

Published once in June, July, and Aug., twice in Jan., March, and Nov., three times in Feb., May, Sept., Oct., and Dec., and 4 times in April by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Dept. of Publications Services & Control, 209 Nebraska Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588. Second-class postage paid Lincoln, Nebraska.

Prepared by the Bureau of Business Research
College of Business Administration

MIGRATION TRENDS AND PATTERNS IN NEBRASKA

With the 1980 census population data, the components of population change can be computed for the various counties and cities in Nebraska for the 1970-80 period. The population change which takes place in a given area over a period of time consists of two components: the natural increase (decrease) in population and the net migration into (out of) the area. The natural increase is simply births minus deaths over a period of time. Adding the natural increase over the 1970-80 period to the 1970 population gives the 1980 population figure if there had been no migration. If net out-migration had exactly equaled the natural increase, no change in the population would have occurred over this period.

Table 1 (pp. 2, 3) can be used to illustrate how net migration figures are arrived at. The population in 1980 (column 2) minus the population in 1970 (column 1) gives the actual change in population (column 3). The natural increase (column 4) is determined by subtracting deaths from births which have occurred over the ten-year period. Net migration (column 5) is arrived at by subtracting the natural increase in population from the actual change in population. If the resulting number is positive, net in-migration has occurred; if negative, net out-migration has occurred. The migration rate (column 6) is simply the net migration as a percent of the 1980 population. It is important to note that the migration figures are *net* figures. They do not indicate anything about the total number of people moving in and out of an area over the period in question.

STATE MIGRATION TRENDS

Net out-migration for the state as a whole improved dramatically during the 1970-80 period over previous census periods. Table 2 shows the population changes and components of popu-

lation change for the state over the census periods since 1940. Population changes in the state have been fairly constant in the three census periods since 1950. This constancy, however, masks some very definite changes in the components of population change. Since 1950, the natural increase in population (births minus deaths) has markedly decreased. This has been offset, however, by a declining net out-migration over the census periods shown. Net out-migration for the state has consistently decreased throughout the census periods shown, from a high of 135,000 in the 1940-50 period to 12,616 during the 1970-80 period—a relatively low 0.8 percent of the total 1980 state population.

COUNTY MIGRATION TRENDS

The information in Table 1 outlines the components of population change for the various counties in Nebraska. Overall, 65 of Nebraska's 93 counties experienced a net out-migration during the 1970-80 census period. Although many of the state's counties are experiencing net out-migration, there is a definite improvement over the 1960-70 census period (column 7). During 1960 to 1970, 86 of the 93 counties experienced a net out-migration. When comparing the net migration rates for the two census periods (columns 6 and 7), the trend is even more favorable. In 80 of Nebraska's 93 counties the migration rate for the 1970-80 census period has improved over that for the 1960-70 census period, that is, either the net out-migration rate has decreased or the net in-migration rate has increased. This would seem to indicate a definite slowdown in the out-migration trend which has characterized Nebraska's rural counties over the past 40 or 50 years.

During the 1970-80 census period, 28 Nebraska counties experienced net in-migration. Of these 28 counties, there were 21 which reversed a situation of net out-migration in the 1960-70 period to one of net in-migration in the 1970-80 period. Some of the major reversals in counties with populations over 5,000 were Box Butte, from -23.3 percent to +21.0 percent; Morrill, from -28.9 percent to +0.9 percent; Dakota, from -6.3 percent to +10.2 percent; Lincoln, from -5.4 percent to +10.8 percent; Cass, from -8.5 percent to +4.4 percent; and Stanton, from -7.4 percent to +5.1 percent. Some of the major reversals in counties with populations under 5,000 were Hooker, from -25.4 percent to +5.8 percent; Perkins, from -28.3 percent to +1.6 percent; Rock, from -22.7 percent to +2.9 percent; Harlan, from -18.5 percent to +1.6 percent; Brown, from -14.1 percent to +5.4 percent; Chase, from -9.0 percent to +9.2 percent; and Franklin, from -17.5 percent to +0.8 percent. What makes this 21-county reversal even more important is that for all but 2 of these counties (Lancaster and Box Butte) it was the

Table 2
COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE
FOR NEBRASKA

	1940-50	1950-60	1960-70	1970-80
Change in Population	10,000	85,000	74,000	84,673
Natural Increase	145,000	202,000	147,000	97,289
Net Migration	-135,000	-117,000	-73,000	-12,616
Migration Rate*	-10.2	-8.3	-4.9	-0.8

*Net migration as a percent of total population.

(continued on page 3)

Table 1
COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE IN THE 1970s

County	Population 1970	Population 1980	Actual Change	Natural Increase	Net Migration	1970s Migra- tion Rate as a % of 1980 Population	1960s Migra- tion Rate as a % of 1970 Population	Improved in 1970-80 over 1960-70
Adams	30,553	30,656	103	964	-861	-2.8	-1.0	-
Antelope	9,047	8,675	-372	282	-654	-7.5	-17.2	+
Arthur	606	513	-93	29	-122	-23.8	-21.1	-
Banner	1,034	918	-116	76	-192	-20.9	-30.6	+
Blaine	847	867	20	46	-26	-3.0	-29.4	+
Boone	8,190	7,391	-799	189	-988	-13.4	-17.9	+
Box Butte	10,094	13,696	3,602	722	2,880	21.0	-23.3	+
Boyd	3,752	3,331	-421	-15	-406	-12.2	-25.6	+
Brown	4,021	4,377	356	118	238	5.4	-14.1	+
Buffalo	31,222	34,797	3,575	2,571	1,004	2.9	8.1	+
Burt	9,247	8,813	-434	-61	-373	-4.2	-12.8	+
Butler	9,461	9,330	-131	74	-205	-2.2	-12.8	+
Cass	18,076	20,297	2,221	1,323	898	4.4	-8.5	+
Cedar	12,192	10,852	-1,340	530	-1,870	-17.2	-21.3	+
Chase	4,129	4,758	629	189	440	9.2	-9.0	+
Cherry	6,846	6,758	-88	452	-540	-8.0	-32.1	+
Cheyenne	10,778	10,057	-721	411	-1,132	-11.3	-50.4	+
Clay	8,266	8,106	-160	282	-442	-5.5	-8.1	+
Colfax	9,498	9,890	392	129	263	2.7	-4.0	+
Cuming	12,034	11,664	-370	472	-842	-7.2	-11.8	+
Custer	14,092	13,877	-215	245	-460	-3.3	-20.8	+
Dakota	13,137	16,573	3,436	1,752	1,684	10.2	-6.3	+
Dawes	9,761	9,609	-152	424	-576	-6.0	-3.6	-
Dawson	19,771	22,162	2,391	1,401	990	4.5	-6.6	+
Deuel	2,717	2,462	-255	-16	-239	-9.7	-18.9	+
Dixon	7,453	7,137	-316	162	-478	-6.7	-12.9	+
Dodge	34,782	35,847	1,065	1,863	-798	-2.2	-3.2	+
Douglas	389,455	397,884	8,429	34,984	-26,555	-6.7	-2.1	-
Dundy	2,926	2,861	-65	-23	-42	-1.5	-23.7	+
Fillmore	8,137	7,920	-217	-157	-60	-0.8	-17.6	+
Franklin	4,566	4,377	-189	-223	34	0.8	-17.5	+
Frontier	3,982	3,647	-335	118	-453	-12.4	-12.1	-
Furnas	6,897	6,486	-411	-262	-149	-2.3	-11.5	+
Gage	25,731	24,456	-1,275	88	-1,363	-5.6	-7.7	+
Garden	2,929	2,802	-127	-37	-90	-3.2	-22.4	+
Garfield	2,411	2,363	-48	-41	-7	-0.3	-16.8	+
Gosper	2,178	2,140	-38	102	-140	-6.5	-17.9	+
Grant	1,019	877	-142	84	-226	-25.8	-11.9	-
Greeley	4,000	3,462	-538	45	-583	-16.8	-20.4	+
Hall	42,851	47,690	4,839	3,285	1,554	3.3	7.5	-
Hamilton	8,867	9,301	434	363	71	0.8	-3.2	+
Harlan	4,357	4,292	-65	-133	68	1.6	-18.5	+
Hayes	1,530	1,356	-174	91	-265	-19.5	-31.2	+
Hitchcock	4,051	4,079	28	110	-82	-2.0	-22.7	+
Holt	12,933	13,552	619	785	-166	-1.2	-15.9	+
Hooker	939	990	51	-6	57	5.8	-25.4	+
Howard	6,807	6,773	-34	249	-283	-4.2	-2.7	-
Jefferson	10,436	9,817	-619	-158	-461	-4.7	-11.5	+
Johnson	5,743	5,285	-458	-46	-412	-7.8	-12.4	+
Kearney	6,707	7,053	346	209	137	1.9	-1.4	+
Keith	8,487	9,364	877	655	222	2.4	-5.9	+
Keya Paha	1,340	1,301	-39	105	-144	-11.1	-33.4	+
Kimball	6,009	4,882	-1,127	364	-1,491	-30.5	-51.4	+
Knox	11,723	11,457	-266	79	-345	-3.0	-19.3	+
Lancaster	167,972	192,884	24,912	13,852	11,060	5.7	-5.6	+
Lincoln	29,538	36,455	6,917	2,995	3,922	10.8	-5.4	+
Logan	991	983	-8	87	-95	-9.7	-16.1	+
Loup	854	859	5	13	-8	-0.9	-34.1	+
Madison	27,402	31,382	3,980	1,606	2,374	7.6	-0.9	+
McPherson	623	593	-30	38	-68	-11.5	-24.1	+
Merrick	8,751	8,945	194	470	-276	-3.1	-2.9	-
Morrill	5,813	6,085	272	218	54	0.9	-28.9	+
Nance	5,142	4,740	-402	75	-477	-10.1	-13.9	+

Table 1 (continued)

County	Population 1970	Population 1980	Actual Change	Natural Increase	Net Migration	1970s Migration Rate as a % of 1980 Population	1960s Migration Rate as a % of 1970 Population	Improved in 1970-80 over 1960-70
Nemaha	8,976	8,367	-609	131	-740	-8.8	-3.2	-
Nuckolls	7,404	6,726	-678	-14	-664	-9.9	-14.0	+
Otoe	15,576	15,183	-393	107	-500	-3.3	-10.4	+
Pawnee	4,473	3,937	-536	-208	-328	-8.3	-16.1	+
Perkins	3,423	3,637	214	155	59	1.6	-28.3	+
Phelps	9,553	9,769	216	242	-26	-0.3	-7.6	+
Pierce	8,493	8,481	-12	304	-316	-3.7	-9.5	+
Platte	26,544	28,852	2,308	2,630	-322	-1.1	-3.4	+
Polk	6,468	6,320	-148	-28	-120	-1.9	-14.5	+
Red Willow	12,191	12,615	424	610	-186	-1.5	-16.2	+
Richardson	12,277	11,315	-962	-429	-533	-4.7	-14.5	+
Rock	2,231	2,383	152	82	70	2.9	-22.7	+
Saline	12,809	13,131	322	-108	430	3.3	1.7	+
Sarpy	66,200	86,015	19,815	12,043	7,772	9.0	36.3	-
Saunders	17,018	18,716	1,698	526	1,172	6.3	7.0	-
Scotts Bluff	36,432	38,344	1,912	3,214	-1,302	-3.4	-4.7	+
Seward	14,460	15,789	1,329	653	676	4.3	1.1	+
Sheridan	7,285	7,544	259	286	-27	-0.4	-31.1	+
Sherman	4,725	4,226	-499	66	-565	-13.4	-20.8	+
Sioux	2,034	1,845	-189	98	-287	-15.6	-32.2	+
Stanton	5,758	6,549	791	454	337	5.1	-7.4	+
Thayer	7,779	7,582	-197	-149	-48	-0.6	-17.0	+
Thomas	954	973	19	49	-30	-3.1	-17.3	+
Thurston	6,942	7,186	244	480	-236	-3.3	-17.3	+
Valley	5,783	5,633	-150	-14	-136	-2.4	-16.2	+
Washington	13,310	15,508	2,198	736	1,462	9.4	3.6	+
Wayne	10,400	9,858	-542	352	-894	-9.1	-3.2	-
Webster	5,396	4,858	-538	-276	-262	-5.4	-13.8	+
Wheeler	1,051	1,060	9	82	-73	-6.9	-36.2	+
York	13,685	14,798	1,113	617	496	3.4	-4.7	+
Total:	1,485,333	1,570,006	84,673	97,289	-12,616	-0.8	-4.8	80 Improved

(continued from page 1) first net in-migration recorded in more than 40 years.

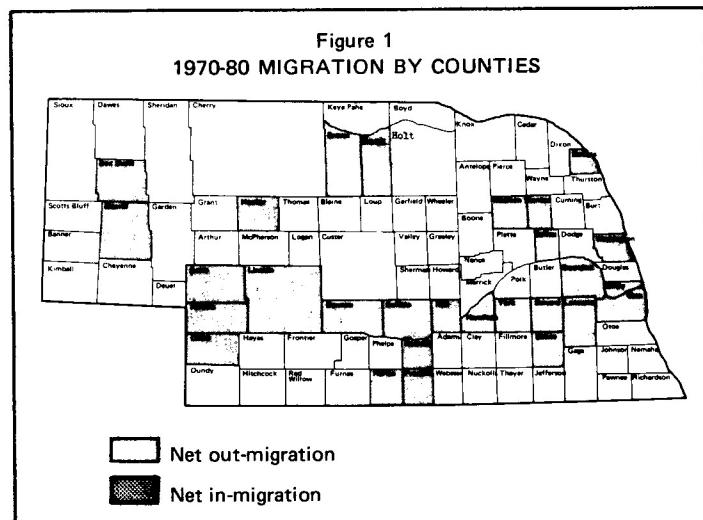
Of the 65 counties with a net out-migration during the 1970-80 census period, 61 have had net out-migration in each of the census periods since 1940. In most cases, however, these counties had a lower out-migration rate in the 1970-80 period than in the previous census periods. Some of the counties with relatively large net out-migration rates in the 1970-80 period were Kimball, -30.5 percent; Grant, -25.8 percent; Arthur, -23.8 percent; Banner, -20.9 percent; Hayes, -19.5 percent; Cedar, -17.2 percent; Greeley, -16.8 percent; Sioux, -15.6 percent; Boone, -13.4 percent; Sherman, -13.4 percent; Frontier, -12.4 percent; and Boyd, -12.2 percent.

COUNTY MIGRATION IN THE 1970s

With Figure 1, the geographic relationship of net migration by counties can be seen. One of the striking features of Figure 1 is the large number of counties with net in-migration located along the Interstate system. Other areas of net in-migration were Box Butte and Morrill counties in the northwest; Perkins and Chase counties in the southwest; Brown and Rock counties in the north; Kearney, Harlan, and Franklin counties in the south; and Colfax, Dakota, Madison, Stanton, and Washington counties in the northeast part of the state. Counties with net out-migration are still mainly concentrated in the more rural portions of the state.

It is not too surprising that counties along the Interstate would be more likely to experience in-migration. Increased access and

retailing activity brought about by the Interstate has undoubtedly increased employment opportunities in these counties. In addition, most of these counties have cities with populations in excess of 5,000. The increased use of capital equipment in agriculture has perhaps meant that cities of this size are increasingly serving as production, outlet, and service centers for surrounding rural areas. (continued on page 6)



Review and Outlook

The Nebraska economy declined in February with the physical volume index recording a decline of 1.3%. The February decline nearly offset the increase in the index recorded in January 1981. Agriculture was up 0.5% in February, while the nonagriculture sector was down 1.5%.

In February, Nebraska cash farm marketing receipts totaled \$464 million. This was down from January and down from February 1980 by more than \$83 million. Despite this decline from year-previous levels, the index was up when seasonal factors were taken into account.

Cash farm marketing receipts nationally were \$9.6 billion in February 1981 (unadjusted for seasonal variations). For the

United States, cash farm marketing receipts for February 1981 were 1% below year-previous levels.

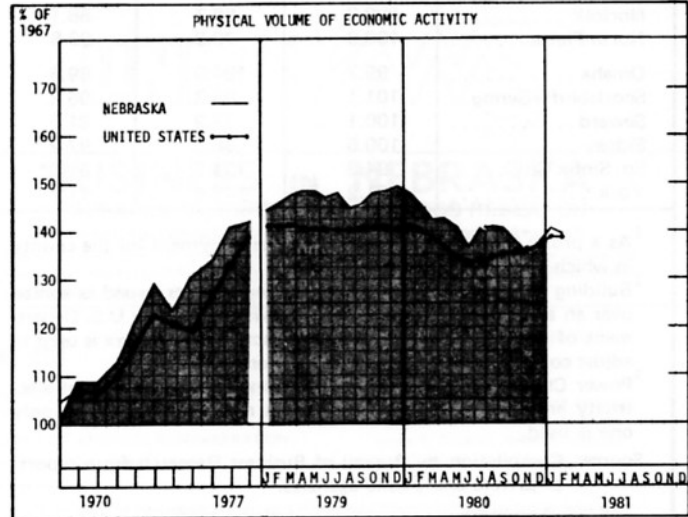
Construction recorded a sharp advance January 1981-February 1981, the Nebraska index increasing 8.7%. The construction component of the economy has moved up each month since bottoming in June of 1980. The physical volume of output index is now up 55% above the June 1980 low. Although up from this June 1980 low, the construction index remains approximately 10% below the February 1979 level. Construction remains substantially below peak levels recorded during the 1970s, despite the favorable trend during the past eight months.

Manufacturing was one of the sectors where output declined January-February 1981. (continued on page 5)

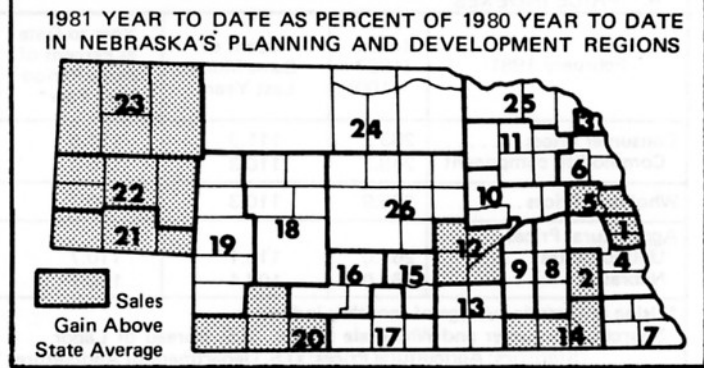
Notes for Tables 1 and 2: (1) The "distributive" indicator represents a composite of wholesale and retail trade; transportation, communication and utilities; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. (2) The "physical volume" indicator and its components represent the dollar volume 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				
February 1981	Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year		1981 Year to Date as Percent of 1980 Year to Date	
	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	104.4	108.6	105.3	108.6
Agricultural	93.9	99.0	97.0	105.2
Nonagricultural	106.0	108.9	106.5	108.8
Construction	128.2	101.5	119.9	101.2
Manufacturing	100.4	106.5	102.4	107.1
Distributive	106.3	111.0	106.7	110.4
Government	106.9	108.2	107.7	108.2
Physical Volume	94.9	98.5	95.3	98.3
Agricultural	87.4	89.9	89.7	94.9
Nonagricultural	96.0	98.8	96.1	98.4
Construction	121.5	96.2	112.4	94.9
Manufacturing	91.6	96.7	92.9	96.7
Distributive	95.5	99.7	95.7	99.0
Government	99.7	100.4	99.8	100.6
2. CHANGE FROM 1967				
Indicator	Percent of 1967 Average			
	Nebraska	U.S.		
Dollar Volume	356.2	346.1		
Agricultural	318.8	315.6		
Nonagricultural	361.6	347.1		
Construction	317.7	336.2		
Manufacturing	368.7	311.4		
Distributive	367.7	372.9		
Government	360.7	327.3		
Physical Volume	139.2	138.2		
Agricultural	122.2	120.9		
Nonagricultural	141.7	138.7		
Construction	103.5	109.5		
Manufacturing	160.7	133.3		
Distributive	139.7	141.7		
Government	146.1	150.3		

3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES OF NEBRASKA REGIONS AND CITIES (Adjusted for Price Changes)			
Region Number and City	City Sales*	Sales in Region*	
	Feb. 1981 as percent of Feb. 1980	Feb. 1981 as percent of Feb. 1980	Year to date '81 as percent of Year to date '80
<i>The State</i>	93.7	92.9	97.2
1 Omaha	97.6	97.6	101.5
Bellevue	104.0		
2 Lincoln	95.6	95.0	99.8
3 So. Sioux City	102.7	98.6	94.3
4 Nebraska City	104.9	91.4	96.2
5 Fremont	104.2	99.0	99.9
Blair	92.6		
6 West Point	96.8	84.8	88.4
7 Falls City	83.5	87.6	92.1
8 Seward	85.8	86.3	97.0
9 York	83.1	84.5	87.7
10 Columbus	72.7	79.5	92.8
11 Norfolk	95.2	92.2	91.2
Wayne	84.6		
12 Grand Island	101.3	98.9	99.9
13 Hastings	96.4	94.7	95.1
14 Beatrice	91.1	91.6	98.5
Fairbury	77.7		
15 Kearney	95.4	97.3	97.7
16 Lexington	109.3	98.9	94.5
17 Holdrege	101.8	93.0	95.4
18 North Platte	97.4	96.0	92.4
19 Ogallala	120.3	110.5	97.0
20 McCook	101.5	102.3	107.0
21 Sidney	104.5	106.4	105.0
Kimball	129.0		
22 Scottsbluff/Gering	99.8	99.1	98.8
23 Alliance	109.2	101.2	101.0
Chadron	132.8		
24 O'Neill	97.9	97.1	90.3
25 Hartington	82.1	86.6	88.0
26 Broken Bow	95.3	84.6	85.4



*State totals include sales not allocated to cities or regions. The year-to-year ratios for city and region sales may be misleading because of changes in the portion of unallocated sales. Region totals include, and city totals exclude, motor vehicle sales. Sales are those on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state. Compiled from data provided by Nebraska Department of Revenue.



(continued from page 4) The physical volume index was down 1.1% and is little changed from the August 1980 trough. Nebraska's physical volume output from the manufacturing sector expanded from September through December and has declined slightly since December 1980. The index is down 8.4% from February 1980 levels.

The distributive trade sector recorded a 2.7% drop in physical volume output during the interval January-February 1981. The state index increased sharply in January 1981 but fell back in February. Activity in the distributive trade sector remains below year-previous levels. The February reading places the physical volume output index for the distributive trade sector at its lowest point since June 1980.

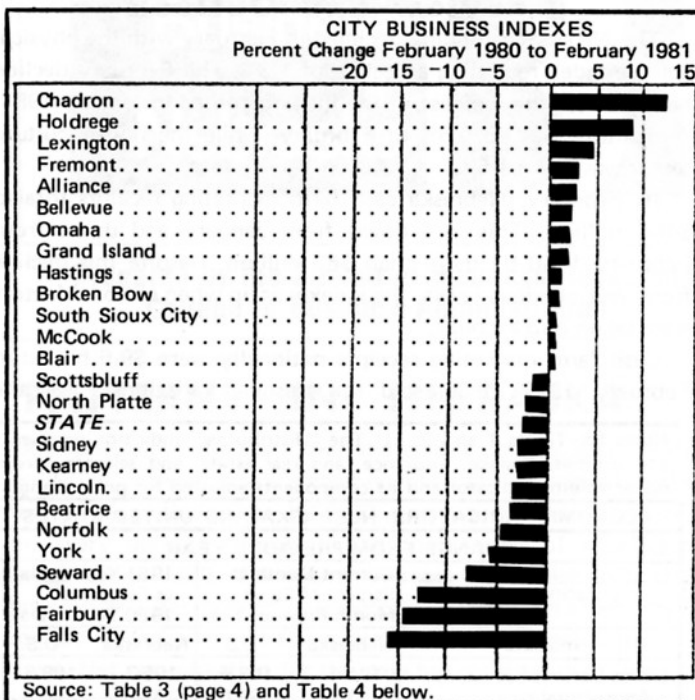
The government sector recorded a slight increase in output in February 1981, the index of physical activity increasing 0.2%. This index has moved within very narrow limits during the past two years, and the February reading did not deviate from that trend.

Nebraska retail sales were up on a dollar volume basis in February 1981 but down in real terms. Total retail sales were approximately \$652 million in February 1981 compared with \$636 million in February 1980. Motor vehicle sales totaled approximately \$60 million in February 1981 compared with \$63 million in February 1980, while nonmotor vehicle sales in Nebraska were \$592 million in February 1981 compared with \$573 million a year earlier. Nonmotor vehicle sales were up 3.3% on a dollar-volume basis, while motor vehicle sales were down 5.2%. Overall, all retail sales were up 2.5% unadjusted for price changes.

In February 1981, the commodity component of the Consumer Price Index was up 10.3% compared with year-previous levels. When allowances are made for price increases, retail sales declined approximately 0.4% January-February 1981. On a year-to-date basis, retail sales in 1981 are running 1.6% below 1980 levels (real retail sales).

Some Nebraska cities recorded substantial gains in real retail sales in February 1981 compared with year-previous levels. Chadron, for instance, recorded an increase of 32.8%, while Kimball recorded an increase of 29%. With a 20.3% increase, Ogallala should also be included in the list of cities recording sharp gains in retail sales in February. Other notable gains in real retail sales include Lexington with an increase of 9.3%; Alliance, 9.2%; Sidney, 4.5%; Nebraska City, 4.9%; Fremont, 4.2%; and Bellevue, 4.0%.

The city business indexes reflect the trends evident in the retail sales statistics. Chadron recorded the largest increase, 12.7%; followed by Holdrege, 8.7%; and Lexington, 4.4%. D. E. P.



4. FEBRUARY CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

The State and Its Trading Centers	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago		
	Employment ¹	Building Activity ²	Power Consumption ³
<i>The State</i>	100.2	112.0	89.8
Alliance	102.9	55.2	98.1
Beatrice	99.5	100.9	80.7
Bellevue	99.7	111.7	99.6*
Blair	99.9	202.1	94.3
Broken Bow	100.5	160.0	87.3
Chadron	99.5	70.9	104.0
Columbus	100.5	66.9	90.8
Fairbury	101.3	33.7	81.2
Falls City	100.9	14.1	85.9
Fremont	103.2	86.5	94.8*
Grand Island	100.2	130.5	98.6
Hastings	102.0	142.6	70.8
Holdrege	100.1	506.1	101.4
Kearney	101.1	80.3	94.3
Lexington	100.8	97.4	80.4
Lincoln	98.3	89.0	84.2
McCook	100.8	84.1	96.1
Nebraska City	NA	NA	NA
Norfolk	100.2	56.7	88.1
North Platte	100.9	79.0	93.6
Omaha	99.7	194.0	89.6
Scottsbluff/Gering	101.1	84.3	95.8
Seward	100.1	73.2	81.5
Sidney	100.5	38.0	97.2
So. Sioux City	94.8	131.7	81.5*
York	101.2	147.4	71.7

¹As a proxy for city employment, total employment for the county in which a city is located is used.

²Building Activity is the value of building permits issued as spread over an appropriate time period of construction. The U.S. Department of Commerce Composite Construction Cost Index is used to adjust construction activity for price changes.

³Power Consumption is a combined index of consumption of electricity and natural gas except in cases marked * for which only one is used.

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

5. PRICE INDEXES

February 1981	Index (1967 = 100)	Percent of Same Month Last Year	Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year*
Consumer Prices	263.2	111.3	111.5
Commodity component	248.3	110.3	110.3
Wholesale Prices	286.9	110.3	110.7
Agricultural Prices			
United States	261.0	110.1	110.7
Nebraska	261.0	107.4	108.1

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

(continued from page 3)

Box Butte County, in the west, had the highest rate of net in-migration in the state, largely attributable to the Burlington and Northern development in Alliance. During the 1970-80 census period, the city of Alliance experienced a net in-migration of just over 2,500 people, a net in-migration rate of almost 26 percent.

Several of the more rural counties also experienced net in-migration in the 1970s. The development of irrigation in Perkins and Chase counties in the southwest and Brown and Rock counties in the north was perhaps an important factor in their improved migration figures. One might logically ask whether this migration development has caused a movement back to the farm or a movement to the towns within these counties which sell and service agriculturally related equipment. Since vital statistics are not published for smaller towns, migration figures for the farm and non-farm populations could not be determined. Other data give mixed indications. The total number of people living outside of incorporated towns increased significantly in Chase and Rock counties, slightly in Brown County, and decreased slightly in Perkins County during the 1970-80 period. Between 1969-78, the total number of farms selling more than \$2,500 per year in crops and livestock increased in Chase, Perkins, and Rock counties, but fell in Brown County. The impact of irrigation development on migration in these counties, however, is somewhat tempered by the fact that Dundy and Holt counties, which have also experienced recent irrigation development, had a net out-migration during the same period.

Some of the other more rural counties which experienced in-migration were Franklin, Kearney, and Harlan in the south and Hooker in the Sandhills. This happened despite the fact that Franklin and Harlan counties experienced declines in population over the census period, that is, net in-migration was exceeded by the natural decrease (births minus deaths) in population. One can only guess that in these counties the out-migration of earlier census periods has substantially diminished the child-bearing cohort, causing natural decreases in population and leaving an aging population with less incentives to move. This would seem to characterize many of the southern tier of counties, which have experienced natural decreases in population over the 1970-80 period. In Hooker County, Mullen was likely the recipient of most

of the in-migration, since it gained population over the 1970-80 period while the rest of the county remained stable. In any case, because the numbers are small in the rural counties mentioned above, trend interpretations for individual counties should be viewed with caution.

The in-migration of Madison, Stanton, and Dakota counties in the northeast are most likely related to the prosperity and development of the Norfolk and South Sioux City regions. Norfolk and South Sioux City had a net in-migration rate of +9.2 percent and +4.7 percent, respectively, over the 1970-80 period.

Although Douglas County experienced a net out-migration in the 1970s, the counties surrounding Douglas had significant in-migration over the same period. Much of this migration into Cass, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington counties is likely due to the increased desire of people who work in urban areas to live in a rural setting. Within the counties just mentioned, major population increases in the 1970s occurred in areas bordering Douglas, Lancaster, and Dodge counties.

The net out-migration in Douglas County during the 1970s continued a phenomenon which began in the 1960s. Although net migration figures for areas within Douglas County are imprecise due to annexation, it is interesting to note that these figures show a considerable in-migration in areas outside of Omaha. This in-migration is, of course, more than offset by Omaha's net out-migration. The reasons for such migration patterns, characteristic of many metropolitan areas in the 1970s, are varied and complex, including not only economic, but other social forces as well.

Kimball County experienced the highest rate of net out-migration during the 1970s, largely due to circumstances peculiar to the county. During the 1950s and early 1960s, the discovery of oil and the installation of defense missiles resulted in a large influx of people. Outmigration in the late 1960s followed this initial development stage and has continued into the 1970s.

Overall, 1970-1980 has been a period when net out-migration from the state has nearly ceased, and a period when a significant number of counties have reversed a long trend of net out-migration. To the extent that migration is an indication of the changing economic and social vitality of an area, these figures should be viewed with cautious optimism.

LYNN NEJEZCHLEB

UNL News

BUSINESS IN NEBRASKA

PREPARED BY BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
Member, Association for University Business & Economic Research

Business in Nebraska is issued monthly as a public service and mailed free within the State upon request to 200 CBA, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 68588. Material herein may be reproduced with proper credit.

No. 441 June 1981

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN
Robert H. Rutford, *Interim Chancellor*
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
Gary Schwendiman, *Dean*

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
Donald E. Pursell, *Director*
Charles L. Bare, *Statistician*
Jerome A. Deichert, *Research Associate*
Anne M. Ralston, *Research Associate*
James R. Schmidt, *Research Associate*
Jean T. Keefe, *Editorial Assistant*

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln does not discriminate in its academic, admissions, or employment programs and abides by all federal regulations pertaining to same.

Postmaster: Send address changes to publishing address.

Publications Services & Control
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Nebraska Hall—City Campus
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588