

GROSS AND NET MIGRATION FOR NEBRASKA STATE ECONOMIC AREAS

Soon after the first results of the 1970 census of population became available, estimates of net migration for Nebraska counties and cities from 1960 to 1970 were published in *Business in Nebraska* (April, 1971). These estimates were made by subtracting the natural increase in population (births minus deaths) during the 1960s from the measured population change for the decade. Since this technique estimates only the difference between gross in-migration and gross out-migration, however, it provides no indication of the magnitude of gross migration flows, nor of the destinations and origins of migrants.

Data on gross migration for small areas in the United States are relatively rare, but a recently released report from the 1970 census does provide some information on gross migration for sub-state areas. The subject report, *Migration Between State Economic Areas*, contains data on gross migration among 510 specially defined state economic areas for the period 1965 to 1970. The report also includes data on gross migration by age and sex for each of the 510 areas.

The data in the report were compiled from responses to a question concerning place of residence in 1965, which was asked of 15 percent of the households enumerated in the 1970 census. Since the data are based on a sample and since migration flows between many pairs of state economic areas are small, the reliability of some of the estimated migration flows in the report is low. If attention is restricted to categories of migration where flows are relatively large, however, the data should provide a good indication of the pattern of migration. Both to conserve space and to concentrate on the most reliable parts of the data, therefore, the presentation here will deal with the total migration flows in and out of each area by age and with the distinction between migrants from one area to another within Nebraska and migrants between areas in Nebraska and areas outside the state.

The Bureau of the Census has defined nine state economic areas within Nebraska. Each is composed of a county or group of counties and is classified as metropolitan or nonmetropolitan. There are seven nonmetropolitan state economic areas in Nebraska (designated by numbers 1 through 7) and two metropolitan areas (designated by letters A and B). The map on page 3 shows the county constituents of each of the areas. Unfortunately census areas do not always conform closely to other commonly used regional groupings of Nebraska counties, but they do repre-

sent the smallest areas within the state for which data on both in- and out-migration have been compiled.

MIGRATION BY AGE

Table 1 shows the population size and in-, out-, and net migration rates for the population ages 5 and over in 1970 by age group for each of the nine state economic areas. The migration rates were computed by dividing estimated migration from 1965 to 1970 in each group by the population in that group in 1970. A more common procedure in calculating migration rates for a particular period is to divide by population in the initial year of the period, but, since no census was taken in 1965, accurate 1965 population data by age are not available. Use of ending-year population values in computing migration rates results in larger rates for groups with net out-migration and lower rates for groups with net in-migration than would the use of beginning-year population to compute the rates. This fact should be kept in mind in interpreting the very large out-migration rates for the age group 20-24 for several of the state economic areas.

An important feature of the data in Table 1 is the relatively large size of both the in- and out-migration rates compared with the net migration rates. Even for areas with heavy net out-migration gross in-migration generally exceeds net out-migration. Large though they are, however, figures in Table 1 actually understate gross migration for they do not count multiple moves. Persons who left Nebraska and returned to the same place are not counted, for example, nor are those who moved into the state and out again during the period. Likewise, those who made two or more moves within the state are counted only once.

These high rates of "turnover" of the population imply that migration can have important implications for the population of an area beyond a simple change in population size. The effects of a sizable gross turnover of population in an area can be particularly important if the characteristics of in-migrants and out-migrants differ significantly. Unfortunately the only data on population characteristics which have been compiled for both in-migrants and out-migrants of state economic areas relate to age, sex, and race. Often, however, these migrant characteristics can be quite revealing.

Significant differences in migration rates by age are the rule in the United States, and Nebraska areas are no exception. The largest gross migration rates shown in Table 1 occur for people

in the age group 20-24 in 1970. Migration rates also are above average for people who were in their late teens, late 20s, or in their 30s, and for younger children (ages 5-9 in 1970). Migration rates are generally below average for people over 40 and for older children (ages 10-14).

In most cases both in- and out-migration rates drop off continuously after age 25. For the most part net migration rates are also larger (in absolute value) for younger age groups than for older groups. There are, however, some important differences between Nebraska's metropolitan and nonmetropolitan state economic areas in terms of the age distribution of net migration. All of the nonmetropolitan areas experienced their heaviest net out-migration in the age group 20-24, and most of these areas also

experienced significant net out-migration in the age groups 15-19 and 25-29. The two metropolitan areas, on the other hand, both experienced substantial net in-migration in the age group 20-24 and generally had their greatest net out-migration in the age groups for which the nonmetropolitan areas experienced net in-migration or relatively small net out-migration.

Much of the difference in the age pattern of net migration for the metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas can be attributed to migration associated with military and college populations. In the case of the Lincoln area (Lancaster County) migration patterns for age groups 15 through 30 are dominated by movement associated with students attending the University of Nebraska. In both the 15-19 and 20-24 age groups (in 1970) the Lincoln area

TABLE 1
MIGRATION RATES BY AGE FOR STATE ECONOMIC AREAS, 1965-1970
(Rates computed on basis of number of persons remaining in area in 1970)

	Total population 5 and over	Ages											
		5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-54	55-64	65 and over	
State Economic Area 1													
1970 Population	55,362	6,055	6,152	5,955	3,352	2,889	2,782	2,957	3,304	6,482	6,698	8,736	
In-Migration Rate	14.0	15.4	11.4	17.2	36.8	32.7	20.3	12.8	9.6	8.9	6.9	7.3	
Out-Migration Rate	24.5	27.1	22.2	29.8	86.9	46.3	31.8	24.6	16.0	14.6	9.7	9.2	
Net Migration Rate	-10.5	-11.7	-10.8	-12.6	-50.1	-13.6	-11.5	-11.8	-6.4	-5.7	-2.8	-1.9	
State Economic Area 2													
1970 Population	82,433	8,646	10,047	8,834	5,503	4,594	4,860	4,722	5,026	10,184	8,982	11,035	
In-Migration Rate	15.0	18.6	14.2	14.5	39.8	32.5	20.2	15.2	13.7	8.3	5.8	5.9	
Out-Migration Rate	22.7	25.2	19.7	28.5	72.4	36.0	29.9	21.1	17.8	14.1	8.9	7.6	
Net Migration Rate	-7.7	-6.6	-5.5	-14.0	-32.6	-3.5	-9.7	-5.9	-4.1	-5.8	-3.1	-1.7	
State Economic Area 3													
1970 Population	260,057	28,162	28,902	27,412	17,999	15,755	13,524	13,981	14,871	29,991	29,770	39,690	
In-Migration Rate	13.6	16.6	12.6	14.8	31.6	28.5	20.0	15.6	10.7	7.7	6.8	5.1	
Out-Migration Rate	15.1	15.4	12.4	19.7	53.4	28.8	20.0	13.9	10.1	8.2	5.0	4.5	
Net Migration Rate	-1.5	1.2	.2	-4.9	-21.8	-.3	.0	1.7	.6	-5	1.8	.6	
State Economic Area 4													
1970 Population	67,003	6,390	7,548	6,058	3,258	3,302	3,515	3,623	3,779	8,291	8,325	12,914	
In-Migration Rate	11.8	15.1	12.5	13.1	29.7	30.9	20.4	13.7	8.6	7.1	5.1	5.0	
Out-Migration Rate	19.6	21.8	13.8	31.7	97.4	39.4	26.0	17.0	13.9	10.2	7.4	6.0	
Net Migration Rate	-7.8	-6.7	-1.3	-18.6	-67.7	-8.5	-5.6	-3.3	-5.3	-3.1	-2.3	-1.0	
State Economic Area 5													
1970 Population	121,610	11,172	12,917	12,517	8,803	6,600	6,321	6,034	6,790	14,523	14,345	21,588	
In-Migration Rate	14.9	18.6	12.8	19.9	38.3	31.9	19.9	15.4	10.3	8.3	5.3	7.1	
Out-Migration Rate	18.0	19.0	13.1	25.8	66.9	42.4	20.5	15.8	12.2	8.3	6.0	4.4	
Net Migration Rate	-3.1	-.4	-.3	-5.9	-28.6	-10.5	-.6	-.4	-1.9	.0	-.7	2.7	
State Economic Area 6													
1970 Population	109,984	12,222	12,780	12,091	7,800	5,861	5,630	6,180	6,984	12,103	12,029	16,304	
In-Migration Rate	13.4	15.8	12.1	15.0	35.5	28.1	19.2	13.8	8.9	8.3	5.7	4.7	
Out-Migration Rate	18.6	17.3	14.5	21.1	60.1	43.1	25.0	15.9	10.6	11.5	7.7	7.7	
Net Migration Rate	-5.2	-1.5	-2.4	-6.1	-24.6	-15.0	-5.8	-2.1	-1.7	-3.2	-2.0	-3.0	
State Economic Area 7													
1970 Population	100,267	9,816	10,340	9,572	6,778	5,689	5,382	5,138	5,718	12,284	11,971	17,579	
In-Migration Rate	13.4	19.3	14.6	13.1	33.3	30.4	22.4	16.3	8.6	7.0	4.7	5.1	
Out-Migration Rate	17.4	17.4	15.1	25.1	63.2	31.5	21.1	19.3	13.5	9.1	6.1	5.6	
Net Migration Rate	-4.0	1.9	-.5	-12.0	-29.9	-1.1	1.3	-3.0	-4.9	-2.1	-1.4	-.5	
State Economic Area A													
1970 Population	154,827	14,744	14,748	18,352	21,849	12,376	9,511	8,411	8,179	16,293	13,548	16,816	
In-Migration Rate	24.7	21.6	17.4	38.0	55.4	32.4	24.9	20.8	13.8	12.4	7.6	7.0	
Out-Migration Rate	24.7	32.4	24.4	15.1	28.2	64.8	34.4	28.9	24.5	14.1	9.0	10.3	
Net Migration Rate	.0	-10.8	-7.0	22.9	27.2	-32.4	-9.5	-8.1	-10.7	-1.7	-1.4	-3.3	
State Economic Area B													
1970 Population	410,773	51,201	48,794	41,789	38,968	32,454	28,044	26,337	24,913	44,945	34,477	38,851	
In-Migration Rate	18.2	19.2	16.3	17.8	39.4	31.2	24.7	21.8	12.4	10.5	5.1	4.7	
Out-Migration Rate	19.5	22.5	18.1	20.1	28.4	33.6	26.8	22.1	17.2	13.5	8.6	7.2	
Net Migration Rate	-1.3	-3.3	-1.8	-2.3	11.0	-2.4	-2.1	-.3	-4.8	-3.0	-3.5	-2.5	

Source: Computed by Bureau of Business Research from 1970 Census of Population, Migration Between State Economic Areas, PC(2)-2E, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1972.

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witnessed large net in-migration rates associated with students attending the University in 1970 who were residing elsewhere in 1965. Conversely, the heavy net out-migration rate in the age group 25-29 can be explained largely by the out-migration of people who were students at the University in 1965 (then being in the age group 20-24), but had completed their education and left by 1970.

In the Omaha area (Douglas and Sarpy counties) the college population plays less of a role than in Lincoln, and there is no pronounced net out-migration in the age group 25-29. While the migration of students has less influence on the Omaha area than on the Lincoln area, the continuing influence of military migration is a greater factor in the Omaha area (because of Offutt Air Force Base) than in the Lincoln area.¹

Neither student movement nor military movement, however, seems adequate to explain completely the contrast between the Omaha area and nonmetropolitan areas in the age pattern of migration. This contrast in migration patterns can perhaps best be seen by comparing the Omaha pattern with that of state economic area 3 (which includes Grand Island, Kearney, Columbus, Norfolk, and North Platte). The overall rates of net migration from the Omaha area (-1.3 percent) and area 3 (-1.5 percent) are very similar, but the age-specific net migration rates are quite different. In the 20-24 age bracket, for example, Omaha had a net migration rate of 11 percent while area 3 had a rate of -21.8 percent. In all other age groups Omaha experienced net out-migration, while the opposite was true for region 3 in five of the other age groups. The contrast seems to indicate that young people other than students and military personnel have a tendency to migrate from nonmetropolitan to metropolitan areas in their late teens or early 20s and in some cases to return to nonmetropolitan areas at older ages.

The pattern of apparent return migration to nonmetropolitan areas by people in their 30s and 40s raises important questions

¹The closing of an Air Force base in Lancaster county during the 1960s may have had some influence on the migration data for Lincoln, but the effect would be hard to separate from the dominant student-migration flows.

concerning the characteristics of return migrants. Are they mostly people who specifically left to acquire training which would be useful to them in their home environment or are they predominantly people who were unsuccessful in a metropolitan environment and returned home because of an absence of other alternatives? Such questions concerning the characteristics of return migrants cannot be answered from the census data in the form in which they have been published and remain a subject of controversy among economists and sociologists who study the problems of rural areas. The issue of the characteristics of potential migrants into nonmetropolitan areas, however, is very important for planning in the area of rural development.

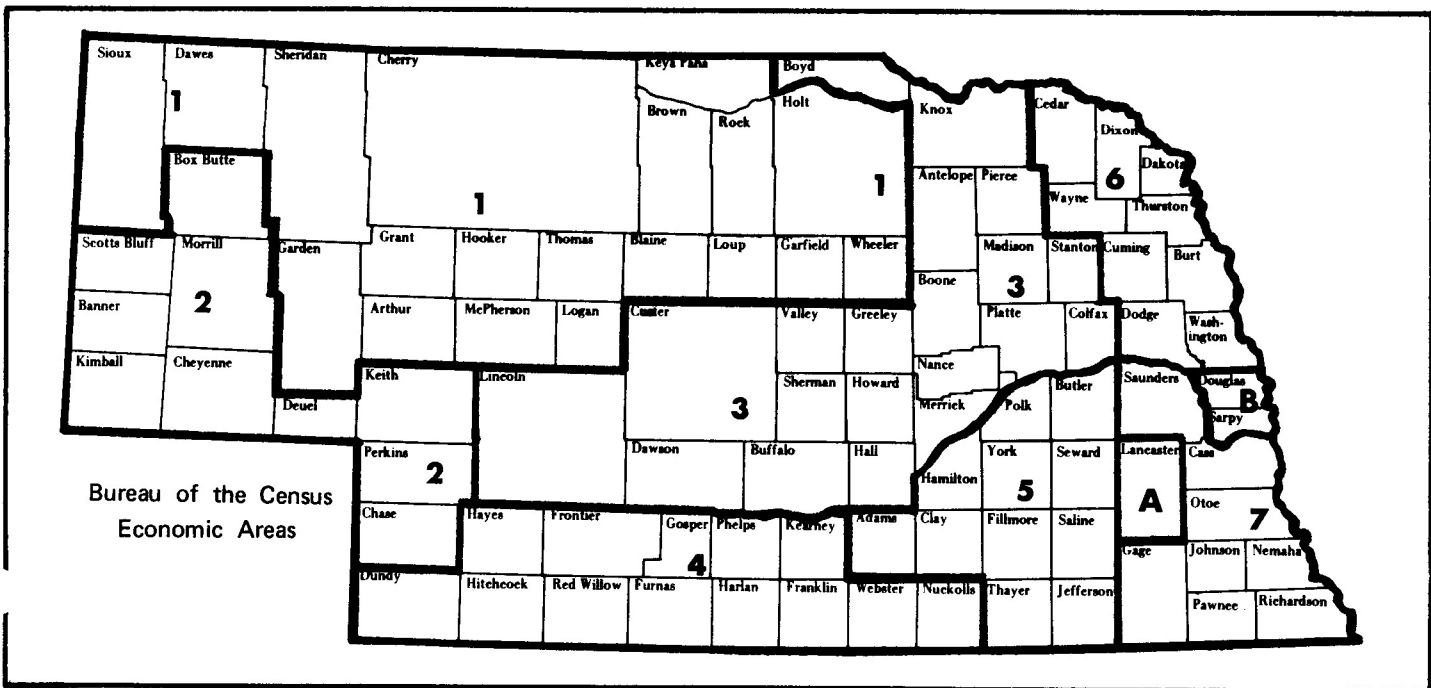
MIGRATION 1965 TO 1970 AND 1955 TO 1960

Table 2 presents a comparison of migration flows for state economic areas for the period 1965-1970 with similar flows for the period 1955-1960 (taken from the 1960 Census). The 1970 data show that most of the nonmetropolitan state economic areas send about half of their out-migrants to other areas in Nebraska and receive about half of their in-migrants from other areas in Nebraska.²

The smallest relative interchange between a Nebraska area and the rest of the state occurs in the Omaha area, where less than 20

(Continued on page 6)

²The Scottsbluff area (2) has relatively close links to Wyoming and Colorado and, therefore, has a somewhat smaller interchange of migrants with other Nebraska areas than do the other six nonmetropolitan areas.



Bureau of the Census
Economic Areas

Review and Outlook

In April both the Nebraska and national economies displayed evidence of at least a temporary pause in their recent patterns of rapid expansion. The Nebraska dollar-volume index was at a level of 155.8 percent of the 1967 average in April compared with a (revised) level of 164.9 for March. The national dollar-volume index was at a level of 162.5 in April which is the same as the revised March figure. The sharp drop in the Nebraska index can be attributed primarily to the agricultural sector, where the index fell from 172.7 in March to 122.7 in April. The drop in the agricultural index resulted from reduced cash receipts from farm marketings associated with a decline in livestock marketings and a (temporary) drop in agricultural prices received (from 168.0 in

March to 163.4 in April). Since the agricultural index for Nebraska often fluctuates by large amounts from month to month, it would be inappropriate to impute a great deal of significance to this large one-month drop in the index.

Among the Nebraska nonagricultural sectors there were small declines from March to April in the construction, distributive, and government indexes, and a small rise in the manufacturing index. The unchanged overall national index was the result of declines in the agricultural, construction, and distributive indexes which offset increases in government and manufacturing.

Although neither the Nebraska nor national economies appeared to move up from March to April, both economies were at (Continued on page 5)

Notes for Tables 1 and 2: (1) The "distributive" indicator represents a composite of wholesale and retail trade; transportation, communication, and utilities; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. (2) The "physical volume" indicator and its components represent the dollar volume indicator and its components adjusted for price changes using appropriate price indexes—see Table 5, page 5.

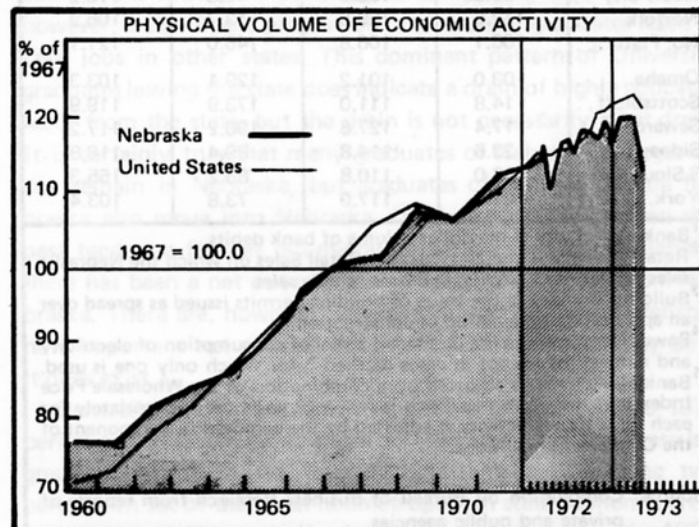
ECONOMIC INDICATORS: NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

1. CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR				
April 1973	Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year		1973 Year to Date as Percent of 1972 Year to Date	
	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Indicator	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	112.2	113.1	112.1	113.0
Agricultural	124.2	125.9	127.7	125.3
Nonagricultural	109.5	112.7	109.6	112.6
Construction	115.4	112.1	123.7	111.3
Manufacturing	114.5	118.5	111.9	117.2
Distributive	107.9	110.7	108.6	111.5
Government	107.2	109.7	105.7	109.3
Physical Volume	101.5	105.7	103.2	106.6
Agricultural	91.3	95.4	97.2	97.3
Nonagricultural	102.9	106.0	104.2	107.0
Construction	106.0	102.9	115.6	104.0
Manufacturing	103.7	109.3	102.9	109.7
Distributive	102.6	105.3	104.0	106.8
Government	101.9	103.0	101.9	102.9

2. CHANGE FROM 1967		
Indicator	Percent of 1967 Average	
	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	155.8	162.5
Agricultural	122.7	157.3
Nonagricultural	162.4	162.7
Construction	199.3	176.8
Manufacturing	154.2	147.5
Distributive	158.4	167.3
Government	177.8	172.5
Physical Volume	113.3	122.8
Agricultural	75.1	99.5
Nonagricultural	120.8	123.6
Construction	135.6	120.3
Manufacturing	118.7	116.4
Distributive	121.2	128.0
Government	116.8	122.4

3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES¹ OF NEBRASKA REGIONS (Unadjusted for Price Changes)

Region ² and Principal Retail Trade Center	April, 1973 as percent of April, 1972 ²	1973 Year to Date as Percent of 1972 Year to Date
<i>The State</i>	114.6	113.8
1 (Omaha)	107.2	109.4
2 (Lincoln)	110.6	113.5
3 (So. Sioux City)	121.6	107.9
4 (Nebraska City)	123.0	116.5
5 (Fremont)	119.1	111.2
6 (West Point)	120.4	119.5
7 (Falls City)	126.3	113.6
8 (Seward)	126.0	120.0
9 (York)	122.7	121.5
10 (Columbus)	124.8	120.4
11 (Norfolk)	116.3	123.6
12 (Grand Island)	118.3	116.1
13 (Hastings)	124.9	114.9
14 (Beatrice)	119.3	116.1
15 (Kearney)	120.7	115.4
16 (Lexington)	120.7	116.3
17 (Holdrege)	119.9	116.5
18 (North Platte)	116.1	115.7
19 (Ogallala)	124.7	122.4
20 (McCook)	115.5	115.1
21 (Sidney, Kimball)	115.8	113.5
22 (Scottsbluff)	124.5	113.2
23 (Alliance, Chadron)	124.5	115.4
24 (O'Neill)	118.1	122.2
25 (Hartington)	130.6	129.2
26 (Broken Bow)	122.1	115.9

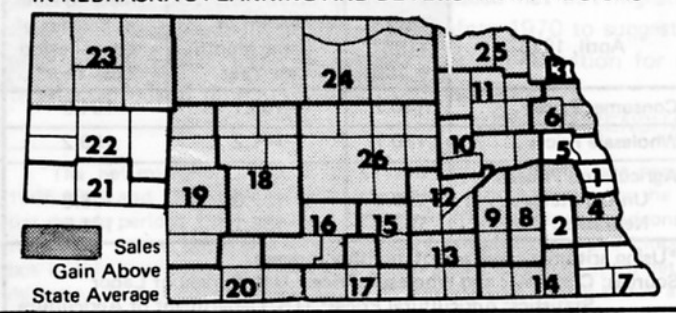


¹ Sales on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state, including motor vehicle sales.

² "Planning and development" regions as established by the Nebraska Office of Planning and Programming and shown in the map below.

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

1973 YEAR TO DATE AS PERCENT OF 1972 YEAR TO DATE IN NEBRASKA'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



(Continued from page 4)

high levels of activity compared with 1972. The Nebraska and national dollar-volume indexes were up 11.2 percent and 13.1 percent respectively from April, 1972, to April, 1973. In spite of its drop from March to April the greatest 1972 to 1973 growth has come in the agricultural sector which increased by 24.2 percent for Nebraska and 25.9 percent for the nation from April, 1972, to April, 1973. All of the increase in the agricultural indexes, however, has resulted from rising prices, since the physical-volume indexes declined over the same period (Nebraska by 8.7 percent and the nation by 4.6 percent).

Although, in contrast to agriculture, each of the nonagricultural sectors has experienced "real" growth from 1972 to 1973, rising prices also have played an important part in the increases in the nonagricultural dollar-volume indexes. For the nation the nonagricultural physical-volume index increased 6 percent from April, 1972, to April, 1973, compared with an increase of 12.7 percent in the dollar volume over the same period. For Nebraska the comparable increases in the nonagricultural indexes were 2.9 percent for the physical volume and 9.5 percent for the dollar volume. For the nation the largest increase in physical volume from 1972 to 1973 occurred in the manufacturing sector (increasing 9.3 percent from April to April) while in Nebraska the largest physical-volume growth has occurred in construction (increasing 6 percent from April to April). The physical-volume growth of manufacturing in Nebraska has lagged well behind the dollar-volume growth for the sector because of rapidly rising prices in food processing industries.

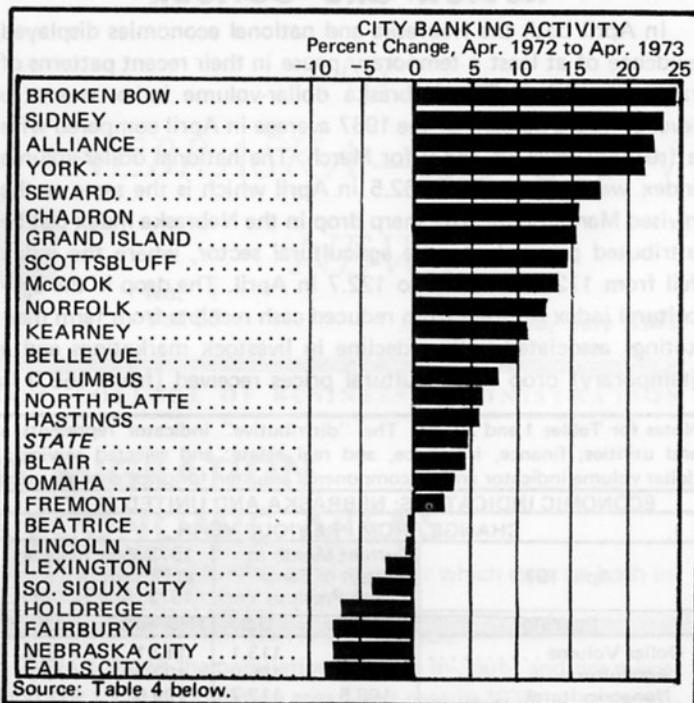
As indicated in Table 3 retail business activity continued strong in April. Total net taxable sales for the state were up 14.6 percent from April, 1972. In all but the Omaha and Lincoln planning regions, however, the April to April growth exceeded the state average and in 15 of the regions the growth rate exceeded 20 percent. The April pattern of sales, therefore, represents a continuation of the pattern experienced through the first quarter of 1973, in which sales growth in the nonmetropolitan parts of the state has exceeded growth in the metropolitan areas.

A large part of the increase in retail activity can be attributed to price increases, as can be seen in Table 4, where price-adjusted retail activity (excluding motor vehicle sales) is shown to have increased by 6.2 percent from April, 1972, to April, 1973, for the state. As would be suggested by the data in Table 3, the data in Table 4 show Omaha and Lincoln lagging behind most of the cities of the state in sales growth. In terms of the banking activity growth shown in Table 4 Omaha and Lincoln also lag somewhat behind the state average (4.8 percent).

V. R.

April, 1973	Index* (1967 = 100)	Percent of Same Month Last Year	Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year*
Consumer Prices	130.7	105.1	104.3
Wholesale Prices	130.7	111.2	109.2
Agricultural Prices			
United States	158.1	132.0	128.8
Nebraska	163.4	136.1	131.5

*Using arithmetic average of monthly indexes.
Sources: Consumer and Wholesale Prices: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Agricultural Prices: U.S. Department of Agriculture.



The State and Its Trading Centers	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			
	Banking Activity ¹	Retail Activity ²	Building Activity ³	Power Consumption ⁴
	(Adjusted for Price Change) ⁵			
The State	104.8	106.2	156.1	109.5
Alliance	122.7	114.7	1196.9	116.0
Beatrice	99.8	104.3	83.6	121.5
Bellevue	110.0	92.5	62.8	107.6*
Blair	104.3	116.9	69.8	115.4
Broken Bow	124.9	105.6	154.8	108.8
Chadron	115.8	115.8	438.7	113.6
Columbus	107.3	117.3	142.6	175.1
Fairbury	92.6	115.3	235.0	102.3*
Falls City	91.6	119.0	17.5	105.2
Fremont	102.4	108.9	276.6	88.5*
Grand Island	115.5	109.6	306.1	107.4
Hastings	105.5	118.3	57.7	111.3
Holdrege	92.9	114.5	240.3	133.8
Kearney	111.2	107.2	219.1	114.6
Lexington	97.3	108.8	186.0	111.9
Lincoln	99.2	103.2	178.3	109.8
McCook	113.5	108.2	167.1	114.9
Nebr. City	92.6	108.8	42.3	115.2
Norfolk	112.5	109.5	113.7	105.2
No. Platte	106.1	106.8	145.0	121.1
Omaha	103.0	101.2	129.1	103.3
Scottsbluff	114.8	111.0	173.9	119.9
Seward	117.4	127.6	196.2	117.2
Sidney	123.6	114.8	89.4	118.8
S.Sioux City	96.0	110.8	88.2	155.3
York	121.7	117.0	73.8	103.4

¹Banking Activity is the dollar volume of bank debits.
²Retail Activity is the Net Taxable Retail Sales on which the Nebraska sales tax is levied, excluding motor vehicle sales.
³Building Activity is the value of building permits issued as spread over an appropriate time period of construction.
⁴Power Consumption is a combined index of consumption of electricity and natural gas except in cases marked * for which only one is used.
⁵Banking Activity is adjusted by a combination of the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index, each weighted appropriately for each city; Retail Activity is adjusted by the commodity component of the Consumer Price Index.

Source: Compilation by Bureau of Business Research from reports of private and public agencies.

TABLE 2

MIGRATION 1955-1960 AND 1965-1970

State Economic Area	1955-1960				Net Migration	1965-1970				Net Migration
	Out-migration		In-migration			Out-Migration		In-migration		
	Number of Persons	Percentage to other Nebraska areas	Number of Persons	Percentage from other Nebraska areas		Number of Persons	Percentage to other Nebraska areas	Number of Persons	Percentage from other Nebraska areas	
State	172,811		111,358		-61,453	168,087		127,963		-40,124
1	14,593	41.1	7,368	51.1	- 7,225	13,576	54.6	7,772	48.6	- 5,804
2	20,842	22.8	12,257	38.0	- 8,585	18,733	32.7	12,401	37.3	- 6,332
3	48,451	38.3	24,440	59.4	-24,011	39,373	49.7	35,401	56.8	- 3,972
4	16,316	41.7	7,860	51.3	- 8,456	13,105	58.7	7,888	56.8	- 5,217
5	24,667	45.7	14,204	60.6	-10,463	21,818	55.1	18,080	56.1	- 3,738
6	19,673	36.4	14,046	49.6	- 5,627	20,424	45.3	14,729	49.8	- 5,695
7	19,093	47.3	10,906	51.6	- 8,187	17,479	51.1	13,502	49.9	- 3,977
A	31,977	25.2	36,641	46.1	4,664	38,279	28.2	38,298	60.6	19
B	57,379	14.9	63,816	23.7	6,437	80,095	16.2	74,687	19.2	- 5,408

Source: Computed by Bureau of Business Research from U.S. Census of Population: 1960, and 1970 Census of Population, Migration Between State Economic Areas, PC(2)-2E, U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1967.

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percent of either the out-migrants or in-migrants go to or come from other parts of Nebraska. Part of the reason for the relatively low interchange of migrants between Omaha and the rest of Nebraska is the proximity of Omaha to concentrations of population in Iowa (especially Council Bluffs). Migration of military personnel is likely to be another factor, and close links between Omaha and other major metropolitan areas also contribute to a relatively large interchange of migrants between Omaha and out-of-state areas.

For most state economic areas there is a relatively small difference between the proportion of in-migrants who come from other areas in Nebraska and the proportion of out-migrants who go to other areas in Nebraska. In the case of the Lincoln area, however, the difference is substantial. In the 1970 data the proportion of in-migrants to Lincoln coming from other parts of the state (60.6 percent) was the highest of any of the state economic areas, while the proportion of out-migrants from Lincoln who remained in Nebraska (28.2 percent) was lower than for all other areas but Omaha.

This sharp contrast between the in-migration and out-migration patterns for Lincoln can be attributed primarily to student migration. Most of the students attending the University of Nebraska come from within the state. Upon completing their education, however, a significant proportion of University graduates leave to take jobs in other states. This dominant pattern of University graduates leaving the state does indicate a drain of highly educated labor from the state, but the drain is not necessarily a net drain. It is certainly true that many graduates of Nebraska colleges do not remain in Nebraska, but graduates of colleges outside Nebraska also move into Nebraska. It seems likely that, given the past tendency for net out-migration of the general population, there has been a net out-migration of college graduates from Nebraska. There are, however, no available data to indicate reliably how important net out-migration of college graduates may be if it does exist.

Generally the gross migration patterns for the 1965 to 1970 period are quite similar to those for 1955 to 1960, but there is a greater contrast in net migration patterns between the two periods. In six of the seven nonmetropolitan state economic areas there was a significant decline in net out-migration from the 1955-

1960 period to the 1965-1970 period. In the Lincoln area, however, there was a change from significant net in-migration 1955-1960 to essentially no net migration 1965-1970, and in Omaha there was a change from net in-migration 1955-1960 to net out-migration 1965-1970.³

Total net out-migration from the seven nonmetropolitan state economic areas fell by more than 50 percent from 1955-1960 to 1965-1970 (from 72,554 to 34,735), and in spite of the reversals in the Omaha and Lincoln areas there was a one-third decline in net out-migration from the state as a whole between the two periods. While net out-migration from the state was still significant in the 1965-1970 period (40,124), the prospects for further reductions in, or elimination of, net out-migration would appear to be good. In the case of the nonmetropolitan state economic areas recent increases in agricultural prices accompanied by an apparent trend toward stabilization of agricultural employment opportunities provide some indication of improving economic conditions. In addition there are indications that the forces which apparently caused net out-migration from the metropolitan parts of the state in the late 1960s were temporary.

Perhaps the strongest evidence of the prospects for elimination of the historic net out-migration from Nebraska can be found in Census Bureau estimates of the state population for 1971 and 1972. Estimates for both of these years imply a small net in-migration into the state since the 1970 census. When allocated to counties the 1971 and 1972 estimates indicate a continuation of the trend toward reduced net out-migration in nonmetropolitan Nebraska and a return of the Omaha and Lincoln areas to positions of strong net in-migration. It is still too early to assess the full significance of the estimated net in-migration for the 1970-1972 period, but the trend toward reduced net out-migration from the state was sufficiently strong before 1970 to suggest at least that a return to high levels of net out-migration for extended periods of time in the near future is unlikely.

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³The net migration patterns for Omaha and Lincoln for the periods 1955-1960 and 1965-1970 contrast somewhat with estimates for the entire decade periods 1950-1960 and 1960-1970. The decade comparisons of the 1950s to the 1960s also show reversals for both Omaha and Lincoln, but in this case it is the Lincoln area which shows a reversal from net in-migration to net out-migration, while the Omaha area simply shows a reduction in net in-migration.