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Migration in Nebraska Counties, 1980 to 2000

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This article, excerpted from a forthcoming report on population projections, examines migration trends in Nebraska at the county level.

Population changes are watched closely by business people, educators, and policymakers. Issues such as workforce availability, school enrollment, and taxation all are affected by population trends. A key variable driving population change is migration—the movement of people into and out of a geographic area.

In the first half of the 1990s, a substantial number of counties in Nebraska reversed the losses of population due to outmigration that had characterized the 1980s. These positive trends will continue over the next 15 years. There remain, however, a large number of counties, par-

ticularly those defined as rural, that have not reversed the outmigration of the 1980s. Outmigration continues to result in major losses of young, working-age populations for these counties. Smaller and older populations will characterize these counties into the foreseeable future.

While the state as a whole experienced substantial outmigration throughout the 1960s and 1970s, the 1980s was a period notable for the depth and breadth of the outmigration activity. Ninety of the state's 93 counties experienced net outmigration during the decade. The three counties that experienced net immigration—Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington—were in metropolitan areas. Rural counties bore the brunt of outmigration. By the end of the decade, 40 of the state's 52 rural counties experienced double digit rates of net outmigration. Figure 1 shows the migration patterns of the 1980s by county type. In contrast, 48 counties in Nebraska experienced net immigration from 1990 to 1995. The patterns of migration from 1990 to 1995 are displayed in Figure 2.

While the majority of non-rural counties (metro, large trade center, and small trade center) experienced net immigration from 1990 to 1995, the majority of rural counties continued to experience net outmigration. Table 1 summarizes average net migration rates for the 1980s, 1990 to 1995, and shows projected rates for the 1995 to 2000 period by county type. Across county types the average migration rate increased (moved closer to zero in the case of negative rates) from the 1980s to the 1990 to 1995 period. In most cases, the range from lowest to highest net migration rates decreased from the earlier to the latter period.

Figure 1
Average Migration Rate by County Type—1980 to 1990

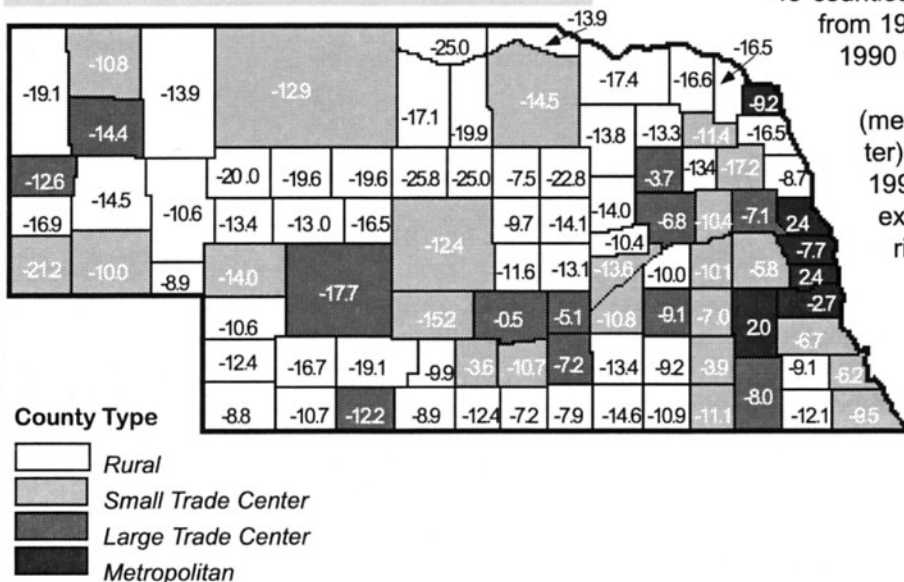
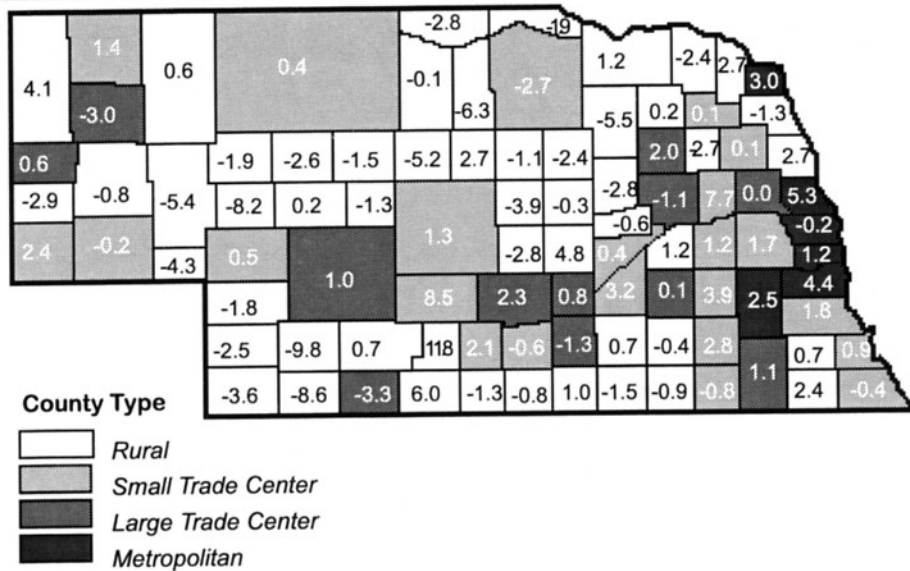


Figure 2
Average Intercensal Migration Rate by County Type—1900 to 1995



Outmigration becomes less prevalent as county size increases. While seventeen of the 52 rural counties (Types I-V) showed net immigration in the 1990 to 1995 period, only four of the seventeen were counties with fewer than 2,500 residents. At the top end of the rural county structure, three out of five counties with populations above 7,500 showed net immigration.

The largest changes were in the small and large trade center county groups. Eighteen out of 23 small trade center counties and eight out of the twelve large trade center counties showed positive net migration in the 1990 to 1995 period.

The severity of the outmigration for those counties that continue to experience outmigration lessened in the first half of the 1990s in contrast to the 1980s. However, this could be attributable more to decreases in the pool of potential outmigrants (young, working-age populations) than to a

reversal of the fundamental cause of outmigration—the lack of employment opportunities.

Keep in mind that net outmigration does not necessarily mean that a county will experience a population decrease. Births are still the largest single element in population change for the vast majority of counties. A county that displays more deaths than births is a rarity, and is a county with little prospect for recovery from population loss. In those rare cases, outmigration will accelerate the decline of county population.

Nebraska's migration experience is not unique. According to U.S. Department of Agriculture's *1995 Agricultural Yearbook*, over half of the nation's nonmetropolitan counties lost population during the 1980s. From 1990 to 1994 these counties experienced a population growth more than double that of the 1980s. Far fewer counties lost population in the first half of the 1990s.

County Types

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

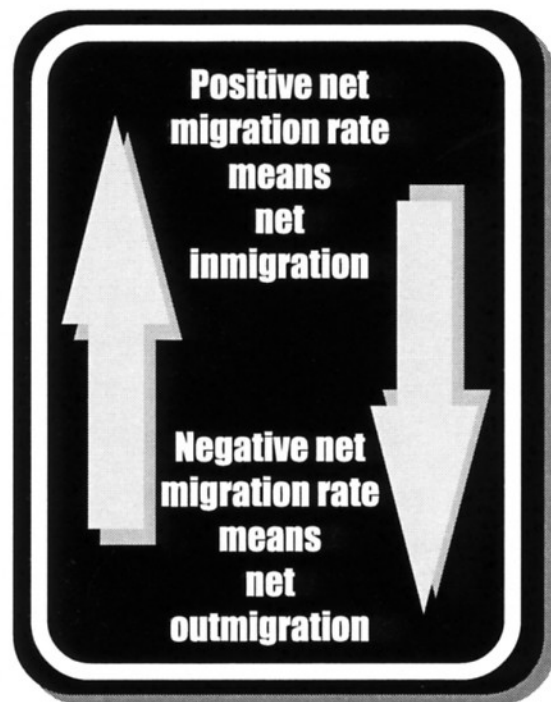
Rural Classifications

- 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 to 7,499
- Rural V*: total population 7,500 or above

Table 1
Summary of Migration Rates
by County Size

<i>County Type/Concept</i>	<i>1980 to 1990</i>	<i>1990 to 1995</i>	<i>1995 to 2000</i>
Rural I			
Number of counties	10	10	10
Number w/positive net migration	0	2	2
Highest net migration rate	-13.0	2.7	0.1
Lowest net migration rate	-25.8	-8.2	-6.1
Average	-19.3	-2.3	-1.9
Rural II			
Number of counties	8	8	8
Number w/positive net migration	0	2	2
Highest net migration rate	-7.5	11.8	4.5
Lowest net migration rate	-25.0	-9.8	-7.4
Average	-14.7	-1.7	-1.6
Rural III			
Number of counties	15	15	15
Number w/positive net migration	0	4	4
Highest net migration rate	-7.2	2.4	0.7
Lowest net migration rate	-19.1	-8.6	-6.5
Average	-11.8	-1.3	-1.0
Rural IV			
Number of counties	14	14	14
Number w/positive net migration	0	6	5
Highest net migration rate	-8.9	6.0	3.6
Lowest net migration rate	-16.5	-3.9	-2.9
Average	-12.8	0.1	-0.2
Rural V			
Number of counties	5	5	5
Number w/positive net migration	0	3	4
Highest net migration rate	-8.7	2.7	2.1
Lowest net migration rate	-17.4	-5.5	-4.2
Average	-14.0	-0.8	0.0
Small trade center counties			
Number of counties	23	23	23
Number w/positive net migration	0	18	20
Highest net migration rate	-3.6	8.5	4.2
Lowest net migration rate	-21.2	-2.7	-1.5
Average	-10.8	1.6	1.2
Large trade center counties			
Number of counties	12	12	12
Number w/positive net migration	0	8	10
Highest net migration rate	-0.5	2.3	1.9
Lowest net migration rate	-17.7	-3.3	-2.2
Average	-8.7	-0.1	0.6
Metropolitan counties			
Number of counties	6	6	6
Number w/positive net migration	3	5	6
Highest net migration rate	2.4	5.3	4.0
Lowest net migration rate	-9.2	-0.2	0.0
Average	-2.1	2.7	2.2

Source: Historical data from U.S. Bureau of the Census



Those reversals may be due principally to large gains in nonmetropolitan service jobs. Total employment in nonmetropolitan counties from 1988 to 1992 grew 1.5 percent annually, while employment in metropolitan counties grew by only 0.5 percent annually. Three-fourths of U.S. counties dependent on farming, however, still are characterized by decreasing populations.

Future Migration Patterns

A panel of experts convened to review county migration patterns and forecast population change reached general agreement on the future of migration in the state. The results are displayed in Figure 3 and Table 1.

The trend away from outmigration that characterized Nebraska's counties during the 1990 to 1995 period will continue through 2000 and beyond. The short-term projections indicate that five additional counties will experience net immigration. In general, the projected rates of net immigration will be somewhat less than those experienced from 1990 to 1995. *(continued, p. 4)*

Net Migration Defined

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 immigration, or negative, denoting net outmigration. The term net outmigration indicates that more people moved out of a county than entered it.

Example

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% = net outmigration

Attractive Nonmetropolitan Counties

Three types of nonmetropolitan counties across the nation have been successful in attracting migrants:

➔ **Bedroom counties**—those counties located near metropolitan areas, or near counties containing smaller cities that are experiencing job growth. In Nebraska, these include counties along Interstate 80, Platte County (Columbus), and Madison County (Norfolk).

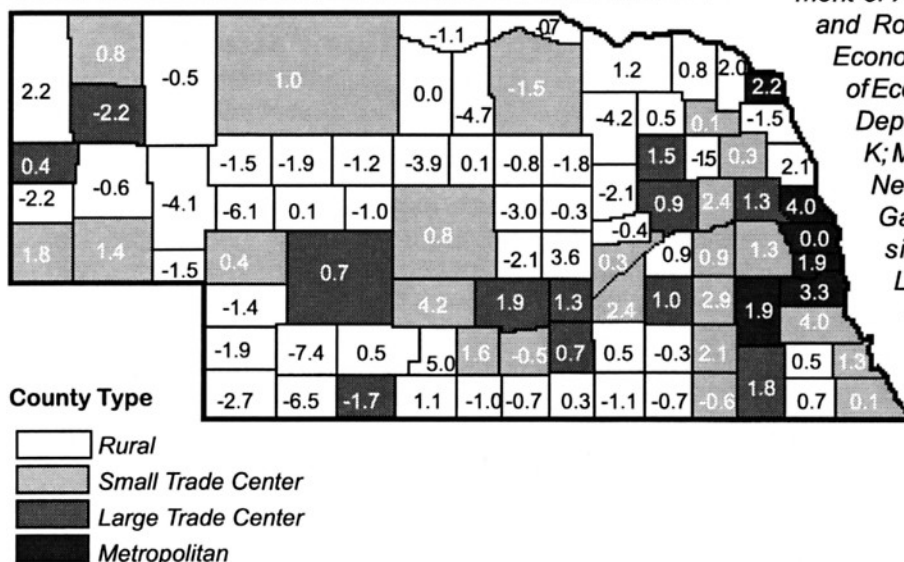
➔ **Recreational counties**—include those located along the Niobrara and Missouri rivers, counties with constructed lakes, such as Harlan and Gosper counties, and counties in close proximity to other scenic attractions, such as Dawes and Sioux counties.

➔ **Developing counties**—those counties that have increased job opportunities.

In addition, some analysts argue that a well developed retirement center can serve as an attraction, particularly to former residents of the area who prefer a rural setting for their retirement years. Rural areas also may be attractive to self-employed persons in high-tech fields. These persons theoretically can locate anywhere. However, access to good transportation, especially air transportation, may be a requirement. Further, it is argued that ready access to colleagues may be important. If such people were to migrate to rural counties, they would likely pick recreation counties or counties where they have strong family ties.

The full implications of the migration forecast outlined in this article will be published by the end of the year. The monograph will contain population projections to the year 2010, by county, classified in five-year age groups.

Figure 3
Projected Average Migration Rate by County Type—1995 to 2000



We are grateful to the following participants in our population forecast panel. John Allen and Bruce Johnson, Department of Agricultural Economics, UN-L; Tom Doering and Roberta Pinkerton, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Ernie Goss, Department of Economics, Creighton University; Gene Koepke, Department of Management and Marketing, UN-K; Michael Nolan, City of Norfolk; Donis Petersan, Nebraska Public Power District, Columbus; Garth Taylor, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, Scottsbluff; and Charles Lamphear, Bureau of Business Research, UN-L. □

News Briefs

Per Capita Total and Nonfarm Personal Income—Nebraska, Neighboring States^a, and U.S., Selected Years

	1970	1980	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Per Capita Total Personal Income								
U.S.								
Amount (\$)	4,050	9,940	18,670	19,200	20,150	21,220	22,050	24,130
Percent of U.S. average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nebraska								
Amount (\$)	3,750	8,990	17,370	18,050	19,190	19,720	20,560	21,480
Percent of U.S. average	92.6	90.4	93.1	94.0	95.2	92.9	93.2	89.0
Neighboring States								
Amount (\$)	3,800	9,640	17,600	18,240	19,200	20,000	20,980	22,030
Percent of U.S. average	93.9	97.0	94.3	95.0	95.3	94.3	95.1	91.3
Per Capita Nonfarm Personal Income								
U.S.								
Amount (\$)	3,960	9,850	18,470	19,020	19,940	21,050	21,880	23,990
Percent of U.S. average	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Nebraska								
Amount (\$)	3,390	8,940	15,900	16,590	17,710	18,640	19,460	20,710
Percent of U.S. average	85.7	90.7	86.1	87.2	88.8	88.6	88.9	86.3
Neighboring States								
Amount (\$)	3,560	9,550	17,140	17,860	18,720	19,720	20,570	21,850
Percent of U.S. average	90.0	96.9	92.8	93.9	93.9	93.7	94.0	91.1

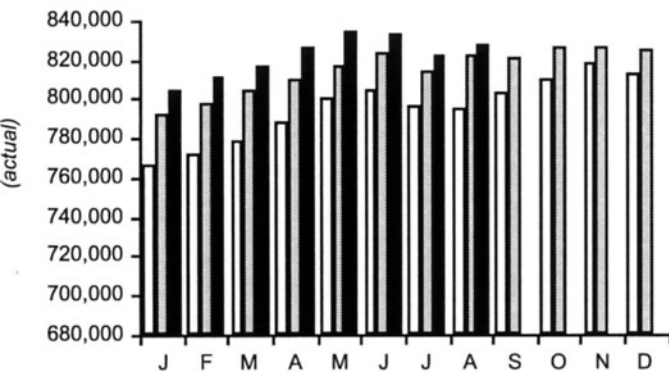
^aNeighboring states include Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wyoming

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

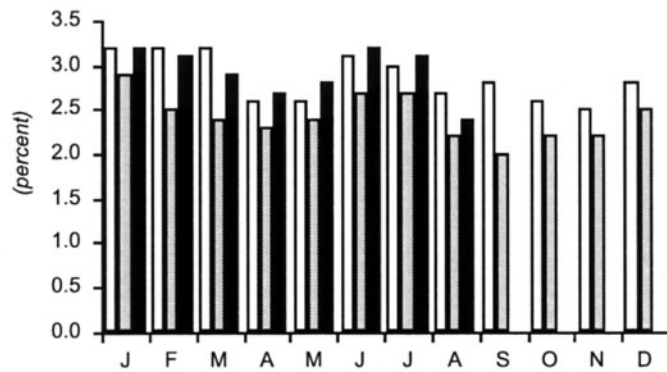
Nebraska Stats

□ 1994 ■ 1995 ■ 1996

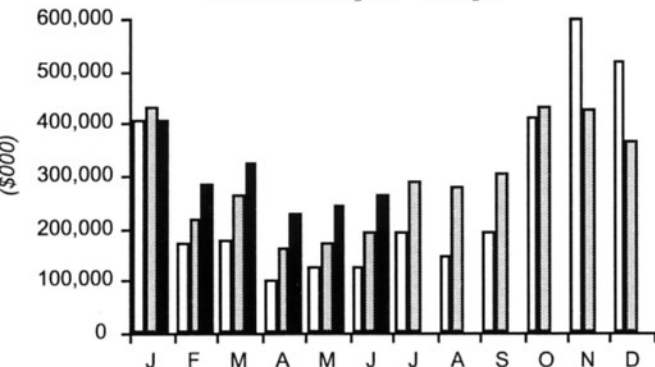
Total Nonfarm Employment



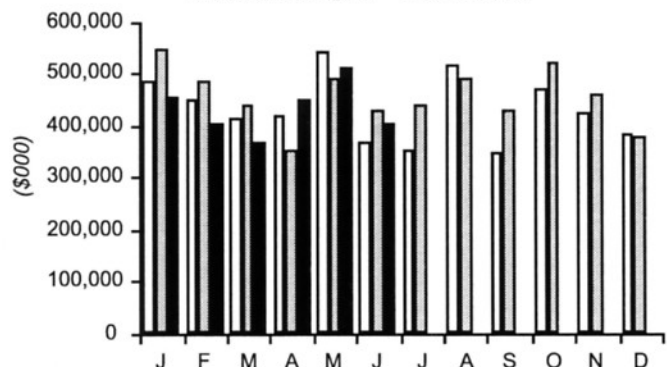
Unemployment Rate



Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



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

	June 1996 \$	YTD \$	YTD % Change		June 1996 \$	YTD \$	YTD % Change
Ainsworth, Brown	1,968	9,353	-7.1	Kearney, Buffalo	29,387	158,820	5.8
Albion, Boone	2,089	11,335	18.6	Kenesaw, Adams	104	622	5.1
Alliance, Box Butte	6,140	32,485	3.0	Kimball, Kimball	1,610	8,040	-11.0
Alma, Harlan	804	3,895	2.6	La Vista, Sarpy	7,761	41,452	15.3
Arapahoe, Furnas	807	3,720	6.0	Laurel, Cedar	402	2,052	3.9
Arlington, Washington	191	1,035	-1.7	Lexington, Dawson	7,471	42,483	2.9
Arnold, Custer	348	1,514	-2.4	Lincoln, Lancaster	178,343	994,178	10.8
Ashland, Saunders	1,038	5,263	2.8	Louisville, Cass	399	1,997	3.5
Atkinson, Holt	987	4,488	6.1	Loup City, Sherman	767	3,245	2.4
Auburn, Nemaha	2,621	14,053	0.6	Lyons, Burt	517	2,321	-0.9
Aurora, Hamilton	2,873	15,197	1.6	Madison, Madison	772	4,238	20.5
Axtell, Kearney	158	517	5.7	McCook, Red Willow	10,790	58,584	9.6
Bassett, Rock	577	2,453	2.0	Milford, Seward	777	4,734	6.5
Battle Creek, Madison	616	3,587	2.6	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	248	1,077	-21.5
Bayard, Morrill	498	2,372	-12.9	Minden, Kearney	1,790	8,576	-7.5
Beatrice, Gage	10,174	54,388	5.6	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	804	4,066	-19.1
Beaver City, Furnas	139	641	-12.1	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	445	2,201	-5.9
Bellevue, Sarpy	17,478	97,182	17.9	Nebraska City, Otoe	6,131	30,324	14.4
Benkelman, Dundy	680	2,982	12.2	Neligh, Antelope	1,551	6,662	-6.8
Bennington, Douglas	532	2,158	39.5	Newman Grove, Madison	324	1,886	3.4
Blair, Washington	6,333	33,754	-2.4	Norfolk, Madison	28,040	153,463	6.8
Bloomfield, Knox	651	3,237	1.9	North Bend, Dodge	550	2,827	8.8
Blue Hill, Webster	449	2,259	8.2	North Platte, Lincoln	22,340	117,641	2.7
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,149	5,281	-8.8	O'Neill, Holt	4,432	25,071	10.3
Broken Bow, Custer	4,147	26,760	8.8	Oakland, Burt	561	3,492	2.8
Burwell, Garfield	956	3,642	-2.2	Ogallala, Keith	6,241	29,913	4.9
Cairo, Hall	174	1,045	-3.2	Omaha, Douglas	436,398	2,415,368	6.1
Cambridge, Furnas	1,013	7,048	67.8	Ord, Valley	2,059	9,990	-5.8
Central City, Merrick	1,865	9,315	8.5	Osceola, Polk	695	4,041	-6.3
Ceresco, Saunders	1,237	6,480	10.0	Oshkosh, Garden	466	2,399	-13.1
Chadron, Dawes	3,654	17,658	-7.5	Osmond, Pierce	431	2,116	2.7
Chappell, Deuel	431	2,156	-10.0	Oxford, Furnas	386	1,700	-15.3
Clarkson, Colfax	470	2,471	5.1	Papillion, Sarpy	5,972	28,617	44.3
Clay Center, Clay	335	1,467	6.5	Pawnee City, Pawnee	273	1,671	-6.6
Columbus, Platte	19,843	112,945	6.4	Pender, Thurston	715	3,681	6.6
Cozad, Dawson	2,988	15,426	-1.2	Pierce, Pierce	777	3,595	-2.2
Crawford, Dawes	592	2,311	2.2	Plainview, Pierce	640	3,334	-11.8
Creighton, Knox	1,042	5,457	-4.2	Plymouth, Jefferson	325	16,845	-27.2
Crete, Saline	3,384	19,131	-5.3	Ponca, Dixon	504	2,864	9.3
Crofton, Knox	579	2,289	17.8	Ralston, Douglas	2,989	16,511	10.2
Curtis, Frontier	290	1,597	-1.5	Randolph, Cedar	470	2,087	5.5
Dakota City, Dakota	635	3,383	6.7	Ravenna, Buffalo	640	3,560	-9.9
David City, Butler	1,470	8,465	2.8	Red Cloud, Webster	822	3,546	-12.4
Deshler, Thayer	228	1,297	3.3	Rushville, Sheridan	610	3,052	-2.0
Dodge, Dodge	320	1,308	-3.1	Sargent, Custer	242	1,133	-3.6
Doniphan, Hall	653	2,975	-1.9	Schuyler, Colfax	2,132	10,851	5.2
Eagle, Cass	546	1,726	1.9	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	20,460	109,728	5.2
Elgin, Antelope	449	2,360	4.7	Scribner, Dodge	517	2,569	8.6
Elkhorn, Douglas	2,318	9,956	16.2	Seward, Seward	4,653	26,146	1.1
Elm Creek, Buffalo	309	1,589	50.5	Shelby, Polk	340	1,872	12.6
Elwood, Gosper	562	2,108	5.4	Shelton, Buffalo	773	3,365	-0.6
Fairbury, Jefferson	3,001	17,189	1.6	Sidney, Cheyenne	7,331	33,988	1.0
Fairmont, Fillmore	145	764	-18.5	South Sioux City, Dakota	8,073	46,586	7.5
Falls City, Richardson	2,647	14,255	3.9	Springfield, Sarpy	375	1,550	52.9
Franklin, Franklin	572	2,691	0.6	St. Paul, Howard	1,353	6,349	-0.6
Fremont, Dodge	21,372	118,944	3.6	Stanton, Stanton	588	3,144	5.9
Friend, Saline	407	2,742	-4.6	Stromsburg, Polk	1,311	4,786	5.5
Fullerton, Nance	519	2,774	-10.7	Superior, Nuckolls	1,501	8,111	-2.1
Geneva, Fillmore	1,845	10,003	1.3	Sutherland, Lincoln	394	1,680	18.7
Genoa, Nance	311	1,464	7.7	Sutton, Clay	1,240	7,491	23.2
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,319	18,406	-0.3	Syracuse, Otoe	1,076	5,595	-1.5
Gibbon, Buffalo	738	4,071	-1.9	Tecumseh, Johnson	1,126	5,908	0.4
Gordon, Sheridan	1,810	9,366	1.2	Tekamah, Burt	1,153	5,807	1.9
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,429	10,880	-4.0	Tilden, Madison	502	2,511	4.9
Grand Island, Hall	46,217	259,050	-1.1	Utica, Seward	258	1,369	4.8
Grant, Perkins	1,088	5,237	10.0	Valentine, Cherry	4,332	20,373	5.5
Gretna, Sarpy	3,933	18,171	0.0	Valley, Douglas	1,580	6,030	4.2
Hartington, Cedar	1,538	8,111	-12.9	Wahoo, Saunders	2,578	13,383	-3.0
Hastings, Adams	20,114	114,405	3.0	Wakefield, Dixon	409	2,077	0.4
Hay Springs, Sheridan	340	1,885	6.5	Wauneta, Chase	670	2,027	19.3
Hebron, Thayer	1,639	8,857	-8.5	Waverly, Lancaster	654	3,522	12.7
Henderson, York	931	3,805	20.6	Wayne, Wayne	3,091	17,027	0.8
Hickman, Lancaster	288	1,240	1.1	Weeping Water, Cass	599	3,083	-10.6
Holdrege, Phelps	5,107	26,589	1.5	West Point, Cuming	3,617	20,445	10.9
Hooper, Dodge	315	1,782	12.3	Wilber, Saline	468	2,414	-6.0
Humboldt, Richardson	555	2,868	5.4	Wisner, Cuming	571	3,033	2.3
Humphrey, Platte	784	4,081	13.2	Wood River, Hall	494	2,538	15.3
Imperial, Chase	1,739	9,407	5.0	Wymore, Gage	472	2,302	-0.1
Juniata, Adams	227	1,226	10.0				

*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				
June 1996	YTD	YTD	June 1996	YTD	YTD	June 1996	YTD	YTD	June 1996	YTD	YTD		
\$	\$	% Chg	\$	\$	% Chg	\$	\$	% Chg	\$	\$	% Chg		
Nebraska	*175,513	1,012,744	9.8	1,283,697	6,954,064	6.7	Howard	656	4,026	3.8	1,767	8,439	4.2
Adams	3,175	18,021	10.9	20,751	117,737	3.1	Jefferson	891	5,284	1.5	3,928	21,373	-0.3
Antelope	817	5,603	20.6	2,520	11,272	-2.0	Johnson	390	2,817	8.8	1,503	7,990	3.4
Arthur	64	290	30.0	55	(D)	(D)	Kearney	706	5,098	9.7	2,180	9,998	-4.3
Banner	159	758	23.3	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	700	5,482	-0.8	7,024	32,542	6.8
Blaine	38	338	-12.0	93	(D)	(D)	Keya Paha	103	634	2.6	103	470	10.8
Boone	689	4,599	-1.0	2,702	14,229	14.1	Kimball	388	2,771	10.5	1,684	8,241	-11.0
Box Butte	1,802	9,032	-3.0	6,452	34,019	2.9	Knox	997	5,782	23.5	3,053	14,391	3.1
Boyd	146	1,121	-4.9	757	3,410	7.7	Lancaster	23,549	121,307	12.2	180,349	1,004,378	10.8
Brown	411	1,687	-12.0	2,117	9,702	-7.0	Lincoln	3,602	19,822	-1.6	23,511	122,855	2.7
Buffalo	4,623	25,173	15.3	32,241	173,270	5.5	Logan	116	501	-17.6	108	(D)	(D)
Burt	695	5,175	8.3	2,474	12,766	1.2	Loup	106	379	-26.8	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	1,002	5,866	12.7	2,045	11,122	1.2	McPherson	80	412	45.6	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	2,560	16,642	11.6	6,485	30,360	2.5	Madison	3,627	21,263	7.8	30,527	166,223	7.1
Cedar	806	6,158	-2.7	2,814	14,016	-7.3	Merrick	949	5,866	29.0	2,567	12,306	9.8
Chase	579	3,299	1.8	2,502	11,674	7.5	Morrill	618	3,270	7.0	1,688	7,827	-10.5
Cherry	584	3,525	-4.7	4,610	21,623	5.6	Nance	369	2,467	-1.7	889	4,412	-4.9
Cheyenne	1,148	7,314	16.0	7,708	35,632	1.3	Nemaha	746	4,676	6.2	2,895	15,499	-0.9
Clay	680	5,099	19.6	2,530	13,799	17.5	Nuckolls	514	3,438	12.5	2,094	11,135	0.5
Colfax	1,047	5,925	15.7	3,099	15,858	6.9	Otoe	1,466	9,796	7.7	7,658	38,118	10.5
Cuming	1,170	7,103	17.9	4,775	26,513	8.9	Pawnee	306	2,013	53.9	519	2,893	0.1
Custer	819	6,849	2.9	5,347	31,968	7.5	Perkins	457	2,939	18.1	1,355	6,576	15.2
Dakota	2,229	11,620	14.1	9,531	54,053	7.3	Phelps	1,173	8,618	30.0	5,452	27,988	1.8
Dawes	805	3,905	-0.7	4,249	19,974	-6.4	Pierce	851	5,198	12.7	1,991	9,531	-4.0
Dawson	2,355	14,819	3.7	13,426	70,832	0.7	Platte	3,850	20,728	8.1	21,376	120,307	6.5
Deuel	158	1,659	41.2	858	4,308	-2.0	Polk	563	4,470	16.5	2,443	11,295	-1.2
Dixon	529	3,555	5.8	1,061	5,594	5.1	Red Willow	1,312	7,321	3.2	11,162	60,329	9.4
Dodge	3,330	19,556	8.6	23,394	129,093	3.9	Richardson	983	5,376	2.6	3,521	18,846	4.9
Douglas	45,112	258,771	14.0	445,978	2,461,145	6.2	Rock	133	923	-15.9	633	2,558	2.6
Dundy	298	2,218	29.5	721	3,196	13.2	Saline	1,404	8,823	12.6	4,670	26,417	-4.8
Fillmore	620	4,918	6.7	2,824	15,171	3.8	Sarpy	12,317	70,780	7.7	36,054	189,267	19.1
Franklin	332	2,186	8.4	886	4,292	4.3	Saunders	2,382	13,385	12.1	5,935	30,514	2.6
Frontier	379	2,121	5.2	633	3,444	3.7	Scotts Bluff	3,735	21,100	3.7	25,368	135,981	3.0
Furnas	710	3,762	9.0	2,511	14,032	24.0	Seward	1,801	9,875	11.9	5,981	33,618	1.8
Gage	2,481	12,913	7.6	11,364	60,516	5.6	Sheridan	517	4,009	23.6	3,056	15,860	0.2
Garden	305	1,790	14.7	715	3,280	-10.6	Sherman	299	2,194	8.7	1,011	4,247	-0.8
Garfield	114	1,103	24.1	956	3,642	-2.2	Sioux	263	1,235	5.1	158	749	1.1
Gosper	193	1,716	19.3	623	2,429	7.3	Stanton	630	3,922	3.4	992	4,211	10.9
Grant	112	447	-23.3	243	944	1.0	Thayer	541	3,946	3.7	2,612	13,543	-4.2
Greeley	195	1,615	-12.5	817	3,693	9.1	Thomas	93	679	26.4	355	1,962	6.1
Hall	6,316	34,326	13.7	47,938	267,572	-1.1	Thurston	506	3,095	16.0	856	4,485	5.5
Hamilton	1,005	7,326	11.9	3,368	17,674	2.6	Valley	452	2,633	-10.0	2,337	10,983	-5.3
Harlan	442	2,808	15.2	1,196	5,058	-0.8	Washington	2,585	13,930	17.3	7,007	37,278	-1.4
Hayes	87	807	4.8	103	(D)	(D)	Wayne	732	5,099	8.1	3,292	17,921	1.3
Hitchcock	310	2,115	9.1	729	3,435	1.3	Webster	322	2,359	7.2	1,423	6,441	-4.8
Holt	1,133	6,863	-5.1	6,187	33,249	8.5	Wheeler	91	805	-5.6	388	712	12.5
Hooker	176	517	84.0	313	1,402	8.5	York	1,588	9,645	-1.4	10,034	54,189	4.7

*Totals may not add due to rounding

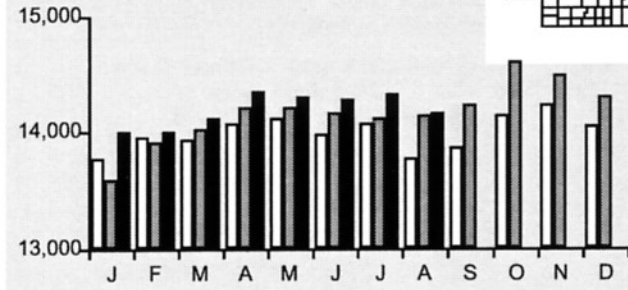
(D) Denotes disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

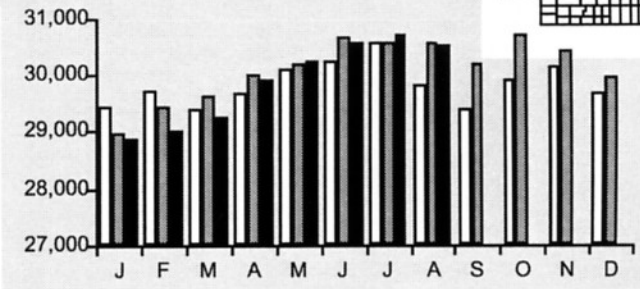
Regional Employment—1994 to August 1996

1994 1995 1996

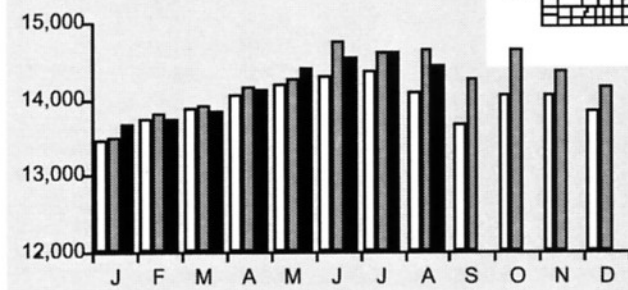
Northwest Panhandle



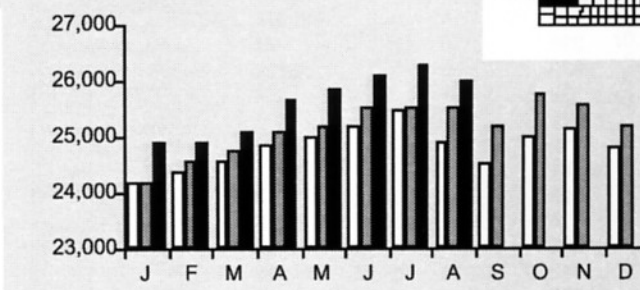
Southwest Panhandle



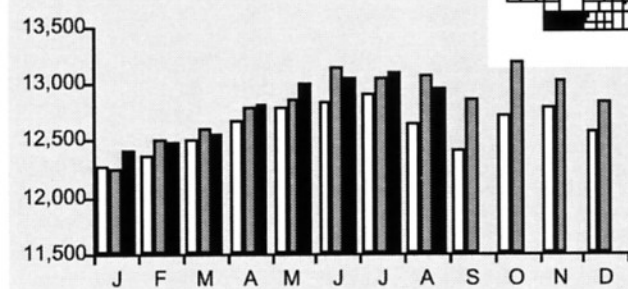
North Central



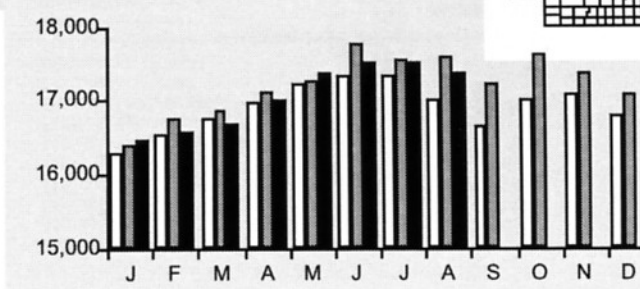
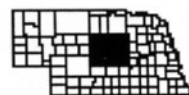
West Central



Southwest Central



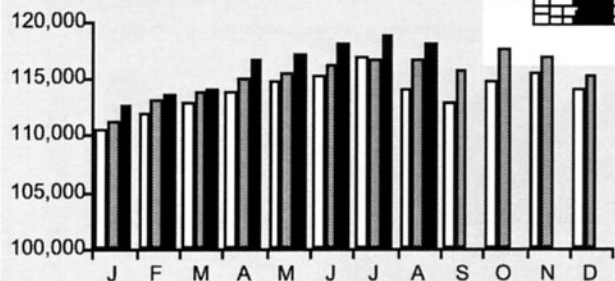
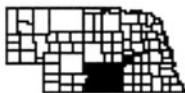
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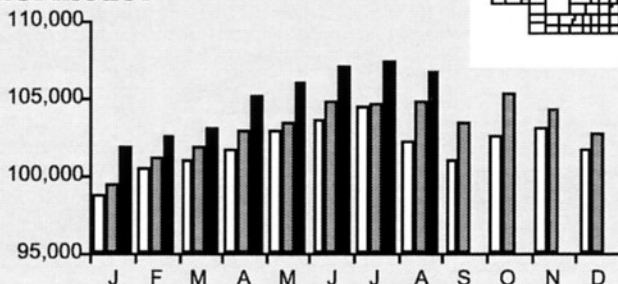
Regional Employment—1994 to August 1996

□ 1994 ■ 1995 ■ 1996

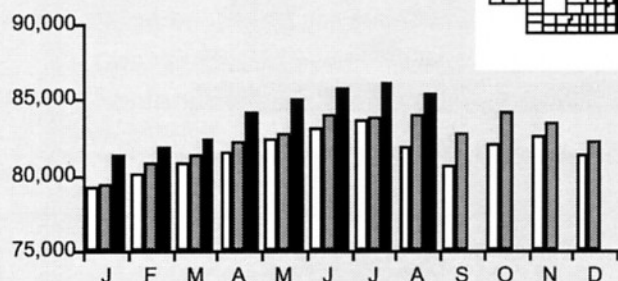
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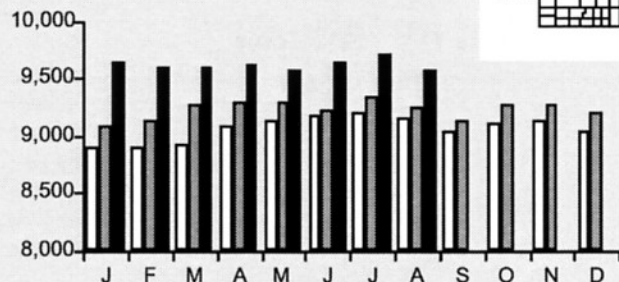
Northeast



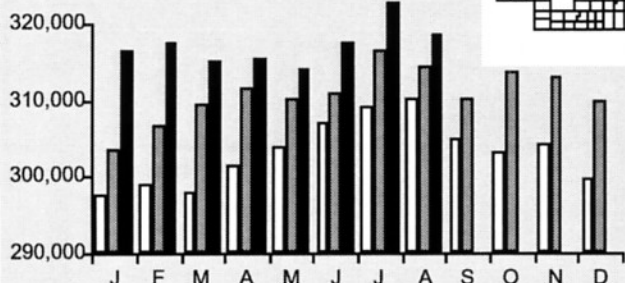
Southeast



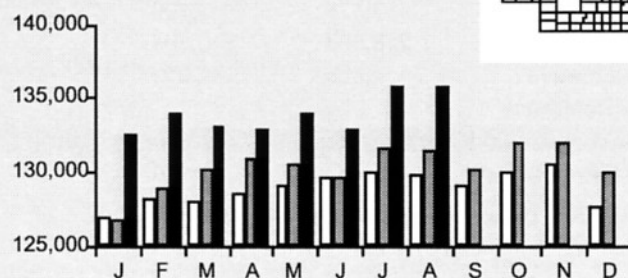
Sioux City MSA



Omaha MSA

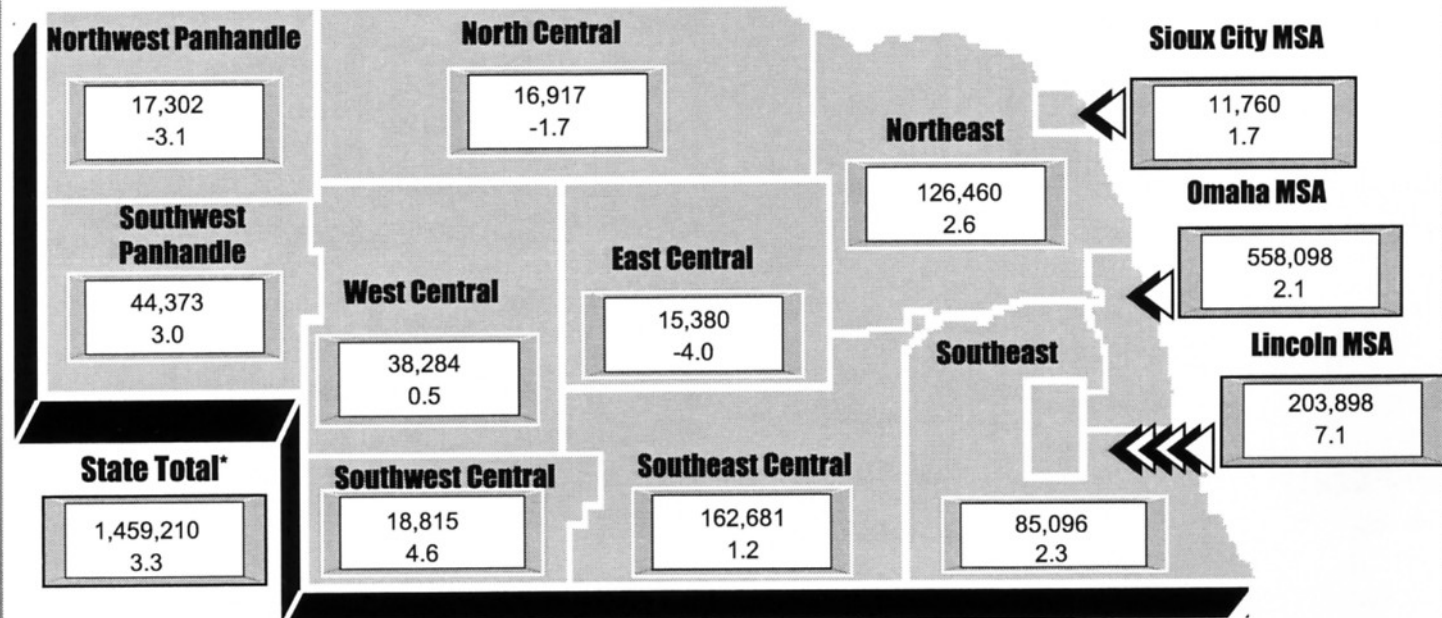


Lincoln MSA



June 1996 Regional Retail Sales (\$000)

Percent Change from Year Ago



*Regional values may not add to state total due to unallocated sales

Employment by Industry

	Revised July 1996	Preliminary August 1996	% Change vs Yr Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	822,937	827,460	0.6
Construction & Mining	39,364	39,499	1.4
Manufacturing	112,044	114,033	1.7
Durables	53,120	54,476	1.4
Nondurables	58,924	59,557	2.0
TCU*	50,091	50,257	0.7
Trade	206,566	207,534	-1.8
Wholesale	54,351	54,192	-5.8
Retail	152,215	153,342	-0.3
FIRE**	52,525	52,700	-1.1
Services	218,308	219,104	2.2
Government	144,039	144,333	1.4
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	925,428	911,170	1.7
Unemployment Rate	3.1	2.4	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Price Indices

Consumer Price Index - U*
(1982-84 = 100)

	August 1996	% Change vs Yr Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr Ago
All items	157.3	2.8	2.9
Commodities	139.5	2.3	2.3
Services	175.3	3.2	3.2

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

Inflation Rate

Otoe

Nebraska City-County Seat

License plate prefix number: 11

Size of county: 615 square miles, ranks 43rd in the state

Population: 14,252 in 1990, a change of -6.13 percent from 1980

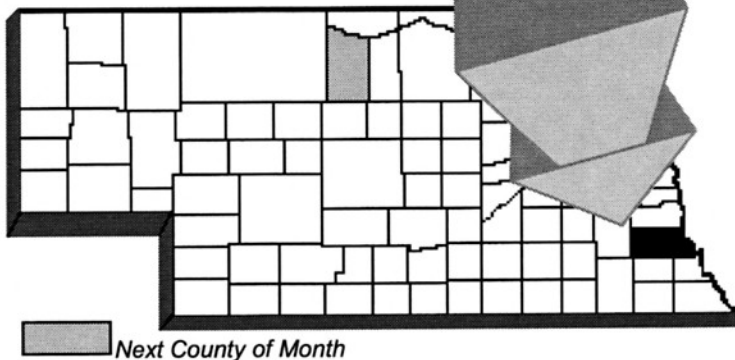
Per capita personal income: \$18,739 in 1994, ranks 55th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$43,592 in 1995, a change of 11.7 percent from 1994; \$47,914 during January-June 1996, a change of 9.2 percent from the same period one year ago

Number of business and service establishments: 403 in 1993, 58.1 percent had less than five employees

Unemployment rate: 3.1 percent in Otoe County, 2.4 percent in Nebraska for 1995

Nonfarm employment (1995):



	State	Otoe County
Wage and Salary workers	815,089	5,432
	<i>(percent of total)</i>	
Construction and Mining	4.4	3.4
Manufacturing	13.7	25.8
TCU	6.1	2.7
Wholesale Trade	6.5	4.7
Retail Trade	18.6	22.9
FIRE	6.4	3.5
Services	25.8	17.1
Government	18.5	20.0

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 805 in 1992, 1,005 in 1987

Average farm size: 405 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$58,502 million in 1992 (\$72,673 average per farm)

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

bulletin board



Announcing...

Quarterly Business Conditions Survey

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Department of Labor, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Bureau of Business Research are launching a new Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey to provide regularly updated data on employment, wages, and business revenues in the state. Questionnaires will be mailed to 3,000 Nebraska businesses on October 11.

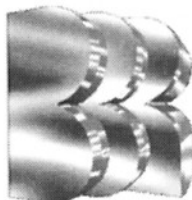
The data are expected to provide insight into full-time versus part-time employment opportunities; wages offered for new hires in various occupational categories; the degree of difficulty businesses have in finding qualified job applicants for positions; current business sales trends and the reasons for revenue increases or decreases; the short-term sales outlook for Nebraska businesses; and other information.

Funded primarily through the federal School-to-Work Initiative, the survey is expected to help the Initiative better integrate its programs with the needs and concerns of Nebraska businesses, as well as add to databases feeding into the Nebraska Career Information System.

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