 percentage points higher than the national rate of gain. In total volume of crop marketings Nebraska was third high in the region, moving up from fourth place in 1969.

Figures on cash farm marketings are shown in the table on page 6. Although the nation, the West North Central Region, and all states but North Dakota within the region exhibited gains, these were relatively small compared with previous years and a marked slowing in rate of increase was experienced in the nation generally.

Nebraska retained its sixth place rank in the United States in total cash marketings in 1970, but its share of the national total dropped slightly. Nationally cash receipts from farm marketings increased from a year earlier by about three percent, with the

(Continued on page 6)

Explanation of Changes

We begin this month the use of retail sales figures based on sales tax reports in place of our previous estimates of retail sales based on reports from cooperating retailers. This change has the advantages of (1) greater accuracy through use of official data rather than voluntary reports; (2) coverage of all areas of the state instead of only certain cities and counties; and (3) inclusion of retail activity in new shopping centers that have grown up outside areas covered by previous reporters and in some cases outside city boundaries. It has the disadvantages of (1) eliminating our previous Table 5, for which a type-of-store breakdown is not presently available in sales tax data; and (2) necessitating an additional month's lag in the retail sales figures.

The new form of publication is introduced in Table 3 below. The first column indicates the area covered, the second the percentage relationship of January, 1971, sales to those of January, 1970, and the third the percentage relationship of total sales for the calendar year 1970 to those of 1969. In subsequent months this last column will be replaced by a "year to date" comparison with the preceding year.

It should be emphasized that the figures given in Table 3 are

for the 26 economic development regions of the state as established in 1968 by the State Office of Planning and Programming and that the city names are given only for the purpose of identifying the regions. Boundaries of the regions are shown in maps published in the December, 1968, April, 1970, and September, 1970, issues of this publication. Monthly publication of a map to facilitate identification of the regions will be introduced in these pages soon.

In this issue no changes have been made on page 5, and the city retail sales estimates presented there for February are still based on the sample of reporting retailers. A revision of page 5, including a change to the sales tax data as the source for retail sales estimates, is planned for future issues.

Business Summary

Evidence of the 1970 recession is found in the retail sales figures in Table 3, which show for the year an increase of only 3.4% over 1969, considerably less than the 5.9% increase in the Consumer Price Index. In only three of the regions did the retail sales increase exceed the latter figure. Preliminary estimates of February retail sales in Table 4 give no indication of any improvement.

All figures on Table 1 and 2 are adjusted for seasonal changes, which means that the month-to-month ratios are relative to the normal or expected changes. Figures in Table 1 (except the first line) are adjusted where appropriate for price changes. Gasoline sales for Nebraska are for road use only; for the United States they are production in the previous month.

E. L. HAUSWALD

1. NEBRASKA and the UNITED STATES

2. PHYSICAL VOLUME OF BUSINESS
Percentage of 1948 Average

| JAN Business Indicators | Percent of 1948 Average | | Percent of Same Month a Year Ago | | Percent of Preceding Month | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Nebraska | U.S. | Nebraska | U.S. | Nebraska | U.S. |
| | Dollar Volume of Business | 324.8 | 450.1 | 92.0 | 107.3 | 92.1 |
| Physical Volume of Business | 210.0 | 250.6 | 93.6 | 102.4 | 96.3 | 101.5 |
| Bank debits (checks, etc.) | 238.6 | 451.8 | 94.9 | 105.9 | 97.7 | 99.7 |
| Construction activity | 177.9 | 164.0 | 85.6 | 100.3 | 97.7 | 103.2 |
| Retail sales | 162.9 | 184.7 | 94.2 | 102.7 | 114.7 | 101.8 |
| Life insurance sales | 361.0 | 539.8 | 75.1 | 100.1 | 69.8 | 101.5 |
| Cash farm marketings | 169.7 | 153.2 | 111.1 | 105.8 | 76.4 | 93.5 |
| Electricity produced | 444.5 | 548.2 | 103.3 | 104.3 | 104.1 | 101.7 |
| Newspaper advertising | 168.4 | 152.5 | 98.7 | 97.3 | 99.4 | 100.9 |
| Manufacturing employment | 169.7 | 122.7 | 93.7 | 94.2 | 101.3 | 99.4 |
| Other employment | 156.2 | 177.9 | 102.2 | 101.7 | 100.4 | 100.5 |
| Gasoline sales | 251.9 | 270.1 | 90.5 | 107.5 | 103.7 | 116.2 |

| Month | Percentage of 1948 Average | |
|-----------|----------------------------|---------|
| | Nebraska | U.S. |
| | 1970-71 | 1970-71 |
| January | 224.1 | 246.8 |
| February | 231.7 | 247.3 |
| March | 222.6 | 243.7 |
| April | 226.3 | 248.0 |
| May | 208.3 | 243.9 |
| June | 229.2 | 248.3 |
| July | 222.5 | 249.3 |
| August | 243.8 | 219.7 |
| September | 225.2 | 246.2 |
| October | 214.4 | 243.5 |
| November | 210.7 | 241.2 |
| December | 218.1 | 247.0 |
| January | 210.0 | 250.6 |

3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES¹ OF NEBRASKA REGIONS

(Unadjusted for Price Changes)

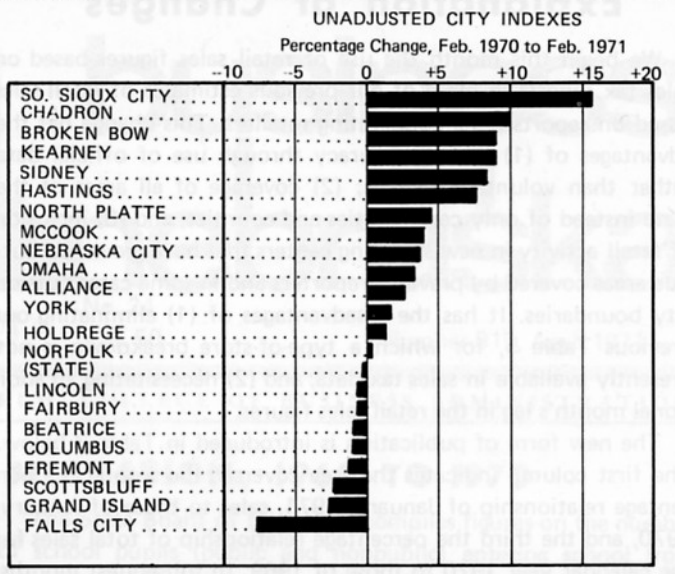
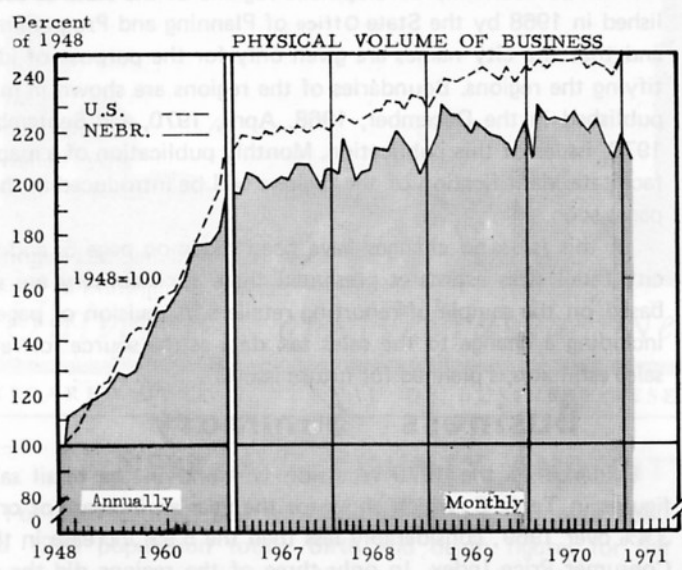
| Region ² and Principal Retail Trade Center ³ | January, 1971 as Percent of January, 1970 | Year, 1970 as Percent of Year, 1969 | Region ² and Principal Retail Trade Center ³ | January, 1971 as Percent of January, 1970 | Year, 1970 as Percent of Year, 1969 |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 (Omaha) | 102.5 | 105.7 | 15 (Kearney) | 104.2 | 103.4 |
| 2 (Lincoln) | 104.2 | 104.1 | 16 (Lexington) | 106.7 | 101.9 |
| 3 (So. Sioux City) | 108.8 | 106.9 | 17 (Holdrege) | 110.4 | 103.2 |
| 4 (Nebraska City) | 86.8 | 98.1 | 18 (North Platte) | 106.9 | 106.1 |
| 5 (Fremont) | 101.3 | 104.1 | 19 (Ogallala) | 118.3 | 100.7 |
| 6 (West Point) | 105.1 | 100.8 | 20 (McCook) | 100.0 | 108.0 |
| 7 (Falls City) | 112.6 | 99.2 | 21 (Sidney, Kimball) | 100.7 | 102.4 |
| 8 (Seward) | 108.2 | 100.2 | 22 (Scottsbluff) | 103.9 | 101.4 |
| 9 (York) | 106.2 | 98.4 | 23 (Alliance, Chadron) | 109.3 | 103.4 |
| 10 (Columbus) | 104.3 | 100.2 | 24 (O'Neill) | 101.4 | 102.4 |
| 11 (Norfolk) | 104.4 | 100.2 | 25 (Hartington) | 102.8 | 98.7 |
| 12 (Grand Island) | 100.5 | 102.9 | 26 (Broken Bow) | 104.1 | 100.5 |
| 13 (Hastings) | 108.1 | 104.0 | | | |
| 14 (Beatrice) | 104.6 | 100.3 | State Total | 103.5 | 103.4 |

¹Sales on which sales taxes are collected and remitted by retailers located both in and outside of the state. Includes Motor Vehicle Sales.

²"Planning and development" regions as established by the Nebraska Office of Planning and Programming in 1968. Also described in *Business in Nebraska*, December, 1968.

³Trade centers shown had 25 percent or more of their regions' 1970 net taxable retail sales—except Hartington of Region 25.

SOURCE: Compilations by Bureau of Business Research from data provided by the Office of the Nebraska Tax Commissioner.



Figures on this page are not adjusted for seasonal changes nor for price changes. Building activity includes the effects of past as well as present building permits, on the theory that not all building is completed in the month the permit is issued. E. L. H.

4. CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

| FEB | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Percent of Same Month a Year Ago | | | | | | | | | |
| City | City Index | Bank Debits | Building Activity | Retail Sales | Electricity Consumed | Gas Consumed | Water Pumped | Postal Receipts | Newspaper Advertising |
| The State | 99.8 | 105.8 | 97.5 | 100.1 | 104.7 | 103.7 | 98.1 | 95.9 | 92.1 |
| Beatrice | 99.2 | 94.3 | 99.0 | 115.1 | 101.1 | 100.7 | 98.7 | 98.3 | 92.3 |
| Omaha | 103.2 | 105.1 | 93.9 | 104.7 | 105.7 | 102.6 | 101.7 | 89.0 | 103.6 |
| Lincoln | 99.6 | 112.7 | 74.8 | 102.1 | 106.3 | 99.1 | 97.7 | 99.4 | 85.6 |
| Grand Island | 97.5 | 102.2 | 134.8 | 98.1 | 86.3 | 101.3 | 88.3 | 121.2 | 85.8 |
| Hastings | 107.6 | 103.9 | 47.9 | 99.5 | 109.7 | 114.5 | 115.4 | 104.1 | 112.9 |
| Fremont | 98.9 | 99.6 | 259.0 | 79.3 | 103.7 | NA | 96.0 | 96.2 | NA |
| North Platte | 104.5 | 103.1 | 167.4 | 100.9 | 109.6 | 104.3 | 139.2 | 87.5 | 81.4 |
| Kearney | 109.0 | 112.2 | 58.4 | 117.8 | 115.9 | 111.4 | 103.5 | 103.4 | NA |
| Scottsbluff | 97.8 | 108.6 | 139.7 | 102.2 | 91.7 | 100.2 | 85.5 | 90.8 | 97.8 |
| Norfolk | 100.2 | 106.8 | 81.4 | 100.2 | 105.7 | 111.9 | 93.4 | 101.6 | 88.9 |
| Columbus | 99.1 | 113.0 | 72.9 | 92.3 | 104.8 | 108.9 | 90.3 | 118.9 | 86.0 |
| McCook | 103.9 | 100.7 | 30.7 | 102.1 | 107.8 | 110.9 | NA | 143.8 | 101.9 |
| Sidney | 108.2 | 108.1 | 153.4 | 91.4 | 108.3 | 106.5 | 108.3 | 115.8 | NA |
| Alliance | 102.6 | 102.2 | 57.0 | 99.9 | 106.3 | 118.5 | 91.3 | 105.7 | NA |
| Nebraska City | 103.7 | 80.9 | N.A. | 87.9 | 104.8 | 113.7 | 92.7 | 130.4 | NA |
| So. Sioux City | 115.6 | 123.1 | 8.3 | 111.8 | 111.8 | NA | NA | 195.4 | NA |
| York | 101.6 | 95.3 | 173.8 | 90.6 | 104.5 | 115.5 | 102.1 | 94.3 | 104.4 |
| Falls City | 92.2 | 98.2 | 51.6 | 111.4 | 86.2 | NA | 86.9 | 133.4 | 91.6 |
| Fairbury | 99.5 | 95.9 | 57.9 | 99.7 | 103.0 | NA | 111.6 | 126.1 | 94.4 |
| Holdrege | 101.2 | 115.7 | 166.5 | 85.5 | 111.5 | 76.3 | 77.1 | 109.3 | 98.5 |
| Chadron | 110.0 | 116.6 | 458.1 | 102.3 | 129.0 | 95.5 | 111.1 | 77.0 | NA |
| Broken Bow | 109.0 | 94.0 | 133.0 | 100.9 | 112.3 | 108.9 | 113.7 | 114.8 | 93.6 |

| FEB | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Percent of Preceding Month (Unadjusted) | | | | | | | | | |
| City | City Index | Bank Debits | Building Activity | Retail Sales | Electricity Consumed | Gas Consumed | Water Pumped | Postal Receipts | Newspaper Advertising |
| The State | 91.6 | 88.2 | 91.7 | 92.8 | 90.0 | 93.9 | 91.7 | 79.2 | 101.4 |
| Beatrice | 87.2 | 82.6 | 77.0 | 87.7 | 84.5 | 94.0 | 100.3 | 81.4 | 102.0 |
| Omaha | 93.8 | 86.1 | 94.1 | 96.8 | 88.3 | 97.3 | 92.9 | 94.4 | NA |
| Lincoln | 94.9 | 94.1 | 91.4 | 97.5 | 94.2 | 100.3 | 94.6 | 64.2 | 96.7 |
| Grand Island | 91.3 | 86.1 | 96.5 | 104.4 | 91.0 | 91.2 | 84.4 | 87.8 | 95.3 |
| Hastings | 86.7 | 87.8 | 74.6 | 80.1 | 90.2 | 80.3 | 101.9 | 88.4 | 102.1 |
| Fremont | 88.4 | 86.0 | 121.6 | 87.1 | 85.5 | NA | 91.7 | 88.6 | NA |
| North Platte | 92.6 | 93.4 | 89.5 | 90.7 | 96.1 | 94.5 | 91.9 | 65.4 | 100.5 |
| Kearney | 92.5 | 86.2 | 72.3 | 92.6 | 116.0 | 99.7 | 93.8 | 91.1 | NA |
| Scottsbluff | 89.4 | 90.6 | 86.6 | 102.9 | 86.4 | 94.2 | 78.2 | 60.8 | 116.1 |
| Norfolk | 85.8 | 87.3 | 70.3 | 91.2 | 78.0 | 81.7 | 86.2 | 88.1 | 105.0 |
| Columbus | 87.3 | 91.9 | 77.3 | 90.6 | 83.6 | 95.4 | 91.5 | 95.1 | 110.1 |
| McCook | 92.4 | 89.2 | 75.4 | 109.5 | 102.1 | 87.8 | 90.3 | 131.2 | 82.8 |
| Sidney | 87.3 | 88.8 | 90.5 | 84.4 | 79.8 | 74.2 | 106.6 | 88.7 | NA |
| Alliance | 91.3 | 86.1 | 81.4 | 95.6 | 98.7 | 92.2 | 84.8 | 96.6 | NA |
| Nebraska City | 95.2 | 77.4 | 236.8 | 86.5 | 97.3 | 98.1 | 116.8 | 90.1 | NA |
| So. Sioux City | NA | 95.2 | NA | 100.9 | 83.1 | NA | NA | 148.7 | NA |
| York | 90.3 | 78.1 | 87.5 | 94.5 | 99.7 | 82.1 | 101.1 | 71.1 | 97.2 |
| Falls City | 96.0 | 86.1 | 74.5 | 99.4 | 100.4 | NA | 88.2 | 101.9 | 121.6 |
| Fairbury | 94.1 | 88.8 | 60.7 | 118.2 | 92.6 | NA | 91.5 | 98.4 | 98.3 |
| Holdrege | 94.4 | 77.1 | 68.6 | 98.5 | 98.3 | 71.4 | 107.7 | 103.6 | 117.9 |
| Chadron | 95.9 | 97.4 | 157.8 | 89.2 | 100.0 | 69.7 | 92.2 | 98.0 | NA |
| Broken Bow | 92.9 | 95.5 | 50.7 | 101.0 | 90.6 | 92.6 | 92.8 | 82.4 | 107.6 |

Nebraska rate of gain only slightly lower.

State figures on total realized gross and net farm income for 1970 will not be available until August. The net figures will be affected by substantial increases in current operating and overhead expenses that took place last year. Nationwide the index of prices paid by farmers for production items, interest, taxes, and wage rates was about 4.5 percent higher than in 1969. By year's end prices for feed were running about 10 percent above a year earlier, but by that time interest rates were easing somewhat.

INCOME PER FARM

The 1970 preliminary figures on realized gross income per farm show unfavorable divergence from 1969, when all states in the West North Central Region had exhibited sizable rates of increase over 1968 ranging from 9.7 to 14.7 percent and all but one (Missouri) had rates considerably above the national average. In marked contrast in 1970, however, all states in the region except Minnesota were below the national rate of gain (4.6 percent), and the region as a whole was 1.3 percentage points lower.

Among the 50 states Nebraska ranked eleventh in 1970 both in realized gross and realized net income per farm; the net income was \$7,662, while the regional average was \$6,108 and the national \$5,392. The state had ranked more favorably (in ninth place) in 1969, after having climbed from thirteenth in 1968.

The preliminary figures show that Nebraska's net income per farm in 1970 was second only to Iowa in the region. All states in the region, as in the nation generally, experienced declines in 1970 compared with 1969. From 1968 to 1970, however, the nation, the region as a whole, and all states in the region except North Dakota and South Dakota recorded increases.

Both the gross and net figures were somewhat reduced in 1970 by a drop in direct government payments to farmers resulting from a decline in the feed grain program and the phasing out of soil bank payments. Wheat program payments, however, were moderately higher.

USDA PREDICTIONS FOR 1971

The economic research service of the USDA predicts that a 1971 increase in net farm income of from two to three percent over 1970 will reflect a larger volume of farm marketings, with prospect of little change in average prices received. The predictions for 1971, therefore, depend largely upon crop prospects. It

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is predicted that there will be some decline in direct government payments to farmers and that livestock product prices will continue below the relatively high levels that prevailed in the first half of 1970.

USDA economists suggest that realized gross farm income in 1971 will not keep up with the increase in farm production expenses and that a further small decline in aggregate realized net farm income is indicated for this year, although it is hoped that the situation may improve as the year advances. The realized net income per farm may again be influenced upward by a continuing decline in farm numbers.

Last year the per capita disposable personal income from all sources of persons living on farms was 78.2 percent of the per capita disposable income from all sources of the *nonfarm* population, an increase of almost one percentage point over 1969, and a gain of 23 percentage points over the 1960 proportion, which was only 55 percent.

It is anticipated that a sizable gain in the income of farm people from *nonfarm* sources may be experienced in 1971, perhaps more than enough to offset the prospective slight decline in income from farm sources. Thus, according to the USDA, per capita disposable income of the farm population from all sources may show a small gain.

DOROTHY SWITZER

CASH FARM MARKETINGS, 1970
UNITED STATES, AND STATES OF THE WEST NORTH CENTRAL REGION

| | Crops | | | Livestock and Livestock Products | | | Total | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|-------------------|
| | (million dollars) | | Change 1969-70 | (million dollars) | | Change 1969-70 | (million dollars) | | Change 1969-70 |
| | 1970 | 1969 | | 1970 | 1969 | | 1970 | 1969 | |
| United States | 19,589 | 18,790 | + 4.2% | 29,089 | 28,439 | +2.3% | 48,678 | 47,229 | +3.1% |
| West North Central | 3,832 | 3,730* | + 2.7% | 8,987* | 8,843 | +1.6% | 12,819* | 12,573* | +2.0% |
| Nebraska | 563 | 534 | + 5.4% | 1,425 | 1,399 | +1.8% | 1,988 | 1,933 | +2.8% |
| Iowa | 1,038 | 930 | +11.6% | 2,844 | 2,858 | -4.7% | 3,882 | 3,788 | +2.5% |
| Kansas | 552 | 573 | - 3.7% | 1,193 | 1,144 | +4.3% | 1,745 | 1,717 | +1.6% |
| Minnesota | 639 | 616 | + 3.7% | 1,377 | 1,342 | +2.6% | 2,016 | 1,958 | +3.0% |
| Missouri | 426 | 414 | + 2.9% | 1,054 | 1,032 | +2.1% | 1,480 | 1,446 | +2.4% |
| North Dakota | 417 | 479 | -13.0% | 276 | 265 | +4.2% | 693 | 744 | -6.9% |
| South Dakota | 197 | 183 | + 2.2% | 819 | 803 | +2.0% | 1,016 | 986 | +3.0% |

*Because of rounding 7-state totals do not add to regional total.

Source: *Farm Income Situation*, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, February, 1971, p. 17. All calculations are by the Bureau of Business Research.