

NEBRASKA WORKFORCE **APRIL 2012** Trends



Nebraska's Well-Being



Hiring Older Workers

Also Featuring...

Map Facts...

State Individual Income Tax

College Placement...

The Process

Fast Facts...

Earth Day

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National Projections



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GRADUATE OUTCOMES

The Process

The Graduate Outcomes in Nebraska project came about from 1999 legislation called the Workforce Investment Act. One of the elements of this legislation was called consumer reports. The idea behind these reports was to provide information on wages of recent graduates in each field of study and degree for people receiving similar education and training. This information was designed to help people make informed career decisions while keeping individual information confidential.

In addition to career planning, the information gathered and analyzed for this project is used for many purposes. Economic developers use the information to help retain and recruit businesses in the state. Educational institutions and education policy makers may seek answers from the data such as: Where are the best recruiting opportunities for employers? Do graduates from an institution tend to stay and work in the same geographic area? In which industries do graduates from a field of study tend to work in? Is there a brain drain in certain fields of study?

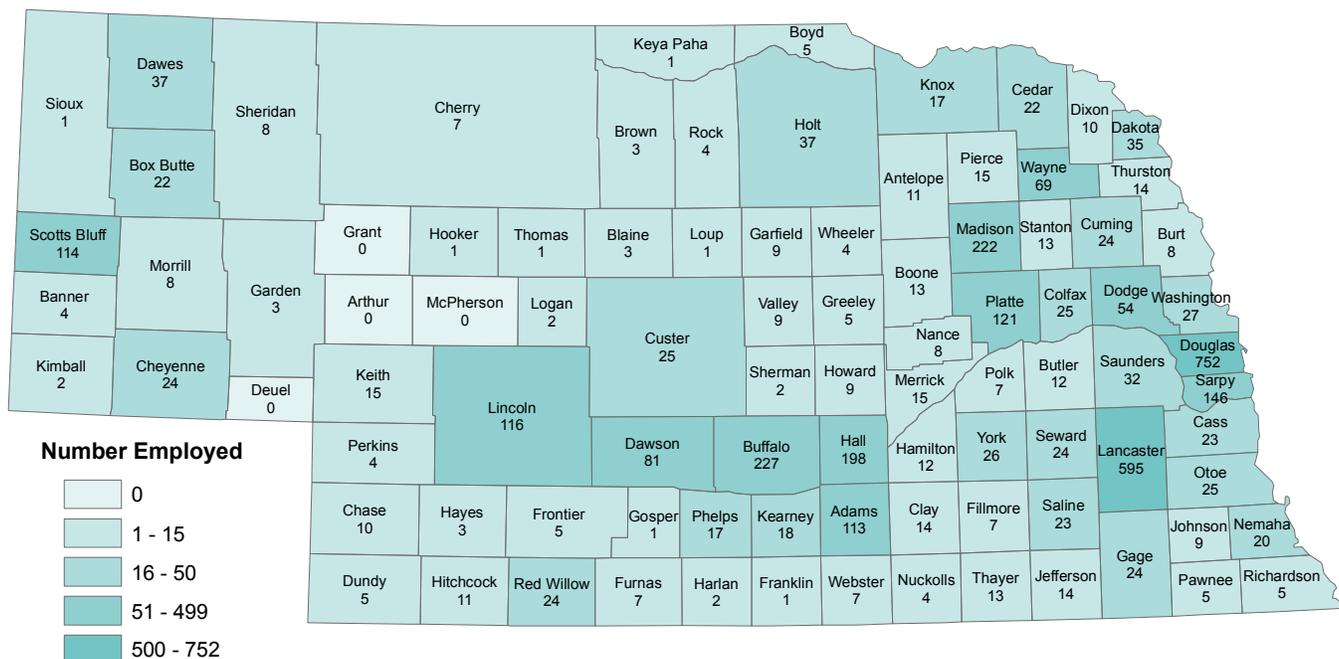
Which institutions participate in the project? Central, Metropolitan, Mid-Plains, Northeast, Southeast and Western Nebraska Community Colleges all participate. All three State Colleges, Chadron, Peru and Wayne State Colleges and the University of Nebraska – Kearney participate. At least one graduate from these institutions works in nearly every county in the state.



A frequently asked question is why this process takes so long. In order to protect individuals' identity, a one year cohort is used. Especially in today's economy, it may take a graduate six months or more to find a job in their career field, so a snapshot is taken approximately six to nine months after graduation. If a person starts work on April 1, 2012 they may not appear in the administrative database until August or later. Additional information is added to the reports and this is not available until September or later. In the end, more complete information is attained by waiting to give graduates time to find a job in their career field, to be recorded in the Department of Labor's records, and for analysis of the data.

What's in the future? In addition to information on graduates working in Nebraska, in the near future we may be able to get information on people working in other states, in the military, federal government and for the Post Office. This will give a more complete picture of where graduates are employed and how much they are earning.

**2008-2009 All Participating Colleges
Working in Nebraska in First Quarter 2010**



Nebraska's Well-Being

JACOB LIUDAHL, RESEARCH ANALYST

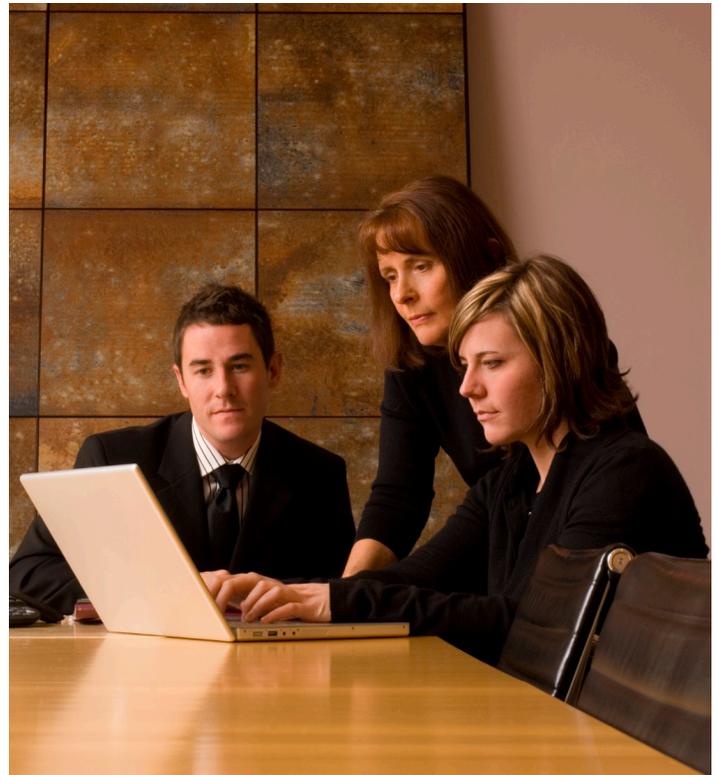


In terms of well-being, Nebraska is among the nation's best. According to the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index, Nebraska was the eighth best state in the nation for overall well-being in 2011, up from tenth in 2010. The Well-Being Index is a daily survey comprised of six different factors: Life Evaluation, Emotional Health, Physical Health, Healthy Behaviors, Work Environment, and Basic Access to necessities. The 2011 results are an average of the year's data, with geographies broken down by state, Metropolitan Statistical Area, and Congressional district.

The nationwide results of the Well-Being Index indicated there are regions of the country that are better off than others are. Hawaii took the top spot on the list, followed by North Dakota and Minnesota. West Virginia scored last place in the composite rankings. The upper-Midwest and Rocky Mountain states fared much better than the rest of the country, with seven of the top ten states in the nation coming out of this area. The South and "Rust Belt" had the lowest ranked states. If you floated from the source of the Ohio River to the Gulf of Mexico, you would see seven of the bottom ten states along the way and not pass through a single state (out of the 11 bordering the river) in the top half of the rankings.

Aside from geographic differences, other interesting national trends have come out of the data. Gallup's analysis indicated that unemployed workers with long job searches had a lower

sense of well-being than others surveyed. Workers who reported "College towns" generally ranked highly in overall well-being rankings, with four of the top five city rankings



going to towns with a major college presence. Obesity was another topic that the survey tackled. Metropolitan areas with the highest levels of obesity were much more likely to have higher levels of chronic conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure.

At the state level, Nebraska ranked highly in many of the six evaluation components. Nebraska was among the top five states in the nation in both Emotional Health and Physical Health. In two other measures, Life Evaluation and Work Environment, Nebraska fell within the top ten nationally. The Healthy Behavior measure was the only factor of the six in which Nebraska was not ranked in the top half. The Life Evaluation factor had the largest change since 2010, moving Nebraska from 30th in the nation to sixth.

Nebraska's major cities ranked well in the Gallup index. Of the 190 cities evaluated nationwide, Lincoln was ranked 20th and Omaha/Council Bluffs 45th. After ranking second overall in the 2010 survey, Lincoln dropped in each of the six factor rankings. Even so, Lincoln remained in the top 20 percent of cities in four of the six factor rankings. Omaha saw little overall change from the 2010 rankings. Of note, Omaha was 60 spots better in the Life Evaluation factor while falling 117 spots in the Work Environment ranking.

Nebraska's three Congressional Districts were also scrutinized in the rankings. NE-01, which covers much of eastern Nebraska, excluding Douglas County and parts



of Sarpy County, saw a slight drop in its overall rank while remaining in the top 20 percent of districts nationwide. NE-02, which includes Douglas County and parts of Sarpy County, saw little overall change in composite score. NE-03, which covers all of central and western Nebraska, saw significant overall gains, moving up 100 spots in the composite rankings to 139th overall. A large change in each district occurred in the Work Environment factor, in which NE-01 and NE-02 saw drops in well-being and NE-03 saw large gains. All Nebraska districts had solid gains in the Life Evaluation ranking.

Overall, Nebraska has one of the highest levels of well-being in the nation. The climb in the national rankings is reflective of Nebraska's strong economy and quality of life.

Well-Being Ranking in the United States by Quintile





Hiring Older Workers

BETTY LEISHMAN, RESEARCH ANALYST

The fastest growing segment of the American labor market is the 50-plus worker, or the “Silver Tsunami,” and companies are realizing the benefits of hiring and retaining older workers. Older workers are a huge part of the American demographic and their employment habits will have large effects on the economy as a whole. In the workplace, older employees bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their jobs.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the “graying” of the workforce is just beginning and is definitely expected to continue into the near future. Simple population demographics of the United States partially explain the phenomenon. As the “Baby Boomer” generation ages, their sheer numbers influence the workforce demographics. The total labor force is projected to increase by 8.5 percent during the period of 2006 to 2016. The number of workers aged 55 to 64 is expected to climb by 36.5 percent. The two oldest groups, workers age 65 to 74 and those 75 and older, are projected to rise by more than 80 percent. At the same time, the number of workers age 16 to 24 is expected to decline and workers age 25-54 will rise only slightly.

There are many reasons for older workers to stay in the workplace. Some older workers have lost a lot of their earnings in their retirement accounts, their houses are no longer worth what they were a few years ago and they simply need the money. For others it is a matter of choice. Many older workers want to keep working because socializing, job enjoyment, feeling needed and staying active are important to them.

Healthcare issues for the older workers are less of an issue than 20 to 30 years ago, which improves their ability to hold down a job. For those who do have physical limitations, there are many jobs that require reasoning, writing and decision-making skills rather than being physically demanding.

Employers have hard decisions to make when they are hiring, and they should give plenty of thought to hiring older workers. Whether they need the paycheck or just want to work, older workers are a large and growing part of the labor force. Over the course of the next couple of decades, the workplace will see a growing percentage of older workers with the demographic shift.

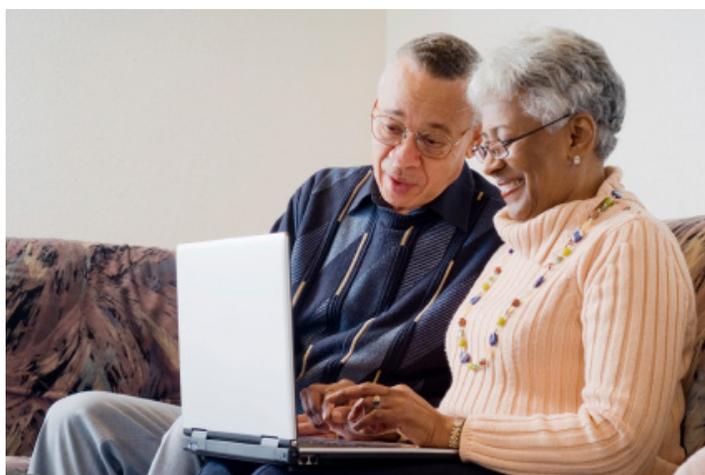
Employee Qualities Most Desired Overall (according to HR Managers)		Top qualities of Older Employees (according to HR Managers)	
Rank	Quality	Rank	Quality
1	Commitment to doing quality work	1	Loyalty and dedication to the company
2	Get along with co-workers	2	Commitment to doing quality work
3	Solid performance record	3	Someone you can count on in a crisis
4	Basic skills in reading, writing, arithmetic	4	Solid performance record
5	Someone you can count on in a crisis	5	Basic skills in reading, writing, arithmetic
6	Willing to be flexible about doing different tasks	6	Solid experience in job and/or industry
7	Loyalty and dedication to the company	7	Get along with co-workers

From American Business and Older Employees, AARP, Bureau of Labor Statistics, published by The Wisconsin Job Center, *Myths About Older Workers*.

Myths About Older Workers

There are several myths about older workers that have grown over the years. False stereotypes about older workers are dangerous because they can lead employers to avoid hiring from the demographic. The first myth that is perpetuated about older workers is that they do not stay on the job for very long. The Bureau of Labor Statistics found that older workers stay on the job for longer than their 25-34 year old counter-parts. Moreover, employees over 50 will usually outlast the new technology they are trained on.

A second myth about older workers is that their health issues will cost employers more money. Much like job longevity, older workers actually take less sick days than younger workers do. Additionally, older workers are decreasingly likely to have children on their healthcare plans. If the worker is 65 or older, there is a strong chance they are on Medicare and will not need additional employer health insurance protections.



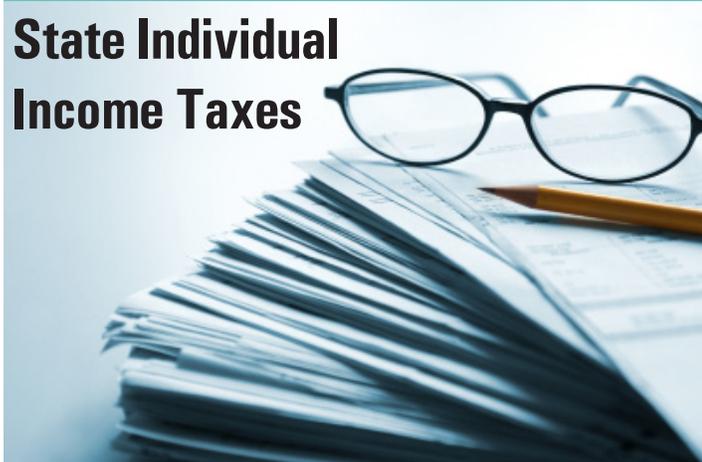
A final myth about older workers is that they are not able to learn or innovate as well as a younger employee could. This is an especially popular myth because of the perceived difficulty older people have with new technology. Census Bureau data showed that the percentage of IT workers in Nebraska who were over 50 grew from 12.4% in 2000 to almost 24% in 2006. Additionally, new ideas do not usually come from younger workers. Eighty percent of new production ideas came from employees over 40.

Work State In the Past 12 Months By Age By Employment Status For the Civilian Population 65 Year and Older		
	United States	Nebraska
Total:	40,433,525	247,893
Worked in the past 12 months:	7,505,552	63,616
65 to 74 years:	6,191,313	50,621
In labor force:	5,183,168	41,905
Employed	4,997,961	40,616
Unemployed	185,207	1,289
Not in labor force	1,008,145	8,716
75 years and over:	1,314,239	12,995
In labor force:	1,016,763	9,651
Employed	988,925	9,494
Unemployed	27,838	157
Not in labor force	297,476	3,344
Did not work in the past 12 months:	32,927,973	184,277
65 to 74 years:	15,662,722	71,574
Unemployed	246,357	838
Not in labor force	15,416,365	70,736
75 years and over:	17,265,251	112,703
Unemployed	45,589	14
Not in labor force	17,219,662	112,689

Sources: Peter Cappelli and Olivia Mitchell of the Wharton Center for Human Resources, The "Silver Tsunami": Why Older Workers Offer Better Value Than Younger Ones
American Business and Older Employees, AARP, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Myths About Older Workers

Map Facts

State Individual Income Taxes



neighboring South Dakota and Wyoming, that do not impose a state income tax. Two other states, New Hampshire and Tennessee, only levy taxes on interest and dividend income. The states that tax wages do so in different manners. In 2011, seven states had a flat tax rate for their state individual income tax. A majority of states, including Nebraska, had progressive tax brackets depending upon wage income earned. For single filers, the bracket rate is 2.56% for up to \$2,400, 3.57% up to \$17,500, 5.12% up to \$27,000, and 6.84% for anyone with income over \$27,000. For couples filing joint taxes, the bracket rates are the same for double the single income (i.e. 2.56% up to \$4,800 taxable income). Nebraska's state individual income tax brackets have not undergone significant changes in the past 12 years.

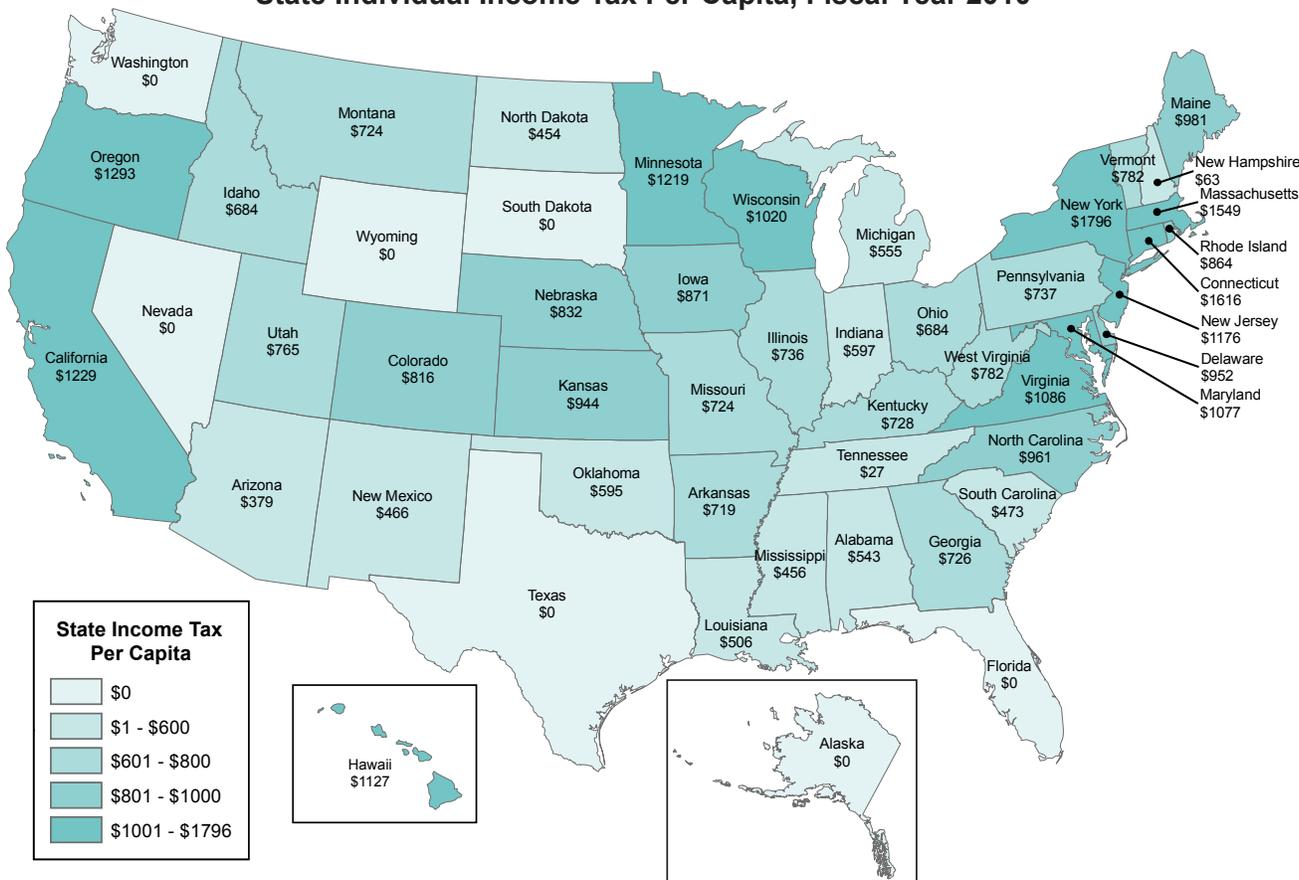
JACOB LIUDAHL, RESEARCH ANALYST

Once again, it is tax season. If you have not filled out your taxes yet, April 15th is right around the corner. Tax time is often associated with the IRS and federal tax returns. In addition to federal taxes, Nebraska requires state income taxes be filed with the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

Nebraska is one of forty-three states that utilize state individual income taxes to varying degrees to fund their state governments. There are seven states, among them

The revenue collected from state individual income tax returns helps keep the government funded. For tax year 2010, the Nebraska Department of Revenue received 916,277 state tax returns. Of these returns, Nebraska resident taxpayers filed 803,335 and non-residents filed 112,942. The total collection, net of nonrefundable credits was \$1,654,463,359. The amount collected from residents was \$1,508,993,908, and the amount collected from non-residents was \$145,469,452. 85.0% of the returns filed for tax year 2010 were filed electronically.

State Individual Income Tax Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2010



Source: Internal Revenue Service, Nebraska Department of Revenue, Taxfoundation.org



Earth Day

JODIE MEYER, RESEARCH ANALYST

Earth Day is April 22nd and this year marks the 42nd anniversary of the holiday's origin in 1969 in reaction to a massive oil spill in the waters near Santa Barbara, CA. Earth Day is intended to inspire awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment.



In 2010, there were an estimated 2.2 million homes heated by wood, representing less than 2 percent of all homes. Solar energy heated 38,010 homes and electricity heated 39.1 million. About half of all homes, or 57.0 million, were heated by utility gas.

Workers age 16 and over in the United States spend an average of 25.3 minutes on their commute to work. Residents in Maryland have the longest commute time at 31.8 minutes and North Dakota workers have the shortest at 16.1 minutes. The average commute time for Nebraska residents is 18.4 minutes.

Most workers indicated that they drove to work alone, with 76.1 percent of workers commuting solo in 2010. Carpooling was utilized by 9.7 percent of workers, 4.9 percent took public transportation, 4.3 percent worked at home, 2.8 percent walked to work and 1.7 percent commuted in other ways including by bicycle, motorcycle, and taxicab.

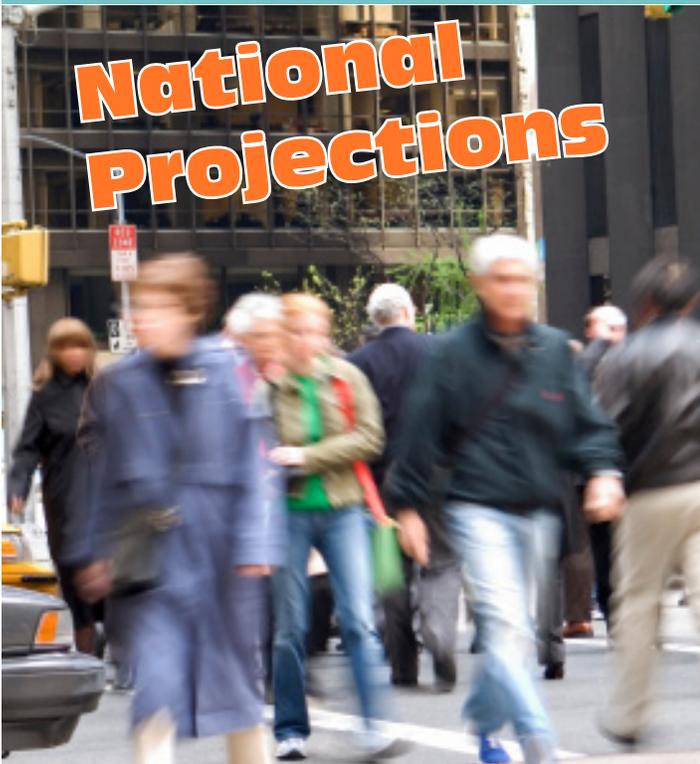
Estimated revenue for "residential nonhazardous recyclable collection services" in 2010 for U.S. employers was \$715 million, up 26.5 percent from 2009.

Approximately 88% of newly built single-family homes had air-conditioning in 2010. This is up from the 1974 figure when 48% of new single-family homes in the United States were built with air-conditioning.

In 2009, 41,502 workers were employed in nuclear electric power generation across the U.S. These workers had an average annual salary of \$110,355.



Source: United States Census Bureau Facts for Features



JODIE MEYER, RESEARCH ANALYST

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) recently released new national long-term industry and occupational projections for 2010 to 2020. New long-term projections for Nebraska and substrate regions are set to be released at the end of June. National projections are released before the state projections because they are used by state analysts when developing their own projections. States come up with their projections individually; therefore, when all states release their projections data, the total will not sum up to the nationwide number.

The BLS projections were forecast with the assumption of a full-employment economy in 2020. This means that the economy will be back on track with long-term trends, and the recession will not influence the projections as much as one would think. However, this creates some growth rates that may appear to be unusually high because growth may mean either recovery growth, growth beyond recovery, or both.

Industry Projections

National employment growth is expected in the 10-year period from 2010 to 2020 at a projected rate of 1.3% annually with the addition of 20.5 million jobs. The Healthcare and Social Assistance industry sector is expected to grow the fastest in the 10-year period at a rate of 3% annually. This sector is projected to gain the most jobs with 5.6 million added. The Construction sector is also expected to experience high annual growth of 2.9%. However, the Construction sector is not expected to regain all the jobs lost since peak employment in 2006. Four sectors are expected to see a decline with Federal Government expected to experience the greatest annual decline of -1.3%.

Job growth will be concentrated in service-providing industries, accounting for 131 million out of 150 million of wage and salary jobs overall. The fastest growing industries and the industries expected to add the most jobs are in service-providing industries. The detailed industry expected to be the fastest growing is Home Healthcare Services with a projected increase of 81%. The second fastest growing industry is Individual and Family Care Services, projected to increase by 70%. The three detailed industries projected to add the most jobs are Construction, Retail Trade, and Offices of Health Practitioners. Approximately 5.0 million new jobs, or 25% of all new jobs, are expected to be in these three industries.

Industries with the Greatest Projected Numeric Changes in Employment from 2010-2020 (In Thousands)

	Industry Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Annual Rate of Change
Growing	Construction	5,525.6	7,365.1	1,839.5	2.9%
	Retail trade	14,413.7	16,182.2	1,768.5	1.2%
	Offices of health practitioners	3,818.2	5,209.6	1,391.4	3.2%
	Hospitals	4,685.3	5,563.6	878.3	1.7%
	Home health care services	1,080.6	1,952.4	871.8	6.1%
Declining	Postal Service	656.4	474.6	-181.8	-3.2%
	General Federal non-defense government compensation	1,667.5	1,545.7	-121.8	-0.8%
	Apparel knitting mills	157.7	66.1	-91.6	-8.3%
	Newspaper, periodical, book, and directory publishers	501.3	439.7	-61.6	-1.3%
	Other miscellaneous manufacturing	266.0	210.3	-55.7	-2.3%

Occupations with the Greatest Projected Numeric Changes in Employment from 2010-2020 (In Thousands)

		2010 Estimated	2020 Projected	Numeric	Percent
SOC Title		Employment	Employment	Change	Change
Growing	Registered Nurses	2,737.4	3,449.3	711.9	26.0%
	Retail Salespersons	4,261.6	4,968.4	706.8	16.6%
	Home Health Aides	1,017.7	1,723.9	706.3	69.4%
	Personal Care Aides	861.0	1,468.0	607.0	70.5%
	Office Clerks, General	2,950.7	3,440.2	489.5	16.6%
Declining	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	1,202.5	1,106.4	-96.1	-8.0%
	Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators	142.0	73.0	-68.9	-48.5%
	Sewing Machine Operators	163.2	121.1	-42.1	-25.8%
	Postal Service Mail Carriers	316.7	278.5	-38.1	-12.0%
	Switchboard Operators, Including Answering Service	142.5	109.3	-33.2	-23.3%

Occupational Projections

Occupational projections also indicate growth in the 10-year projections period. When examining the 22 major occupational groups, Healthcare Support occupations are expected to grow the most rapidly at a rate of 34.5%. Personal Care and Service occupations and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical occupations are expected to grow rapidly at 26.8% and 25.9%, respectively. One-third of the projected fastest growing occupations are related to health care. This reflects expected increases in demand as the population ages and the Healthcare and Social Assistance industry grows.

Three of the top five detailed occupations expected to add the most employment are healthcare-related. Registered Nurses top the list with 711,900 added jobs. Home Health Aides (706,300) and Personal Care Aides (607,000) also make the top five. All top five numeric growth occupations are also expected to grow faster than the average occupational growth rate of 14.3%.

Occupations related to Construction are also expected to be on the rise. More than one-fourth of the projected fastest growing occupations are related to Construction. However, much of this growth is expected to be from recovery from the recent recession, and employment in these occupations is not expected to reach pre-recession levels.

The list of detailed occupations expected to experience the largest declines are dominated by Production occupations and Office and Administrative Support occupations. Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers top the list with a projected decline of 96,100 jobs nationwide.

While 54.8 million total job openings are expected between

2010 and 2020, more than half (61.6%) of these occupations will be from replacement openings. Replacement openings come from the need to replace workers who retire or otherwise permanently leave an occupation. Even in occupations that are declining, replacement needs are still anticipated. In four out of five occupations, openings due to replacements exceed the number of openings due to growth. Much of this can be attributed to the aging workforce and the greater number of workers reaching retirement age who need to be replaced.

Projections data also contains information on the typical education or training requirements for occupations and can provide a glimpse of education and training needs for the future. The occupations that are projected to grow the fastest from 2010-2020 typically require some type of postsecondary education. Occupations requiring postsecondary education had varied projected growth rates; master's degree occupations are expected to increase by 21.7%, doctoral or professional degree occupations by 19.9%, and associate's degree occupations by 18.0%. Seventeen of the top thirty detailed occupations that are projected to have the fastest employment growth typically require some type of postsecondary education for entry into the occupation. Only three of the thirty occupations expected to have the largest employment declines typically require postsecondary education.

We will have to wait until June to see what the future may hold for Nebraska. Since Nebraska's labor market is unique, industry and occupational trends may or may not follow the national ones. Look for articles on this new data in upcoming issues of trends as more information becomes available. industry and occupational trends may or may not follow the National ones. Look for upcoming articles on this new data as it becomes available in upcoming issues of trends.

Source: Employment Projections program, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Openings and Expansions



JACOB LIUDAHL, RESEARCH ANALYST

Note: The following information is obtained through a monthly survey of Nebraska's Career Centers. Openings and expansions that were not publicly reported or reported to Career Center Managers in confidence are not listed. If you know of a business that is opening or expanding, please email Jacob.Liudahl@Nebraska.gov with your information.

Lincoln

- Lincoln Career Center staff reported that Cheddars Restaurant opened at 54th and O Street.
- The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce reported the following businesses opening or expanding their operations: Topper's Pizza, 12th and P Street; Diet Center, 5540 South Street, Suite 105; Home Care Assistance, 6000 Village Drive, Suite 400; Kosama, 3900 Yankee Hill Road, Suite 147; Red Feather Photography, 701 P Street, Suite 301; Red Dog Carpet Cleaning, 3140 N 33rd Street, #1; Kaplan University Nursing Department, 1821 K Street.
- The Lincoln Journal Star reported the following businesses opening new locations: CVS Pharmacy, 27th and Old Cheney; Snowflakes, N. Cotner and R Street.

Omaha

- The Omaha Career Centers found the following businesses are opening or expanding their operations: Prudential, insurance, 50 employees; Physicians Mutual, insurance, 40 employees; Lowes, home improvement store, 100 employees.
- The Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce reported the following businesses are opening or expanding their operations: Man Cave and More, used goods store, 3 employees; Research USA, Call Center, 60 employees; Pizza Pie Guys, restaurant, 15 employees; Whitman Dental, dental office, 5 employees; KwikShop – Bellevue, retail shop, 5 employees.
- The Omaha World Herald reported the following businesses

are opening or expanding their operations: Galo Brazilian Grill, restaurant, 22 employees; Lot 2 Restaurant and Wine Bar, 20 employees; Adams Land and Cattle Company, agribusiness, 25 employees; Bloom Salon, hair salon, 5 employees; Bliss Boutique, women's boutique, 2 employees; The Green Spot, pet store, 3 employees; Illuminate Financial Group, financial advisors, 3 employees; Bridal Traditions, bridal shop, 5 employees; Zesto, ice cream shop, expanded building; Jimmy's Egg, restaurant, third location, 10 employees.

- The Midlands Business Journal reported that Home Instead Senior Care, a home healthcare service, added 15 employees.

Southeast

Beatrice

- Beatrice added a new hair salon, Heavenly Hair, with two employees and Beauty Works, a beauty and hair supply store, with two to four employees.

Northeast

Norfolk

- SafeSide Shredding, part of John's Disposal, specializes in on-site shredding of documents and added 3 employees.

Columbus

- Preferred Sands in Genoa is hiring 20 more employees with varied skill sets because of plant growth and expansion.

Mid-Plains

North Platte

- Prairie Town Houses, apartment complex in North Platte, opened for business.
- United Vending (cafeteria) opened on February 3rd inside the Tyson building.

Panhandle

Scottsbluff

- Yoly's Hair and Nail Salon in Sidney added 2 employees.
- Della's Café, a restaurant in Sidney, opened with 5 employees.



Facts Sheet

Note: Retail Sales figures are in billions of dollars. Median Employment Wages are OES 50th percentile Annual Wage for All Occupations. ECI is Employment Cost Index. PPI is Producer Price Index. CPI is Consumer Price Index.

National Indicators	Date	Value
GDP Growth	Q4-11	3.0%
Unemployment Rate	Feb-12	8.3%
Fed Interest Rate	Feb-12	0.25%
Current Account Balance	Q4-11	-\$124.1 billion

Nebraska Indicators	Date	Value
Unemployment Rate	Feb-12	4.0%
House Value Appreciation	Q4-11	1.35%
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	Feb-12	39.9
Net Taxable Retail Sales	Dec-11	\$2.589 billion
Median Employment Wages	Q4-11	\$30,790

Pricing Indicators	Date	Value
Barrel of Crude Oil	Mar-12	\$107.08
ECI Change	Q4-11	0.40%
PPI Change	Feb-12	0.40%

	February 2012			Indexes		% Change From	
	Feb-12	Jan-12	Feb-11	Jan-12	Feb-11	Jan-12	Feb-11
U.S. All Items	227.663	226.665	221.309	0.4%	2.9%		
Midwest Urban All Items	216.855	216.368	211.090	0.2%	2.7%		
Northeast Urban All Items	243.850	242.879	237.110	0.4%	2.8%		
South Urban All Items	221.802	220.497	214.735	0.6%	3.3%		
West Urban All Items	229.995	228.980	224.431	0.4%	2.5%		

Sources: bea.gov, bls.gov, fhfa.gov, oil-price.net, revenue.state.ne.us, tradingeconomics.com

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS



Responsibilities for the Current Employment Statistics (CES) estimates of monthly industry employment for the state and metropolitan areas (Lincoln & Omaha) changed from the Nebraska Department of Labor to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in April 2011. This transition happened in all states. Concurrent with this transition, BLS implemented several methodological changes to the estimation approach across states. The new estimation process reduces local economic knowledge in the process and may result in more month to month variability of the estimates, particularly in the smaller states. More detailed information on the changes to procedures for producing CES estimates is available on the BLS Web site at <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>

Benchmarking is the annual process of aligning estimated data from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) programs with known employment numbers from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data. It is a necessary step in ensuring the data released by the Department of Labor is of the highest quality. Data was revised for 2010 and 2011 and is updated on our website.

TOTAL NONFARM

JANET DENBRING, RESEARCH ANALYST

Nationally, over-the-month non-seasonally adjusted

employment increased (0.7% or 851,000 jobs), a normal occurrence in February. Six industries expanded, one contracted, and three were flat. Over-the-year non-seasonally adjusted employment gained 2,016,000 jobs (1.6%). Since February 2011, over-the-year employment has trended up between 0.8% and 1.6% each month.

Since last month, Nebraska Total Nonfarm remained stable at 928,608 jobs (-1,852 or -0.2%), typical for February. One industry increased, four decreased, and five were level. Over the year, Total Nonfarm employment remained steady (+2,401 or +0.3%). Since February 2011, the yearly growth has ranged from 0.0% to 0.8%. Over-the-year employment improved the most in Education and Health Services (1,540 jobs), followed by Professional and Business Services (1,251 jobs).

The Lincoln MSA employment remained stable from last month at 172,379 jobs. Since February 2011, employment has advanced by 2,527 jobs (1.5%) with the majority of additions coming from Education and Health (679 jobs) and Government (613 jobs). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-month employment declined by 2,830 to 454,003 jobs (-0.6%) with about half of the loss coming from Retail Trade (-1,491 jobs). Since last year, there has been an increase of 2,399 jobs (0.5%). The majority of the yearly gains came from Health Care and Social Assistance (2,392 jobs).

MINING AND CONSTRUCTION

Over the month, statewide employment in Mining and Construction experienced the largest decline for the month of February in the past decade to 36,706 jobs (-1,184 jobs or -3.1%) with the majority of the loss coming from Specialty Trade Contractors (-945 jobs or -4.0%). Over the year, employment went up by 0.8% in February, following a gain of 3.0% in January. From July 2008 to December 2011, over-the-year employment had continuously declined between -0.9% and -12.4%.

Since last month, employment in the Lincoln MSA dropped by 216 to 6,145 jobs (-3.4%). Over-the-year employment added 94 workers (1.6%). In the Omaha MSA, from January to February employment dropped by 868 to 18,138 jobs (-4.6%) with the decrease occurring mainly in Specialty Trade Contractors (-669 jobs). Since February 2011, employment rose by 147 jobs (0.8%) after posting a major increase of 4.5% in January 2012.



MANUFACTURING

From January to February this year, statewide Manufacturing employment dropped 722 to 92,721 jobs (-0.8%), with Non-Durable Goods declining by 884 jobs (-1.8%). February's over-the-year improvement of 1.0% (899 jobs) is attributable to the employment gains in Durable Goods (1,937 jobs or 4.7%). For the past year, over-the-year Manufacturing growth has ranged from 0.6% to 2.0%.

Since last year, Lincoln MSA employment increased by 290 to 12,866 jobs (2.3%) with the upswing attributable to Durable Goods (372 jobs or 4.7%). Over the year, employment in the Omaha MSA produced 472 jobs to 31,473 (1.5%) with the majority of the increase coming from Durable Goods (383 jobs or 3.4%).

TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES

Since last month, statewide employment fell by 2,774 to 191,301 jobs (-1.4%) with the majority of the decrease coming from seasonal Retail Trade (-2,593 jobs or -2.5%). Since February 2011, employment regressed by 1,405 jobs (-0.7%) with the bulk of the year's decline due to Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities dropping 852

jobs (-1.7%).

Employment in the Lincoln MSA fell by 531 jobs to 32,295 jobs (-1.6%) since last month. Since February 2011, employment has risen by 471 workers (1.5%). From January to February, Omaha MSA employment decreased by 1,349 to 92,227 jobs (-1.4%) with Retail Trade accountable for 1,491 lost jobs (-3.0%). Over the past year, employment remained stable (+0.4%).



INFORMATION

Statewide over-the-month employment remained stable at 16,958 jobs, common for February. Since February 2011, employment has been steady.

Since February 2011, employment in the Lincoln MSA declined by 0.5% to 2,194 jobs. In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment is down 2.7% to 10,863 jobs.

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Over-the-month statewide employment declined by 463 to 68,095 (-0.7%), which is the largest February decrease in the past decade. Over the year, employment decreased by 1,131 jobs (-1.6%).

Employment in the Lincoln MSA remained stable since February 2011 at 13,456 (+0.4%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment fell to 40,117 jobs (-775 jobs or -1.9%) with Finance and Insurance dropping by 864 jobs (-2.4%).

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

From January 2012 to February 2012, employment remained steady at 100,992 jobs. Since February 2011, statewide employment has grown by 1,251 jobs (1.3%) with the increase coming from Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (1,689 jobs or 3.9%).

The Lincoln MSA over-the-year employment held steady at 17,431 jobs. Over the year, employment in the Omaha MSA grew by 617 to 63,230 jobs (1.0%) with the increase due to Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (913 jobs or 3.5%).

	Number of Workers			Over the Month		Over the Year	
	Feb-12	Jan-12	Feb-11	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	928,608	930,460	926,207	-1,852	-0.2%	2,401	0.3%
Mining, Logging & Construction	36,706	37,890	36,416	-1,184	-3.1%	290	0.8%
Construction	7,872	7,942	7,552	-70	-0.9%	320	4.2%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	4,510	4,581	4,440	-71	-1.6%	70	1.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	22,669	23,614	23,555	-945	-4.0%	-886	-3.8%
Manufacturing	92,721	93,443	91,822	-722	-0.8%	899	1.0%
Durable Goods	43,387	43,225	41,450	162	0.4%	1,937	4.7%
Non-Durable Goods	49,334	50,218	50,372	-884	-1.8%	-1,038	-2.1%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	191,301	194,075	192,706	-2,774	-1.4%	-1,405	-0.7%
Wholesale Trade	39,741	39,832	39,835	-91	-0.2%	-94	-0.2%
Retail Trade	101,417	104,010	101,876	-2,593	-2.5%	-459	-0.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	50,143	50,233	50,995	-90	-0.2%	-852	-1.7%
Information	16,958	16,930	16,941	28	0.2%	17	0.1%
Financial Activities	68,095	68,558	69,226	-463	-0.7%	-1,131	-1.6%
Finance and Insurance	59,614	60,086	60,731	-472	-0.8%	-1,117	-1.8%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,481	8,472	8,495	9	0.1%	-14	-0.2%
Professional & Business Services	100,992	100,884	99,741	108	0.1%	1,251	1.3%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	44,628	44,336	42,939	292	0.7%	1,689	3.9%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16,746	16,907	16,802	-161	-1.0%	-56	-0.3%
Admin & Support & Waste Mngmt & Remdtn Svcs	39,618	39,641	40,000	-23	-0.1%	-382	-1.0%
Education & Health Services	138,303	137,709	136,763	594	0.4%	1,540	1.1%
Educational Services	18,078	17,410	17,773	668	3.8%	305	1.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	120,225	120,299	118,990	-74	-0.1%	1,235	1.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	76,730	76,847	76,847	-117	-0.2%	-117	-0.2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9,922	9,707	10,098	215	2.2%	-176	-1.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	66,808	67,140	66,749	-332	-0.5%	59	0.1%
Other Services	36,570	36,401	36,264	169	0.5%	306	0.8%
Repair and Maintenance	10,184	10,044	9,691	140	1.4%	493	5.1%
Personal and Laundry Services	7,748	7,731	7,601	17	0.2%	147	1.9%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Profssnl, & Sim Orgs	18,638	18,626	18,972	12	0.1%	-334	-1.8%
Government	170,232	167,723	169,481	2,509	1.5%	751	0.4%
Federal Government	16,464	16,480	16,472	-16	-0.1%	-8	-0.1%
State Government	41,876	40,458	41,134	1,418	3.5%	742	1.8%
Local Government	111,892	110,785	111,875	1,107	1.0%	17	0.0%

EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

Over-the-month employment showed a slight increase of 594 to 138,303 jobs (0.4%) due to the increase in Educational Services (668 jobs or 3.8%). Over-the-year employment was up by 1,540 jobs (1.1%), due mostly to the growth in Ambulatory Health Care Services (1,253 jobs or 3.7%).

Over the year, employment in the Lincoln MSA grew by 679 to 26,360 jobs (2.6%). Since February 2011, the Omaha MSA rose by 2,634 to 73,828 jobs (3.7%), with the majority of the yearly expansion attributable to Health Care and Social Assistance (2,392 jobs or 4.0%).

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

Statewide over-the-month employment held steady at 76,730 jobs (-0.2%). Over-the-year employment had been expanding from August 2010 to January 2012, ranging from 0.5% to 2.7%; however, employment remained flat this month (-0.2%).

In the Lincoln MSA, over-the-year employment grew by 234

to 15,639 jobs (1.5%). Over-the-year employment gains between 1.1% and 3.8% have continuously occurred since February 2011. Since February 2011, the Omaha MSA shrank by 806 to 40,838 jobs (-1.9%) with Accommodation and Food Services sector gains offset by losses in Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation.

OTHER SERVICES

Since last month, statewide employment increased by 169 to 36,570 jobs (0.5%) with Repair and Maintenance contributing the bulk of the growth (140 jobs or 1.4%). Over-the-year employment grew by 306 jobs (0.8%), with large gains coming from Repair and Maintenance (493 jobs or 5.1%).

Over-the-year employment in the Lincoln MSA grew by 113 to 6,912 jobs (1.7%). The last time the over-the-year increase was higher occurred in February 2009 (1.9%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment lost 168 jobs to 17,075 jobs (-1.0%).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INFORMATION FOR FEBRUARY 2012

OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Statewide

Non-farm employment estimates were 928,608 in February 2012; 1,852 less jobs than last month and 2,401 more than in February 2011.

Manufacturing industries employed 92,721 workers; 722 less people than last month and 899 more than in February 2011.

Statewide, Average weekly hours worked in manufacturing industries were 39.9, an increase of 0.6 hours since January, and a decrease of 1.0 hours since February 2011. Average weekly earnings decreased by \$0.24 since January to \$663.14, and have fallen by \$5.17 since February 2011.

Omaha MSA

Non-farm employment estimates were 454,003 in February 2012; 2,830 less jobs than last month and 2,399 more than in February 2011.

Lincoln MSA

Non-farm employment estimates were 172,379 in February 2012; 432 more jobs than last month and 2,527 more than in February 2011.



Labor Force Employment by Place of Residence:

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted):

- February unemployment rate: 4.0%
- Change (OTM): -0.1%
- Change (OTY): -0.5%

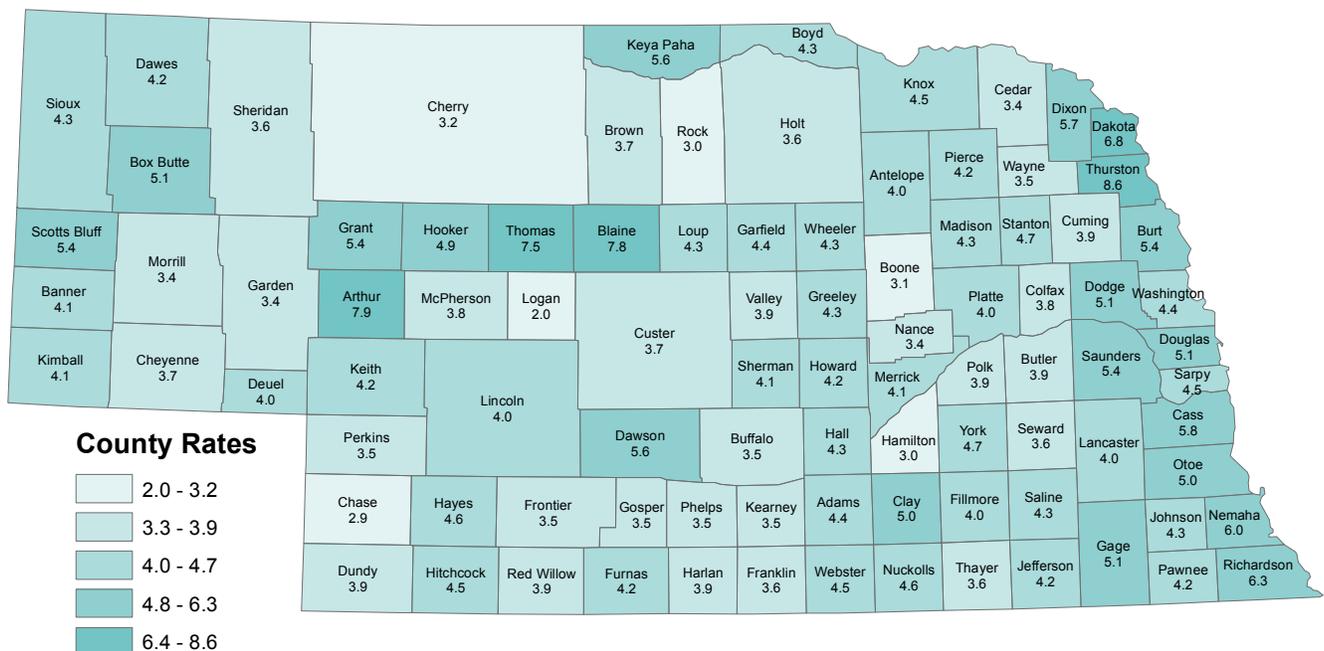
Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted):

- Central: 4.0%
- Mid Plains: 4.3%
- Northeast: 4.6%
- Panhandle: 4.7%
- Southeast: 4.8%

Revisions to January Data:

- Unemployment rate: +0.1%
- Labor Force: +189
- Unemployment: +232
- Employment: -43

February 2012 Nebraska Unemployment Rates by County



Layoff Comparison for 2009-2011

New this month on Labor Market Information's website is the year-end Layoff Comparison for 2009 through 2011. This publication combines the Nebraska Layoff publications into an annual report based on the year each layoff occurs. The Layoff Comparison contrasts the maps of layoffs in Nebraska for 2009, 2010 and 2011 and offers in-depth analysis based on location, industry, and quarterly period.

The Layoff Maps draw from the Rapid Response system, which is a program to guide businesses and employees in the event of a layoff or business closure. Though the program does not capture every layoff in Nebraska, the available data clearly shows a trend of declining layoffs in Nebraska in each of the past two years. To access the Layoff Comparison, navigate to the LMI Home Page on NEWorks and click on "2009-2011 Layoff Comparison" in the Publications box. The Layoff Comparison can also be found by clicking Get More under the publications box and scrolling down to Layoff Comparison and clicking View.

Nebraska Permanent Layoffs 2009-2011 Comparison and Analysis



Using the Rapid Response warning system, the Department of Labor is able to track reported layoffs and closures around the state. The enclosed permanent layoff data and analysis is intended to be representative of the disclosable reported layoffs (30+ days) and closures that occurred in Nebraska. The Office of Labor Market Information is often unable to account for gradual drawdowns, changed closure dates, and failure of businesses to report a layoff or closure. The following data is the product of available Rapid Response data and is not intended to represent every layoff event that occurred in Nebraska during the given time periods.

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