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The Economic Performance of Nebraska's Remote Rural Counties

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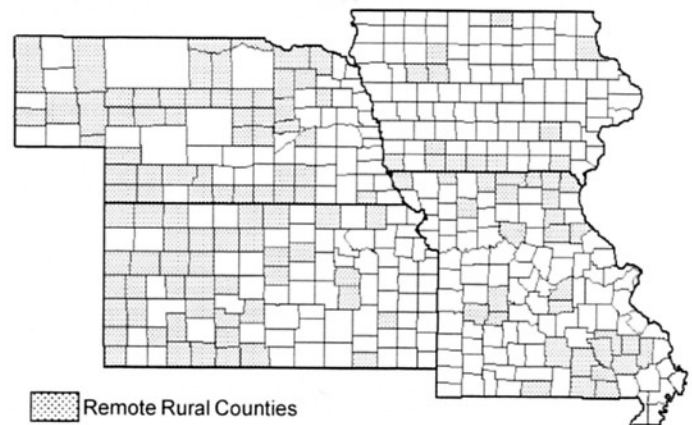
Rural economies in the Midwest have struggled while the national economy continues to set records. The most remote rural counties in Nebraska and its neighboring states have fallen further behind the region's urban counties. For example, per capita personal income levels in remote rural counties have lagged behind the region's urban counties. Job growth in remote rural counties has been very sluggish compared to the rest of the region. The economic performance of Nebraska's remote rural counties has been similar to other sparsely populated states dependent on agriculture.

This article focuses on Nebraska's remote rural counties and examines their economic performance from 1985 to 1997. Detailed employment data by industry from 1988 to 1996 were used. Comparisons were made with the remainder of Nebraska and remote rural counties in Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri. Remote rural counties are defined as nonrecreational counties¹ that are not adjacent to a metro county and have fewer than 2,500 urban residents.

Nebraska's Remote Rural Counties Compared to the Rest of the State

Half of Nebraska's land area is classified as remote rural and 48 of Nebraska's 93 counties are in this class (Figure 1). The definition of remote rural counties, based on the number of urban residents excludes some counties with low population densities (e.g., Cherry County). The economic

Figure 1
Remote Rural Counties, Nebraska and Its Neighbors



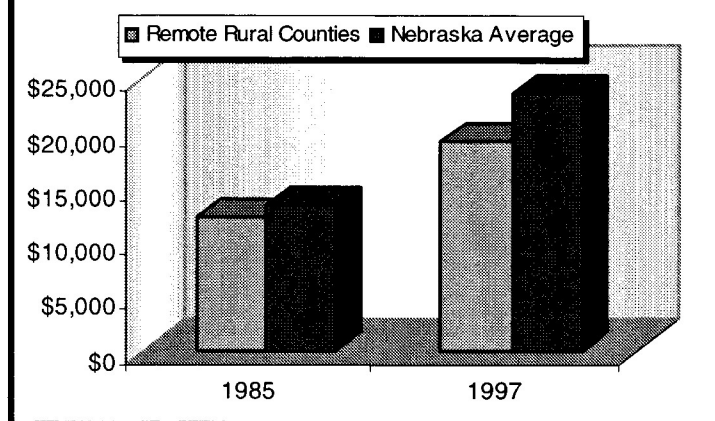
¹This analysis excludes several counties where the U.S. Department of Agriculture determined that the economy is strongly influenced by recreational activities. In Nebraska, only Keith County is excluded.

performance of Nebraska's remote rural counties is a study in contrasts when compared to the rest of the state. Nebraska's remote rural population dropped just over 10 percent from 1985 to 1997², while the rest of the state grew nearly 7 percent (Table 1).

Employment growth in the state's remote rural counties increased nearly 5 percent over the period, while the rest of the state added jobs at 6 times that rate. The disparity in nonfarm employment was less stark—remote rural Nebraska employment increased at half the state rate (16 percent).

The measures of income growth followed the same patterns noted for employment. Nebraska's remote rural counties reported personal income growth of nearly 42 percent from 1985 to 1997, somewhat less than half the rate in the rest of the state. Per capita personal income growth of 58 percent in the state's remote rural counties was not as far behind the rate of 79 percent in the rest of the state. Population losses in remote rural counties and growth elsewhere in the state account for the difference. But, the 20 percent disparity in growth rates had its impact. Per capita personal income was about 9 percent (\$12,199) lower than the state average of \$13,387 in 1985. However, by 1997 the state's remote rural counties reported an average of \$19,228, about 19 percent below the state average of \$23,647 (Figure 2).

Figure 2
Nebraska's Remote Rural County and State Average Per Capita Personal Income, 1985 and 1997



Remote rural counties in Nebraska added nearly 5,000 jobs³ from 1988 to 1996, a 19 percent increase. The rest of the state added nearly 150,000 jobs, a 29 percent increase over the period.

Table 1
Percent Change in Nebraska's Remote Rural¹ County Economic Performance, 1985 to 1997

Measure	Remote Rural	Rest of State	State Average
Population	-10.2%	6.7%	4.6%
Total Personal Income	41.5%	90.4%	84.8%
Nonfarm Personal Income	54.2%	93.7%	89.9%
Private Earnings	50.2%	105.3%	102.3%
Per Capita Personal Income	57.6%	78.4%	76.7%
Total Employment	4.6%	29.9%	27.2%
Nonfarm Employment	15.5%	33.0%	31.6%
Private Nonfarm Employment	18.9%	39.3%	37.8%

¹Nonrecreational counties that are not adjacent to a metro county and have fewer than 2,500 urban residents.

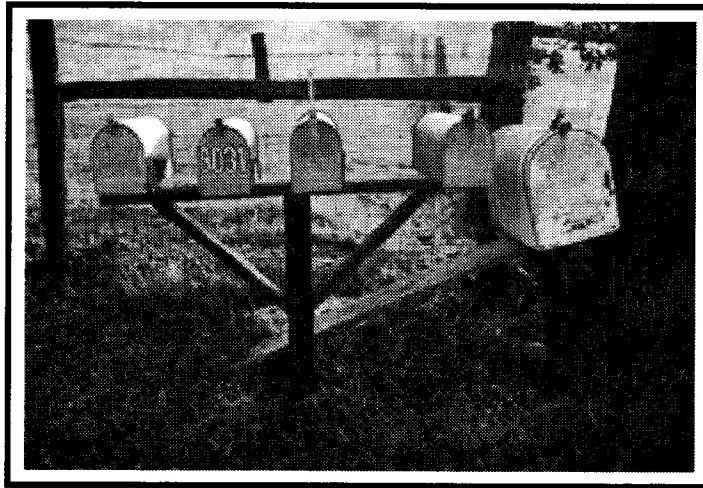
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

²Data from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis were used to evaluate economic performance. Employment data for the 1985 to 1997 period were based on a broader definition of employment than that used for the *County Business Patterns* employment series, and include self-employed and agricultural workers.

³Data for the March pay periods in 1988 and 1996 from the *County Business Patterns* were used to examine employment by industry. Note: These data exclude self-employed individuals, domestic service workers, railroad employees, government employees, and agricultural production workers.

The services industry accounted for 78 percent (3,016) of new jobs in Nebraska's most rural counties. Health services alone was responsible for 61 percent of all new jobs. Nearly 20,000 health services jobs were created in the rest of the state over the same period, although these jobs represent only 13 percent of all new jobs. Health services represents about 21 percent of jobs in remote rural counties compared to 10 percent in the rest of the state. The number of business services jobs doubled from 1988 to 1996, although 99 percent of these jobs were created outside remote rural counties.

Nebraska's remote rural counties lost one in four manufacturing jobs from 1988 to 1996. Just over half of the job losses in remote rural manufacturing were in the food and kindred products industry. But, food and kindred products expanded employment 41 percent across the rest of the state, adding over 10,000 new jobs.



Nebraska's Remote Rural Counties Compared to Neighboring States

Overall, Nebraska's remote rural counties performed slightly better than their peers in Kansas, while Missouri consistently outperformed the other three states. Iowa surpassed Nebraska by a significant margin and generally came in second to Missouri (Table 2).

Remote rural counties in Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska experienced sizeable population losses—from about 9 to just over 10 percent. Missouri's remote rural counties experienced about a 3 percent population growth from 1985 to 1997. Kansas and Nebraska both have population densities averaging nearly 5 persons per square mile. Like Nebraska, a large share of Kansas' land area (42 percent) is remote rural. Only 28 percent of Missouri's and 13 percent of Iowa's land areas are remote rural. Remote rural counties in Iowa and Missouri are more

Table 2
Percent Change in Remote Rural¹ Economic Performance by State, 1985 to 1997

<i>Measure</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>Kansas</i>	<i>Missouri</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
Population	-9.3	-10.2	3.3	-10.2
Total Personal Income	53.4	42.3	71.5	41.5
Nonfarm Personal Income	49.7	43.9	75.3	54.2
Private Earnings	60.5	34.7	69.9	50.2
Per Capita Personal Income	69.1	58.5	66.0	57.6
Total Employment	6.1	-1.2	13.0	4.6
Nonfarm Employment	15.6	5.0	22.9	15.5
Private Employment	17.8	0.5	23.5	18.9

¹Nonrecreational counties that are not adjacent to a metro county and have fewer than 2,500 urban residents.
 Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

densely populated—about 17 and 15 persons per square mile, respectively—than those in Nebraska and Kansas.

Nebraska's nearly 19 percent nonfarm private employment growth rate was second only to Missouri's 24 percent, and far outdistanced the half-percent growth in Kansas. However, Nebraska's nearly 5 percent increase in total employment from 1985 to 1997 lagged well behind Missouri's 13 percent, showing the influence of farm employment.

Nebraska's nearly 42 percent increase in total personal income was the smallest among the four states and 30 percentage points behind Missouri. Nebraska reported stronger job growth than did Kansas, but lagged in personal income growth, implying that a significant number of its new jobs paid relatively low wages compared to Kansas. The difference in growth rates between Nebraska and Missouri narrowed to about 20 percentage points for the two income measures, excluding farm-generated income. Per capita personal income, the measure that reflects population and income trends, increased nearly 58 percent in Nebraska's remote rural counties, 1 percent slower than Kansas and about 12 percent behind Iowa. It is important to note that per capita personal income levels in 1997 remained 19 percent higher in the remote

rural counties of Nebraska than in similar counties in Missouri. In addition, per capita personal income reported by remote rural counties throughout the four-state area dropped from 91 percent of the average in 1985 to 85 percent in 1997.

Low population densities—less than 5 persons per square mile—and agriculture-dependent⁴ economies characterize remote rural counties (Table 3). Farm employment often exceeds 50 percent and population densities often are low in western Nebraska's remote rural counties. Nebraska and Kansas comprise all 47 low-density, agriculture-dependent counties in the four-state area. Iowa's remote rural counties are agriculture-dependent, but none fits the criterion for low population density. Half of Missouri's 30 remote rural counties were in persistent poverty; 11 were agriculture-dependent; six were commuting counties⁵; and two were manufacturing counties⁶.

Health services provided the single biggest source of job growth for remote rural counties in the region—over 60 percent of new jobs in Kansas and Nebraska. Health services jobs in Iowa and Nebraska expanded rapidly since 1988. By 1996 both states reported 21 percent of total nonfarm employment in health services

Table 3
Number and Type of Remote Rural¹ Counties by State

<i>County Type</i>	<i>Iowa</i>	<i>Kansas</i>	<i>Missouri</i>	<i>Nebraska</i>
Remote Rural Counties, Total Number	13	41	30	48
Persistent Poverty	0	0	15	1
Agriculture Dependent	12	33	11	47
Low Population Density	0	23	0	24
Manufacturing Dependent	0	0	2	1
Commuting	1	1	6	2

¹Nonrecreational counties that are not adjacent to a metro county and have fewer than 2,500 urban residents.

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, 1989 Revised County Typologies and Bureau of Business Research (BBR)

⁴The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines agriculture-dependent counties as those where farm activities generated an average of at least 20 percent of total labor and proprietors' income from 1987 to 1989.

⁵Forty percent of the county's workers age 16 and over commuted to jobs outside their county of residence in 1990.

⁶Manufacturing contributed a weighted annual average of 30 percent or more of total labor and proprietors' income from 1987 to 1989.

Manufacturing employment in Nebraska's remote rural counties represented only about 7 percent of employment in 1996—the lowest share in the four-state region. Furthermore, Nebraska's remote rural counties lost one in four manufacturing jobs from 1988 to 1996. Over the same period, employment in Iowa's manufacturing sector increased nearly 35 percent and grew about 8 percent in Kansas and Missouri.

The share of employment in food and kindred products manufacturing ranged from 1 percent in Nebraska to almost 7 percent in Missouri. Remote rural counties in Missouri also reported 6 percent of jobs in lumber and wood products and another 7 percent in apparel and other textiles, far higher levels than any of the other three states. Industrial machinery and equipment also grew rapidly (93 percent) adding 2,151 new jobs in the four-state area, primarily in Iowa and Nebraska.

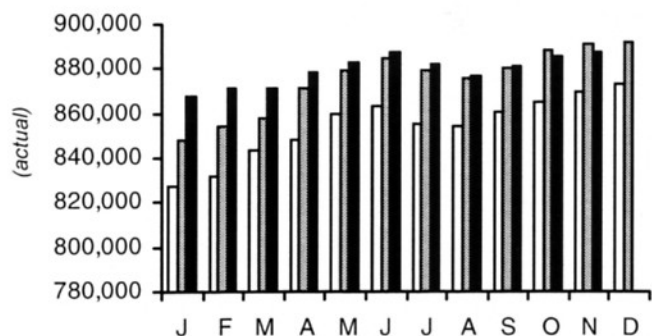
A larger share of employment was evident in wholesale and retail trade, as well as finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) in Kansas and Nebraska remote rural counties. Lower population densities have affected the ability of these businesses to achieve economies of scale.

Conclusion

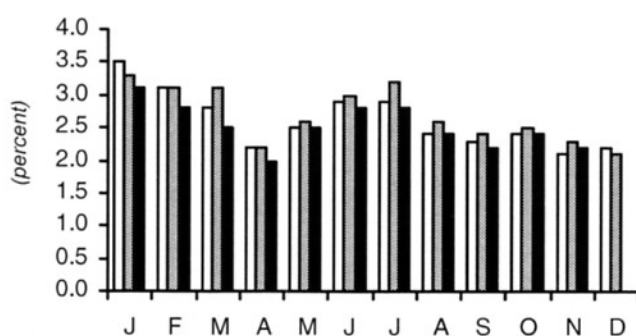
What are the prospects for continued job growth in Nebraska's remote rural counties? Consider that over 60 percent of new jobs in the remote rural counties were in the health services industry from 1998 to 1996. Most of that job growth was related to elder care jobs associated with nursing homes and assisted living centers. Population projections for Nebraska's remote rural counties indicate that the elderly populations are expected to decline. Therefore, health services jobs also may decline, reducing the demand for elder care workers.

Nebraska Stats

Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment

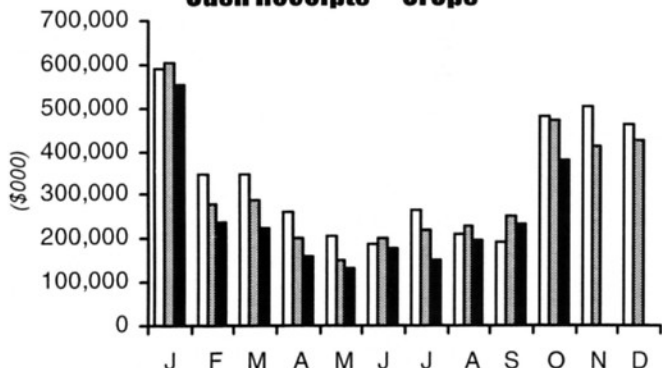


Unemployment Rate

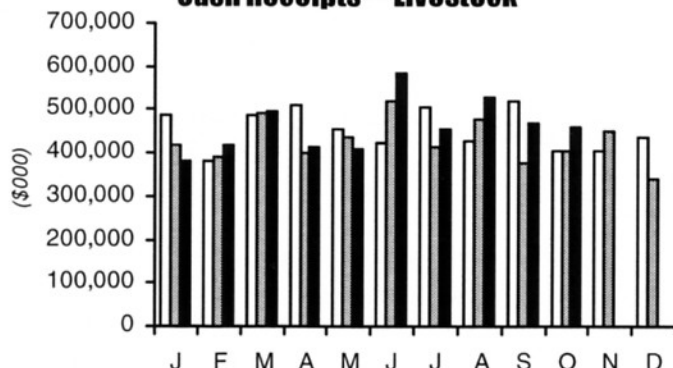


Note: All 1999 monthly employment data are considered estimates until benchmarked in March of 2000. Data shown for 1999 are the most current revised estimates available. Final benchmarked monthly data for 1999 are expected to be released by the Nebraska Department of Labor in mid-2000.

Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



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

	October 1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago		October 1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,510	17,505	-4.9	Kenesaw, Adams	176	2,200	-5.3
Albion, Boone	1,759	17,574	-2.6	Kimball, Kimball	1,629	17,305	8.9
Alliance, Box Butte	5,597	58,143	-2.6	La Vista, Sarpy	10,178	91,816	9.3
Alma, Harlan	451	6,671	-2.9	Laurel, Cedar	416	3,675	8.1
Arapahoe, Furnas	738	7,392	-3.5	Lexington, Dawson	6,942	70,182	-0.7
Arlington, Washington	255	2,072	10.2	Lincoln, Lancaster	208,106	2,061,466	5.7
Arnold, Custer	304	2,725	3.9	Louisville, Cass	582	5,727	-26.9
Ashland, Saunders	1,204	12,441	-0.3	Loup City, Sherman	428	6,220	-2.0
Atkinson, Holt	875	9,721	-3.1	Lyons, Burt	524	4,752	-5.5
Auburn, Nemaha	2,361	23,298	-1.8	Madison, Madison	737	7,623	-0.5
Aurora, Hamilton	2,312	25,646	-1.9	McCook, Red Willow	12,240	114,620	2.9
Axtell, Kearney	50	599	-12.7	Milford, Seward	1,128	9,344	1.2
Bassett, Rock	349	4,815	1.5	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	168	1,502	-2.0
Battle Creek, Madison	612	6,503	4.5	Minden, Kearney	1,826	18,472	6.7
Bayard, Morrill	349	4,246	-4.1	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	623	7,015	-0.6
Beatrice, Gage	10,318	106,218	1.3	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	517	4,886	3.3
Beaver City, Furnas	145	1,293	-6.3	Nebraska City, Otoe	6,833	64,899	0.2
Bellevue, Sarpy	20,248	196,491	6.6	Neligh, Antelope	1,354	13,608	-2.5
Benkelman, Dundy	521	5,594	-2.3	Newman Grove, Madison	234	2,797	-4.1
Bennington, Douglas	677	5,498	23.1	Norfolk, Madison	30,987	292,449	3.0
Blair, Washington	6,756	67,616	4.7	North Bend, Dodge	430	4,914	-0.6
Bloomfield, Knox	529	6,144	-7.0	North Platte, Lincoln	21,724	228,331	5.3
Blue Hill, Webster	438	4,472	-4.9	O'Neill, Holt	4,694	42,460	2.4
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,191	11,440	5.1	Oakland, Burt	520	7,001	0.0
Broken Bow, Custer	3,742	36,496	-3.1	Ogallala, Keith	5,693	58,380	2.8
Burwell, Garfield	701	7,655	-1.3	Omaha, Douglas	476,999	4,807,921	4.4
Cairo, Hall	211	2,562	-13.0	Ord, Valley	1,805	18,925	-2.1
Central City, Merrick	1,946	17,858	2.8	Osceola, Polk	556	7,020	-11.7
Chadron, Dawes	4,552	46,842	5.9	Oshkosh, Garden	392	4,477	-6.1
Chappell, Deuel	491	4,859	11.0	Osmond, Pierce	471	4,835	3.0
Clarkson, Colfax	434	4,227	2.6	Oxford, Furnas	429	4,531	8.1
Clay Center, Clay	219	3,705	0.4	Papillion, Sarpy	6,762	72,585	12.0
Columbus, Platte	20,379	203,650	0.3	Pawnee City, Pawnee	279	3,164	5.0
Cozad, Dawson	3,063	30,520	2.3	Pender, Thurston	815	7,549	3.6
Crawford, Dawes	492	5,672	3.7	Pierce, Pierce	620	6,458	-2.1
Creighton, Knox	976	11,841	10.0	Plainview, Pierce	634	6,249	-2.5
Crete, Saline	3,007	34,092	7.8	Plattsmouth, Cass	3,344	34,638	3.6
Crofton, Knox	447	4,131	3.0	Ponca, Dixon	337	4,990	-4.5
Curtis, Frontier	314	3,496	-1.6	Ralston, Douglas	3,395	32,578	-1.6
Dakota City, Dakota	357	4,149	10.3	Randolph, Cedar	334	3,967	-9.2
David City, Butler	1,539	14,877	5.8	Ravenna, Buffalo	463	6,810	-11.3
Deshler, Thayer	236	2,793	-12.9	Red Cloud, Webster	622	6,672	-4.3
Dodge, Dodge	181	2,425	-0.6	Rushville, Sheridan	374	4,991	-3.2
Doniphan, Hall	635	8,933	-24.3	Sargent, Custer	192	2,020	5.1
Eagle, Cass	347	4,279	2.3	Schuyler, Colfax	1,758	17,897	-6.2
Elgin, Antelope	389	4,035	-0.7	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	22,874	214,263	7.1
Elkhorn, Douglas	2,262	25,535	7.5	Scribner, Dodge	541	4,470	-5.8
Elm Creek, Buffalo	375	3,985	10.7	Seward, Seward	4,707	47,037	0.9
Elwood, Gosper	276	4,530	2.6	Shelby, Polk	399	3,575	12.7
Fairbury, Jefferson	3,126	32,861	3.3	Shelton, Buffalo	413	5,957	-9.9
Fairmont, Fillmore	136	1,547	-7.9	Sidney, Cheyenne	11,071	87,970	18.4
Falls City, Richardson	2,539	25,410	1.4	South Sioux City, Dakota	8,202	79,995	2.1
Franklin, Franklin	544	5,518	-2.9	Springfield, Sarpy	606	5,484	16.8
Fremont, Dodge	23,378	226,077	9.1	St. Paul, Howard	1,206	12,262	0.4
Friend, Saline	438	4,799	7.6	Stanton, Stanton	611	6,102	0.2
Fullerton, Nance	458	5,126	0.9	Stromsburg, Polk	1,021	8,994	-10.4
Geneva, Fillmore	1,364	16,209	-6.6	Superior, Nuckolls	1,474	15,666	1.1
Genoa, Nance	264	2,834	-4.2	Sutherland, Lincoln	386	3,721	13.1
Gering, Scotts Bluff	4,045	39,026	11.7	Sutton, Clay	690	8,301	-4.0
Gibbon, Buffalo	902	8,213	-2.5	Syracuse, Otoe	1,197	11,403	1.5
Gordon, Sheridan	1,544	16,999	1.0	Tecumseh, Johnson	875	8,882	4.4
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,309	23,738	7.2	Tekamah, Burt	1,028	11,432	3.2
Grand Island, Hall	51,111	501,117	1.4	Tilden, Madison	249	4,254	-2.7
Grant, Perkins	876	10,245	2.5	Utica, Seward	279	2,994	5.2
Gretna, Sarpy	3,398	31,032	-4.0	Valentine, Cherry	4,116	41,855	2.9
Hartington, Cedar	1,570	15,949	-2.0	Valley, Douglas	1,835	12,927	4.3
Hastings, Adams	20,074	205,923	1.6	Wahoo, Saunders	2,374	22,785	-3.0
Hay Springs, Sheridan	342	3,502	9.4	Wakefield, Dixon	284	3,222	-6.6
Hebron, Thayer	1,492	18,248	-3.0	Wauneta, Chase	288	3,002	0.3
Henderson, York	616	6,020	-7.9	Waverly, Lancaster	701	6,945	-14.8
Hickman, Lancaster	247	2,470	-3.1	Wayne, Wayne	3,537	36,865	12.7
Holdrege, Phelps	4,348	43,249	0.1	Weeping Water, Cass	591	6,745	-0.5
Hooper, Dodge	437	3,612	4.1	West Point, Cuming	3,596	35,859	-3.7
Humboldt, Richardson	301	4,954	0.3	Wilber, Saline	456	4,785	7.4
Humphrey, Platte	778	7,399	-4.9	Wisner, Cuming	706	6,208	4.0
Imperial, Chase	1,882	19,963	-2.1	Wood River, Hall	320	4,041	-2.0
Juniata, Adams	208	2,144	10.2	Wymore, Gage	424	4,233	6.2
Kearney, Buffalo	34,637	329,254	6.7	York, York	10,576	101,460	-0.5

*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			
	October	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	October	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	October	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	October	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	
	1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)		1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)		1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)		1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)		
Nebraska	204,334	2,135,461	4.2	1,385,919	13,892,838	3.9	Howard	815	8,048	2.2	1,523	15,859	1.4
Adams	2,696	36,213	5.7	20,669	213,325	1.8	Jefferson	830	10,562	-3.9	4,278	42,924	3.3
Antelope	856	9,489	-3.4	2,141	21,863	-2.4	Johnson	529	5,623	-3.6	1,234	12,175	2.7
Arthur	48	740	5.0	(D)	(D)	(D)	Kearney	640	9,077	-5.5	1,971	20,367	5.0
Banner	142	1,136	-1.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	1,247	13,322	19.6	6,141	64,319	3.0
Blaine	92	813	-23.3	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keya Paha	260	1,185	11.5	75	1,011	10.5
Boone	1,113	8,089	-1.2	2,214	22,346	-2.8	Kimball	427	5,135	4.4	1,662	17,653	8.3
Box Butte	1,716	15,292	-0.5	5,832	61,009	-2.5	Knox	883	10,263	3.3	2,519	28,454	3.4
Boyd	177	2,400	0.3	562	5,596	5.8	Lancaster	26,302	280,521	5.2	210,321	2,085,180	5.6
Brown	526	4,636	12.1	1,599	18,594	-3.6	Lincoln	4,010	44,701	8.3	22,684	237,998	5.3
Buffalo	4,997	50,546	1.4	37,178	358,262	5.9	Logan	147	1,351	-3.6	(D)	(D)	(D)
Burt	944	10,022	-3.6	2,305	25,170	1.1	Loup	81	752	-16.2	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	1,078	11,600	15.8	1,949	19,263	1.9	McPherson	48	664	0.9	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	3,675	38,380	9.6	6,401	66,858	2.2	Madison	4,266	42,025	2.0	32,869	314,150	2.8
Cedar	1,467	12,222	5.9	2,643	26,589	-3.3	Merrick	1,055	10,490	5.7	2,504	24,125	2.4
Chase	724	6,769	8.8	2,178	23,344	-1.9	Morrill	580	7,538	23.7	1,554	15,926	2.7
Cherry	896	8,460	-7.7	4,315	44,001	2.8	Nance	384	4,711	-3.1	742	8,229	-2.1
Cheyenne	1,535	14,880	25.8	11,300	90,787	17.9	Nemaha	1,002	9,710	-0.1	2,611	25,825	-2.1
Clay	847	9,705	4.0	1,782	21,637	1.2	Nuckolls	506	6,357	12.9	1,987	21,482	1.2
Colfax	952	12,016	3.0	2,558	25,912	-5.0	Otoe	1,608	19,795	-0.8	8,485	80,710	0.9
Cuming	976	12,104	-3.7	4,857	47,662	-2.8	Pawnee	401	3,683	-5.7	494	5,193	4.3
Custer	1,395	14,459	2.0	4,772	46,813	-1.5	Perkins	645	6,011	16.5	1,066	12,436	4.1
Dakota	2,578	24,600	12.4	9,058	90,316	2.2	Phelps	1,073	13,580	0.0	4,552	45,855	-0.5
Dawes	1,087	9,326	6.6	5,043	52,548	5.7	Pierce	807	9,595	5.6	1,797	18,381	-0.6
Dawson	2,782	27,939	-4.8	12,724	128,679	1.3	Platte	3,890	42,525	16.5	21,679	216,861	0.0
Deuel	255	2,616	-4.4	1,102	10,715	8.2	Polk	795	8,108	-0.4	2,100	21,126	-6.0
Dixon	768	8,013	-2.7	730	9,292	-6.0	Red Willow	1,331	14,675	10.7	12,517	117,912	2.8
Dodge	4,161	43,686	4.5	25,318	244,592	8.4	Richardson	950	10,249	-2.3	3,026	32,407	0.1
Douglas	53,631	559,276	3.1	486,976	4,902,028	4.4	Rock	379	2,531	6.7	360	5,022	2.8
Dundy	258	3,345	-1.8	527	5,734	-3.1	Saline	1,603	15,641	1.8	4,228	47,603	7.3
Fillmore	558	7,913	-15.3	1,963	24,101	-5.6	Sarpy	16,569	166,206	7.8	43,777	416,572	8.7
Franklin	395	4,352	1.2	769	8,010	-1.8	Saunders	2,770	28,056	1.1	6,477	59,367	2.6
Frontier	331	4,245	-4.9	608	6,638	-0.1	Scotts Bluff	4,866	47,214	17.3	28,294	267,489	7.4
Furnas	641	6,874	-3.1	2,078	21,173	-2.2	Seward	2,152	21,581	2.5	6,319	61,822	1.1
Gage	2,453	26,179	-1.2	11,697	117,929	1.3	Sheridan	565	7,278	-9.3	2,552	28,262	0.8
Garden	249	2,769	-17.5	548	6,324	-2.1	Sherman	423	4,034	1.4	549	7,482	-1.1
Garfield	172	2,351	4.2	701	7,650	-1.3	Sioux	290	2,555	4.7	147	1,249	-9.1
Gosper	313	3,226	2.6	354	5,133	4.2	Stanton	841	8,102	4.9	777	7,964	5.2
Grant	210	1,613	12.4	200	2,335	3.9	Thayer	679	7,503	-5.8	2,257	26,279	-3.8
Greeley	218	3,136	-9.8	658	6,600	-5.5	Thomas	148	1,243	29.9	369	2,795	-6.0
Hall	5,896	64,670	0.3	52,626	519,959	0.7	Thurston	328	4,644	6.7	919	8,812	3.8
Hamilton	1,199	13,470	17.2	2,751	29,293	-2.9	Valley	618	5,330	2.6	2,078	21,261	-1.5
Harlan	484	5,272	4.5	600	8,938	-1.2	Washington	2,484	30,292	8.1	7,489	74,179	4.4
Hayes	132	1,716	15.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	Wayne	958	9,744	-4.8	3,700	38,499	12.5
Hitchcock	460	4,117	5.2	556	6,112	6.0	Webster	388	4,625	8.4	1,184	12,278	-4.1
Holt	1,443	14,746	-5.0	6,206	59,061	0.6	Wheeler	174	1,334	-13.0	91	919	-8.6
Hooker	97	1,099	-14.5	318	3,786	5.8	York	1,570	18,046	-4.6	11,677	111,860	-1.2

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

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

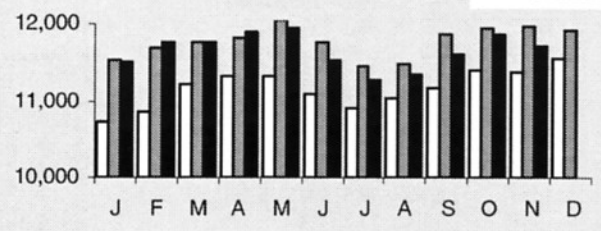
Note on Net Taxable Retail Sales

Users of this series should be aware that taxable retail sales are not generated exclusively by traditional outlets such as clothing, discount, and hardware stores. While businesses classified as retail trade firms account for, on average, slightly more than half of total taxable sales, sizable portions of taxable sales are generated by service establishments, electric and gas utilities, wholesalers, telephone and cable companies, and manufacturers.

Regional Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment* 1997 to November** 1999

1997 1998 1999

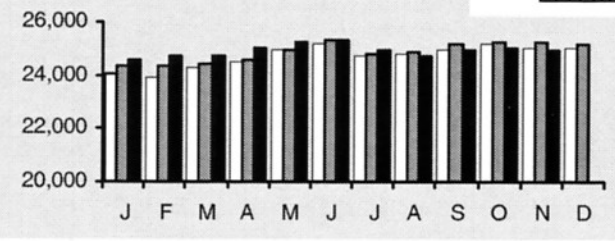
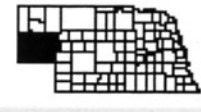
Northwest Panhandle



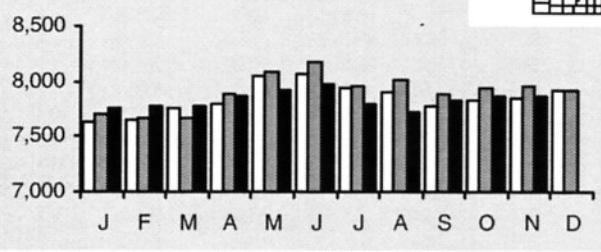
Note to Readers

The charts on pages 8 and 9 report nonfarm employment by place of work for each region.

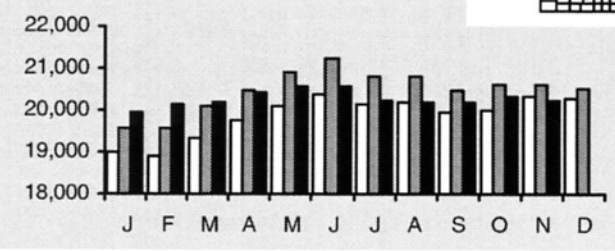
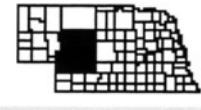
Southwest Panhandle



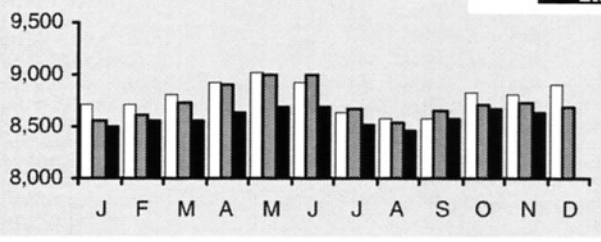
North Central



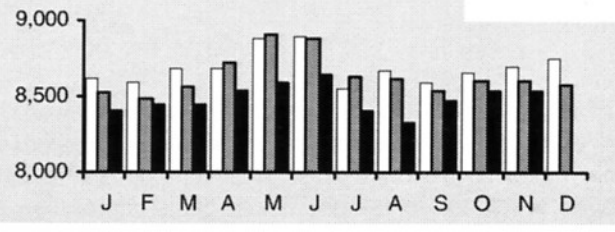
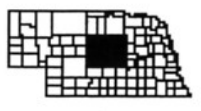
West Central



Southwest Central



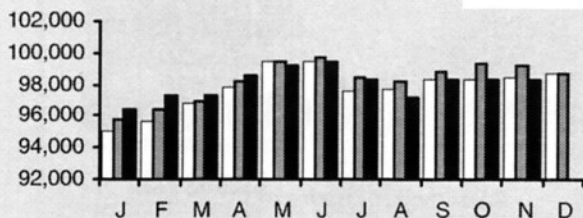
East Central



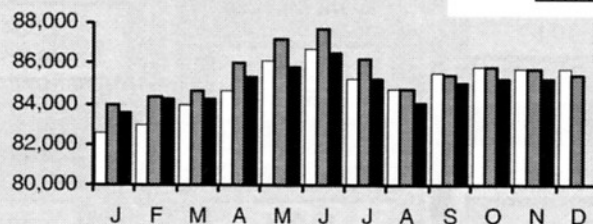
Regional Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment* 1997 to November** 1999

□ 1997 ■ 1998 ■ 1999

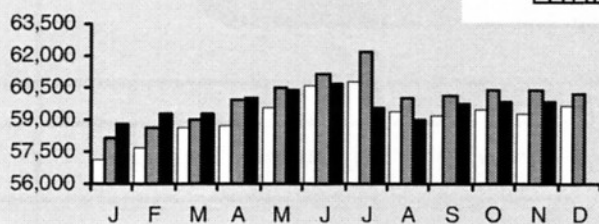
Southeast Central



Northeast

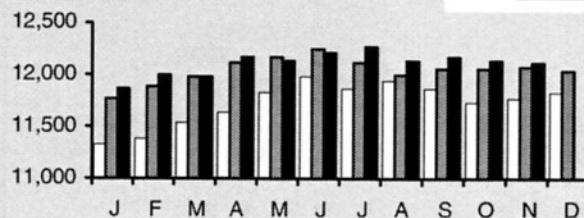


Southeast



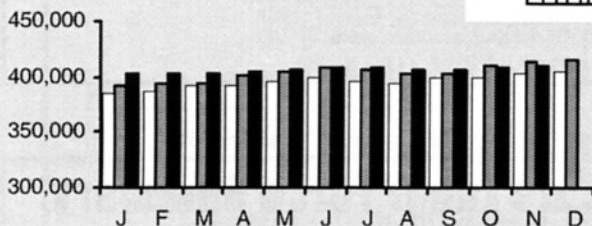
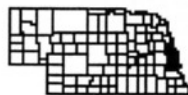
Sioux City MSA

Nebraska portion only

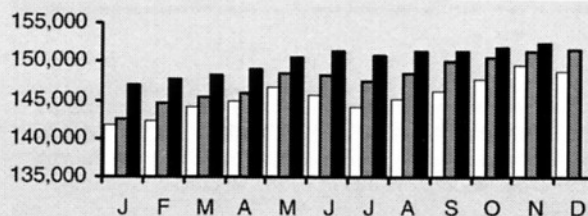


Omaha MSA

Nebraska portion only



Lincoln MSA



*By place of work

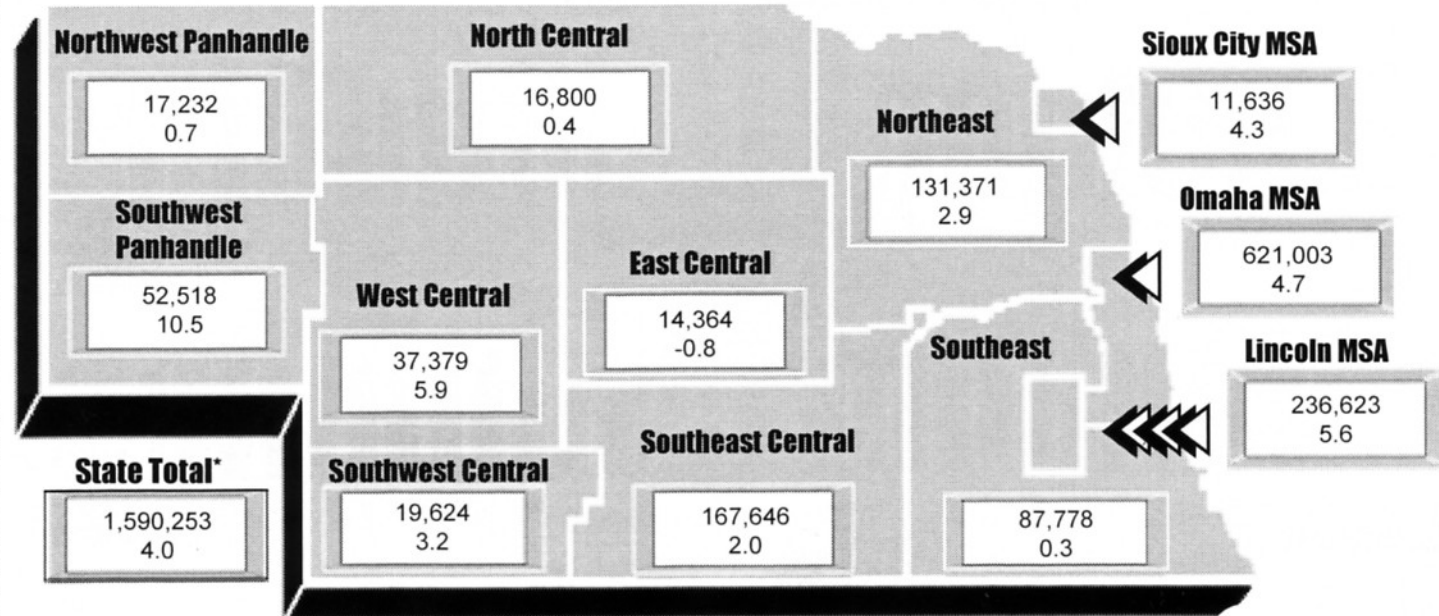
**Current month data are preliminary and subject to revision

Note: All 1999 monthly employment data are considered estimates until benchmarked in March of 2000. Data shown for 1999 are the most current revised estimates available. Final benchmarked monthly data for 1999 are expected to be released by the Nebraska Department of Labor in mid-2000.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information - Kathy Copas and Amy Schofield

October 1999 Regional Retail Sales (\$000)

YTD Change vs Yr. Ago



*Regional values may not add to state total due to unallocated sales
 Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

State Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment by Industry*

	November 1999
Total	887,570
Construction & Mining	46,058
Manufacturing	117,125
Durables	56,656
Nondurables	60,469
TCU	57,776
Trade	219,274
Retail	163,146
Wholesale	56,128
FIRE	61,135
Services	246,885
Government	155,515

*By place of work
 **Transportation, Communication, and Utilities
 ***Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
 Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

Note: All 1999 monthly employment and labor force data are considered estimates until benchmarked in March of 2000. Data shown for 1999 are the most current revised estimates available. Final benchmarked monthly data for 1999 are expected to be released by the Nebraska Department of Labor in mid-2000.

Consumer Price Index

Consumer Price Index - U*
 (1982-84 = 100)
 (not seasonally adjusted)

	December 1999	% Change vs Yr. Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago (inflation rate)
All Items	168.3	2.7	2.2
Commodities	146.1	2.7	1.8
Services	190.5	2.6	2.5

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

Inflation Rate

2.2

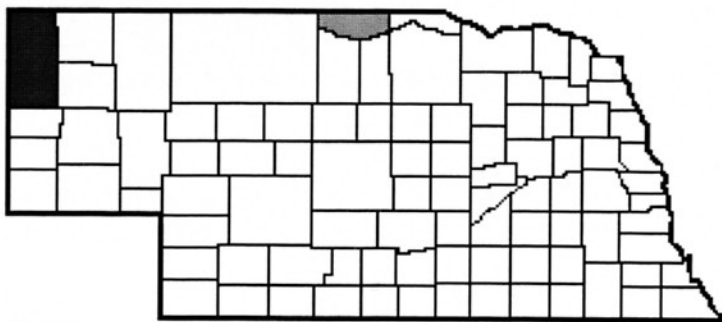
State Labor Force Summary*

	November 1999
Labor Force	934,251
Employment	913,444
Unemployment Rate	2.2

*By place of residence
 Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

Sioux

Harrison-County Seat



License plate prefix number: 80

Size of county: 2,069 square miles, ranks 6th in the state

Population: 1,486 in 1998, a change of -4.1 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$11,499 in 1997, ranks 86th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$4,409 in 1998, a change of -5.3 percent from 1997; \$3,809 from January through October of 1999, a change of -0.2 percent from the same period the previous year.

Unemployment rate: 1.3 percent in Sioux County, 2.7 percent in Nebraska for 1998

	State	Sioux County
Nonfarm employment (1998)¹:	875,352	159
(wage & salary)	<i>(percent of total)</i>	
Construction and Mining	4.8	(D)
Manufacturing	13.6	(D)
TCU	6.4	(D)
Wholesale Trade	6.2	(D)
Retail Trade	18.0	(D)
FIRE	6.6	(D)
Services	27.2	11.3
Government	17.2	62.3

(D) = disclosure suppression

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 343 in 1997, 327 in 1992, 353 in 1987

Average farm size: 3,250 acres in 1997, 3,076 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$70.7 million in 1997 (\$205,982 average per farm), \$65.7 million in 1992 (\$200,946 average per farm)

¹By place of work

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

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Consumer Price Index

Not Seasonal

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor
<http://stats.bls.gov/cpihome.htm>

JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE	ANNUAL % CHANGE**
4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.4	118.3	4.1%
115.7	116.0	116.5	117.1	117.5	118.0	118.5	119.0	119.8	120.3	120.5	120.5	118.3	4.1%
4.7	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.2	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.6	124.0	4.8%
121.1	121.6	122.3	123.1	123.8	124.1	124.4	124.6	125.0	125.6	125.9	126.1	124.0	4.8%
5.2	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.6	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.1	130.7	5.4%
127.4	128.0	128.7	128.9	129.2	129.9	130.4	131.6	132.7	133.5	133.8	133.8	130.7	5.4%
147.8	148.3	148.7	149.3	149.6	149.9	149.9	150.2	150.6	151.0	150.9	150.9	149.8	2.8%
151.7	152.2	152.9	153.6	154.0	154.1	154.3	154.5	155.1	155.5	155.9	155.9	154.1	2.9%
156.3	156.8	157.0	157.2	157.2	157.4	157.5	157.8	158.3	158.5	158.5	158.2	157.6	2.2%
158.4	158.5	158.7	159.1	159.5	159.7	159.8	160.0	160.2	160.6	160.7	160.7	159.7	1.3%
161.0	161.1	161.4	162.7	162.8	162.8	163.3	163.8	164.7	165.0	165.1	165.1	163.2	2.2%

(u) For All Urban Consumers

(w) For Urban Wage and Clerical Workers

* The percent change from same month one year earlier.

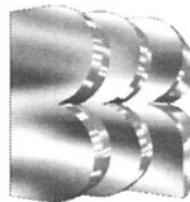
** Annual percent change is same as rate of inflation.

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