Nebraska Workforce

Trends

April 2013

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NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Mary Findlay, Research Analyst

There were 5,309 community college graduates from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Of these graduates, 3,913 (74%) were employed in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2011. The percentage of graduates working in the state was one percent higher than the previous year. Females were more likely (75%) to be working in the state than males (72%). The estimated average annual wage for all graduates and all degrees was $23,948. Males averaged $25,727, while females averaged $22,327.

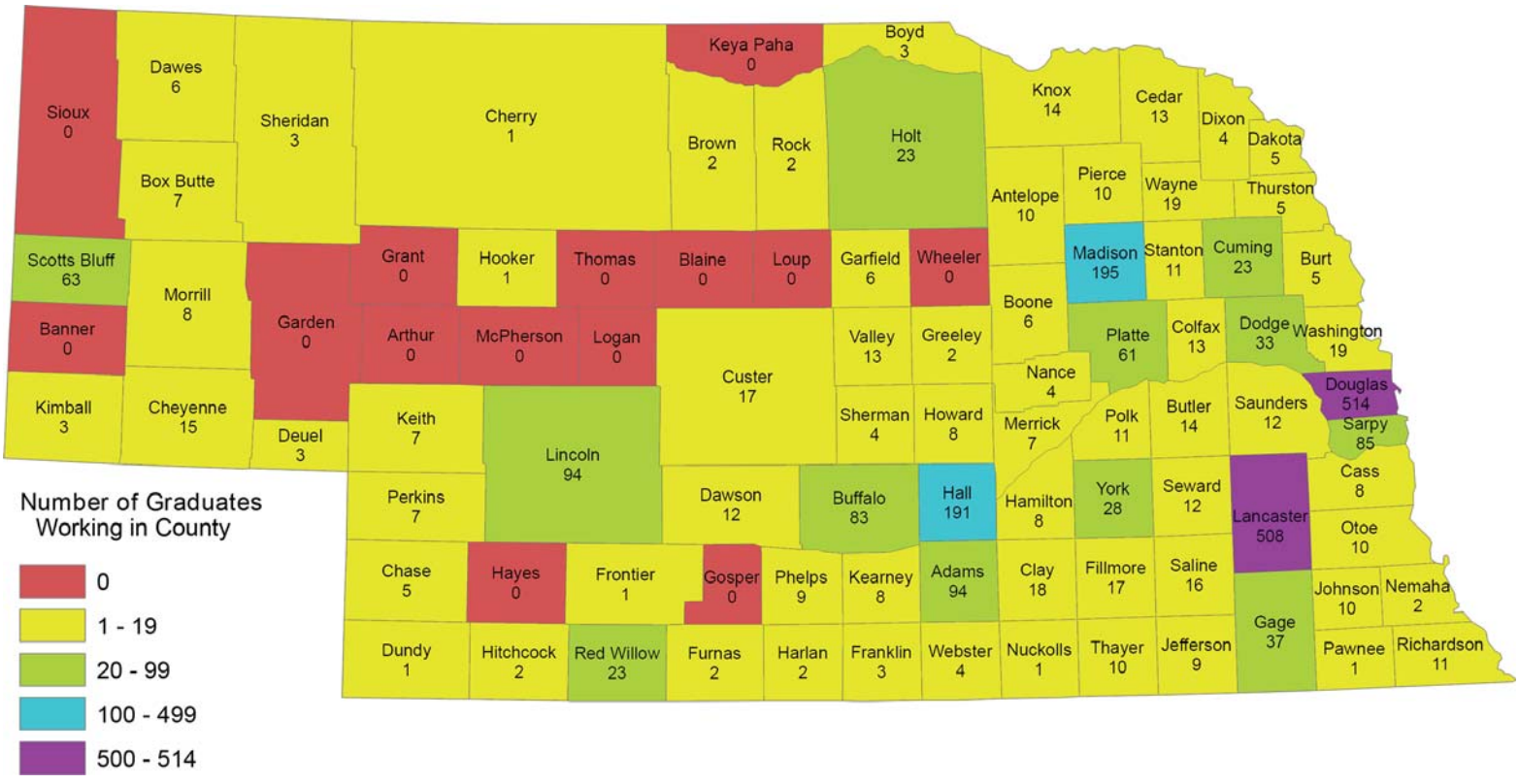
Associate degree graduates averaged $24,314, while one to two-year award graduates averaged $22,517 and less than one year award graduates averaged $23,430.

Community college graduates were employed in 79 of Nebraska's 93 counties. More than half (55%) of community college graduates worked in four counties; Douglas, Lancaster, Madison, and Hall counties.

When looking at employment by industry, Health Care employed the highest number of graduates working in the state with 1,047, and represents a little over a quarter (26%) of all community college graduates. Health Care was followed by the Retail Trade and Manufacturing industries with 503 and 382 graduates respectively. The highest wages by industry were earned by the 48 graduates employed in the Utilities industry with $44,464. The Utilities, Manufacturing, and Information industries all had graduates with average wages above $32,000 per year.

Majors or groups of majors are classified into fields of study. Forty-five degree/fields of study had 90% or more graduates working in the state. The highest estimated wages were earned by the five Electrician one to two year award graduates.

For more outcome information on Central Community College, Metropolitan Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, Northeast Community College, Southeast Community College, Western Nebraska Community College, Chadron State College, Peru State College, Wayne State College, or the University of Nebraska – Kearney, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information.



Feature Story

How to Retire in 2040 (part 1)

Nisha Avey, Research Analyst

Based on current projections from the Congressional Budget Office, Old-Age and Survivors Insurance (OASI), commonly referred to as Social Security, will be exhausted by 2038. Workers who don't have the luxury of retiring within the next ten years may not receive Social Security as it stands today[1]. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, workers in these generations are also likely to retire without traditional pensions. Traditional pensions are typically a defined monthly payout upon retirement and for life. Defined benefit pension plans were available to only 18% of workers in 2011[2].

According to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates, 195,239 Nebraska households (27.3%) were receiving Social Security income, with a mean of $16,463 per year. The ACS also counted 13.5% (96,941) of Nebraska households receiving retirement income from an employer or personal investments, with a mean of $19,081. Eighty-two percent of Nebraska households were collecting earnings, with a mean of $64,102[3].

Based on this information, the retirement plan for those who have entered the workforce in the past 10-15 years will likely look a lot different than those of our parents and grandparents. Every week one sees news articles citing pension plans that are not actuarially sound, meaning the current funds and projected rate of return is less than the benefits guaranteed to retirees. For those who have pensions, among the concerns is whether benefits will still be there in 20 years and whether payout will be able to keep up with inflation[2].

Lacking these benefits, it is up to us to invest for our own retirement. Investing wisely requires fortitude and knowledge. Money invested properly over your working career has the potential to last through your retirement years. No matter your income level, you can take a few simple steps to make your future retirement a reality.

The good news is that in the past 15 years there have been major steps undertaken by both the federal government, as well as investment companies, to simplify and assist those wanting to save for retirement. One of the most recent pieces of legislation has been changing our system from an opt-in for retirement savings to an opt-out model. In the past, employees had to specifically sign up for retirement benefits. During either new employee orientation sessions or later in their career, individuals had to sign up for their retirement programs, choose how much to contribute each paycheck, select the investments, and then continue to monitor their accounts.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, companies are now moving to a model where each employee will automatically be enrolled in the employer retirement plan unless they specifically tell their employee otherwise. They start at a small and affordable level of the employee's salary, typically around 3%[4]. Those who save early and often have the power of time and compounding interest on their side, which can make the difference between a comfortable retirement versus continuing to work past retirement age just to cover daily living expenses.

One of the best pieces of information you can arm yourself with is to take the time to learn some of the terms and lingo thrown around in the financial industry. This will empower you to understand what is being said, as well as how it will affect you and your investments. Some if the key terms we will help you to define are: dollar cost averaging, pre-tax versus post-tax contributions, Roth versus 401(k), Index funds vs actively managed funds, the Dow Jones Industrial Average (commonly referred to as 'The Market' by the media), bond funds, vesting, age-based, stock funds, aggressive vs conservative investing, auto enrollment, and more.

Very few people have a good understanding of the concept of compound interest, yet this is one of the biggest and best tools to help you meet your retirement goals. Broken down into its most basic form, compound interest means not only are you earning a return on the money you contributed, but you also end up earning money on the interest (or gains) you have earned as well.

Say you have an account that has $1000 in it and you make a 20% return on that money in one year. At the end of the year you have $1200. If you again earn a 20% return, at the end of year two you would have a balance of $1440. Not only do you make money on your original contribution of $1000, but in year two you earn an extra $40 of interest on the interest made during the first year. While the amounts may seem small at first, they add up very quickly and make a huge difference in the balance in your retirement account.

How big of a difference you might ask? Take two individuals, Mary and Jim. Mary starts saving at age 30, then stops contributing at age 40 but leaves her money invested so it can continue to grow. Jim starts saving at age 40 and continues to save and invest until he turns 65 years of age. Who would have the larger account balance? Assuming both contributed $2000 a year (while they were contributing), and a 6% annual rate of return, Jim would have $181,780, while Mary's account balance would be $351,901.

That's the power of compounding as it applies to investing, even though Mary only contributed for a 10-year period, she had more time for the money to grow and as a result, her retirement account is 93% larger than Jim's.

The power of compound interest		
Invested amount	Mary	Jim
Age 30-40	$40,000	$0
Age 40-65	$0	$108,000
Amount at retirement	**$367,453**	**$318,790**

The U.S. Department of Labor states 'target date funds' are a convenient method of retirement investing. No investment fund is perfect for everyone, but for those who do not (or cannot) keep track of their own investment strategies, target date funds can provide peace of mind and assist in minimizing investment mistakes.

So what is a target date retirement fund? In most cases, you simply select a fund that matches up with the approximate date you want to retire. For an individual who turns 40 years of age in 2013 and is looking to retire around the age 65, they would invest in the 'Target Date 2040' fund. These funds have allocations to both fixed income and stock investments. They are more aggressive when you're younger and then automatically changes investments to become more conservative the closer you get to retirement. It's often referred to as a "set it and forget it" investment strategy. This is an option to consider for those who don't want the hassle of tracking investment performance, rebalancing annually, and adjusting their portfolio as they get older[5].

Next month, we will explore the different types of retirement plans and investments that can help you prepare for your retirement.

Sources:

1. Congressional Budget Office. The 2012 Long-Term Projections for Social Security. http://www.cbo.gov/publication/43648
2. Wiatrowski, William J. The last private industry pension plans: a visual essay. http://bls.gov/opub/mlr/2012/12/art1full.pdf
3. United States Census Bureau. 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
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Feature Story

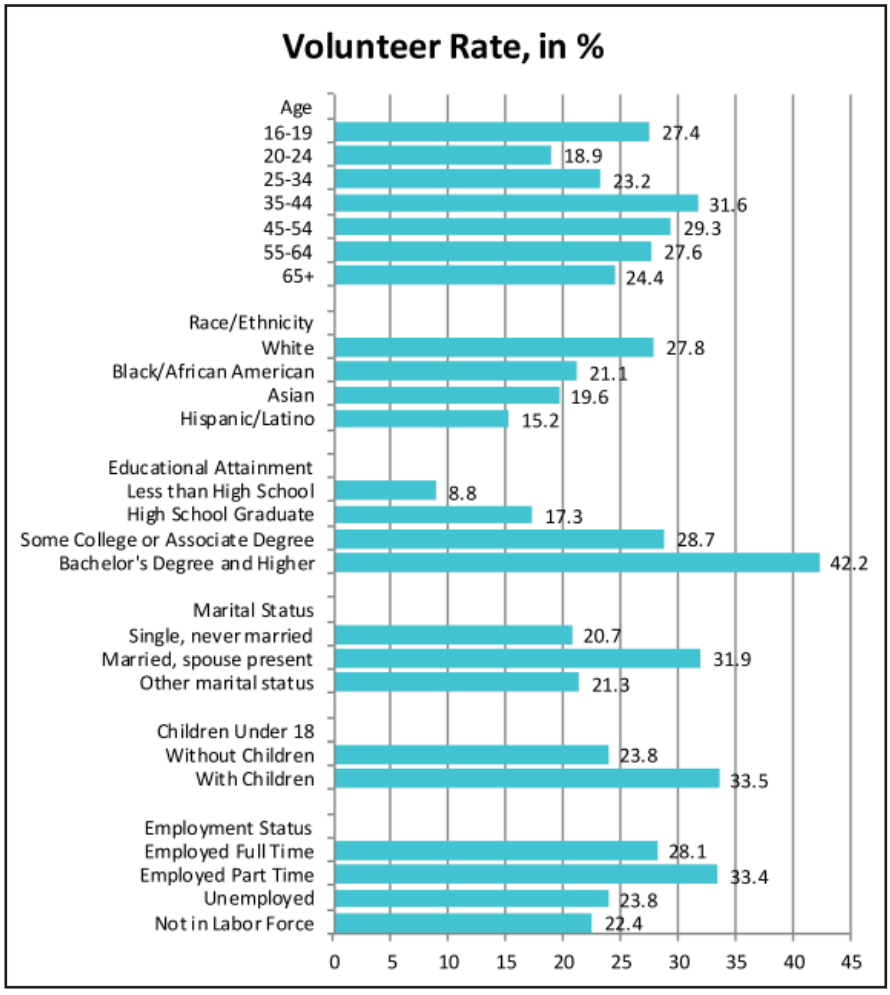
Volunteering in the United States

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

The Department of Labor produces lots of data about paid work that people do, but what about the unpaid work people do in the form of volunteer work? The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces data on volunteering through a supplement to the monthly Current Population Survey (CPS). The CPS is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau for BLS and collects information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian non-institutional population age 16 and over.

The September version of the survey contains the supplemental questionnaire used to obtain information on the incidence of volunteering and the characteristics of volunteers in the United States. This supplement is sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service. Data on volunteering has been collected on the September survey since 2002 and respondents are asked if they did any volunteer work in the past year.

In 2012, the volunteer rate declined from the previous year by 0.3 percentage points to 26.3 percent. About 64.5 million people volunteered at least once during the year. Volunteers are defined as persons who did unpaid work through or for an organization.



Women volunteer at a higher rate than men regardless of age, education level, and all other major demographic characteristics. The volunteer rate for women was 29.5% in 2012 and 23.2% for men. The highest volunteer rate was reported for women with a bachelor's degree or higher at 45.9%. The greatest gender gap in volunteering occurred for unemployed persons, where 29.6% of females reported volunteering compared to 18.7% of males, a 10.9 percentage point difference.

Persons ages 35-44 were more likely to volunteer among the age groups at a rate of 31.6%. The lowest rate was found for 20-24 year-olds with a rate of 18.9%. After age 45, the volunteer rate tapered off as age increased. Teenagers (16-19) had a volunteer rate of 27.4%.

Married persons had a volunteer rate of 31.9%, which was higher than the rate for people who had never been married (20.7%) and those with other marital statuses (21.3%). Parents with children under 18 had a higher rate (33.5%) than those without children (23.8%).

Education level appeared to have a large impact on volunteer rates compared to other demographic factors. Individuals with higher levels of education took part in volunteer activities at higher rates than those with less education. Among persons age 25 and over, 42.2% of individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher reported volunteering. This is

33.4 percentage points higher than the rate of 8.8% reported for individuals with less than a high school diploma. High school graduates had a rate of 17.3% and those with some college or an Associate's degree had a rate of 28.7%.

Employed persons were more likely to volunteer in comparison to those who were unemployed at 29.1% and 23.8% respectively. People not in the labor force reported a volunteer rate of 22.4%. Of employed persons, part-time workers reported a high rate of volunteerism at 33.4% compared to 28.1% for full time workers.

Volunteers spent a median of 50 hours volunteering in 2012. Men and women spent about the same amount of time volunteering, with women slightly more with a median of 51 hours compared to 50 for men. Median hours varied some within the different demographic categories, but the most variation was within the age category. People age 25 to 34 years old volunteered the least amount of hours at 32 compared to 90 hours worked by volunteers age 65 and over. Most volunteers focused their time on only one organization (70.5%) or two (19.1%). However, individuals with higher educational attainment were more likely to volunteer for multiple organizations than those with less education.

Religious organizations were indicated most frequently as the main organization in which volunteer work was performed and was reported by 33.1% of volunteers. Education or youth service-related organizations also had a large share of volunteers, 25.5%, reporting that they were part of one of these organizations.

Volunteers with children under the age of 18 were more likely to volunteer with an educational or youth service organization, with 46.2% of mothers and 38.8% of fathers reporting this as the main type of organization for their volunteer work. Volunteers without children were more likely to volunteer for social or community service organizations, hospitals or other health organizations, and religious organizations.

Volunteers reported collecting, preparing, distributing, or serving food as their main volunteer activity performed for their main organization the most, at a rate of 10.9%. Fundraising was a close second reported by 10.7% of volunteers. Men and women tended to engage in different main activities with females more likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food (12.3%) or fundraise (11.8%). Men were more likely to engage in general labor (11.6%) or coach, referee, or supervise sports teams (10.1%).

Main volunteer activities also varied by educational attainment, where persons with a bachelor's degree or higher were more likely to provide management assistance or to tutor or teach. Volunteers with less than a high school diploma were more likely to collect, prepare, distribute, or serve food.

Source:

1. United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Volunteering in the United States --- 2012. http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/volun.pdf

Map Facts

Households Receiving Social Security Income

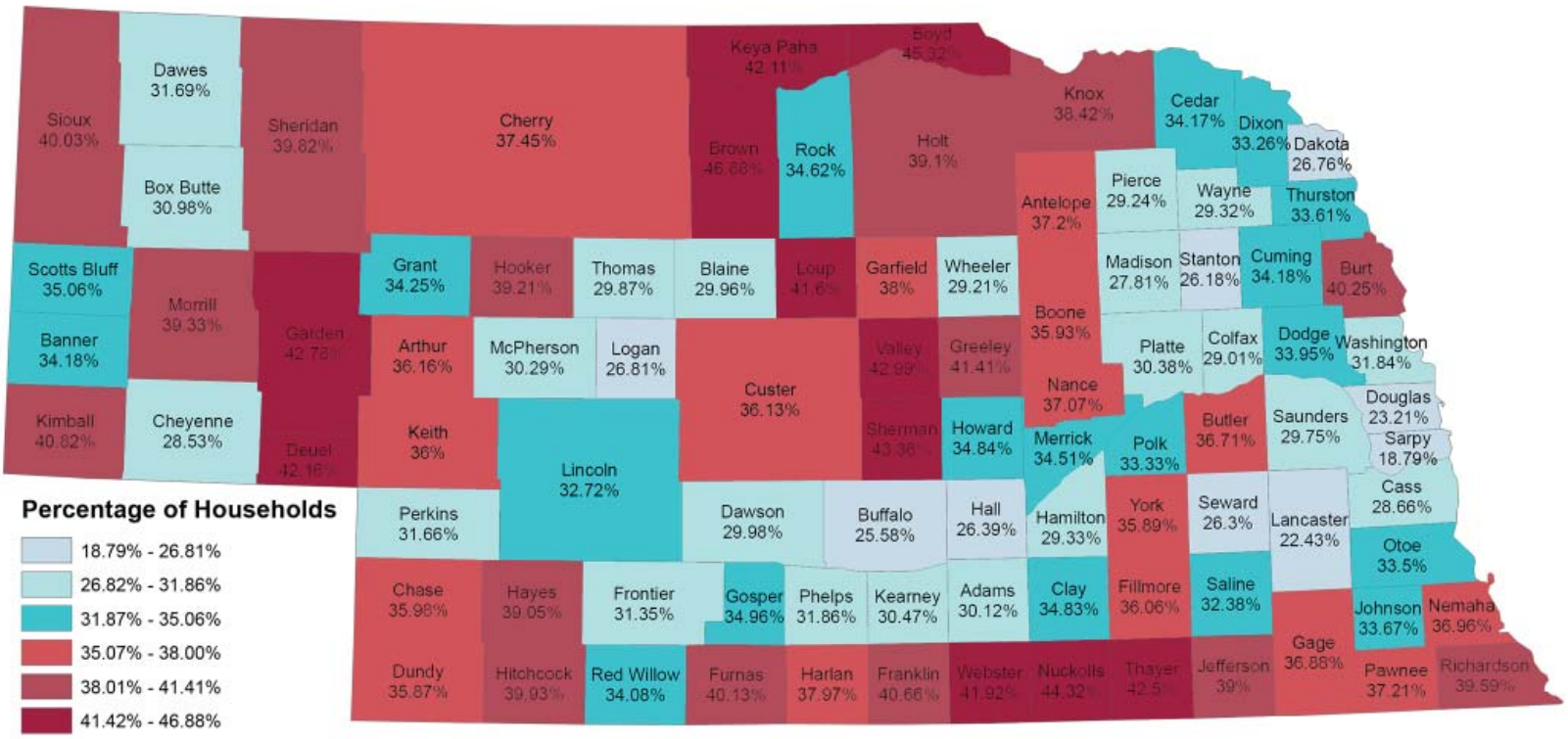
Nisha Avey, Research Analyst

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data every year on age, race, income, and more. This is done in the form of the American Community Survey. The more years of data available, the better conclusions that can be drawn from it. The 2007-2011 ACS survey shows us Nebraska households receiving Social Security income are estimated at 27.3% of all Nebraska households.

The map below displays the percentage of Nebraska households receiving Social Security income by county. Breaking the data down by county gives us some insight into the distribution of Social Security income throughout the state.

Metropolitan areas of the state have the lowest percentage of households receiving Social Security. Dakota County, for example, is part of the Sioux City MSA and has a lower percentage receiving Social Security. Other counties with low percentages of Social Security recipient households include Hall and Buffalo, both home to postsecondary institutions. Logan and Stanton Counties also fall into the lowest category of Social Security recipients in the state.

Counties with higher percentages of households receiving Social Security dominate the Sandhills, Panhandle, and southern border of Nebraska. These counties tend to be more rural and lack postsecondary institutions. As more Baby Boomers head toward retirement, revisiting the subject of households receiving Social Security income will only get more interesting.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. 2007-2011 American Community Survey. http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

Fast Facts

EEO Data

Nisha Avey, Research Analyst

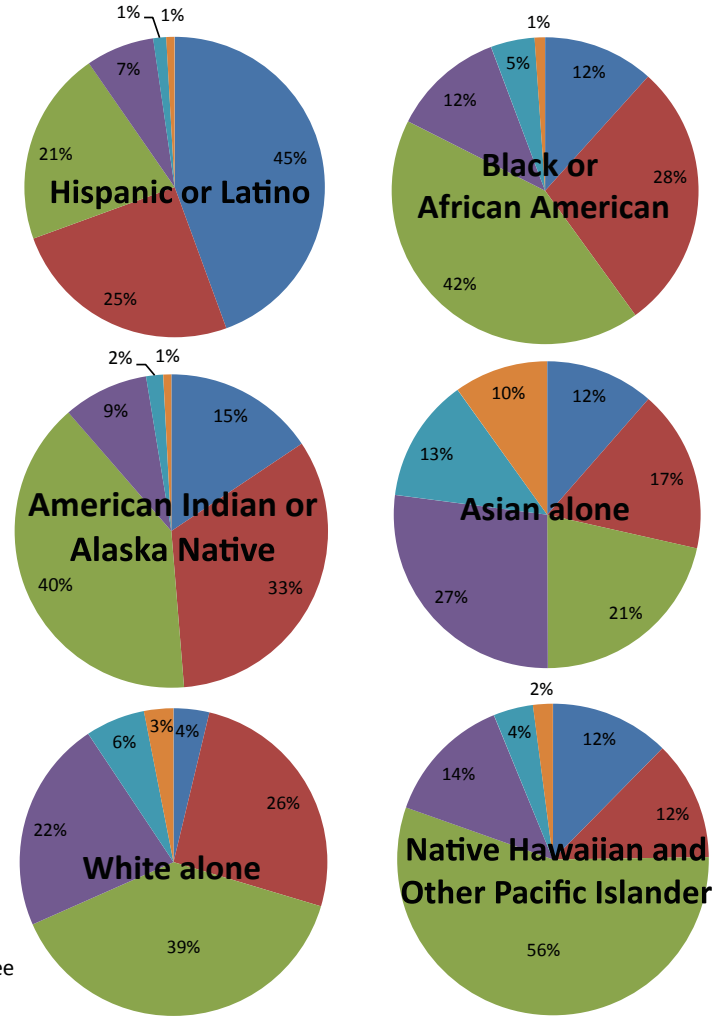
On November 29, 2012 the United States Census Bureau released its 2006-2010 Equal Employment Opportunity Tabulation. The 107 table tabulation highlights the diversity of the labor force throughout the United States. Data on sex, race and ethnicity, cross tabulated by citizenship, occupation, industry, age, educational attainment, earnings and unemployment is available down to the city level for some areas.

The charts on this page illustrate the educational attainment of Nebraskans over 19 by race and ethnicity. These charts present a surprising disparity; with the majority of Hispanic Nebraskans (70%) completing high school or less, the majority of white Nebraskans (70%) completing some level of college, 42% of Black residents falling in the some college or associate degree level, almost three quarters of Asians (71%) completing some college or more, and an even greater percentage of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders (76%) falling into that same category. The majority of American Indian or Alaska Native Nebraskans (52%) have also completed some college or more.

Of the Nebraska Hispanic population over 19, 28,875 or 45% did not complete high school. In Nebraska's White population, 39%, or only 206,585, possess only a high school education. Forty-two percent of Black Nebraskans, or 15,030, completed some college or an associate degree.

Asians with a bachelor's degree total 4,080 in Nebraska. In the Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders 19 and over population in Nebraska, 56%, or 270, have completed some college or an associate degree. Forty percent, or 1,930, of the American Indian or Alaska Natives in Nebraska have completed some college or an associate degree.

It is important to remember the EEO tabulations have a margin of error and the smaller the group, the more that margin of error can impact the numbers. To access the EEO Tabulation 2006-2010 (5-year ACS data) tables go to http://www.census.gov/people/eeotabulation/data/eeotables20062010.html.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Nebraska Educational Attainment by Age, Race, and Ethnicity for the Civilian Labo Force 20 Years and Over. http://www.census.gov/people/eeotabulation/data/eeotables20062010.html

Flash Forward

Central Nebraska: Future Industry & Occupation Employment Trends

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

This month begins a series of articles in Flash Forward highlighting Nebraska's economic regions. First up is the Central Economic Region. This region consists of the Nebraska counties of Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Clay, Custer, Franklin, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, Webster, and Wheeler. Three Micropolitan areas, Kearney, Grand Island, and Hastings are included in this region.

Industry Projections

Projected industry growth of 9,493 jobs is expected in the Central region of the state by 2020 according to Industry Employment Projections, an increase of 8%. Most industry employment in 2020 is projected to be in Education and Health Services, expected to employ 26,871 workers and accounting for 22.7% of employment in this region. This industry is also expected to experience the highest projected net change in employment by 2020, adding 2,809 jobs, a change of 10.5%.

The Information industry employed the least number of workers in 2010, only accounting for 1.1% (1,319 jobs) of the employment in this region, and is expected to decline slightly by 3% (40 jobs). The fastest growing industry by percent change is Professional and Business Services at 20.1%, projected to add 1,209 jobs. In addition to the slight projected decline in the Information industry, Government is expected to decline marginally by 1% and lose 83 jobs.

Two of the top five sub-sector growth industries from 2010-2020 (by numeric change in jobs) are found in the Education and Health Services super-sector: Educational Services (private, state, and local) and Ambulatory Health Care Services. Much of the growth in healthcare can be attributed to the aging population of Nebraska. As the population ages they require a greater need for healthcare, which in turn creates a demand for workers in this industry. In addition, the Education and Healthcare industry has many workers that are nearing retirement age, also creating a greater demand for workers to fill these vacancies in the workforce.

When examining the five industries expected to experience the greatest amount of decline (by numeric change in jobs) the Postal Service is expected to lose the most jobs (168, 27.7%) by 2020. The agricultural related industries of Livestock and Crop Production are expected to lose a combined 211 jobs in the ten-year time frame. Only a ten industries are expected to decline by 2020 and most are only expected to experience slight declines. Textile Product Mills are expected to decline the fastest at 36.8%; however this represents a change of only 14 jobs. This decline and the projected Postal Service decline of 27.7% are the only industries expecting a percent decrease by double digits.

Industries with the Greatest Numeric Changes in Employment 2010-2020

	Industry Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	% Change
Growing	Educational Services (private + state + local)	11,204	12,449	1,245	11.1%
Growing	Food Manufacturing	5,134	6,017	883	17.2%
Growing	Ambulatory Health Care Services	3,788	4,586	798	21.1%
Growing	Administrative and Support Services	2,648	3,212	564	21.3%
Growing	Truck Transportation	2,103	2,611	508	24.2%
Declining	Postal Service	606	438	-168	-27.7%
Declining	Livestock Production	6,062	5,944	-118	-2.0%
Declining	Crop Production	4,764	4,671	-93	-2.0%
Declining	Machinery Manufacturing	2,853	2,810	-43	-1.5%
Declining	Food and Beverage Stores	1,737	1,698	-39	-2.3%

Occupations with the Greatest Numeric Changes in Employment 2010-2020								
	SOC Title	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Replacement Openings	Total Openings	Numeric Change	% Change
Growing	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,599	3,059	460	517	977	460	17.7%
Growing	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,778	3,090	312	888	1,200	312	11.2%
Growing	Retail Salespersons	3,151	3,397	246	926	1,172	246	7.8%
Growing	Registered Nurses	2,688	2,912	224	487	711	224	8.3%
Growing	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	2,412	2,590	178	265	443	178	7.4%
Declining	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	1,402	1,331	0	348	348	-71	-5.1%
Declining	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	5,097	5,038	0	1,553	1,553	-59	-1.2%
Declining	Order Clerks	844	785	0	237	237	-59	-7.0%
Declining	Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, and Processing Machine Operators	116	58	0	6	6	-58	-50.0%
Declining	Postal Service Mail Carriers	318	269	0	104	104	-49	-15.4%

Occupational Projections

There is expected to be occupational growth in the Central region according to the 2010-2020 Occupational Projections. The total projected numeric employment change over the ten-year period is 9,576, a 7.6% increase. A total of 41,088 job openings are expected in the Central region from 2010-2020, with 10,303 jobs expected from growth and 30,785 from replacements. Replacement openings account for 74.9% of all job openings. This mirrors the statewide trend and can in part be attributed to the high number of Nebraska workers reaching retirement age within the next 10 years.

In 2010, Office and Administrative Support occupations employed 17,307, making it the largest occupational category in the Central region, accounting for 13.7% of the regions occupational employment. The largest net change in employment is expected to occur in Production occupations, where 1,457 jobs are projected to be added by 2020, an increase of 12.3%. Transportation and Material Moving Occupations are also expected to add several jobs to the region, with an expected increase of 1,278 jobs, a 12.3% increase. Computer and Mathematical Occupations is the fastest growing occupational category by percent change, projected to increase by 16.1% and adding 151 jobs. Legal occupations employed the least amount of workers in 2010, only employing 340 or 0.3% of the regions occupational employment. Legal occupations are also expected to add the least number of jobs, only 13 jobs in the 10 year period, a 3.8% increase. Only one occupational category is expecting a decline, Farming, Fishing and Forestry occupations by 20 jobs, a decrease of 0.3%.

The highest number of total job openings is expected in Office and Administrative Support occupations with 4,710 total openings; 988 from job growth and 3,722 from replacements. The lowest number of openings is projected for Legal occupations, with only 74 openings expected; 14 from growth and 60 from replacements.

Sales and Related occupations are projected to have the most replacement openings with 3,770 or 84.3% of the 4,470 total job openings expected to come from replacements. Again, Legal occupations rank at the bottom with the 60 replacement openings, the least amount expected of all the occupational categories. The occupational group with the largest percentage of openings projected to come from replacements is Farming, Fishing, and Forestry occupations with 97.7% (2,240) of the 2,293 total openings expected to be due to replacements. The largest percentage of total openings attributed to growth is projected in Computer and Mathematical occupations where 44.7% (151) of the 338 total openings projected are to be from growth.

Ranking occupations by numeric change from 2010 to 2020, Heavy and Tractor-trailer Truck Drivers top the list with an expected 460 jobs added. Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, by Hand comes in second, with 312 jobs expected to be added. This is also a Transportation and Material Moving occupation. One healthcare related occupation, registered nurses, makes the top five list, adding 224 jobs and increasing by 8.3%, reinforcing the trend of growth in healthcare.

Stock clerks and order fillers are expected to lose the most jobs from 2010-2020 with a projected loss of 71 positions, a 5.1% decrease. Two occupations related to the Post Office are on the list of declining occupations. Postal Service mail sorters, processors, processing machine operators and postal mail carriers are expected to lose a combined 107 jobs in the ten-year time frame. For Postal Service mail sorters, processors, and processing machine operators the projected loss represents half of the occupation's 2010 base year employment level.

A publication with more detail on both occupational and industry projections will soon be published online at dol.nebraska.gov. Look for additional articles spotlighting projections in upcoming issues of Nebraska Workforce Trends.

Economic Indicators

Fact 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	Q4-12	0.1%
Unemployment Rate	Feb-13	7.7%
Federal Funds Target Range - Upper Limit	Feb-13	0.25%
Current Account Balance	Q4-12	-$110.4 Billion

Nebraska Indicators	Date	Value
Unemployment Rate	Jan-13	4.5%
House Value Appreciation	Q3-12 - Q4-12	2.30%
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	Feb-13	40.0
Net Taxable Retail Sales	Dec-12	$2.622 Billion
Median Employment Wages	Q4-12	$31,311

Pricing Indicators	Date	Value
Barrel of Crude Oil-WTI	Feb-13	$95.31
ECI Change	Q4-12	0.5%
PPI Change	Feb-13	0.7%

	Indexes			% Change From	
	Feb-13	Jan-13	Feb-12	Jan-13	Feb-12
CPI: U.S. All Items	232.166	230.280	227.663	0.8%	2.0%
CPI: Midwest Urban All Items	221.599	219.282	216.855	1.1%	2.2%
CPI: Northeast Urban All Items	248.665	247.277	243.850	0.6%	2.0%
CPI: South Urban All Items	225.874	223.933	221.802	0.9%	1.8%
CPI: West Urban All Items	234.595	232.759	229.995	0.8%	2.0%
University of Michigan: Consumer Sentiment	77.6	73.8	75.3	5.1%	3.1%

Sources: DOL: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Energy Information Administration, Federal Housing Finance Agency, Nebraska Department of Revenue, DOL: Bureau of Economic Analysis, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Industry Developments

Janet Oenbring, Research Analyst

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 www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm

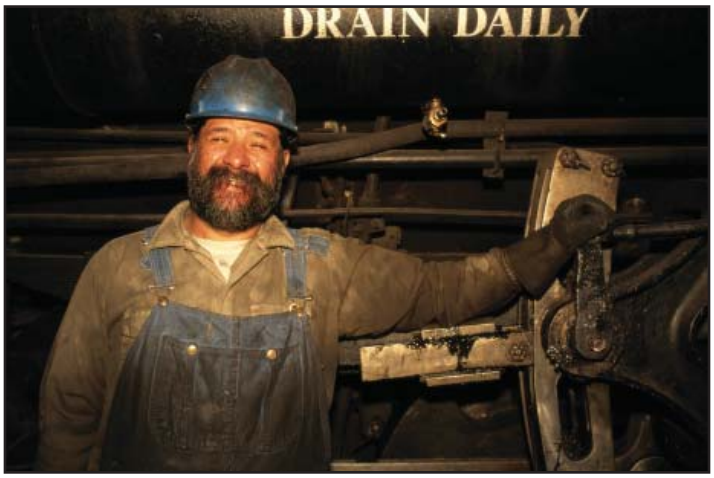
Total Nonfarm

From January to February this year, Nebraska non-seasonally adjusted employment increased by 2,972 to 948,765 jobs (0.3%). The over-the-month change in February has ranged from -2,392 (2004) to 4,320 (2006) jobs in the past ten years. February is usually a stable month, posting a low of -0.3% to high of 0.5%. The monthly change in the top ten super sectors showed five gaining, four fairly stable and only one with a loss.

From November 2011 to October 2012, over-the-year growth ranged from 1.1% to 1.9%; however, it has slowed down the past few months. Yearly employment expanded by only 0.8% (7,450 jobs) in February. Over-the-year employment advanced the most in Manufacturing (2,228 jobs or 2.4%), followed by Education and Health Services (2,197 jobs or 1.6%).

Since January 2013, the Lincoln MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area), employment rose by 1,072 to 175,880 (0.6%). Since February 2012, total nonfarm employment improved by 2,782 jobs (1.6%). Yearly growth occurred in eight of the ten industries. The largest numerical additions came from Education and Health Services (1,025 workers) followed by Professional and Business Services (416 jobs).

In the Omaha MSA, monthly employment increased slightly by 811 to 461,842 jobs (0.2%) as usual for February. Yearly employment grew by 4,468 (1.0%), which is between the past decade's low of -2.3% (2010) and high of 4.1% (2003). Three-fourths of last year's growth came from two industries : Mining and Construction (2,194 jobs or 11.8%) and Professional and Business Services (1,135 jobs or 1.7%).



Mining & Construction

Over the month, statewide employment in Mining and Construction diminished less than normal (-0.5%) because of the large seasonal drop last month (-5.9%). The majority of the drops occurred outside the MSAs. Since February 2012, employment expanded by 1,264 to 39,109 jobs (3.3%). Specialty Trade Contractors were the leading contributor with a yearly gain of 1,755 jobs (7.2%).

The monthly increase of just 37 jobs (0.6%) to 6,540 jobs in the Lincoln MSA amounted to the largest increase for February in the past decade (ranged from -2.2% to 0.4%). Over the year, employment grew by 214 jobs (3.4%). From February 2012 to February 2013, employment in the Omaha MSA rose by 2,194 to 20,775 jobs (11.8%), which is the largest yearly growth of any month in the past decade. The past highest growth of 10.4% occurred in two other months in 2003.

Manufacturing

Since February 2012, statewide employment grew by 382 to 95,889 (0.4%) after decreasing last month by 1,034 jobs (-1.1%). Durable Goods was responsible for the growth, supplying 458 jobs. February's over-the-year employment added 2,228 jobs (2.4%), which is the highest yearly increase in the past decade for the month. Both sectors contributed and over half of the growth coming from outside the MSAs.

Since last year, employment in the Lincoln MSA went up by 304 to 13,453 (2.3%) with both sectors contributing. Since February 2012, employment rose by 465 in the Omaha MSA to 31,372 jobs (1.5%), with Non-Durable Goods increasing 607 jobs (3.1%) and being offset slightly by Durable Goods decreasing by 142 jobs (-1.3%).

Trade, Transportation & Utilities

Statewide employment declined by 2,075 to 195,924 jobs (-1.0%) in February, with over half of the loss coming from Retail Trade (-1,685 jobs). Since February 2012, employment moved up slightly (756 jobs or 0.4%).

Yearly employment in the Lincoln MSA improved by 371 to 32,932 jobs (1.1%), with Retail Trade accounting for all of the upswing (398 jobs or 2.2%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment decreased by 500 in February to 91,315 jobs (-0.5%), which is just slightly lower than the past decade low of 91,391 in February 2010.

Information

After January 2012 set the record low for the decade at 16,897, employment improved by 192 to 17,089 jobs (1.1%), setting the largest increase in February in the past decade (-109 to +126). Monthly gains of 1.0% or higher have only occurred in nine other months in the past decade. Most of the expansion came from outside the MSAs this month. Statewide over-the-year employment dropped (-189 jobs or -1.1%).

Over the year, employment in the Lincoln MSA declined by 99 to 2,088 jobs (-4.5%) in comparison to the past decade in February ranging from -15.9% (2005) to 6.1% (2003). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment remained stable at 11,391, with prior years ranging from -18.5% (2003) to 2.1% in 2012.

Financial Activities

Statewide monthly employment remained unchanged at 70,493 jobs (-0.1%). Over the year, employment edged up slightly by 223 jobs (0.3%) due to a small gain in Finance and Insurance (210 jobs or 0.3%).

From February 2012 to February 2013, Lincoln MSA employment increased by 185 to 14,204 workers (1.3%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment gained by 313 to 41,540 jobs (0.8%) with both sectors contributing.

Professional & Business Services

Over-the-month employment jumped up by 1,492 (1.5%) from January to February to be at 103,898 jobs. This is the largest gain in February in the past decade (-0.3% to 0.9%). Over two-thirds of the increase came from Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services adding 1,047 jobs (2.4%). Since February 2012, statewide employment remained solid (0.3%). Over the past decade, the February yearly change has varied from -3.6% to 5.2%.

In Lincoln, over-the-year employment rose by 416 to 18,432 jobs (2.3%). Since February 2012, employment in the Omaha MSA has grown by 1,135 to 66,015 workers (1.7%). Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services accounted for more than half of the gain (735 jobs or 2.7%).

Education & Health Services

Over the month, statewide employment progressed by 823 to 141,365 jobs (0.6%), with the growth occurring in Educational Services (1,051 jobs or 6.1%). Over-the-year employment has expanded by 2,197 jobs (1.6%), with over half of the gains due to the growth in the Hospitals subsector (1,487 jobs or 3.6%).

Over the year, the Lincoln MSA employment improved by 1,025 jobs to 26,676 jobs (4.0%). It has posted continuous yearly growth from 2.8% to 4.5% since April 2012. Since February 2012, the Omaha MSA rose by 858 (1.2%), with all of the expansion attributable to Health Care and Social Assistance (1,035 workers or 1.7%).

Leisure & Hospitality

Statewide employment fell by 183 to 78,498 jobs (-0.2%) in February. Over-the-year employment remained steady (-56 jobs or -0.1%) with the gains in one sector offsetting the losses in the other.

From February 2012 to February 2013, the Lincoln MSA employment fell by 100 to 15,442 jobs (-0.6%). Over the year, the Omaha MSA went up slightly by 134 to 42,922 jobs (0.3%), with the sectors offsetting each other.

Other Services

Monthly statewide employment went up by 278 to 37,201 jobs (0.8%) with all subsectors contributing. Over-the-year employment advanced by 1,072 jobs (3.0%) with the past decade ranging from -2.7% in 2006 to 4.1% in 2003.

Since last year, the Lincoln MSA employment expanded by 265 to 7,017 jobs (3.9%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment increased by 534 to 17,626 jobs (3.1%). Yearly increases over 2.0% have not happened since the first eight months of 2010 (2.6% to 3.9%).

	Number of Workers			Over the Month		Over the Year	
	Feb-13	Jan-13	Feb-12	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	**948,765**	**945,793**	**941,315**	**2,972**	**0.3%**	**7,450**	**0.8%**
Mining & Construction	**39,109**	**39,298**	**37,845**	**-189**	**-0.5%**	**1,264**	**3.3%**
Construction of Buildings	7,246	6,985	7,967	261	3.7%	-721	-9.1%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	4,610	4,691	4,627	-81	-1.7%	-17	-0.4%
Specialty Trade Contractors	26,021	26,491	24,266	-470	-1.8%	1,755	7.2%
Manufacturing	**95,889**	**95,507**	**93,661**	**382**	**0.4%**	**2,228**	**2.4%**
Durable Goods	44,281	43,823	43,103	458	1.1%	1,178	2.7%
Non-Durable Goods	51,608	51,684	50,558	-76	-0.2%	1,050	2.1%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	**195,924**	**197,999**	**195,168**	**-2,075**	**-1.1%**	**756**	**0.4%**
Wholesale Trade	40,774	40,970	40,539	-196	-0.5%	235	0.6%
Retail Trade	102,881	104,566	102,352	-1,685	-1.6%	529	0.5%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	52,269	52,463	52,277	-194	-0.4%	-8	0.0%
Information	**17,089**	**16,897**	**17,278**	**192**	**1.1%**	**-189**	**-1.1%**
Financial Activities	**70,493**	**70,579**	**70,270**	**-86**	**-0.1%**	**223**	**0.3%**
Finance and Insurance	62,048	62,174	61,838	-126	-0.2%	210	0.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,445	8,405	8,432	40	0.5%	13	0.2%
Professional & Business Services	**103,898**	**102,406**	**103,588**	**1,492**	**1.5%**	**310**	**0.3%**
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	45,343	44,296	44,559	1,047	2.4%	784	1.8%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16,873	16,877	16,540	-4	0.0%	333	2.0%
Admin & Support & Waste Mngmt & Remdtn Srvcs	41,682	41,233	42,489	449	1.1%	-807	-1.9%
Education & Health Services	**141,365**	**140,542**	**139,168**	**823**	**0.6%**	**2,197**	**1.6%**
Educational Services	18,312	17,261	18,399	1,051	6.1%	-87	-0.5%
Health Care and Social Assistance	123,053	123,281	120,769	-228	-0.2%	2,284	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	**78,498**	**78,681**	**78,554**	**-183**	**-0.2%**	**-56**	**-0.1%**
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	9,913	9,802	10,410	111	1.1%	-497	-4.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	68,585	68,879	68,144	-294	-0.4%	441	0.7%
Other Services	**37,201**	**36,923**	**36,129**	**278**	**0.8%**	**1,072**	**3.0%**
Repair and Maintenance	10,128	10,076	9,800	52	0.5%	328	3.4%
Personal and Laundry Services	7,767	7,689	7,618	78	1.0%	149	2.0%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Profssnl, & Sim Orgs	19,306	19,158	18,711	148	0.8%	595	3.2%
Government	**169,299**	**166,961**	**169,654**	**2,338**	**1.4%**	**-355**	**-0.2%**
Federal Government	16,492	16,551	16,472	-59	-0.4%	20	0.1%
State Government	41,403	40,328	41,295	1,075	2.7%	108	0.3%
Local Government	111,404	110,082	111,887	1,322	1.2%	-483	-0.4%

County Rates

Unemployment Rate Information for February 2013

Office of Labor Market Information

Statewide

- February Total Non-farm: 948,765
- Manufacturing: 95,889
- Average Weekly Hours: 40.0
- Average Weekly Earnings: $662.40
- Average Hourly Earnings: $16.56

Omaha MSA

- February unemployment rate: 4.6%
- February Total Non-farm: 461,842
- Manufacturing: 31,372
- Largest OTY Increase: Mining & Construction (11.8%)

Lincoln MSA

- February unemployment rate: 3.7%
- February Total Non-farm: 175,880
- Manufacturing: 13,453
- Largest OTY Increase: Education & Health Services (4.0%)

Labor Force Employment by Place of Residence:

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted):

- February unemployment rate: 3.8%
- Change (OTM): unchanged at 3.8%
- Change (OTY): -0.2%

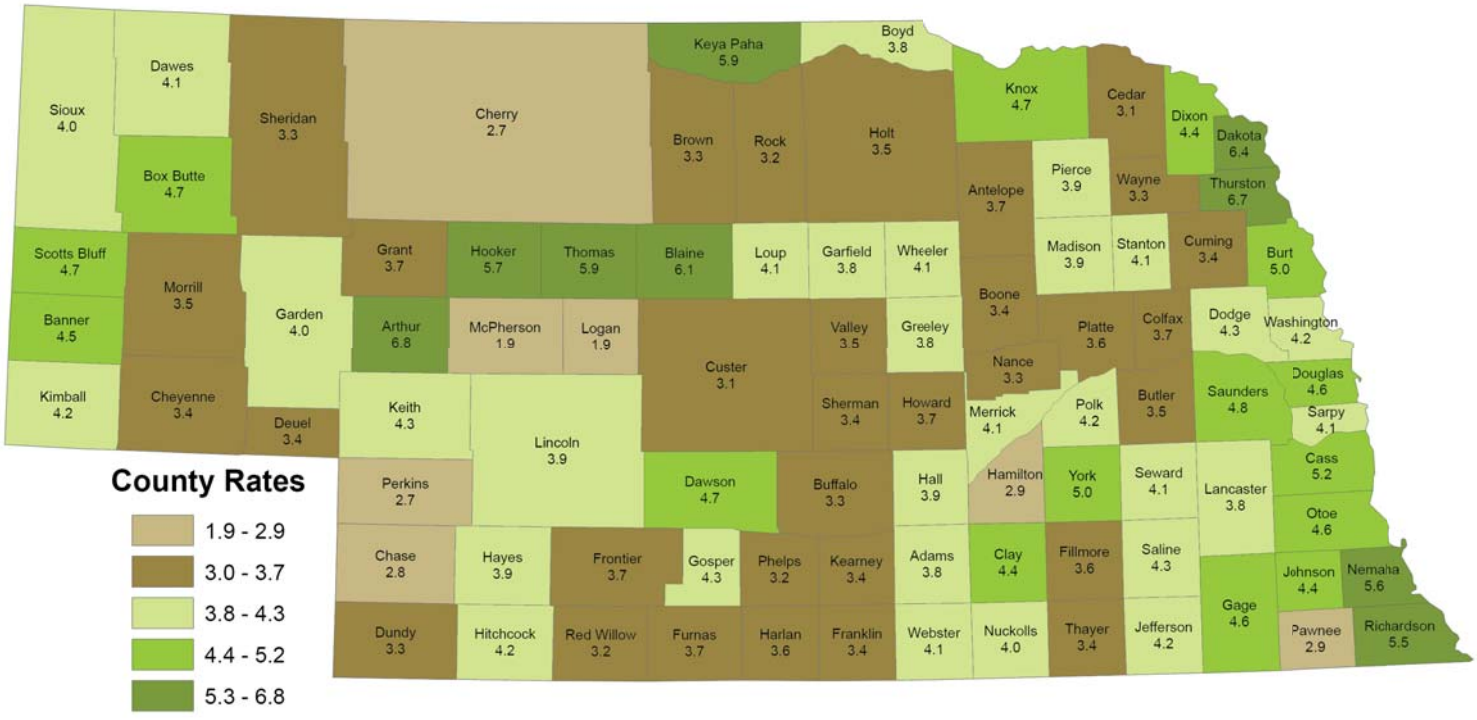
Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted):

- Central: 3.6%
- Panhandle: 4.2%
- Mid Plains: 3.9%
- Southeast: 4.5%
- Northeast: 4.1%

Revisions to January Data:

- Unemployment rate: unchanged at 3.8%
- Labor Force: +50
- Unemployment: +64
- Employment: -14

February 2013 County Rates



Website Spotlight
2013 Regional Review Release

Ed Jaros, Research Analyst

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical (MSA and MC respectively) areas are creatures of the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB summarizes these creations as follows. "The general concept of a metropolitan statistical area is that of an area containing a large population nucleus and adjacent communities that have a high degree of integration with that nucleus. The concept of a micropolitan statistical area closely parallels that of the metropolitan statistical area, but a micropolitan statistical area features a smaller nucleus. … The classification provides a nationally consistent set of delineations for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for geographic areas" (Office of Management and Budget, 2010).

Twelve such areas exist in Nebraska: Beatrice, Columbus, Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lexington, Norfolk, North Platte, and Scottsbluff MCs and the Lincoln and Omaha MSAs. Each year the Nebraska Department of Labor Office of Labor Market Information (NDOL LMI) releases Regional Reviews for each MC and MSA in the state, as well as a Nebraska Statewide Review.

The Regional Reviews are documents intended to provide a broad perspective on the economic labor situation in each MC and MSA. NDOL LMI research analysts have worked hard to make the publication both intelligible and interesting. The topics covered in each section are selected very carefully based on their importance. Each page includes both a clear origin of the information and observational insight into what the data has to say.

Each Regional Review begins with detailed demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau and its programs. This data reflects the patterns and conditions in population count, aging, and diversity. Next, information on Educational Dynamics for the state and each region, as well as for state colleges and community colleges are detailed. This section employs data from the NDOL and the Nebraska Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education. Labor Supply data follows, examining the commuting patterns and workforce and unemployment trends in each area. Information from the Census Local Employment Dynamics and NDOL Local Area Unemployment Statistics populates these pages.

The next segment of the publication covers compensation issues, with pay rates and benefits for a variety of industries and occupations, as well as an examination of self-sufficiency and poverty income levels throughout the state. Census, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), NDOL, and non-profit organization sources are cited. The largest and most dense section is Employment Trends, utilizing many of the aforementioned sources of data, this section dives into detail on the industries and careers that are most central to the economy of each region. Each Regional Review is comprised of several projections into the future of Nebraska's Seven Economic Development Regions. An NDOL LMI economist manipulates a variety of trends and current data from the other sections to attempt predictions for each area's economic outlook.

In writing the Regional Reviews each year, the research analysts of the NDOL LMI strive to uphold several ideals. For each topic, the data used is the most complete, current, and geographically specific available. Issues in data collection scope and the necessity of suppressing data that could be used to identify individual people or businesses both make these goals challenging to achieve.

Research analysts also endeavor to leave enough "cookie crumbs" for the more curious Regional Review reader to find his or her own way to the data sources used to construct the publication. Ample citations and a brief guide to using NDOL NEWorks, Census Bureau, and BLS websites have been included to this end.

The 2013 Regional Reviews for each MC and MSA and the Nebraska Statewide Review were published online on March 8, 2013 to the LMI homepage on NEWorks neworks.nebraska.gov/analyzer. Look for them under Publications!

Credits

Nebraska Workforce Trends is published by the Nebraska Department of Labor - Labor Market Information Center in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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