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Nebraska's Employment Performance—1987 to 1997

William Scheideler

From 1987 to 1997 Nebraska recorded a net increase of 216,529 full- and part-time jobs, bringing the state total to 1,145,953 for 1997. Total employment consists of three primary employment categories—agricultural employment, nonfarm private employment, and government employment. During the 1987 to 1997 period, the state's agriculture employment declined 12.7 percent (Figure 1). In 1987 the state's total employment in agriculture was 77,723. By 1997 the number of jobs in agriculture had fallen 9,857 to 67,866. Nearly two-thirds of the job loss in agriculture reflected the loss of farm proprietors. Nonfarm employment, the sum of nonfarm private sector and government employment, grew nearly 27 percent and added 226,386 jobs over the period. Nearly all of the growth (98 percent) occurred in the nonfarm private sector—32 percent—compared to only 3 percent growth in the government sector.

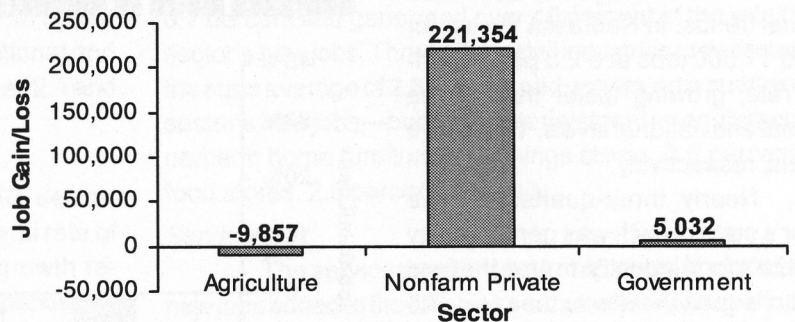
The period from 1987 to 1997 was selected for two reasons. First, 1987 marked the end of the farm crisis of the early 1980s. Second, the 1997 employment data are the most current data¹ available at the state and national levels. Changes over the period are average annual rates.

Based on the growth rate for total employment, Nebraska outperformed both the Plains region² and the nation. Yet the state reported the sharpest decline in agricultural employment (Figure 2). Nebraska also recorded a much

lower rate of growth in government jobs than the region and nation, growing only about a third of the national rate. The state economy's strongest job growth occurred in the nonfarm private sector. In fact, Nebraska's nonfarm private sector employment grew about 1.4 times the national average.

An estimated 62 percent of the state's nonfarm private sector employment growth occurred in the five metro counties—Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington. In contrast, about 75 percent of the employment growth in the state's government sector occurred in nonmetro counties (Figure 3 and Table 1).

Figure 1
Nebraska Employment Change, by Sector—1987 to 1997

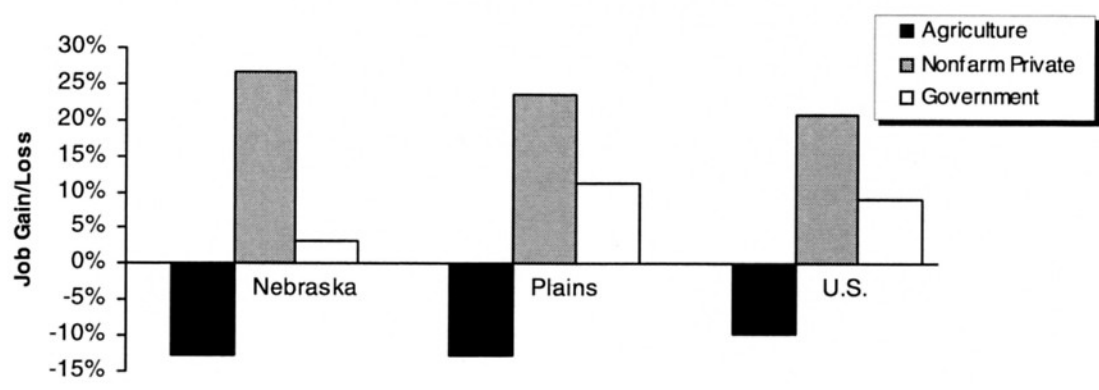


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis

¹The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce, issues the annual state level employment series known as SA25. This comprehensive employment measure—including proprietors and the agriculture sector—tracks jobs by place of work, not place of residence.

²BEA defines the Plains region as Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota.

Figure 2
Nebraska, Plains, and U.S. Employment Change, by Sector—1987 to 1997



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

Nonfarm Private Sector

Durables Manufacturing

The number of jobs in durables manufacturing increased 31 percent statewide, an increase of nearly 14,000 jobs. Durables manufacturers are engaged in the production of goods with an expected life of at least three years (e.g., automobiles, furniture, or household appliances). Across the Plains region, durables manufacturing employment grew at only half the pace of Nebraska's growth, while it reported a slight loss nationwide. Six of the state's 12 durables manufacturing industries reported annual employment rates exceeding the state average of 2.3 percent, including:

- furniture/fixtures (9.2 percent, 1,800 jobs);
- motor vehicles/equipment (3.4 percent, 1,100 jobs);
- industrial machinery/equipment (3.3 percent, 3,600 jobs);
- fabricated metal products (2.9 percent, 2,000 jobs);
- instruments/related products (2.7 percent, 1,100 jobs);
- electronic/other electric equipment (2.5 percent, 2,100 jobs).

Nondurables Manufacturing

Nondurables manufacturers, those producing goods with an expected life of fewer than three years, also defied national trends. In Nebraska the sector added 11,500 jobs at a 2.3 percent annual rate, growing faster than at the regional and national levels, 1.2 and 0.8 percent, respectively.

Nearly three-quarters of the sector's state growth was generated by the state's food industry. In turn, the food industry's growth reflects the rapid, 7.5 percent, growth in the state's meat packing industry. More than half the jobs in Nebraska's food industry are in the meat packing plants. Two other food industries with above average annual growth rates

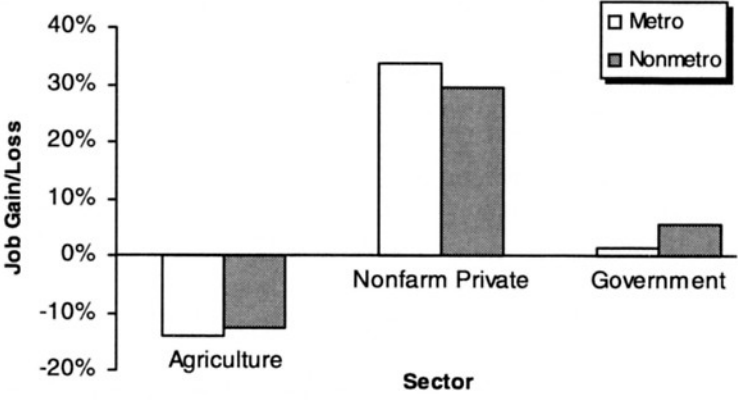
included bakery products, 3.5 percent, and fats/oils, 2.9 percent. Employment in the dairy products industry declined 2.3 percent per year.

Two other industries contributed most of the remaining job growth in the nondurables sector—rubber/miscellaneous plastics, 2.6 percent, 1,300 jobs, and printing/publishing, 1.3 percent, 940 jobs. Commercial printing accounted for roughly half of employment in the printing and publishing industry. The state's newspapers, comprising a third of printing and publishing employment, grew only 0.1 percent annually.

Construction

The state's construction sector grew 5 percent annually, adding almost 19,000 jobs from 1987 to 1997. Across the region and nationwide, the sector grew at a much more modest pace, 3.1 and 2 percent, respectively. Three-quarters of the sector's new jobs were added by special trade contrac-

Figure 3
Nebraska Metro vs Nonmetro Employment Change—1987 to 1997



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

Table 1
Employment Change, by Sector—Nebraska, 1987 to 1997

Industry	Employment			Percent Change	
	1987	1997	Change	Metro	Nonmetro
Total	929,424	1,145,953	216,529	63%	37%
Farm	77,723	67,866	-9,857	8%	92%
Nonfarm	851,701	1,078,087	226,386	61%	39%
Private	694,749	916,103	221,354	62%	38%
Ag. Services	10,421	16,519	6,098	n/a	n/a
Mining	3,117	2,179	-938	n/a	n/a
Construction	38,316	57,265	18,949	55%	45%
Manufacturing	93,991	119,466	25,475	36%	64%
TCU	50,488	62,616	12,128	73%	27%
Wholesale Trade	50,115	56,747	6,632	69%	31%
Retail Trade	151,907	196,843	44,936	53%	47%
FIRE	73,073	81,997	8,924	58%	42%
Services	223,321	322,471	99,150	73%	27%
Government	156,952	161,984	5,032	25%	75%
Federal, Civilian	17,860	15,673	-2,187	49%	51%
Military	23,650	16,521	-7,129	77%	23%
State	30,813	33,140	2,327	71%	29%
Local	84,629	96,650	12,021	51%	49%

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

tors, but general building and heavy construction contractors also reported above average employment growth, 3.2 and 3.6 percent, respectively. Fifty-five percent of the new construction jobs were added to payrolls in the state's metro counties.

Transportation, Communication, and Utilities (TCU)

Overall, TCU grew 2.4 percent annually, slightly faster than the statewide average, adding 12,128 jobs to the Nebraska economy. The largest industry in the sector—trucking and warehousing—grew at twice the regional and national pace, 4.9 percent, creating 80 percent (9,741) of the sector's new jobs. The state's air transportation industry expanded even more rapidly, adding 3,343 jobs (29 percent) over the period—nearly three times the national pace. Employment in the state's railroad industry declined 0.8 percent annually, while nationwide the industry declined nearly three times as fast. The communications industry reported losing 1,073 jobs, -1 percent per year over the period, while at the national and regional levels the communications industry expanded 2.1 and 2.7 percent per year, respectively.

Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE)

The annual job growth rate in the state's FIRE sector, 1.2 percent, was only slightly behind than the national rate of 1.3 percent. In part, the sector's below average growth reflected slower growth in the state's depository and nondepository institutions. However, at the national level depository and nondepository institutions reported annual job losses of 1 percent. Credit unions and mortgage banks added jobs at rapid annual rates—65 percent and 13 percent, respectively. Commercial banks grew slowly, 1.4 percent per year, and savings

institutions reported employment losses of 2.9 percent annually.

For the rest of the FIRE sector, two industries, real estate and insurance carriers, reported minimal employment growth. Three industries in the sector exceeded the state's average annual growth rate—security and commodity brokers, 3.9 percent; holding and other investment offices, 3.6 percent; and insurance agents, brokers, and services, 2.5 percent.

Retail Trade

Over the period, the retail sector grew 3 percent per year and added nearly 45,000 new jobs—21 percent of all new jobs—to the state's economy. In addition, the sector outperformed its national and regional counterparts. The number of jobs reported in miscellaneous retail industries (including catalog and mail-order houses) increased at an annual rate of 6.7 percent and generated over 40 percent of the retail trade sector's new jobs. Three other retail industries grew faster than the state average of 2.3 percent and generated a quarter of the sector's new jobs—building materials/garden equipment, 5.1 percent; home furniture/furnishings stores, 3.5 percent; and food stores, 2.8 percent, annually.

Services

The services sector created 46 percent of the 99,150 new jobs added to the Nebraska economy over the period. The state growth rate, 4.4 percent, slightly outpaced the regional increase of 4.0 percent and national increase of 4.2 percent. Four service industries added two-thirds of the new jobs in the services sector—business services, 6.8 percent annually, 33,439 jobs; health services, 3.2 percent, 17,242 jobs; private

education services, 7.1 percent, 7,831 jobs; and amusement/recreation services, 6.8 percent, 6,195 jobs.

Business services added over one-third of all jobs in the services sector. Five industries in business services accounted for 86 percent of the new jobs in the sector and reported rapid annual employment growth rates:

- direct mail advertising, 8.7 percent;
- help supply services, 17.3 percent;
- data processing/preparation, 8.4 percent;
- detective/armored car services, 7.2 percent; and
- business services, not elsewhere classified, 24.7 percent.

Employment growth in health services, private education services, and amusement/recreation services contributed about a third of the employment growth in the services sector. Health services grew 3.2 percent annually, slower than the industry at the regional and national levels of 3.4 and 4.1 percent, respectively. Hospitals accounted for 80 percent of the growth in health services employment, growing 6.2 percent annually. Meanwhile, employment in nursery and personal care facilities grew only 2 percent per year.

Private educational services added 7,831 jobs and grew at an annual rate of 7.1 percent. Growth at the regional and national levels was significantly slower, 5 and 4.7 percent. Private elementary and secondary school jobs increased 7 percent annually, while private colleges and universities added jobs at a 3.2 percent annual rate. These two education groups accounted for 96 percent of the growth in the state's private sector education services employment.

The amusement/recreation services industry added 6,195 jobs, growing 6.8 percent per year—almost as fast as at the national level, 7.4 percent. At least half of the jobs were categorized in two miscellaneous groups that included golf courses, physical fitness facilities, gymnastics instruction, and Judo/Karate instruction, among others.

Government Sector

Overall, government employment in Nebraska grew just 0.3 percent annually from 1987 to 1997. However, state and local government employment continued to grow slowly, 0.7 and 1.4 percent per year, respectively, while federal government employment in the state declined. Federal military employment in Nebraska declined 3 percent per year, while federal civilian employment declined 1.2 percent per year. Overall, 77 percent of the growth in Nebraska's government employment occurred in the state's nonmetro areas.

Conclusion

The nonfarm private sector generated 98 percent of the jobs added to the Nebraska economy over the period, as the number of farm proprietors declined and government employment growth slowed. Employment growth in Nebraska varied widely across industries in the nonfarm private sector. Four sectors reported employment growth that outperformed the state average over the 1987 to 1997 period: durables manufacturing, construction, retail trade, and services. The three slowest growing sectors were finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE), wholesale trade, and government. However, each of the major sectors contained a mix of fast- and slow-growing industries.

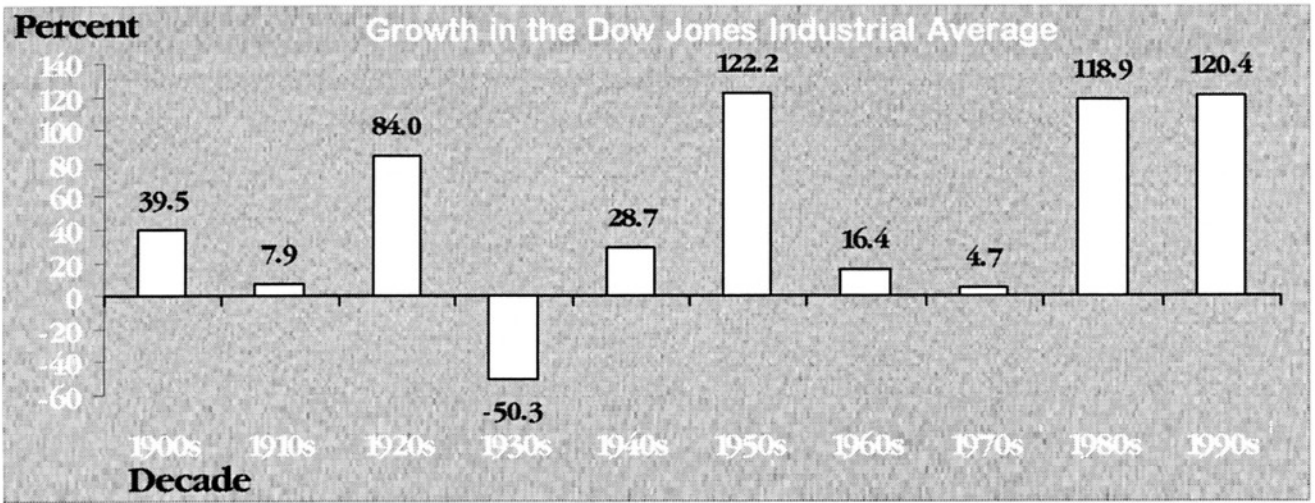
Highly Recommended Reading for Investors

Go to BBR's web home page, www.bbr.unl.edu, and click on "Is Trouble Brewing in the Stock Market?" This informative article explains, in understandable terms, the historical *bubbles* and *troubles* of the stock market to answer the nagging question, "Is trouble brewing in the stock market?" This article is excellent reading material, even for those who are not active investors in the stock market.

The article, written by Adam M. Zaretsky, an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, appeared in the April 1999 issue of *The Regional Economist*, published by the St. Louis Fed. A chart from that article appears at the top on the next page.



The Running of the Bulls



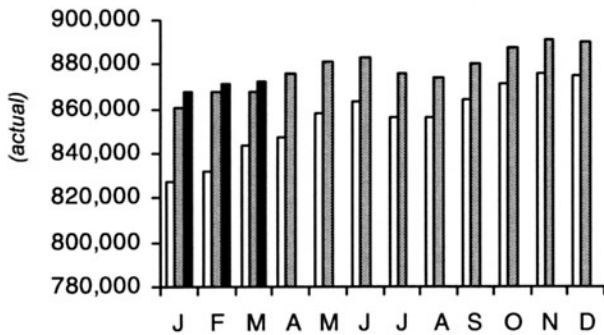
EXCEPT FOR THE 1930s (THE PEAK OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION), THE DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE HAS GROWN EACH DECADE THIS CENTURY, SOMETIMES ROBUSTLY. THE 1980s AND 1990s HAVE BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG, WITH THREE QUARTERS OF A YEAR STILL TO GO. THIS RECENT HISTORY HAS LED MANY TO WONDER WHETHER THE SURGE WILL CONTINUE AND WHETHER THE CURRENT ECONOMY IS OPERATING DIFFERENTLY THAN PRECEDING ONES.

†Through year-end 1998
Source: Dow Jones

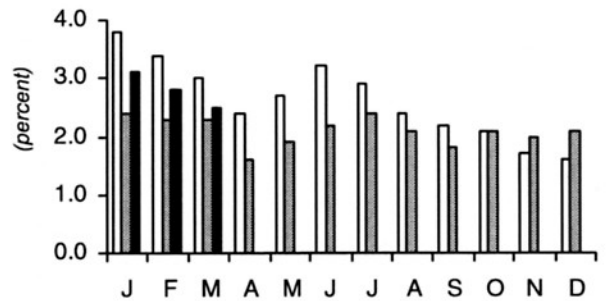
Nebraska Stats

□ 1997 ▒ 1998 ■ 1999

Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment

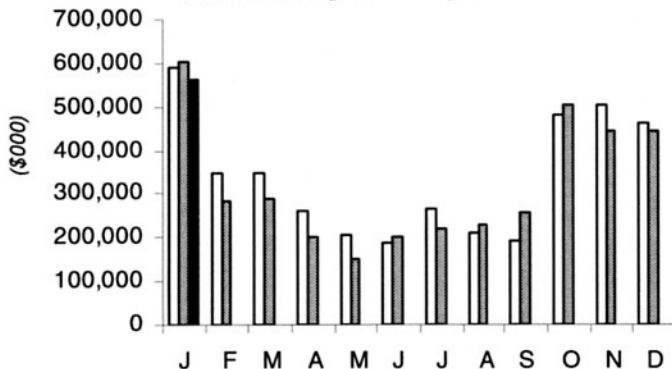


Unemployment Rate

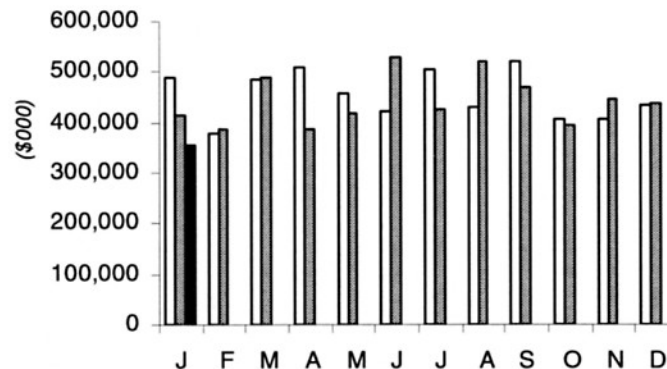


□ 1997 ▒ 1998 ■ 1999

Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



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

	January 1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago		January 1999 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,649	1,649	4.0	Kenesaw, Adams	420	420	22.4
Albion, Boone	1,538	1,538	-2.8	Kimball, Kimball	1,440	1,440	3.9
Alliance, Box Butte	5,240	5,240	-2.5	La Vista, Sarpy	7,954	7,954	7.1
Alma, Harlan	565	565	2.2	Laurel, Cedar	297	297	11.7
Arapahoe, Furnas	625	625	2.1	Lexington, Dawson	6,600	6,600	3.4
Arlington, Washington	163	163	-24.5	Lincoln, Lancaster	185,273	185,273	4.6
Arnold, Custer	206	206	-16.6	Louisville, Cass	389	389	8.7
Ashland, Saunders	864	864	8.0	Loup City, Sherman	637	637	4.8
Atkinson, Holt	782	782	-11.5	Lyons, Burt	424	424	1.2
Auburn, Nemaha	2,003	2,003	-8.7	Madison, Madison	827	827	22.7
Aurora, Hamilton	2,444	2,444	3.0	McCook, Red Willow	10,357	10,357	3.3
Axtell, Kearney	50	50	-26.5	Milford, Seward	1,187	1,187	-4.4
Bassett, Rock	316	316	-12.2	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	121	121	-17.1
Battle Creek, Madison	692	692	8.8	Minden, Kearney	1,566	1,566	17.6
Bayard, Morrill	431	431	-11.0	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	730	730	3.7
Beatrice, Gage	9,665	9,665	2.5	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	370	370	-8.0
Beaver City, Furnas	116	116	14.9	Nebraska City, Otoe	5,041	5,041	-7.6
Bellevue, Sarpy	16,810	16,810	11.4	Neligh, Antelope	1,157	1,157	-6.7
Benkelman, Dundy	466	466	5.7	Newman Grove, Madison	278	278	11.2
Bennington, Douglas	309	309	29.8	Norfolk, Madison	26,184	26,184	0.8
Blair, Washington	6,015	6,015	5.0	North Bend, Dodge	409	409	2.0
Bloomfield, Knox	513	513	-19.5	North Platte, Lincoln	20,121	20,121	6.1
Blue Hill, Webster	435	435	-0.7	O'Neill, Holt	3,786	3,786	1.8
Bridgeport, Morrill	940	940	3.4	Oakland, Burt	690	690	5.8
Broken Bow, Custer	3,341	3,341	-7.5	Ogallala, Keith	4,645	4,645	3.9
Burwell, Garfield	621	621	-1.3	Omaha, Douglas	441,462	441,462	7.8
Cairo, Hall	146	146	-28.1	Ord, Valley	1,672	1,672	-1.9
Central City, Merrick	1,437	1,437	-1.8	Osceola, Polk	604	604	1.5
Chadron, Dawes	4,240	4,240	14.7	Oshkosh, Garden	447	447	-2.2
Chappell, Deuel	399	399	3.4	Osmond, Pierce	259	259	-4.4
Clarkson, Colfax	297	297	-26.1	Oxford, Furnas	475	475	9.4
Clay Center, Clay	414	414	8.4	Papillion, Sarpy	6,380	6,380	16.3
Columbus, Platte	18,040	18,040	2.9	Pawnee City, Pawnee	302	302	0.0
Cozad, Dawson	2,815	2,815	1.1	Pender, Thurston	545	545	0.9
Crawford, Dawes	389	389	2.1	Pierce, Pierce	569	569	-8.5
Creighton, Knox	1,172	1,172	15.5	Plainview, Pierce	594	594	-5.7
Crete, Saline	2,879	2,879	-3.9	Plattsmouth, Cass	2,951	2,951	1.8
Crofton, Knox	300	300	-1.0	Ponca, Dixon	484	484	5.2
Curtis, Frontier	338	338	5.0	Ralston, Douglas	2,749	2,749	-3.6
Dakota City, Dakota	327	327	-9.9	Randolph, Cedar	382	382	-4.5
David City, Butler	1,343	1,343	10.9	Ravenna, Buffalo	678	678	-14.2
Deshler, Thayer	288	288	-8.3	Red Cloud, Webster	619	619	1.8
Dodge, Dodge	180	180	-0.6	Rushville, Sheridan	507	507	-7.5
Doniphan, Hall	889	889	-32.2	Sargent, Custer	166	166	-1.8
Eagle, Cass	210	210	-7.1	Schuyler, Colfax	1,617	1,617	-14.5
Elgin, Antelope	361	361	-3.5	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	18,457	18,457	2.5
Elkhorn, Douglas	1,876	1,876	12.0	Scribner, Dodge	352	352	-8.8
Elm Creek, Buffalo	410	410	32.7	Seward, Seward	4,278	4,278	5.4
Elwood, Gosper	395	395	-1.7	Shelby, Polk	261	261	-0.8
Fairbury, Jefferson	3,161	3,161	12.1	Shelton, Buffalo	1,016	1,016	60.3
Fairmont, Fillmore	143	143	28.8	Sidney, Cheyenne	5,815	5,815	-3.6
Falls City, Richardson	2,155	2,155	-0.6	South Sioux City, Dakota	7,304	7,304	0.3
Franklin, Franklin	511	511	-10.5	Springfield, Sarpy	332	332	104.9
Fremont, Dodge	19,083	19,083	6.2	St. Paul, Howard	1,103	1,103	-5.4
Friend, Saline	449	449	12.3	Stanton, Stanton	564	564	-1.7
Fullerton, Nance	566	566	3.7	Stromsburg, Polk	580	580	-4.1
Geneva, Fillmore	1,391	1,391	0.7	Superior, Nuckolls	1,417	1,417	1.1
Genoa, Nance	284	284	-4.7	Sutherland, Lincoln	321	321	5.6
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,202	3,202	-6.4	Sutton, Clay	878	878	13.3
Gibbon, Buffalo	753	753	-3.5	Syracuse, Otoe	925	925	7.6
Gordon, Sheridan	1,423	1,423	-2.3	Tecumseh, Johnson	793	793	6.3
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,070	2,070	4.8	Tekamah, Burt	1,000	1,000	11.1
Grand Island, Hall	43,760	43,760	-0.8	Tilden, Madison	471	471	19.2
Grant, Perkins	846	846	-9.4	Utica, Seward	340	340	13.3
Gretna, Sarpy	2,247	2,247	11.5	Valentine, Cherry	3,481	3,481	4.9
Hartington, Cedar	1,573	1,573	0.8	Valley, Douglas	596	596	-27.7
Hastings, Adams	18,076	18,076	3.4	Wahoo, Saunders	2,111	2,111	-0.2
Hay Springs, Sheridan	347	347	-2.0	Wakefield, Dixon	298	298	-1.0
Hebron, Thayer	1,827	1,827	2.6	Wauneta, Chase	314	314	-16.7
Henderson, York	470	470	10.1	Waverly, Lancaster	694	694	-2.0
Hickman, Lancaster	246	246	18.3	Wayne, Wayne	3,893	3,893	33.7
Holdrege, Phelps	3,839	3,839	-1.7	Weeping Water, Cass	498	498	-14.7
Hooper, Dodge	324	324	-9.7	West Point, Cuming	3,422	3,422	-1.6
Humboldt, Richardson	469	469	2.2	Wilber, Saline	408	408	-3.1
Humphrey, Platte	490	490	-9.8	Wisner, Cuming	463	463	-7.0
Imperial, Chase	1,764	1,764	-1.2	Wood River, Hall	331	331	-10.1
Juniata, Adams	234	234	15.8	Wymore, Gage	404	404	8.6
Kearney, Buffalo	28,899	28,899	5.9	York, York	9,051	9,051	-0.3

*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			
	January	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	January	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	January	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	January	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	
	1999	YTD		1999	YTD		1999	YTD		1999	YTD		
	(\$000)	(\$000)		(\$000)	(\$000)		(\$000)	(\$000)		(\$000)	(\$000)		
Nebraska	170,768	170,768	0.4	1,241,673	1,241,673	1.4	Howard	643	643	-29.1	1,400	1,400	-4.1
Adams	2,865	2,865	-9.5	18,905	18,905	4.0	Jefferson	1,034	1,034	2.9	3,984	3,984	10.0
Antelope	934	934	-27.3	1,813	1,813	-2.5	Johnson	454	454	-7.7	1,113	1,113	4.9
Arthur	112	112	-16.4	35	35	(D)	Kearney	833	833	-29.8	1,691	1,691	13.0
Banner	50	50	-62.1	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	1,240	1,240	45.7	4,977	4,977	2.9
Blaine	109	109	34.6	60	60	5.3	Keya Paha	92	92	-39.1	74	74	7.2
Boone	763	763	-32.7	1,925	1,925	-4.6	Kimball	397	397	4.5	1,457	1,457	3.1
Box Butte	1,102	1,102	-18.7	5,516	5,516	-2.0	Knox	905	905	-23.1	2,531	2,531	1.4
Boyd	247	247	-23.1	451	451	3.9	Lancaster	20,764	20,764	3.4	187,372	187,372	4.5
Brown	490	490	6.3	1,688	1,688	3.4	Lincoln	3,656	3,656	9.0	20,945	20,945	5.9
Buffalo	4,514	4,514	-1.8	32,034	32,034	6.6	Logan	112	112	-41.4	(D)	(D)	(D)
Burt	828	828	-22.0	2,268	2,268	6.2	Loup	107	107	-27.2	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	1,045	1,045	3.3	1,835	1,835	14.8	McPherson	63	63	-51.2	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	3,229	3,229	23.5	5,203	5,203	2.4	Madison	3,723	3,723	2.3	28,530	28,530	1.9
Cedar	896	896	-28.5	2,471	2,471	0.6	Merrick	970	970	-17.6	1,914	1,914	-0.4
Chase	794	794	12.6	2,087	2,087	-4.0	Morrill	607	607	-14.3	1,415	1,415	0.7
Cherry	1,060	1,060	6.4	3,643	3,643	3.8	Nance	486	486	-14.9	856	856	-0.9
Cheyenne	1,152	1,152	40.0	6,053	6,053	-3.3	Nemaha	760	760	-35.8	2,334	2,334	-8.0
Clay	1,212	1,212	16.1	2,096	2,096	10.8	Nuckolls	644	644	3.2	1,972	1,972	2.7
Colfax	1,256	1,256	19.2	2,298	2,298	-13.6	Otoe	2,007	2,007	-8.4	6,299	6,299	-5.7
Cuming	977	977	-23.2	4,346	4,346	-2.3	Pawnee	242	242	-54.4	468	468	4.2
Custer	1,472	1,472	-6.4	4,191	4,191	-6.5	Perkins	784	784	10.6	1,010	1,010	-9.1
Dakota	1,918	1,918	10.0	8,234	8,234	0.1	Phelps	1,185	1,185	-13.4	4,079	4,079	-2.1
Dawes	660	660	-22.8	4,629	4,629	13.5	Pierce	835	835	-8.6	1,476	1,476	-6.4
Dawson	2,883	2,883	-21.6	11,752	11,752	3.2	Platte	4,127	4,127	10.8	18,921	18,921	1.9
Deuel	301	301	11.5	900	900	8.3	Polk	829	829	-16.4	1,644	1,644	0.4
Dixon	526	526	-24.4	878	878	1.5	Red Willow	976	976	-13.2	10,599	10,599	2.9
Dodge	3,384	3,384	20.4	20,593	20,593	5.4	Richardson	766	766	-34.0	2,831	2,831	-0.8
Douglas	39,744	39,744	13.3	448,564	448,564	7.7	Rock	162	162	-53.6	322	322	-10.6
Dundy	393	393	0.8	477	477	7.2	Saline	1,549	1,549	1.1	4,167	4,167	0.2
Fillmore	986	986	-14.1	2,186	2,186	5.8	Sarpy	11,017	11,017	7.6	34,986	34,986	12.2
Franklin	484	484	-30.9	687	687	-8.2	Saunders	2,544	2,544	10.0	4,982	4,982	-3.1
Frontier	482	482	-23.2	587	587	-1.8	Scotts Bluff	3,148	3,148	-10.3	22,933	22,933	0.8
Furnas	669	669	-32.1	2,069	2,069	6.2	Seward	1,738	1,738	3.7	6,013	6,013	3.3
Gage	2,542	2,542	1.2	10,672	10,672	2.2	Sheridan	689	689	-32.7	2,487	2,487	-5.1
Garden	242	242	-43.7	573	573	1.2	Sherman	425	425	0.2	745	745	7.7
Garfield	151	151	-53.0	620	620	-1.4	Sioux	230	230	-45.2	84	84	-14.3
Gosper	427	427	40.5	457	457	1.1	Stanton	675	675	9.4	802	802	17.9
Grant	209	209	51.4	145	145	-20.3	Thayer	1,022	1,022	-6.5	2,534	2,534	-0.7
Greeley	425	425	41.2	534	534	8.1	Thomas	111	111	-41.9	241	241	-14.2
Hall	4,923	4,923	-9.8	45,394	45,394	-1.8	Thurston	487	487	-5.6	704	704	5.4
Hamilton	1,272	1,272	-4.0	2,704	2,704	0.6	Valley	521	521	-1.3	1,967	1,967	6.3
Harlan	397	397	-16.1	667	667	-0.6	Washington	2,301	2,301	25.1	6,631	6,631	4.4
Hayes	111	111	-46.4	(D)	(D)	(D)	Wayne	975	975	-8.8	4,028	4,028	31.2
Hitchcock	339	339	-19.3	456	456	-17.2	Webster	320	320	-31.5	1,137	1,137	1.8
Holt	1,435	1,435	-13.3	5,181	5,181	1.3	Wheeler	108	108	-52.6	67	67	-2.9
Hooker	186	186	86.0	171	171	-2.8	York	1,563	1,563	-20.5	9,872	9,872	-2.3

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

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

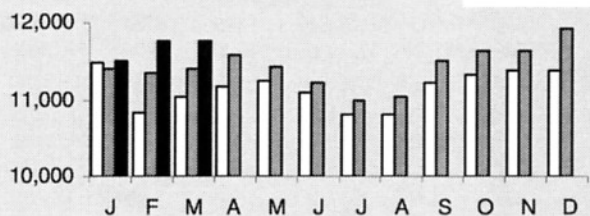
Note on Net Taxable Retail Sales

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 March** 1999

1997 1998 1999

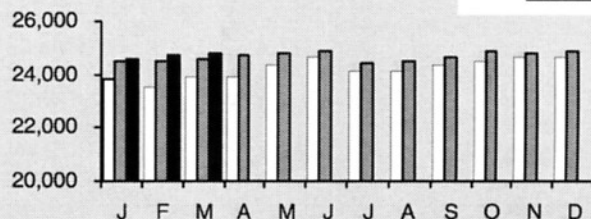
Northwest Panhandle



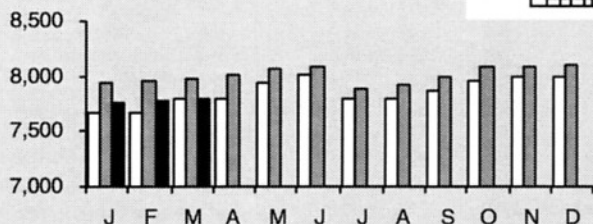
Note to Readers

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

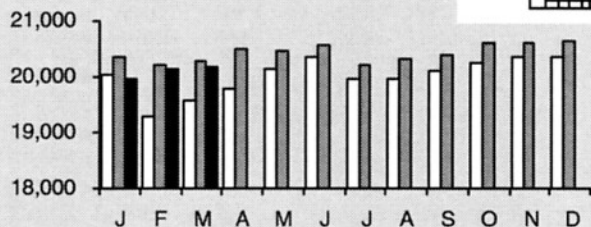
Southwest Panhandle



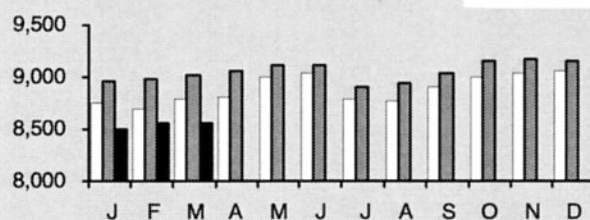
North Central



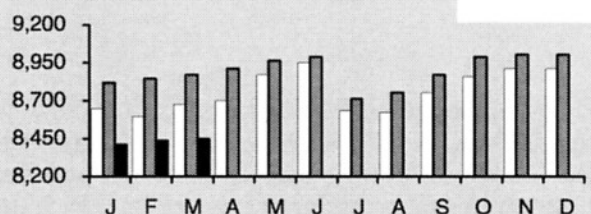
West Central



Southwest Central



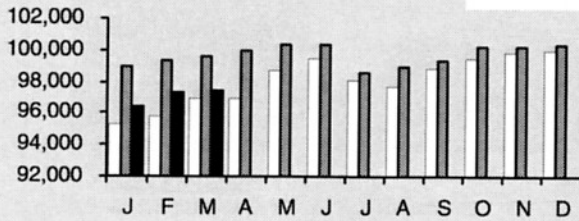
East Central



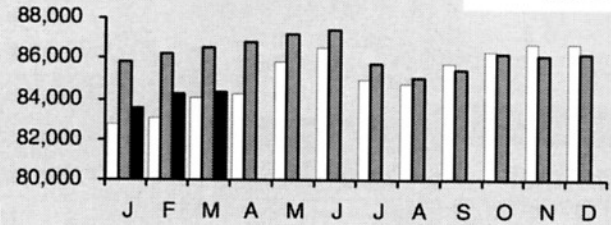
Regional Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment* 1997 to March** 1999

□ 1997 ▒ 1998 ■ 1999

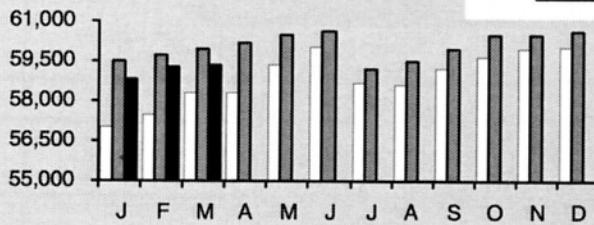
Southeast Central



Northeast

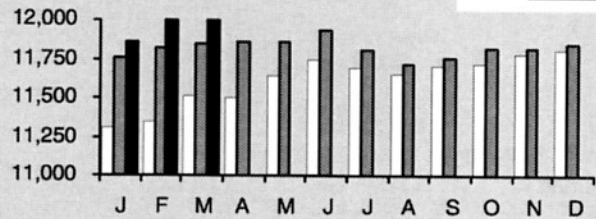
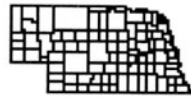


Southeast



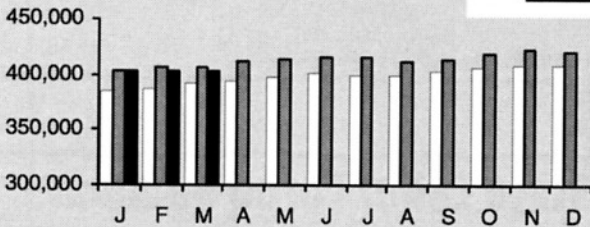
Sioux City MSA

Nebraska portion only

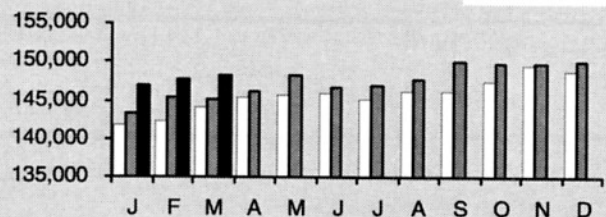


Omaha MSA

Nebraska portion only



Lincoln MSA



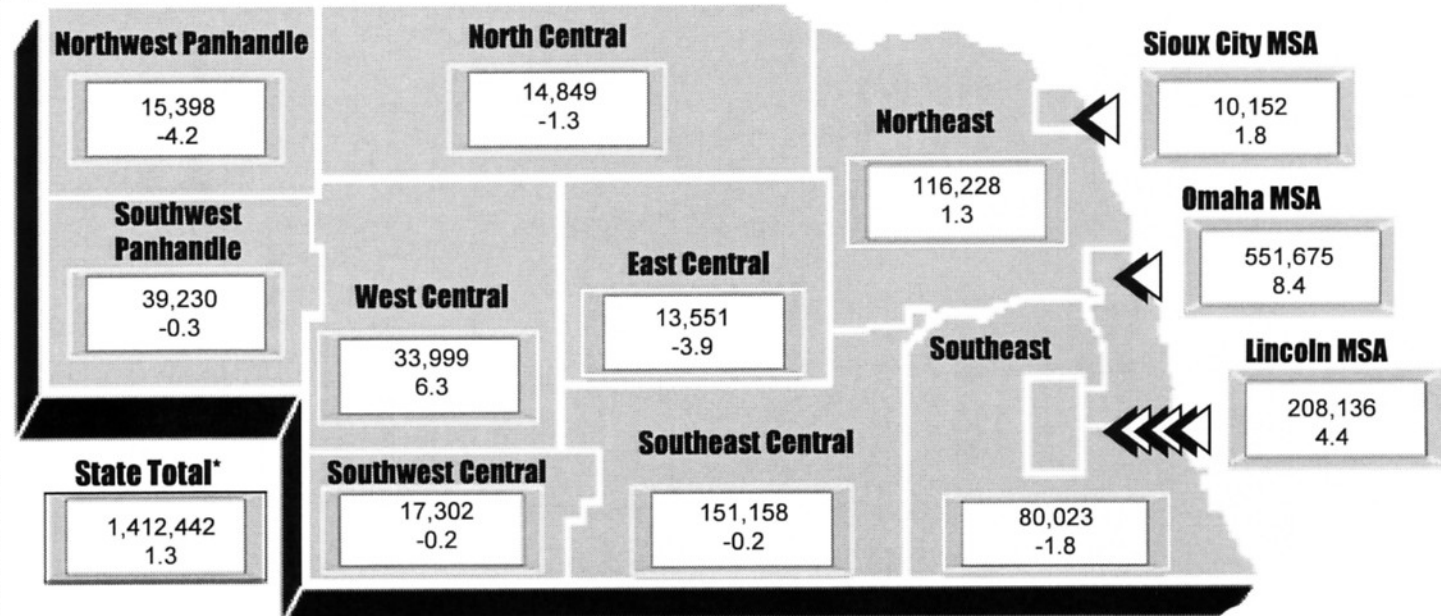
*By place of work

**Current month data are preliminary and subject to revision

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

January 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*

	Preliminary March 1999	Revised February 1999	February % Change vs Yr. Ago
Total	872,027	871,254	0.4
Construction & Mining	38,551	39,111	-0.1
Manufacturing	117,499	117,823	-0.5
Durables	56,799	56,920	-1.1
Nondurables	60,700	60,903	0.1
TCU**	58,536	58,252	6.8
Trade	209,288	209,822	-0.9
Wholesale	55,152	54,784	-3.8
Retail	154,136	155,038	0.2
FIRE***	58,473	58,587	4.3
Services	238,333	236,739	1.4
Government	151,347	150,920	-2.1

*By place of work

**Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

***Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

Consumer Price Index

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

	March 1999	% Change vs Yr. Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago (inflation rate)
All Items	165.0	1.7	1.8
Commodities	142.6	0.8	0.6
Services	187.6	2.6	2.5

*U = All urban consumers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Inflation Rate

1.8

State Labor Force Summary*

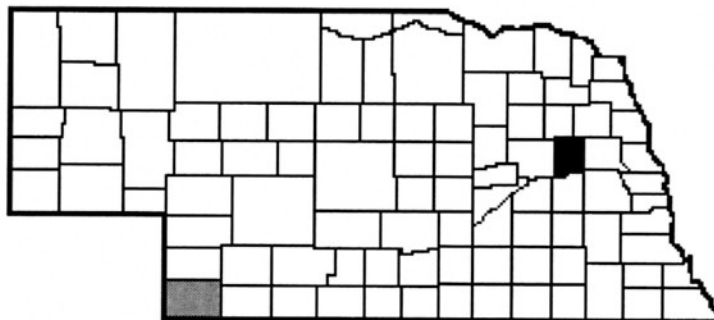
	Preliminary March 1999	Revised February 1999	February % Change vs Yr. Ago
Labor Force	923,402	922,535	0.6
Employment	900,279	897,001	0.1
Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.8	

*By place of residence

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

Colfax

Schuyler-County Seat



License plate prefix number: 43

Size of county: 410 square miles, ranks 86th in the state

Population: 10,716 in 1998, a change of 17.3 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$20,657 in 1996, ranks 38th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$47,553 in 1998, a change of 1.2 percent from 1997; \$3,555 in January of 1999, a change of -4.3 percent from January the previous year.

Number of worksites¹: 289 in 1997

Unemployment rate: 2.0 percent in Colfax County, 2.6 percent in Nebraska for 1997

	State	Colfax County
Nonfarm employment (1997)²:	855,802	4,260
(wage & salary)	<i>(percent of total)</i>	
Construction and Mining	4.6	2.2
Manufacturing	13.6	(D)
TCU	6.2	1.8
Wholesale Trade	6.4	8.1
Retail Trade	18.1	13.0
FIRE	6.4	(D)
Services	26.8	14.8
Government	17.8	14.4

(D) = disclosure suppression

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 694 in 1992, 778 in 1987

Average farm size: 330 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$177.5 million in 1992 (\$255,761 average per farm)

¹Worksites refers to business activity covered under the Nebraska Employment Security Law. Information presented has been extracted from the Employer's Quarterly Contribution Report, Nebraska Form UI-11. For further details about covered worksites, see the Nebraska Employers Guide to Unemployment Insurance.

²By 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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Population Projections

Nebraska County Population Projections to 2020 are available. This report contains county-level projections by age category. The cost is \$15 per copy which includes postage and handling. Contact BBR to order.

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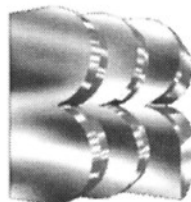
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