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## ADVANCE 1980 POPULATION

Advance 1980 census results for Nebraska indicate a state population of 1,538,788. According to this total, the state would have gained 53,455 people for a 3.6 percent increase, 1970-1980. This advance state total means that Nebraska's population grew at about half the rate expected nationally. While data are not available for the United States, it is expected that total U.S. population will be up 7 to 8 percent over the decade.

It is important to indicate that data reported in this article are based upon 1980 advance census totals. Within a few weeks the Bureau of the Census will release preliminary 1980 census results for Nebraska and these will differ from the results reported here. After additional checking and verification, final counts will be released sometime in 1981 and these final figures can also be expected to differ from the results contained in this report. It is even possible, because of recording errors or other errors in data processing, that some counties may have substantially different population totals from that now available. While county totals may differ by large amounts, primarily because the unit is small in relation to the state, it is not anticipated that Nebraska's final 1980 total will deviate substantially from information reported below.

Despite the uncertainty over the 1980 totals, this advance information is reviewed because of the pressing need of some agencies for more recent information than provided by the 1970 census. *Users should be warned, however, that final totals will be changed and it is up to the users not to misuse these advance data.*

The information presented in Table 1 and Figures 1 and 2 (pp. 2 and 3) outlines the major shifts in Nebraska's population during the 1970s. Population increase was concentrated in the metropolitan regions of the state, along the Platte Valley, in the north central part of the state, and in the northwest. Large county population increases were recorded in Box Butte County, 33.0 percent; Sarpy County, 28.1 percent; Dakota County, 22.6 percent; Lincoln County, 21.2 percent; Madison County, 13.5 percent; Chase County, 13.4 percent; Stanton and Washington counties, 12.5 percent; Lancaster County, 11.3 percent; Dawson County, 10.4 percent; and Hall County, 11.2 percent. Lancaster County's 18,989-person increase led all counties in terms of absolute increase, just nosing out Sarpy County which had an estimated 18,600-person increase in population during the 1970s.

It will take years to discern thoroughly (if we ever master the results) all of the demographic changes that took place during the 1970s. A preliminary analysis of advance 1980 census data reveals a few new trends and a continuation of established trends.

Among the new trends, it is significant to note that a number

of counties reversed a persistent, long-term tendency to lose population. Counties recording their first population increase in fifty years or more include Loup (1910), Blaine, York, Wheeler, and Colfax (1920), and Chase, Morrill, Sheridan, Perkins, and Stanton (1930). Some of these increases are quite small, and it is possible that the census review process will alter the counts and change gains to losses and vice versa. Most of the increases are expected to stand under the review scrutiny, making the decade of the 1970s the first growth period for these counties in half a century. The psychological impact of becoming a growing county after decades of losing population is likely to be more important than the gain in numbers.

Also among the new trends are a group of counties which recorded their first increase since 1940. This second group includes Brown, Rock, and Holt counties (see Figure 1).

The presence of water and its role in reversing 40- or 50-year population declines cannot be ignored. In the southwestern part of the state, Keith, Perkins, and Chase counties have had high rates of pivot adoption during the 1970s. In the north central part of the state, Brown, Rock, and Holt counties have had similar increases in acres under irrigation, with the center pivot technology playing an important role in this irrigation. Sandhills counties experiencing an increase in population during the 1970s include Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, and Loup counties, and in all cases the gain in 1970 reversed persistent decreases in population. There is considerably less irrigation in these sandhills counties than in the north central or the southwestern portion of Nebraska. The populations of the sandhills counties are extremely small, and the increases here may be related to the fact that decades of out-migration from Nebraska's rural areas have reached an equilibrium position. Demographic stability is an important element associated with an area's economic and social stability and thus stabilization must be viewed as a positive development.

Another of the new trends in the state's population base would include the growth recorded in the northwest. Box Butte County led all counties with a 33 percent increase in population over the interval 1970-1980. Much of this growth in Box Butte's population was attributable to the growth of Alliance as a result of the Burlington and Northern development in that area. Scotts Bluff, Morrill, and Sheridan counties also recorded population increases, and to some extent these latter three counties are growing probably as a result of the development in Alliance and due to local economic development.

Perhaps the most surprising new development in the state's demographic base is the fact that

(Continued on page 6)

Table 1  
1980 ADVANCE CENSUS COUNTS AND 1970 FINAL CENSUS RESULTS

Regions and Counties	1980	1970 Census	Absolute Change '70-'80	Percent Change '70-'80	Regions and Counties	1980	1970 Census	Absolute Change '70-'80	Percent Change '70-'80
<b>Region 1</b>	<b>473,745</b>	<b>455,655</b>	<b>18,090</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>Region 16</b>	<b>27,461</b>	<b>25,931</b>	<b>1,530</b>	<b>5.9</b>
Douglas	388,945	389,455	-510	-0.1	Dawson	21,821	19,771	2,050	10.4
Sarpy	84,800	66,200	18,600	28.1	Frontier	3,572	3,982	-410	-10.3
<b>Region 2</b>	<b>186,961</b>	<b>167,972</b>	<b>18,989</b>	<b>11.3</b>	Gosper	2,068	2,178	-110	-5.1
Lancaster	186,961	167,972	18,989	11.3	<b>Region 17</b>	<b>24,755</b>	<b>25,373</b>	<b>-618</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
<b>Region 3</b>	<b>16,108</b>	<b>13,137</b>	<b>2,971</b>	<b>22.6</b>	Franklin	4,366	4,566	-200	-4.4
Dakota	16,108	13,137	2,971	22.6	Furnas	6,408	6,897	-489	-7.1
<b>Region 4</b>	<b>53,264</b>	<b>50,670</b>	<b>2,594</b>	<b>5.1</b>	Harlan	4,268	4,357	-89	-2.0
Cass	20,005	18,076	1,929	10.7	Phelps	9,713	9,553	160	1.7
Otoe	14,801	15,576	-775	-5.0	<b>Region 18</b>	<b>39,292</b>	<b>33,045</b>	<b>6,247</b>	<b>18.9</b>
Saunders	18,458	17,018	1,440	8.5	Hooker	977	939	38	4.0
<b>Region 5</b>	<b>48,094</b>	<b>48,092</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	Lincoln	35,800	29,538	6,262	21.2
Dodge	33,121	34,782	-1,661	-4.8	Logan	971	991	-20	-2.0
Washington	14,973	13,310	1,663	12.5	McPherson	587	623	-36	-5.8
<b>Region 6</b>	<b>26,658</b>	<b>28,223</b>	<b>-1,565</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	Thomas	957	954	3	0.3
Burt	8,614	9,247	-633	-6.8	<b>Region 19</b>	<b>18,725</b>	<b>17,664</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>6.0</b>
Cuming	11,621	12,034	-413	-3.4	Arthur	504	606	-102	-16.8
Thurston	6,423	6,942	-519	-7.5	Chase	4,681	4,129	552	13.4
<b>Region 7</b>	<b>28,160</b>	<b>31,469</b>	<b>-3,309</b>	<b>-10.5</b>	Grant	864	1,019	-155	-15.2
Johnson	5,035	5,743	-708	-12.3	Keith	9,076	8,487	589	6.9
Nemaha	8,098	8,976	-878	-9.8	Perkins	3,600	3,423	177	5.2
Pawnee	3,863	4,473	-610	-13.6	<b>Region 20</b>	<b>20,554</b>	<b>20,698</b>	<b>-144</b>	<b>-0.7</b>
Richardson	11,164	12,277	-1,113	-9.1	Dundy	2,805	2,926	-121	-4.1
<b>Region 8</b>	<b>37,656</b>	<b>36,730</b>	<b>926</b>	<b>2.5</b>	Hayes	1,354	1,530	-176	-11.5
Butler	9,075	9,461	-386	-4.1	Hitchcock	4,041	4,051	-10	-0.2
Saline	12,985	12,809	176	1.4	Red Willow	12,354	12,191	163	1.3
Seward	15,596	14,460	1,136	7.9	<b>Region 21</b>	<b>17,142</b>	<b>19,504</b>	<b>-2,362</b>	<b>-12.1</b>
<b>Region 9</b>	<b>28,769</b>	<b>28,290</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>1.7</b>	Cheyenne	9,909	10,778	-869	-8.1
Fillmore	7,688	8,137	-449	-5.5	Deuel	2,441	2,717	-276	-10.2
Polk	6,338	6,468	-130	-2.0	Kimball	4,792	6,009	-1,217	-20.3
York	14,743	13,685	1,058	7.7	<b>Region 22</b>	<b>46,509</b>	<b>46,208</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>0.7</b>
<b>Region 10</b>	<b>50,794</b>	<b>49,374</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>2.9</b>	Banner	832	1,034	-202	-19.5
Boone	7,383	8,190	-807	-9.9	Garden	2,780	2,929	-149	-5.1
Colfax	9,823	9,498	325	3.4	Morrill	5,932	5,813	119	2.0
Nance	4,746	5,142	-396	-7.7	Scotts Bluff	36,965	36,432	533	1.5
Platte	28,842	26,544	2,298	8.7	<b>Region 23</b>	<b>31,733</b>	<b>29,174</b>	<b>2,559</b>	<b>8.8</b>
<b>Region 11</b>	<b>64,182</b>	<b>61,100</b>	<b>3,082</b>	<b>5.0</b>	Box Butte	13,423	10,094	3,329	33.0
Antelope	8,688	9,047	-359	-4.0	Dawes	9,418	9,761	-343	-3.5
Madison	31,109	27,402	3,707	13.5	Sheridan	7,507	7,285	222	3.0
Pierce	8,289	8,493	-204	-2.4	Sioux	1,385	2,034	-649	-31.9
Stanton	6,480	5,758	722	12.5	<b>Region 24</b>	<b>31,135</b>	<b>31,123</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0.0</b>
Wayne	9,616	10,400	-784	-7.5	Boyd	3,321	3,752	-431	-11.5
<b>Region 12</b>	<b>72,542</b>	<b>67,276</b>	<b>5,266</b>	<b>7.8</b>	Brown	4,035	4,021	14	0.3
Hall	47,651	42,851	4,800	11.2	Cherry	6,639	6,846	-207	-3.0
Hamilton	9,226	8,867	359	4.0	Holt	13,543	12,933	610	4.7
Howard	6,719	6,807	-88	-1.3	Keya Paha	1,266	1,340	-74	-5.5
Merrick	8,946	8,751	195	2.2	Rock	2,331	2,231	100	4.5
<b>Region 13</b>	<b>50,367</b>	<b>51,619</b>	<b>-1,252</b>	<b>-2.4</b>	<b>Region 25</b>	<b>29,137</b>	<b>31,368</b>	<b>-2,231</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
Adams	30,643	30,553	90	0.3	Cedar	11,095	12,192	-1,097	-9.0
Clay	8,124	8,266	-142	-1.7	Dixon	6,934	7,453	-519	-7.0
Nuckolls	6,738	7,404	-666	-9.0	Knox	11,108	11,723	-615	-5.2
Webster	4,862	5,396	-534	-9.9	<b>Region 26</b>	<b>32,005</b>	<b>33,763</b>	<b>-1,758</b>	<b>-5.2</b>
<b>Region 14</b>	<b>41,270</b>	<b>43,946</b>	<b>-2,676</b>	<b>-6.1</b>	Blaine	857	847	10	1.2
Gage	24,299	25,731	-1,432	-5.6	Custer	13,575	14,092	-517	-3.7
Jefferson	9,712	10,436	-724	-6.9	Garfield	2,359	2,411	-52	-2.2
Thayer	7,259	7,779	-520	-6.7	Greeley	3,448	4,000	-552	-13.8
<b>Region 15</b>	<b>41,770</b>	<b>37,929</b>	<b>3,841</b>	<b>10.1</b>	Loup	860	854	6	0.7
Buffalo	34,757	31,222	3,535	11.3	Sherman	4,219	4,725	-506	10.7
Kearney	7,013	6,707	306	4.6	Valley	5,631	5,783	-152	-2.6
					Wheeler	1,056	1,051	5	0.5
					<b>State Total</b>	<b>1,538,788</b>	<b>1,485,333</b>	<b>53,455</b>	<b>3.6</b>

Figure 1  
 COUNTIES THAT GAINED OR LOST POPULATION  
 1970-1980

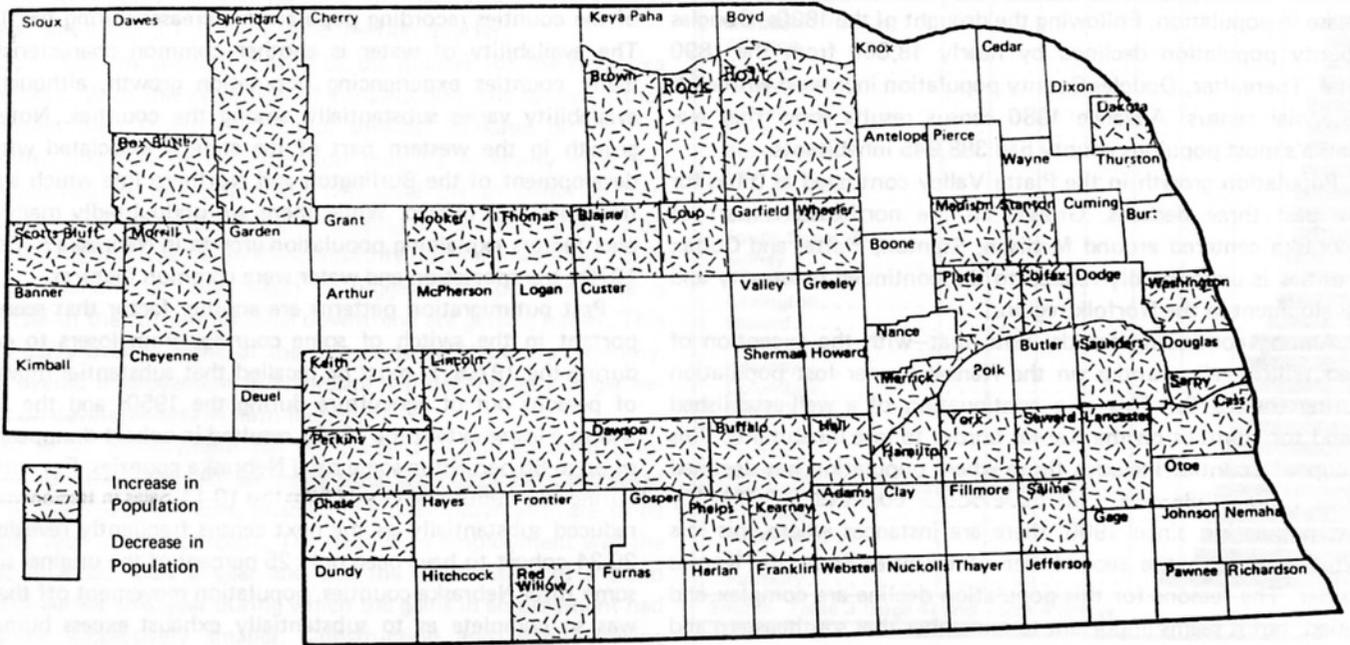
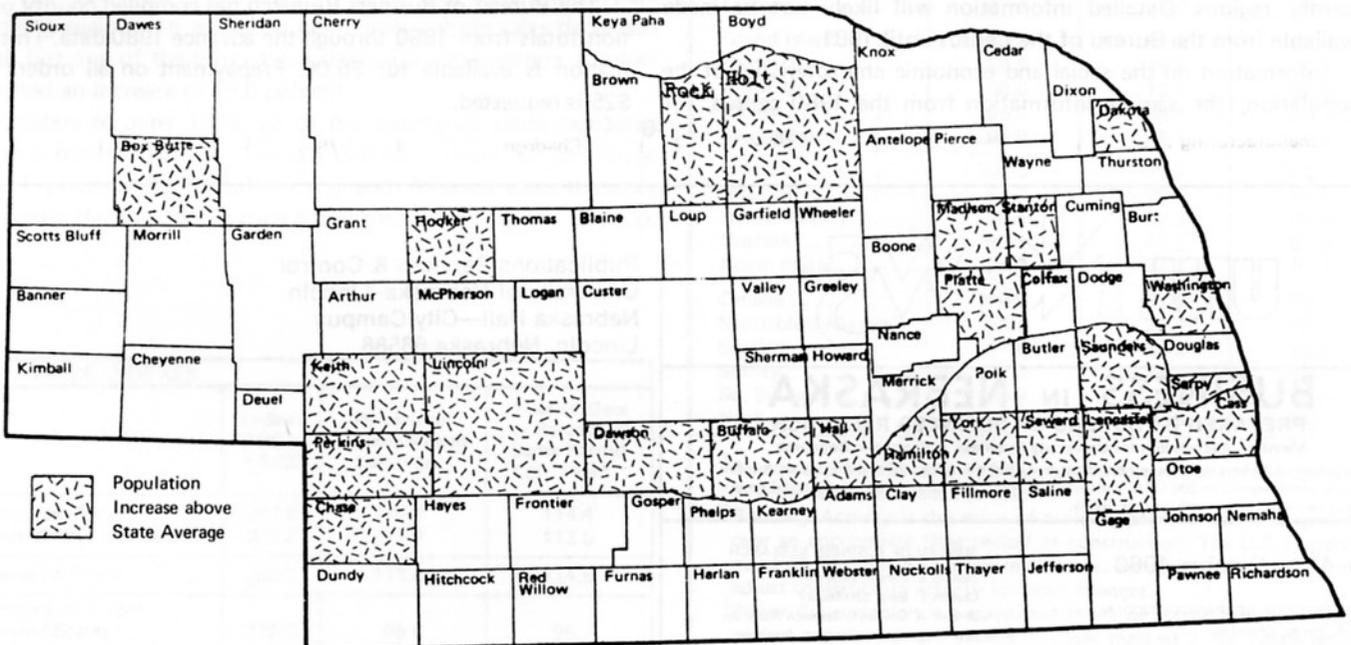


Figure 2  
 1970-1980 POPULATION CHANGE ABOVE STATE AVERAGE  
 BY COUNTY



## Review and Outlook

The condition of the Nebraska economy continued to weaken in June, with declines in most of the major economic indicators for the state. The physical volume index for the state was 2.8 percent below its value of May and fell 6.2 percent from its level of June 1979. The comparable index for the United States fell 0.7 percent from May and was down 4.2 percent from last year.

This month's decline in economic activity was felt throughout the Nebraska economy, with only the government sector showing an increase in activity. Both the agricultural and nonagricultural indexes fell during the month, as agricultural activity declined 5.3 percent and the index for the nonagricultural sectors decreased 2.4 percent. The May-to-June changes for the four nonagricultural

sectors were: government, +0.5 percent; construction, -0.3 percent; manufacturing, -1.8 percent; and distributive, -3.4 percent.

June marked the end of the second quarter of 1980, and was accompanied by the persistent symptoms of an economic slowdown for the state and the nation. The Bureau's physical volume index for Nebraska showed considerable softness during the second quarter, 1980. The index fell 2.3 percent when compared to the first quarter of 1980. This lackluster performance was shared by all sectors of the economy, with only the agricultural and government sectors registering quarterly growth. Activity in the manufacturing and distributive sectors was down moderately, but losses were severe in the construction sector.

At the national level, developments (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.

### ECONOMIC INDICATORS: NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

1. CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR				
June 1980	Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year		1980 Year to Date as Percent of 1979 Year to Date	
	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Indicator	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	102.8	107.4	107.6	109.8
Agricultural	104.7	105.6	111.3	104.5
Nonagricultural	102.6	107.5	107.1	109.9
Construction	65.4	95.3	74.5	107.0
Manufacturing	109.8	106.9	115.3	112.1
Distributive	103.4	108.9	108.4	109.9
Government	103.2	107.1	102.6	106.8
Physical Volume	93.8	95.8	97.8	97.6
Agricultural	111.1	111.2	116.5	109.2
Nonagricultural	91.7	95.3	95.5	97.3
Construction	58.9	85.9	67.0	96.1
Manufacturing	97.4	93.4	101.8	97.2
Distributive	90.5	95.3	94.8	96.1
Government	98.8	102.5	98.1	102.3

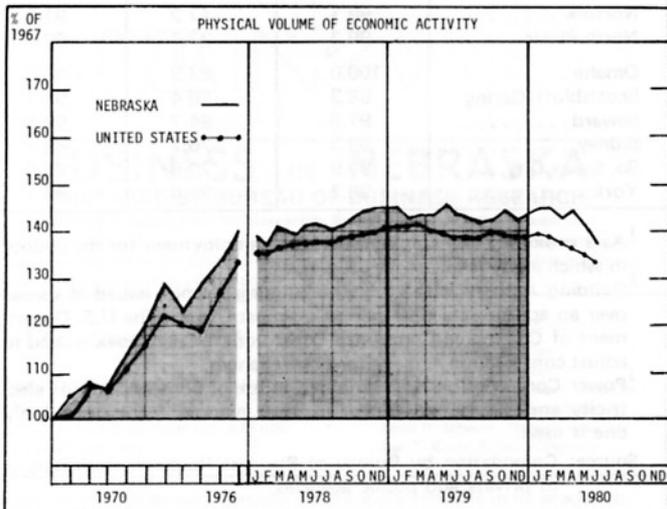
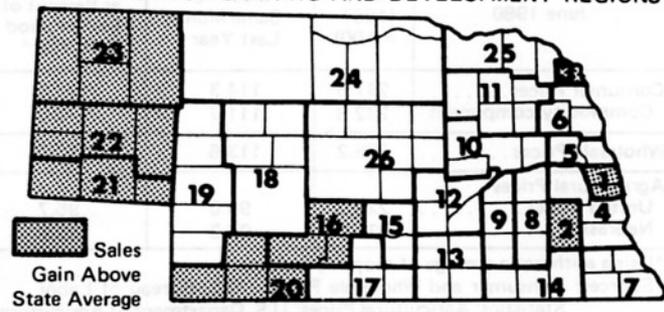
2. CHANGE FROM 1967		
Indicator	Percent of 1967 Average	
	Nebraska	U.S.
Dollar Volume	324.4	313.0
Agricultural	307.0	330.1
Nonagricultural	326.8	312.4
Construction	205.6	286.3
Manufacturing	347.1	278.7
Distributive	338.3	335.5
Government	312.1	305.1
Physical Volume	137.2	133.6
Agricultural	132.9	146.1
Nonagricultural	137.8	133.2
Construction	69.7	97.0
Manufacturing	163.1	128.2
Distributive	136.6	135.5
Government	141.0	149.1

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

Region Number and City	Sales in Region*		
	City Sales* June 1980 as percent of June 1979	June 1980 as percent of June 1979	Year to date '80 as percent of Year to date '79
<i>The State</i>	83.2	81.3	89.2
1 Omaha	87.1	83.6	89.6
Bellevue	63.1		
2 Lincoln	86.1	84.6	90.2
3 So. Sioux City	83.5	82.6	87.5
4 Nebraska City	70.3	77.6	82.2
5 Fremont	74.9	75.4	82.3
Blair	79.4		
6 West Point	86.6	71.5	78.9
7 Falls City	83.1	79.9	85.1
8 Seward	76.7	75.5	83.6
9 York	84.9	77.6	85.5
10 Columbus	73.2	72.3	85.6
11 Norfolk	74.5	73.5	84.2
Wayne	91.7		
12 Grand Island	86.5	83.7	85.9
13 Hastings	77.0	79.0	86.6
14 Beatrice	82.5	78.9	86.3
Fairbury	81.3		
15 Kearney	74.4	77.4	85.5
16 Lexington	90.8	81.5	87.7
17 Holdrege	89.2	84.0	86.8
18 North Platte	73.6	72.2	82.4
19 Ogallala	73.6	78.5	84.7
20 McCook	78.5	81.7	88.6
21 Sidney	84.4	91.2	95.8
Kimball	119.8		
22 Scottsbluff/Gering	98.4	92.2	90.5
23 Alliance	85.5	83.2	89.7
Chadron	75.5		
24 O'Neill	82.4	75.8	83.6
25 Hartington	85.0	76.7	81.6
26 Broken Bow	87.5	74.4	86.4

\*State totals include sales not allocated to cities or regions. The year-to-year ratios for city and region sales may be misleading because of changes in the portion of unallocated sales. Region totals include, and city totals exclude, motor vehicle sales. Sales are those on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state. Compiled from data provided by Nebraska Department of Revenue.

### 1980 YEAR TO DATE AS PERCENT OF 1979 YEAR TO DATE IN NEBRASKA'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



(Continued from page 4) were similar to those in Nebraska, with some differences in the magnitude of the changes. Overall, the second-quarter physical volume index for the United States was down 3.1 percent from the first quarter.

June was the weakest month of the quarter for the Nebraska economy. With the exception of construction, the sectors either recorded their largest declines or smallest increases during this month. This may be an indication that the economy is rapidly approaching its low point and will level off or begin to turn around later in the year. It is encouraging to note that June's drop in construction was the smallest monthly decline since May 1979. Many economists have begun to suggest that prospects for a reversal of the current national downtrend are getting better. This may carry over to some of the sectors of the Nebraska economy, but overall improvement in Nebraska will depend to a larger extent on developments in farm income.

In June, employment fell 0.9 percent (7,300 persons) compared to June 1979. At the same time, unemployment increased by nearly 7,000 persons, pushing the unemployment rate to its yearly high of 4.2 percent. The decline in employment was the first in more than a year and was the culmination of a trend begun earlier this year during which the gains in employment had become successively smaller. Construction and manufacturing experienced the largest losses in employment, while the distributive sector continued to post gains. The weakness in employment was reflected in Nebraska's cities, as only four of the twenty-six reporting cities registered gains over last year.

Retail sales fell for the sixth consecutive month in June. Net taxable sales were down 18.7 percent from those of June 1979, after adjustment for price changes. This was the largest year-to-year drop in sales since the Bureau started to keep records of net taxable sales in 1972. Non-motor vehicle sales were down 16.8 percent, while motor vehicle sales declined 33.1 percent. Nationally, retail sales were down 6.1 percent compared to last June. The extent of the decline in sales for Nebraska is evidenced by the fact that sales were down in all of the state's twenty-six planning regions. In addition, non-motor vehicle sales decreased in all but one of the thirty-two principal trading centers. Kimball reported an increase of 19.8 percent.

Relative to June 1979, all of the twenty-six cities registered losses in business activity. The city business indexes fell an average of 9.7 percent. Scottsbluff/Gering and Alliance were the only cities with declines of less than 5 percent. J. A. D.

	-25	-20	-15	-10	-5	0
Scottsbluff/Gering . . . . .						
Alliance . . . . .						
Beatrice . . . . .						
Lincoln . . . . .						
Omaha . . . . .						
York . . . . .						
Broken Bow . . . . .						
Falls City . . . . .						
Grand Island . . . . .						
Chadron . . . . .						
South Sioux City . . . . .						
Sidney . . . . .						
STATE . . . . .						
Lexington . . . . .						
Seward . . . . .						
Hastings . . . . .						
Kearney . . . . .						
Columbus . . . . .						
Norfolk . . . . .						
Blair . . . . .						
Fremont . . . . .						
North Platte . . . . .						
Nebraska City . . . . .						
Holdrege . . . . .						
Bellevue . . . . .						
McCook . . . . .						
Fairbury . . . . .						

Source: Table 3 (page 4) and Table 4 below.

The State and Its Trading Centers	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago		
	Employment <sup>1</sup>	Building Activity <sup>2</sup>	Power Consumption <sup>3</sup>
<i>The State</i> . . . . .	99.5	57.0	97.1
Alliance . . . . .	107.0	68.0	98.0
Beatrice . . . . .	105.0	95.4	99.2
Bellevue . . . . .	100.0	61.7	90.5
Blair . . . . .	97.2	43.4	80.1
Broken Bow . . . . .	99.2	68.4	96.3
Chadron . . . . .	97.6	46.5	154.8
Columbus . . . . .	97.4	63.8	103.7
Fairbury . . . . .	97.9	5.2	89.2
Falls City . . . . .	100.2	67.7	107.8
Fremont . . . . .	97.7	37.0	99.5*
Grand Island . . . . .	99.3	61.4	92.4
Hastings . . . . .	98.5	49.8	99.3
Holdrege . . . . .	98.6	12.7	64.6
Kearney . . . . .	99.3	54.1	98.8
Lexington . . . . .	96.9	24.7	107.8
Lincoln . . . . .	101.2	78.3	100.1
McCook . . . . .	97.7	29.0	66.6
Nebraska City . . . . .	98.6	37.3	99.5
Norfolk . . . . .	98.1	47.2	97.8
North Platte . . . . .	99.3	37.7	92.4
Omaha . . . . .	100.0	63.9	99.0
Scottsbluff/Gering . . . . .	98.3	56.4	94.1
Seward . . . . .	97.6	84.2	95.8
Sidney . . . . .	98.3	70.7	88.7
So. Sioux City . . . . .	99.9	70.6	95.0
York . . . . .	98.7	99.6	93.1

<sup>1</sup> As a proxy for city employment, total employment for the county in which a city is located is used.  
<sup>2</sup> Building Activity is the value of building permits issued as spread over an appropriate time period of construction. The U.S. Department of Commerce Composite Construction Cost Index is used to adjust construction activity for price changes.  
<sup>3</sup> Power Consumption is a combined index of consumption of electricity and natural gas except in cases marked \* for which only one is used.

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

June 1980	Index (1967 = 100)	Percent of Same Month Last Year	Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year*
Consumer Prices . . . . .	247.6	114.3	114.4
Commodity component	232.8	111.7	113.0
Wholesale Prices . . . . .	265.2	113.6	114.6
Agricultural Prices			
United States . . . . .	226.0	95.0	95.7
Nebraska . . . . .	231.0	94.3	95.8

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

(Continued from page 1) population decreased in Douglas County. If this advance total becomes final, it would be the first decade since 1900 that Douglas County failed to record an increase in population. Following the drought of the 1890s, Douglas County population declined by nearly 18,000 from the 1890 total. Thereafter, Douglas County population increased with each decennial census. Advance 1980 census results show that Nebraska's most populous county had 388,945 inhabitants.

Population growth in the Platte Valley continued as it has for the past three decades. Growth in the northeastern part of Nebraska centered around Madison, Stanton, Platte, and Colfax counties is undoubtedly related to the continued prosperity and development in the Norfolk region.

Among continuing trends, note that—with the exception of Red Willow—all counties on the Kansas border lost population during the 1970s. This is a continuation of a well-established trend for counties on the Kansas border to lose inhabitants. This group of counties includes those where population has declined since 1900. While nearly all these border counties have steadily lost population since 1900, there are instances where this loss extends on into the second tier of counties from the Kansas border. The reasons for this population decline are complex and varied, but it seems important to remember that southeastern and southern Nebraska were among the first areas to be settled. Since agriculture was the dominant industry at the time of settlement, small farms could be expected to give rise to a large net out-migration of people during the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s as farm size increased.

After reviewing the advance 1980 census results, Nebraska's population growth seems linked to transportation systems and water. Interstate 80 runs through or in close proximity to most of the counties recording population increases during the 1970s. The availability of water is another common characteristic in many counties experiencing population growth, although this availability varies substantially among the counties. Note that growth in the western part of the state is associated with the development of the Burlington and Northern line which again is transportation related. While there are undoubtedly many complex factors explaining population growth in Nebraska during the 1970s, transportation and water were common features.

Past out-migration patterns are another factor that seems important in the switch of some counties from losers to gainers during the 1970s. It must be recalled that substantial movement of persons out of agriculture during the 1950s and the 1960s, and to a lesser extent the 1970s, resulted in cohort disappearances of up to 80 percent in some rural Nebraska counties. For instance, during the 1950s and the 1960s, the 10-14 cohort sometimes was reduced substantially as the next census frequently revealed the 20-24 cohort to have been only 25 percent of the original size. In some rural Nebraska counties, population movement off the farm was so complete as to substantially exhaust excess human resources in agriculture. Consequently, near zero population growth, a population equilibrium of sorts, could be expected to develop in parts of the state. This past out-migration was undoubtedly important in stabilizing population in areas of the state.

D. E. P.

## 1980 CENSUS INFORMATION

The Bureau of Business Research will provide 1980 census information as released on a fee basis. First releases will contain only head counts, with later releases providing detailed information on sex, age structure, and data for small areas, that is, sub-county regions. Detailed information will likely not be made available from the Bureau of the Census until 1981.

Information on the social and economic characteristics of the population, the sample information from the 1980 census, for

counties and subcounties units will be made available by the Bureau of Business Research as released on computer tape from the Bureau of the Census. The release of the social economic data will likely not occur until after mid-1981 or later.

The Bureau of Business Research has compiled county population totals from 1860 through the advance 1980 data. This information is available for \$5.00. Prepayment on all orders under \$25 is requested.

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# UNL NEWS

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UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN  
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Publications Services & Control  
University of Nebraska—Lincoln  
Nebraska Hall—City Campus  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68588

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