

NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE IN 1969 AND 1974

A comparison of selected aspects of Nebraska's agriculture in 1969 with those in 1974 is to be found in the preliminary 1974 Census of Agriculture.¹ Comparison of the 1974 situation with that of 1969 does not, of course, represent a complete analysis of the long-run developments in the state's agricultural sector. The nature of agriculture—with its mobility of land among various uses—also prevents any differences in the structure of land usage (as shown by a comparison of the 1974 and 1969 situations) from being taken as a permanent change. Land in the "cropland-harvested" category, for example, may have changed in amount simply as a result of a short-run shift of land out of or into such a use as "cropland for pasture." Even so, analysis of the two situations gives information useful in understanding the changes in the level and structure of overall economic activity in the state, as well as that in the agricultural sector specifically.

In 1969 there were 72,257 farms in the state, averaging 634 acres per farm; by 1974, the number was down to 68,973, with the average acreage up to 672 (Table 1). Total land in farms was

By far the predominant usage of farm acreages in the state in both 1969 and 1974 was for cropland farming. As seen in the following tabulation, the acreages used for various purposes were

Land in Farms According to Use		1969	1974	Percent Change
Cropland, total	Farms	67,197	63,518	-5.5
	Acres	22,222,858	22,141,139	-0.4
Cropland harvested.	Farms	64,699	60,670	-6.2
	Acres	14,022,810	16,116,338	+14.9
Cropland for pasture only.	Farms	31,501	29,723	-5.6
	Acres	2,461,216	3,382,868	+37.4
All other cropland ¹	Farms	47,624	21,207	-55.5
	Acres	5,738,832	2,641,933	-54.0
Woodland and woodland pasture	Farms	9,908	8,247	-16.8
	Acres	489,712	541,781	+10.6
All other land	Farms	63,467	57,409	-9.6
	Acres	23,121,383	23,688,212	+2.4

¹ Includes acreages in soil improvement, summer fallow, failed crops, and other idle cropland.

markedly different in the two years. In both 1969 and 1974, the total acreage in cropland was about the same, at about 22 million acres, or 48 percent of all land in farms. The portion of all cropland in harvested crops increased, however, from 63 percent in 1969 to 73 percent in 1974. This increase in acreage occurred, moreover, while the number of farms in the cropland-harvested category fell by 6 percent. Thus, a considerable increase in the scale of operations occurred in those farms that were oriented increasingly to harvestable crops.

At the time of several recent censuses there had been a large, although decreasing, number of farms that did not produce a significant quantity of agricultural products for sale. These farms comprised 6 percent of the total number of farms, yet had less than 1 percent of the total dollar sales. By 1974 many of these farms had either increased their sales to above \$1,000 or had dropped out of existence, leaving 1,631 farms, or 2 percent of all farms, with less than \$1,000 in sales.

Over the five-year period there was a marked rise in the value of agricultural products sold: from \$2.1 billion in 1969 to 3.7 billion in 1974, or an increase of about 72 percent. By far the greatest contributor to this expanded dollar volume of sales was a jump in sales of crops, including nursery products and hay, from \$0.5 billion to \$1.5 billion. Sales of livestock, poultry, and their products rose, also not inconsequentially, from \$1.6 billion to \$2.2 billion, or by about 34 percent.

As is well known, prices of agricultural products have risen considerably—especially in the case of crops—and have been the factor contributing most to the marked rises in the dollar volumes of farm products sold. Data available elsewhere show that the indexes of prices received by

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Table 1
SELECTED NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL ITEMS
1969 and 1974

	1969	1974
All farms (number)	72,257	68,973
Land in farms (acres)	45,833,953	46,371,132
Average size of farm (acres)	634	672
Total cropland (farms)	67,197	63,518
Acres	22,222,858	22,141,139
	(number)	
Cattle and calves, Inventory	6,131,577	6,193,029
Hogs and pigs, Inventory	2,914,892	2,646,549
Chickens 3 months or older, Inventory	3,967,498	3,430,029
	(\$000s)	
Value of agricultural products sold	\$2,147,860	\$3,693,721
Crops, incl. nursery products and hay	\$536,263	\$1,542,138
Forest products	\$137	\$170
Livestock, poultry, and products	\$1,611,460	\$2,151,413

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1974 Census of Agriculture, Preliminary Report, Nebraska (Aug., 1976).

reported to have increased from 45.8 million acres in 1969 to 46.4 million in 1974. In 1969, 67,197, or 93 percent of all farms were considered as cropland-only farms; by 1974, the number was down to 63,518, yet still constituted 92 percent of all farms. The decline in farms in noncropland uses was at about the same rate as that of farms in cropland use.

¹The preliminary reports from the 1974 Census of Agriculture became available for Nebraska and its counties in September, 1976; the final reports are not expected to become available until mid-1977.

1976 SPECIAL CENSUSES

During the past year special censuses were conducted in 14 areas in Nebraska, as well as in one county. A special census is a repeat performance of the decennial census of population, and is undertaken to obtain the most accurate, reliable count of population in an area between census dates as is possible. A special census requires extensive advance planning, training of enumerators, preparation of desired questionnaires, not to mention careful data collection, nonresponse follow-up, processing, and tabulation of results.

The final count resulting from a special census, if officially certified by the U.S. Bureau of the Census, replaces any former decennial census figure or estimate which would have been used in federal grant or revenue-sharing allocation formulas, or in any administrative programs which use population as an allocator. Since, in addition to the importance of the census results, the costs of the special census are usually borne by the local government, the outcome of a census can be of real concern to residents of a locality.

The results of special censuses conducted in Nebraska during 1976 are summarized in Table 1. Generalizations from the census results are somewhat hazardous, since localities electing to have special censuses conducted are usually experiencing somewhat abnormal circumstances—such as rapid growth—which prompted the costs of the census to have been considered. A few observations may be made, however. In nearly two-thirds (9) of the 14 areas censused (excluding the Dakota County-wide census), the growth of population from 1970 to 1976 had been more rapid than that of the state (4.55 percent). Of these 9 cities, 6 were estimated to have been growing more rapidly than the state by 1973, the only year for which post-censal population estimates are available for all Nebraska subcounty areas.¹ In three other areas—Terrytown, Blue Hill, and Santee—population was growing more rapidly than the state rate according to the official 1976

counts, while the 1973 estimates had understated the actual growth.

One other city (Jackson) was estimated to have been growing faster than the state by 1973, but the 1976 census, to the contrary, showed it to have been growing more slowly than Nebraska. The 1976 Dakota County-wide census revealed that both South Sioux City and Jackson had grown at rates substantially below those that had been estimated for the 1970-1973 period.

In four of the seven censused areas which were estimated to have had growth rates below that of the state rate (3.18 percent) for 1970 to 1973 (Kearney, Emerson, Milford, and Sidney), the 1976 head-counts confirmed growth rates lagging below those of Nebraska's. Of these four slowly growing cities, however, only Sidney has shown actual declines in the total population since 1970.

In terms of estimated average annual growth rates for 1970 to 1973 compared to actual annual average growth rates for 1970 to 1976 as determined by the census counts, just over half of the places censused (8 out of 14) actually grew faster than had been estimated. Six of the 14 special census areas in Nebraska apparently grew at about the same rate or at rates below those that had been estimated for 1970 to 1973.

Because the date of the 1980 decennial census of population is rapidly approaching, it is not likely that great numbers of special censuses will be undertaken in the remainder of this decade. The results of any censuses which are conducted, however, will be reviewed and reported by the Bureau of Business Research. In addition to the total head-counts obtained from a special census, the Bureau of Business Research also receives detailed tabulations of population

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¹"1973 Population and Per Capita Incomes Estimates for Counties, Incorporated Places, and Selected Minor Civil Divisions in Nebraska," U.S. Bureau of the Census, Series P-25, No. 572 (April, 1975).

Table 1
1976 SPECIAL CENSUS RESULTS

County	Area	1976 Census Date ¹	1976 Census Count	1973 Estimate ²	1970 Census	Percent Change 1970 to		Annual Average Percent Change	
						1976	1973 ²	1970-76	1970-73
Buffalo	Kearney	1-30-76	19,350	19,258	19,181	0.9	0.4	0.2	0.1
Webster	Blue Hill	2-17-76	861	752	784	9.8	-4.2	1.7	-1.3
Seward	Utica	3- 3-76	665	648	602	10.5	7.6	1.8	2.4
Dakota (plus Emerson Village)	County-wide	5-13-76	16,282 ⁴	15,142 ⁴	13,811 ⁴	17.9 ⁴	9.6 ⁴	3.0	3.0
Dakota	So.Sioux City	5-13-76	8,504	8,912	7,920	7.4	12.5	1.2	3.9
Dakota	Dakota City	5-13-76	1,234	1,112	1,057	16.7	5.2	2.8	1.6
Dakota	Emerson (all) ³	5-13-76	874	839	850	2.8	-1.3	0.5	-0.4
Dakota	Homer	5-13-76	531	507	457	16.2	10.9	2.7	3.4
Dakota	Hubbard	5-13-76	207	167	151	37.1	10.6	6.1	3.3
Dakota	Jackson	5-13-76	233	257	232	0.4	10.8	0.1	3.3
Scotts Bluff	Gering	6-29-76	6,680	6,112	5,639	18.5	8.4	3.0	2.6
Scotts Bluff	Terrytown	7-12-76	817	758	747	9.4	1.5	1.5	0.5
Knox	Santee twp.	8-10-76	297	98	101	194.1	-3.0	30.5	-0.9
Seward	Milford	8-13-76	1,906	1,891	1,846	3.3	2.4	0.5	0.8
Cheyenne	Sidney	9- 9-76	6,092	6,239	6,403	-4.9	-2.6	-0.8	-0.8
NEBRASKA		7- 1-76 (estimate date)	1,552,857 (estimate)	1,532,606	1,485,333	4.55	3.18	0.7	1.0

¹May represent "certification" date.

²U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Current Population Reports*, Series P-25, No. 572 (April, 1975).

³Emerson Village lies in three counties: Dakota, Dixon, and Thurston. In 1970, 20.7 percent of Emerson's population was in Dakota County.

⁴Includes all of Emerson Village.

AGRICULTURE

(continued from page 1) farmers in Nebraska rose on the average for crops, by 173 percent; for livestock and poultry, by 36 percent; and for all commodities combined, by 82 percent.²

There was, of course, a considerable increase in the physical volumes of certain of the crops harvested, while others were reported to have declined. The following tabulation points out the major changes in volumes of grains and hay harvested.

Grains and Hay Harvested	1969	1974	% Change
	(millions of bushels)		
Corn	402.6	382.3	-5.0
Sorghums	105.7	58.6	-44.6
Wheat for grain	71.8	89.2	+24.2
Soybeans	20.6	24.8	+20.4
	(millions of tons)		
Hay	6.1	5.8	-4.9

Major changes have occurred also in the volumes of livestock and poultry sold. The physical stock of the various categories of

Livestock and Poultry Sold	1969	1974	% Change
	(millions)		
Cattle and calves	5.4	5.2	-3.7
Hogs and pigs	4.8	4.9	+2.1
	(thousands)		
Sheep and lambs	443.8	241.1	-45.7
Broilers	100.1	107.8	+7.7

livestock and poultry showed no major difference in 1974 from 1969 (see Table 1, page 1). The number of cattle and calves in inventory in 1974 was 6.2 million, which exceeded only slightly the 6.1 million stock of 1969. The number of hogs and pigs dropped from 2.9 million in 1969 to 2.6 million in 1974. Chickens 3 months old or older numbered 3.4 million in 1974 after being 4.0 million in 1969.

From 1969 to 1974 the size distribution of farms changed—as in the past, in the direction of both more large farms and more small farms—during a period when the total number of farms was declining. The number of farms with 1,000 or more acres increased in number by 498, from 12.5 percent of the total number of farms to 13.8 percent. Farms with less than 50 acres rose by 1,006, from 9.7 to 11.7 percent of the total. No explanation is available at this time as to the nature of or cause for the rise in the number of small farms. That there has been a continuation of the well-known past movement toward large-scale farming units is evident from the following tabulation. The proportion of farms with 500 or more acres has increased from about 30 to 32 percent of all farms.

Farms by Size	Number		Percent of Total	
	1969	1974	1969	1974
Under 10 acres	3,968	4,134	5.4	6.0
10 to 49 acres	3,113	3,953	4.3	5.7
50 to 179 acres	14,468	14,039	20.0	20.4
180 to 499 acres	29,380	24,924	40.7	36.1
500 to 999 acres	12,324	12,421	17.1	18.0
1,000 to 1,999 acres	5,495	5,719	7.6	8.3
2,000 and over acres	3,509	3,783	4.9	5.5
Total:	72,257	68,973	100.0	100.0

Another aspect worthy of note is the increase in the extent of irrigation. Thirty-seven percent more land was being irrigated in 1974 than in 1969. The number of farms irrigating had increased

² Post-1974 price declines in crops and lower levels of prices for livestock have combined to reduce the all-commodities price level, yet not by such an extent as to completely wipe out the price gains of 1973 and 1974.

by only about 4 percent, however. Of all land in farms, the proportion that was irrigated rose from 6.2 percent to 8.4 percent,

Number of Farms		Acres		Percent of Total			
1969	1974	1969	1974	1969	1974	1969	1974
<i>All land in farms:</i>							
72,257	68,973	45,833,553	46,371,132	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<i>Irrigated land in farms:</i>							
19,440	20,132	2,857,247	3,918,325	26.9	29.0	6.2	8.4

while the proportion of all farms irrigating increased from 26.9 to 29.0 percent. Thus, irrigation continued to become increasingly important in the state's agricultural sector.

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CENSUSES

(continued from page 2) and housing characteristics (age, sex, race, number of vacant housing units, and the like) down to the smallest geographic level of detail (enumeration districts) for each special census. Interested data users may contact the Bureau of Business Research for access to the detailed special census results.

Local officials interested in conducting a special census are urged to contact the Bureau of Business Research for assistance and consultation. Bureau personnel have had experience in conducting special censuses, experience which can be important in planning and undertaking a special census.

Intercensal head-counts, although not free from the possibility of error, provide accurate, up-to-date population measurements for use by planners, program administrators, researchers, and interested residents of localities.

VICKI S. STEPP

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

A revision of the *Consumer Price Index for Wage Earners and Clerical Workers* (CPI) is almost complete, and first exposure for the revised index will probably occur in the second half of 1977. At the same time, in addition to the traditional CPI, a new price index, the *Consumer Price Index for All Urban Households*, will be published. The revised index and the new index were originally scheduled for publication in April of 1977, but recent communication with Bureau of Labor Statistics officials indicates that a later publication date is more realistic. The revised CPI will utilize more recent survey data on expenditures and, it is hoped, will reduce sampling and measurement errors.

The "market basket" of goods and services currently used for computing the CPI was determined from the *Survey of Consumer Expenditures*, conducted in 1960-61. Basis for the most recent revision of the CPI is the 1972-73 *Consumer Expenditure Survey*. The current "market basket" of 400 precisely specified items will be expanded by probability sampling from a universe of items stratified into expenditure classes. Prices will be collected in 85 urban areas, as compared to the current 56. These areas are selected on the basis of the 1970 census, more accurately representing the present geographic distribution of the population. Monthly or quarterly indexes for cities of different population-size classes will be published.

CHARLES BARE

Review and Outlook

November was generally a good month for the Nebraska economy, with all sectors except agriculture and government showing gains in real output over both the previous month and November of 1975. The state's index of real output (related to 1967) rose from October's revised value of 134.8 to 135.7 in November, and was about 5 percent above its year-earlier level. Data revisions have produced a small increase in the Nebraska economy's year-to-date growth rate.

Aggregate real output for the first eleven months of 1976 was about 5.3 percent above the corresponding period for 1975, as contrasted with the 5.0 percent rate previously reported for the first ten months. The change is due largely to a revision in the

index of prices received for Nebraska farm products, which substantially lowered the estimate of the value of agricultural output in 1975 relative to 1976, and partly to an upward revision in the estimate for wages and salaries in the distributive sector for the second half of 1976.

Developments at the national level were similar in several ways to those in Nebraska. The 5.3 percent year-to-date growth rates for aggregate real output at the end of November were exactly the same for the state and the nation. Total real output for the U.S. and for the state both were 5.2 percent above November, 1975, and the October-to-November growth rates, too, were nearly equal. In both instances, the nonagricultural sectors generally showed increases from October,

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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				
November, 1976	Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year		1976 Year to Date as Percent of 1975 Year to Date	
	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Indicator				
Dollar Volume	106.9	110.0	109.6	110.9
Agricultural	76.7	96.4	97.8	107.2
Nonagricultural	113.2	110.6	112.0	111.1
Construction	144.4	108.8	113.4	109.7
Manufacturing	113.6	111.6	110.4	112.7
Distributive	112.8	110.8	112.9	111.0
Government	104.9	108.1	109.8	108.5
Physical Volume	105.2	105.2	105.3	105.3
Agricultural	90.9	102.4	103.7	106.5
Nonagricultural	107.8	105.3	105.6	105.3
Construction	137.2	103.4	108.5	105.2
Manufacturing	110.9	107.0	107.4	107.8
Distributive	107.5	105.6	106.7	104.9
Government	96.4	101.3	97.7	102.2

2. CHANGE FROM 1967		
Indicator	Percent of 1967 Average	
	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	240.8	221.3
Agricultural	202.8	210.0
Nonagricultural	247.4	221.7
Construction	262.7	187.2
Manufacturing	265.9	207.6
Distributive	240.9	229.2
Government	243.1	236.7
Physical Volume	135.7	125.1
Agricultural	120.7	117.3
Nonagricultural	138.2	125.4
Construction	130.7	93.1
Manufacturing	145.0	114.1
Distributive	138.6	131.9
Government	129.7	137.2

3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES OF NEBRASKA REGIONS AND CITIES (Adjusted for Price Changes)

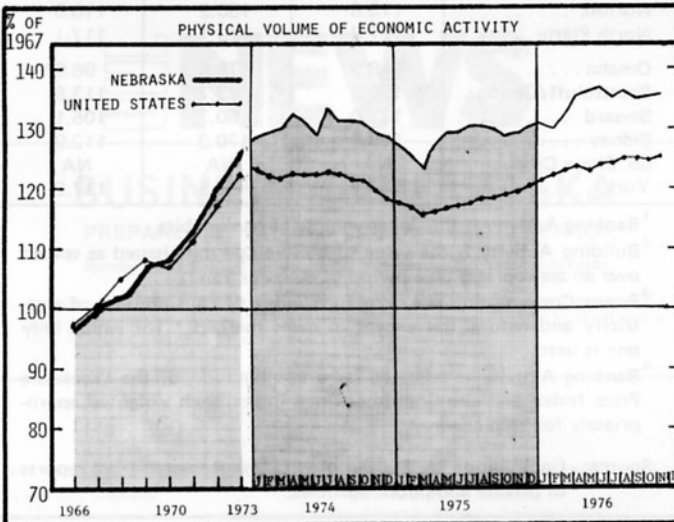
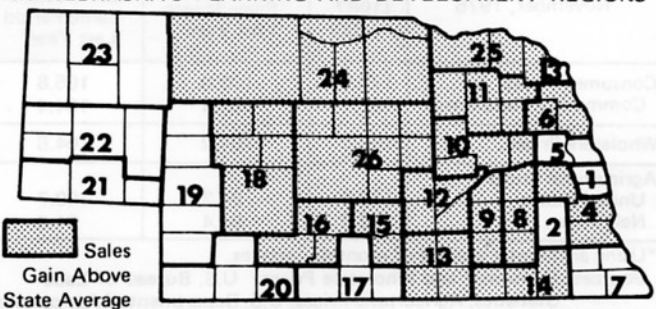
Region Number ¹ and City	City Sales ²	Sales in Region ²	
	Nov., 1976 as percent of Nov., 1975	Nov., 1976 as percent of Nov., 1975	Year to date '76 as percent of Year to date '75
<i>The State</i>	106.7	109.2	110.1
1 Omaha	102.9	105.5	107.5
Bellevue	97.5		
2 Lincoln	106.7	109.6	108.8
3 So. Sioux City	112.1	111.3	110.1
4 Nebraska City	122.3	114.2	110.7
5 Fremont	110.5	108.9	109.1
Blair	104.3		
6 West Point	105.3	109.7	111.9
7 Falls City	96.7	104.9	105.4
8 Seward	108.6	114.3	112.5
9 York	109.2	102.6	112.9
10 Columbus	105.2	112.7	116.3
11 Norfolk	122.5	120.4	116.1
12 Grand Island	105.6	110.2	111.2
13 Hastings	115.5	111.7	110.5
14 Beatrice	109.2	108.5	112.4
Fairbury	116.1		
15 Kearney	109.1	107.6	117.0
16 Lexington	127.1	114.2	114.8
17 Holdrege	104.0	102.0	104.6
18 North Platte	126.2	127.1	117.3
19 Ogallala	111.9	99.4	102.5
20 McCook	106.4	104.9	106.7
21 Sidney	91.1	104.2	101.7
Kimball	103.9		
22 Scottsbluff/Gering	102.9	106.0	105.5
23 Alliance	111.5	112.8	108.5
Chadron	113.8		
24 O'Neill	117.6	127.9	123.7
25 Hartington	90.6	109.0	116.7
26 Broken Bow	109.2	117.0	117.3

¹See region map below.

²Sales on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state. Region totals include motor vehicle sales; city totals exclude motor vehicle sales.

Compiled from data provided by Nebraska Department of Revenue.

1976 YEAR TO DATE AS PERCENT OF 1975 YEAR TO DATE IN NEBRASKA'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



(Continued from page 4) with agricultural output declining.

The 1976 data on cash receipts from marketings of farm products have been revised for both Nebraska and the U.S., as have the Nebraska series on prices received for farm products.¹ Revisions in the 1975 Nebraska farm prices index produced an increase in the 1976 year-to-date physical volume of agricultural output of about 1 percent. The combined effect of the Nebraska cash receipts and agricultural prices series revisions was to alter the 1976 monthly pattern of the agricultural activity indexes so that for each month from July through November the physical volume of agricultural output is lower than in the corresponding month of 1975. In November, the index was about 9 percent below its year-earlier value. For the eleven months ending in November, real agricultural output for the state was 3.7 percent above that for the corresponding period of 1975, whereas national agricultural output rose about 6.5 percent.

Construction activity continued to show marked improvement over the previous year. The residential and nonbuilding construction components (especially power plant construction) continued to supply the impetus which pushed Nebraska's physical volume of construction for the first eleven months of the year 8.5 percent above that for the previous year, compared with an increase of 5.2 percent in the national construction index. The state's non-residential construction component continued to lag somewhat behind levels reached in 1975.

Lack of current data on one of the indicators used to estimate manufacturing output lends an element of uncertainty to the manufacturing sector index, but, based on the behavior of manufacturing employment alone, it seems likely that Nebraska's manufacturing output increased at least slightly from its October level.

Employment increases in retail trade, combined with good retail sales performance, pushed the physical volume index for Nebraska's distributive sector for November nearly 2 percent above October and 7.5 percent above its level in November, 1975. On a seasonally adjusted basis, employment in the distributive sector was 4.2 percent above the previous November level. Retail sales, adjusted for price changes, were 9.2 percent above November, 1975, for the state, and Lexington, North Platte, Norfolk, and Nebraska City each had increases in excess of 20 percent. Improvements over 1975 in retail sales, construction, and banking activity have kept North Platte's city business index at the top of the list since September.

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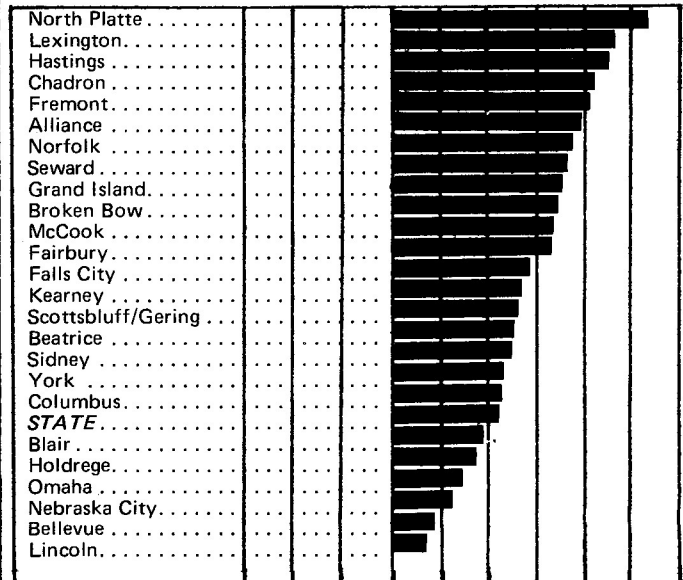
¹The data on U.S. and Nebraska agricultural prices in Table 5 are not directly comparable with values published previously. The Nebraska data have been revised back to January, 1956. Both the Nebraska and U.S. price data are reported in seasonally adjusted form in Table 5, and updated seasonal factors have been applied.

5. PRICE INDEXES

November, 1976	Index (1967 = 100)	Percent of Same Month Last Year	Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year*
Consumer Prices	173.8	105.0	105.8
Commodity component	167.7	103.4	104.4
Wholesale Prices	185.6	104.2	104.6
Agricultural Prices			
United States	179.0	94.2	100.7
Nebraska	168.0	84.4	94.6

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

CITY BUSINESS INDEXES
Percent Change Nov. 1975 to Nov. 1976



Source: Table 4 below.

4. NOVEMBER CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

The State and Its Trading Centers	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago		
	Banking Activity ¹ (Adjusted for Price Changes) ⁴	Building Activity ²	Power Consumption ³
<i>The State</i>	117.2	123.1	107.4
Alliance	120.8	349.1	115.6
Beatrice	112.2	191.0	110.8
Bellevue	110.9	104.3	112.4*
Blair	118.7	66.3	120.5
Broken Bow	116.5	285.2	124.5
Chadron	126.4	292.4	101.7
Columbus	127.0	53.6	110.9
Fairbury	118.3	160.6	108.3*
Falls City	136.1	79.4	122.8
Fremont	127.8	136.4	134.7*
Grand Island	122.9	226.0	127.6
Hastings	135.2	111.5	120.8
Holdrege	110.6	97.1	128.0
Kearney	124.7	62.2	122.9
Lexington	106.3	408.5	137.5
Lincoln	100.5	108.6	103.2
McCook	129.1	152.4	106.6
Nebraska City	93.7	87.3	106.6
Norfolk	115.6	160.2	116.5
North Platte	127.3	229.1	117.1
Omaha	118.6	78.5	96.0*
Scottsbluff/Gering	130.2	73.7	113.8
Seward	131.0	160.7	105.1
Sidney	119.8	470.3	112.9
So. Sioux City	NA	NA	NA
York	117.2	82.5	117.2

¹Banking Activity is the dollar volume of bank debits.
²Building Activity is the value of building permits issued as spread over an appropriate time period of construction.
³Power Consumption is a combined index of consumption of electricity and natural gas except in cases marked * for which only one is used.
⁴Banking Activity is adjusted by a combination of the Wholesale Price Index and the Consumer Price Index, each weighted appropriately for each city.

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

Dr. Donald E. Pursell coauthored an article, "Evaluation of Trade Readjustment Assistance to Workers: A Case Study," in the December issue of *Social Science Quarterly*, which examined the effects of trade readjustment assistance on employees. The Trade Expansion Act provided assistance to workers who lost their jobs due to foreign trade expansion. Workers losing jobs were defined under the act as impacted workers and were entitled to a series of special benefits. The different types of benefits or adjustment assistance include: (1) trade readjustment allowances, (2) services from the state employment service office, (3) training and job counseling, (4) job search allowance, and (5) relocation allowance. The trade readjustment allowance paid to workers adversely affected by foreign trade was more than that paid under normal unemployment insurance. The weekly benefits were larger and the period an employer could accept the benefits was extended. The study sample consisted of workers in a large electronics plant in a southern Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area.

The results of the work indicate that extending the eligibility period and increasing the weekly allowance had an adverse impact upon reemployment prospects. Females were the most likely group to substitute leisure for serious job search. Many of the

employees discovered a loophole in the legislation, and extended their period of accepting benefits from 52 weeks to 78 weeks. The effects of the impacted worker provision, while helping many workers adjust to their unemployed status, probably had the opposite impact from that intended, in that it reduced the employability of some former electronics employees after a long period of unemployment.

The study's conclusions are supported by other researchers. There seems to be an emerging position that reducing the number of weeks an employee is eligible for unemployment benefits would put more people back into the labor force and reduce our overall unemployment rate. The National Manpower Policy Advisory Committee recently recommended to the President that the period of eligibility for unemployment benefits be reduced to 26 weeks from the present 65. The results of the Pursell study would confirm this recommendation. It seems that we have moved away from the original concept of unemployment insurance. The original concept provided for unemployment insurance to assist persons who lose their jobs through no fault of their own. The legislation was never intended to become a means of support for persons seeking temporary withdrawal from the labor force.

Correction to Table 1, *Business in Nebraska* 56, No. 9 (November, 1976), p. 2.

Table 1
STATE AND LOCAL REVENUE PER CAPITA
1957, 1967, 1973

State	1957		1967		1973		Percent Change 1957-73	1973 Income per \$1 of State and Local Tax
	Dollar Amount	Rank	Dollar Amount	Rank	Dollar Amount	Rank		
Nebraska	\$144	6	\$272	6	\$ 503	5	349%	\$10.44
Wyoming	193	1	366	1	534	2	277	9.26
Colorado	189	2	347	2	543	1	287	9.46
Iowa	180	3	328	3	530	3	294	10.08
South Dakota	169	5	288	5	496	6	293	9.99
Kansas	173	4	315	4	517	4	299	10.21
Missouri	132	7	260	7	473	7	358	10.14
United States	169	---	310	---	577	--	341	8.75

Source: Tax Foundation, *Facts and Figures on Government Finance*, 14th, 15th, and 18th Biennial Editions; Tables 22 and 117, 18th Biennial Edition.

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