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MANUFACTURING IN NEBRASKA AND THE REGION

Analysis of recently published data from the 1969 Annual Survey of Manufactures reveals that Nebraska had the best record of the seven states in the West North Central Region in rate of increase in six of nine categories covered by the survey for the time period 1964 to 1969, and in four of the seven categories that could be measured for the 1959 to 1969 time span. Despite these increases, the state remained fifth in the region in manufacturing volume and in all other categories, being exceeded by Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, and Kansas.

Nebraska was first in rate of increase in number of production workers in both time periods, with percentages of 36.5 and 45.5, respectively, and in increase in million man hours, 31.9 percent and 43.8 percent, respectively. The numerical increase in number of production workers was from 44.2 thousand in 1959 to 47.1 thousand in 1964, and to 64.3 thousand in 1969. The state was also first in rate of increase (28.4 percent) in the total number of manufacturing employees for the period 1964-69, but was exceeded in the time span 1959-69 by Minnesota, which had a gain of 43.4 percent compared with Nebraska's 38.6 percent.

From 1964 to 1969 Nebraska ranked first in rate of increase in cost of materials, value of industry shipments, and in capital expenditures for new plant and equipment, with percentages of 74.4, 70.3, and 88.1, respectively. The state was third in rate of increase in total payroll and second in percentage gain in total wages and value added by manufacturing, 63.5 percent and 62.6 percent, respectively. Nebraska led all states in the region in rate of increase in wages paid production workers, and in value added by manufacture in the 1959-69 time span, but no comparative figures are available on cost of materials and value of industry shipments for that period.

NEBRASKA AND THE REGIONAL INCREASE

Rates of increase for Nebraska in all nine categories covered by the annual surveys for the years 1964 to 1969 were significantly higher than in the West North Central Region as a whole, and this was also the case in the seven categories surveyed from 1959 to 1969. It must be noted that prior to 1959 four states in the region—Missouri, Minnesota, Iowa, and Kansas—had become much more highly industrialized than had the other three states. Rates of increase in the more industrial states would not then be expected to be as high as in the less developed states of Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota, which began actively to seek new industry to counteract declining agriculture in the 60s.

Numerical increases recorded by Nebraska are significantly sizable in several aspects of manufacturing and attest to the fact that

combined public and private efforts to develop industry have had considerable success. Although changes in the price structure, particularly in the time span from 1959 to 1969, accounted for part of the gain, not all of the total increase can be attributed to rising prices. In this period when Nebraska exhibited a rise of more than 148 percent in value added by manufacture, the region showed a gain of only 96.9 percent and the rise in the price level was only 25.8 percent. Nebraska's total, which was almost \$570 million in 1959, had by 1969 become almost two and a half times as much, \$1,415.6 million. During the same years expenditures for new plant and equipment also gave evidence of industrial activity in this state with a percentage gain of 167 percent (from \$35.5 million to \$94.8 million).

As would be anticipated in both time periods the rate of increase in total wages paid production workers was markedly higher than the rate of gain in number of workers. Although the rates of gain recorded in Nebraska were significantly higher than in the region as a whole, they were lower on a proportional basis. Thus in the period from 1959 to 1969 workers' wages increased at a percentage rate 2.4 times as much as the rate of increase in numbers, whereas in the region the percentage increase in total wages was 3.5 times as much as the percentage gain in numbers.

Because the effects of inflation would not be expected to vary markedly among the states within the region, it is apparent that other factors have been operative with respect to wage ratios. Partial explanation may be found in the fact that the more heavily industrialized states are also more heavily unionized than is Nebraska. Similarly, the more highly industrialized states tend to have a larger proportion of technologically advanced industries which require large numbers of workers who possess high-level skills and command higher wages.

Nebraska totals as a proportion of the regional totals increased by one percentage point or more in five of the seven categories for which comparable data are available for the period 1959-69. In the two categories for which comparisons can be made only from 1964-69, this state, as a proportion of the regional total, increased 1.7 percentage points in cost of materials used in manufacture and 1.2 percent in value of industrial shipments. Over the 1959-69 time span the highest proportionate increase, 1.7 percentage points, was in capital expenditures for new plant and equipment, the next highest proportionate gain, 1.5 percentage points, was in value added by manufacture. Although the number of Nebraska production workers as a proportion of the regional total increased more than 1 percentage point, the

proportion of total wages increased by less than 1 point. There was similar disparity between the proportion of increase of the number of employees and of the total payroll.

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF NEBRASKA PRODUCTS

In 1969 food and kindred products continued to represent by far the largest proportion of the state's manufactured goods in all categories covered by the survey, constituting 60.7 percent of the value of total industrial shipments, 35.5 percent of all value added by manufacture, more than 31 percent of the total payroll, and 30 percent of the number of employees.

Despite concerted efforts to increase within the state the processing of food and kindred products, which are grown here in abundance, this category of manufacturing as a proportion of the state's total appears to be declining steadily. Whereas in 1958, according to the Census of Manufactures, food and food products amounted to almost half the value added by manufacture in Nebraska, by 1963 the proportion had dropped to 42.4 percent, by 1967 had further declined to 37.2 percent, and by the time of the annual survey of 1969 food products accounted for only 35.5 percent of the total. Although such products declined slightly in relative importance, they exhibited from 1967 to 1969 a sizable increase, 17.5 percent, in dollar value added by manufacture. Thus the decline in relative importance of food processing indicates a more rapid increase in other categories of manufacturing.

The value of shipments of Nebraska food and kindred products in 1969 was \$2,694.3 million. Meat products continued to dominate the category, as in years past, with a fairly stable proportion of about 43 percent. Meats also accounted for the highest proportion of value added by manufacture, over 15 percent, followed by machinery (except electrical) which constituted more than 11 percent.

Grain mill products and electrical equipment each amounted to almost 9 percent, transportation equipment accounted for 5.8 percent, and fabricated metal products, 5.2 percent of the value added by manufacture.

As study is made of the various categories of manufactured goods which changed places in rank in value added by manufacture or value of total shipments, significant changes in the industry mix may be noted. Although machinery, other than electrical, remained in second place in the 1969 survey, as it had in the 1967 census, electrical machinery moved from fourth to third rank, displacing chemicals and allied products, which dropped to eighth place. Transportation equipment moved to fourth place in value added by manufacture largely because of production of several new and highly innovative kinds of such equipment,

coupled with increased demand for recreation-related transportation equipment.

Although efforts to decentralize Nebraska industry by locating new plants in smaller cities and even in rural communities have met with sporadic success, Douglas and Lancaster Counties continue to dominate the industrial scene, accounting for more than 60 percent of the total number of employees, 59 percent of the total payrolls and more than 58 percent of the value added by manufacture. Hall County has been added to the list of Nebraska counties included in the annual survey of manufactures; it now accounts for about 7 percent of the number of employees and of the industrial payrolls, but for a lesser proportion, 5.3 percent, of the value added by manufacture.

THE SURVEY AND THE CENSUS

Figures reported in the annual survey of manufactures are estimates obtained by survey of a representative sample. Although highly sophisticated techniques are employed and standard errors are estimated, the concept of complete coverage under the conditions prevailing for the annual surveys of manufactures is not identical to the complete coverage of the census of manufactures which is conducted at intervals of four or five years, most recently in the years 1958, 1963, and 1967. During the intercensal periods the annual surveys provide a continuous series of basic statistics for significant geographic areas and industries and furnish benchmarks for current business indicators and for measures of industrial production and productivity. The annual survey also provides significant data in connection with planning for industrial mobilization. On that basis the published tables merit study and analysis.

It is unfortunate that there is a considerable time lag between the date important statistics are collected and the date they become available in published form. Nevertheless there is much of value that may be gleaned from study of the 1969 statistics for states, standard statistical areas, large industrial counties, and selected cities on which this brief article has been based.¹ Individuals and communities interested in industrial development in Nebraska will find that pertinent data can readily be analyzed to meet specific needs. Calculations have been done by the Bureau of Business Research to point up some points of general interest; similar calculations with respect to selected industries and products can be made advantageously by those having special interests.

DOROTHY SWITZER

¹*Annual Survey of Manufactures 1969, Part 4, M69(AS)6.4, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233. Price 25 cents.*

Business Beautification

The Bureau of Business Research, which has since its inception been involved with the economic aspects of business development in Nebraska, has this year had an opportunity to be involved with another phase of business improvement—beautification—when a Bureau staff member was asked to be chairman of the judges of the statewide Business for Beauty Contest sponsored by the Nebraska Federated Women's Clubs.

The contest was designed to motivate proprietors to enhance the appearance of their community through renovation and improvement of their places of business. Taking the position that when not well-maintained and appropriately landscaped, both large and small businesses can become

environmental eyesores, sponsors of the contest provided an idea book as a source of practical tips on landscaping and renovation.

Judges of the state contest not only determined first and second place winners but also prepared a careful critique of each entry. The critiques were designed to be helpful to the businessmen involved and to participants in future contests.

Contest entries showed that many business firms throughout the state had achieved significant improvements, often with minimal capital outlays. The judges felt that the most salutary aspect of the contest was participation by businesses of all sizes and kinds, with entries of small firms located in small towns competing successfully with large establishments from more populous places.

D. S.

Reviews: Recreation, Travel, and Tourism

Community Action for Recreation Development, Rudolph A. Christiansen, Sydney D. Staniforth, and Steven J. Pamperin, Recreation Resources Center, University of Wisconsin and Natural Resource Economics Division, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mimeographed. 24 pp. Single copies on request, University Extension, University of Wisconsin, 522 Lowell Hall, Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Because there is mounting evidence that people in rural communities of Nebraska are joining together to provide needed recreational facilities, there should be much interest in this publication which attempts to illustrate different ways through which local community action groups have played a major role in enhancing the recreational opportunities in their communities.

It is generally recognized that the rebuilding of rural areas depends on the creation of economic opportunities, but that people cannot be expected to live in a developing community unless they can be reasonably assured of a good environment which includes adequate recreational facilities. Therefore the authors of this report gathered illustrations and examples to emphasize the following objectives:

1. To create an awareness of group or community action as a means of obtaining recreational development.
2. To emphasize that community action is not only important in regard to recreation, but should be viewed as an important tool in total rural development.
3. To point out that traditional private or public recreational development reveals an incomplete story—community or group action should be included.

The examples cited are divided into two categories: those that are primarily water-based and those that are primarily land-based, although neither category is mutually exclusive. Land, water, forest cover, wildlife, and the like represent the recreation resource mix often required for successful development, whether it is primarily land- or water-based.

It was found that because community recreation projects depend on aggressive group action they provide the basis for unifying the entire community and that sometimes a multicommunity project can foster cooperation among several small communities. Frequently, too, establishment of a single recreation enterprise provides the basis for an entire new complex of facilities. Because recreational development can affect the social, economic, aesthetic, and environmental values in the community, it can in turn have an effect on total rural development. It is this broader application which becomes significant in upgrading rural areas. D. S.

A Guide for a Feasibility Study of Recreation Enterprises by James E. Neal and John K. Trocke, Extension Bulletin 705, Natural Resource Series, Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan. Paperback, 18 pp., single copies free.

Now that recreation-related enterprises are becoming an increasingly important segment of business in Nebraska, as in the nation, many people are asking questions about this dynamic, growing industry. The authors of this guide recognize that there is need for criteria which can be used to justify the application of finances or business acumen to recreation enterprises.

The authors have taken a realistic and practical approach to the problem by preparing an outline to facilitate not only gathering significant information about the planned enterprise but also analyzing the data to determine the best possible alternatives.

The outline includes sections on: analyzing the site, developing a consumer profile, selecting the best alternatives, evaluating personal characteristics and objectives, and estimating resource requirements. Also included are sections on estimating investment requirements, estimating income, analyzing profitability, tips for conducting the feasibility study, and a summary of decisions and priority of steps.

By supplying a systematic method of analyzing a planned recreation business, this outline will assist a developer in looking realistically at himself, his site, potential clientele, finances, and development of the enterprise. The outline may be used to advantage in analyzing plans for any kind of business development. D.S.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The Business Research Division of the University of Colorado in cooperation with the Travel Research Association has recently expanded and updated two previous publications, both of which have been quite useful to the travel and tourism industry.

Travel Trends in the United States and Canada

This revised version of a book first published in 1969 provides information on tourist visits to recreation areas, tourist expenditures, economic impact of tourism, transportation of out-of-state visitors, tourism advertising, and other highlights of a national travel survey.

Nebraskans will be interested to find that the state ranks high in terms of expenditure per visitor with a level of more than \$15 per day. Other states in the high daily expenditure-per-tourist category include Arizona, California, Florida, Nevada, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Utah.

One of the valuable features of the book is a section with information on where to find travel facts, Federal tourist programs, and information contacts. Information from 258 sources is presented in 50 tables. Price of the 152-page publication is \$15.

Bibliography of Tourism and Travel Research Studies, Reports and Articles. Three volumes.

This new bibliography updates a 1967 publication, expands its scope, and provides annotations of the items listed. References included are studies, surveys, statistical abstracts, articles, and similar publications with facts and figures related to the travel industry of the world. Volume 1 contains national and regional studies, Volume 2, state studies, and Volume 3, foreign studies. The price is \$6 for each volume or \$15 for the set of three. D. S.

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Review and Outlook

Economic activity in Nebraska and the nation continued to improve in February. As indicated by figures in Table 1, the state's dollar volume of overall activity for February was 12.7% above that of February, 1971. Over the same period the nation's dollar volume increased by 8.6 percent. Deflating for general price increases (see Table 5), the physical volumes were up 7.1% and 4.1%, respectively. Examination of the year-to-date section of Table 1 also reveals that general economic activity in Nebraska moved upward at a somewhat faster rate in February than in January, while the U.S. improvement was at about the same pace as in January.

Looking at the individual sectors of the economy, the major

contributor to the state and national improvements was the construction sector. The largest increase was recorded in this activity, in terms of both physical and dollar volumes, over last year and since 1967 (Tables 1 and 2).

In addition, both the government and distributive sectors show strong and consistent upward movements for the state and the nation. Nebraska and the nation's dollar volumes of agricultural activity were also notably higher in February this year compared with the same month last year. Much of this increase was due however, to a rapid rise in agricultural prices over the past year (Table 5), and for the first two months of 1972 the agricultural physical volume index for Nebraska was actually below 1971.

(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. E. L. HAUSWALD

ECONOMIC INDICATORS: NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

1. CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR				
February, 1972	Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year		1972 Year to Date as Percent of 1971 Year to Date	
	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Indicator	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	112.7	108.6	111.8	108.7
Agricultural	119.2	115.2	113.9	112.8
Nonagricultural	111.6	108.4	111.4	108.6
Construction	148.8	117.6	145.0	118.5
Manufacturing	107.3	106.8	106.6	106.4
Distributive	111.1	108.2	111.2	108.6
Government	108.4	108.7	108.3	108.9
Physical Volume	107.1	104.1	105.8	104.2
Agricultural	106.7	105.5	98.8	101.8
Nonagricultural	107.1	104.0	107.0	104.3
Construction	136.7	108.1	133.8	109.3
Manufacturing	103.1	103.0	102.6	102.8
Distributive	107.1	104.4	107.5	104.9
Government	103.6	103.1	103.2	103.0

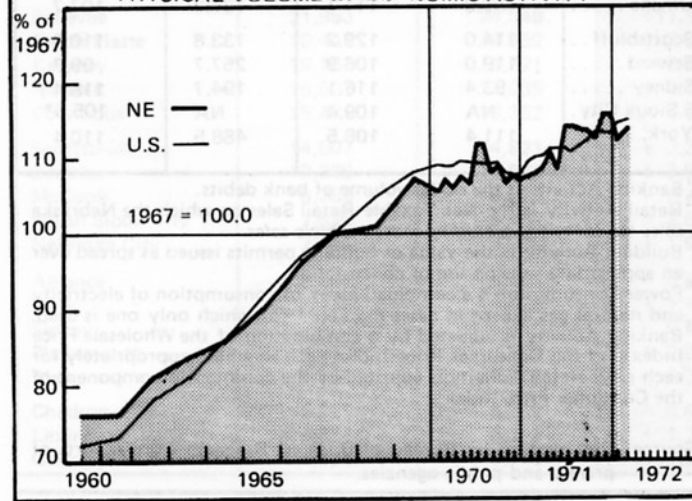
2. CHANGE FROM 1967		
February, 1972	Percent of 1967 Average	
Indicator	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	143.8	141.7
Agricultural	130.7	136.8
Nonagricultural	146.4	141.8
Construction	171.7	163.7
Manufacturing	134.6	123.1
Distributive	143.8	146.9
Government	164.7	155.1
Physical Volume	113.9	114.7
Agricultural	102.7	111.9
Nonagricultural	116.2	114.8
Construction	126.2	120.4
Manufacturing	114.8	105.6
Distributive	116.2	118.7
Government	114.4	116.9

3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES¹ OF NEBRASKA REGIONS

(Unadjusted for Price Changes)

Region ² and Principal Retail Trade Center	February, 1972 as Percent of February, 1972	1972 Year to Date as Percent of 1971 Year to Date
<i>The State</i>	117.2	117.2
1 (Omaha)	116.2	117.2
2 (Lincoln)	114.8	118.9
3 (So. Sioux City)	113.3	113.8
4 (Nebraska City)	120.2	118.4
5 (Fremont)	116.5	118.8
6 (West Point)	118.1	111.6
7 (Falls City)	120.2	115.0
8 (Seward)	114.3	111.1
9 (York)	117.8	111.9
10 (Columbus)	115.6	112.7
11 (Norfolk)	115.6	113.4
12 (Grand Island)	121.9	117.5
13 (Hastings)	119.3	115.8
14 (Beatrice)	121.2	114.7
15 (Kearney)	120.3	118.7
16 (Lexington)	122.4	119.8
17 (Holdrege)	122.3	121.9
18 (North Platte)	118.1	115.7
19 (Ogallala)	113.1	111.2
20 (McCook)	118.5	119.6
21 (Sidney, Kimball)	120.5	115.1
22 (Scottsbluff)	127.1	133.2
23 (Alliance, Chadron)	112.0	115.0
24 (O'Neill)	119.8	124.5
25 (Hartington)	113.2	110.3
26 (Broken Bow)	112.5	113.2

PHYSICAL VOLUME OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

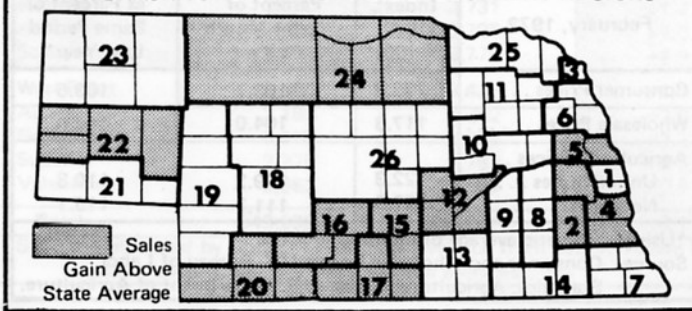


¹Sales on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state, including motor vehicle sales.

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

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

1972 YEAR TO DATE AS PERCENT OF 1971 YEAR TO DATE IN NEBRASKA'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



(Continued from page 4)

Since 1967, agriculture and manufacturing have been the two slowest growth sectors on the average for both the state and the nation. On the positive side, however, in terms of 1967 levels, the dollar volume of manufacturing in Nebraska, up 34.6 percent, continues ahead of that of the nation, up 23.1 percent.

Overall dollar volume and physical volume growth patterns show similar trends for the state and the nation since 1967. As expectable, Nebraska's pattern has been the more volatile, frequently rising above and then falling below that of the nation. In February, the Nebraska dollar volume index, standing at 143.8 percent of its 1967 level, was slightly above that of the U.S. index, which stood at 141.7 percent of its 1967 level. The physical volume index for Nebraska, at 113.9, however, was slightly below the U.S. index, which was 114.7. This situation is attributable to two developments: first, there has been a faster rise in the prices for the state's agricultural products than for the nation's; second, there has been a slower growth in physical volume of government activity as measured in terms of employment. Government activity measured in terms of wages and salaries, on the other hand, has grown faster for Nebraska than for the nation as a whole.

It should be noted that because of some minor revisions of data the overall dollar volume indexes for both the state and the nation are slightly higher for January than previously published. The principal impact of this revision falls on the distributive sector for Nebraska, raising the previously calculated January-to-January increase of 9.2 percent to a revised one of 11.2 percent. It should also be noted that a minor change in the method of computing the overall physical volume index results in a slight downward revision in that index for most of the months since 1967. The downward revision, although greater for Nebraska than for the nation, does not change the general relationships of their growth patterns since 1967.

Regionally, retail activity continues at a level markedly above that of last year. Table 3 and the map at the bottom of page 4 reveal that the dollar volume of taxable retail sales, unadjusted for a general price increase (which was about 3.5 percent),¹ was again 17 percent above that of the same month last year. The largest year-to-year gain was recorded for the second consecutive month in the trade region centering on Scottsbluff.

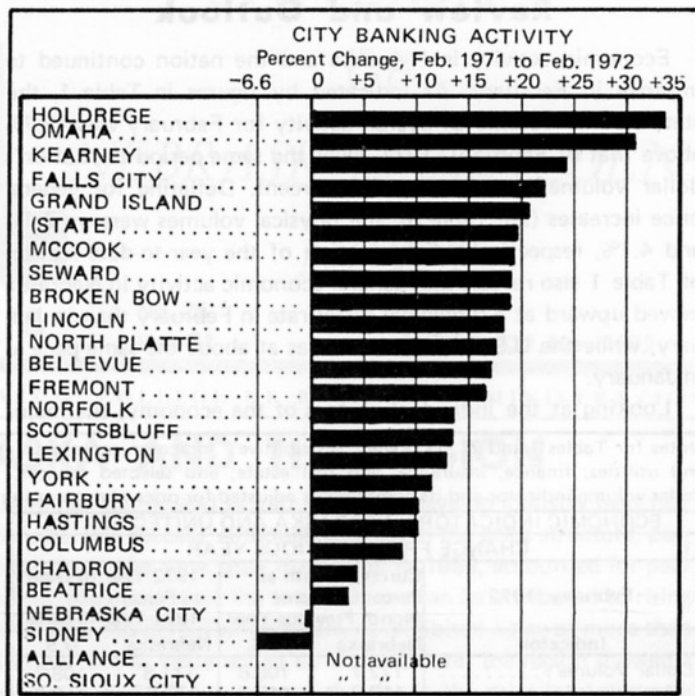
February retail activity, exclusive of motor vehicle sales and adjusted for general price level changes, improved the most since February, 1971, in Scottsbluff, 29.2%; Holdrege, 20.3%; Hastings, 20.3%; and Kearney, 18.0%.
E. L. H.

¹Due to a typographical error, the "percent of same month last year" figure for consumer prices in Table 5 was published in last month's issue as 113.4 instead of 103.4.

5. PRICE INDEXES

February, 1972	Index* (1967 = 100)	Percent of Same Month Last Year	Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year*
Consumer Prices	123.8	103.7	103.5
Wholesale Prices	117.3	104.0	104.0
Agricultural Prices			
United States	122.3	109.2	110.8
Nebraska	127.3	111.7	115.1

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



4. FEBRUARY CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

The State and Its Trading Centers	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			
	Banking Activity ¹	Retail Activity ²	Building Activity ³	Power Consumption ⁴
	(Adjusted for Price Change) ⁵			
<i>The State</i>	119.8	111.7	141.4	109.4
Alliance	NA	92.6	NA	113.9*
Beatrice	103.2	110.7	317.5	105.8
Bellevue	117.3	93.2	180.0	115.6*
Broken Bow	118.9	108.2	69.3	101.6
Chadron	104.0	111.0	66.3	122.8
Columbus	108.6	108.7	140.1	110.4
Fairbury	110.3	105.6	140.0	103.8*
Falls City	122.0	104.6	396.4	102.0*
Fremont	116.2	113.1	25.8	102.9*
Grand Island	120.7	114.0	97.2	125.6
Hastings	110.3	120.0	353.4	103.6
Holdrege	133.9	120.3	93.3	117.6
Kearney	124.2	118.0	194.1	126.2
Lexington	113.1	116.3	369.2	116.0
Lincoln	118.0	108.9	145.6	106.6
McCook	119.3	106.3	511.5	105.3
Nebr. City	99.8	105.0	127.8	104.2
Norfolk	114.2	111.4	99.1	107.2
No. Platte	117.5	114.9	159.1	112.6
Omaha	130.8	111.1	137.3	107.7
Scottsbluff	114.0	129.2	133.8	110.9
Seward	119.0	106.9	257.7	99.7
Sidney	93.4	116.1	194.7	118.4
S.Sioux City	NA	109.4	NA	105.5*
York	111.4	108.5	488.5	110.4

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

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

City Population Estimates For 1971

Preliminary 1971 county population estimates, based on a new methodology formulated by Dr. Edgar Z. Palmer, were published last month. This month we present similar estimates for the cities of the state, also based on a new methodology developed by Dr. Palmer.

Indicators of population changes used for the cities differ from those used for the counties because some data available at the county level are not available for cities. These are drivers licenses, social security beneficiaries, food tax credits, marriages, and divorces. One of the series available for both counties and cities (voter registration) was not used in making the 1971 city estimates because the series does not yet extend over a long enough period of time. Thus the estimates presented in the table below are based on five series—school census, school enrollment, total vote, births, and deaths.

Of these five series only school census and school enrollment figures are available for 1971. Since the Palmer method calls for using trends in place of raw data, the trends for the other three series were extrapolated into 1971. Revised estimates for both counties and cities will be made later in the year when all 1971 data are in hand.

Just as reliable estimates are more difficult for states than for the nation and for counties than for states (for the reasons explained last month), so city estimates are more difficult than those for counties. This is true because good indicators are less available for cities and because city boundaries are frequently changed by annexations.

Data limitations are particularly acute for Nebraska cities. Not only are some of the best indicators (especially drivers licenses and food tax credits) completely unavailable, but also two of the best remaining indicators (school census and school enrollment) can be obtained only for school districts, whose boundaries frequently do not coincide with those of the city.

As the trend toward school district consolidation continues,

school district boundaries will tend to diverge even more from city boundaries and changes in school data for these districts will become less representative of changing populations in the cities themselves. The Bureau has conducted surveys in an attempt to determine the extent of error in city estimates that may result from this factor. Response has been generally good, but there is still insufficient evidence to provide a precise answer to the question.

The estimates presented below, therefore, are those given directly by the Palmer method, with adjustments only in the case of very few cities where increases from annexation did not appear to be captured fully by the data series. For Auburn, Blair, Columbus, and perhaps a few other cities where recent school district consolidations have been important, the estimates may be somewhat high, but it was not felt that adjustments could be made with sufficient precision to warrant deviations from the method.

With the exception of Millard, which has been annexed to Omaha and no longer included, the same cities appear in the table below as have appeared in previous years. Four places (Central City, La Vista, Minden, and Papillion) that became cities (reached 2,500 in population) for the first time in the 1970 census are not yet included because of a lack of data for a sufficiently long period of time to make possible calculation of trends for each of the data series.

VERNON RENSHAW

As a result of revisions by the Bureau of the Census, changes should be made in Table 1, *Business in Nebraska*, April 1971, as follows:

	Population 1970	Change 1960-70	Migration 1960-70	Percentage 1970
Dawson	19,771	+ 366	- 1,299	- 6.57
Platte	26,544	+ 2,552	- 896	- 3.38
Sarpy	66,200	+34,919	+24,018	+36.28
Wheeler	1,051	- 246	- 380	-36.16
State Total	1,485,321	+73,400	-71,761	- 4.83

POPULATION IN NEBRASKA CITIES, 1970 CENSUS AND 1971 PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE

Cities	Number of Persons		Percent Change	Cities	Number of Persons		Percent Change
	1970 Census	July 1, 1971			1970 Census	July 1, 1971	
Omaha	346,929	357,789	+ 3.1	Holdrege	5,635	5,712	+1.4
Lincoln	149,518	153,869	+ 2.9	Falls City	5,444	5,563	+2.2
Grand Island	31,269	31,919	+ 2.1	Wayne	5,379	5,441	+1.2
Hastings	23,580	23,881	+ 1.3	Seward	5,294	5,357	+1.2
Fremont	22,962	23,544	+ 2.5	Fairbury	5,265	5,422	+3.0
Bellevue	21,953	24,548	+11.8	Ogallala	4,976	4,997	+0.4
North Platte	19,447	19,962	+ 2.6	Ralston	4,731	5,195	+9.8
Kearney	19,181	19,721	+ 2.8	Crete	4,444	4,562	+2.7
Norfolk	16,607	17,035	+ 2.6	Cozad	4,225	4,344	+2.8
Columbus	15,471	16,362	+ 5.8	Wahoo	3,835	3,876	+1.1
Scottsbluff	14,507	14,821	+ 2.2	O'Neill	3,753	3,844	+2.4
Beatrice	12,389	12,821	+ 3.5	Broken Bow	3,734	3,755	+0.6
McCook	8,285	8,278	- 0.1	Kimball	3,680	3,731	+1.4
South Sioux City	7,920	8,194	+ 3.5	Auburn	3,650	3,795	+4.0
Nebraska City	7,441	7,530	+ 1.2	Schuyler	3,597	3,774	+4.9
Alliance	6,862	6,883	+ 0.3	West Point	3,385	3,435	+1.5
York	6,778	6,875	+ 1.4	Aurora	3,180	3,262	+2.6
Sidney	6,403	6,350	- 0.8	Gothenburg	3,158	3,232	+2.3
Plattsmouth	6,371	6,557	+ 2.9	Superior	2,779	2,787	+0.3
Blair	6,106	6,610	+ 8.3	Valentine	2,662	2,687	+0.9
Chadron	5,921	6,302	+ 6.4	Total	849,999	876,122	+3.1
Lexington	5,654	5,751	+ 1.7	Source: Calculated by Bureau of Business Research from data furnished by state, county, and city governmental agencies.			
Gering	5,639	5,749	+ 1.9				