



Business in Nebraska

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Quarterly Business Survey Indicates Healthy Job Growth, but Many Positions Go Unfilled

Nearly 800 businesses and organizations in Nebraska recently responded to the newly launched *Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey*. The survey, a joint venture between the Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Labor and the Bureau of Business Research (BBR), has the following major objectives:

1. to continuously monitor business conditions throughout the Nebraska economy and detect early indications of emerging trends;
2. to assess job creation and turnover by occupation and industry;
3. to track wage levels by occupation and industry; and
4. to identify unfilled demand for labor by occupation and industry.

The second and fourth objectives produce important pieces of information for secondary schools and postsecondary institutions seeking to enhance and expand occupation-specific education and training to meet the demands of an evolving labor market. Survey results also will be useful in formulating statewide work force and labor availability policies and programs.

Major funding for the survey was provided by the federally-financed Nebraska School-to-Work Initiative. The survey will be conducted quarterly in January, April, July, and October of each year.

Operating Revenues

Approximately 42 percent of respondents reported increases in operating revenues during the 3rd quarter versus the 2nd quarter of 1996 (Table 1). Over 50 percent showed higher revenues versus the 3rd quarter 1995. Respondents in the finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) and the manufacturing sectors most commonly reported revenues increases over both 2nd quarter 1996 and 3rd quarter 1995.

Table 1
Revenue Activity 3rd Quarter 1996

| Establishment Group | 3 rd Quarter Compared to | |
|--|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| | 2 nd Quarter 1996 | 3 rd Quarter 1995 |
| All Establishments—number reporting | 761 | 731 |
| Revenues increased | 42% | 52% |
| Revenues decreased | 31% | 25% |
| Revenues stayed the same | 27% | 23% |
| Manufacturing—number reporting | 106 | 102 |
| Revenues increased | 48% | 52% |
| Revenues decreased | 33% | 29% |
| Revenues stayed the same | 19% | 19% |
| Wholesale Trade—number reporting | 77 | 76 |
| Revenues increased | 35% | 49% |
| Revenues decreased | 42% | 22% |
| Revenues stayed the same | 23% | 29% |
| Retail Trade—number reporting | 109 | 100 |
| Revenues increased | 34% | 46% |
| Revenues decreased | 39% | 31% |
| Revenues stayed the same | 27% | 23% |
| FIRE—number reporting | 51 | 51 |
| Revenues increased | 55% | 63% |
| Revenues decreased | 10% | 12% |
| Revenues stayed the same | 35% | 25% |
| Services—number reporting | 226 | 222 |
| Revenues increased | 39% | 55% |
| Revenues decreased | 32% | 24% |
| Revenues stayed the same | 29% | 21% |

Only 15 percent of all respondents expected revenues to fall during the 4th quarter 1996 (Figure 1). The reason cited most often for the expected downturn was market contraction in the state. The highest percentage of respondents who expected declining revenues during the 4th quarter came from the retail trade sector.

Revenues increases were expected by just over 50 percent of FIRE sector respondents. Expanding markets in the state were cited as the main reason for growth in this sector. Nearly 50 percent of manufacturing sector respondents expected to see further growth in revenues during the 4th quarter. Expanding national markets and new product lines were seen as the main engines of the manufacturing revenue growth.

Job Creation and Replacement Hires

Survey respondents reported the creation of approximately 3,000 new nonfarm private-sector jobs in the state during the 3rd quarter of 1996 (Table 2). The 3,000 new jobs combined with replacement hires to produce nearly 9,500 total hires across the state during the 3rd quarter. Assuming the responses are representative of the state's labor market, over 70,000 total hires occurred during the quarter in the

state's nonfarm private sector. The ratio of hires to the roughly 800,000 total jobs in the economy indicates that Nebraska has a very fluid labor market.

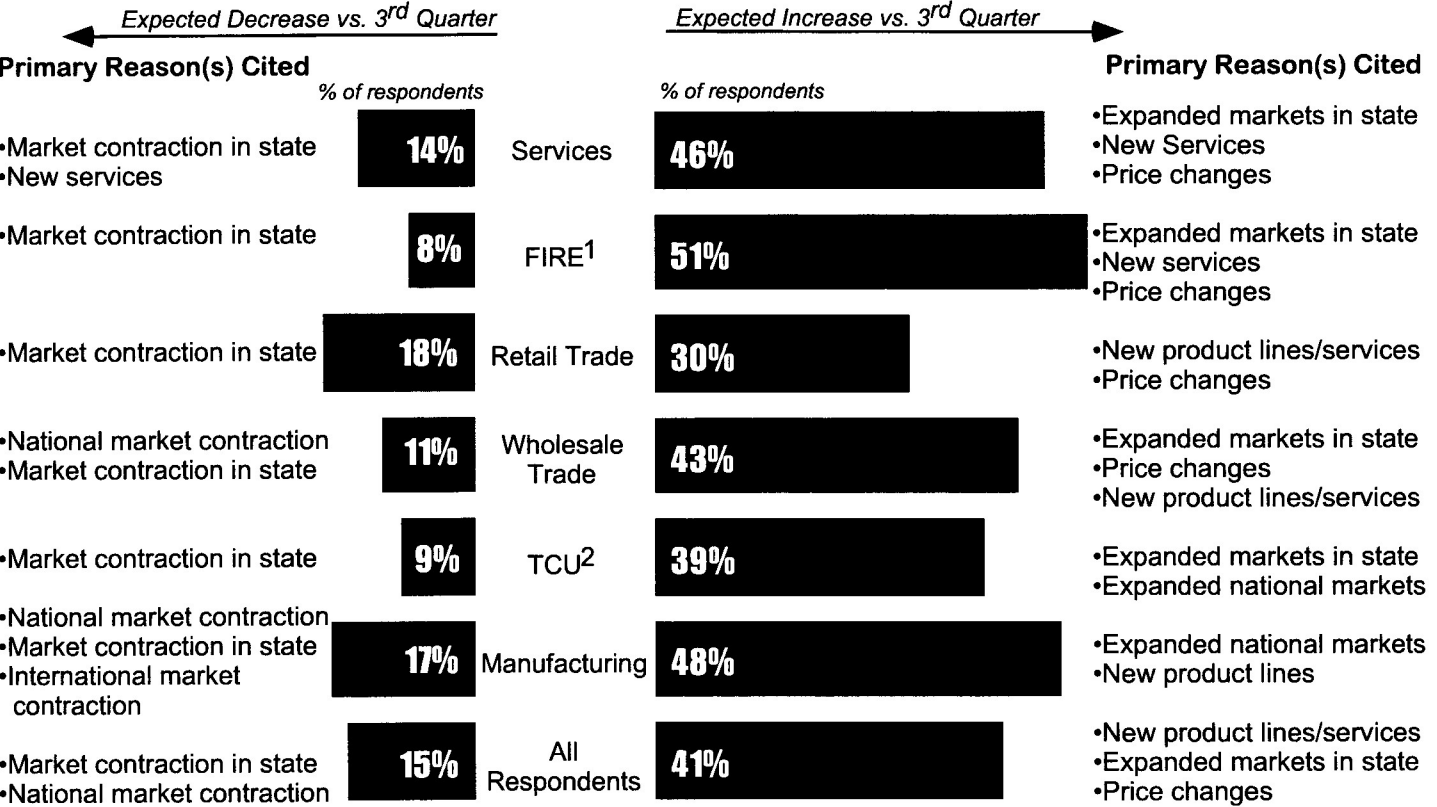
The survey classified jobs into nine occupational categories (Table 3). A distinction was made between full-time and part-time jobs. Nearly 40 percent of new hires and 42 percent of replacement hires were part-time positions. Hires (both new and replacement) were most commonly made for administrative support and operators/fabricators/laborers positions.

The hiring data were *normalized* on the basis of 1,000 jobs in order to make comparisons across both firm size and sectors (Tables 4 and 5). For every 1,000 existing jobs, a total of 31 new full-time jobs was created and filled throughout the state's economy in the 3rd quarter of 1996. Part-time new hires totaled 21 per 1,000 existing jobs. The manufacturing sector reported the most new full-time hires per 1,000 jobs. Part-time new hires were most prevalent in retail trade.

Wages

Average hourly wages for new hires in the 3rd quarter ranged from \$5.74 for part-time service workers to \$18.46 for full-time executives and administrators (Table 6). A similar pattern is evident among replacement hires. Part-time wages were consistently lower than full-time wages by occupation.

**Figure 1
Respondents Expecting Revenue Change In 4th Quarter 1996**



¹Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
²Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

Table 2
Number of New and Replacement Hires
3rd Quarter 1996

| | Full-time | Part-time | Total |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|
| Replacement hires | 3,751 | 2,726 | 6,477 |
| New jobs hires | 1,798 | 1,198 | 2,996 |
| Total | 5,549 | 3,924 | 9,473 |

Table 3
Number of New and Replacement Hires by Occupation
3rd Quarter 1996

| Occupation | New Hires | | Replacement Hires | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | *Full-time | Part-time | *Full-time | Part-time |
| Executives/Administrators | 56 | 0 | 23 | 0 |
| Managers | 157 | 9 | 102 | 4 |
| Professional Specialists | 170 | 31 | 226 | 192 |
| Marketing/Sales | 93 | 145 | 256 | 159 |
| Administrative Support/Clerical | 197 | 209 | 305 | 172 |
| Service Workers | 242 | 633 | 672 | 1,441 |
| Transportation/Material Movers | 55 | 4 | 194 | 30 |
| Production/Craft/Repair | 157 | 31 | 502 | 84 |
| Operators/Fabricators/Laborers | 671 | 136 | 1,471 | 644 |
| Total | 1,798 | 1,198 | 3,751 | 2,726 |

*Full-time is defined as 36 hours or more per week.

Table 4
New and Replacement Hires by Employment Size
(per 1,000 jobs)

| Employment Size | New Hires | | Replacement Hires | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time |
| 0 to 49 | 63 | 44 | 90 | 80 |
| 50 to 249 | 39 | 23 | 72 | 48 |
| 250 & above | 8 | 8 | 48 | 33 |
| All | 31 | 21 | 66 | 48 |

Table 5
New and Replacement Hires for Selected Sectors
(per 1,000 jobs)

| Employment Size | New Hires | | Replacement Hires | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| | Full-time | Part-time | Full-time | Part-time |
| Manufacturing | 35 | 4 | 57 | 22 |
| Wholesale Trade | 21 | 4 | 121 | 38 |
| Retail Trade | 29 | 54 | 75 | 117 |
| FIRE | 17 | 3 | 40 | 9 |
| Services | 26 | 27 | 52 | 53 |

Table 6
Average Hourly Wages for New and Replacement Hires
by Occupation

| Occupation | New Hires | | Replacements | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| | Full-Time | Part-Time | Full-Time | Part-Time |
| Executives/Administrators | \$18.46 | - | \$17.63 | - |
| Managers | \$14.65 | \$7.06 | \$14.56 | \$7.49 |
| Professional Specialists | \$16.08 | \$11.04 | \$12.71 | \$8.33 |
| Marketing/Sales | \$12.75 | \$6.77 | \$10.76 | \$6.83 |
| Administrative Support/Clerical | \$9.16 | \$7.66 | \$8.10 | \$6.40 |
| Service Workers | \$7.43 | \$5.74 | \$6.28 | \$5.79 |
| Transportation/Material Movers | \$10.63 | \$6.00 | \$11.23 | \$7.23 |
| Production/Craft/Repair | \$9.74 | \$8.69 | \$7.69 | \$7.13 |
| Operators/Fabricators/Laborers | \$8.21 | \$5.95 | \$7.11 | \$6.12 |

The average hourly wages shown are weighted averages based on eight wage categories used in the survey (under \$4.74; \$4.75-\$5.99; \$6.00-\$6.99; \$7.00-\$7.99; \$8.00-\$9.99; \$10.00-\$14.99; \$15.00-\$17.99; and \$18.00 and above). With the exception of the first and last wage categories, mid-point rates (e.g., \$6.50 for the \$6.00-\$6.99 range) were multiplied by the number of hires by occupation in order to calculate average wages by occupation. Arbitrary wage rates of \$4.50 and \$20.50 were used for the first and last wage categories. Capping wages at \$20.50 probably understates average wages for high wage occupations, such as executives, administrators, and managers.

Unfilled Positions

Respondents reported that just over 1,100 open full-time positions went unfilled in the 3rd quarter. Of that total, nearly 900, or 81 percent, were not filled due to a lack of qualified job applicants (Table 7). The largest numbers of unfilled full-time positions were in the professional specialist, service, and administrative support occupational categories.

Assuming that the survey response is representative of all nonfarm private sector jobs in the state, then roughly 10,000 full-time jobs remained unfilled during the 3rd quar-

ter due to a lack of qualified applicants. This estimate reflects unmet opportunities in terms of lost business output and sales, personal income, and state and local tax revenues.

Of the 511 part-time positions that went unfilled in the 3rd quarter, 82 percent were attributed to a lack of qualified applicants. The vast majority of unfilled part-time positions was in the service occupational category.

Employment activity in certain sectors of the economy was underrepresented in this first round of survey responses (Table 8). We are confident, however, that the data will become more complete in future quarters as respondents become familiar with the survey instrument and the results it produces. A major effort is underway to increase the response level to at least 50 percent of the state's nonfarm private sector employment base. We encourage any business or organization receiving the survey to regularly participate in the process.

Reports from the Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey will be a regular feature of *Business in Nebraska*. Results of the survey for the 4th quarter 1996 are scheduled to appear in the March issue. In addition, work is underway to regularly report more detailed statistics from the survey on the BBR World Wide Web home page (www.cba.unl.edu/bbr/bbr.html). Watch for an announcement of this service in the Bulletin Board section (back page) of future issues.

(continued, p.5)

Table 7
Total Unfilled Positions and Positions Unfilled Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants

| Occupation | Full-time Positions | | Part-time Positions | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Unfilled | | Unfilled | |
| | Total Unfilled | Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants | Total Unfilled | Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants |
| Executives/Administrators | 17 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
| Managers | 47 | 30 | 1 | 1 |
| Professional Specialists | 283 | 252 | 32 | 26 |
| Marketing/Sales | 46 | 42 | 21 | 9 |
| Administrative Support/Clerical | 136 | 104 | 26 | 19 |
| Service Workers | 263 | 188 | 330 | 278 |
| Transportation/Material Movers | 74 | 70 | 31 | 31 |
| Production/Craft/Repair | 122 | 108 | 22 | 18 |
| Operators/Fabricators/Laborers | 115 | 95 | 48 | 38 |
| Total | 1,103 | 898 | 511 | 420 |

Table 8
Survey Representation

| | Total Employment Statewide | | Total Employment Survey Respondents | | Survey Representation |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Number ¹ | Distribution | Number | Distribution | Percent ² |
| Construction & Mining | 39,277 | 5.8% | 1,386 | 2.4% | 41.4% |
| Manufacturing | 113,211 | 16.6% | 17,460 | 30.3% | 182.5% |
| TCU | 50,163 | 7.4% | 2,406 | 4.2% | 56.8% |
| Wholesale Trade | 54,175 | 7.9% | 3,746 | 6.5% | 82.3% |
| Retail Trade | 152,863 | 22.4% | 11,768 | 20.4% | 91.1% |
| FIRE | 52,516 | 7.7% | 4,824 | 8.4% | 109.1% |
| Services | 219,387 | 32.2% | 16,066 | 27.9% | 86.6% |
| Total | 681,592 | | 57,656 | | |

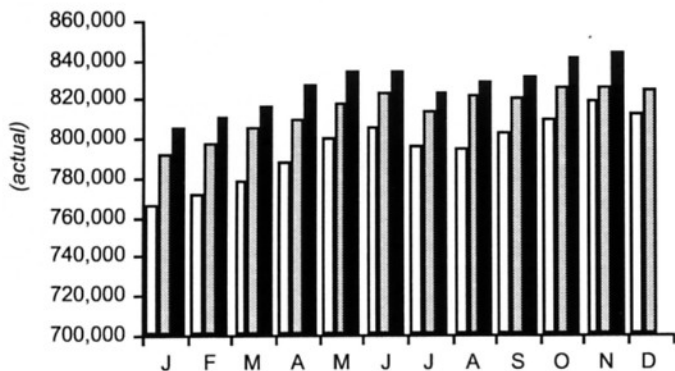
¹Average monthly nonfarm private sector employment for 3rd quarter 1996 calculated from monthly reports by the Nebraska Department of Labor.
²Computed by dividing the Survey Respondent distribution value by the Total Employment distribution value.

The following individuals contributed to the compilation of this report: Phil Baker, Jolee Wheatley, Jane Sutherland, and Clarence Waldman: Nebraska Department of Labor; Tom Doering: Nebraska Department of Economic Development; and David Bennett, Lisa Darlington, and Charles Lamphear: Bureau of Business Research (BBR).

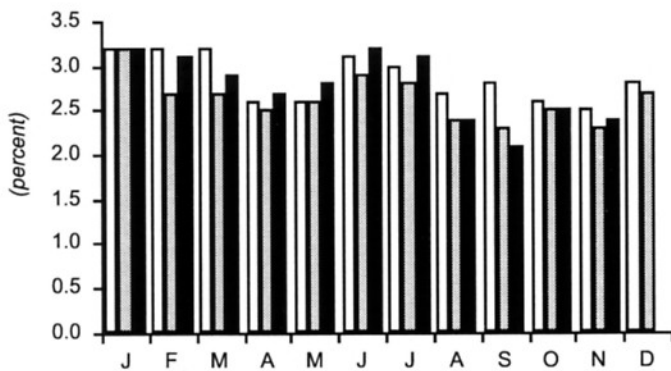
Nebraska Stats

□ 1994 ■ 1995 ■ 1996

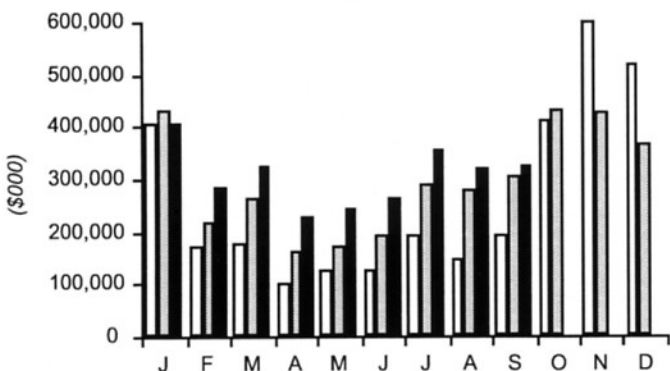
Total Nonfarm Employment



Unemployment Rate



Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



Net Taxable Retail Sales* for Nebraska Cities (\$000)

| | September 1996 \$ | YTD \$ | YTD % Change | | September 1996 \$ | YTD \$ | YTD % Change |
|------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Ainsworth, Brown | 1,789 | 14,785 | -3.5 | Kearney, Buffalo | 28,895 | 248,826 | 5.9 |
| Albion, Boone | 2,089 | 17,244 | 16.3 | Kenesaw, Adams | 98 | 927 | -1.3 |
| Alliance, Box Butte | 6,041 | 51,300 | 5.1 | Kimball, Kimball | 1,625 | 13,115 | -8.0 |
| Alma, Harlan | 664 | 5,976 | 3.1 | La Vista, Sarpy | 7,151 | 63,758 | 11.7 |
| Arapahoe, Furnas | 670 | 5,630 | 2.2 | Laurel, Cedar | 489 | 3,210 | 5.5 |
| Arlington, Washington | 228 | 1,568 | -0.3 | Lexington, Dawson | 7,063 | 64,596 | 1.4 |
| Arnold, Custer | 289 | 2,287 | -4.6 | Lincoln, Lancaster | 185,439 | 1,547,747 | 10.0 |
| Ashland, Saunders | 1,051 | 8,352 | 1.5 | Louisville, Cass | 888 | 3,814 | 19.8 |
| Atkinson, Holt | 1,024 | 7,252 | 7.7 | Loup City, Sherman | 766 | 5,266 | 9.0 |
| Auburn, Nemaha | 2,855 | 21,475 | 1.7 | Lyons, Burt | 577 | 3,914 | 2.4 |
| Aurora, Hamilton | 2,983 | 23,074 | 2.2 | Madison, Madison | 1,002 | 6,770 | 17.3 |
| Axtell, Kearney | 117 | 771 | 6.3 | McCook, Red Willow | 10,569 | 91,529 | 9.4 |
| Bassett, Rock | 437 | 4,074 | -0.3 | Milford, Seward | 893 | 7,232 | 7.2 |
| Battle Creek, Madison | 605 | 5,354 | 0.3 | Minatare, Scotts Bluff | 238 | 1,757 | -16.4 |
| Bayard, Morrill | 483 | 3,689 | -13.2 | Minden, Kearney | 1,783 | 14,004 | -4.4 |
| Beatrice, Gage | 9,707 | 83,419 | 4.8 | Mitchell, Scotts Bluff | 812 | 6,299 | -14.1 |
| Beaver City, Furnas | 169 | 1,049 | -7.7 | Morrill, Scotts Bluff | 460 | 3,518 | -2.0 |
| Bellevue, Sarpy | 18,792 | 152,835 | 19.3 | Nebraska City, Otoe | 6,667 | 48,093 | 10.2 |
| Benkelman, Dundy | 589 | 4,621 | 7.4 | Neligh, Antelope | 1,373 | 10,660 | -1.4 |
| Bennington, Douglas | 460 | 3,361 | 39.0 | Newman Grove, Madison | 340 | 2,878 | 0.5 |
| Blair, Washington | 6,141 | 52,121 | 0.9 | Norfolk, Madison | 28,675 | 238,629 | 7.5 |
| Bloomfield, Knox | 760 | 5,333 | 8.7 | North Bend, Dodge | 537 | 4,257 | 4.5 |
| Blue Hill, Webster | 488 | 3,592 | 9.9 | North Platte, Lincoln | 21,182 | 183,108 | 2.6 |
| Bridgeport, Morrill | 903 | 8,459 | -5.0 | O'Neill, Holt | 4,322 | 38,069 | 10.4 |
| Broken Bow, Custer | 3,705 | 37,974 | -1.3 | Oakland, Burt | 767 | 5,521 | 6.9 |
| Burwell, Garfield | 961 | 6,104 | -1.6 | Ogallala, Keith | 5,512 | 48,477 | 6.1 |
| Cairo, Hall | 223 | 1,642 | 0.6 | Omaha, Douglas | 434,134 | 3,722,845 | 5.1 |
| Cambridge, Furnas | 818 | 9,847 | 43.2 | Ord, Valley | 1,793 | 15,338 | -2.5 |
| Central City, Merrick | 1,965 | 14,608 | 11.1 | Osceola, Polk | 809 | 6,315 | -0.8 |
| Ceresco, Saunders | 1,177 | 9,983 | 8.8 | Oshkosh, Garden | 456 | 3,749 | -11.6 |
| Chadron, Dawes | 3,411 | 28,629 | -3.8 | Osmond, Pierce | 592 | 3,813 | 10.7 |
| Chappell, Deuel | 399 | 3,356 | -11.3 | Oxford, Furnas | 371 | 2,695 | -11.3 |
| Clarkson, Colfax | 477 | 3,761 | 6.1 | Papillion, Sarpy | 5,217 | 44,386 | 38.7 |
| Clay Center, Clay | 380 | 2,480 | 17.7 | Pawnee City, Pawnee | 286 | 2,484 | -6.8 |
| Columbus, Platte | 19,518 | 171,304 | 3.9 | Pender, Thurston | 806 | 5,826 | 10.7 |
| Cozad, Dawson | 2,776 | 23,421 | 0.2 | Pierce, Pierce | 702 | 5,517 | -1.4 |
| Crawford, Dawes | 566 | 4,455 | 4.7 | Plainview, Pierce | 680 | 5,213 | -6.0 |
| Creighton, Knox | 1,086 | 8,632 | 1.5 | Plattsmouth, Cass | 3,534 | 26,652 | 6.5 |
| Crete, Saline | 3,606 | 29,992 | -1.2 | Ponca, Dixon | 537 | 4,520 | 12.6 |
| Crofton, Knox | 499 | 3,658 | 16.2 | Ralston, Douglas | 2,803 | 25,527 | 11.2 |
| Curtis, Frontier | 335 | 2,570 | -0.4 | Randolph, Cedar | 456 | 3,267 | 5.1 |
| Dakota City, Dakota | 526 | 5,008 | -1.1 | Ravenna, Buffalo | 656 | 5,520 | -7.0 |
| David City, Butler | 1,710 | 13,145 | 5.2 | Red Cloud, Webster | 807 | 5,744 | -6.6 |
| Deshler, Thayer | 255 | 2,021 | 2.1 | Rushville, Sheridan | 628 | 4,777 | -0.2 |
| Dodge, Dodge | 299 | 2,004 | 3.0 | Sargent, Custer | 211 | 1,705 | -7.9 |
| Doniphan, Hall | 806 | 5,008 | 7.4 | Schuyler, Colfax | 2,062 | 16,608 | 4.8 |
| Eagle, Cass | 340 | 2,854 | -5.5 | Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff | 19,970 | 169,796 | 4.8 |
| Elgin, Antelope | 492 | 3,627 | 8.3 | Scribner, Dodge | 547 | 4,209 | 8.1 |
| Eikhorn, Douglas | 2,279 | 16,086 | 15.9 | Seward, Seward | 5,109 | 40,711 | 1.1 |
| Elm Creek, Buffalo | 278 | 2,430 | 28.0 | Shelby, Polk | 359 | 2,770 | 4.6 |
| Elwood, Gosper | 484 | 3,639 | 6.7 | Shelton, Buffalo | 647 | 5,329 | 5.4 |
| Fairbury, Jefferson | 3,193 | 26,407 | 3.1 | Sidney, Cheyenne | 8,016 | 59,546 | 7.8 |
| Fairmont, Fillmore | 189 | 1,178 | -15.4 | South Sioux City, Dakota | 7,777 | 70,038 | 3.5 |
| Falls City, Richardson | 2,749 | 21,790 | 4.8 | Springfield, Sarpy | 349 | 2,522 | 53.2 |
| Franklin, Franklin | 542 | 4,155 | -0.7 | St. Paul, Howard | 1,297 | 10,091 | 2.5 |
| Fremont, Dodge | 20,285 | 181,806 | 4.2 | Stanton, Stanton | 555 | 4,789 | 3.8 |
| Friend, Saline | 456 | 4,137 | -6.3 | Stromsburg, Polk | 1,389 | 8,531 | 9.8 |
| Fullerton, Nance | 549 | 4,338 | -7.1 | Superior, Nuckolls | 1,727 | 13,218 | 4.6 |
| Geneva, Fillmore | 1,682 | 15,122 | 1.6 | Sutherland, Lincoln | 415 | 2,686 | 14.3 |
| Genoa, Nance | 306 | 2,360 | 11.7 | Sutton, Clay | 1,204 | 10,888 | 15.0 |
| Gering, Scotts Bluff | 4,120 | 29,865 | 4.2 | Syracuse, Otoe | 1,130 | 8,776 | 2.0 |
| Gibbon, Buffalo | 837 | 6,170 | -1.9 | Tecumseh, Johnson | 1,081 | 8,930 | 2.6 |
| Gordon, Sheridan | 1,733 | 14,776 | 2.5 | Tekamah, Burt | 1,261 | 9,257 | 5.5 |
| Gothenburg, Dawson | 2,348 | 17,704 | 1.3 | Tilden, Madison | 501 | 3,940 | 6.7 |
| Grand Island, Hall | 46,481 | 400,149 | -0.3 | Utica, Seward | 378 | 2,323 | 11.4 |
| Grant, Perkins | 928 | 8,203 | 6.9 | Valentine, Cherry | 3,975 | 32,689 | 5.2 |
| Gretna, Sarpy | 3,884 | 29,907 | 0.6 | Valley, Douglas | 1,450 | 10,413 | 12.0 |
| Hartington, Cedar | 1,755 | 13,094 | -2.8 | Wahoo, Saunders | 2,631 | 20,798 | -0.6 |
| Hastings, Adams | 19,027 | 172,712 | 1.6 | Wakefield, Dixon | 501 | 3,252 | 0.7 |
| Hay Springs, Sheridan | 348 | 2,815 | 4.6 | Wauneta, Chase | 340 | 2,885 | 9.8 |
| Hebron, Thayer | 1,800 | 13,957 | -5.6 | Waverly, Lancaster | 648 | 5,517 | 10.5 |
| Henderson, York | 645 | 6,206 | 14.7 | Wayne, Wayne | 3,506 | 26,608 | 2.4 |
| Hickman, Lancaster | 249 | 1,997 | 3.3 | Weeping Water, Cass | 636 | 5,035 | -7.4 |
| Holdrege, Phelps | 4,795 | 41,474 | 4.8 | West Point, Cuming | 4,094 | 31,864 | 10.8 |
| Hooper, Dodge | 369 | 2,743 | 14.2 | Wilber, Saline | 507 | 3,812 | -4.5 |
| Humboldt, Richardson | 526 | 4,363 | 9.1 | Wisner, Cuming | 597 | 4,706 | 0.6 |
| Humphrey, Platte | 921 | 6,391 | 11.8 | Wood River, Hall | 429 | 3,956 | 2.7 |
| Imperial, Chase | 1,582 | 14,517 | 4.3 | Wymore, Gage | 442 | 3,635 | 4.3 |
| Juniata, Adams | 284 | 1,821 | 4.6 | | | | |

*Does not include motor vehicle sales. Motor vehicle net taxable retail sales are reported by county only.

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Net Taxable Retail Sales for Nebraska Counties (\$000)

| | Motor Vehicle Sales | | | Other Sales | | | | Motor Vehicle Sales | | | Other Sales | | |
|------------|---------------------|-----------|-------|-------------|------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|---------|-------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| | September | | YTD | September | | YTD | | September | | YTD | September | | YTD |
| | 1996 | YTD | % Chg | 1996 | YTD | % Chg | | 1996 | YTD | % Chg | 1996 | YTD | % Chg |
| | \$ | \$ | | \$ | \$ | | \$ | \$ | | \$ | \$ | | |
| Nebraska * | 179,350 | 1,579,028 | 10.1 | 1,274,864 | 10,724,520 | 5.9 | Howard | 606 | 6,044 | 7.1 | 1,732 | 13,279 | 5.4 |
| Adams | 3,491 | 27,402 | 12.0 | 19,662 | 177,623 | 1.6 | Jefferson | 792 | 8,271 | 7.1 | 4,273 | 33,471 | 2.8 |
| Antelope | 1,140 | 8,747 | 21.5 | 2,473 | 17,933 | 2.7 | Johnson | 427 | 4,036 | 1.7 | 1,592 | 12,011 | 4.3 |
| Arthur | 35 | 431 | 27.9 | 62 | (D) | (D) | Kearney | 999 | 8,012 | 14.1 | 2,120 | 16,249 | -2.1 |
| Banner | 202 | 1,272 | 31.1 | (D) | (D) | (D) | Keith | 1,204 | 8,756 | -2.1 | 6,184 | 53,063 | 7.7 |
| Blaine | 103 | 641 | 9.9 | 106 | (D) | (D) | Keya Paha | 150 | 952 | 3.1 | 95 | 738 | 9.0 |
| Boone | 716 | 7,296 | 9.1 | 2,765 | 21,797 | 12.1 | Kimball | 427 | 4,341 | 2.7 | 1,689 | 13,420 | -8.0 |
| Box Butte | 1,525 | 14,091 | 0.6 | 6,353 | 53,719 | 4.8 | Knox | 1,093 | 8,816 | 18.7 | 3,171 | 22,997 | 7.0 |
| Boyd | 182 | 1,863 | -2.1 | 696 | 5,137 | 5.2 | Lancaster | 21,972 | 191,613 | 12.4 | 187,504 | 1,563,463 | 10.0 |
| Brown | 422 | 2,757 | -9.8 | 1,943 | 15,394 | -3.5 | Lincoln | 3,600 | 31,303 | 3.4 | 22,339 | 191,374 | 2.6 |
| Buffalo | 4,092 | 38,601 | 15.6 | 31,713 | 271,401 | 5.6 | Logan | 122 | 894 | -4.6 | 162 | (D) | (D) |
| Burt | 1,276 | 8,278 | 10.4 | 2,877 | 20,461 | 4.7 | Loup | 73 | 579 | -18.9 | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Butler | 905 | 8,594 | 13.4 | 2,485 | 17,314 | 3.4 | McPherson | 42 | 601 | 38.5 | (D) | (D) | (D) |
| Cass | 3,573 | 26,830 | 15.7 | 7,295 | 49,692 | 5.0 | Madison | 3,372 | 32,133 | 5.0 | 31,182 | 258,226 | 7.5 |
| Cedar | 1,285 | 10,020 | 4.1 | 3,123 | 22,459 | -1.1 | Merrick | 771 | 8,689 | 28.6 | 2,675 | 19,631 | 12.0 |
| Chase | 496 | 4,653 | -1.8 | 1,991 | 17,767 | 5.2 | Morrill | 584 | 5,064 | 5.3 | 1,432 | 12,441 | -7.8 |
| Cherry | 479 | 5,378 | -4.5 | 4,262 | 34,579 | 5.3 | Nance | 688 | 4,060 | 16.6 | 930 | 6,993 | -0.9 |
| Cheyenne | 1,208 | 10,949 | 12.7 | 8,416 | 62,054 | 7.7 | Nemaha | 681 | 6,862 | 2.2 | 3,134 | 23,751 | 0.2 |
| Clay | 1,151 | 8,037 | 15.9 | 2,514 | 21,004 | 14.2 | Nuckolls | 568 | 5,073 | 6.4 | 2,338 | 17,889 | 4.8 |
| Colfax | 881 | 9,013 | 13.8 | 3,124 | 24,194 | 6.4 | Otoe | 1,462 | 15,015 | 10.8 | 8,264 | 60,285 | 8.4 |
| Cuming | 1,467 | 10,883 | 22.6 | 5,424 | 41,453 | 9.0 | Pawnee | 268 | 3,086 | 45.0 | 666 | 4,477 | 0.2 |
| Custer | 869 | 10,504 | 1.8 | 4,866 | 46,043 | -1.0 | Perkins | 419 | 4,148 | 17.8 | 1,185 | 10,147 | 10.7 |
| Dakota | 2,038 | 18,178 | 16.9 | 9,047 | 81,180 | 3.2 | Phelps | 1,728 | 13,453 | 39.0 | 5,142 | 43,743 | 4.6 |
| Dawes | 573 | 6,220 | 2.8 | 3,980 | 33,101 | -2.7 | Pierce | 857 | 8,193 | 14.8 | 2,090 | 15,270 | 0.2 |
| Dawson | 2,542 | 22,187 | 6.2 | 12,718 | 109,158 | 1.0 | Platte | 3,893 | 32,329 | 13.2 | 21,158 | 182,989 | 4.2 |
| Deuel | 271 | 2,481 | 37.1 | 805 | 6,880 | -3.9 | Polk | 703 | 6,399 | 8.4 | 2,680 | 18,548 | 2.9 |
| Dixon | 550 | 5,276 | 2.9 | 1,216 | 8,851 | 7.5 | Red Willow | 1,079 | 10,851 | -0.6 | 10,947 | 94,259 | 9.1 |
| Dodge | 4,036 | 33,024 | 15.6 | 22,303 | 197,382 | 4.4 | Richardson | 941 | 8,256 | 7.3 | 3,682 | 28,788 | 5.7 |
| Douglas | 45,764 | 404,924 | 10.0 | 442,987 | 3,795,565 | 5.2 | Rock | 177 | 1,725 | -0.4 | 473 | 4,220 | 0.2 |
| Dundy | 292 | 3,143 | 25.4 | 633 | 4,943 | 6.9 | Saline | 1,498 | 13,150 | 15.7 | 4,970 | 41,130 | -2.1 |
| Fillmore | 973 | 7,683 | 9.0 | 2,715 | 23,142 | 3.0 | Sarpy | 13,078 | 111,863 | 7.0 | 36,078 | 297,431 | 18.3 |
| Franklin | 224 | 3,059 | -0.1 | 862 | 6,502 | 1.2 | Saunders | 2,661 | 21,231 | 15.0 | 6,010 | 47,473 | 2.9 |
| Frontier | 397 | 3,076 | 1.5 | 696 | 5,388 | 1.7 | Scotts Bluff | 3,765 | 33,175 | 4.3 | 25,737 | 212,020 | 3.7 |
| Furnas | 475 | 5,722 | 6.9 | 2,196 | 20,479 | 14.9 | Seward | 1,580 | 15,015 | 13.1 | 6,676 | 52,317 | 2.0 |
| Gage | 2,086 | 20,415 | 13.4 | 10,886 | 92,747 | 5.1 | Sheridan | 674 | 6,019 | 22.9 | 2,977 | 24,755 | 1.0 |
| Garden | 212 | 2,610 | 9.5 | 649 | 5,226 | -10.3 | Sherman | 318 | 3,167 | 5.1 | 1,007 | 6,870 | 4.9 |
| Garfield | 167 | 1,613 | 24.8 | 961 | 6,104 | -1.5 | Sioux | 131 | 1,857 | 15.9 | 181 | 1,236 | 1.1 |
| Gosper | 282 | 2,637 | 15.0 | 547 | 4,122 | 6.5 | Stanton | 657 | 6,102 | 8.0 | 732 | 6,281 | 8.0 |
| Grant | 90 | 775 | -7.4 | 196 | 1,505 | -0.3 | Thayer | 802 | 6,329 | 9.0 | 2,813 | 21,380 | -2.5 |
| Greeley | 288 | 2,588 | 1.3 | 834 | 5,758 | 4.2 | Thomas | 62 | 861 | -2.0 | 381 | 3,053 | 6.7 |
| Hall | 5,617 | 52,455 | 12.5 | 48,285 | 413,837 | -0.3 | Thurston | 484 | 4,544 | 15.5 | 950 | 6,988 | 8.7 |
| Hamilton | 1,106 | 10,629 | 9.1 | 3,510 | 26,953 | 3.5 | Valley | 524 | 4,173 | 0.8 | 2,015 | 16,920 | -2.5 |
| Harlan | 495 | 4,299 | 12.9 | 919 | 7,935 | -3.0 | Washington | 2,530 | 22,662 | 22.3 | 6,880 | 57,388 | 1.6 |
| Hayes | 146 | 1,296 | 13.5 | (D) | (D) | (D) | Wayne | 955 | 7,993 | 7.6 | 3,724 | 27,983 | 2.3 |
| Hitchcock | 273 | 3,331 | 11.2 | 673 | 5,368 | 1.0 | Webster | 378 | 3,655 | 17.3 | 1,419 | 10,287 | -0.8 |
| Holt | 1,523 | 10,962 | -0.1 | 6,310 | 51,267 | 8.8 | Wheeler | 125 | 1,185 | -3.3 | 128 | 963 | 14.2 |
| Hooker | 111 | 850 | 45.5 | 521 | 2,876 | 15.6 | York | 1,805 | 14,612 | 1.5 | 9,937 | 84,628 | 3.6 |

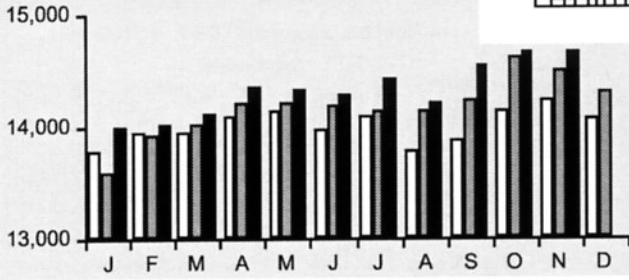
*Totals may not add due to rounding
(D) Denotes disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

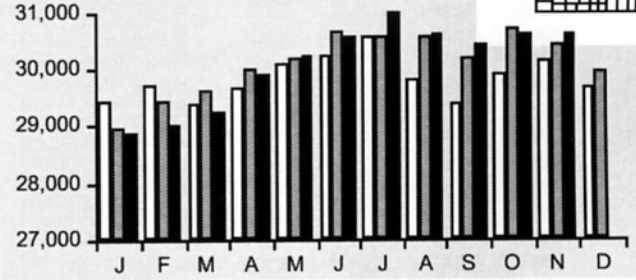
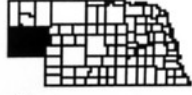
Regional Employment—1994 to November 1996

1994 1995 1996

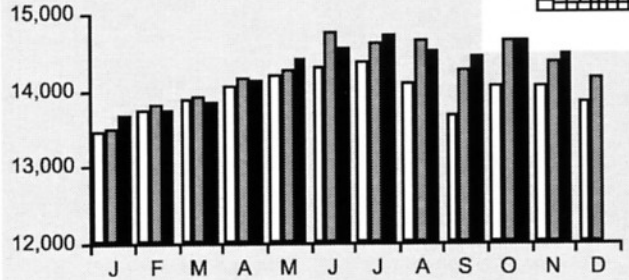
Northwest Panhandle



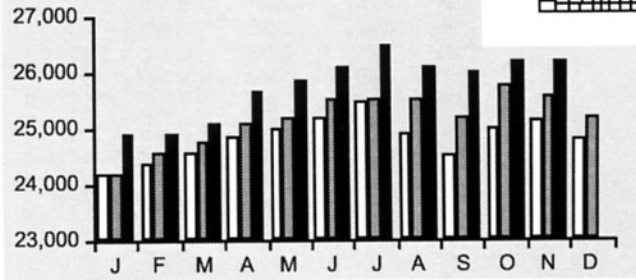
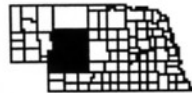
Southwest Panhandle



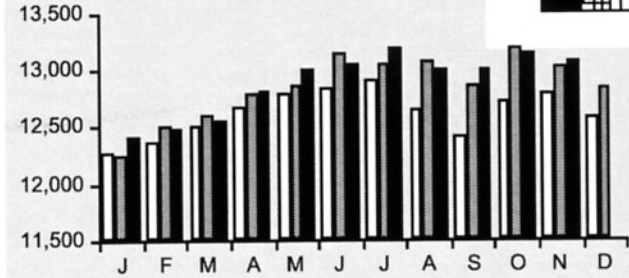
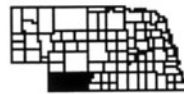
North Central



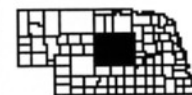
West Central



Southwest Central



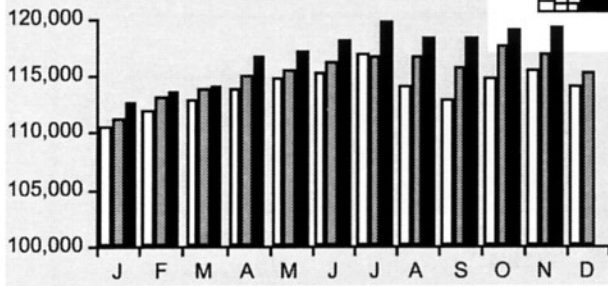
East Central



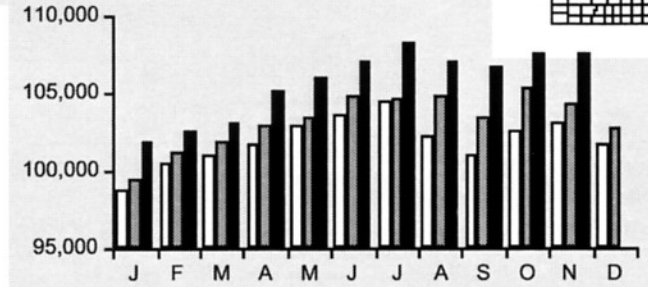
Regional Employment—1994 to November 1996

□ 1994 ■ 1995 ■ 1996

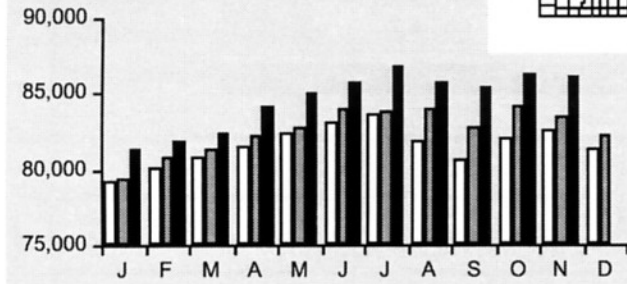
Southeast Central



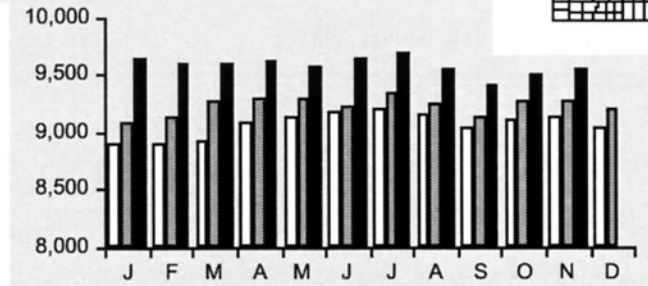
Northeast



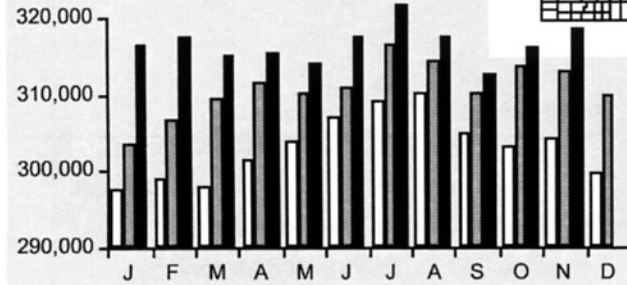
Southeast



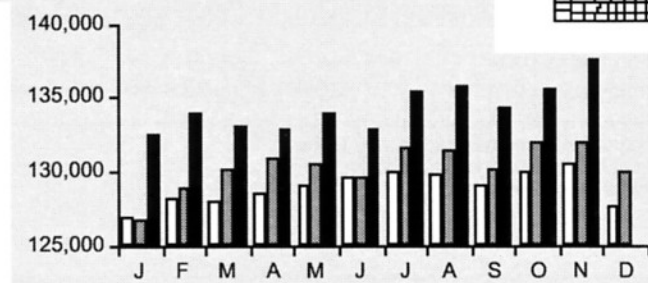
Sioux City MSA



Omaha MSA

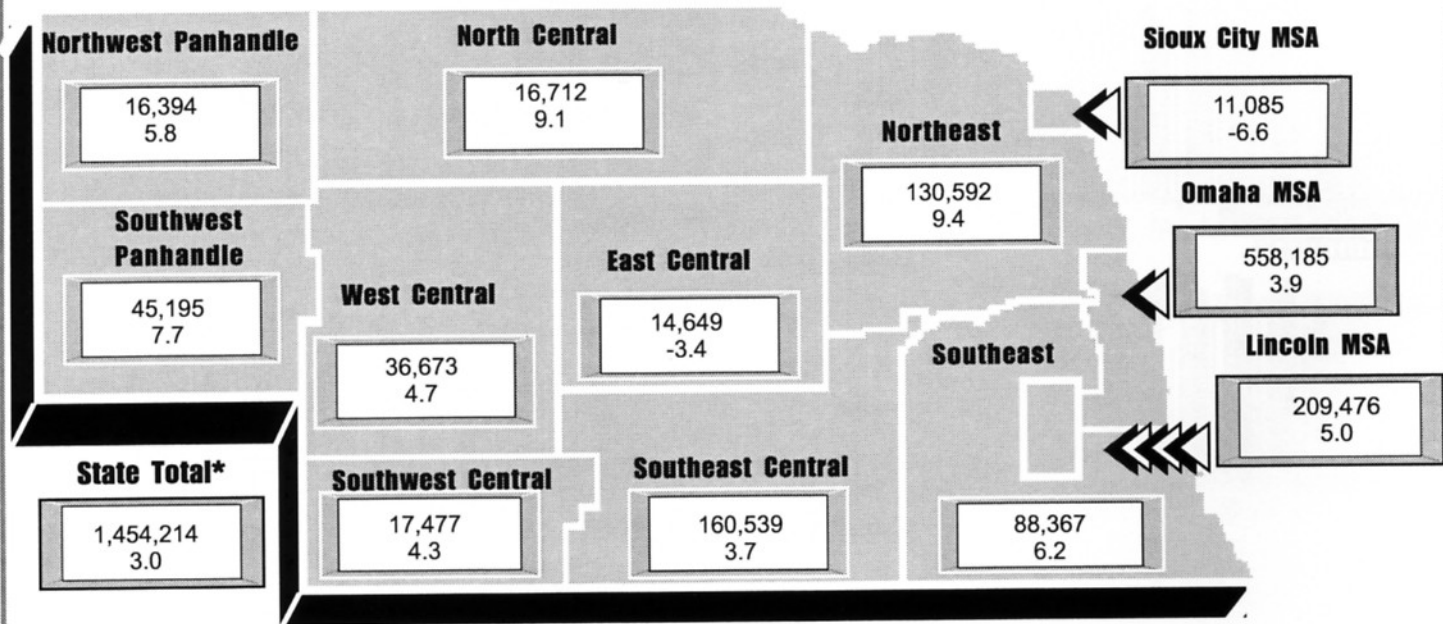


Lincoln MSA



September 1996 Regional Retail Sales (\$000)

Percent Change from Year Ago



*Regional values may not add to state total due to unallocated sales

Employment by Industry

| | Revised October 1996 | Preliminary November 1996 | % Change Yr. Ago |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Place of Work | | | |
| Nonfarm | 840,440 | 844,101 | 2.1 |
| Construction & Mining | 38,746 | 37,143 | 0.1 |
| Manufacturing | 113,783 | 114,436 | 2.2 |
| Durables | 54,537 | 54,969 | 2.1 |
| Nondurables | 59,246 | 59,467 | 2.2 |
| TCU* | 50,351 | 50,847 | 2.4 |
| Trade | 209,804 | 212,215 | 1.1 |
| Wholesale | 55,587 | 54,367 | 0.9 |
| Retail | 154,217 | 157,848 | 1.2 |
| FIRE** | 52,548 | 52,666 | 0.3 |
| Services | 222,337 | 222,317 | 4.7 |
| Government | 152,871 | 154,477 | 0.9 |
| Place of Residence | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 914,144 | 917,011 | 1.6 |
| Unemployment Rate | 2.5 | 2.4 | |

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Price Indices

Consumer Price Index - U*
(1982-84 = 100)

| | December 1996 | % Change vs Yr. Ago | YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| All Items | 158.6 | 3.3 | 2.9 |
| Commodities | 141.4 | 3.2 | 2.5 |
| Services | 176.1 | 3.3 | 3.2 |

*U = All urban consumers
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

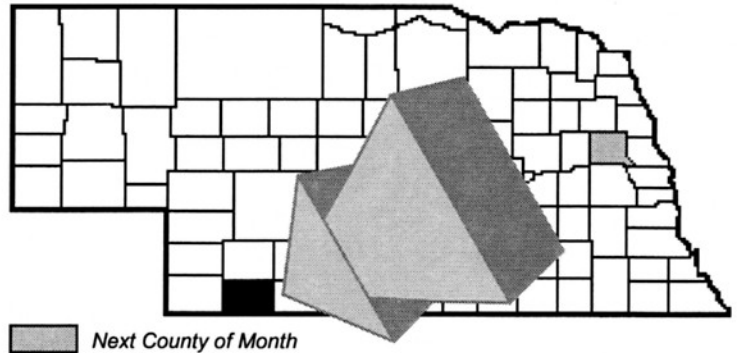
Inflation Rate



County of the Month

Hitchcock

Trenton-County Seat



License plate prefix number: 67

Size of county: 709 square miles, ranks 40th in the state

Population: 3,936 in 1995, a change of 5.0 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$19,049 in 1994, ranks 48th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$11,271 in 1995, a change of -7.7 percent from 1994; \$6,584 during January-July 1996, a change of 5.9 percent from the same period one year ago

Number of business and service establishments: 66 in 1993, 68.2 percent had less than five employees

Unemployment rate: 2.9 percent in Hitchcock County, 2.4 percent in Nebraska for 1995

Nonfarm employment (1995):

| | State | Hitchcock County |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Wage and Salary Workers | 815,089 | 636 |
| | <i>(percent of total)</i> | |
| Construction and Mining | 4.4 | 4.6 |
| Manufacturing | 13.7 | (D)* |
| TCU | 6.1 | (D)* |
| Wholesale Trade | 6.5 | 9.4 |
| Retail Trade | 18.6 | 13.1 |
| FIRE | 6.4 | 3.9 |
| Services | 25.8 | 4.1 |
| Government | 18.5 | 55.2 |

*(D) denotes disclosure suppression

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 379 in 1992, 426 in 1987

Average farm size: 1,065 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$30.6 million in 1992 (\$80,712 average per farm)

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Department of Revenue

bulletin board



Data Review

The Tax Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the Nebraska Department of Revenue and is responsible for administration of state revenue laws. Tax programs administered include income tax, state and use tax, motor fuels taxes, and miscellaneous taxes.

BBR's NU *ONRAMP* contains data from the Nebraska Department of Revenue such as Individual Income Tax Statistics by County, Individual Income Tax Liabilities by County, Total Individual Income Tax Liability and Individual Income Tax Liability Per Return, and Per Capita Individual Income Tax Liability that the Department of Revenue compiles from state income tax returns. Personal tax and non-tax payments by state from federal, state, and local tax reports, compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, also reside on NU *ONRAMP*.

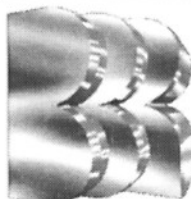
To locate this information on NU *ONRAMP*, enter *Data Central* and choose *Subject Search*. Select *Government Finance and Expenditures*. Or, invoke an expert search for filenames TAX, GREV, CA, and SA5ONE.

NU ONRAMP World Wide Web Address
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