



Nebraska

Economic Insight and Outlook

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Connections.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Economic Insight and Outlook

The office of Labor Market Information creates the following report to assist in the development of the WIOA state plan, policy making, education, economic development and business engagement, and in creating career pathways. It addresses trends and challenges at both state and sub-state levels in employment, unemployment, and growing and in-demand occupations and industries. It also discusses potential skill imbalances and deficiencies to help employers and educators address training and education needs.

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other users require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

Published: September 2020



Table of Contents

Overview	3
Demographics	4
Education	16
Labor Supply	24
Wages and Compensation	34
Occupation, Industry, and Business Review	45
Projections	55
Area Definitions	62

Nebraska Economic Insight and Outlook is a publication of:

Nebraska Department of Labor

Labor Market Information

Phone: 800.876.1377

Email: lmi_ne@nebraska.gov

This report is available online and can be accessed at networks.nebraska.gov under Labor Market Information Publications.

The Department of Labor accepts no liability for any actions taken or not taken as a result of information contained in this report.

Any information in this report may be quoted or reproduced, provided an accurate citation is made.

Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

TDD: 800.833.7352

Overview

Nebraska is comprised of 93 counties, with a statewide population of 1,929,268 as of 2018. Since 2010, Nebraska's total population has increased by 5.6%, slightly slower than the 6.0% population growth rate of the United States as a whole. Nebraska is also becoming increasingly diverse, with 21.4% of the 2018 state population identifying as a racial or ethnic minority, a 16.3% increase since 2013.

Nebraska continues to enjoy a strong economy. In 2019, Nebraska's unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted, was just 3.0%, lower than the national unemployment rate of 3.7%. Nebraska's median household income for 2018 was \$59,116, slightly below than the national median household income of \$60,293. However, the cost of living in Nebraska was also substantially lower than in many other areas of the country.

Nebraska had one of the nation's lowest rates of homelessness in 2019, and the state's 2018 poverty rate was 12.9%, slightly below nationwide estimates of poverty.

The largest private industry sector in Nebraska was trade, transportation, and utilities, which made up 21.8% of total 2019 employment statewide.

The Nebraska industry sector projected to experience the highest growth rate from 2018-2028 is arts, entertainment, and recreation, where a 12.2% increase in employment is expected, creating nearly 2,000 new jobs. The healthcare and social assistance industry is

Quick Facts, Nebraska and United States

	Nebraska	United States
2018 Population	1,929,268	327,167,434
2010-2018 Population Growth	5.6%	6.0%
2018 Percent Minority Population	21.4%	39.6%
% of Population 25 & Over With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	30.6%	30.9%
2019 Labor Force	1,035,240	163,539,000
2019 Unemployment Rate	3.0%	3.7%
2018 Median Household Income	\$59,116	\$60,293
2018 Poverty Rate	12.9%	13.1%
2019 Largest Private Industry	Trade, transportation and utilities (21.8%)	Trade, transportation and utilities (23.3%)
2019 Most Common Occupation	Fast Food and Counter Workers (2.9%)	Retail salespersons (3.0%)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: Population Estimates, 2017 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Nebraska Department of Labor: Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics. Bureau of Labor Statistics: Current Population Survey, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Occupational Employment Statistics.

projected to see Nebraska's largest numeric employment gains through 2028: approximately 16,700 jobs, or an 11.5% increase.

The occupational group with the highest projected growth rate is healthcare support occupations, where a 12.7% increase in employment is expected by 2028.

Demographics

Population

Overview..... page 5

Change by County, 2010-2018 page 6

Age..... page 7

Diversity

Race/Ethnicity.....page 8

Change in Race/
Ethnicity Over Time..... page 9

Projections by Race/Ethnicity..... page 10

Language and the
Ability to Speak English..... page 11

Migration

Components of Change page 12

Domestic and International page 13

International by County
2014 - 2018.....page 14

Estimate of Homelessness page 15

Unless otherwise noted, data from this section can be found at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov). Under Topics, choose Population. Then choose Population Estimates.



Population

Overview, 2018

In 2018, Nebraska had a total population of 1,929,268. Nebraska's population was mostly concentrated in the southeast quadrant of the state and in several counties along Interstate 80 (Lincoln, Dawson, Buffalo, and Hall Counties).

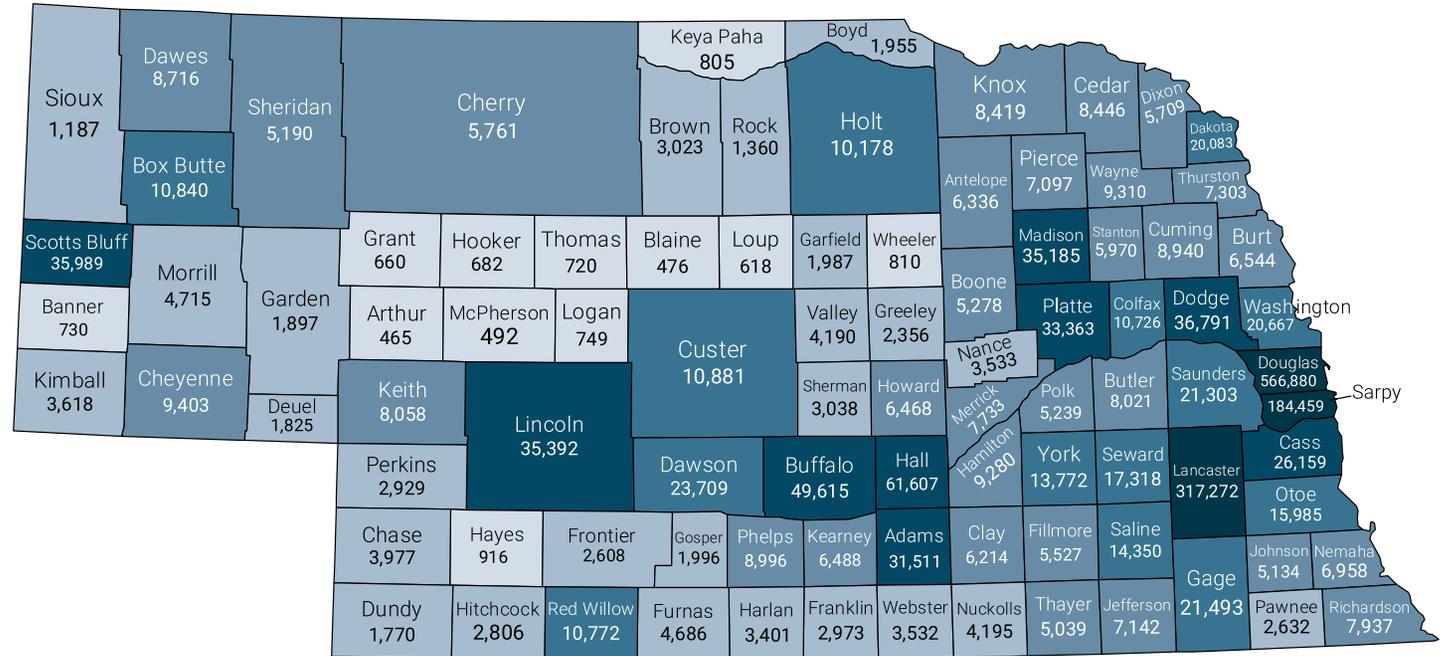
Douglas County had the state's largest population, at approximately 567,000, followed by Lancaster County, with more than 317,000, and Sarpy County, with about 184,000. Arthur County had the lowest population at 465, followed by McPherson and Blaine Counties, which both had just under 500.

How To Use It

County population data provide a general overview of the state population distribution and population density. The data show that a majority of Nebraskans live within or near the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)—Lincoln, Grand Island, and the Omaha Consortium (part of the greater Omaha MSA). It is useful to keep the state's population distribution in mind when looking at statewide data, as only three of Nebraska's 93 counties account for a significant portion of statewide data.

NE Population by County 2018

2018 U.S. Population 327,167,434
2018 Nebraska Population 1,929,268

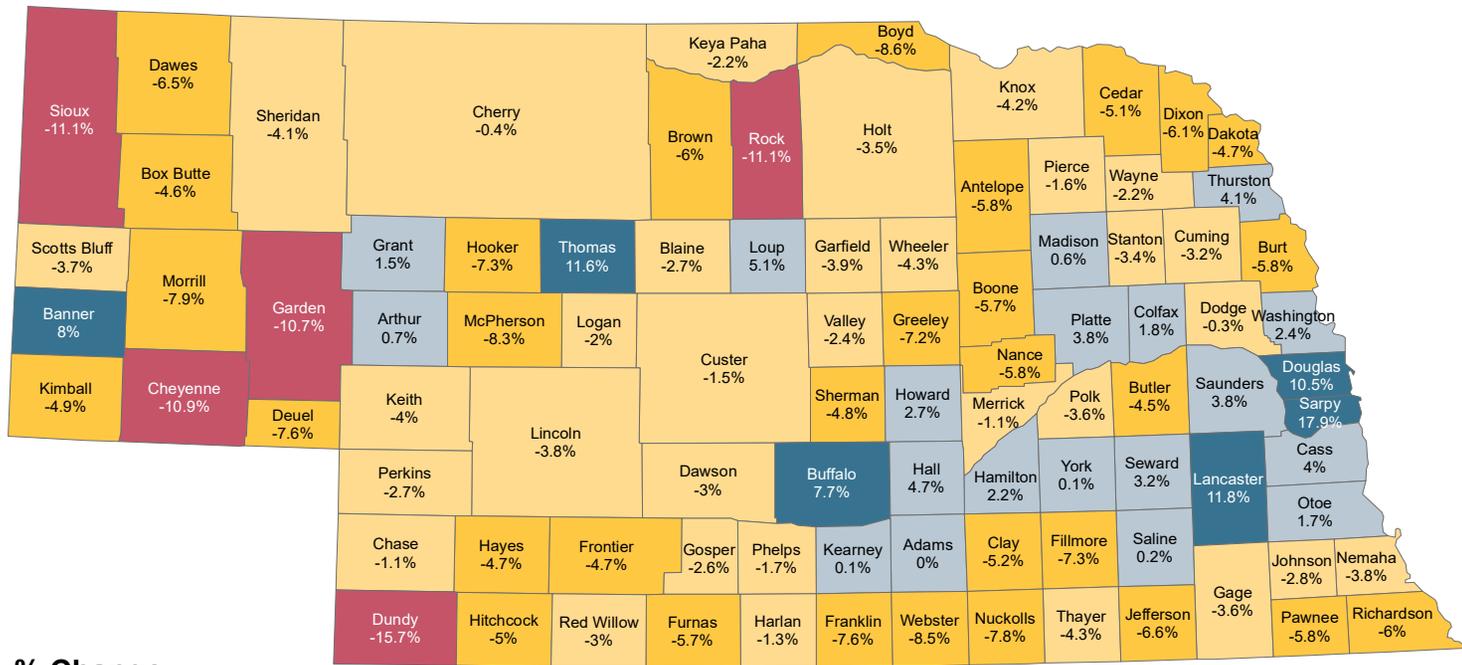


Population



Source: US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, released June 2019

NE Population Change by County 2010 – 2018



% Change



Source: US Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, released June, 2019

What is it?

The distribution of population change by county over the past seven years looks very similar to the map of total population distribution. Typically, counties with the highest populations also had the greatest population increases during the last seven years, while counties with the lowest populations had the greatest population decreases. This suggests that Nebraska has become more urbanized, and over time many Nebraskans from rural areas may have migrated to or near the state's metropolitan areas.

Sarpy County had Nebraska's largest population increase of 16.1% since 2010, followed by Thomas County at 11.3%. Dundy County had the state's largest population decrease at -11.9%, followed by Rock County at -10.9%.

How to use it

Historical population trends can be a strong predictor of future population trends. Therefore, counties with a declining population could expect their population to continue to decline, while growing counties in or near the state's metropolitan areas could expect continued population growth. The data can be useful for rural communities who are developing recruitment strategies.

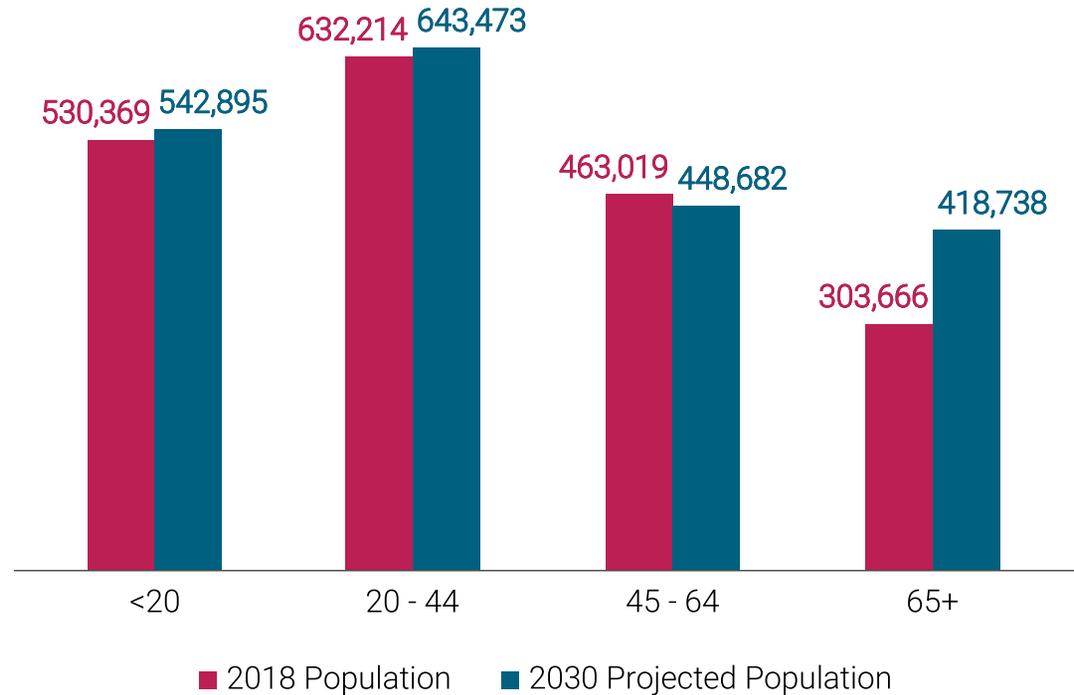
What is it?

In 2018, the largest age group in Nebraska was 20- 44, which accounted for roughly one-third of the state population. Next was the under-20 age group, which made up 27.5% of the population, followed by 45-64, with 24.0% of the total. The remaining 15.7% of the population was 65 and older. By 2030, the under-20 and 20-44 age groups are expected to see mild population increases of 2.4% and 1.8% respectively, while the total statewide population is projected to increase by 6.5%. The 65 and older demographic is expected to increase by a massive 37.9%, as the baby boomer generation continues to age. The size of Nebraska's 65+ population is projected to increase from 15.7% of the state's total in 2017, to 20.4% in 2030.

How to use it

Historical demographic shifts can foreshadow future demographic shifts and changes to the state's labor force. In areas with a declining labor force, it may prove difficult for businesses to quickly replace retiring workers, especially in occupations requiring specialized skills or experience. The aging baby boomer population may also spur growth in the health care sector and increase demand for healthcare workers statewide.

NE Population by Age Group 2018 – 2030



Age Group	2018 Population	2030 Projected Population	% Change
<20	530,369	542,895	+2.4%
20 - 44	632,214	643,473	+1.8%
45 - 64	463,019	448,682	-3.1%
65+	303,666	418,738	+37.9%
Total	1,929,268	2,053,788	+6.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, released June 2019

What is it?

In 2018, non-Hispanic whites alone comprised 78.6% of the state population. African Americans alone (not Hispanic or Latino) accounted for 4.8% of the state population, the largest racial minority group, followed by Asians alone (not Hispanic or Latino) at 2.6%. Another 1.9% of the population reported two or more races.

Across all racial groups, 11.2% of Nebraskans identified their ethnicity as Hispanic or Latino.

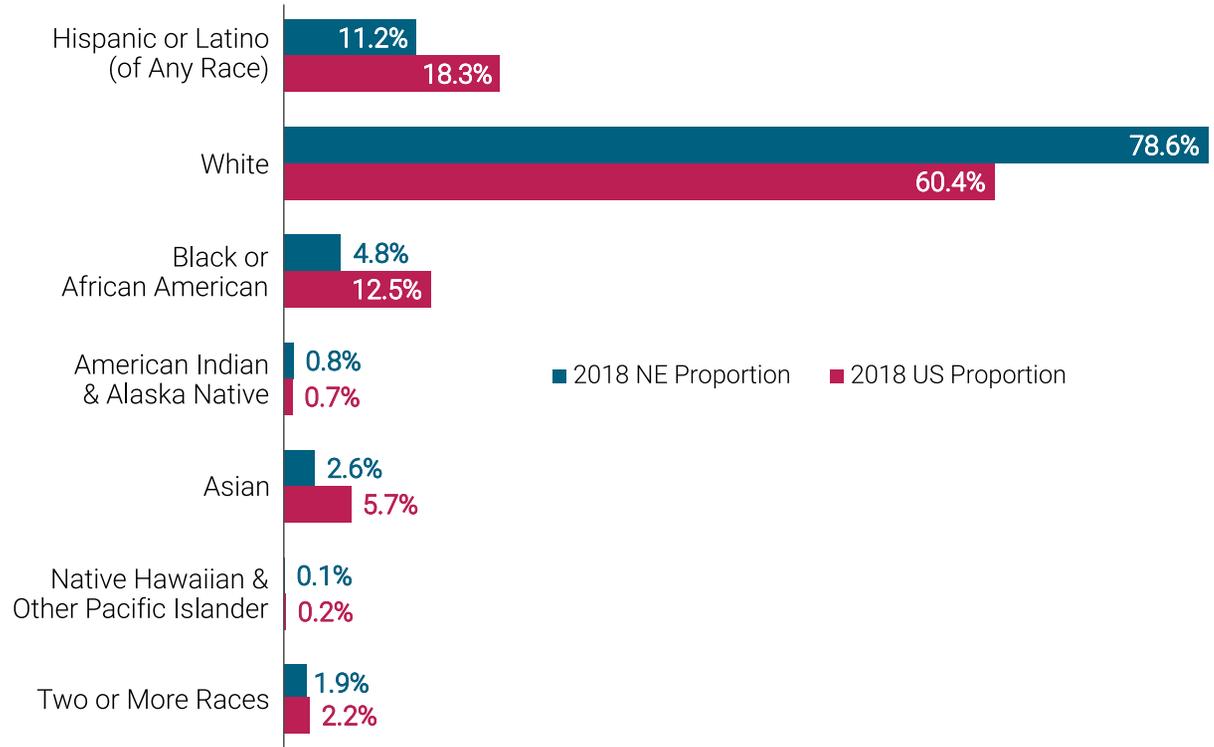
Nebraska is considerably less diverse than the United States overall. Nationally, the total minority population (the sum of all groups excluding non-Hispanic whites) made up 39.6% of the United States in 2018, a percentage almost twice as large as Nebraska's 21.4% minority population.

Hispanics and Latinos (all races) made up 18.3% of the U.S. population and 11.2% of the Nebraska population. African Americans comprised 12.5% of the U.S. population and 4.8% of the Nebraska population, while all other races combined together accounted for 8.8% of the U.S. population and 5.4% of the Nebraska population.

How to use it

Data on racial/ethnic diversity are useful to estimate diversity within the labor force and in the population more broadly. Businesses, schools, healthcare institutions, and other service providers can use the data to help identify and meet the needs of the populations they serve.

NE & US Population by Race/Ethnicity 2018



	Nebraska 2018		United States 2018	
	Population	%	Population	%
Total Population	1,929,268	100.0%	327,167,434	100.0%
Hispanic or Latino (of any Race)	215,872	11.2%	59,871,746	18.3%
Total Not Hispanic or Latino	1,713,396	88.8%	267,295,688	81.7%
White	1,515,603	78.6%	197,546,407	60.4%
Black or African American	92,902	4.8%	40,902,223	12.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	16,133	0.8%	2,417,371	0.7%
Asian	50,669	2.6%	18,728,675	5.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,185	0.1%	586,346	0.2%
Two or More Races	36,904	1.9%	7,114,666	2.2%
Total Minority	413,665	21.4%	129,621,027	39.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, released June 2019

What is it?

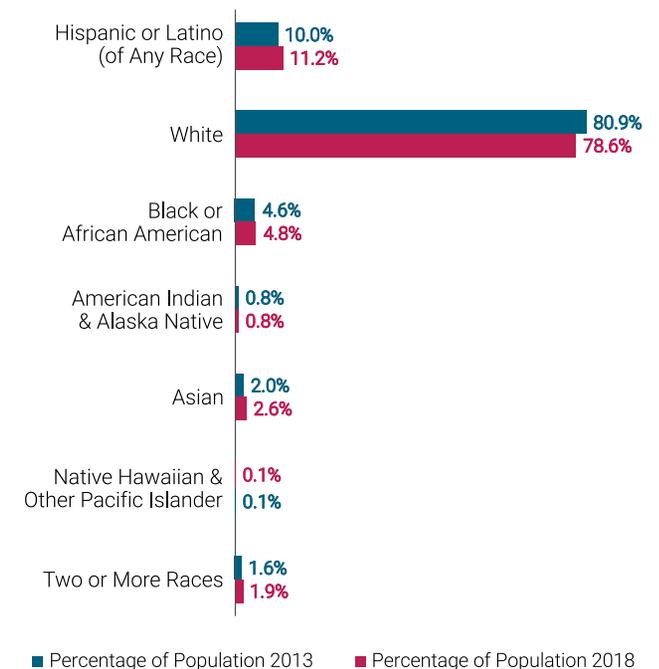
Although Nebraska remains less diverse than the nation as a whole, the state has seen significant growth in its minority populations over the past five years. The overall minority population in Nebraska (the sum of all individuals except non-Hispanic whites) increased by 16.3% from 2013-2018, more than four times as fast as the total statewide population growth rate of 3.4%.

Nebraska's Hispanic and Latino population had the state's largest numeric population increase from 2013-2018, growing by nearly 30,000 individuals, a 16.0% rise. The Asian population saw the state's second-largest numeric increase, adding more than 13,200 individuals for 35.4% population growth, which was the largest percentage change among any racial or ethnic group during this time period. The Black or African American population increased by about 7,300 individuals, accounting for the third largest numeric increase.

Due to rapid minority population growth, the proportion of racial/ethnic minorities in Nebraska increased by 2.4 percentage points from 2013-2018. During this time period, the population of individuals identifying as Hispanic or Latino increased from 10.0% to 11.2% of the state's total population, and the African American population rose from 4.6% to 4.8%. The Asian population in Nebraska grew from 2.0% to 2.6% of the state's total, while the non-Hispanic white population fell from 80.9% to 78.6%.

NE Demographic Change Over Time by Race/Ethnicity 2013 – 2018

	2013	2018	Total Change	% Change
Total Population	1,865,414	1,929,268	63,854	+3.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	186,026	215,872	29,846	+16.0%
White Alone	1,509,608	1,515,603	5,995	+0.4%
Black or African American Alone	85,579	92,902	7,323	+8.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	15,174	16,133	959	+6.3%
Asian Alone	37,419	50,669	13,250	+35.4%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone	1,091	1,185	94	+8.6%
Two or More Races	30,517	36,904	6,387	+20.9%
Total Minority (population excluding White non-Hispanics)	355,806	413,665	57,859	+16.3%

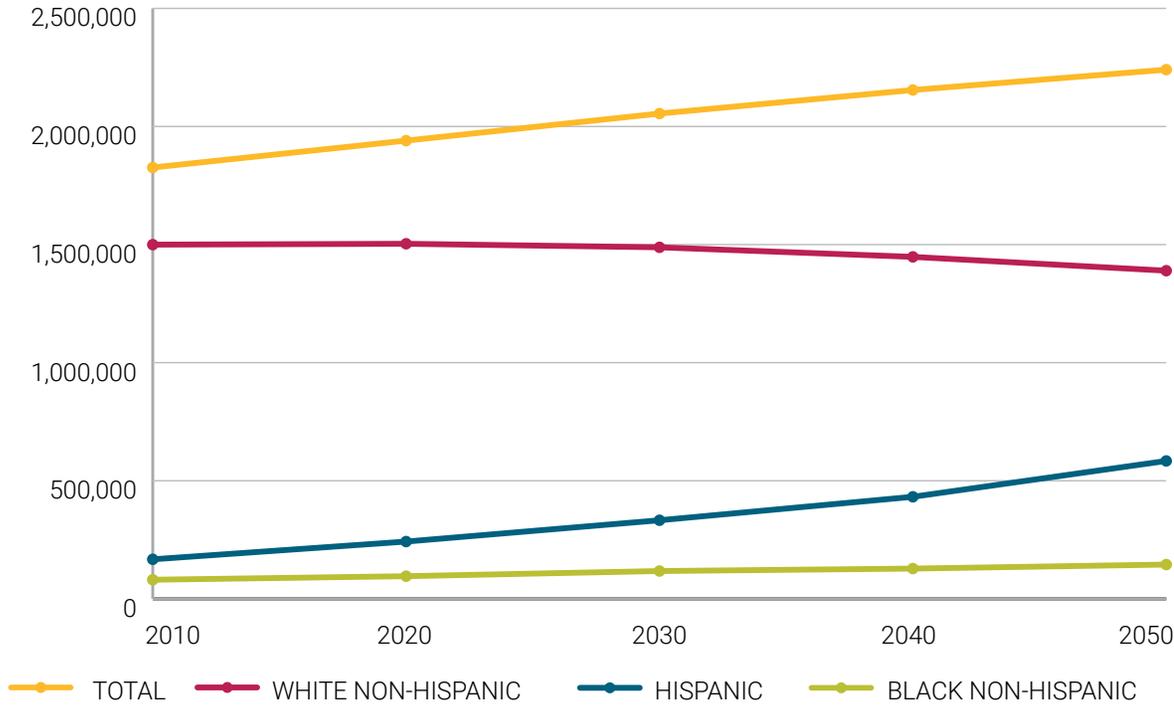


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States, States, and Counties: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, released June 2019

How to use it

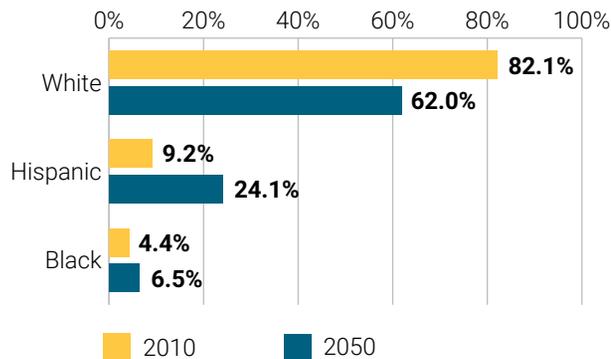
Demographic data on changes in race and ethnicity over time can be a valuable tool for establishing the need for economic and social adaptation. A growing minority population could increase demand for certain goods and services. Employers may see greater diversity in both their workforce and customer populations.

Projections by Race/Ethnicity 2010 – 2050



Source: Center for Public Affairs Research-University of Nebraska Omaha, data dated 2013

Projected Population Distribution



Where to find it

The **Center for Public Affairs Research** at the University of Nebraska Omaha produces population projections by age. Contact the NDOL at 800-876-1377 or EMAIL imi_ne@nebraska.gov for further information.

From 2010 to 2050, Nebraska’s population is expected to increase by 22.7%, to around 2,240,000 individuals. Minority population growth, particularly Hispanic and Latino population growth, is expected to account for much of this increase.

From 2010 to 2050, the Hispanic population is expected to increase by 221.9%. In 2010, Nebraska’s Hispanic and Latino population was approximately 167,000 individuals, accounting for less than 10% of the state’s total population. By 2050, Nebraska’s Hispanic and Latino population is expected to grow to over half of million individuals, making up almost a quarter of the total population. Additionally, the state’s African American/black population is expected to increase by 79.3%, from approximately 81,000 individuals in 2010 to approximately 145,000 individuals in 2050.

In contrast, the white population is expected to decrease by 7.4% from 2010 to 2050. In 2010, the white population was approximately 1,500,000 individuals and 82.1% of the total population. By 2050, the white population is expected to decrease to 1,390,000 individuals and 62% of the total population.

How to use it

Population projections provide a glimpse into what Nebraska’s population may look like in the coming decades. Racial and ethnic diversity is expected to increase. The data is useful for schools, healthcare providers and businesses who will be impacted by total population growth and growth of particular groups in the state.

Language Spoken at Home & Ability to Speak English

Language Skills of the NE & US Population 2012 – 2017

What is it?

From the 2013-2017 ACS to the 2014-2018 ACS, the number of Nebraskans who spoke a language other than English rose by 0.9%, and the number of these Nebraskans who spoke English less than “very well” rose by 0.9%. Change in the number of Indo-European language speakers helped drive this trend. From the 2013-2017 ACS to the 2014-2018 ACS, the number of Indo-European-speaking Nebraskans increased by 3.6%, and the number of Indo-European speakers who spoke English less than “very well” increased by 7.8%. The number of speakers of Asian and Pacific Islander languages rose by 3.5%, with a 5.4% increase in those who spoke English less than “very well.” Speakers of Spanish decreased by 0.4%.

Overall, Nebraska had a smaller share of residents who spoke languages other than English than the U.S. as a whole, as well as a lower rate of other language speakers who spoke English less than “very well.” About 11.2% of the state population spoke a language other than English, which was close to half of the national percentage of 21.5%. About 44.8% of Nebraska’s speakers of languages other than English spoke English less than “very well,” compared to 39.4% nationally.

Where to find it

Data on language and ability to speak English from the American Community Survey is available at factfinder.census.gov. Search for Table B16001.

	Nebraska			United States	
	2013-2017	2014-2018	% Change	2014-2018 Proportion	2014-2018
Population 5 years and over	1,763,094	1,772,948	0.6%	100%	303,066,180
English Only	1,566,040	1,574,067	0.5%	88.8%	237,956,495
Language other than English	197,054	198,881	0.9%	11.2%	65,109,685
Speak English less than "very well"	88,337	89,129	0.9%	5.0%	25,647,781
Spanish	131,614	131,151	-0.4%	7.4%	40,256,297
Speak English less than "very well"	60,085	59,587	-0.8%	3.4%	16,309,621
"Other Indo-European languages "	24,245	25,110	3.6%	1.4%	11,014,379
Speak English less than "very well"	6,511	7,016	7.8%	0.4%	3,425,770
"Asian and Pacific Islander languages "	27,662	28,634	3.5%	1.6%	10,570,681
Speak English less than "very well"	15,595	16,433	5.4%	0.9%	4,908,308
Other languages	13,533	13,986	3.3%	0.8%	3,268,328
Speak English less than "very well"	6,146	6,093	-0.9%	0.3%	1,004,082

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 - 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2019

How to use it

Growth in the number of non-English speakers signals the need for community and business adaption. Language barriers can make it difficult for workers to learn new skills and transfer their skills and knowledge across occupations. Businesses and community institutions might therefore choose to expand their investments in outreach efforts, training programs, or other strategies for communicating with and serving non-English-speaking populations.

Components of Population Change

Components of Population Change 2010 – 2018

2010-2018	Total Population Change*	Natural Change			Net Migration		
		Total	Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
United States	18,409,329	10,714,959	32,514,580	21,799,621	7,694,370	7,694,370	(X)
Nebraska	102,963	85,715	216,048	130,333	17,767	33,765	-15,998
Scottsbluff MC	-1,065	689	4,210	3,521	-1,757	212	-1969
North Platte MC	-1,164	601	3,644	3,043	-1,771	174	-1945
Norfolk MC	234	1,712	5,573	3,861	-1,477	825	-2302
Lexington MC	-665	1,506	3,420	1,914	-2,197	795	-2992
Kearney MC	3,571	2,962	6,427	3,465	620	923	-303
Hastings MC	144	825	3,368	2,543	-674	273	-947
Fremont MC	106	422	4,011	3,589	-306	391	-697
Columbus MC	1,126	1,724	3,985	2,261	-595	577	-1172
Beatrice MC	-818	-289	1,981	2,270	-531	-27	-504
Omaha MSA	76,851	55,013	109,755	54,742	22,329	15,771	6558
Lincoln MSA	32,433	16,744	34,954	18,210	15,816	8,631	7185
Grand Island MSA	3,238	3,772	10,067	6,295	-502	2,539	-3041

*Total Change may not equal the sum of Total Natural Change and Total Net Migration due to a residual. A residual is the population change that cannot be accounted for by population change components.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2018, released April 2019

How to use it

The components of population change highlight the dynamics underlying population growth and decline. The data shows that births account for a majority of population growth in Nebraska. Statewide migration trends also show that Nebraska's large Metropolitan Areas are gaining residents from domestic migration, while most of its small Micropolitan Statistical Areas and the state overall are losing residents from domestic out-migration. The negative domestic migration in the state and many of its regions indicates a continuing emphasis on retaining the state's workforce and attracting new workers.

What is it?

There are two components of population change: natural change, consisting of births and deaths, and migration, which can be international (migration to and from other countries) or domestic (migration to and from other counties or states).

From 2010 to 2018, Nebraska had a net population increase of almost 103,000 individuals. Natural change from births accounted for the majority: 85,700 individuals. Nebraska also gained almost 34,000 international migrants, while losing about 16,000 residents to domestic migration to other states, for a net migration gain of approximately 17,800 individuals. Net migration accounted for a lower percentage of population growth in Nebraska (17.3%) than throughout the United States as a whole (41.8%).

Except for the Beatrice MC, the birth rate outpaced the death rate in all Nebraska Metropolitan Areas (MSAs) and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs). The Omaha and Lincoln MSAs and the Kearney MC saw positive net migration, as did the state as a whole. All other Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in Nebraska experienced net migration decreases.

Migration

What is it?

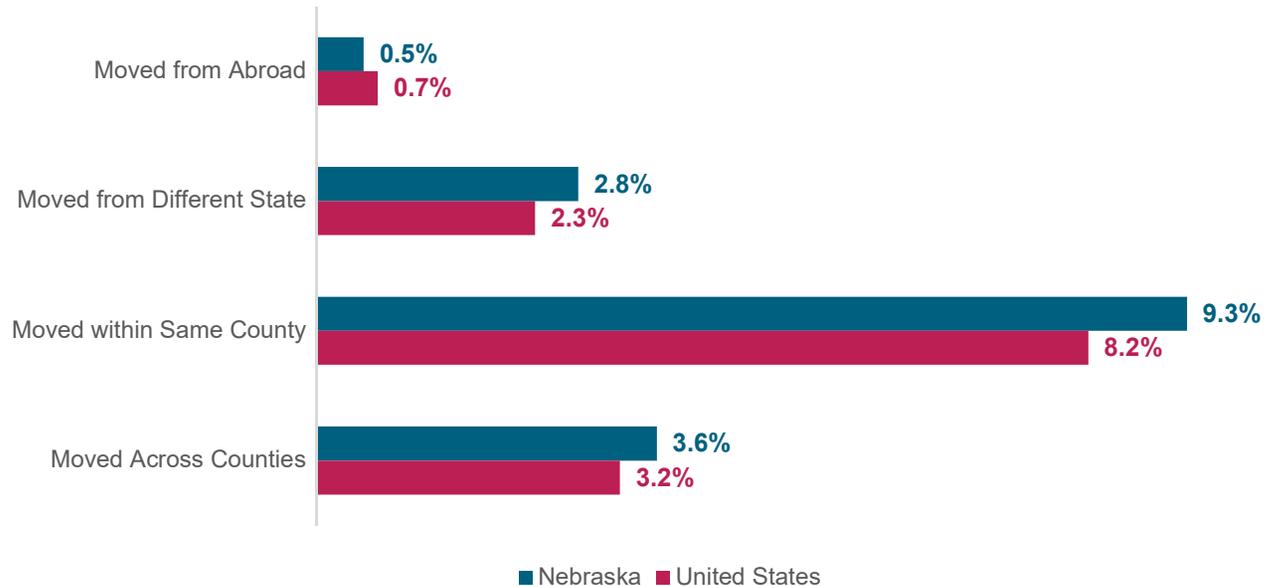
In 2018, approximately 304,000 individuals, or 16.2% of the state population, moved to or within Nebraska. The vast majority—79.7%— of Nebraskans who migrated during 2018 moved within the state. About 9.3% of the state’s total population relocated within the same county, while 3.6% moved between counties in Nebraska. About 2.8% of Nebraska residents migrated to Nebraska from another state in 2018, and 0.5% moved from abroad.

Nebraska had a slightly lower rate of international migration than the U.S. as a whole (0.5% versus 0.7%). However, Nebraska had a higher percentage of migration from other states than the national rate (2.8% versus 2.3%). Nebraska also had a higher rate of within-state migration: about 13% of Nebraskans moved within the state in 2018, compared to an 11.5% rate of relocating to a new address within the same state for U.S. residents overall.

How to use it

Rates of migration can indicate how attractive the state is to domestic and international migrants. Nebraska’s relatively high rate of domestic and within-state migration could indicate that Nebraska is attractive to local workers and workers nationwide. The state’s distance from national borders may account for the comparatively lower rate of international migration to Nebraska. In some cases, international migrants may choose to move to Nebraska after first living in a different state.

Domestic & International Migration 2018



	Nebraska		United States	
	Total	%	Total	%
Total Population 1 year and over	1,879,758	100%	319,157,088	100%
Population that moved	304,622	16.2%	82,741,205	25.9%
Population that moved from abroad	9,433	0.5%	2,087,731	0.7%
Population that moved from a different state	52,479	2.8%	7,443,306	2.3%
Population that moved within the state	242,710	12.9%	36,605,084	11.5%
Population that moved within the same county	174,506	9.3%	10,334,215	3.2%
Population that moved across counties	68,204	3.6%	26,270,869	8.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 – 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, released 2019

Where to find it

Data on domestic and international migration comes from the American Community Survey, available at factfinder.census.gov. Search for Table B07001.

International Migration

What is it?

International immigrants moved to Nebraska at an average rate of approximately 9,433 immigrants per year from 2014 to 2018. The number of international immigrants varied greatly across the state, with more populous counties having the highest number of international immigrants. The vast majority of international immigrants moved to the Lincoln and Omaha areas. In 2018, Douglas and Lancaster Counties gained approximately 3,619 and 2,324 international immigrants respectively, and Sarpy County received an additional 1,203 international immigrants.

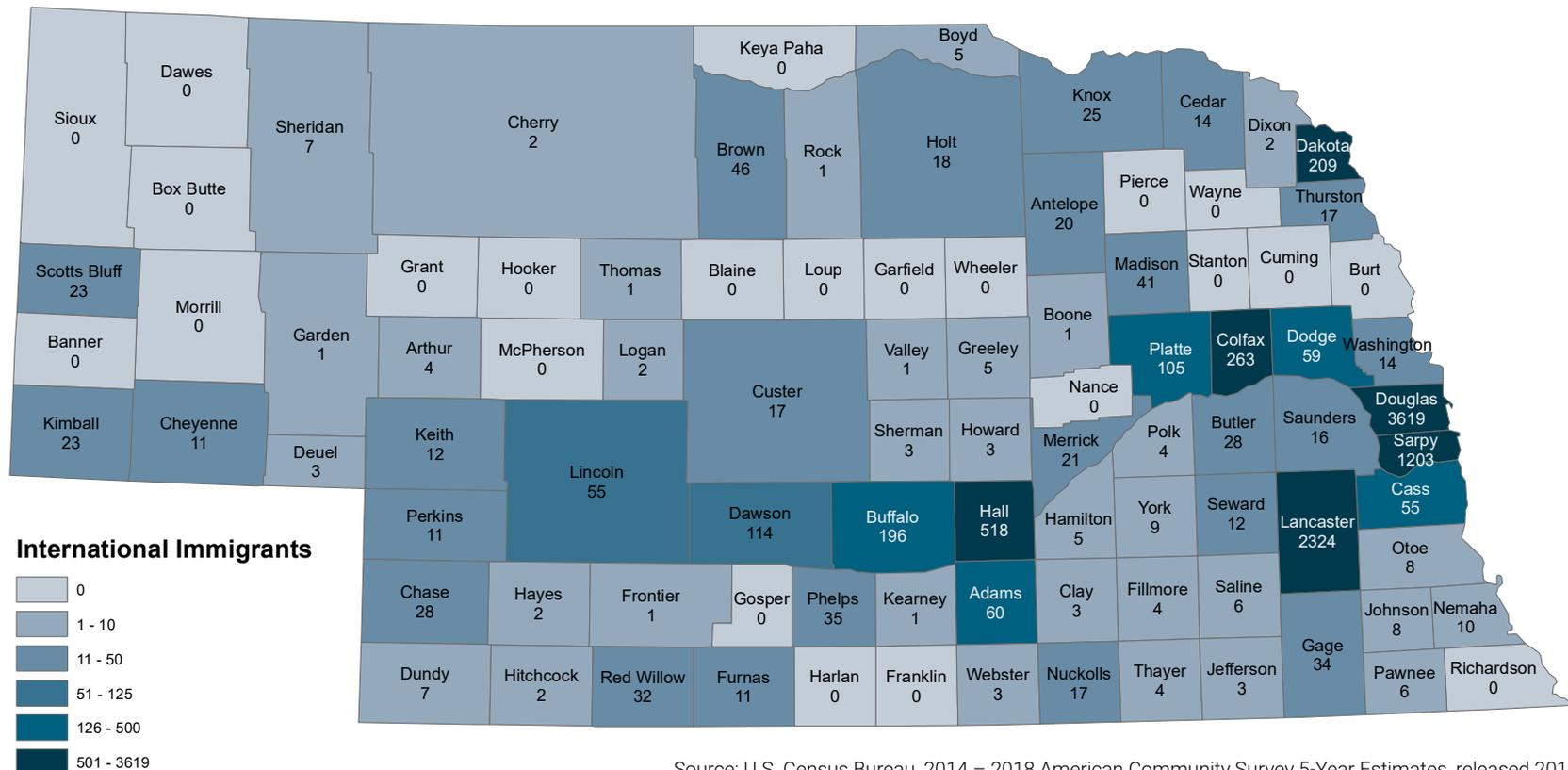
How to use it

It is important to identify regions with a high volume of international immigrants so that these areas can adjust to meet the needs of immigrant populations. In order to effectively provide education, healthcare, and other services to growing immigrant populations, community businesses and service institutions can benefit from being aware of migration patterns.

Where to find it

Data on international migration comes from the American Community Survey, available at factfinder.census.gov. Search for Table B07001.

International Migration to NE by County 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 – 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, released 2019

Estimate of Homelessness

Each year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development releases national and state-level information regarding homelessness. Nebraska had one of the lowest homelessness rates in the nation in 2019, at about 0.1% of the total population statewide. On a single night in January 2019, there were an estimated 2,365 people experiencing homelessness in Nebraska, including both as individuals and in families with children. This total represents a decrease of 39.0% since 2010. The state's homeless population is largely concentrated in the Omaha MSA, where an estimated 1,410 people experienced homelessness in 2019.

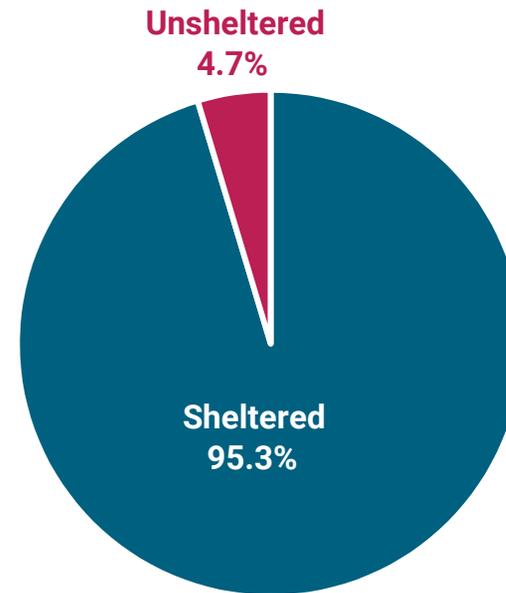
In 2019, Nebraska was one of only 5 states with more than 95 % of all homeless people reported as sheltered (defined as staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, or safe havens). Additionally, statewide, 99.5% of Nebraska's homeless families with children were sheltered in 2019.

How to use it

Homelessness estimates are used by local and state agencies to help estimate the need for shelters and services to assist homeless individuals and families with children.

Homelessness rates are also an indicator of the economic health of a region. Nebraska's low homelessness rate signals a strong, healthy economy.

Status of NE Homeless Population 2019



2019 Estimates of Homelessness

Total Homeless Population	2,365
People in Families with Children	650
Individuals	1,715
Unaccompanied Youth	151
Veterans	175
Chronically Homeless Individuals	454

Where to find it

Annual data on homelessness is available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Community Planning and Development in the Annual Homeless Assessment Report, which can be found at hudexchange.info under Resources.

Education

Educational Attainment page 17

Change in Educational Attainment page 18

Public High School Graduation Rates, 4-Year Cohorts page 19

Nebraska Graduate Outcomes

Postsecondary Graduates page 20

Graduate Demographics page 21

Graduates by Field of Study page 22

Graduates by Industry page 23



Educational Attainment

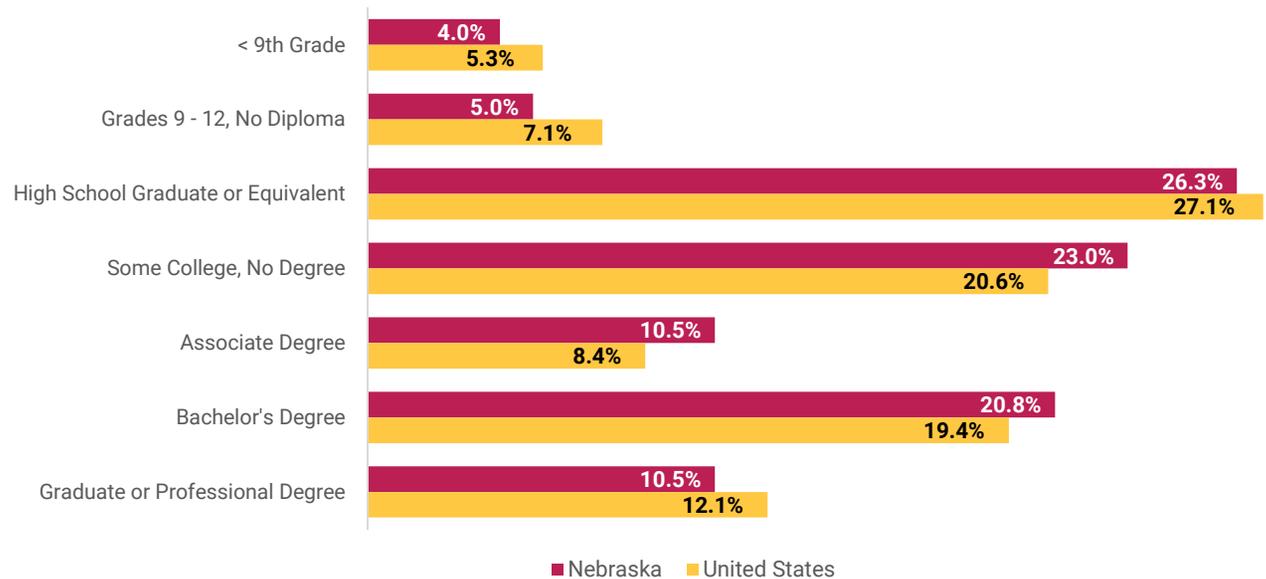
Nebraskans are generally well educated. Over 90% of Nebraskans age 25 and older possessed at least a high school diploma or GED in 2018, and 64.8% possessed at least some postsecondary education. The most commonly reported highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma or GED at 26.3%; followed by some college, no degree at 23.0%; and bachelor's degree at 20.8%. Just over 10% of Nebraskans age 25 and up reported having an associate degree, and 10.5% reported having a graduate or professional degree.

Nebraskans are better educated than U.S. residents as whole. U.S. residents are 1.6 percentage points more likely than Nebraskans to report having a graduate or professional degree, but Nebraskans were more likely to report having all other forms of postsecondary education.

How to use it

Information on the educational attainment of Nebraska's workforce may be useful to businesses that are considering expanding into Nebraska. High levels of educational attainment in the population can signal that there is a well-educated labor force, which may be desirable for businesses. Government officials and other stakeholders may also be interested in the population's educational attainment as a measure of a region's social development.

Educational Attainment of the NE & US Population, ages 25 and older, 2017



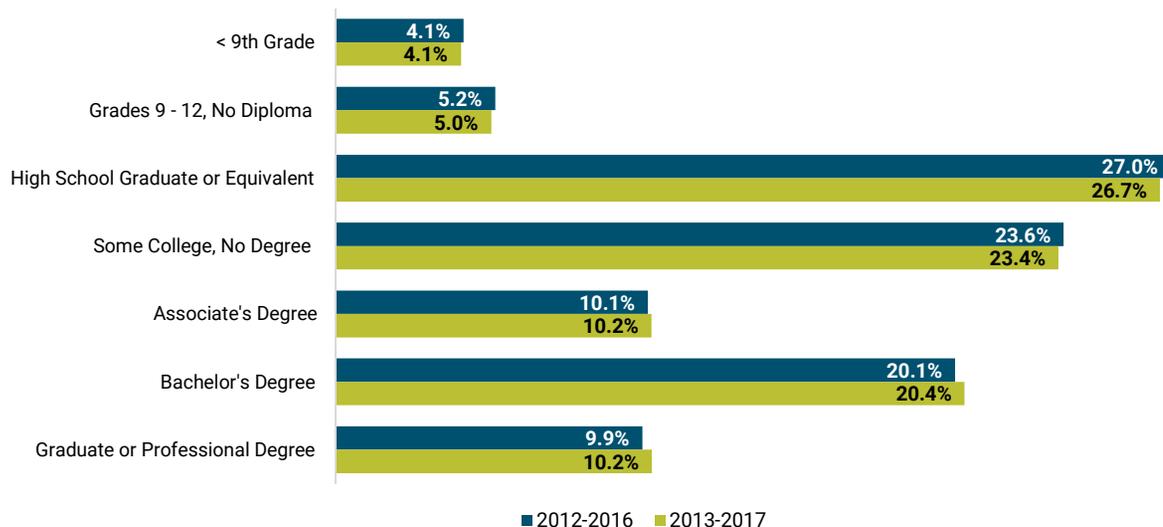
Note: Population age 25 and older.
Source: US Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, released 2019

Where to find it

Data on educational attainment from the American Community Survey is available at data.census.gov. Search for Table S1501.

Educational Attainment Change

NE Population by Educational Attainment



Change in NE Educational Attainment 2012 – 2017

	2012-2016	2013-2017	Difference	% Change
Population 25 years and over	1,233,842	1,242,463		0.9%
Less than 9th grade	50,097	49,228	-869	-1.7%
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	62,269	61,511	-758	-1.2%
High school graduate/equivalency	329,232	326,549	-2,683	-0.8%
Some college or higher	288,681	285,916	-2,765	-1.0%
Some college, no degree	126,111	130,043	3,932	3.1%
Associate degree	251,182	258,291	7,109	2.8%
Bachelor's degree	126,270	130,925	4,655	3.7%
Graduate or professional degree	1,233,842	1,242,463	-869	-1.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2013-2017 & 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, released 2018 & 2019

Where to find it

Data on educational attainment from the American Community Survey is available at data.census.gov. Search for Table S1501.

The table displays the percentage change of educational attainment within the population age 25 and older between the two 5-year periods of 2013-2017 and 2014-2018. Between these time periods, the number of Nebraskans who reported having some college education or higher increased by 1.6%, almost double the population growth rate (0.9%) for this age group. The educational attainment level with the largest increase was graduate or professional degrees, at 3.7%. There was also a 2.8% increase in the number of Nebraskans with bachelor's degrees and a 3.1% increase in associate degrees between 2013-2017 and 2014-2018.

The bar chart shows the distribution of educational attainment in Nebraska's population 25 years old and above, using 5-year American Community Survey estimates for the years 2013-2017 and 2014-2018. In 2013-2017, 40.8% of the population age 25 and over had some sort of postsecondary degree; this number increased to 41.8% in 2014-2018. The percentage of Nebraskans in this age range with a graduate or professional degree also increased from 10.2% in 2013-2017 to 10.5% in 2014-2018.

How to use it

The increase observed in the number of Nebraskans with associate and graduate degrees, in particular, could suggest that there is strong demand for technical and trade skills and certifications, as well as advanced educational qualifications, in Nebraska's labor force. With an increasingly educated workforce, possessing a postsecondary degree can be an important asset for job applicants in many occupations and industries.

Graduation Rates

Nebraska has one of the highest high school graduation rates in the nation. In 2018 Nebraska's four-year public school graduation rate for all students was 88.7%.

According to the 2019 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report from the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education, Nebraska had the nation's ninth-highest public school four-year graduation rate in 2016-2017, at 89.1%. Iowa had the highest graduation rate, at 91.0%. Nebraska's four-year public high school graduation rate has decreased by 0.2 percentage points since 2015-2016.

Female students in Nebraska graduate from high school at higher rates than their male peers. In 2018, the public school four-year graduation rate for female students was 91.1%, compared to 86.4% for males.

Graduation rates also vary by race and ethnicity. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander students had Nebraska's highest four-year public high school graduation rate in 2018, at 95.2%. However, graduates in this group totaled just 20 graduates. Graduation rates were more than 10 percentage points lower among Nebraska students who reported their race or ethnicity as Asian (81.9%), Hispanic/Latino (81.0%), or Black/African American (78.0%). Compared to 2015, Nebraska has seen declines in graduation rates for students in every racial/ethnic demographic except Black/African American, Asian, and Two or More Races.

Where to find it

Data on high school graduation rates is available at nep.education.ne.gov. From there, click on State Data, then View Data under Graduation Rate.

NE Public High School Graduation Rates, 4-Year Cohorts 2013 – 2017

	2015 Cohort	2018 Cohort	2018 Graduates	% Change
Total	88.9%	88.7%	20,503	-0.2%
Gender				
Male	85.8%	86.4%	10,312	0.6%
Female	92.2%	91.1%	10,191	-1.1%
Race/Ethnicity				
White	92.5%	92.5%	14,627	-0.1%*
Hispanic/Latino	81.6%	81.0%	3,378	-0.7%
Black or African American	75.4%	78.0%	1,189	2.6%
Asian	77.8%	81.9%	483	4.1%
American Indian/Alaska Native	76.4%	71.1%	216	-5.3%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	95.8%	95.2%	20	-0.6%
Two or More Races	83.7%	85.1%	590	1.5%

Source: Nebraska Department of Education, 2017-2018 State of Schools Report, released 2018

*Due to rounding

How to use it

High school graduation rates provide one measure of the health of Nebraska's educational system. Improving graduation rates among minority students continues to be a focus of education groups, particularly with Nebraska's rapidly growing minority population.

2016 – 2017 Graduates

Postsecondary, Working in Nebraska, 1st Quarter 2018

Number of Graduates by Degree Level

	All Graduates	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Master's Degree	Doctorate - Research/Scholarship	Doctorate - Professional Practice
Graduates	18,603	3,273	8,504	3,100	51	7
Graduates Working in Nebraska	11,333	2,159	5,408	1,709	15	4
% Working in Nebraska	60.9%	66.0%	63.6%	55.1%	29.4%	57.1%
Average Quarterly Wage	\$9,459	\$7,774	\$8,880	\$13,616	\$12,851	\$14,003

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Longitudinal Data System

Where to find it

To request graduate outcomes data, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information by phone (**402.471.9961**) or email (NDOL.LMI_NE@nebraska.gov).

*Not all education institutions participate in the Department of Labor's Wage Match program. The participating institution in this report are: University of Nebraska at Kearney, University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nebraska Medicine, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture, Chadron State College, Peru State College, Wayne State College, Metropolitan Community College Area, Mid-Plains Community College, Northeast Community College, Western Nebraska Community College, Iowa Western Community College, Western Iowa Tech Community College, Central Community College, Interface Web School, JTL Truck Driver Training, Clarkson College, College of Saint Mary, and Nebraska Safety Center.

There were approximately 18,600 postsecondary graduates from Nebraska's postsecondary educational institutions* in the class of 2016-2017. Approximately 45.7% of these graduates received a bachelor's degree. About 64% of bachelor's degree graduates were found to be working in Nebraska two to four quarters after graduation. Post-master's certificate holders were the most likely to be found working in Nebraska, at 71.9%, while graduates receiving a research/scholarship-oriented doctorate were the least likely, at 29.4%

While recipients of research/scholarship doctorates were the least likely to remain in Nebraska after graduation, those who did stay earned an average quarterly wage of \$12,851. Certificates of less than 1-year graduates earned the lowest average quarterly wage of \$7,084. The annual average wages are shown in the table to the left .

How to use it

Graduate outcomes data track the wages, locations, and industries of Nebraska's college graduates working throughout the state. The data show that most Nebraska graduates, particularly associate degree graduates, are finding in-state work opportunities. Graduate outcomes wage data may be of special interest to colleges and prospective students who want an estimate of the level of income graduates from certain colleges and degree programs may earn upon graduation.

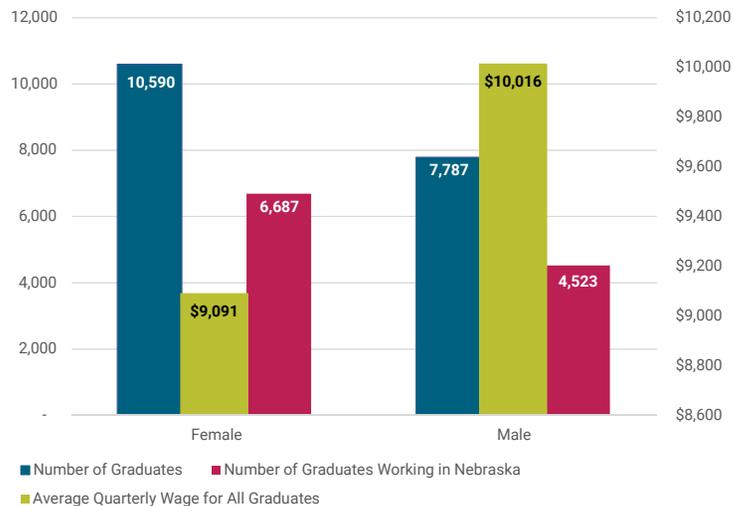
In 2016-2017, more women than men graduated from postsecondary programs in Nebraska. Female graduates were also more likely (63.1%) to accept jobs working in Nebraska than were males (58.0%). Men, however, earned an average quarterly wage of \$10,016, which was 10.2% higher than the average quarterly wage for women (\$9,091).

Looking at graduates by race and ethnicity, we find that white, non-Hispanic graduates were the most numerous, followed by Hispanic or Latino; two or more races; and black non-Hispanic. White, non-Hispanic graduates were the most likely to work in Nebraska after graduation (61.6%). Graduates in the Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander demographic group were the least likely to remain in Nebraska (39.1%), followed by American Indian or Alaska Native (44.3%), and Asian (51.2%). Despite Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders being the least likely to remain in Nebraska, this demographic had the highest average quarterly wages among all racial or ethnic groups, at \$13,106. White, non-Hispanic graduates had the second-highest average quarterly wage (\$9,672), followed by Asian (\$9,213).

Where to find it

To request graduate outcomes data, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information by phone (402.471.9961) or email (NDOL.LMI_NE@nebraska.gov).

NE Postsecondary Graduates (2016 – 2017) by Sex

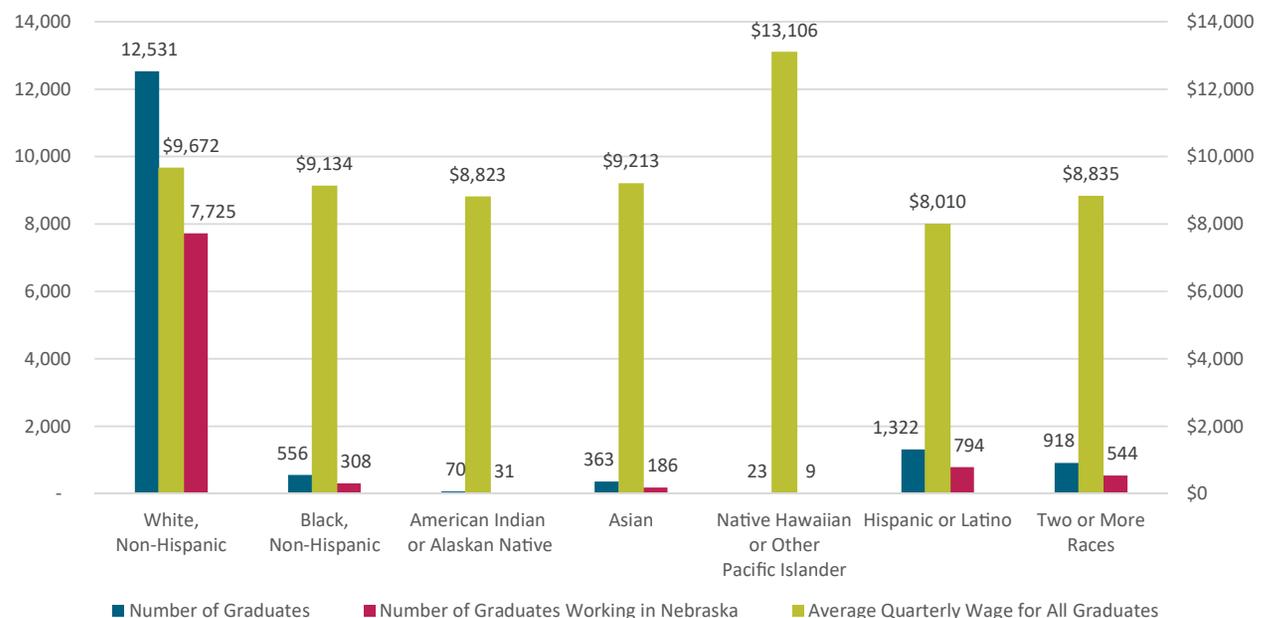


Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Longitudinal Data System

How to use it

Graduate outcomes data track the wages, locations, industries of employment, and demographic information of Nebraska's college graduates working throughout the state. Colleges and regulatory commissions can use this information to understand the students they serve and improve educational programs statewide, while students may be interested in seeing how graduates with backgrounds similar to their own fared after completing their degree programs.

NE Postsecondary Graduates (2016 – 2017) by Race/Ethnicity



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Longitudinal Data System

Top 10 Fields of Study Among NE Postsecondary Graduates (2016 – 2017)

Field of Study	Graduates	% of All Graduates	Graduates Working in Nebraska	% of All Graduates Working in Nebraska	% Working in Nebraska	Avg. Quarterly Wage
Health Professions	3,087	16.6%	1,798	15.9%	58.2%	\$13,694
Business, Management and Marketing	2,745	14.7%	1,759	15.5%	64.1%	\$10,614
Education	2,208	11.9%	1,603	14.1%	72.6%	\$10,537
Liberal Arts & Sciences	1,599	8.6%	932	8.2%	58.3%	\$7,786
Agriculture, Agriculture Operations, & Related	789	4.2%	470	4.1%	59.6%	\$7,627
Biological & Biomedical Sciences	657	3.5%	281	2.5%	42.8%	\$10,504
Computer & Information Sciences	648	3.5%	386	3.4%	59.6%	\$10,789
Psychology	554	3.0%	331	2.9%	59.7%	\$10,712
Family and Consumer Sciences	553	3.0%	343	3.0%	62.0%	\$6,298
Engineering	536	2.9%	273	2.4%	50.9%	\$11,646

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Longitudinal Data System

The top five most popular fields of study for Nebraska's 2016-2017 postsecondary graduates were Health Professions; Business, Management and Marketing; Education; Liberal Arts & Sciences; and Agriculture, Agriculture Operations. Together, these five fields of study accounted for more than half (56%) of all graduates, and 57.9% of all graduates working in Nebraska.

The field of study with the highest average quarterly wages was Health Professions, at \$13,694. Graduates who studied Communications Technologies had the state's lowest average quarterly wage of \$3,427.

How to use it

Prospective students planning their education can use graduate outcomes information to help select a school and field of study. Colleges and regulatory commissions likewise can use this data to track their students' performance post-graduation, evaluate the success of their academic programs, and improve educational services throughout the state. Workforce Investment Boards, economic developers, and policymakers may also use graduate outcomes data to track labor market conditions and determine whether the state's workforce is prepared to meet the demands of area employers.

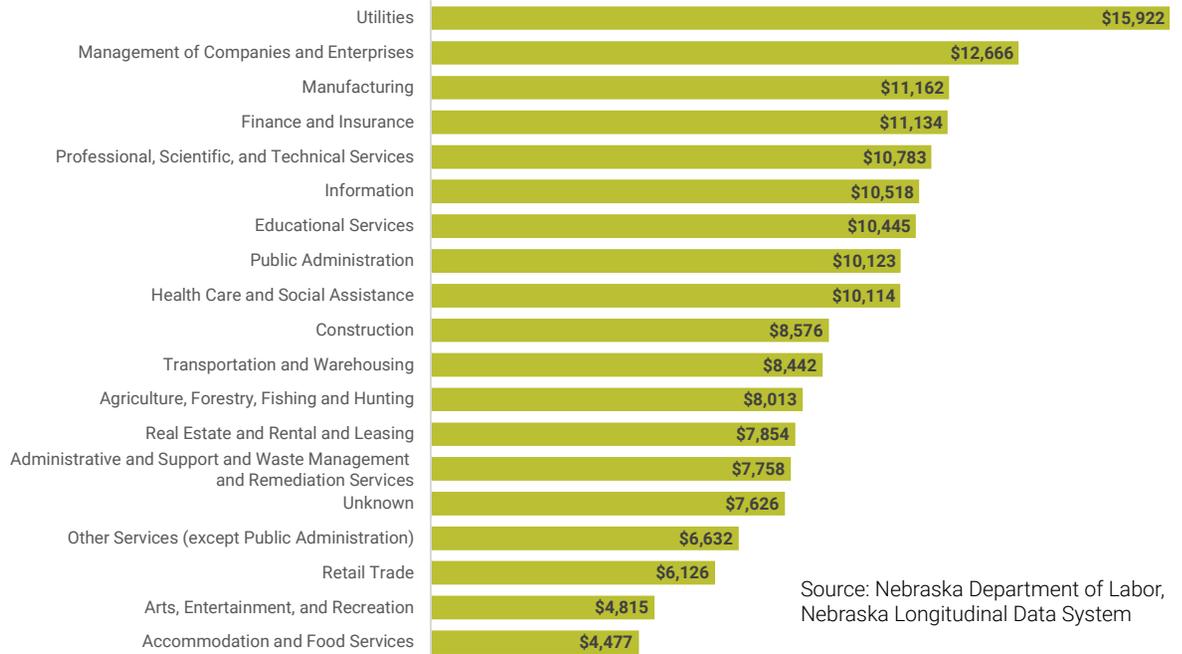
Where to find it

To request graduate outcomes data, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information by phone (**402.471.9961**) or email (NDOL.LMI_NE@nebraska.gov).

Avg. Quarterly Wages for NE Postsecondary Graduates (2016 – 2017) by Industry of Employment

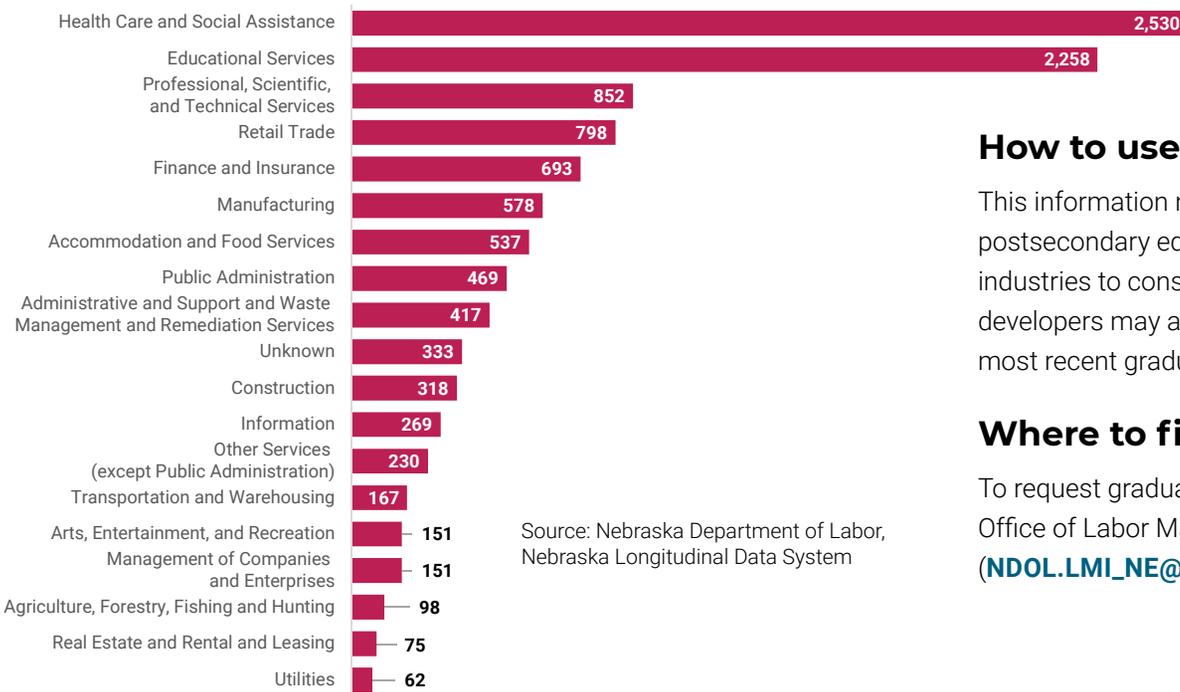
The most common industry for 2016-2017 graduates to enter after graduation was health care and social assistance (23.0%). Educational services (20.6%); professional, scientific, and technical services (7.8%); and retail trade (7.3%) were also popular choices.

Overall, 2016-2017 graduates earned the highest average quarterly wage in the utilities industry, at \$15,922. Graduates working in the management of companies and enterprises, manufacturing, and finance and insurance industries also each earned more than \$11,000 per quarter. The industries with the lowest average quarterly wages were accommodation and food services (\$4,477); arts, entertainment and recreation (\$4,815) and retail trade (\$6,126).



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Longitudinal Data System

NE Postsecondary Graduates (2016 – 2017) by Industry of Employment



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Longitudinal Data System

How to use it

This information may be useful for prospective students planning their postsecondary educations, and aid current students in identifying promising industries to consider entering upon graduation. Employers and economic developers may also be interested in learning which industries are attracting the most recent graduates, and the wages these workers might expect to be paid.

Where to find it

To request graduate outcomes data, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information by phone (**402.471.9961**) or email (NDOL.LMI_NE@nebraska.gov).

Labor Supply

Labor Force

Estimates page 25

Seasonal Fluctuations page 26

U6 Rates page 27

Older Workers by County page 28

Labor Availability Study

Skills page 29

Obstacles to Employment page 30

Commuting

In-Commuting Patterns, 2017 page 31

Out-Commuting
Patterns, 2017 page 32

Commute Time page 33



Labor Force

The labor force is the total civilian, non-institutional population, age 16 years old or older, who are either employed or unemployed but actively seeking employment. Labor force estimates exclude military personnel and all persons confined to institutions including nursing homes, mental institutions, and prisons. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed persons divided by the size of the labor force.

In 2019, Nebraska's labor force was comprised of approximately 1,035,240 individuals. Nebraska's unemployment rate for 2019 was relatively low at 3.0% (not seasonally adjusted), well below the national unemployment rate of 3.7%.

The Kearney MC had the lowest unemployment rate of all Nebraska MCs and MSAs at 2.6%. The Scottsbluff MC had the state's highest unemployment rate at 3.6%.

How to use it

The unemployment rate is one way to measure the health of an economy. A low unemployment rate can signal a stable, thriving economy, in which most workers are able to find suitable employment. While a low unemployment rate can reflect economic health, a very low unemployment rate can also make it more difficult for businesses to find employees, as the labor pool of unemployed workers is relatively small. Nebraska's low unemployment rate, coupled with its high labor force participation rate, point to a strong, stable economy, which is critical to attracting both employers and employees to the region.

Labor Force Estimates 2019 *

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
United States	163,539,000	157,538,000	6,001,000	3.7%
Nebraska	1,035,240	1,003,680	31,560	3.0%
Beatrice MC	11,010	10,619	391	3.6%
Columbus MC	17,668	17,153	515	2.9%
Fremont MC	19,501	18,931	570	2.9%
Grand Island MSA	44,050	42,557	1,493	3.4%
Hastings MC	16,792	16,262	530	3.2%
Kearney MC	31,568	30,753	815	2.6%
Lexington MC	14,167	13,748	419	3.0%
Lincoln MSA	186,118	180,945	5,173	2.8%
Norfolk MC	27,418	26,659	759	2.8%
North Platte MC	19,243	18,579	664	3.5%
Omaha MSA (Omaha-Council Bluffs, NE-IA MSA)	496,490	481,273	15,217	3.1%
Scottsbluff MC	19,411	18,702	709	3.7%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, released 2020

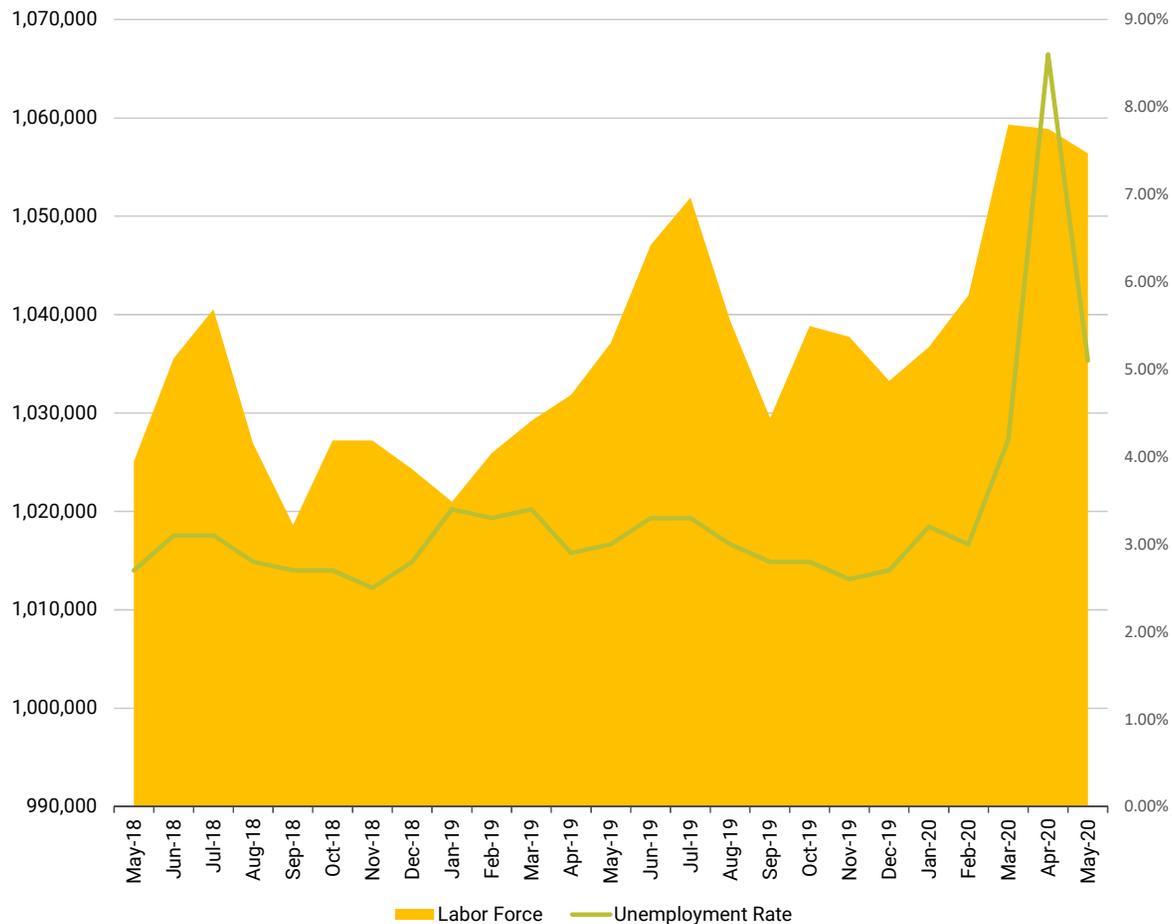
* Not seasonally adjusted

Where to find it

State and local data on labor force estimates are available networks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis to view the data, or download data by going to the Data Download Center, located under Labor Market Data. The national unemployment rate is available at www.bls.gov/cps.

Seasonal Labor Force Fluctuations

Nebraska Unemployment Rate & Seasonal Fluctuations in Labor Force 2018 – 2020



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, released 2020

The labor force and unemployment rate can vary by season. Over the previous two years, from 2018 to 2020, the size of Nebraska’s labor force peaked in February 2020. The state’s annual labor force average was approximately 1,017,729 in 2018 and 1,036,600 in 2019.

Nebraska’s not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has experienced some major fluctuations in 2020, with a record high of 8.6% in April 2020, and a low of 2.5% in Nov 2018. Each year, the unemployment rate typically rises in the summer, as the size of the labor force expands, then drops in the fall, as the labor force shrinks. In 2020, there was a sharp increase in the unemployment rate due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

How to use it

Knowledge of seasonal labor force and unemployment patterns can help predict future labor force and unemployment fluctuations. Employers can use this information to plan business processes such as recruitment and possibly anticipate changes related to seasonal economic fluctuations. Harvests, weather changes, holidays, and school openings and closings are a few examples of seasonal events that can lead to significant fluctuations in the state’s labor force and unemployment rates.

Where to find it

State and local data on labor force estimates are available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Labor Force Data, or download data by going to the Data Download Center, located under Labor Market Data.

U6 Rates

The U6 rate is an alternative measure of labor underutilization compared to the traditional unemployment rate. The U6 rate measures all unemployed workers, marginally attached workers (discouraged workers who are not employed and have sought work in the past 12 months, but not in the last 4 weeks), and workers who are employed part-time, but who desire to and are available to work full-time.

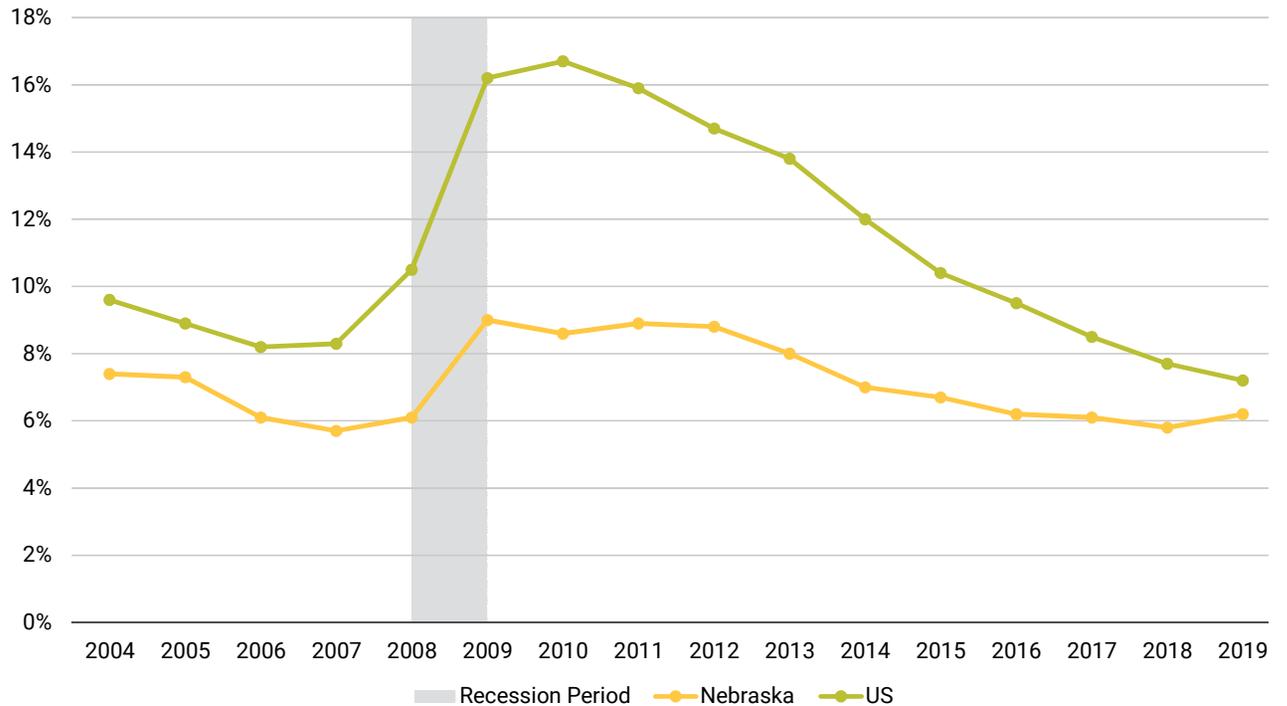
In 2008, Nebraska's U6 rate was around 6.1%. The U6 rate jumped to 9.0% in 2009, after the onset of the economic recession, and stayed close to 9.0% until 2012. In 2018, Nebraska's U6 rate was 5.8%, its lowest since 2007.

Nebraska's U6 rate has consistently been lower than the rate for the U.S. as a whole. The difference between Nebraska versus the national U6 rate was greatest during the recession period in 2009 and 2010. The difference has shrunk gradually since then, and is now similar to pre-recession levels.

How to use it

Because the U6 rate includes marginally attached and some part-time workers, it can provide a more expansive measure of workers who are underutilized or left out of the labor force than the traditional unemployment rate. Additionally, trends in the U6 rate over time can help predict unemployment and labor underutilization in the next several years.

NE & US U6 Rates 2004 – 2019



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
NE	6.1%	9.0%	8.6%	8.9%	8.8%	8.0%	7.0%	6.7%	6.2%	6.1%	5.8%	6.2%
US	10.5%	16.2%	16.7%	15.9%	14.7%	13.8%	12.0%	10.4%	9.5%	8.5%	7.7%	7.2%

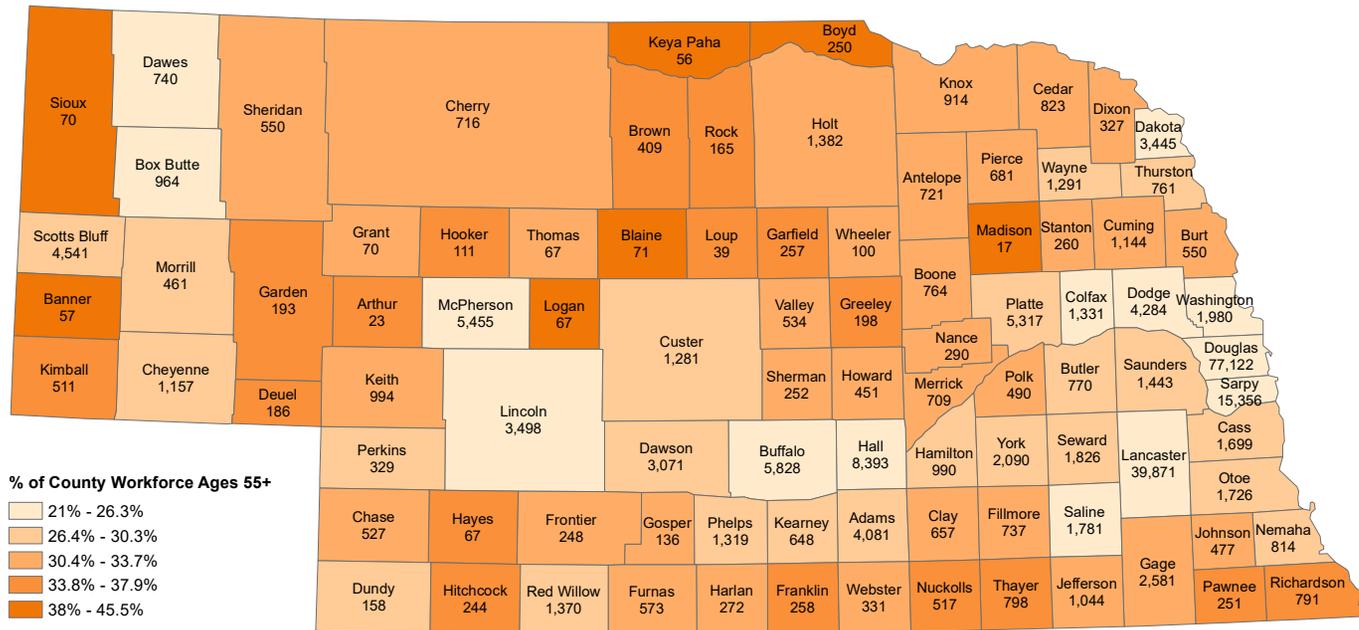
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, released January 2020

Where to find it

Information on the U6 rate is available at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under Subjects, select State and Local Unemployment Rates, then select Alternative Measure of Labor Underutilization for States.

Older Workers

Percentage of County Workforce, ages 55 and older, 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, released 2020

How to use it

The growing proportion of older workers in the labor force signals the need for business adaptation. Older workers can contribute valuable skills and experience to businesses. As older workers reach retirement, businesses will need to adjust and refill their positions, possibly with a younger, less experienced workforce.

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides data on worker age at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select QWI Explorer.

Older workers comprise a much larger proportion of Nebraska's workforce than in the recent past, perhaps because of the aging baby boomer population. In 2019, there were more than 233,000 workers ages 55 and older in Nebraska, comprising 24.4% of the state's total workforce. In comparison, approximately 113,000 workers, or 13.1% of the workforce, were 55 or older in 2000, and about 161,400 workers, or 18.0% of the workforce, were 55 or older in 2007.

Older workers tended to comprise a larger share of the non-MC/MSA workforce than the MC/MSA workforce. More than 30% of Nebraska's non-MC/MSA workforce was 55 or older in 2019, compared to 26% of the MC/MSA workforce. The only exception to this was the Beatrice MC, which had 30.7% of their workforce aged 55 and older. Sarpy County had the state's smallest percentage of older workers, at 21.0%. The county where older workers made up the largest share of the labor market was Boyd, where 45.5% of the workforce was 55 or over in 2019.

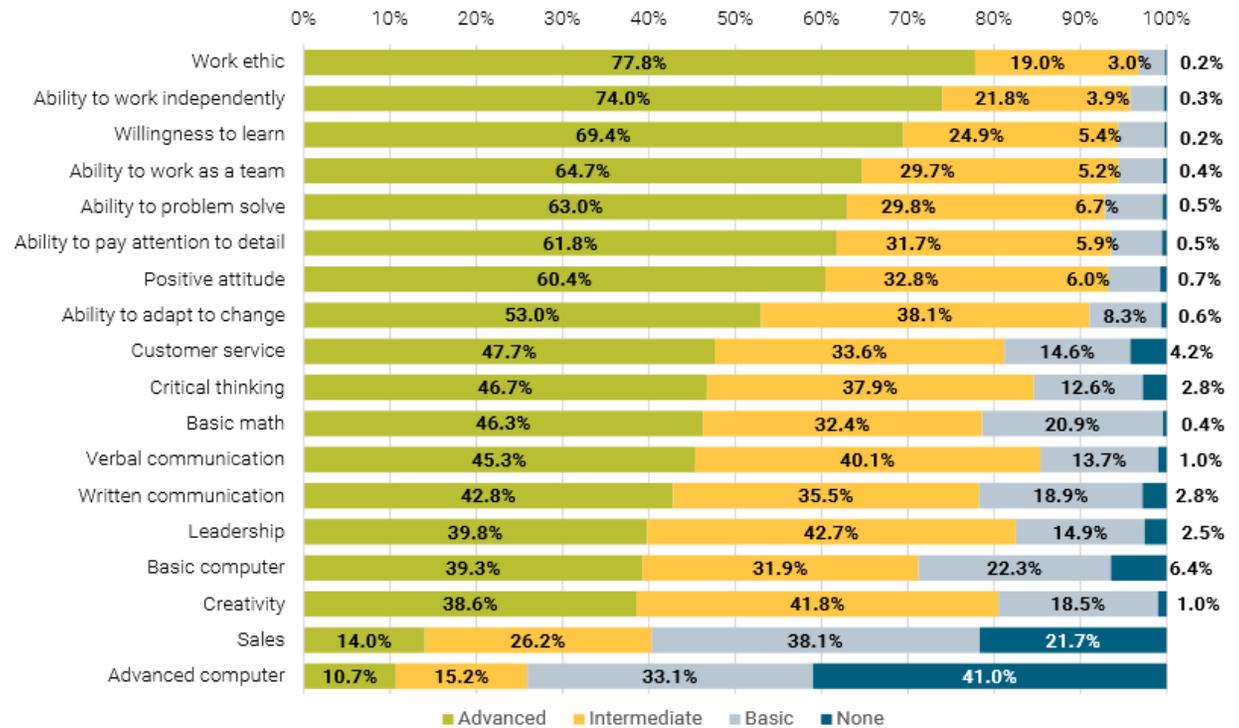
Labor Availability Study

The Labor Availability Study (LAS) is an annual research project which produces three distinct reports for each region of Nebraska: the Labor Availability Report, which uses data obtained through surveys of local individuals; the Hiring and Training Needs Report, consisting of data received from area employers; and the Skills Gap Report, which utilizes the data from the other two reports as well as additional secondary sources to provide recommendations for the local labor market, produced by University of Nebraska-Lincoln professor Dr. Eric Thompson. The Nebraska Department of Labor partners with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to produce the Labor Availability Report and the Hiring and Training Needs Report.

In the Labor Availability Report, one emphasized group of respondents is potential job seekers—those who are likely to change jobs or re-enter the workforce in the next year if a suitable job is available. Potential job seekers who responded to the LAS survey rated themselves on various skills and abilities using the following rating scale: none, basic, intermediate, and advanced.

On this page is a sample of results from the Nebraska Statewide Labor Availability Report that was published in summer 2019. At least 80% of potential job seekers rated themselves as having at least basic proficiency in all listed skills except sales (78.3%) and advanced computer skills (59.0%). Potential job seekers most often rated themselves as advanced in their work ethic (77.8%), ability to work independently (74.0%), and willingness to learn (69.4%).

Reported Skills of Potential Job Seekers, Statewide Labor Availability Report



How to use it

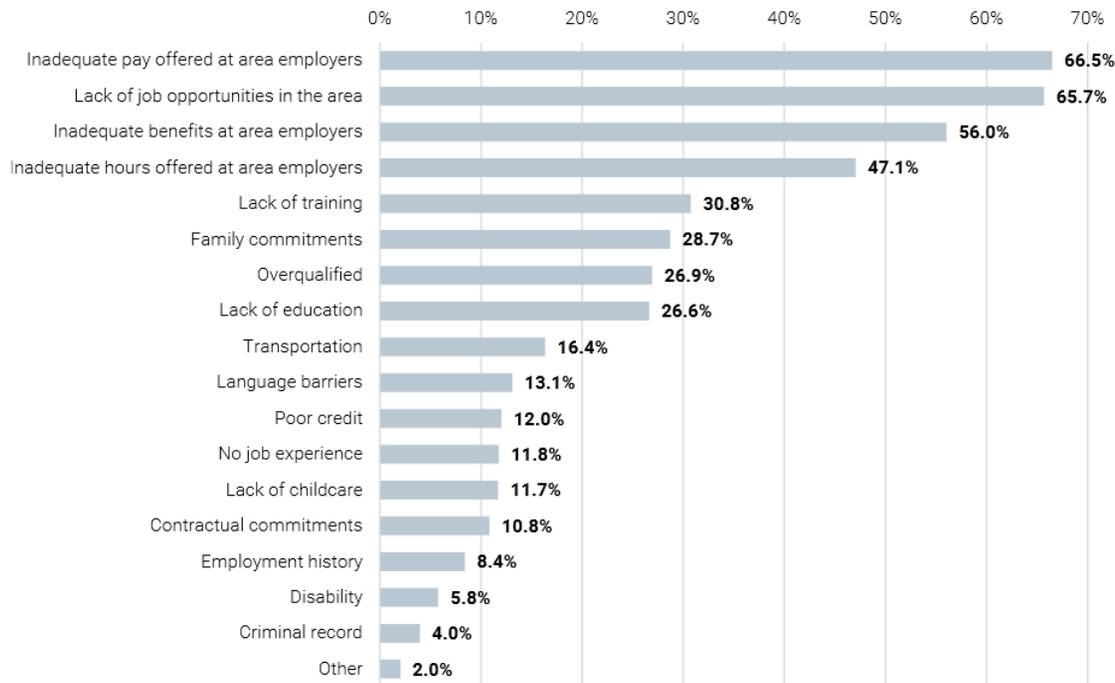
The Labor Availability Study was designed to measure labor availability and to help determine the hiring and training needs of employers in Nebraska. The skills portion of the Labor Availability Report can help employers and other stakeholders understand the self-reported skill levels of potential job seekers in local labor markets.

Where to find it

All LAS reports can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/las. In addition to the Nebraska Statewide Report, Labor Availability Study reports have been published for the Panhandle, O'Neill and Valentine areas, Northeast Nebraska (Columbus, Norfolk, and Fremont); Lincoln; the Omaha Metro; Central Nebraska (Grand Island, Hastings, and Kearney); North Platte; and Nebraska City.

Labor Availability Study

Obstacles to Employment Reported by Potential Job Seekers, Statewide Labor Availability Report



Where to find it

In addition to the Nebraska Statewide Report, Labor Availability Study reports have been published most recently for the O'Neill and Valentine areas of the state, including their surrounding communities. Northeast Nebraska (Columbus, Norfolk, and Fremont); Lincoln; and the Omaha Metro were covered in the 2017-2018 Labor Availability Study. Reports for Central Nebraska (Grand Island, Hastings, and Kearney); North Platte; and Nebraska City were published in 2016-2017. All LAS reports can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/las.

LAS survey respondents reported any obstacles that may prevent them from changing jobs or reentering the workforce within the next year. As seen in the chart, taken from the results of the 2018-2019 Nebraska Statewide Labor Availability Report, potential job seekers were asked to identify any obstacles that applied to their individual employment situations.

The top obstacles to employment, as expressed by potential job seekers, were inadequate pay, lack of job opportunities, inadequate benefits, and inadequate hours offered at area employers. The most commonly cited obstacles to employment were job market-related issues, rather than workforce-related issues, such as having a lack of experience or training. Respondents were also able to write in other obstacles they faced when changing jobs. Some examples of write-in answers received were age, motivation, and relocation costs.

How to use it

Information about the reasons why individuals don't change jobs or re-enter the workforce is not regularly collected through the Bureau of Labor Statistics or the Census Bureau. The Labor Availability Study fills this gap by producing reports for local areas, detailing the types of obstacles respondents say may prevent them from changing jobs or reentering the workforce within the next year. This information can be used to determine the unique challenges a local labor market might face (e.g., lack of training or language barriers).

Commuting

'In-commuters' refers to workers who commute into the state for work. The map shows the number of workers from surrounding states who commuted into Nebraska for their primary jobs in 2017.

There were 887,305 primary jobs in Nebraska in 2017. Nebraska residents filled approximately 823,432, or 92.8%, of those jobs. Iowa residents comprised the next-largest portion of Nebraska's workforce. Approximately 37,105, or 4.2%, of workers in Nebraska commuted from Iowa. More than half of all Iowa commuters traveled from Council Bluffs or Sioux City, Iowa, and most Iowa in-commuters worked in the Omaha area.

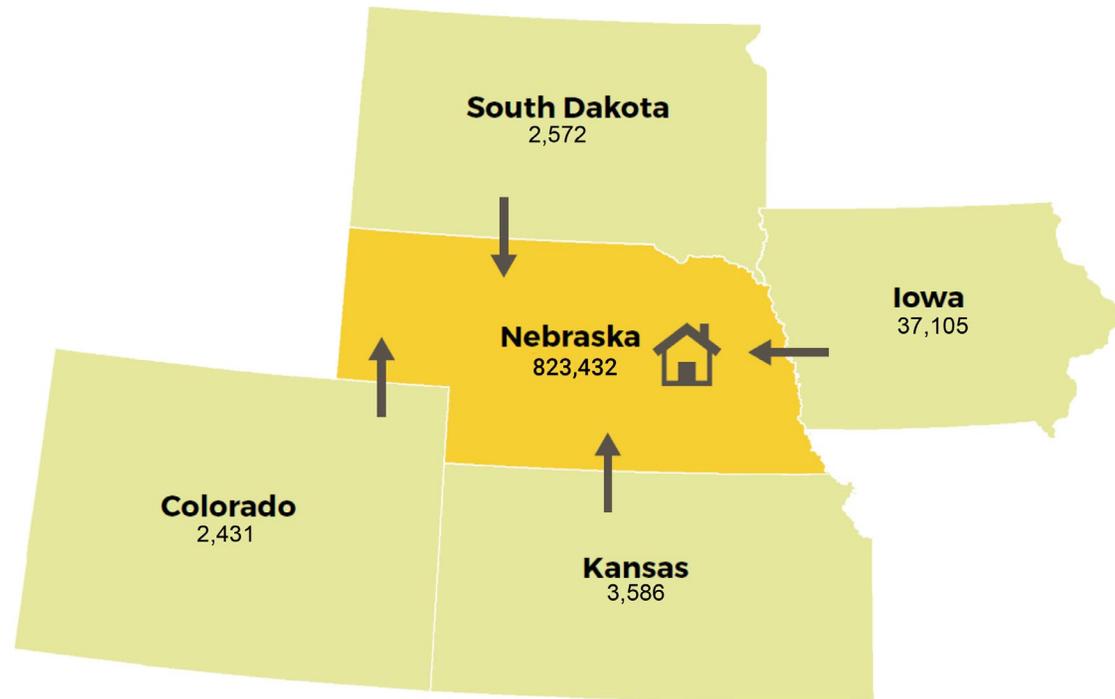
Nebraska had a net gain of workers from cross-state commuting. Approximately 1,603 more workers commuted into Nebraska for work than commuted out of Nebraska for work in 2017.

How to use it

Commuting data that compares net in-commuting and out-commuting can indicate whether or not a state has attractive work opportunities. States that have more in-commuters than out-commuters may have more work opportunities and higher wages than surrounding areas. In contrast, states that have a higher number of workers leaving for work than coming into that state for work may have fewer employment opportunities and/or less appealing wages than surrounding areas.

Nebraska In-Commuters 2017

 live & work in Nebraska



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, OnTheMap, released 2018

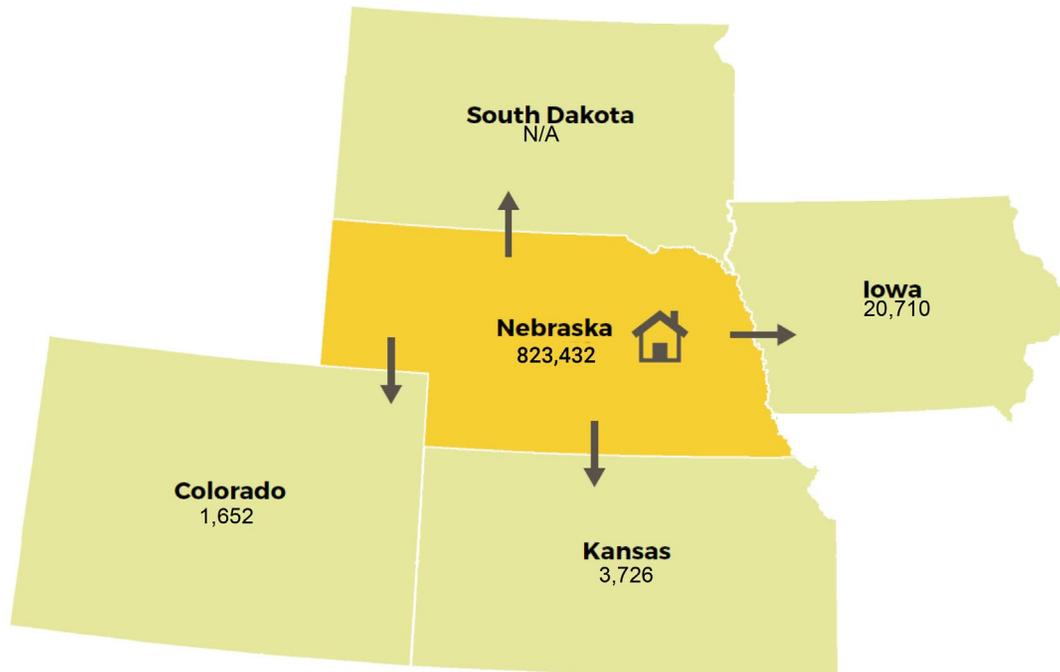
Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides commuting data at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select OnTheMap.

Commuting

Nebraska Out-Commuters 2017

 live & work in Nebraska



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, OnTheMap, released 2018

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides commuting data at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select OnTheMap.

'Out-commuters' refers to Nebraska residents who commute out of the state for work. The map shows states where Nebraskans commuted for their primary jobs in 2015.

There were 856,170 Nebraskans with primary jobs in 2017. Approximately 823,432, or 96.2%, of these Nebraskans were employed within the state. The majority of Nebraskans who commuted out of state went to Iowa. About 20,700 Nebraskans, or 2.4% of those with primary jobs, commuted to Iowa for work. More than 69.3% of Nebraskans who commuted to Iowa worked in Council Bluffs or Sioux City, Iowa.

Nebraska had fewer out-commuters than in-commuters in 2017. Approximately 1,600 fewer workers commuted out of state than commuted into the state for work.

How to use it

Commuting data that compares net in-commuting and out-commuting can indicate whether or not a state has attractive work opportunities. States that have more in-commuters than out-commuters may have more work opportunities and higher wages than surrounding areas. In contrast, states that have a higher number of workers leaving for work than coming into that state for work may have fewer employment opportunities and/or less appealing wages than surrounding areas.

2017 Commute Times

In 2017, the average commute time for Nebraska workers was 18.4 minutes – significantly shorter than the U.S. average of 26.4 minutes. Almost a quarter of Nebraskans traveled less than 10 minutes to work, compared to only 12.7% of workers nationwide. About 36.3% of employed Nebraskans commuted 10 to 19 minutes, while 39.8% reported traveling 20 minutes or more to work.

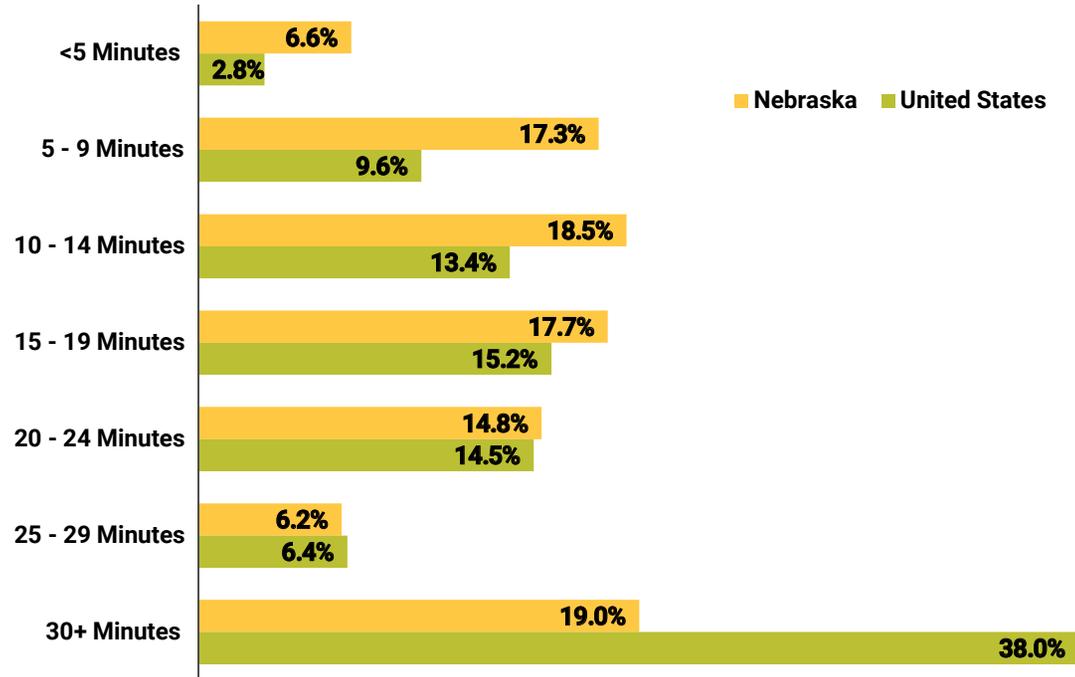
How to use it

Commuting statistics are one way to estimate how long workers may be willing to travel for work, as well as which geographic regions businesses might look to for employee recruitment. Businesses in regions where a high proportion of workers have longer commutes may be more likely to draw workers from a broader geographic area than businesses in regions where workers tend to have shorter commutes.

Where to find it

Data on commuting comes from the American Community Survey, available at factfinder.census.gov. Search for Tables S0801 and B08303.

Avg. Commute Time for NE & US Workers 2017



Commute Time	Nebraska		United States	
	Population	%	Population	%
<5 minutes	61,719	6.6%	4,063,316	2.8%
5 to 9 minutes	161,940	17.3%	13,762,954	9.6%
10 to 14 minutes	173,223	18.5%	19,237,418	13.4%
15 to 19 minutes	165,600	17.7%	21,793,999	15.2%
20 to 24 minutes	138,795	14.8%	20,709,756	14.5%
25 to 29 minutes	57,817	6.2%	9,186,086	6.4%
30+ minutes	178,276	19.0%	54,394,582	38.0%
Total:	937,370	100.0%	143,148,111	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 - 2016 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2017

Wages & Compensation

Earnings..... page 35

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment..... page 36

Industry Earnings by Gender..... page 37

Required Pay page 38

Wages by Occupational Groups... page 39

Total Compensation..... page 40

Household Median Income by County page 41

Benefits..... page 42

Poverty Rate by County page 43

Inflation page 44



Earnings

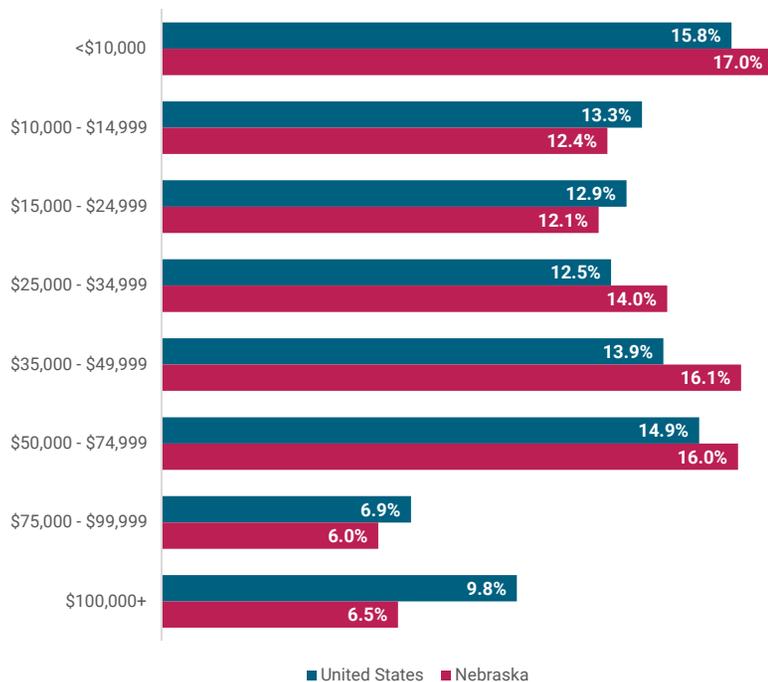
According to the American Community Survey, 29.3% of working Nebraskans ages 16 and over earned less than \$15,000 per year in 2018, and another 26.1% earned \$15,000-\$34,999. More than a quarter of the state's 16+ population earned \$50,000 or more. About 16.0% of Nebraskans earned \$50,000-\$74,999, while 12.6% earned \$75,000 or more annually.

Nebraska has a lower proportion of high earners (workers who earned \$50,000 or more per year) than the nation as a whole, and a slightly higher proportion of very low earners (workers who earned less than \$10,000 annually). About 28.5% of Nebraskans earned \$50,000 or more annually, compared to 31.7% of workers nationwide. Additionally, only 6.5% of Nebraskans earned more than \$100,000 per year, versus a national percentage of 9.8%. Approximately 17.0% of Nebraskans earned less than \$10,000 annually, compared to 15.8% nationwide.

How to use it

The earnings in a region should be viewed along with the area's relative cost of living. Although a population may have a higher percentage of lower-income earners, their earnings in that region may be able to buy a better quality of life than they would in other regions, due to a lower cost of living. For instance, according to the CNN Money Cost of Living Calculator, a salary of \$25,000 in Omaha, Neb. would be equivalent to a higher salary of \$30,853 in Denver, Colo.; \$33,342 in Chicago, Ill.; \$44,858 in Washington, D.C.; or \$69,666 in Manhattan, N.Y.

Share of NE & US Population, ages 16 and over, by Annual Earnings 2018



Earnings	United States		Nebraska	
	Population*	%	Population*	%
<\$10,000	28,569,822	15.8%	197,414	17.0%
\$10,000-\$14,999	24,076,324	13.3%	143,862	12.4%
\$15,000-\$24,999	23,306,026	12.9%	141,024	12.1%
\$25,000-\$34,999	22,536,932	12.5%	163,137	14.0%
\$35,000-\$49,999	25,157,511	13.9%	186,948	16.1%
\$50,000-\$74,999	26,943,936	14.9%	185,944	16.0%
\$75,000-\$99,999	12,504,988	6.9%	69,915	6.0%
\$100,000+	17,813,251	9.8%	76,274	6.5%
Total:	180,908,790	100.0%	1,164,518	100.0%

*Population age 16 and older.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 - 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2019

Where to find it

Earnings data from the American Community Survey are available at factfinder.census.gov. Search for Table B20001.

CNN money's Cost of Living Calculator is available at money.cnn.com/calculator/pf/cost-of-living/index.html.

Median Earnings

Median Annual Earnings by Educational Attainment 2018

	United States	Nebraska	% Difference
Population 25 Years & Over with Earnings	\$39,937	\$38,795	2.9%
Less Than High School Graduate	\$22,609	\$25,672	-11.9%
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	\$30,570	\$30,846	-0.9%
Some College or Associate Degree	\$36,293	\$36,048	0.7%
Bachelor's Degree	\$53,825	\$48,881	10.1%
Graduate or Professional Degree	\$72,095	\$62,752	14.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 - 2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2019

Where to find it

Data on earnings by educational attainment are from the American Community Survey, available at factfinder.census.gov. Search for Table S1501.

According to the American Community Survey, median annual earnings tend to increase dramatically with higher levels of educational attainment. In 2018, median earnings for Nebraskans with a high school diploma were approximately \$30,846 per year. Median earnings increased to over \$48,800 for Nebraskans with a bachelor's degree, and almost \$63,000 for those with a graduate or professional degree.

Workers with bachelor's and graduate degrees earned significantly higher median wages nationally than in Nebraska. The national median for bachelor's degree earners was 10.1% higher than in Nebraska, and 14.9% higher for graduate/professional degree earners.

The national median for workers overall, regardless of educational attainment, was only 2.9% higher than the median in Nebraska.

For workers with less than a high school diploma and those with a high school diploma or equivalent, the Nebraska median wage was higher than for the nation as a whole (11.9% and 0.9% higher respectively).

How to use it

Data on median wages by educational attainment can be used to show the income benefits of postsecondary education. Educators and students can use median wage information to make decisions that will help put students on track to earn their desired wages. Educational earnings data, along with occupational and industry wage data, can also help workers gauge how their current wages compare to workers with similar characteristics.

Industry Earnings

The industry sector that paid the state's highest average annual wage for both men and women during the second quarter of 2019 was utilities, where the average annual wage was over \$101,000 for men, and just under \$78,000 per year for women.

The accommodation and food services industry had Nebraska's lowest average annual wage for men (\$20,736). Arts, entertainment, and recreation was the lowest-paying industry for women (\$16,788).

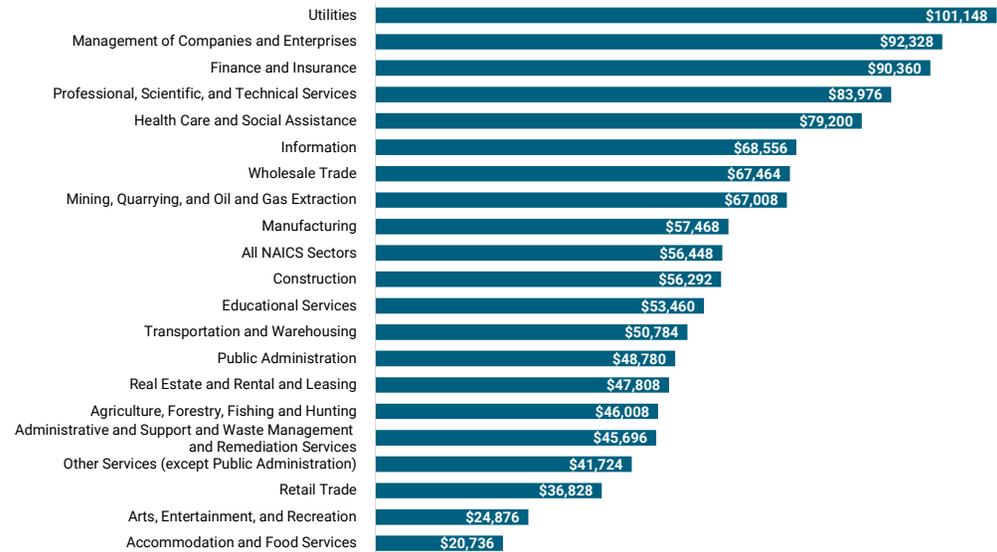
How to use it

Data on industry earnings by gender can provide insights into how typical rates of compensation in various industries may differ by gender. Prospective job-seekers and students may be interested in industry earnings by gender, as this information can provide a more-precise estimate of an industry's typical wages. However, this data does not include specific details that can impact average pay, such as occupations held or hours worked.

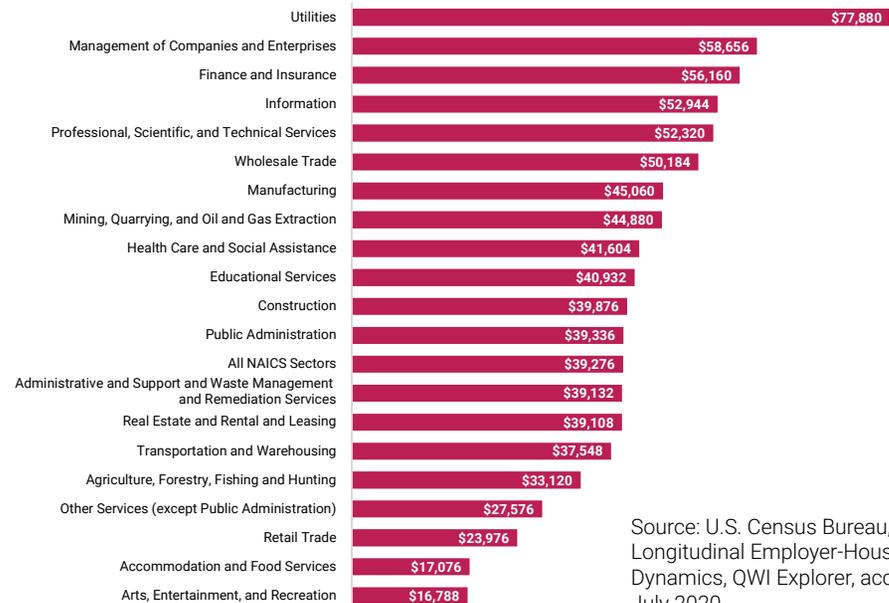
Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides data on earnings by industry and gender at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select QWI Explorer.

Annual Earnings by Industry for NE Men 2019



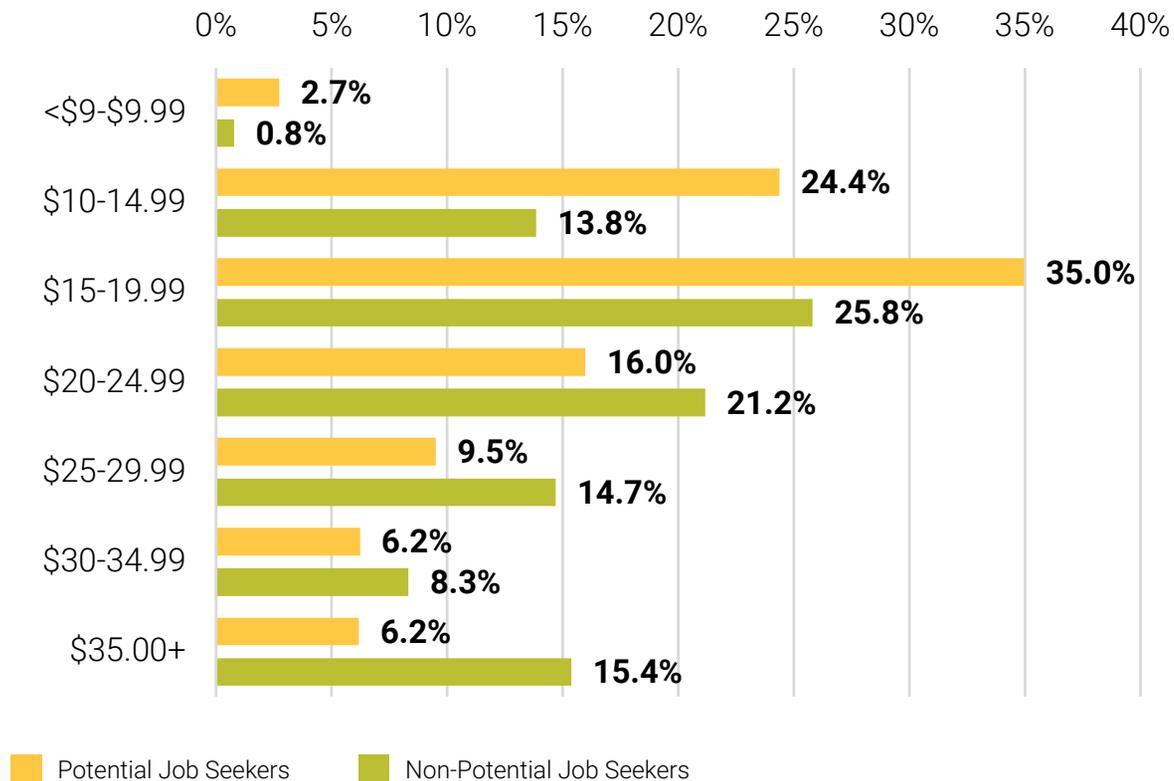
Annual Earnings by Industry for NE Women 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, accessed July 2020

Required Pay

Required Hourly Wages to Improve Current Employment Situation Statewide Labor Availability Report



Where to find it

In addition to the Nebraska Statewide Report, Labor Availability Study reports have been published most recently for the O'Neill and Valentine areas of the state, including their surrounding communities. Northeast Nebraska (Columbus, Norfolk, and Fremont); Lincoln; and the Omaha Metro were covered in the 2017-2018 Labor Availability Study. Reports for Central Nebraska (Grand Island, Hastings, and Kearney); North Platte; and Nebraska City were published in 2016-2017. All LAS reports can be found at dol.nebraska.gov/las.

As seen in this sample of the Nebraska Statewide Labor Availability Report, published in 2019, survey respondents answered the question, "If a job were available that met your most important criteria, what is the minimum pay you would require to improve your employment situation?" Respondents provided either a minimum annual salary or a minimum hourly wage. This analysis includes all respondents who provided data regarding their desired wage, regardless of their current employment situation.

Potential job seekers generally required less pay to improve their employment situation than those who responded that they were not currently interested in seeking out new job opportunities. In the Statewide Labor Availability Report, the median required minimum hourly wage for potential job seekers to improve their employment situation was \$16 per hour, compared to \$20 per hour for non-seekers. More than 62% of potential job seekers and 40% of non-seekers said they would accept a job paying less than \$20 per hour. Annual wage data and more details can be found in the full report.

How to use it

Required pay data can be used to determine the level of compensation that groups like potential job seekers would require in order to change jobs or reenter the workforce. This data can be used by employers and potential employers to make data-driven decisions on the wage or salary rates they set for their firms in Nebraska.

1st Quarter Wages, 2020

The table on this page gives the entry, median, and experienced annual wages for all major occupational groups in Nebraska during the first quarter of 2020. Nebraska's wages tended to be lower than the national median for most occupational groups, but were significantly higher for a few. The greatest differences between state and national earnings were in Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media occupations, where national median wages were 27.3% higher than in Nebraska, and in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations, where the national median was 22.8% lower than the median for Nebraska.

How to use it

Occupational wage data provides a convenient means to identify typical wages for different occupational groups. Employers can use occupational wage data to offer their employees wages that are competitive within their region. Workers can also use occupational wage data to gauge how their compensation compares to other workers in similar occupations and with similar levels of experience. Additionally, students can use wage data to pick occupational paths that are most likely to meet their earnings requirements.

Annual Earnings by Occupational Group Q1 2020

Occupational Group	Nebraska Hourly Wages			US Wages*	
	Entry	Median	Experienced	Median	% Difference
Total All	\$24,621	\$38,895	\$61,015	\$39,810	2.4%
Architecture & Engineering	\$46,676	\$72,953	\$92,452	\$81,440	11.6%
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	\$24,415	\$40,176	\$57,936	\$51,150	27.3%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	\$22,663	\$28,248	\$34,613	\$28,330	0.3%
Business & Financial Operations	\$40,629	\$61,758	\$81,865	\$69,820	13.1%
Community & Social Services	\$30,558	\$40,682	\$52,658	\$46,090	13.3%
Computer & Mathematical	\$48,212	\$77,305	\$95,256	\$88,340	14.3%
Construction & Extraction	\$30,789	\$42,590	\$55,289	\$47,430	11.4%
Education, Training, & Library	\$28,595	\$51,298	\$68,437	\$50,790	-1.0%
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	\$26,925	\$35,215	\$42,866	\$27,180	-22.8%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$20,808	\$23,720	\$28,442	\$24,220	2.1%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$41,114	\$63,281	\$95,349	\$68,190	7.8%
Healthcare Support	\$24,120	\$29,572	\$34,912	\$28,470	-3.7%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	\$31,243	\$46,293	\$57,816	\$46,630	0.7%
Legal	\$42,713	\$69,876	\$108,147	\$81,820	17.1%
Life, Physical, & Social Science	\$38,340	\$57,931	\$78,363	\$68,160	17.7%
Management	\$50,025	\$89,687	\$127,617	\$105,660	17.8%
Office & Administrative Support	\$25,824	\$36,009	\$44,747	\$37,580	4.4%
Personal Care & Service	\$21,088	\$24,353	\$32,682	\$26,220	7.7%
Production	\$27,204	\$37,397	\$47,015	\$36,000	-3.7%
Protective Service	\$26,801	\$42,786	\$57,213	\$41,580	-2.8%
Sales & Related	\$22,334	\$29,289	\$49,794	\$29,630	1.2%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$25,230	\$36,269	\$47,114	\$32,440	-10.6%

Sources: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2020
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2020

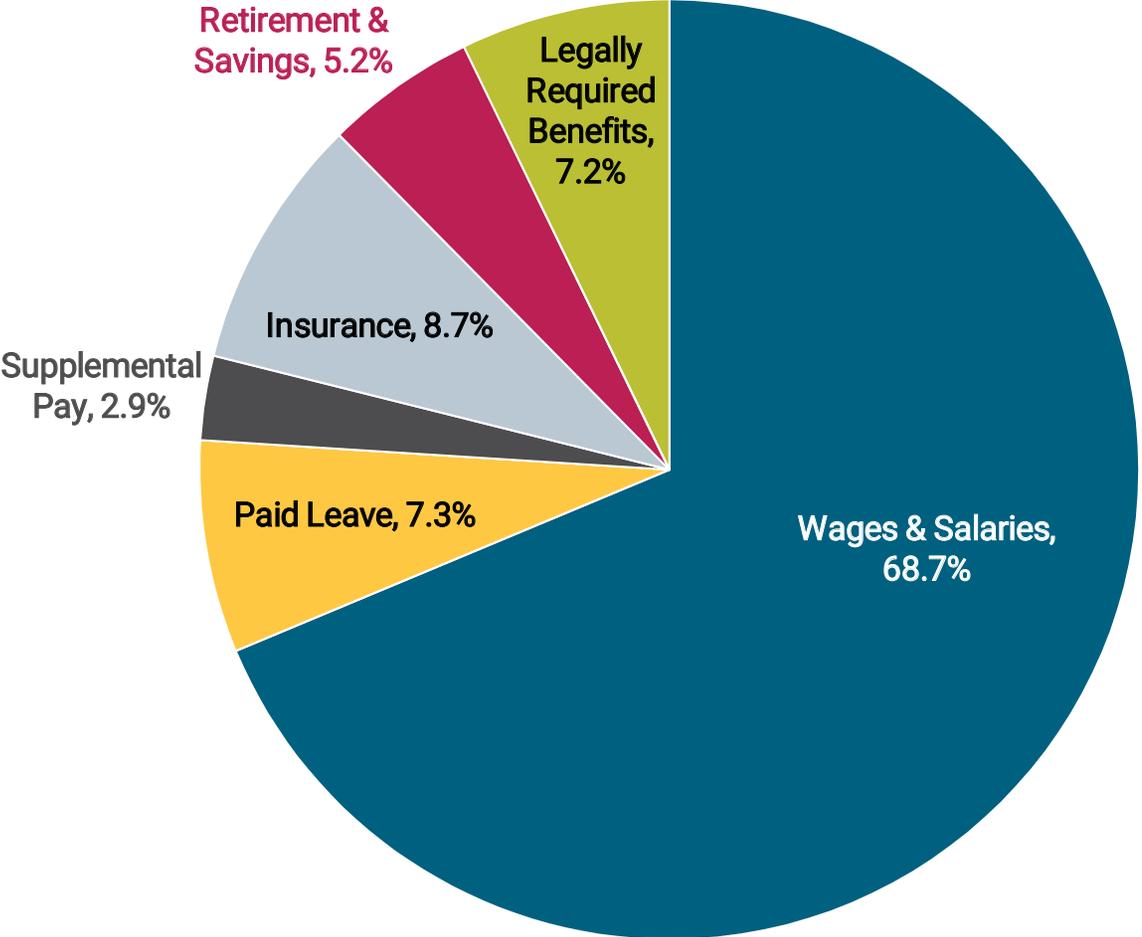
*National Wages are May 2019 OES estimates.
Occupations ordered alphabetically.

Where to find it

Occupational Employment data for Nebraska is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data.

Total Compensation

**1st Quarter 2020 Total Compensation
West North Central Division:** Iowa,
Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska,
North Dakota, South Dakota



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey, released 2020

Employee compensation cost is greater than the sum of employee wages alone. Non-wage/salary employee compensation costs include paid leave, insurance, retirement, Social Security and Medicaid, and more. The chart breaks down total employee compensation costs for private industry workers in the Census' West North Central Division (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri).

In the first quarter of 2020, wages and salaries accounted for about 69.9% of the total cost of employee compensation. Insurance was the second-largest compensation cost, at 8.8%, followed by legally required benefits (e.g., Social Security, Medicare, worker's compensation, etc.) at 7.7% and paid leave at 7.1%. Retirement and savings made up 3.2% of employee compensation costs, and supplemental pay (e.g., overtime, bonuses, etc.) accounted for 3.3%.

How to use it

Total compensation data provides employers with a more complete and accurate estimate of the total cost of employee compensation versus considering wage/salary costs alone. Businesses can use total compensation data to estimate employment costs and compare their employee compensation costs with the regional average.

Where to find it

Compensation data from the National Compensation Survey is available at bls.gov/ncs.

Household Income

Nebraska's median household income in 2018 was \$59,116, slightly lower than the national median of \$60,293.

The Nebraska counties with the highest median household incomes tended to be concentrated near the state's largest population centers. Four out of the top five highest-income were located in the Omaha MSA (Sarpy, Cass, Washington, and Saunders Counties). Seward County was also on the list at #4.

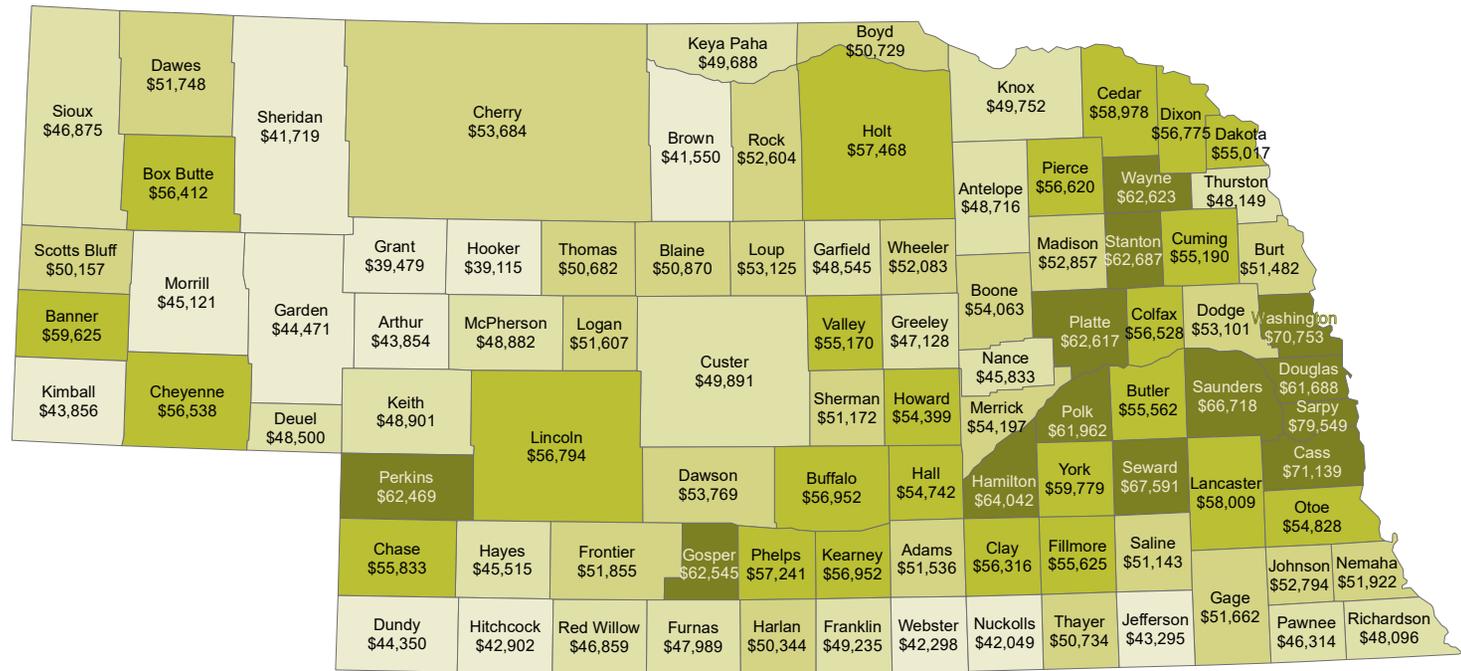
Sarpy County had the state's highest median household income of \$79,549. Hooker County had the state's lowest median household income at \$39,115.

How to use it

Household income estimates are widely used by stakeholders in both the public and private sectors to track local population income characteristics for economic and business planning purposes. While wage and salary data provide an estimate of the income generated by a single individual, household income data provide an estimate of the combined earnings of households.

Households may differ from families. The American Community Survey defines "households" as all people, related or not, living within the same housing unit; it defines "families" as a group of two or more people related by birth, marriage, or adoption living together within a housing unit.

Median Household Income by County 2018



Median Household Income, 2018



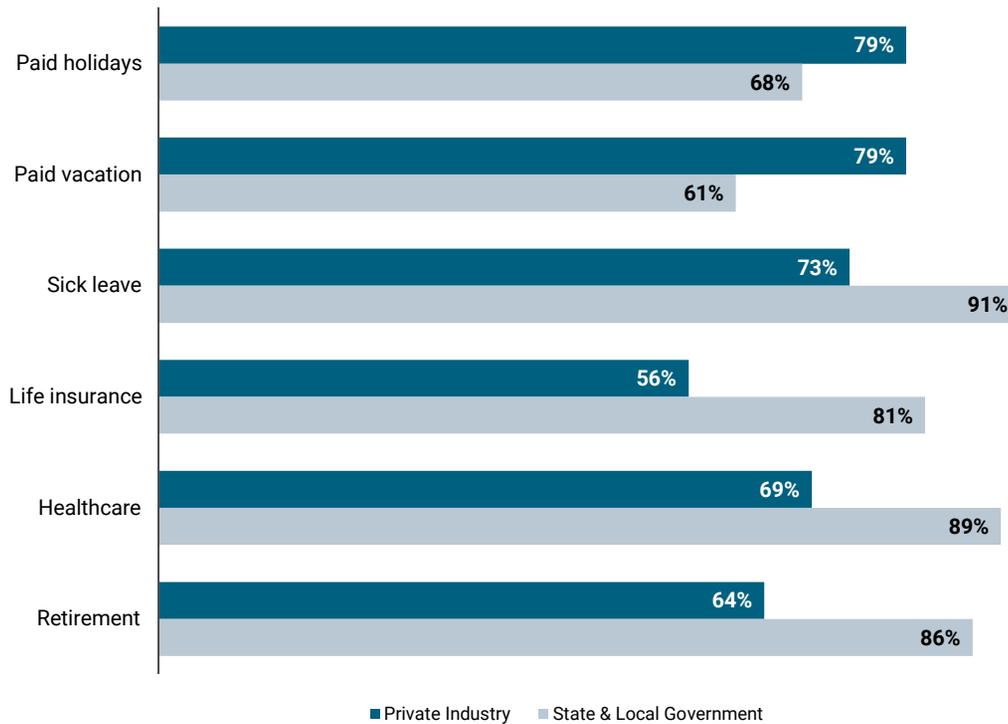
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 - 2017 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, released 2018

Where to find it

Median household income data from the American Community Survey are available at data.census.gov. Search for Table B19013.

Benefits

Employers Offering Benefits, West North Central Division March 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, National Compensation Survey: Employee Benefits in the United States, released September 2019

How to use it

Employers can use benefits data to gauge the rate at which competitors offer various types of benefits to their employees. For workers interested in retirement, medical, sick leave, or other benefits, benefits data can highlight where each benefit is most likely to be offered. Jobs in state and local government agencies may be more likely to provide certain kinds of benefits than jobs in the private sector.

The chart shows the rates at which private employers and state and local governments offered employee benefits in the Census's West North Central geographic region (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri) in March 2018.

With the exception of paid vacation and holidays, state and local governments tended to offer employee benefits at a higher rate than private industry employers. Retirement was the most commonly offered benefit in the government sector, at 91%. Approximately 89% of state and local government employers offered healthcare benefits, and 81% offered life insurance benefits. Paid vacation and paid holidays were the benefits government employers offered the least, at 61% and 68% respectively.

The benefits most commonly offered by private industry employers were paid holidays and paid vacation, both at 79%. An estimated 73% of private employers offered paid sick leave, and 69% offered healthcare. Retirement and life insurance were the least commonly offered, at 64% and 56% respectively.

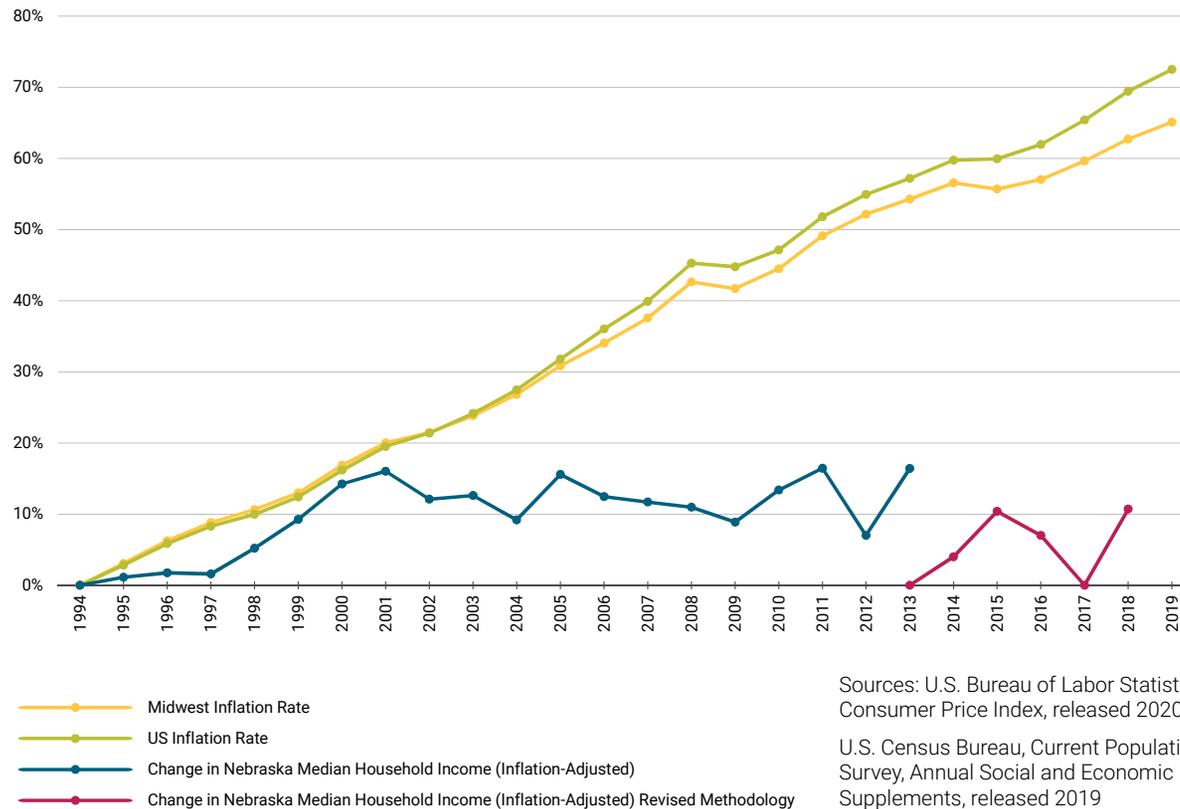
Where to find it

Benefits data are available at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under subjects, select Benefits.

The Labor Availability Study also includes information on benefits offered by employers in various communities throughout Nebraska, as reported by employers in the Hiring and Training Needs Report, or by employees in the Labor Availability Report. To access these reports, visit dol.nebraska.gov/las.

Inflation

Cumulative Inflation & Inflation-Adjusted Median Household Income, 1994 - 2019



How to use it

The inflation rate provides insight into how prices have changed over time. Inflation data is especially useful in conjunction with household income data, as it can show if earnings have more or less buying power than in the past. If income fails to increase at or above the rate of inflation, then fewer goods and services can be purchased for each dollar earned, meaning earnings have decreased in real value. If income rises faster than the rate of inflation, then the real value of earnings has increased, as each dollar can purchase more goods and services than in the past.

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of inflation that tracks changes in prices for goods and services over time. The Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates CPI based on prices paid by urban consumers.

The green and orange lines of the chart depict the price inflation of goods and services since 1994 using CPI data. From 1994 to 2019, the price of goods and services increased by 65.1% in the Midwest and 72.5% nationally.

The blue and red lines of the chart show the change in Nebraska's inflation-adjusted median household income over the same period. Due to a methodology change in 2013, two figures are given for that year. The real value of median household income for Nebraska (blue line) increased from 1994 to 2001, and has fluctuated since. The red line indicates the inflation-adjusted household income calculated with the new methodology. The 'real value' (inflation-adjusted value) of Nebraska's median household income increased from 2013 through 2015, but fell slightly in 2016 and 2017. Another methodology change in 2017 reset the inflation rate to zero, and the rate increased in 2018.

Where to find it

Information on the Consumer Price Index is available at [bls.gov/cpi](https://www.bls.gov/cpi). State median household income and inflation-adjusted median household income data are available at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov). Under Topics, select Income and Poverty, then Income.



Occupation, Industry, & Business Review

Occupation

Employment by Occupationpage 46

Most Common Occupations..... page 47

Industry

Employment by Industry page 48

Location Quotientspage 49

Gender Distribution page 50

Unionization page 51

Business

Local Employment Dynamics,
Quarterly Workforce Indicators..... page 52

Business Employment Dynamics,
Job Gains & Losses page 53

Business Employment Dynamics,
Expansions & Contractionspage 54

Employment

Total Employment & OTY Employment Change by Occupational Group

Occupational Group	2018 Total	2019 Total	2019 Metro	2019 Non-Metro	Change
Total all occupations	978,290	982,040	669,150	312,900	3,750
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	150,090	133,340	95,600	37,750	-16,750
Sales and Related Occupations	95,410	94,910	65,140	29,760	-500
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	77,940	93,340	59,180	34,160	15,400
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	82,880	83,160	58,070	25,100	280
Production Occupations	77,460	73,080	38,440	34,640	-4,380
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	62,770	62,390	43,050	19,340	-380
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	58,960	61,220	39,770	21,440	2,260
Management Occupations	51,410	52,180	36,730	15,450	770
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	49,690	49,230	40,340	8,890	-460
Construction and Extraction Occupations	43,840	46,420	31,240	15,180	2,580
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	40,870	42,090	24,720	17,370	1,220
Healthcare Support Occupations	28,160	37,600	23,690	13,910	9,440
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	30,550	30,740	26,900	3,840	190
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	28,720	29,610	18,800	10,810	890
Personal Care and Service Occupations	29,960	22,880	18,020	4,860	-7,080
Protective Service Occupations	16,260	16,580	11,930	4,650	320
Community and Social Services Occupations	14,170	13,360	8,880	4,480	-810
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	12,400	11,250	8,400	2,840	-1,150
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	11,090	11,050	8,770	2,290	-40
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	6,980	8,550	6,210	2,340	1,570
Legal Occupations	5,230	5,300	4,230	1,070	70
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	3,450	3,780	1,040	2,740	330

Occupations ordered alphabetically.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2020

In 2019, office and administrative support occupations was the largest occupational group in Nebraska, with an estimated employment of 133,340. The next-largest occupational group was sales and related occupations, at approximately 94,910.

About 68.1% of occupations in Nebraska were located within a metropolitan area. Computer and mathematical occupations had the highest percentage of metropolitan-area jobs, at 87.5%. Farming, fishing, and forestry was the only occupational group with a higher percentage of non-metro employment, with 72.5% of jobs located outside of metropolitan areas. Production occupations were nearly evenly split between metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas.

Across all occupation groups, Nebraska had an increase of 3,750 jobs (0.4%) from 2018 to 2019. Healthcare support occupations had the largest proportional increase at 33.5% (9,440 jobs). Personal care and service occupations had the largest proportional decrease at -23.6% (-7,080 jobs).

How to use it

Occupational employment data help identify common occupations and areas of occupational growth or decline. Workers and students can use this information to pursue occupations with high occupational growth and a large number of employment opportunities.

Where to find it

Occupational Employment data is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data.

Most Common Occupations

The table lists the most common occupations in Nebraska in 2019 as well as their median annual salaries and median hourly wages. The most common occupation in the state was fast food and counter workers, with an estimated employment of 28,830 and a median hourly wage of \$11. Next was retail salespersons and heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, with estimated employments of 27,860 and 27,570 respectively. The median hourly wage for retail salespersons was \$12.16, and \$22.01 for heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers.

The highest-paying common occupation was general and operations managers, who earned a median hourly wage of \$40.30, followed by registered nurses, with a median hourly wage of \$31.57. The lowest-paying common occupation in Nebraska was waiters and waitresses, whose median hourly wage of \$10.10 was just barely surpassed by the \$11.00 median hourly wage for fast food and counter workers, the next lowest-paying common occupation.

How to use it

Occupational employment data provide an easy method of identifying common occupations and the expected wages for those occupations. Employers can use this data to set wages competitively in order to recruit and retain workers. Students who are interested in pursuing common occupations can also use occupational wage data to gauge whether the prevailing wages for those occupations will meet their expectations.

Where to find it

Occupational Employment data is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data.

Employment & Wages for Most Common Occupations in NE

Occupation	May 2019	1 st Quarter, 2020	
	Estimated Employment	Hourly Median Wage	Annual Median Wage
Fast Food and Counter Workers	28,830	\$11.00	\$22,878
Retail Salespersons	27,860	\$12.16	\$25,293
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	27,570	\$22.01	\$45,773
Registered Nurses	23,800	\$31.57	\$65,681
Cashiers	23,360	\$11.18	\$23,270
Customer Service Representatives	20,770	\$16.41	\$34,133
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	18,290	\$16.11	\$33,497
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	16,010	\$16.92	\$35,196
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	15,390	\$13.28	\$27,637
Office Clerks, General	15,320	\$15.00	\$31,208
General and Operations Managers	15,200	\$40.30	\$83,820
Waiters and Waitresses	15,190	\$10.10	\$21,004
Nursing Assistants	13,720	\$14.28	\$29,704
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	13,090	\$12.61	\$26,233

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics, released 2019

Employment

The chart shows employment by industry as a percentage of total employment in Nebraska and the nation. In the fourth quarter 2019, Health Care and Social Assistance was Nebraska's largest industry by employment, accounting for 15.5% of the state's total employment. The second-largest was Retail Trade, at 12.9%.

Nebraska's industry employment figures were largely comparable to those of the nation as a whole. The largest difference between statewide versus national employment was in the Educational Services industry, where employment in Nebraska was 7.6 percentage points lower than in the U.S. as a whole. In contrast, the U.S. Manufacturing industry employment was 3.6 percentage points higher, and Finance and Insurance industry was 2.9 percentage points higher.

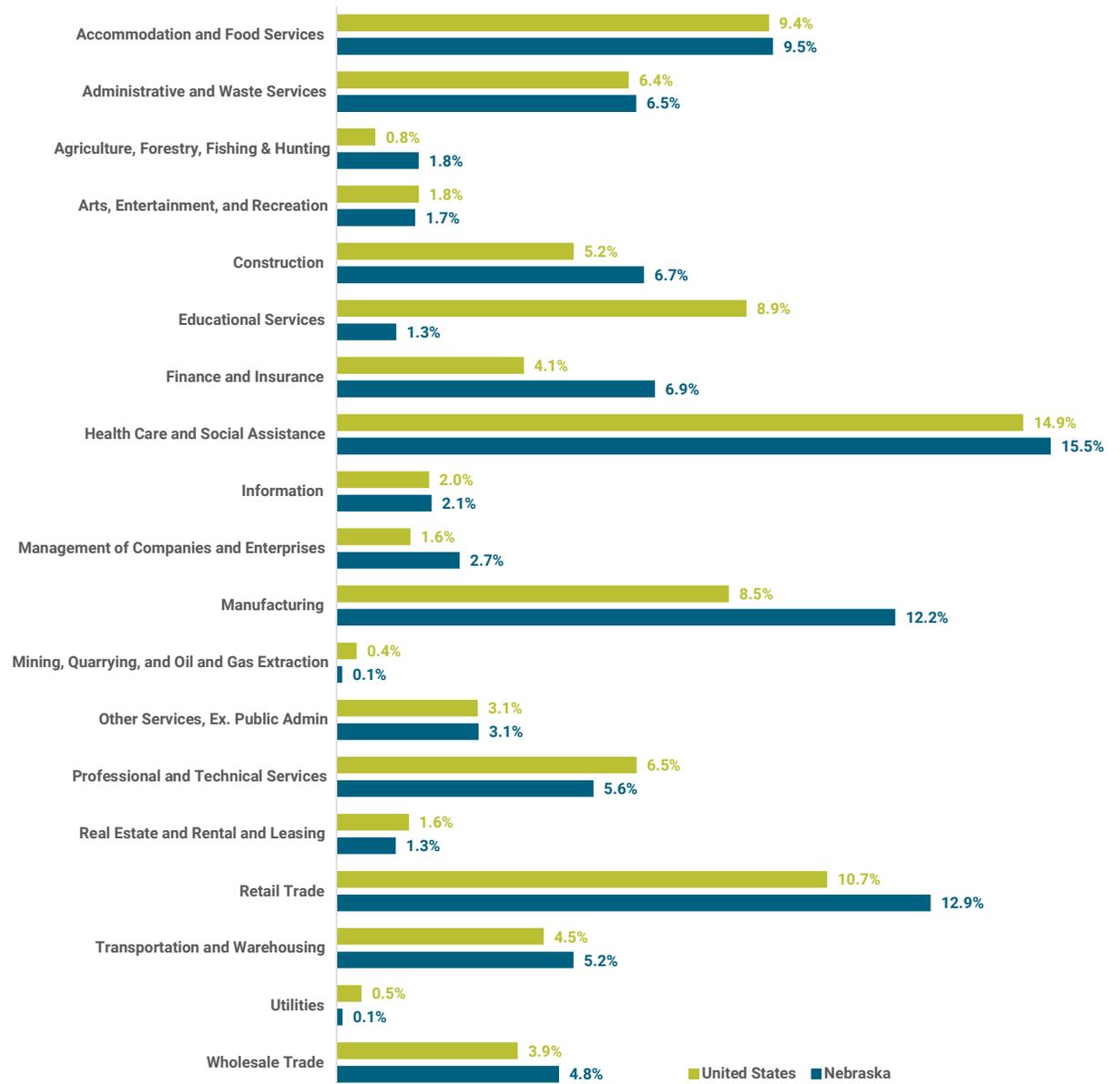
How to use it

Data on employment by industry can be used to identify industries that are critical to a region's economy. A region's critical industries may account for a large portion of its economic output as well as its employment. Economic developers may be interested in industry concentration and employment when considering a region's potential for economic expansion. Industry employment can also signal to businesses whether or not a region has the infrastructure necessary to support their expansion.

Where to find it

Data on industry employment is available at bls.gov/cew. Go to Tools and Tutorials on the left navigation pane, then select QCEW Data Viewer.

Industries' Share of Total NE & US Employment 2018



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, released 2019

Location Quotients

Location quotients provide one way of comparing a state's employment by industry with that of the nation as a whole. A location quotient greater than 1 indicates that the state has a higher concentration of employment in that industry than the nation as a whole, while a location quotient of less than 1 indicates that the nation has a higher percentage of employment within that industry than the state.

In 2019, the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting industry had the highest location quotient in Nebraska, at 1.81. The next highest was the Finance and Insurance industry, at 1.45. The Educational Services Industry (.54), Utilities Industry (.30) and the Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction industry (.24) had the state's lowest location quotients.

The location quotients of Nebraska's Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting and its Administrative and Waste Services industry saw the greatest positive change since 2014. Nebraska's location quotients fell during this time period for the Transportation and Warehousing, Utilities, Professional and Technical Services, Wholesale Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance, Arts Entertainment, and Recreation industries.

How to use it

Along with data on employment by industry, location quotients can help identify industries that drive a region's economy. Industries with high location quotients and a large proportion of employment are likely to contribute heavily to a region's economic activity. Location quotients can also help identify industries that are likely to export goods and services to other regions. Industries with high location quotients likely export goods and services to other regions and draw in revenue, while industries with low location quotients are more likely to primarily support in-region consumers.

Location Quotients by Industry 2014 – 2019

Industry	2014	2019	Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1.65	1.81	0.16
Finance and insurance	1.42	1.45	0.04
Management of companies and enterprises	1.38	1.42	0.03
Manufacturing	1.18	1.22	0.04
Transportation and warehousing	1.33	1.14	-0.2
Construction	1.11	1.13	0.02
Wholesale trade	1.08	1.04	-0.03
Retail trade	1.03	1.03	0
Health care and social assistance	1	0.97	-0.03
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	0.94	0.93	-0.01
Information	0.92	0.92	0
Administrative and waste services	0.81	0.88	0.07
Accommodation and food services	0.86	0.87	0.01
Other services, except public administration	0.87	0.86	-0.01
Professional and technical services	0.77	0.74	-0.04
Real estate and rental and leasing	0.66	0.71	0.05
Educational services	0.54	0.54	0.01
Utilities	0.34	0.3	-0.04
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	0.19	0.24	0.05

Note: Location Quotients were calculated by dividing the state's industry employment ratio (industry employment as a percent of total employment) by the nation's industry employment ratio. Industries ordered by alphabetically.

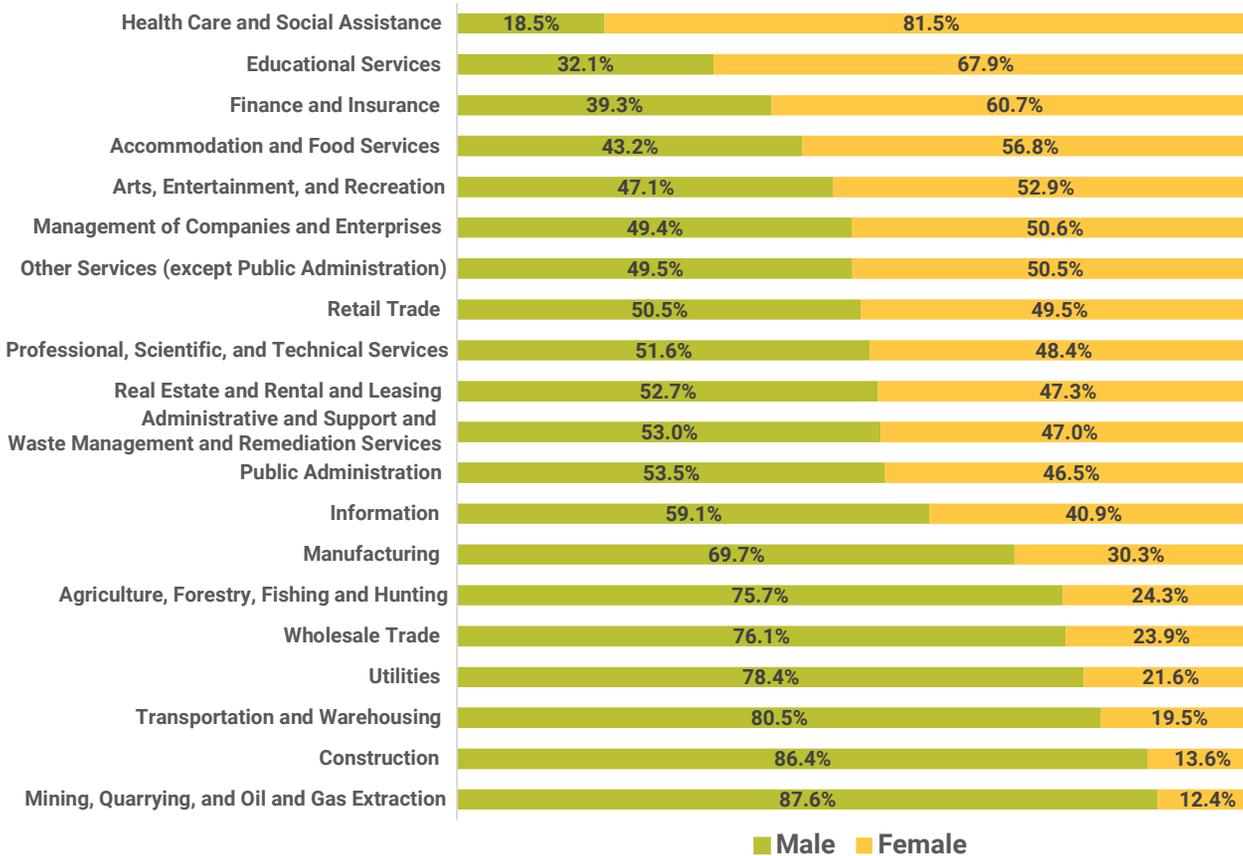
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, released 2020

Where to find it

The Bureau of Labor Statistics provides data location quotients. Go to [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under Subjects, select State and County Employment, and then use the QCEW Data Viewer.

Gender Distribution

Gender Distribution by Industry Q3 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, released 2020

Where to find it

The Longitudinal Employment-Household Dynamics program from the U.S. Census provides data on employee gender by industry at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select QWI Explorer.

In 2019, the Nebraska industries with the highest concentrations of male employees were mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction (87.6%); construction (86.4%); and transportation and warehousing (80.5%).

Health care and social assistance had the highest concentration of female employees (81.5%), followed by the educational services industry (67.9%), and the finance and insurance industry (60.7%).

The most even distribution of male and female employees was found in the retail trade industry, where there was a 50.5% male to 49.5% female split, and other services except public administration (49.5% male, 50.5% female). Other industries with near-even divisions were professional, scientific, and technical services (51.6% male, 48.4% female); management of companies and enterprises (49.4% male, 50.6% female); and other services except public administration (49.5% male, 50.5% female).

How to use it

Data on gender distribution can help employers identify whether they might want to recruit more women or men in order to take advantage of a labor pool that may remain largely untapped within their industry. Schools and training programs may also use industry gender distribution data to study social dynamics within labor markets and to prepare students to enter industries where they might be underrepresented.

Unionization

Public sector (government) workers were the most likely to be unionized. Nationally, 33.6% of public sector workers were represented by unions in 2019. Public sector workers made up almost half of all union representation nationwide, though they made up just 14.8% of the country's total workforce.

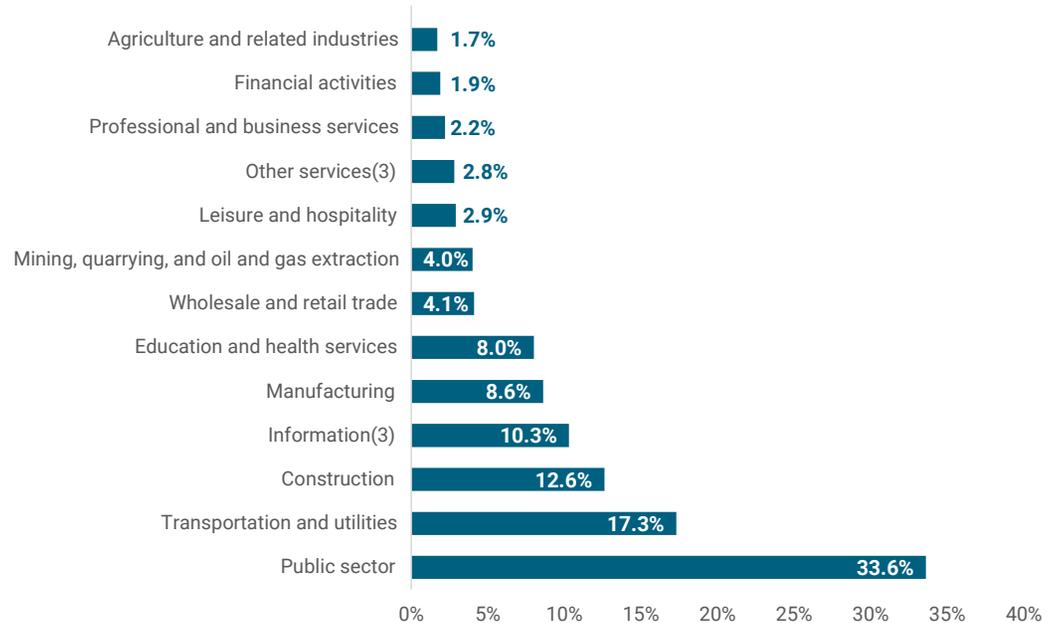
The transportation and utilities industry had the nation's highest private-sector union representation rate at 17.3%, followed by the construction industry at 12.6%. The industries with the lowest rates of union representation were financial activities (1.9%) and agriculture and related industries (1.7%).

In 2019, 8.6% of Nebraska workers were members of unions, and 9.6% were represented by unions. This was lower than the overall national unionization rate. Nationally, 10.3% of workers were union members in 2019, and 11.6% were represented by unions. Since 2008, the number of Nebraska workers who are union members has increased by 0.1 percentage points, while the number who are represented by unions has declined by 1.1 percentage points.

How to use it

For workers who are interested in union membership, unionization data can highlight industries that are the most likely to offer jobs with the option to join a union. Nationally, median weekly earnings for union members were 22.8% higher than for non-union members. Businesses, policymakers, and other stakeholders may also be interested in the state's unionization rate.

US Unionization Rates by Industry 2019*



*Includes employed wage and salary workers age 16 and over. Industries ordered by rank (low to high).

NE Union Membership & Representation 2008 – 2018

Nebraska	2008	2019
Total Employed	840,000	894,000
Total Union Members	70,000	75,000
Percent Union Members	8.3%	8.4%
Total Represented by Unions	90,000	86,000
Percent Represented by Unions	10.7%	9.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Union Members Summary, released 2020

Where to find it

Data on unionization is available at [bls.gov](https://www.bls.gov). Under Economic Releases, select Quarterly, Annual, and Other under the Employment & Unemployment subheading. Then select Union Members.

Local Employment Dynamics

Quarterly Workforce Indicators by Industry Sector 2019

Industry	Employment	New Hires	Separations	Turnover	Jobs Created	Net Job Change	Avg. Monthly Earnings	
							All Workers	New Hires
All NAICS Sectors	960,525	155,263	157,252	8.2%	61,790	-16,447	\$3,991	\$2,685
Accommodation and Food Services	78,224	27,177	26,528	16.2%	7,047	-2,642	\$1,554	\$1,164
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	51,545	21,034	20,774	14.4%	6,000	-670	\$3,549	\$2,737
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	13,598	2,320	2,204	8.4%	1,661	155	\$3,524	\$3,070
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14,763	5,897	4,161	13.0%	6,102	-285	\$1,700	\$1,145
Construction	51,439	13,404	10,346	8.2%	8,827	-456	\$4,499	\$3,935
Educational Services	92,870	4,389	12,001	4.9%	928	-4,592	\$3,739	\$1,811
Finance and Insurance	57,351	4,025	3,714	4.7%	1,569	-49	\$5,793	\$3,944
Health Care and Social Assistance	142,988	16,373	17,382	8.0%	4,843	-1,812	\$4,055	\$2,558
Information	17,542	1,502	1,523	6.2%	603	-155	\$5,173	\$3,855
Management of Companies and Enterprises	21,994	2,164	2,117	6.0%	651	-180	\$6,258	\$3,890
Manufacturing	102,083	9,930	10,271	5.6%	2,399	-687	\$4,484	\$3,471
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	1,053	142	133	6.4%	131	-10	\$5,352	\$3,694
Other Services (except Public Administration)	25,367	4,116	4,171	9.9%	1,858	-200	\$2,881	\$2,037
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	46,185	5,153	5,704	7.1%	2,511	-537	\$5,742	\$4,212
Public Administration	41,660	5,510	3,256	5.1%	7,046	145	\$3,716	\$2,545
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,330	1,634	1,453	9.1%	883	-16	\$3,633	\$2,755
Retail Trade	103,436	18,243	19,568	9.9%	4,432	-4,185	\$2,540	\$1,806
Transportation and Warehousing	41,328	7,989	8,005	10.4%	1,904	-258	\$4,010	\$3,462
Utilities	7,327	311	209	1.9%	210	-41	\$7,962	\$4,513
Wholesale Trade	39,442	3,948	3,732	6.1%	2,171	131	\$5,293	\$4,283

Industries ordered alphabetically.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, QWI Explorer, released 2020

Where to find it

Quarterly Workforce Indicators are available at lehd.ces.census.gov. Under Applications, select LED Extraction Tool, or select QWI Explorer.

Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) data provide information on employment, job creation, separations, average monthly earnings, and other labor market statistics. The chart on the left shows data by industry, but QWI also provides labor market data by worker demographic (e.g., gender, age, education) and business characteristics (e.g., firm size, firm age).

Nearly all industries in Nebraska saw a net decrease in jobs in 2019. The only industries experiencing net increases were Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting; Wholesale Trade; and Public Administration.

The average turnover rate for all Nebraska industries combined was 8.2%. Turnover is the rate at which stable jobs begin and end. It provides a way to identify industries with the most 'churn' of employees. Accommodation and food services had the highest turnover rate at 16.2%, while utilities had the lowest at 1.9%.

How to use it

QWI data reveal the flow of employment throughout local industries and businesses. This allows economic stakeholders to track changes in stable employment, job creation, and earnings, which can be used to identify growing and declining industries and examine how businesses and workers may be reacting to economic conditions. Businesses can also use turnover data to calculate the cost of training and replacing workers, which may influence a business developer's decisions regarding where to locate or expand.

Business Employment Dynamics

Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) tracks changes in private sector employment at the business level. The chart to the right shows quarterly job gains and losses in Nebraska throughout the past 10 years.

In 2019, Nebraska saw an average of approximately 47,542 jobs gained each quarter, surpassing the average quarterly job losses of about 46,031. Job gains represented an average of 5.8% of total employment per quarter in 2019, and job losses also represented an average of 5.7%.

Over the last 10 years, Nebraska's number of jobs gained per quarter has typically exceeded the number of jobs lost. Most of the exceptions to this trend were in the second and fourth quarters of 2016 and the second and third quarters of 2017, although the losses experienced were usually offset the following quarter.

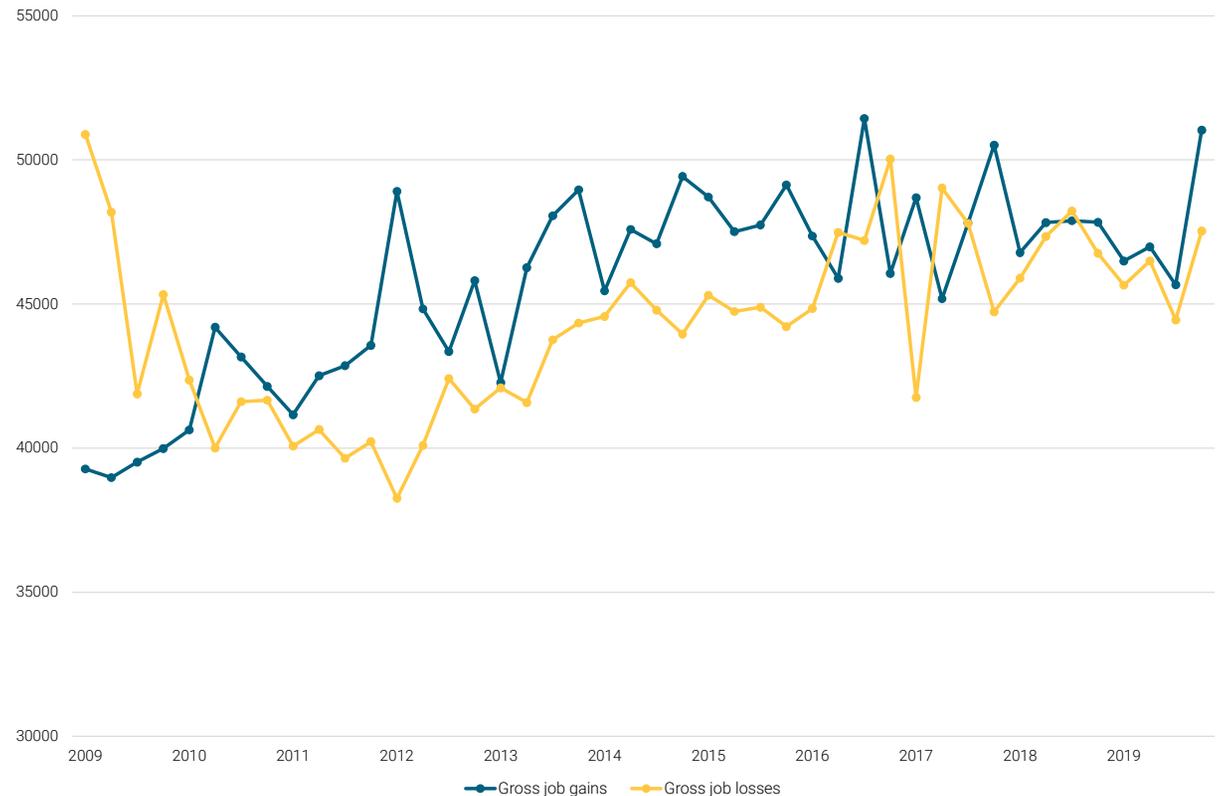
How to use it

Business Employment Dynamics data on job gains and losses allow examination of the components that underlie aggregate employment change. These data can identify shifts in demand for workers and predict future employment trends. Quarterly data on job gains and losses can also be used to track changes and identify trends in employment throughout the business cycle.

Where to find it

Data on job gains and losses are published through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics program, available at bls.gov/bdm.

Job Gains & Losses by Quarter 2009 – 2019

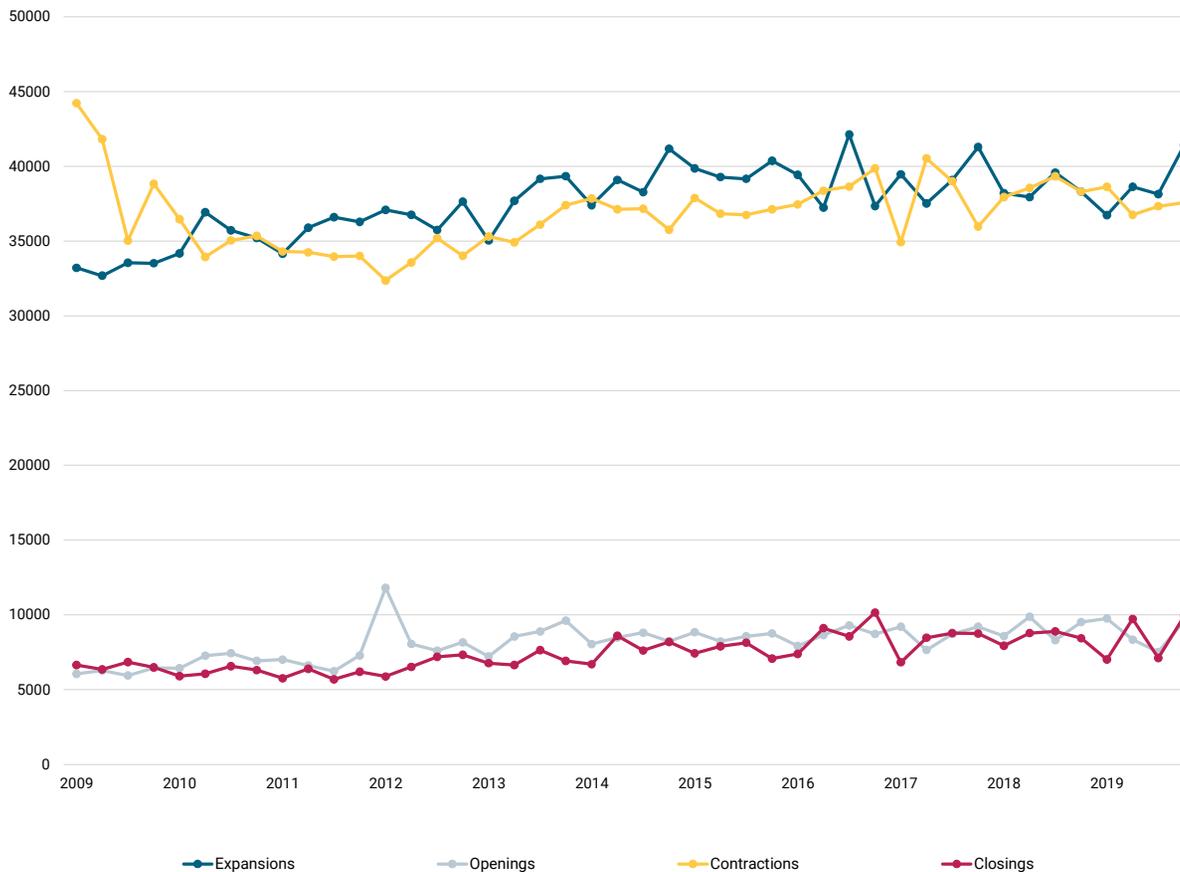


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics, released 2020

Business Employment Dynamics

Expansions & Contractions

Job Gains & Losses by Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) Components 2009 – 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Business Employment Dynamics, released 2020

Where to find it

Data on job gains and losses are published through the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Business Employment Dynamics program, available at bls.gov/bdm.

The chart breaks down Business Employment Dynamics (BDM) data on total jobs gained and lost in Nebraska by the various BDM components. The components for job gains are business expansions and openings, and the components for job losses are business contractions and closings.

Business expansions and contractions accounted for most of Nebraska's job gains and losses over the past eight years. In 2019, expansions accounted for 81.4% of jobs gained, while contractions accounted for 81.7% of jobs lost.

In most quarters from 2009-2019, Nebraska saw net job gains, as the number of jobs created through business openings and expansions slightly exceeded jobs lost due to business closings and contractions. The exceptions to this trend were in the second and fourth quarters of 2016, the second and third quarters of 2017, the third quarter of 2018 and the first quarter of 2019. Nebraska has experienced overall annual job growth during every year from 2010-2017.

How to use it

The components of job gains and losses can illustrate the dynamics underlying employment change. The data show that, while business openings and closings can often create thousands of job gains and losses per quarter, most gains and losses result from expansions and contractions. These data track changes in employment at the business establishment level, providing a closer look at the factors driving net employment change.



PROJECTIONS

Long-term Industry	page 56
Long-term Occupational	page 57
Job Growth by Region	page 58
Occupation by Industry	page 59
Employment Change by Education Level	page 60
H3 Occupations	page 61

Long-Term

NE Employment Projections by Industry 2016 – 2026

Industry	2018 Annual Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Change in Employment 2018-2028	Percent Change 2018-2028	Compound Annual Growth Rate
Total	1,131,232	1,193,633	62,401	5.52%	0.54%
Health Care and Social Assistance	144,626	161,318	16,692	11.54%	1.10%
Educational Services (including state and local gov)	103,115	108,863	5,748	5.57%	0.54%
Retail Trade	107,790	107,272	-518	-0.48%	-0.05%
Manufacturing	99,287	103,915	4,628	4.66%	0.46%
Accommodation and Food Services	77,658	81,807	4,149	5.34%	0.52%
Government	68,653	69,752	1,099	1.60%	0.16%
Finance and Insurance	65,625	69,203	3,578	5.45%	0.53%
Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing	57,451	60,274	2,823	4.91%	0.48%
Construction	52,153	56,350	4,197	8.05%	0.78%
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	51,810	54,639	2,829	5.46%	0.53%
Transportation and Warehousing	51,600	54,432	2,832	5.49%	0.54%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	45,364	50,534	5,170	11.40%	1.09%
Wholesale Trade	40,458	41,600	1,142	2.82%	0.28%
Other Services (except Government)	37,169	38,201	1,032	2.78%	0.27%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	21,102	21,946	844	4.00%	0.39%
Information	17,699	18,016	317	1.79%	0.18%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	14,894	16,707	1,813	12.17%	1.16%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	10,050	10,748	698	6.95%	0.67%
Utilities (private + state + local)	7,589	7,680	91	1.20%	0.12%
Mining	1,081	1,142	61	5.64%	0.55%

Industries ordered by 2028 projected employment, from largest to smallest.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Where to find it

Long-term industry projections are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at networks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center.

The Nebraska Department of Labor calculates long-term employment projections by industry using historical employment data and current economic indicators. Statewide, employment in all industries is projected to increase by 5.5% from 2018-2028. The projected compound annual growth rate, or year-over-year growth rate, for all Nebraska industries is 0.5%.

Statewide, the health care and social assistance industry is projected to add the most jobs by 2028: approximately 16,692 new jobs, a 11.5% increase. The arts, entertainment and recreation industry is projected to see the highest percentage of employment growth at 12.2%, representing an increase of almost 1,813 jobs. Professional, scientific, and technical services industry is also projected to see a 11.4% increase in jobs by 2028, and 8.1% growth is expected in the construction industry.

The only Nebraska industry expected to experience decreasing employment through 2028 is retail trade, with a projected loss of 518 jobs, or -0.5%.

How to use it

Long-term industry projections can identify industries that are expected to see significant employment growth or decline over the next 10 years. This information can be useful to businesses considering their long-term goals, educators reviewing curricula, and students planning their careers and educational paths. It is important to remember that industries with the largest percentage growth projected over the next 10 years may not necessarily be the same industries that add the largest total number of jobs.

The Nebraska Department of Labor calculates long-term occupational projections by combining industry projections with staffing patterns from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics program. This combination reveals the occupational employment ratios within industries and forms the basis for long-term occupational projections.

Nebraska's overall occupational employment is projected to increase by 5.5% from 2018 to 2028. The occupational groups projected to have the largest employment growth by percentage are healthcare support occupations (12.7%), computer and mathematical occupations (12.0%), and healthcare practitioners and technical occupations (11.5%). Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations are also projected to see the largest numeric change, adding 8,209 jobs.

Office and administrative support occupations are projected to decrease in employment -0.3% from 2018-2028.

How to use it

Long-term occupational projections can help predict future areas of occupational growth and decline. Students can use this information to inform their education and career planning choices. Occupational projections may be more useful than projections by industry to students and job seekers who are interested in particular jobs, as industry projections can only provide information on total job growth across an industry as a whole. Educators can also use occupational employment projections to direct students towards fields of study and occupations with promising future work opportunities.

NE Employment Projections by Occupation 2018 – 2028

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Avg Annual Openings
Total, All Occupations	1,131,232	1,193,633	62,401	5.52%	138,727
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Management	71,681	79,890	8,209	11.45%	5,037
Food Preparation and Serving Related	69,026	74,606	5,580	8.08%	6,700
Transportation and Material Moving	84,752	90,064	5,312	6.27%	15,605
Business and Financial Operations	85,458	90,606	5,148	6.02%	11,309
Construction and Extraction	56,882	61,266	4,384	7.71%	5,962
Computer and Mathematical	52,964	56,945	3,981	7.52%	6,389
Healthcare Support	33,050	37,007	3,957	11.97%	2,943
Education, Training, and Library	30,255	34,106	3,851	12.73%	4,044
Personal Care and Service	66,851	70,516	3,665	5.48%	6,484
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	37,131	40,468	3,337	8.99%	6,084
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	45,314	48,380	3,066	6.77%	4,861
Production	35,037	37,635	2,598	7.42%	4,986
Sales and Related	80,284	82,581	2,297	2.86%	9,748
Community and Social Service	106,042	108,013	1,971	1.86%	14,993
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	16,537	17,983	1,446	8.74%	1,980
Architecture and Engineering	36,347	37,543	1,196	3.29%	6,107
Life, Physical, and Social Science	13,249	14,281	1,032	7.79%	1,224
Legal	8,317	9,000	683	8.21%	952
Protective Service	6,187	6,741	554	8.95%	490
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	15,542	15,978	436	2.81%	1,826
Office and Administrative Support	15,847	16,104	257	1.62%	1,782
	164,479	163,920	-559	-0.34%	19,223

Occupations ordered by 2028 projected employment, from largest to smallest.

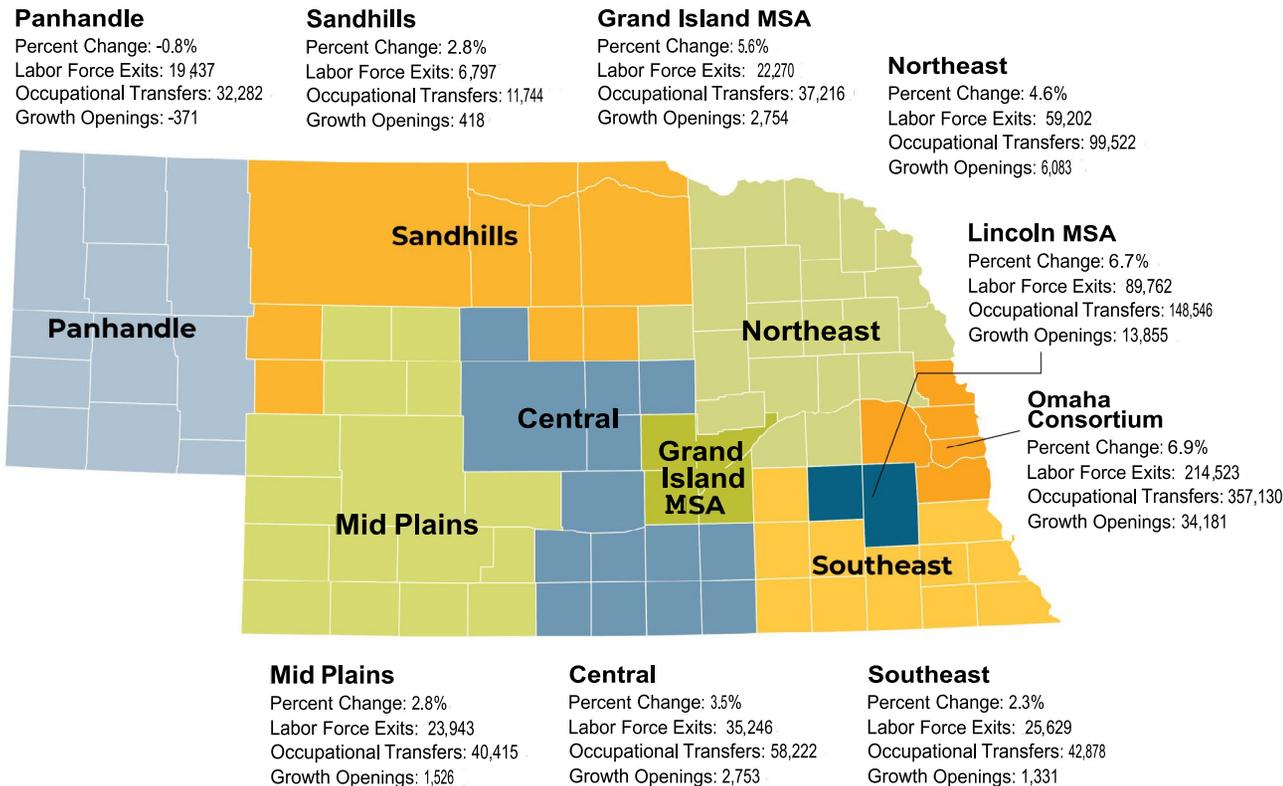
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Where to find it

Occupational projections are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center.

Job Growth

NE Employment Projections by Economic Development Region 2018 – 2028



The map to the left shows Nebraska's 2018-2028 projected employment growth by economic region. These data also provide an estimate of the number of job openings in each region expected due to exits, transfers, and growth. Nebraska's statewide projected employment growth rate of 5.5% is slightly higher than the 5.2% overall employment growth rate projected for the United States as a whole.

The Omaha Consortium and the Lincoln and Grand Island MSAs, the locations of Nebraska's most populous cities, are expected experience a faster job growth than the other regions in the state. Jobs in the Omaha Consortium and the Lincoln and Grand Island MSAs are projected to increase by 6.7%-6.9%, compared to projected employment growth rates between -0.8%-5.6% for Nebraska's other economic regions.

The Omaha Consortium is expected to experience the state's largest employment increase, at 6.9%. Employment in the Panhandle economic region is projected to decrease by -0.8%.

How to use it

Regional job growth data can reveal which regions of the state are expected to undergo the greatest job growth and economic expansion. Economic developers, educational institutions, and businesses can use this information to plan and prepare for the future. Students and job seekers may also use this information to determine which regions might be most suitable to their career and personal goals.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Where to find it

Occupational projections are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at networks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center. National projections are available at bls.gov/emp.

Occupation

The table to the right details which specific occupations employ the most Nebraska workers in each industry, based on 2018 estimates, as well as the outlook projected for that occupation and industry through 2028.

The table also shows the percentage of all jobs in an industry that are composed of its largest occupation, as well as the percentage of all workers in each occupation who work in the listed industry. For example, in the education and health services industry, 11.6% of all workers are registered nurses, and 89.3% of all registered nurses work in the education and health services industry.

The occupation and industry grouping with the highest projected growth rate is food preparation and serving workers in the leisure and hospitality industry, which are expected to increase by 12.9% through 2028. This is more than twice Nebraska's 5.5% overall projected growth rate for all occupations.

Retail Salespersons are projected to see the smallest growth rate through 2028. Their employment in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry is expected to increase by 0.2%.

How to use it

It is not always obvious which industries employ the largest numbers of workers in any given occupation. These data can be useful to better understand what sorts of jobs might be available within different industries. Job seekers, dislocated workers, and students can use this information to identify industries that are likely to have suitable employment opportunities, as well as to determine the occupational outlook of jobs that interest them.

Where to find it

Occupational projections within industries are published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Employment and Wage Data, then select Industry Data, followed by Staffing Patterns.

NE Employment Projections by Industry & Occupation 2018 – 2028

Industry	Largest Occupation	2018	2028	% Change	2018 %	2018 %
		Est. Employment	Projected Employment		% of Industry Workers within Occupation	% of Occupational Workers in Industry
Total All Industries	Total, All Occupations	1,131,232	1,193,633	5.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Education and Health Services	Registered Nurses	23,589	26,317	11.6%	9.5%	89.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Retail Salespersons	25,989	26,043	0.2%	12.5%	91.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	19,231	21,704	12.9%	20.8%	79.1%
Natural Resources and Mining	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	17,731	17,779	0.3%	30.3%	97.1%
Manufacturing	Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	9,485	10,145	7.0%	9.6%	96.0%
Construction	Carpenters	6,993	7,424	6.2%	13.4%	64.8%
Professional and Business Services	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	6,264	6,845	9.3%	5.3%	39.2%
Financial Activities	Customer Service Representatives	6,122	6,139	0.3%	8.1%	29.2%
Self Employed and Unpaid Family Workers, All Jobs	Childcare Workers	3,169	3,298	4.1%	5.7%	25.0%
Government	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	2,928	3,031	3.5%	4.3%	96.4%
Other Services (except Government)	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	2,055	2,201	7.1%	5.5%	53.2%
Information	Telecommunications Equipment Installers and Repairers, Except Line Installers	1,193	1,323	10.9%	6.7%	73.3%

Occupations ordered by 2028 projected employment, from largest to smallest.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

Projected Employment Change

NE Employment Projections by Education Level 2018 – 2028

Education	2018 Est. Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	% Change	Avg. Annual Openings
Doctoral or professional degree	28,876	31,220	2,344	8.1%	1,911
Master's degree	16,653	18,602	1,949	11.7%	1,584
Bachelor's degree	233,525	253,249	19,724	8.4%	21,994
Associate degree	22,879	25,090	2,211	9.7%	2,338
Postsecondary non-degree award	82,688	89,187	6,499	7.9%	9,750
Some college, no degree	32,420	33,233	813	2.5%	3,609
High school diploma or equivalent	441,134	457,801	16,667	3.8%	53,242
No formal educational credential	273,057	285,251	12,194	4.5%	44,299

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released July 2020

How to use it

Data on occupational projections by education level show that Nebraska employers are likely to require a more highly-educated workforce in the future. Students and job seekers can use this insight to make informed decisions and choose educational paths that lead to promising employment opportunities. Educators, vocational coaches, and school officials can also use this information to ensure they are providing training that will help students achieve their goals and meet future workforce needs.

The Nebraska Department of Labor's projections program also produces occupational projections by education level. From 2018-2028, occupations requiring a master's degree are expected to see 11.7% growth in Nebraska, the largest of any educational attainment category. Occupations requiring an associate degree are second, with a 9.7% projected growth rate through 2028. All occupations requiring a post-secondary non-degree award or greater are projected to increase by at least 7.9%. Occupations requiring a high school diploma or less are projected to increase at a rate of 2.5%-4.5%. The slowest growth is expected in occupations requiring some college, no degree, at 2.5%.

Although occupations requiring a high school education or less are not projected to increase as rapidly as occupations requiring higher levels of educational attainment, jobs for high school graduates and below are nevertheless expected to have the most total annual openings through 2028. These occupations are projected to have an average of approximately 44,299-53,242 job openings annually, followed by occupations requiring a bachelor's degree, where about 21,994 annual openings are expected in Nebraska.

Where to find it

Information on occupational projections by education is published by the Nebraska Department of Labor, available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center, and choose Occupational Employment Projections.

H3 Occupations

'H3 occupations' refers to jobs considered excellent career options due to their high scores in three important categories: having high projected demand in the local labor market, requiring a highly skilled workforce, and offering a high typical rate of pay. The table to the right lists H3 occupations in Nebraska and their statewide annual median wages as of the fourth quarter of 2019.

The Nebraska Department of Labor classifies and ranks occupations as "H3" based on comparisons of level of future labor market demand, skill and training requirements, and typical wages. The number of projected annual openings, net change in employment, and growth rate determine whether an occupation can be considered 'High Demand.' A 'High Skill' rating means that the occupation requires workers to obtain a minimum of a high school diploma and at least some postsecondary education and/or long-term on-the-job training to qualify. 'High Wage' ratings are assigned when an occupation's wage equals or exceeds the region's overall wage for all occupations in at least four out of eight wage categories. An occupation must be High Wage, High Skill and High Demand to be classified as an H3 occupation.

Nebraska's top three H3 occupations in 2019 were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (\$45,773 annual median wage), followed by registered nurses (\$65,681 annual median wage), and general and operations managers (\$83,820 annual median wage). Most of the top 20 H3 occupations require some form of postsecondary education, and more than half require a bachelor's degree.

Top 20 H3 Occupations in NE by Avg. Annual Openings

RANK	Occupation	Median Annual Wage	Avg. Annual Openings	Education, Experience & Training
1	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$41,275	3,438	Postsecondary Non-Degree Award, Short-Term On-The-Job Training
2	Registered Nurses	\$60,861	1,600	Bachelor's Degree
3	General & Operations Managers	\$85,379	1,476	Bachelor's Degree, 5 Years or More
4	Carpenters	\$37,052	1,288	High School Diploma or Equivalent, Apprenticeship
5	Accountants & Auditors	\$61,047	1,082	Bachelor's Degree
6	Software Developers, Applications	\$89,141	534	Bachelor's Degree
7	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	\$55,931	865	Bachelor's Degree
8	Electricians	\$47,021	703	High School Diploma or Equivalent, Apprenticeship
9	Plumbers, Pipefitters, & Steamfitters	\$53,015	658	High School Diploma or Equivalent, Apprenticeship
10	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Technical Education	\$55,780	629	Bachelor's Degree
11	Licensed Practical & Licensed Vocational Nurses	\$41,366	477	Postsecondary Non-Degree Award
12	Business Operations Specialists, All Other	\$71,831	542	Bachelor's Degree
13	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	\$55,636	442	Bachelor's Degree
14	Human Resources Specialists	\$56,015	488	Bachelor's Degree
15	Loan Officers	\$73,839	346	Bachelor's Degree, Moderate-Term On-the-Job Training
16	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	\$38,945	521	Postsecondary Non-Degree Award, Short-Term On-The-Job Training
17	Machinists	\$41,063	458	High School Diploma or Equivalent, Long-Term On-The-Job Training
18	Computer User Support Specialists	\$45,158	375	Some College, No Degree
19	Financial Managers	\$118,336	299	Bachelor's Degree, 5 Years or More
20	Medical & Health Services Managers	\$94,633	326	Bachelor's Degree, Less Than 5 Years

Sources: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, Workforce Information Grant Unit, released August 2020
Wage data from Occupational Employment Statistics, 4th Quarter 2019

How to use it

The classification of jobs into H3 occupations provides a way to identify in-demand occupations that offer highly competitive wages. H3 data may be especially useful for job seekers who have been laid off and are embarking on new careers, as well as students and career counselors who want to identify educational programs that may lead to strong job prospects. Educational institutions can also use H3 data to ensure they are providing programs that will produce skilled graduates who can fill openings for in-demand occupations.

Where to find it

Information on Nebraska's H3 occupations is available at neworks.nebraska.gov. Under Labor Market Information, select Labor Market Analysis. Then, under Labor Market Data, select Data Download Center, and choose High Wage, High Skill, High Demand (H3) Occupations.

Area Definitions



Area Definitions

The geographic regions used in Nebraska Department of Labor's Economic Insight and Outlook publication are defined below. In 2013, Nebraska added a metropolitan statistical area (MSA) and several of its micropolitan statistical areas (MCs) were revised. The state also revised its economic regions, adding the Grand Island MSA and the Sandhills economic regions.

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

The federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas for the purpose of compiling and releasing federal data. The OMB defines MSAs as containing an urban core and a population of over 50,000. The OMB defines MCs as containing an urban core and a population of 10,000-50,000. MSAs and MCs include counties containing the urban core as well as contiguous counties that have a high level of social and economic integration with the core (determined by commuting data).

Nebraska has three MSAs, which are shown in the uppermost map. In 2013, the Grand Island MSA of Hall, Hamilton, Howard, and Merrick Counties was created, replacing the Grand Island MC of Hall, Howard, and Merrick Counties. The Sioux City MSA includes Nebraska counties, but it is considered an Iowa MSA because its core population is located in Iowa.

There are 9 MCs in Nebraska. These MCs are shown on the second map on this page. In 2013, three Nebraska MCs were altered. Grand Island MC was eliminated and replaced with Grand Island MSA (see first map), Hastings MC dropped Clay County, and Scottsbluff MC added Sioux County.

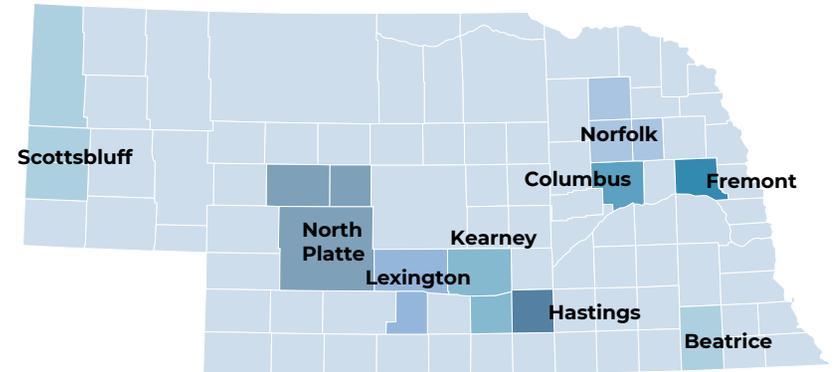
Omaha Consortium

The Omaha MSA includes eight counties: five in Nebraska and three in Iowa. The Omaha Consortium only includes the five counties in the Omaha MSA that are located in Nebraska.

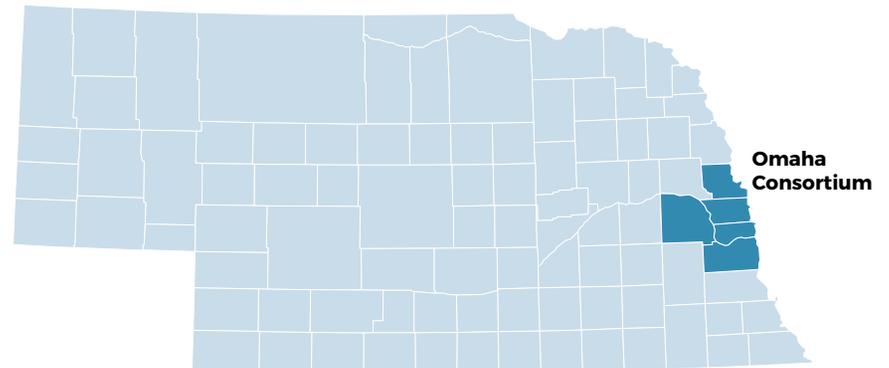
Metropolitan Statistical Areas



Micropolitan Statistical Areas



Omaha Consortium



Area Definitions

Community College Regions

There are six community college service regions in Nebraska, shown on the map to the right. The community college graduate outcomes data presented in this report are based on these community college service regions.

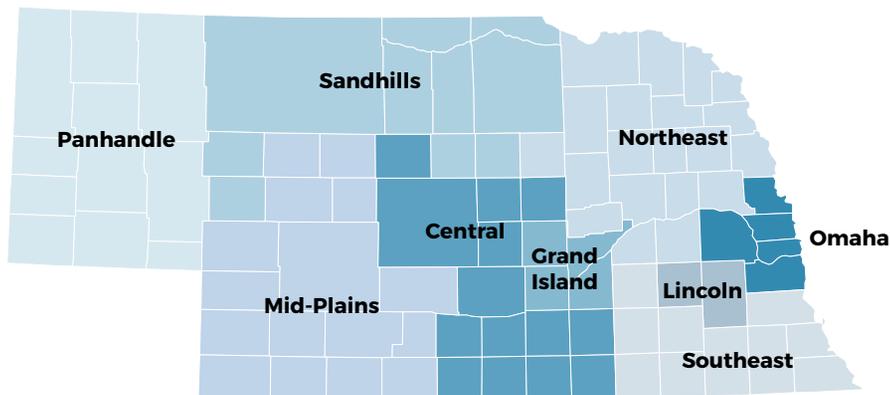
West North Central Division

The West North Central Division is a Census region that includes seven Midwestern states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri. Data for the West North Central Division is used when it is the most geographically specific data available.

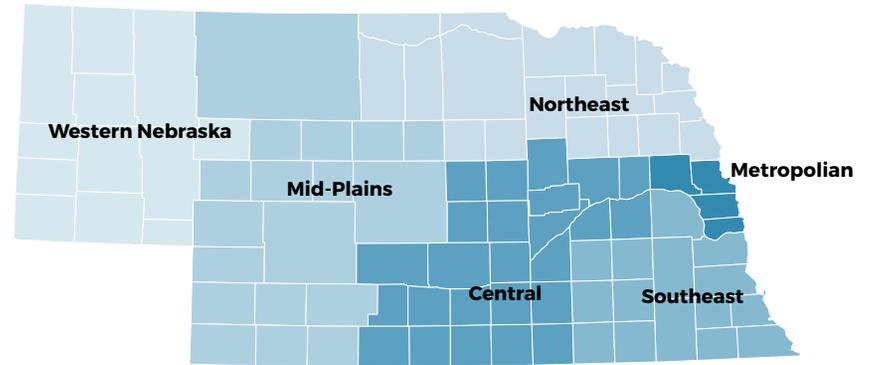
Economic Regions

There are nine economic regions in Nebraska. These regions are depicted on the map below. In 2013, Nebraska's economic regions were redrawn, and two new economic regions were added. The regions were grouped based on their level of social and economic integration, as determined by commuting data. The Grand Island MSA economic region was created out of counties formerly in the Central economic region, and the Sandhills economic region was created from counties formerly in the Mid-Plains, Central, and Northeast economic regions.

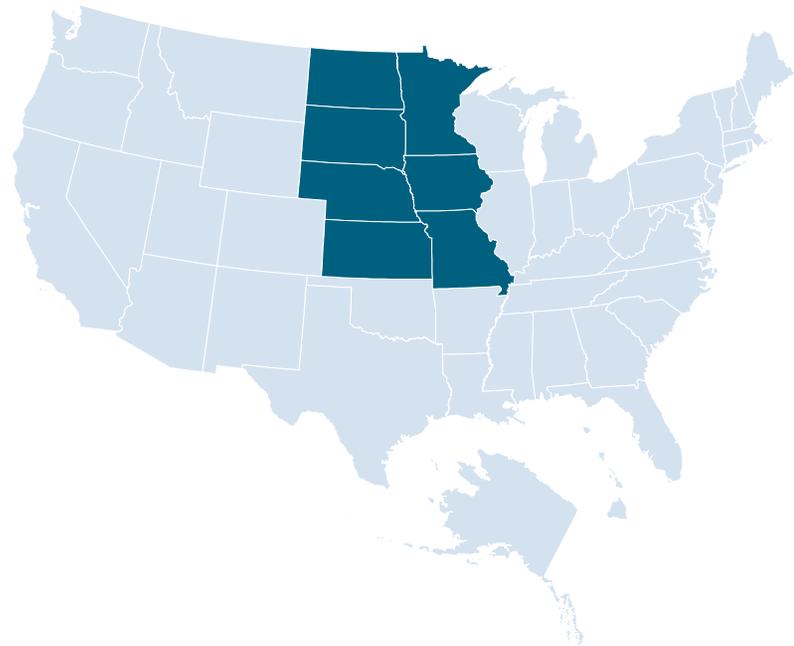
Economic Regions



Community College Regions



West North Central Division



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

John H. Albin
Commissioner of Labor

Scott Hunzeker
Research Administrator

Scott Ferguson
Research Analyst

Kermit Spade
Research Analyst

Rachel Stevens
Research Analyst

Grace Johnson
Public Information Officer/Editor

Hillary Lee
Graphic Designer

