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MANUFACTURING IN NEBRASKA

Because the final reports of the 1967 U.S. Census of Manufactures are not scheduled for publication before the end of the year and because salient facts to be derived from the reports are unlikely to be changed by the final figures, it seems important to analyze the just-released preliminary reports in some detail.¹ The data give evidence that the combined efforts of Nebraskans committed to industrial development of the state have produced results: Nebraska industry far exceeded both the national and regional percentage increases from 1963 to 1967 (and from 1958, as well) in value added by manufacture, which is considered to be the best measure available for comparing the relative importance of manufacturing among industry groups and geographic areas. This state also was significantly above the nation and the West North Central Region in percentage gain in number of manufacturing employees in the ten-year period, 1958 to 1967, as it was in the nation in the five-year period. The value added by manufacture by Nebraska industries totaled \$150.6 million in 1967, much more than double the 1958 figure, and more than half again as much as the 1963 total. The state's increase from 1958 was 115% and from 1963 was 54%, compared with 36% and 36% in the nation and 82% and 42% in the region. Among the seven states in the West North Central Region Nebraska was second high in percentage gain in each time period - exceeded only by South Dakota in the ten-year period and by North Dakota from 1963 to 1967.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Nebraska employment in manufacturing increased over 32% from 1958 to 1967 and almost 20% from 1963, compared with gains of 21% and 14% in the nation, and 25% and 19% in the region. Among states in the region, in the period 1958-67 only Minnesota exceeded Nebraska in rate of rise in industrial employment; from 1963 to 1967, however, this state's rate of manufacturing employment growth was exceeded by Kansas as well as by Minnesota. In 1967 there were 1,676 manufacturing establishments in Nebraska, an increase of only 4% from 1963. Of more significance, however, is the fact that the number of firms with 20 or more employees increased at a rate of almost three times as much (11.4%). The state's manufacturing industry employed approximately 77,600 workers whose aggregate payroll totaled \$479.5 million.² The percentage gain in number of workers was 20% and in payroll,

38%, reflecting the upward spiral of wages to meet rises in the cost of living.

Production workers numbered 58,700, an increase of 25%; they worked almost 120 million man hours, a 24% increase. Approximate coincidence of rate of gain in number of workers and rate of increase in man-hours-worked presumably indicates minimal change in length of the average work week.

The proportion of production workers to total employees has been steadily increasing - from 72.4% in 1963 to 75.6% in 1967. Production workers earned close to \$327.5 million in 1967, a rise of 43% over 1963. The rates of numerical increases and wage increases for all manufacturing employees in 1967 compared to 1963 were 20/38, contrasted to 24/45 for production workers - thus wage increases were 90% greater than numerical increases among combined categories of manufacturing employees, contrasted to 79% greater among production workers.

CHANGES IN RANK OF INDUSTRY GROUPS

Of special significance are the changes in rank of importance and proportions of total value added by manufacture by Nebraska major industrial groups from the 1958 and 1963 censuses of manufacture to the most recent. Although food and kindred products continue to be Nebraska's top-ranking industry group, this category, which constituted almost half (49.4%) of the value added in 1958, dropped to 42.4% in 1963, and by 1967 showed a further decline to only 37.2% of the total.

Despite the decline in relative importance, value added by manufacture and processing of food products amounted to \$427.6 million in 1967, an increase of 35% over the previous census and more than 64% in the ten-year period from 1958.

As national data by industry group for 1967 have not yet been made available it is not possible to make comparisons with the country as a whole, except to note that nationally from 1958 to 1963 value added by food product manufacturing as a proportion of the total value added declined from 35% to less than 14%. It is apparent that Nebraska compared with the nation had a relatively small proportionate decline (from 49.4% to 42.4%) in the same period and that this category of manufacturing continues to maintain a much higher relative importance in the state than in the nation.

Nebraska grain mill products have been accounting for a steadily rising proportion of value added by manufacture - from 16% in 1958 to almost 21% in 1963, and up to 23.5% in 1967. Meat products continue to constitute by far the largest proportion of Nebraska food processing, however, amounting to 43.3% of the value added in 1967, a gain of 7 percentage points over 1963, and about the same as in 1958. Manufacture of both dairy and bakery products has been steadily declining relatively; dairy products from a pro-

¹1967 Census of Manufactures, Preliminary Reports, General Statistics for Geographic Divisions and States, U.S. Department of Commerce, 1970.

²This employment figure is 700 less than that shown in the State Department of Labor report for 1967. The difference may be due to a census undercount, or to a difference in classification, or to a change in the definition of manufacturing.

portion of 10.6% in 1958 to 7.4% in 1967, and bakery products from 6.4% to 4%

Grain mill establishments have increased markedly in number, in number of employees, in value added by manufacture, and in capital expenditures, exhibiting a 137% rise in value added from 1958 to 1967 and a 115% increase in investment in new plant and equipment. Although the number of meat product plants decreased more than 6% from 1963, value added by manufacture gained by more than 60%, reflecting perhaps the efficiency of new plant and equipment, for which expenditures rose by almost 95%.

According to the preliminary report Nebraska's food manufacturing industry on the whole has shown a steady decline in number of establishments, a slight decline in the number of employees (attributable in part to increased mechanization), and increases in payroll totals that scarcely have kept pace with increases in the cost-of-living index. Gains in the value added by manufacture though impressive - 64% from 1958 and 35% from 1963 to 1967 - compare unfavorably with gains shown by six other major industrial groups.

The data tend, therefore, to bolster the contention that Nebraska presently lags in processing its plentiful agricultural products and that there is great potential in this category of manufacturing.³

Second in importance among Nebraska industry groups in 1967, based on value added by manufacture, was machinery other than electrical, which moved up from fourth place both in 1958 and 1963, usurping the rank held by manufacture of electrical machinery and supplies five years earlier and by printing and publishing in 1958. Electrical equipment now ranks fourth and printing and publishing has dropped to sixth.

Chemicals and allied products rose from fifth place in value added in 1958 (and again in 1963) to third place in 1967 with increases of over 240% from 1958 and almost 119% from 1963 to 1967.

Changes in the industrial mix in the state are reflected in increasing proportions of the total constituted by such categories as chemicals, instruments and related products, and furniture and fixtures, while proportions of the leading categories have declined somewhat. The combined value added by manufacture contributed by the two principal categories in 1967 was 46% of the total, whereas the two industry groups that were the leaders in 1963 had contributed 51% of the total.

³See "Nebraska Industrial Growth," Business in Nebraska, May 1970, p. 6.

INDUSTRY AND THE DEMANDS OF AGRICULTURE

Changes in rank of importance of nonelectrical machinery and of chemical and allied products are largely attributable to technological changes in Nebraska agriculture. Sharp gains in value added by manufacture of farm machinery brought this category of manufacturing to a proportion of almost 40% of the total in the nonelectrical machinery classification in 1967, reflecting the ability of Nebraska manufacturers to meet the needs of an increasingly mechanized agriculture. Similarly, agricultural chemicals had proportionate increases, and fabricated structural metal products, largely destined for agricultural use, accounted for more than 52% of the value added by manufacture in the fabricated metals category.

COUNTY COMPARISONS

A. Changes in Rank

Based on the value added by manufacture criteria of importance, the principal manufacturing counties of the state have changed rank significantly, according to the preliminary census figures. Of the top 12 counties only Douglas and Lancaster (ranked in that order, of course,) and Buffalo, in 11th place, retained in 1967 the same rank held in 1963.

The most spectacular growth in manufacturing was achieved by Hall County, which jumped from ninth to third place by showing a percentage increase of almost 317% in the five-year period. Dodge County, which previously ranked third, dropped to fourth, and Platte County, despite a percentage gain of 73, fell to fifth.

B. Employment and Payrolls

On the basis of preliminary figures rounded off to the nearest thousand, Douglas County manufacturing employees numbering 34,100, or about 44% of the state's total, had an aggregate payroll of over 235 million dollars or almost half (49.1%) of the Nebraska total. In Lancaster County, industrial employees accounted for 12.8% of the state total and almost the same percentage of the aggregate manufacturing payroll. Hall County, despite its tremendous rate of industrial growth, accounted for less than 8% of the state's total payroll.

C. Increases in Value Added

Rise in manufacturing employment and concomitant increases in payrolls, however, are only partial measures of industrial growth. The percent change in value added by manufacture reveals further significant information. Among the principal manufacturing counties of the state, Hall County, which was conspicuous in employment growth, was the spectacular leader in rate of gain in value

NEBRASKA MANUFACTURING: VALUE ADDED, NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS, NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES
Selected Counties - 1967, 1963, 1958 (with 1960-70 Change in Population)

Counties in Order 1967 Rank	Value Added by Manufacturing			Number of Establishments			Manufacturing Employment			Population Percentage Change 1960-70
	1967 (in mil- lions)	Percentage Change		1967	Percentage Change		1967 (in thou- sands)	Percentage Change		
		1963-67	1958-67		1963-67	1958-67		1963-67	1958-67	
State Total	\$1,150.6	+ 54.1	+114.5	1,676	+ 4.0	+ 7.9	77.6	+ 19.8	+ 32.4	+ 4.0
Douglas	564.3	+ 42.6	+ 91.2	528	+ 0.6	+ 7.5	34.1	+ 4.3	+ 13.9	+12.7
Lancaster	125.3	+ 46.2	+ 75.7	184	+ 9.5	+18.7	9.9	+ 10.0	+ 16.5	+ 6.9
Hall	52.6	+316.8	+535.0	52	NC*	+ 6.1	6.0	+322.2	+519.8	+18.4
Dodge	42.8	+ 48.6	+134.0	55	- 6.7	+19.6	2.7	+ 8.0	+ 21.2	+ 6.5
Platte	40.1	+ 73.2	+ 88.1	44	+25.7	+29.4	3.3	+ 33.3	+ 50.6	+ 7.4
Dawson	35.7	+ 56.6	+542.0	50	NC*	+22.0	1.5	+ 0.7	+181.9	+ 0.6
Adams	28.2	+ 49.5	+251.1	48	+ 4.3	+ 6.7	1.8	+ 19.4	+ 68.5	+ 4.3
Gage	24.5	+117.3	+162.6	22	+10.0	+29.4	1.3	- 6.1	+ 16.9	- 4.2
Scotts Bluff	22.3	+ 25.9	+ 53.8	53	+12.7	+ 3.9	1.7	+ 12.6	+ 28.8	+ 6.5
Madison	19.1	+ 93.9	+326.6	39	+30.0	+30.0	1.4	+ 90.1	+162.2	+ 6.2
Buffalo	17.3	+ 56.7	+122.1	42	+27.3	+44.8	1.4	+ 64.5	+120.8	+18.4
Otoe	15.9	+ 9.6	+164.3	14	-12.5	- 6.7	1.1	+ 18.1	+ 43.2	- 8.3

*NC - No Change. Note: 1967 preliminary report does not give separate data on Sarpy County (in 12th place in value added in 1963), which is part of the Omaha SMSA.

Source: Preliminary Report, 1967 Census of Manufactures, and Preliminary Report, 1970 Census of Population. Percentages computed by Bureau of Business Research.

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manufacture from 1963 to 1967 and was second high for 1967 period, the respective percentages being 316.8 and Dawson County had the highest rate of gain, 542%, over the period.

County was second and Madison County was third in rate of value added by manufacture from 1963-1967, with and 93.9%, respectively. Madison County had the same rate of gain over the period 1958-1967 with 326.6%, and was fourth with 251%. Otoe County, which had a 1963-1967 value added of only 9.6%, had, however, a ten-year gain of ranking it in fifth place, just ahead of Gage County which increase of 162.6% in the same period.

County accounted for 49% of the state total value added in 1967, and Lancaster County for 10.9%. Thus 10% of the state's total was produced in the two counties. County was responsible for as much as 5% of the state's value added by manufacture, though Hall County account for 4.6%; other counties in the top six were Dodge, 3.7%; 5.5%; and Dawson, 3.1%.

and Lancaster Counties have both declined, however, in importance of value added by manufacture and of manufacturing employment. Whereas in 1958 the two counties combined 72% of the state's total value added and had 67% of the industrial employees, the proportions declined to 65% in both in 1963, and by 1967 had dropped to 57% and less than respectively.

State's two leading manufacturing counties have recorded lower rates of increase than has the state as a whole value added and in employment in manufacturing. From 1967 the state exhibited a 114.5% increase in value added, and with 91.2% in Douglas and 75.7% in Lancaster Counties. As to manufacturing employment increases over the period, the comparative gains were 32.4%, 13.9%, and 16.5%, respectively.

For the absolute number of manufacturing establishments in county nor the percentage change in number of firms relationship to percentage gains either in manufacturing employment or in value added by manufacture. Hall County which had extremely high percentage increases in employment value added had precisely the same number of manufacturing establishments in 1967 that it had in 1963, and only 6% more in 1958. From 1963 to 1967 Gage County, with an increase in of establishments of 10%, had a decline of 6% in number of manufacturing employees, yet registered an increase of over 117% value added by manufacture. In the same period Buffalo County had in rate of increase in number of manufacturing firms (10%), and with a gain of 64.5% also took third place in rate of employment increases. In value added, however, its 56.7% rise was fifth in rate of growth among the 12 leading manufacturing counties. On the other hand, Dawson County, which had no change in number of establishments and less than one percent increase in employment, exhibited almost the same rate of gain as Gage County in value added by manufacture.

Population and Industrial Growth

Unfortunately even preliminary data from the Census of Manufacturing by three years the preliminary figures from the 1970 Census of Population. This makes it difficult to compare rates of population growth with rates of industrial development.

Dawson County, despite a population increase of 12.7% in the decade, had a growth rate of only 4.3% in manufacturing employment in the five-year period, 1963 to 1967. This may indicate

why the county population increase, though sizable, was not as great as had been expected by some officials. Lancaster County, by contrast, had a 10% gain in manufacturing employment in the same period, despite a population increase in the past decade of only 6.9%.

Among the 12 leading manufacturing counties, Hall County was the most dramatic gain in manufacturing employment in the five-year period 1963-1967 (322%), and Buffalo County, third in rate of employment increase (64.5%), led in rate of population gain, with both counties showing increases of 18.4%. On the other hand, Madison County, which was second in rise of manufacturing employment (90%) accomplished this with a gain of only 6.2% in population (8th place), and Otoe County, with an 8% loss of population in the decade yet managed to take sixth place by showing 18.1% gain in industrial employment from 1963 to 1967.

County changes in manufacturing employment for the ten-year period 1958 to 1967 showed much the same general trends as in the 1963-1967 period, except in Dawson and Gage Counties. In Dawson County the increase for the ten-year period was almost 182%, but less than 1% of that gain was registered in the last five years of the period. Coincidentally, in the decade from 1960 to the present Dawson County increased only 0.6% in population. Gage County had a 6% loss in manufacturing employment 1963-1967, but over the ten-year period showed an increase of almost 17%. The preliminary Census of Population figures for Gage County show a 4% decrease, 1960-70.

CONCLUSION

Thus it is evident that population growth is not necessarily related to increased industrial production. Sometimes increased industrial development results in population growth, and vice versa, but not always, and not automatically. For example, two of the principal manufacturing counties that have experienced declining population have exhibited conspicuous gains in value added by manufacture, whereas others with modest population gains have displayed highly disproportionate increases in manufacturing productivity. Detailed analysis of the industrial mix in each county is not possible from the limited data available in the preliminary reports of the Census of Manufactures. Such analysis from the final reports should reveal important information with respect to the kinds of industries that most effectively utilize both human and natural resources within this state, which although not projected to grow rapidly in numbers of people, could expand rapidly in qualitative terms. However much the state may or may not grow numerically, it is apparent from the experience of some of the principal manufacturing counties that more persons could be employed more productively than they are at present.

DOROTHY SWITZER

Business Summary

A lower general level of business prevailed in Nebraska during May of this year compared with that of last year. Both the state's dollar and physical volume indexes were lower, while the U.S. indexes were higher. Holding down Nebraska's May level were construction, life insurance sales, gasoline sales, and cash farm marketings. All of these were at levels notably lower than a year ago. The continued weakness in the industrial sector of the state is reflected in the manufacturing employment index, which has been below 100.0 for four consecutive months.

On the positive side, in May retail sales, electricity produced, and newspaper advertising, were stronger than last year. The state's retail activity showed a larger relative gain than the U.S.

A year-to-year increase in retail sales was recorded by the June retail sales index. In general, soft goods activities were strong; hard goods sales were weak. Gains in food and merchandise sales more than offset the weakness of equipment sales. Sales of farm equipment were markedly low because of the drouth. Major gains were recorded for North Platte, Norfolk, and Columbus. Lincoln's level of retail activity continued to be notably below that of the previous year.

All figures on this page are adjusted for seasonal changes, which means that the month-to-month ratios are relative to the normal or expected changes. Figures in Table I (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

I. NEBRASKA and the UNITED STATES

II. PHYSICAL VOLUME OF BUSINESS
Percentage of 1948 Average

MAY 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	333.4	421.8	92.9	106.4	89.7
Physical Volume of Business	208.3	243.9	94.9	101.3	92.0	98.3
Bank debits (checks, etc.)	250.0	442.6	102.3	108.9	95.2	100.2
Construction activity	228.0	163.4	68.3	92.5	91.8	100.0
Retail sales	158.1	184.1	102.7	100.0	101.3	99.4
Life insurance sales	361.7	468.4	88.9	97.2	79.1	91.0
Cash farm marketings	185.5	169.0	73.0	98.4	68.4	95.4
Electricity produced	427.9	524.8	109.1	106.4	92.3	97.8
Newspaper advertising	164.2	150.0	102.3	97.5	93.7	96.6
Manufacturing employment	168.9	127.7	95.7	97.1	97.6	98.9
Other employment	151.6	176.6	103.0	102.9	99.0	100.0
Gasoline sales	180.7	253.1	94.5	108.0	96.7	102.8

Month	Nebraska	U.S.
	1969-70	1969-70
May	219.6	240.7
June	225.0	243.3
July	219.1	243.7
August	218.2	240.1
September	218.0	239.9
October	214.6	243.1
November	206.4	238.1
December	220.9	241.7
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

III. RETAIL SALES for Selected Cities. Total, Hard Goods, and Soft Goods Stores. Hard Goods include automobile, building material, furniture, hardware, equipment. Soft Goods include food, gasoline, department, clothing, and miscellaneous stores.

JUN					JUN						
City	No. of Reports	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			Percent of Preceding Month	City	No. of Reports	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			Percent of Preceding Month
		Total	Hard Goods	Soft Goods				Total	Hard Goods	Soft Goods	
THE STATE	617	105.3	96.1	109.0	97.6	Fremont	26	103.3	105.6	101.2	100.8
Omaha	47	106.5	104.2	108.4	98.5	Fairbury	21	106.0	106.8	105.1	90.3
Lincoln	62	97.8	89.4	104.7	106.2	Norfolk	25	112.7	117.8	108.0	100.7
Grand Island	28	105.0	100.8	109.3	82.7	Scottsbluff	33	96.8	90.6	102.2	98.1
Hastings	23	105.1	108.3	102.3	98.8	Columbus	25	114.0	114.9	112.3	95.6
North Platte	14	122.5	139.9	105.1	85.6	McCook	12	116.0	120.4	108.9	117.0
						York	21	93.2	99.8	88.7	90.5

IV. RETAIL SALES, Other Cities and Rural Counties

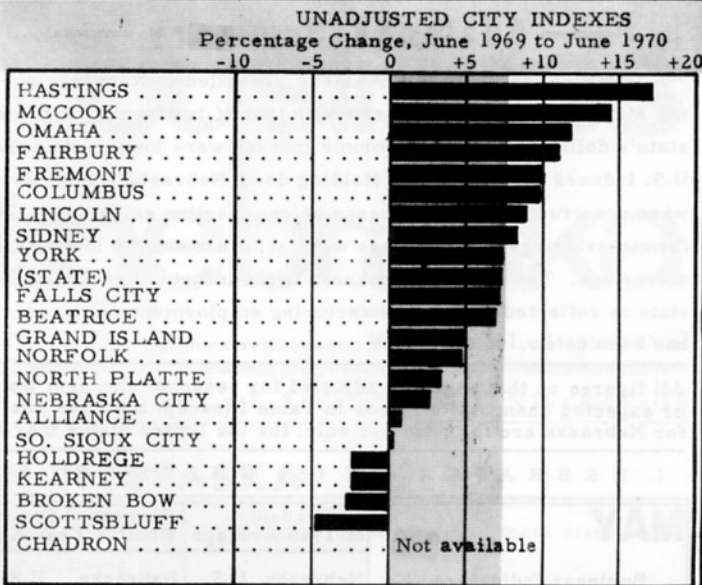
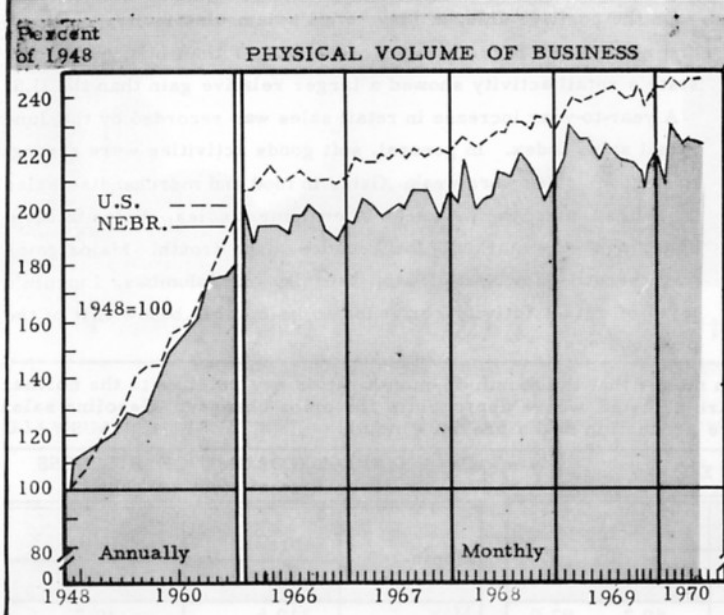
V. RETAIL SALES, by Subgroups, for the State and Major Divisions

JUN Locality	No. of Reports	Percent of Same Month A Year Ago	Percent of Preceding Month
Kearney	16	94.7	93.0
Alliance	26	112.5	106.0
Nebraska City	17	99.3	93.1
Broken Bow	13	118.7	103.9
Falls City	16	92.0	107.8
Holdrege	12	91.0	116.5
Chadron	18	108.9	104.4
Beatrice	16	108.8	89.4
Sidney	19	107.3	93.3
So. Sioux City	9	112.6	91.9
Antelope	6	99.1	78.9
Cass	17	120.3	114.5
Cuming	9	118.6	112.4
Sand Hills**	21	110.6	102.7
Dodge***	8	97.6	75.1
Franklin	8	102.0	111.9
Holt	12	98.0	89.2
Saunders	9	106.9	110.6
Thayer	8	114.9	94.6
Misc. Counties	20	102.8	89.8

JUN Type of Store	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			
	Nebraska	Omaha and Lincoln	Other Cities	Rural Counties
ALL STORES****	105.3	103.7	104.7	107.4
Selected Services	102.0	106.0	99.1	101.0
Food stores	107.0	108.8	103.9	108.3
Groceries and meats	105.7	103.9	106.6	106.6
Eating and drinking pl.	110.3	121.7	102.0	107.1
Dairies and other foods	105.0	99.2	93.3	122.4
Equipment	94.5	88.5	101.7	93.4
Building material	102.9	102.7	102.6	103.3
Hardware dealers	107.9	84.8	114.7	124.3
Farm equipment	61.7	26.7	84.3	74.2
Home equipment	103.4	106.9	102.9	100.4
Automotive stores	103.2	96.0	101.9	111.8
Automotive dealers	101.0	93.3	101.3	108.3
Service stations	108.8	106.8	104.2	115.4
Miscellaneous stores	111.0	108.8	108.0	116.2
General merchandise	110.0	101.7	107.3	121.1
Variety stores	115.9	124.1	110.3	113.3
Apparel stores	108.6	104.8	106.8	114.0
Luxury goods stores	112.8	105.8	110.7	121.9
Drug stores	108.0	103.3	105.8	114.8
Other stores	115.0	131.2	109.8	103.9

**Hooker, Grant, Dawes, Cherry, and Sheridan Counties
***Outside Principal City

****Not including Selected Services



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.

VI. CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

Percent of Same Month a Year Ago

JUN City	City Index	Bank Debits	Building Activity	Retail Sales	Electricity Consumed	Gas Consumed	Water Pumped	Postal Receipts	Newspaper Advertising
The State	107.5	113.5	107.5	105.3	135.9	103.7	132.7	97.5	89.2
Beatrice	107.0	106.6	237.1	108.8	115.7	92.9	138.8	82.8	97.1
Omaha	111.8	122.0	109.2	106.5	128.0	110.2	121.2	100.4	57.9
Lincoln	108.8	116.9	101.1	97.8	184.5	109.8	121.2	91.5	107.2
Grand Island	105.0	111.6	87.6	105.0	125.7	91.9	166.7	98.4	- -
Hastings	117.4	108.4	153.0	105.1	137.5	88.8	187.4	101.1	118.7
Fremont	110.0	102.6	287.3	103.3	113.1	NA	112.4	111.4	NA
North Platte	103.4	109.6	103.3	122.5	108.9	85.2	151.0	90.1	91.9
Kearney	97.6	103.6	8.5	94.7	216.0	88.4	154.9	94.4	NA
Scottsbluff	95.2	91.9	66.5	96.8	102.2	89.9	139.1	106.5	73.0
Norfolk	104.9	113.9	63.9	112.7	184.4	90.4	113.9	94.9	98.0
Columbus	109.9	109.2	75.0	114.0	182.3	96.6	119.8	100.6	115.9
McCook	114.5	114.1	280.5	116.0	114.8	85.5	NA	107.5	114.5
Sidney	108.4	108.3	458.5	107.3	115.4	80.8	98.6	109.7	NA
Alliance	100.8	104.8	82.0	112.5	96.7	82.9	95.8	105.8	108.9
Nebraska City	102.7	109.1	43.1	99.3	116.1	95.4	101.9	106.9	NA
So. Sioux City	100.2	NA	61.2	112.6	101.1	86.9	NA	119.0	NA
York	107.6	108.5	117.0	93.2	183.1	101.1	163.0	93.9	104.0
Falls City	107.3	138.3	289.5	92.0	123.8	72.7	82.5	106.4	107.0
Fairbury	111.1	105.7	67.2	106.0	126.8	NA	111.8	115.4	126.5
Holdrege	97.6	92.7	96.9	91.0	58.1	79.9	120.4	109.8	136.5
Chadron	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	87.1	NA	NA	NA
Broken Bow	97.3	102.2	47.9	118.7	101.7	72.6	112.6	94.4	91.0

Percent of Preceding Month (Unadjusted)

JUN City	City Index	Bank Debits	Building Activity	Retail Sales	Electricity Consumed	Gas Consumed	Water Pumped	Postal Receipts	Newspaper Advertising
The State	102.2	104.6	95.7	97.6	125.5	85.0	123.7	110.7	78.2
Beatrice	88.4	94.4	137.3	89.4	119.3	77.9	49.8	86.8	82.8
Omaha	101.8	111.4	90.3	98.5	116.3	99.4	127.1	98.1	55.1
Lincoln	104.8	97.9	102.5	106.2	180.0	91.4	112.8	112.8	94.2
Grand Island	99.7	105.8	98.8	82.7	124.1	57.4	128.6	106.1	- -
Hastings	109.2	101.6	112.5	98.8	124.1	83.9	159.5	128.1	93.0
Fremont	103.6	101.3	87.7	100.8	110.6	NA	118.1	101.8	NA
North Platte	94.8	101.7	90.6	85.6	108.7	52.1	116.3	101.4	72.4
Kearney	NA	NA	NA	93.0	195.7	NA	NA	NA	NA
Scottsbluff	96.2	105.3	95.3	98.1	85.9	46.4	115.2	109.3	80.4
Norfolk	97.6	98.2	79.6	100.7	154.8	80.5	121.7	101.9	89.5
Columbus	115.6	104.0	132.7	95.6	164.7	107.5	165.1	118.4	91.5
McCook	101.7	102.8	94.6	117.0	101.2	61.7	NA	108.2	NA
Sidney	97.9	105.3	84.1	93.3	95.0	47.0	NA	121.5	NA
Alliance	104.4	99.0	111.8	106.0	101.0	39.0	129.6	167.2	95.3
Nebraska City	98.6	107.3	92.8	93.1	119.4	76.6	95.4	111.0	NA
So. Sioux City	106.2	NA	103.7	91.9	71.4	46.7	NA	157.6	NA
York	107.6	112.6	112.3	90.5	167.1	95.5	123.6	110.1	86.0
Falls City	95.3	105.7	75.1	107.8	100.8	81.3	93.3	138.3	77.7
Fairbury	117.5	105.7	170.8	90.3	122.6	NA	124.2	126.2	88.1
Holdrege	97.1	97.6	95.6	116.5	53.2	59.2	155.8	103.4	91.9
Chadron	NA	NA	NA	104.4	NA	45.1	NA	NA	NA
Broken Bow	106.7	100.5	128.2	103.9	100.0	54.8	122.3	124.4	83.7

1970 CITY POPULATIONS AND HOUSING UNITS

A printed report has now become available from the Bureau of the Census containing the preliminary 1970 census count for the smaller cities of the state, for which figures had not previously been released.¹ The document also reveals some changes from the totals previously announced locally for the larger cities. For convenient reference all cities above 2,500 are listed below.²

Places with a population of 2,500 or above are classified by the Bureau of the Census as urban areas. During the sixties the Omaha suburbs of Millard, Papillion, and La Vista passed the 2,500 mark, and Central City and Minden also joined the "urban" group. This brings to 48 the number of Nebraska places in this category.

It will be noted from the table that the total population of these 48 cities increased about 14% during the sixties, while the state population grew only 4%, with the result that Nebraska is now 58% "urban," as compared with 52% in 1960. The rate of growth was exactly the same for cities above 10,000 and for those between 2,500 and 10,000. The 73 places in the state with a 1970 population between 1,000 and 2,500 grew about 5% during the decade, although 31 of them showed decreases, while the rest of the state declined 9%. This information is summarized below:

Population Categories (1970)	No. of Places (1970)	1960 Population	1970 Population	Percent Change 1960-1970	Percent of State Total	
					1960	1970
Above 10,000	12	588,821	670,462	+13.9	41.7	45.7
2,501-10,000	36	154,345	175,749	+13.9	10.9	12.0
1,000-2,500	73	98,492	103,195	+ 4.8	7.0	7.0
Rest of State		570,263	518,695	- 9.0	40.4	35.3
Total		1,411,921*	1,468,101	+ 4.0	100.0	100.0

*This figure is 689 above the total used in these pages last month because for 9 counties the published figures are slightly different from those previously announced locally. The revised preliminary count figures for these counties are: Antelope, 8,955; Buffalo, 31,054; Butler, 9,323; Clay, 8,197; Fillmore, 8,205; Greeley, 3,919; Lancaster, 165,981; Lincoln, 29,156; Logan, 994.

¹"Population Counts for States," Document PC(P1)-29, for sale by the Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce Field Offices, Kansas City, 10¢.

²Figures for other incorporated places of 1,000 inhabitants or more are contained in the same publication and are available on request from the Bureau of Business Research. Similar figures on other states thus far released and their counties and cities are also available on request.

In our April issue we presented population estimates for the 43 cities which were above 2,500 in both 1960 and 1970. The total of these estimates was 3.8% above the preliminary census count. If the large discrepancy (in excess of 25,000) for Omaha is eliminated, the total of our estimates for the other 42 cities is within two-thirds of one percent of the census total. There are unduly large discrepancies in several cities other than Omaha, however, and the causes of these will be investigated.

Another new bulletin from the Bureau of the Census presents the preliminary count of housing units in the state and its twelve largest cities.³ The state total is 517,285 units, an increase of 44,335 (9.4%) from the 1960 figure. This represents the total of all housing units, whether occupied or vacant. The number in each city and the population per housing unit, with 1960 figures given for comparison, are tabulated below:

City	Number of Housing Units		Percent Change	Population per Housing Unit	
	1970	1960		1970	1960
Beatrice	4,838	4,328	11.8	2.56	2.80
Bellevue	6,315	2,330	171.0	3.41	3.79
Columbus	4,932	4,017	22.8	3.00	3.11
Fremont	7,941	6,506	22.1	2.89	3.03
Grand Island	11,133	8,656	28.6	2.78	2.97
Hastings	8,695	7,912	9.9	2.67	2.71
Kearney	6,261	4,559	37.3	3.05	3.12
Lincoln	51,333	43,311	18.5	2.88	2.97
Norfolk	5,986	4,541	31.8	2.69	3.00
North Platte	6,858	5,993	14.4	2.81	2.87
Omaha	113,973	97,276	17.2	2.88	3.10
Scottsbluff	5,084	4,937	3.0	2.84	2.71
State Total	517,285	472,950	9.4	2.84	2.99

It will be noted that in all these cities except Scottsbluff the rate of increase in number of housing units exceeded the state average. The decline in the birth rate and the increasing affluence during the sixties are reflected in the fact that in all the cities except Scottsbluff the population per housing unit declined and that in 1970 only three of the cities had an average of three or more persons per housing unit, whereas in 1960 half the cities were at this level and the state average was 2.99.

E. S. WALLACE

³"Housing Unit Counts for States," Document HC(P1)-29, for sale by the Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce Field Offices, Kansas City, 10¢.

POPULATION OF NEBRASKA CITIES

Rank	City	Preliminary 1970 Census Count	Final 1960 Census Count	Percentage Change 1960-1970	Rank	City	Preliminary 1970 Census Count	Final 1960 Census Count	Percentage Change 1960-1970
1	Omaha	327,789	301,598	+ 8.7	26	Wayne	5,459	4,217	+ 29.5
2	Lincoln	148,092	128,521	+ 15.2	27	Falls City	5,356	5,598	- 4.3
3	Grand Island	30,917	25,742	+ 20.1	28	Seward	5,332	4,208	+ 26.7
4	Hastings	23,233	21,412	+ 8.5	29	Fairbury	5,190	5,572	- 6.9
5	Fremont	22,922	19,698	+ 16.4	30	Chadron	5,088	5,079	+ 0.2
6	Bellevue	21,539	8,831	+143.9	31	Ogallala	4,853	4,250	+ 14.2
7	North Platte	19,287	17,184	+ 12.2	32	La Vista	4,381	1,004	+336.4
8	Kearney	19,113	14,210	+ 34.5	33	Crete	4,347	3,546	+ 22.6
9	Norfolk	16,111	13,640	+ 18.1	34	Ralston	4,190	2,977	+ 40.7
10	Columbus	14,817	12,476	+ 18.8	35	Cozad	4,131	3,184	+ 29.7
11	Scottsbluff	14,247	13,377	+ 6.5	36	Wahoo	3,806	3,610	+ 5.4
12	Beatrice	12,395	12,132	+ 2.2	37	O'Neill	3,702	3,181	+ 16.4
13	McCook	8,213	8,301	- 1.1	38	Broken Bow	3,699	3,482	+ 6.2
14	So. Sioux City	7,951	7,200	+ 10.4	39	Kimball	3,611	4,384	- 17.6
15	Millard	7,263	1,014	+616.3	40	Schuyler	3,610	3,096	+ 16.6
16	Nebraska City	7,262	7,252	+ 0.1	41	Auburn	3,599	3,229	+ 11.5
17	Alliance	6,767	7,845	- 13.7	42	West Point	3,181	2,921	+ 8.9
18	York	6,702	6,173	+ 8.6	43	Gothenburg	3,123	3,050	+ 2.4
19	Plattsmouth	6,323	6,244	+ 1.3	44	Aurora	3,113	2,576	+ 20.8
20	Sidney	6,289	8,004	- 21.4	45	Central City	2,785	2,406	+ 15.8
21	Blair	6,100	4,931	+ 23.7	46	Superior	2,729	2,935	- 7.0
22	Gering	5,617	4,585	+ 22.5	47	Valentine	2,658	2,875	- 7.5
23	Lexington	5,584	5,572	+ 0.2	48	Minden	2,634	2,383	+ 10.5
24	Papillion	5,572	2,235	+149.3					
25	Holdrege	5,529	5,226	+ 5.8					
					Total		846,211	743,166	+ 13.9