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Will Net Outmigration be Reversed?—A Look at the Future of Nebraska County Populations

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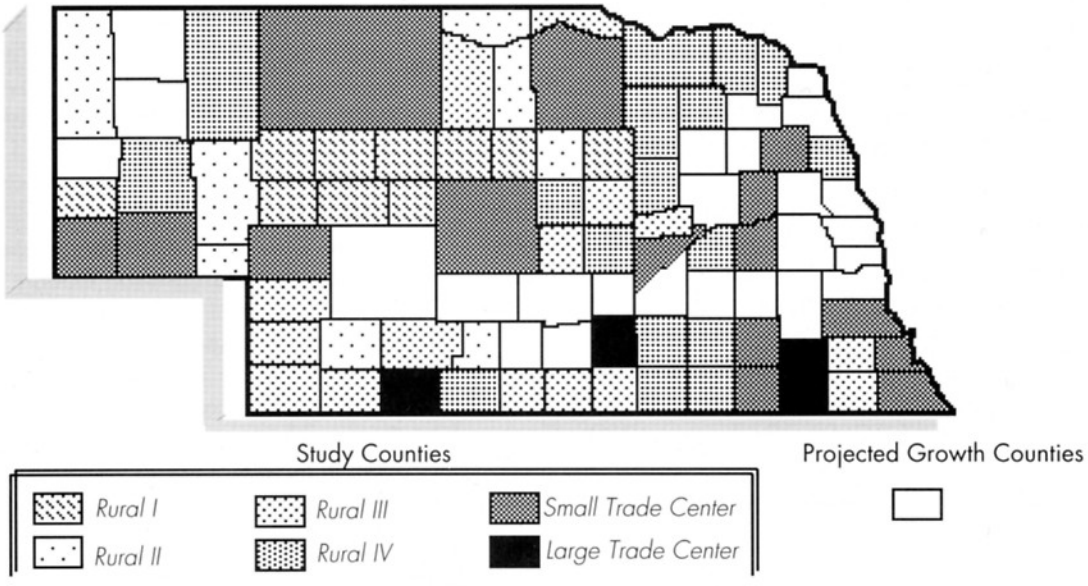
Counties across Nebraska have been steadily losing population throughout much of the 20th century. Projections into the next century, based on data through 1990, offer little hope for a reversal of this trend—more than two-thirds of the state's 93 counties are expected to lose population through 2010. Recent intercensal estimates of population, however, provide indications that half, rather than two-thirds, of the state's counties will experience population loss.

This article examines the recent history of county-level migration in the sixty-eight counties projected to lose population in the coming decades. Levels of net migration that will be required to stop the projected population losses are contrasted with estimated levels of net migration derived from current intercensal data. The migration patterns of persons in the study counties from 1985 to 1990 also are presented.

Counties in this study are divided into three major categories: Large Trade Center, Small Trade Center, and Rural, based on the size of their largest towns in 1990. (Figure 1) The rural category is further divided into four classifications based on the total county population. Definitions for each major category and size classification areshown on page 2.

Figure 1
Location of Study Counties by Category



Study County Categories

Large Trade Center—County outside a metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Population of largest town is at least 7,500 persons.

Small Trade Center—County outside a metropolitan statistical area (MSA). Population of largest town ranges from 2,500 to 7,499 persons.

Rural—Population of largest town is 2,499 persons or less. (Note that the total populations of some rural counties exceed 2,499.)

Rural Classifications

Rural I: total population less than 1,000
Rural II: total population ranges from 1,000 to 2,499
Rural III: total population ranges from 2,500 to 4,999
Rural IV: total population 5,000 or above

Net migration is defined as the total change in population less the natural change in population (births minus deaths). Net migration can be either positive—indicating *net inmigration*—or negative—denoting *net outmigration*. The term *net outmigration* indicates that more people moved out of a county than entered it.

A simplified example, using data for hypothetical County A, may help clarify the terms:

1980 population	1,000
1990 population	900
Total change, 1980 to 1990	-100
Births, 1980 to 1990	225
Deaths, 1980 to 1990	200
Natural change	+25
Total change less natural change = net migration	-125
Net migration rate (net migration/1980 pop.)	-12.5%

The above example shows that County A experienced a natural population growth of twenty-five persons over the decade. That natural growth (and any inmigration that may have occurred) was, however, offset by the number of persons migrating out of the county over the period. Thus, County A experienced net outmigration or a net migration rate of minus 12.5 percent.

Net outmigration (indicated by negative percentages) characterized nearly all of the study counties in the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s. (Table 1) It is evident that a major reversal in historic trends will be required simply to maintain current populations in a majority of counties.

The fourth column of Table 1 presents stop-loss rates—net migration rates that will be needed to stem the projected loss of population through the turn of the century. A negative stop-loss rate indicates that the county has the potential to produce enough natural population growth (births minus deaths) to offset some net outmigration and still maintain its current population. Arthur County, for example, could experience a net migration of minus 2.2 percent (net outmigration) through 2000, and still maintain its 1990 population level.

A positive stop-loss rate indicates that the county does not have the potential to produce natural population growth, that is, deaths will exceed births. A county with a positive stop-loss rate, therefore, must experience net inmigration simply to maintain its current population. Boyd County, for example, must experience net migration of positive 3.9 percent to maintain its 1990 population.

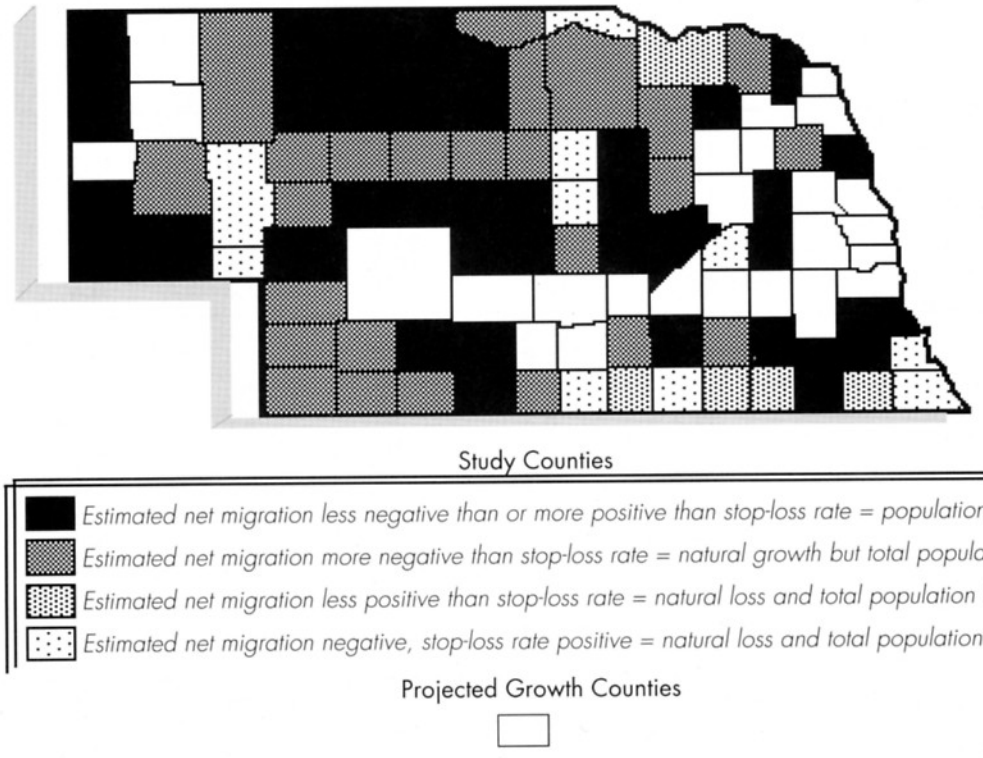
The last column in Table 1 presents recent estimates of net migration through 1994. These estimates were not available when the projections to 2010 cited earlier were calculated. The 1990-1994 net migration rates are presented as ten-year equivalencies to ensure compatibility with the rates in columns 1 through 4.

A comparison of columns 4 and 5 shows that estimated 1990-1994 net migration rates in twenty-eight study counties are either less negative than or more positive than the stop-loss rates. (Figure 2) Populations in these counties can be expected to grow. Banner County, for example, will need a net migration rate of minus 6.2 percent to maintain its 1990 population. Estimates for 1990-1994 indicate a net migration rate of minus 2.8 percent. Assuming that the 1990-1994 estimates accurately reflect population activity and assuming that the trends derived from the estimates continue, Banner County will experience population growth over the decade. Johnson County will need a net migration rate of positive 1.8 percent to maintain population. Based on the 1990-1994 estimates, Johnson County is experiencing net migration of positive 2.9 percent. Thus, the population of Johnson County also is expected to grow. (The reader must keep in mind that the 1990-1994 estimates for any county may contain enough error to present a distorted picture of future population activity.)

Table 1
Historic, Stop-Loss, and Estimated Net Migration Rates
Study Counties by Category

	Historic Net Migration Rates			Stop-Loss Rate	Estimated Net Migration Rate
	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	1990-1994
Rural I					
Arthur	-18.8	-20.1	-13.4	-2.2	-11.2
Banner	-25.0	-18.6	-16.9	**-6.2**	**-2.8**
Blaine	-24.4	-3.1	-25.8	-4.4	-10.1
Grant	-12.0	-22.2	-20.0	-5.1	-6.1
Hooker	-21.1	6.1	-19.6	-4.9	-12.2
Logan	-14.4	-9.6	-16.5	**-5.4**	**1.9**
Loup	-26.3	-0.9	-25.0	-3.2	-6.5
McPherson	-20.0	-10.9	-13.0	**-3.7**	**1.3**
Thomas	-14.2	-3.1	-19.6	-7.1	-10.0
Wheeler	-29.1	-7.0	-22.8	**-6.1**	**-1.7**
Rural II					
Deuel	-16.4	-8.8	-8.9	0.5	-10.9
Garden	-18.9	-3.1	-10.6	1.5	-8.9
Garfield	-15.0	-0.3	-7.5	1.0	-3.1
Gosper	-15.6	-6.4	-9.9	**1.0**	**18.3**
Hayes	-24.9	-17.3	-16.7	-3.2	-19.8
Keya Paha	-26.7	-10.8	-25.0	-1.1	-10.1
Rock	-19.7	3.1	-19.9	-3.0	-7.8
Sioux	-25.6	-14.1	-19.1	**-2.8**	**0.6**
Rural III					
Boyd	-21.2	-10.8	-13.9	3.9	-5.6
Brown	-12.8	5.9	-17.1	**-0.7**	**-0.5**
Chase	-8.6	10.7	-12.4	-2.1	-7.9
Dundy	-16.6	-1.4	-8.8	-0.7	-3.0
Franklin	-14.6	0.7	-7.2	3.9	-2.9
Frontier	-11.2	-11.4	-19.1	**-2.7**	**3.9**
Greeley	-17.8	-14.6	-14.1	**-1.0**	**2.6**
Harlan	-15.8	1.6	-12.4	2.4	0.5
Hitchcock	-19.0	-2.0	-10.7	-0.3	-18.0
Johnson	-11.3	-7.2	-9.1	**1.8**	**2.9**
Nance	-12.6	-9.3	-10.4	**-2.3**	**0.7**
Pawnee	-13.4	-7.3	-12.1	5.0	2.8
Perkins	-23.1	1.7	-10.6	-0.4	-6.0
Sherman	-18.3	-12.0	-11.6	-0.1	-7.8
Webster	-12.0	-4.9	-7.9	4.4	2.1
Rural IV					
Antelope	-15.2	-7.2	-13.8	-2.4	-11.9
Boone	-16.0	-12.1	-14.0	-1.1	-6.0
Burt	-11.5	-4.0	-8.7	**0.5**	**3.3**
Cedar	-19.5	-11.0	-16.6	-2.5	-3.7
Clay	-7.6	-5.4	-13.4	**-1.8**	**2.7**
Dixon	-11.8	-6.4	-16.5	**-1.6**	**4.9**
Fillmore	-15.2	-0.7	-9.2	-0.8	-5.4
Furnas	-10.3	-2.2	-8.9	**5.2**	**11.7**
Howard	-2.8	-4.2	-13.1	**-3.1**	**7.3**
Knox	-17.0	-2.9	-17.4	2.2	1.5
Morrill	-23.8	0.9	-14.5	-1.5	-2.9
Nuckolls	-12.6	-9.0	-14.6	2.2	-3.9
Pierce	-9.2	-3.7	-13.3	**-2.9**	**-0.3**
Polk	-12.1	-1.9	-10.0	1.3	-1.5
Sheridan	-25.0	-0.4	-13.9	-1.3	-2.2
Thayer	-14.5	-0.6	-10.9	3.1	1.4
Valley	-14.3	-2.4	-9.7	0.5	-9.1
Small Trade Center					
Butler	-11.7	-2.2	-10.1	**-0.5**	**0.7**
Cherry	-26.7	-7.9	-12.9	**-2.3**	**-1.0**
Cheyenne	-36.6	-10.5	-10.0	**-3.0**	**-0.7**
Colfax	-3.9	2.8	-10.4	**-0.8**	**15.2**
Cuming	-11.4	-7.0	-17.2	-0.7	-1.0
Custer	-17.7	-3.3	-12.4	**0.9**	**4.1**
Holt	-14.9	-1.3	-14.5	-2.7	-5.7
Jefferson	-10.3	-4.4	-11.1	1.7	0.1
Keith	-6.3	2.6	-14.0	**-2.9**	**-2.5**
Kimball	-38.8	-24.8	-21.2	**-1.2**	**-0.7**
Merrick	-2.9	-3.2	-13.6	**-2.7**	**-0.9**
Nemaha	-3.1	-8.2	-6.2	0.4	-6.4
Otoe	-9.7	-3.2	-6.7	**-0.5**	**3.0**
Richardson	-12.7	-4.3	-9.5	1.7	-1.2
Saline	1.8	3.4	-3.9	**1.7**	**5.0**
Large Trade Center					
Adams	-1.4	-2.8	-7.2	-1.2	-3.5
Gage	-6.7	-5.3	-8.0	**-0.8**	**2.2**
Red Willow	-15.3	-1.5	-12.2	-4.5	-9.3

Figure 2
Location of Growth and Non-Growth Counties Based on Comparison of Stop-Loss Rates to Current Net Migration Estimate



Tables 2 through 4 summarize the 1985 to 1990 gross inmigration and outmigration activity, by age, for the study counties. Outmigrants tended to be young—individuals age 20 to 24 in 1990 had the highest rate of outmigration over the 1985 to 1990 period. (Table 2) The rate of outmigration in this age group decreases steadily as the size of the county classification increases. That pattern is evident for many of the age groups.

Individuals age 25 to 29 generally exhibited the highest rates of inmigration. (Table 3) These data may indicate that many young adults returned home after completing postsecondary degrees. The rates of inmigration are highest overall in the smallest (Rural I) and largest (Large Trade Center) county categories.

The ratio of inmigrants to outmigrants is presented in Table 4. The overall trend is consistent with data presented in Table 1 with outmigration generally exceeding inmigration. Some interesting exceptions are apparent. The ten smallest rural counties (Rural I) experienced inmigration that exceeded outmigration in the key 25 to 29 year old group.

Also shown in Table 4 is the ratio of 25 to 29 year-old inmigrants to outmigrants age 20 to 24. In all cases, the ratio was under 100 percent indicating that those persons who inmigrated to the study counties their late 20s were not sufficient in number to replace those who left in their early 20s.

The common perception that population is flowing on a one-way street out of rural Nebraska conflicts with data that indicate there is a complex flow of people in and out of the state's rural and nonmetropolitan counties. Despite the migration mix, however, the overall trend remains clear. Net outmigration will continue to describe future population movements for most of the counties in this study. A reversal in the overall trend will depend on many factors, including expanded employment opportunities and access to public services and social amenities.

Technical assistance was provided by Clayton Buss.

Table 2
Gross Outmigration Rates*, 1985 to 1990, by Age in 1990 by Study County Category

	Rural I	Rural II	Rural III	Rural IV	Small Trade	Large Trade
Total, age 5 and over	32.5	26.0	21.2	19.8	20.1	20.6
5 to 14 years	29.5	25.9	21.5	18.4	18.7	22.1
15 to 19 years	47.9	38.2	33.2	29.7	28.2	23.9
20 to 24 years	84.6	78.0	67.8	65.9	64.8	52.7
25 to 29 years	46.1	44.3	39.1	38.3	38.1	36.2
30 to 34 years	36.9	29.3	24.6	23.6	24.1	28.5
35 to 44 years	34.4	27.5	20.7	17.0	16.4	19.3
45 to 64 years	22.4	13.3	10.4	10.0	10.6	10.6
65 years and over	15.1	9.7	8.9	7.1	7.4	7.4

*Gross outmigration rate is the number of outmigrants from 1985 to 1990 divided by the total population in 1985.

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 3
Gross Inmigration Rates*, 1985 to 1990, by Age in 1990 by Study County Category

	Rural I	Rural II	Rural III	Rural IV	Small Trade	Large Trade
Total, age 5 and over	21.8	15.9	14.6	13.2	15.6	18.0
5 to 14 years	35.1	21.7	19.2	17.2	18.8	16.8
15 to 19 years	22.3	11.5	13.8	11.0	16.8	27.5
20 to 24 years	30.5	20.0	18.2	15.8	27.3	42.7
25 to 29 years	54.3	35.6	33.5	34.1	33.6	30.3
30 to 34 years	33.2	30.1	25.9	20.6	23.6	20.0
35 to 44 years	23.5	17.9	15.9	13.5	15.7	18.9
45 to 64 years	10.1	9.2	9.3	8.2	9.3	9.7
65 years and over	5.8	7.2	6.7	6.1	5.9	8.6

*Gross inmigration rate is the number of inmigrants from 1985 to 1990 divided by the total population in 1985

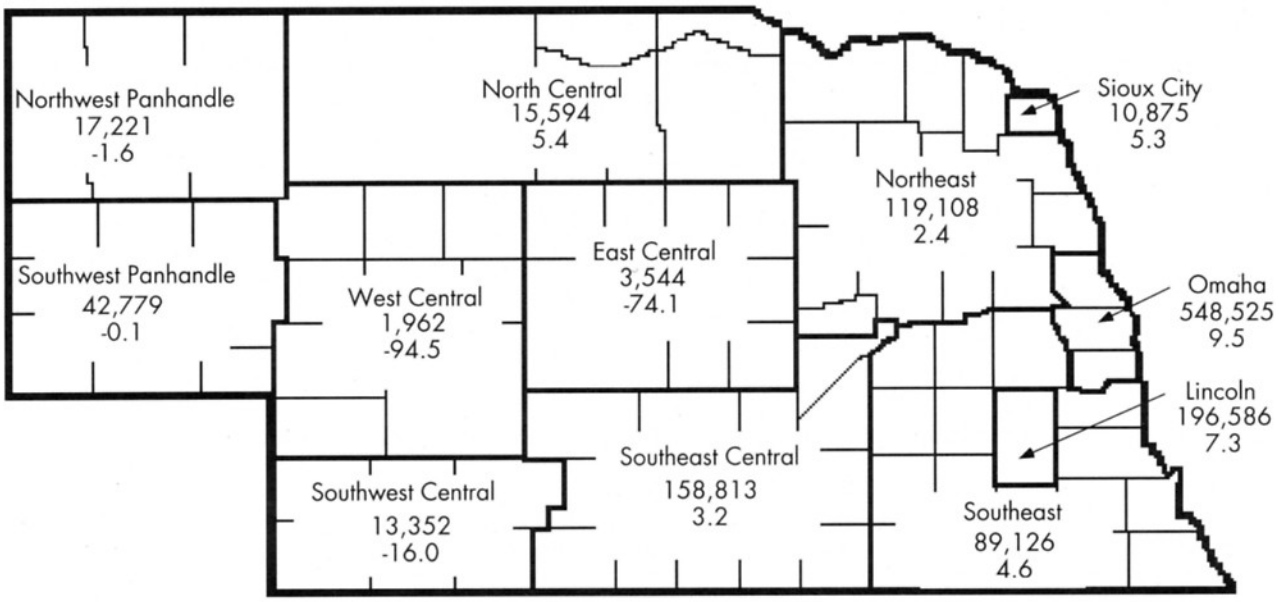
Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Table 4
Ratio of 1985-1990 Inmigrants to 1985-1990 Outmigrants, by Age in 1990 by Study County Category

	Rural I	Rural II	Rural III	Rural IV	Small Trade	Large Trade
Total, age 5 and over	67.0	61.1	68.9	66.4	77.5	87.6
5 to 14 years	118.9	83.6	89.6	93.5	100.5	75.8
15 to 19 years	46.6	30.1	41.5	37.0	59.6	115.0
20 to 24 years	36.0	25.7	26.8	24.1	42.1	81.0
25 to 29 years	117.8	80.3	85.6	89.0	88.1	83.6
30 to 34 years	90.1	102.7	105.4	87.0	97.6	70.3
35 to 44 years	68.4	64.9	77.1	79.5	95.8	97.9
45 to 64 years	45.1	69.2	89.0	81.9	87.2	91.6
65 years and over	38.2	74.2	74.6	85.9	79.8	116.8
Ratio of Inmigrants age 25 to 29 to Outmigrants age 20 to 24	56.4	41.5	44.3	44.8	49.6	66.6

August 1995 Regional Retail Sales and Percent Change from Year Ago

($000)



Price Indices

	September 1995	% Change vs Year Ago	YTD % Change vs Year Ago
Consumer Price Index - U* (1982-84 = 100)			
All Items	153.2	2.5	2.9
Commodities	136.8	1.5	2.2
Services	170.0	3.4	3.4

U* = All urban consumers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment in Nebraska

	Revised August 1995	Preliminary September 1995	% Change vs Year Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	807,427	810,334	0.9
Manufacturing	112,220	111,694	1.5
Durables	53,863	53,274	1.7
Nondurables	58,357	58,420	1.4
Mining & Construction	36,210	35,395	-4.5
TCU*	49,178	49,238	0.9
Trade	203,792	203,338	1.6
Retail	150,840	150,500	1.7
Wholesale	52,952	52,838	1.3
FIRE**	52,778	52,567	1.8
Services	210,321	208,611	1.8
Government	142,928	149,491	-0.6
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	895,812	882,561	1.2
Unemployment Rate	2.2	2.0	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities
** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

City Employment September 1995 Percent Change from Year Ago

The State and Its Trading Centers	Employment [1]
NEBRASKA	2.0
Alliance	1.9
Beatrice	1.9
Bellevue	1.7
Blair	1.7
Broken Bow	3.0
Chadron	2.3
Columbus	1.3
Fairbury	2.6
Falls City	2.7
Frement	1.9
Grand Island	2.2
Hastings	2.2
Holdrege	2.3
Kearney	2.2
Lexington	2.1
Lincoln	1.3
McCook	2.8
Nebraska City	2.3
Norfolk	2.0
North Platte	2.3
Ogallala	2.6
Omaha	1.7
Scottsbluff/Gering	2.2
Seward	2.0
Sidney	2.6
South Sioux City	1.2
York	2.5

[1] As a proxy for city employment, total employment (labor force basis) for the county in which a city is located is used.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Nonmotor Vehicle Net Taxable Retail Sales in Nebraska Cities

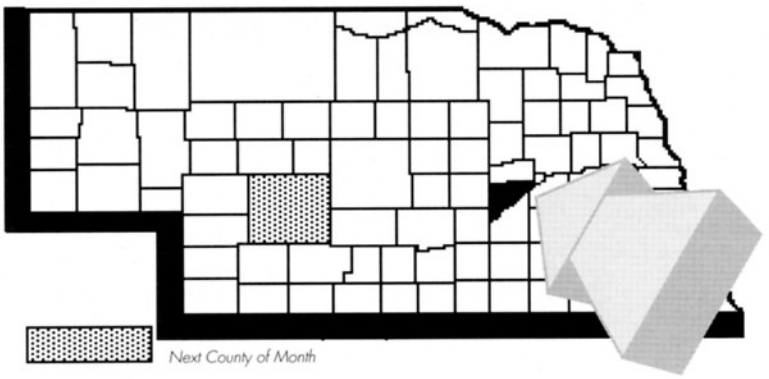
($000)

	July 1995	YTD	YTD % Chg vs Yr Ago	August 1995	YTD	YTD % Chg vs Yr Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,850	11,913	-2.0	1,815	13,728	-1.7
Albion, Boone	1,892	11,448	9.7	1,828	13,276	10.2
Alliance, Box Butte	5,804	37,348	5.2	5,818	43,166	4.9
Alma, Harlan	750	4,546	-1.4	700	5,246	-1.5
Arapahoe, Furnas	658	4,168	-1.7	661	4,829	-1.9
Arlington, Washington	138	1,191	-5.7	168	1,359	-3.5
Arnold, Custer	249	1,800	-1.6	270	2,070	1.1
Ashland, Saunders	928	6,047	-9.3	1,029	7,076	-6.0
Atkinson, Holt	902	5,133	0.2	807	5,940	0.9
Auburn, Nemaha	2,238	16,206	-0.7	2,274	18,480	-1.2
Aurora, Hamilton	2,586	17,547	6.7	2,480	20,027	6.5
Axtell, Kearney	64	553	-6.6	72	625	-7.5
Bassett, Rock	673	3,079	-12.6	532	3,611	-11.3
Battle Creek, Madison	570	4,066	-9.7	626	4,692	-7.5
Bayard, Morrill	496	3,220	11.0	475	3,695	9.8
Beatrice, Gage	9,361	60,868	3.3	9,368	70,236	3.7
Beaver City, Furnas	129	858	-8.5	123	981	-13.4
Bellevue, Sarpy	14,638	97,047	2.7	15,365	112,412	2.9
Benkelman, Dundy	500	3,157	-5.6	509	3,666	-4.4
Bennington, Douglas	223	1,770	-2.5	314	2,084	-2.0
Bertrand, Phelps	189	883	-19.1	123	1,006	-19.1
Blair, Washington	5,510	40,080	2.3	5,600	45,680	0.5
Bloomfield, Knox	561	3,739	-9.4	615	4,354	-8.6
Blue Hill, Webster	337	2,424	1.7	374	2,798	-0.1
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,065	6,855	3.5	1,049	7,904	3.1
Broken Bow, Custer	4,485	29,078	13.0	4,722	33,800	15.2
Burwell, Garfield	864	4,588	-6.7	681	5,269	-7.0
Cairo, Hall	187	1,267	-5.8	195	1,462	-4.9
Cambridge, Furnas	856	5,056	35.4	894	5,950	36.6
Central City, Merrick	1,450	10,039	1.6	1,441	11,480	1.9
Ceresco, Saunders	1,027	6,916	-2.7	1,185	8,101	-3.3
Chadron, Dawes	3,481	22,561	6.7	4,108	26,669	6.4
Chappell, Deuel	439	2,835	4.7	460	3,295	3.7
Clarkson, Colfax	320	2,671	3.5	387	3,058	6.4
Clay Center, Clay	276	1,654	-8.3	307	1,961	-5.4
Columbus, Platte	19,410	125,563	0.5	19,854	145,417	1.3
Cozad, Dawson	2,479	18,094	-2.8	2,572	20,666	-3.2
Crawford, Dawes	777	3,038	0.7	689	3,727	0.4
Creighton, Knox	953	6,652	8.7	1,069	7,721	7.9
Crete, Saline	3,171	23,369	-3.1	3,524	26,893	-2.4
Crofton, Knox	377	2,320	-9.3	345	2,665	-9.4
Curtis, Frontier	305	1,926	-1.5	308	2,234	-0.9
Dakota City, Dakota	626	3,797	10.7	551	4,348	10.9
David City, Butler	1,355	9,593	0.3	1,410	11,003	-1.0
Deshler, Thayer	213	1,469	-0.5	262	1,731	1.9
Dodge, Dodge	181	1,531	-2.2	174	1,705	-3.9
Doniphan, Hall	334	3,367	-0.5	439	3,806	-11.4
Eagle, Cass	565	2,259	6.1	440	2,699	7.8
Elgin, Antelope	304	2,557	-1.7	331	2,888	-2.4
Elkhorn, Douglas	1,765	10,335	2.7	1,715	12,050	2.7
Elm Creek, Buffalo	220	1,276	-24.5	290	1,566	-23.5
Elwood, Gosper	558	2,558	1.9	502	3,060	3.0
Emerson, Dakota	334	1,856	-23.8	324	2,180	-21.6
Fairbury, Jefferson	2,866	19,791	-0.6	2,907	22,698	-0.1
Fairmont, Fillmore	127	1,064	-2.7	141	1,205	-0.8
Falls City, Richardson	2,220	15,934	2.1	2,184	18,118	1.4
Franklin, Franklin	484	3,159	-3.0	430	3,589	-4.1
Fremont, Dodge	20,502	135,306	-0.4	19,628	154,934	-1.0
Friend, Saline	495	3,369	1.5	546	3,915	2.0
Fullerton, Nance	496	3,602	-0.6	507	4,109	-2.3
Geneva, Fillmore	1,723	11,600	2.8	1,696	13,296	3.1
Genoa, Nance	238	1,597	-2.8	256	1,853	-2.4
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,216	21,685	-2.8	3,168	24,853	-2.5
Gibbon, Buffalo	662	4,813	0.0	682	5,495	0.8
Gordon, Sheridan	1,700	10,956	-1.8	1,839	12,795	-1.6
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,109	13,438	3.9	2,034	15,472	3.5
Grand Island, Hall	44,310	306,352	7.3	47,271	353,623	6.7
Grant, Perkins	933	5,693	-3.2	992	6,685	-1.0
Gretna, Sarpy	3,570	21,746	6.7	3,899	25,645	5.6
Hartington, Cedar	1,593	10,906	0.6	1,383	12,289	0.2
Hastings, Adams	18,843	129,941	2.6	20,219	150,160	2.8
Hay Springs, Sheridan	301	2,071	-8.5	316	2,387	-6.6
Hebron, Thayer	1,566	11,248	-1.1	1,673	12,921	-0.1
Henderson, York	831	3,986	11.9	792	4,778	16.1
Hickman, Lancaster	206	1,433	-3.0	195	1,628	4.2
Holdrege, Phelps	4,669	30,859	4.3	4,377	35,236	2.9
Hooper, Dodge	254	1,841	-12.8	264	2,105	-9.7
Humboldt, Richardson	459	3,179	-8.5	489	3,668	-7.4
Humphrey, Platte	569	4,174	-2.2	728	4,902	-1.9
Imperial, Chase	1,759	10,718	3.7	1,714	12,432	4.1
Juniata, Adams	196	1,311	0.7	167	1,478	1.2
Kearney, Buffalo	28,334	178,393	3.7	30,244	208,637	4.2
Kenesaw, Adams	107	699	1.6	116	815	0.6
Kimball, Kimball	1,769	10,802	-5.6	1,800	12,602	-4.7
La Vista, Sarpy	6,787	42,724	7.3	7,214	49,938	8.3
Laurel, Cedar	315	2,290	-4.7	284	2,574	-7.2
Lexington, Dawson	7,488	48,786	3.9	7,422	56,208	4.0
Lincoln, Lancaster	158,989	1,056,066	6.4	174,171	1,230,237	6.8
Louisville, Cass	517	2,446	-27.0	352	2,798	-25.9
Loup City, Sherman	635	3,805	-3.5	578	4,383	-2.0
Lyons, Burt	510	2,851	-7.3	491	3,342	-6.2
Madison, Madison	633	4,150	-16.7	762	4,912	-13.4
McCook, Red Willow	10,332	63,789	12.9	10,684	74,473	14.2
Milford, Seward	818	5,261	-10.2	728	5,989	-10.5
Minatare, Scotts Bluff	252	1,624	8.6	240	1,864	6.0
Minden, Kearney	1,895	11,166	1.5	1,749	12,915	1.6
Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	687	5,711	-1.2	718	6,429	-2.4
Morrill, Scotts Bluff	383	2,723	0.6	396	3,119	-1.1
Nebraska City, Otoe	5,263	31,776	5.5	5,522	37,298	7.5
Neligh, Antelope	1,216	8,364	1.5	1,162	9,526	0.6
Newman Grove, Madison	313	2,137	26.1	283	2,420	23.0
Norfolk, Madison	25,530	169,215	8.5	26,906	196,121	8.4
North Bend, Dodge	439	3,037	9.0	402	3,439	8.9
North Platte, Lincoln	20,905	135,406	2.9	21,942	157,348	2.7
O'Neill, Holt	3,986	26,708	3.9	4,103	30,811	4.4
Oakland, Burt	644	4,041	-5.5	624	4,665	-4.7
Ogallala, Keith	6,415	34,943	3.6	5,994	40,937	3.4
Omaha, Douglas	402,187	2,678,279	2.9	438,818	3,117,097	3.9
Ord, Valley	1,702	12,311	-0.1	1,752	14,063	-1.2
Osceola, Polk	825	5,137	0.9	738	5,875	1.6
Oshkosh, Garden	522	3,282	12.2	526	3,808	11.4
Osmond, Pierce	444	2,504	-5.9	430	2,934	-4.0
Oxford, Furnas	316	2,324	-2.1	295	2,619	-3.4
Papillion, Sarpy	5,851	25,681	8.0	3,453	29,134	7.7
Pawnee City, Pawnee	290	2,079	1.6	257	2,336	0.0
Pender, Thurston	591	4,045	0.2	554	4,599	-0.6
Pierce, Pierce	624	4,300	5.2	566	4,866	5.2
Plainview, Pierce	559	4,337	-1.7	568	4,905	-2.1
Plattsmouth, Cass	2,968	19,437	5.4	3,027	22,464	5.7
Ponca, Dixon	565	3,186	0.0	594	3,780	2.7
Ralston, Douglas	2,571	17,554	4.9	2,733	20,287	3.1
Randolph, Cedar	340	2,319	1.1	337	2,656	0.1
Ravenna, Buffalo	630	4,581	-6.5	626	5,207	-6.8
Red Cloud, Webster	644	4,692	-7.7	625	5,317	-8.9
Rushville, Sheridan	549	3,662	-4.3	607	4,269	-4.6
Sargent, Custer	209	1,384	-2.2	209	1,593	1.3
Schuyler, Colfax	1,919	12,231	-7.1	1,732	13,963	-6.2
Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	20,931	125,222	2.4	19,302	144,524	2.4
Scribner, Dodge	419	2,785	-10.2	495	3,280	-15.7
Seward, Seward	4,620	30,477	1.2	4,742	35,219	1.7
Shelby, Polk	311	1,974	-6.2	289	2,263	-6.1
Shelton, Buffalo	662	4,048	-15.9	663	4,711	-13.4
Sidney, Cheyenne	7,503	41,153	7.8	6,980	48,133	7.2
South Sioux City, Dakota	7,861	51,207	1.1	7,950	59,157	2.2
Springfield, Sarpy	241	1,255	4.8	169	1,424	2.8
St. Paul, Howard	1,145	7,530	-7.1	1,158	8,688	-6.3
Stanton, Stanton	579	3,549	-7.8	554	4,103	-6.5
Stromsburg, Polk	975	5,513	-7.0	1,044	6,557	-8.9
Superior, Nuckolls	1,444	9,731	-11.2	1,452	11,183	-9.8
Sutherland, Lincoln	276	1,691	-10.4	303	1,994	-8.2
Sutton, Clay	1,088	7,168	16.1	1,109	8,277	15.6
Syracuse, Otoe	940	6,620	2.2	972	7,592	1.5
Tecumseh, Johnson	893	6,780	-0.3	982	7,762	-0.2
Tekamah, Burt	989	6,687	-0.5	1,095	7,782	1.1
Tilden, Madison	467	2,860	-0.3	482	3,342	1.0
Utica, Seward	225	1,531	5.2	224	1,755	4.2
Valentine, Cherry	3,960	23,262	13.0	3,994	27,256	13.2
Valley, Douglas	1,260	7,049	-13.8	1,183	8,232	-18.9
Wahoo, Saunders	2,216	16,017	1.5	2,452	18,469	1.6
Wakefield, Dixon	307	2,376	-13.0	422	2,798	-9.2
Wauneta, Chase	280	1,979	-2.5	288	2,267	-3.0
Waverly, Lancaster	604	3,728	-1.8	539	4,267	-1.6
Wayne, Wayne	2,632	19,525	-13.9	2,948	22,473	-15.2
Weeping Water, Cass	632	4,080	0.1	639	4,719	0.2
West Point, Cuming	3,238	21,679	6.6	3,420	25,099	7.8
Wilber, Saline	444	3,012	-3.4	486	3,498	-3.6
Wisner, Cuming	497	3,461	-14.1	545	4,006	-11.7
Wood River, Hall	511	2,712	-0.1	653	3,365	2.6
Wymore, Gage	373	2,678	-1.1	365	3,043	-0.8
York, York	9,202	55,214	8.4	8,672	63,886	7.7

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

County of the Month

Merrick



Central City—County Seat
License plate prefix number: 46
Size of county: 478 square miles, ranks 77th in the state
Population: 8,049 in 1990, a change -10.0 of percent from 1980
Median age: 36.2 years in Merrick County, 33.0 years in Nebraska in 1990
Per capita personal income: 16,360 in 1993, ranks 72nd in the state
Net taxable retail sales ($000): $33,995 in 1994, a change of -2.5 percent from 1993; $18,447 during January-July 1995, a change of -4.8 percent from the same period one year ago
Number of business and service establishments: 219 in 1992, 66.7 percent had less than five employees
Unemployment rate: 2.3 percent in Merrick County, 2.9 percent in Nebraska for 1994
Nonfarm employment (1994):

	State	Merrick County
Wage and salary workers	795,486	1,906
	(percent of total)	
Manufacturing	13.7%	5.0%
Construction and Mining	4.4	7.7
TCU	6.1	4.6
Retail Trade	18.5	18.6
Wholesale Trade	6.5	8.7
FIRE	6.5	5.2
Services	25.4	16.7
Government	19.0	33.5
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Agriculture:
Number of farms: 617 in 1992,664 in 1987
Average farm size: 471 acres in 1992
Market value of farm products sold: $133.0 million in 1992 ($215,647 average per farm)

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

Updated Retail Trade Capture Data Now Available!

The recent release of population estimates for 1993 and 1994 has enabled BBR to update the retail trade capture figures reported in the September 1995 issue of *Business in Nebraska*. Estimated employment impacts by trade center also have been updated.

Contact Carol Boyd at (402)472-2334, or by email: cboyd@cbamail.unl.edu, to obtain the updated data.

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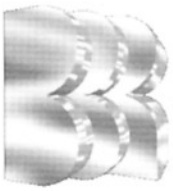

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