

# Trends



**Young Workers in the Economy**



**Workplace Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities**

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**Agricultural Exports from Nebraska**

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## GRADUATE OUTCOMES

### Wayne State College

There were 709 Wayne State College graduates from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Of these graduates, 485 (68%) were employed in Nebraska in first quarter 2011. The percentage of graduates working in the state was the same as in the previous year. Females made up 62% of the graduates and were more likely (66%) to be working in the state than males (55%). The estimated average annual wage for all graduates was \$31,172. Bachelor's degree graduates averaged \$25,270 while master's graduates averaged \$45,512 per year and post-master's certificate graduates averaged \$84,234.

Wayne State College graduates were employed in 47 of Nebraska's 93 counties. Nearly three out of 10 of graduates (29%) worked in Douglas County or Madison County. Twenty-five degree/fields of study had 75% or more graduates working in the state. The single graduate with a post bachelor's certificate had the highest percentage working in Nebraska with 100%. In descending order were post master's degree graduates with 93%, master's degree graduates with 69% and bachelor's degree graduates with 68%.

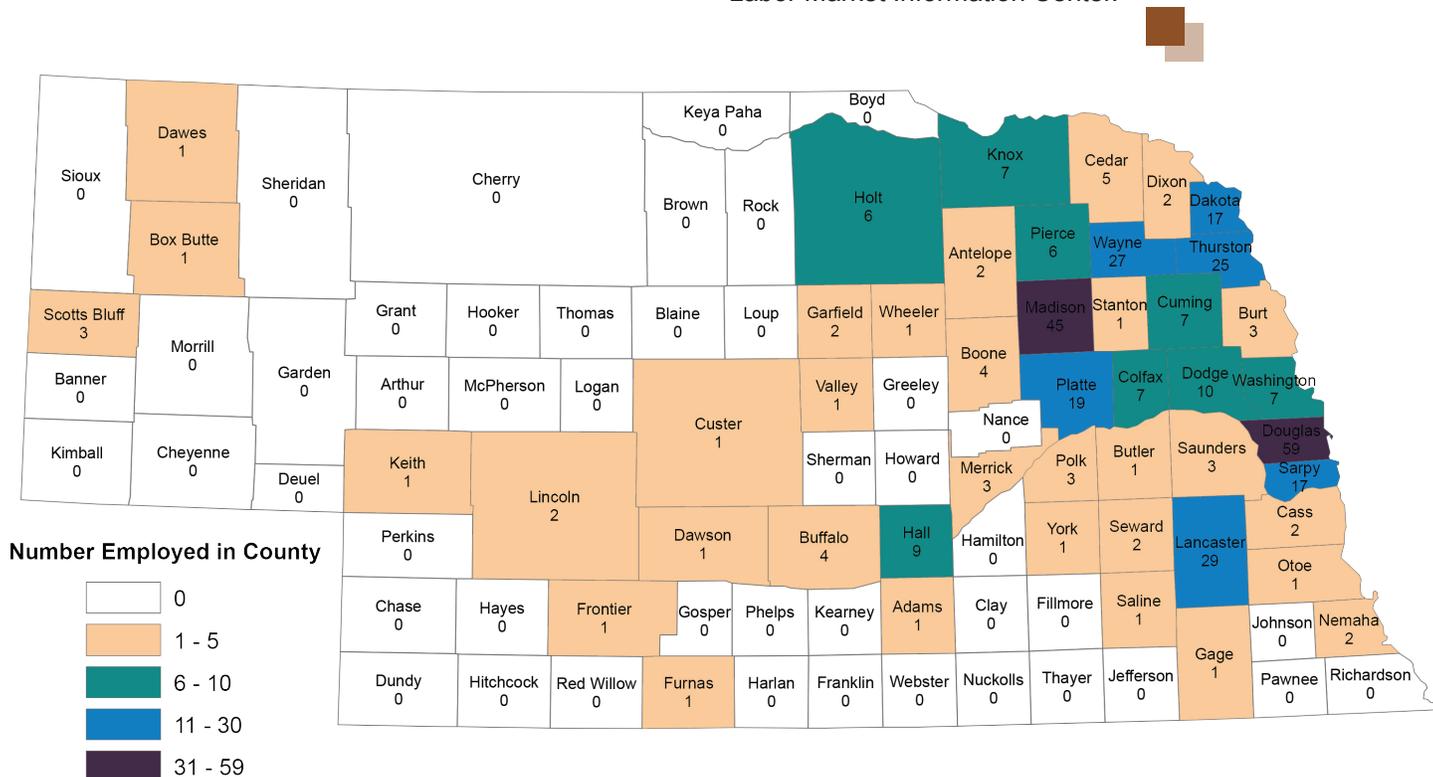
The Educational Services industry employed the highest number of graduates working in the state with 201, followed by Retail Trade with 56 and Health Care with 53. The 201 graduates working in the Educational Services industry had estimated wages of \$40,713, the highest for any industry.



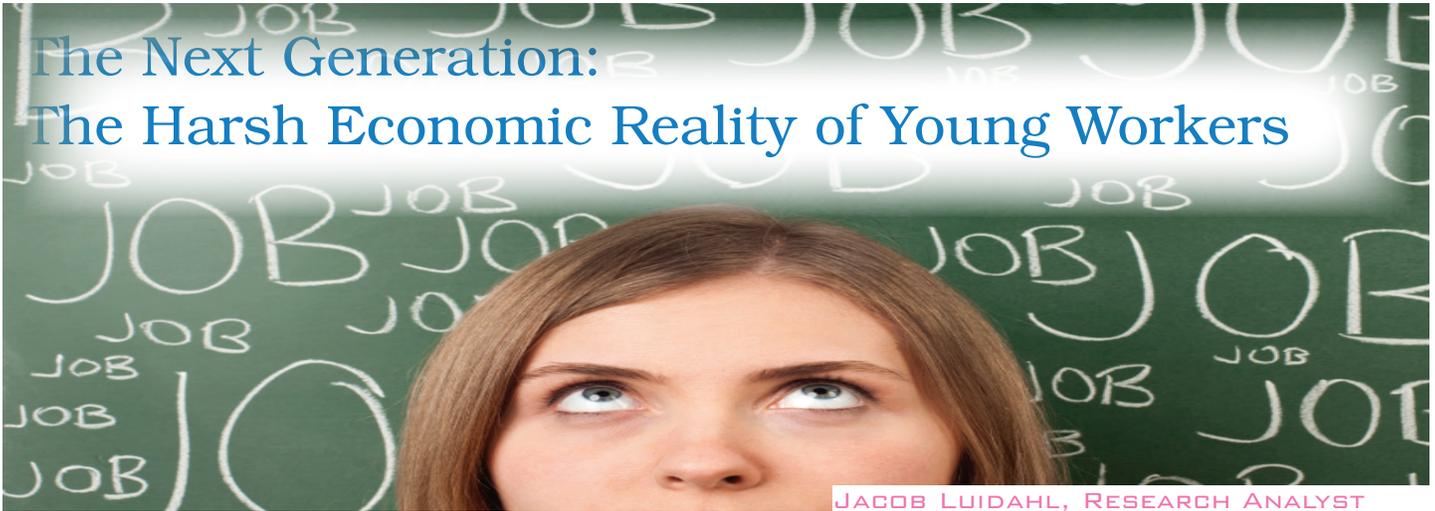
The second and third highest wages were earned by the 18 graduates in the Manufacturing industry with \$32,099 followed by the 22 graduates in the Professional, Scientific and Technical Services industry with \$30,463.

The Superintendency and Educational System Administration post master's certificate graduates had the highest earnings of all fields of study with \$84,234. Master's degree graduates in Business Administration and Management field of study had the second highest earnings of \$65,082. There were 10 degree/ fields of study with 133 graduates with earnings above \$30,000 per year. Master's degree or higher fields of study accounted for six of the 10 highest paying fields of study.

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



## The Next Generation: The Harsh Economic Reality of Young Workers



JACOB LUIDAHL, RESEARCH ANALYST

**W**hat is wrong with the job market for young people? Why does every recession tend to hit the youngest generation of workers the hardest? With more adult children moving back in with their parents and young adult unemployment near record highs, it is crucial that we understand the economics of why younger people are hurting more than other groups. Few advocacy groups exist to promote youth employment issues, so Americans must take it upon themselves to be educated on this important issue. After identifying that a recurring problem exists and the likely contributing causes of young worker unemployment, we can begin to formulate realistic solutions.

### The Big Problem, Statistically

Historically, young people have been disproportionately affected by recessions and their aftermath. While the historic labor force participation rates and unemployment rates for 16-24 year olds both illustrate the effects, a measure that combines the two best demonstrates the severity of the downturns on young workers. The employment-population ratio records the number of 16-24 year old workers employed compared to their overall population, capturing spikes in unemployment and drops in participation. The graph to the right shows that the employment-population ratio fell immediately before, during and after each recession. Peaking and falling before recessions officially begin qualify this measure as a leading economic indicator, a harbinger of the direction of the overall economy.

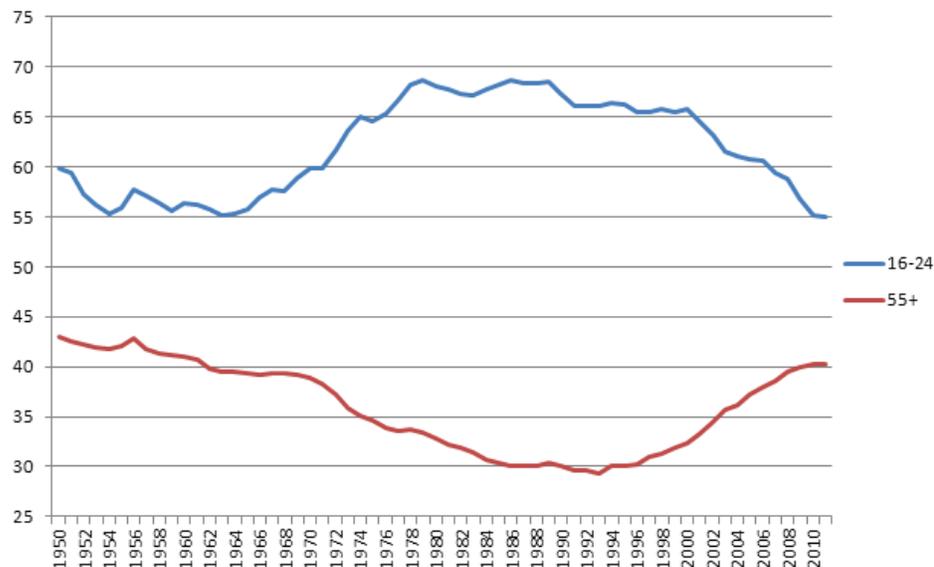
The rule that young workers are more affected by economic downturns has held especially true for the latest recession. Since the start of the recession in December 2007, the number of unemployed new entrants to the labor force has gone from 679,000 potential workers to 1,384,000 in April 2012, more than doubling. The Current Population Survey reported the unemployment rate for 16-19 year olds went from 16.8% in December 2007 to

peak at 27% in October 2009, less than two years later. The April 2012 unemployment rate for 16-19 year olds was 24.9%, and for 20-24 year olds, the unemployment rate was 13.2%. These rates seem extremely high compared to 8.1% for 25-34 year olds, 6.5% for 35-44 year olds, 6.2% for 45-54 year olds, and 6.3% for those 55 and over.

### Major Causes, Major Headaches

The perception of hard times can cause a dangerous domino effect that shakes the labor market to the core. Many Baby Boomers, who were recently planning to retire, prolonged their employment to secure additional income in the face of an uncertain economy. Many of these seasoned employees occupied experienced, upper-level positions. As older workers held onto their jobs, there was a chain reaction down the line as workers saw little opportunity for advancement or job improvement and held onto their position. The Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) numbers show that job separations during and immediately following the recession decreased dramatically in response to reduced hiring to fill vacated positions. The cycle of top-down job stagnation is both intuitive and statistically proven by current

**Labor Force Participation Rate by Age Group**



and historic Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

The slowing of the job-to-job movement within the labor force, or “churn”, reduces the efficiency of the economy and weighs heavily on those just entering the workforce. With less churn, fewer entry-level positions open up for new labor market entrants. Consequently, the labor market is flooded with young workers looking for entry-level jobs. To make matters worse, unemployed workers with some job experience will often look to entry-level jobs to make ends meet while the economy improves. This means that young workers have to compete with some experienced candidates for a lesser number of jobs. The sight of an advertised “entry-level” position requesting 2-5 years of work experience has become commonplace as employers take advantage of the huge pool of job seekers.

Education factors have also contributed to the drop in labor participation rates among 16-24 year olds. Since the CPS began collecting the data in 1993, school enrollment for 16-24 year olds, which includes high school and college, has gone from 51.2% to 58.5% in 2011. Labor force participation rates are lowest for those enrolled in high school, having dropped from about 40% in the mid-1990s to 22% in 2011. Those students enrolled in college have seen a less significant drop of 6.6% in the 19-year collection period. Students not enrolled in school have had reasonably steady participation accented by a recent 2% drop in the participation rate since the latest recession started.

Using an average of the first five years of data and the last three years (due to their consistent economic periods), each educational factor’s contribution to the total labor force participation rate change was calculated. Overall, rising enrollment accounted for just under 20%, or one-fifth, of the drop in participation rates for 16-24 year olds. The decline in participation rates for enrolled high school students contributed over half of the overall decline for 16-24 year olds since 1993. The severe drop in employment-population ratio in both high school students and not enrolled 16-

24 year olds during and after recessions supports the theory that those with the least educational attainment are the first to lose their jobs during an economic downturn.

### Worrisome Indicators for the Future

With a less-than-stellar view for young people in the current economy, we look to the future for improvement. As increased churn is one of the strongest indicators of improvement, let’s first examine the likelihood of senior participation in the labor force. Given factors which have already led to rising levels of 55+-worker participation in the labor market, it is fair to assume that Baby Boomers will work longer than previous generations. All factors revolve around seniors having the necessary money to retire. The Federal Reserve Savings Rate shows that the level of savings in American households fell from 8-12% in the 1970s and early 1980s to under 5% for the majority of the past 15 years. The drop in savings rate inversely corresponds to the increase in Baby Boomer annual income as they began their highest earning years. The low savings rate implies that, outside of a rise in wages over inflation, Baby Boomers generally saved less money and will have to work longer in order to have enough to retire.

The problem of life expectancy and health care costs go hand-in-hand with increased retirement age. As modern medicine becomes more efficient at keeping us alive longer, people have to worry about paying for those extra years of their lives. Additionally, health care costs have been rising much faster than other measures on the CPI, leading many to worry about potential expenditures should the worst arise. With additional costs looming and less money saved for retirement, the likelihood is low that most Baby Boomers will retire when originally planned. With less Baby Boomers retiring, a low level of churn will remain in the labor market, keeping the markets less than optimally efficient and leading to a continued glut of supply for entry level positions. When

Baby Boomers do finally retire, the labor market can expect a boost as more positions open.

### Conclusion

Though they didn’t cause the problem, young workers are the frequent victims of poor labor market conditions. The current problems are structural in our labor market system; however, there is an opportunity to provide future relief through responsible, sustainable policies. A global job market and cyclical economic struggles will continue to pose challenges to generations to come. By acting responsibly, we can help ensure that our actions today are not the threat endangering the economic future of our children and grandchildren. They might not thank you for it, but a young person with a job is a benefit to society.

### U.S. Personal Savings Rate



Sources: [bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab10.htm](http://bls.gov/webapps/legacy/cpsatab10.htm), [bls.gov/emp/ep\\_table\\_303.htm](http://bls.gov/emp/ep_table_303.htm), [bls.gov/cps/](http://bls.gov/cps/), [bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf](http://bls.gov/news.release/pdf/empsit.pdf)



## Workplace Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities

JODIE MEYER, RESEARCH ANALYST

According to the 2011 American Time Use data produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) working persons spend an average of 8.39 hours a day engaged in work and work-related activities on weekdays and 5.88 on weekends and holidays. Americans spend many of their waking hours at work, and most people have a workplace other than their home. Due to the fact that we spend so much time at the workplace it makes sense that we can suffer injuries while on the job. Every workplace has its potential for injury and some workplaces pose more dangerous than others.

The BLS Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities program produces data on the rate and number of work related injuries, illnesses, and fatal injuries. It provides information on how these statistics vary by incident, industry, geography, occupation, and other characteristics. Three major reports are produced, one about occupational injuries and illnesses, one on nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work, and one covering fatal occupational injuries.

### [Workplace Injuries and Illnesses](#)

In 2011 there were 3.0 million nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses reported by private industry employers resulting in a rate of 3.5 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers. Nebraska's rate is 3.9 cases per 100 FTE workers. This is the first time in a decade that the rate remained unchanged from the previous year nationally. Since the estimates started being published in 2002 the trend had been to decline significantly each year. The rate of injuries only declined to 3.3 cases per 100 full-time workers in private industry from the rate of 3.4 cases in 2010. In comparison, the rate of illnesses was unchanged from 2010.

Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting and Accommodation and food services were the only two private industry sectors to experience an increase in the rate of injuries and illnesses nationally between 2010 and 2011. Two industries declined from 2010 to 2011, Health care and social assistance and Retail trade.

The rate of injuries and illnesses was 5.7 cases per 100 full-time workers for state and local government workers which was higher than the rate for private industry workers. However, the rate was unchanged from 2010. The rate was also unchanged from the previous year for state and local governments individually with a rate of 4.6 cases for state and 6.1 cases for local government. One of the reasons that the rates are higher for government workers is that police protection and fire protection workers are included in the government figures and both of these occupations have higher rates of illness and injury due to the nature of the job.

### [Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work](#)

There were 1,181,290 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses in 2011 that required days away from work to recuperate which is a rate of 117 incidents per 10,000 full-time workers, unchanged from 2010. In Nebraska there were 8,180 cases of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work. This is a rate of 111.9 incidents per 10,000 FTE workers, a lower rate than the nation. The median days away from work, which gives insight into the severity of injuries and illnesses, was eight days in 2011 for the United States, also unchanged from 2010. In Nebraska the median number of days from work was seven for 2011.

Injuries and illnesses to workers in five occupations accounted for almost 20% of the days-away-from-work cases in 2011: Laborers; Nursing Aides and Orderlies and Attendants; Janitors and Cleaners; Heavy and Trailer-truck Drivers; and Police Officers and Sheriff's Patrol Officers. Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers of products by hand lead the way with 56,950 cases and an incident rate of 367.4 per 10,000 FTE.

The Healthcare and Social Assistance industry had about one out of five occupational injury and illness incidents in the private sector in 2011. Sprains, strains, or tears were the

most common type of injury or illness within this industry with a national rate of 63.7 per 10,000 full-time workers. Over a third of occupational injuries and illnesses in this industry involved interaction with people other than the injured employee, most frequently with a patient (28%). Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants had the most days away from work cases with 47,840 and an incidence rate of 443.9 per 10,000 FTE.

Protective service occupations had 361 incidents requiring days away from work per 10,000 full-time workers in 2011. This was more than three times the average for all occupations. Protective service occupations also tended to have more severe injuries and illnesses with a median of 12 days away from work to recuperate. Police Officers in specific had an incidence rate of 596.3 incidents per 10,000 FTE workers which was five times greater than that for all occupations.

The most common type of injury in 2011 was sprains, strains, and tears which accounted for 37.9% of occupational injuries and illnesses requiring days away from work. Carpal tunnel syndrome accounted for only 0.9% of injuries and illnesses but required the longest amount of time away from work to recover at a median number of 28 days. The most common type of event leading to injury or illness was overexertion and bodily reaction accounting for 35.2% of cases. The upper extremities were the most often injured body part accounting for 30.2% of all cases. The most common source of injury or illness was floors, walkways, and ground surfaces making up 16.4% of cases.

### Fatal Occupational Injuries

Sometimes your job really can kill you. In 2011 there were a preliminary total of 4,609 fatal work injuries recorded in the United States. This was down from the 2010 figure of 4,690 fatal injuries. The rate of fatal work injuries in 2011 was 3.5 per 100,000 full-time equivalent workers. In 2010 the rate was 3.6 per 100,000.

In Nebraska in 2011 there were 39 fatal occupational injuries. Most of these cases involved transportation incidents where 25 of the events were classified in this category. Only seven of the fatal occupational injuries happened to women. More events happened to those in the 55 to 64 years old age category with 13 of the total injuries in this category.

To access the full reports by BLS and to learn more about this program please visit the BLS website at [www.bls.gov](http://www.bls.gov) and select "Workplace Injuries" from the subject areas.



Number, Incidence Rate, and Median Days-away-from-work for selected occupations, all ownerships, 2011

Selected Occupations	Days-away-from-work-cases	Median Days-away-from-work	Incidence Rate
Laborers and freight, stock, and material movers, hand	56,950	9	367.4
Nursing aides, orderlies, and attendants	47,840	5	443.9
Janitors and cleaners, except maids and housekeeping cleaners	44,850	7	309.2
Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers	44,120	20	318.9
Police and sheriff's patrol officers	33,590	10	596.3

### Sources:

United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Injuries, Illnesses, and Fatalities program, Workplace Injuries and Illnesses, 2011; Nonfatal Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Requiring Days Away from Work, 2011; National Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries in 2011 (Preliminary Results)

## Marriage & Divorce Rates

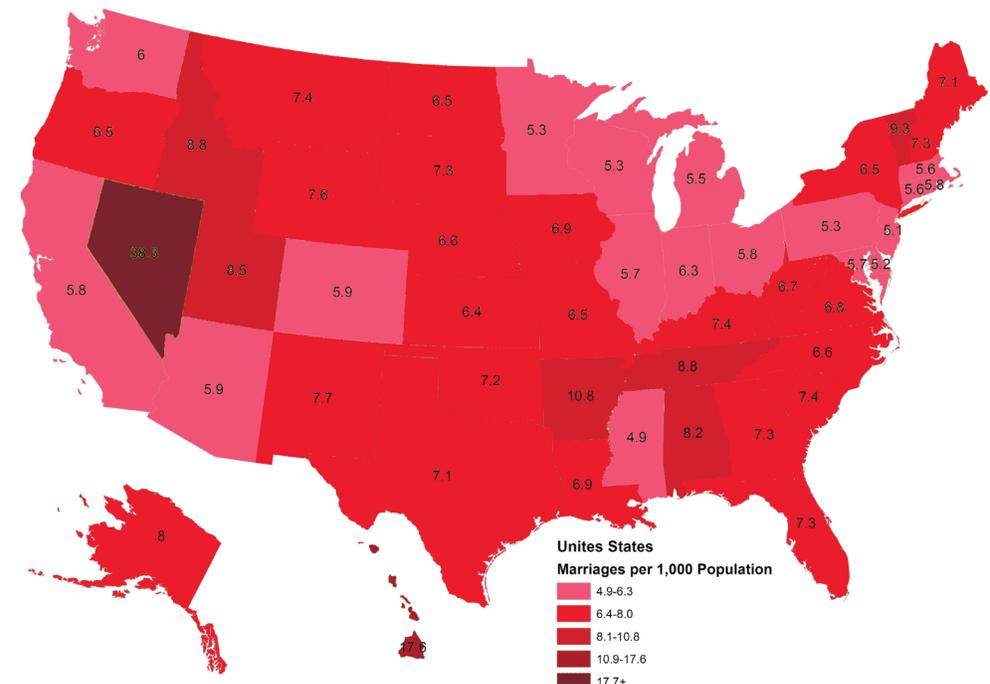
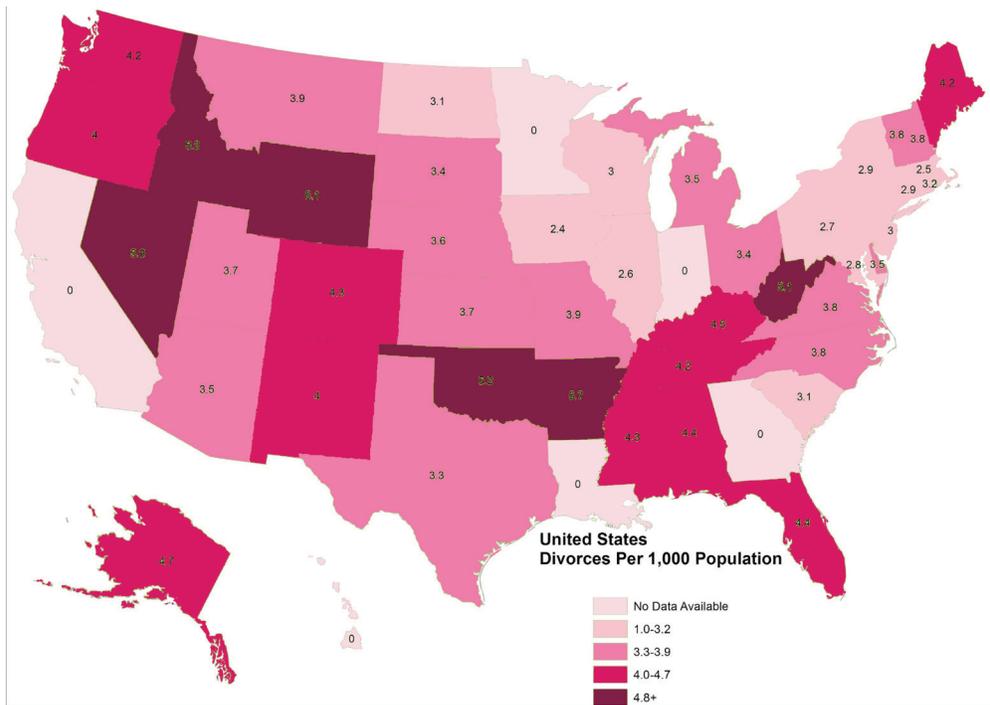


**NISHA AVEY,**  
RESEARCH ANALYST

The National Center for Health Statistics collects marriage and divorce data from State health departments and releases provisional counts yearly. These numbers are based on vital statistics records of marriage licenses and divorces granted. The National Vital Statistics Reports cover issues such as birth, death, marriage, and divorce. Topics of special interest are investigated as well, such as infant mortality, leading causes of death, and pregnancy rates.

The maps created here are marriage and divorce rates per 1,000 state residents. The divorce rates for California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota were not available at time of publication. However, the available data are very interesting. Nevada is in a category of its own with 38.3 marriages per 1,000 residents. This data supports the idea that people are still “eloping to Vegas”. With its tropical climate and beautiful beaches, Hawaii is also a popular wedding destination with 17.6 marriages per 1,000 people. Also of interest are the rates in Idaho, Utah, and Vermont. High rates in these states might possibly reflect religious and legal impacts.

The divorce rates also illuminate some interesting trends. States with high marriage rates tend to have high divorce rates. The divorce rates in New England and the Midwest tend to run lower than in the Southeast and West. We would certainly see some additional points of interest were the data for California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana, and Minnesota available. Review the maps for more information and come to some of your own conclusions.



## Agricultural Exports from Nebraska



ED JAROS, RESEARCH ANALYST



Every Year the United States Department of Agriculture (**USDA**) Economic Research Service releases reports on the composition and volume of our nation's agricultural trade activity. Nebraska features prominently in much of this reporting. What follow are some highlights from recent releases of data detailing agricultural exports.

In 2011, Nebraska produced more than **\$1.639 billion** of corn for export. Only Iowa and Illinois produced more corn for export in that year. Unlike Illinois and Iowa, Nebraska produced more corn than soybeans for export.

Nearly **\$1.435 billion** worth of Nebraska soybeans left the USA in 2011 headed for foreign consumption.

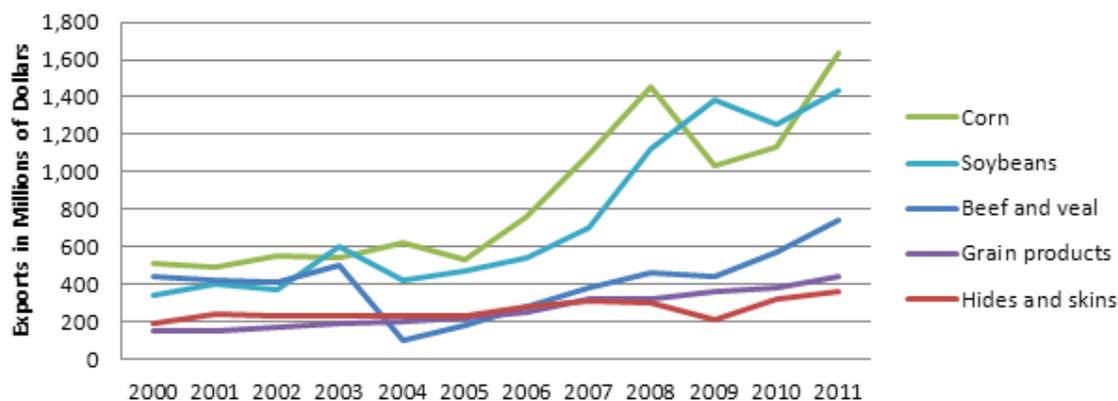
Nebraska ranked in the **top 5** states in dollar value production in 2011 of vegetable oils, oilmeals and grain products, along with corn and soybeans. Only Texas produced more beef and veal and hides and skins for export in 2011 than Nebraska. **\$742 million** of beef and veal and \$364.4 million of hides and skins produced in Nebraska that year were exported.

Canada and Mexico, the United States' NAFTA partners were the **two largest recipients** of US Beef and Veal by weight in 2011. Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were other major importers of US beef and Veal.

Unlike many other segments of the Economy, agriculture tends to see a consistently **positive trade balance** in the United States.

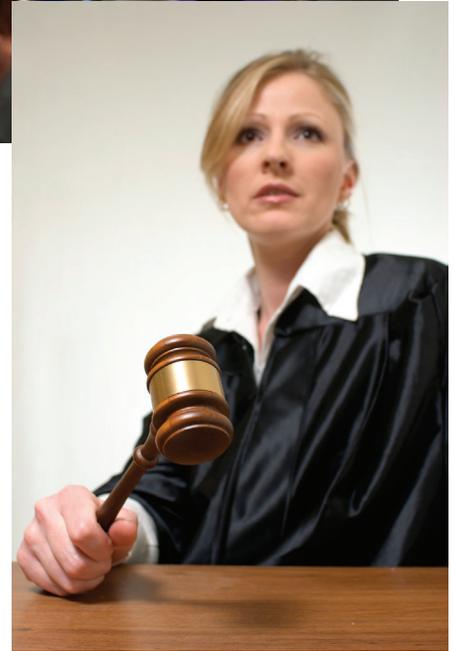
Over the 11-year period 2000 to 2011, every category of agricultural product published by the USDA saw **increase in total dollar amount exported** from Nebraska. Over the aforementioned period, Fresh and processed fruits and sugar and related products saw the most explosive growth in Nebraska; each **more than quadrupled** in total dollar amount exported.

### Nebraska Ag. Exports 2000-2011



Source: USDA Economic Research Service

## Occupational Projections by Education



JODIE MEYER, RESEARCH ANALYST

Projections data contains a variety of rich and interesting information. This month the focus is on projections by level of education or training. This information is valuable to training officials, education planners, vocational and employment counselors, students, and jobseekers. It can be utilized to determine what levels of training will be required in the future and how to plan accordingly to meet these needs.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) has revised the classification system for education and training for the 2010 – 2020 projections cycle. The new system consists of three categories of information for each occupation: typical education needed for entry, commonly required work experience in a related occupation, and typical on-the-job training needed to obtain competency in the occupation. It is important to keep in mind that each of these levels are what is most often required for an occupation and that sometimes an employer will require more or less education and training. When examining the typical level of education needed for entry in an occupation the 2010 employment levels show employment concentrations in the two lowest levels of training with a total of 68.5% of the employment requiring a High school diploma or equivalent or lower. The next highest level of employment is in occupations that require

a Bachelor's degree, which makes up 13.8% of the 2010 employment. However, a slight shift is expected in the ten year period where 67.6% of employment is expected to be in the two lowest levels of training and Bachelor's degrees will increase to 14.2% of employment.

When percent change is considered, the fastest growth is expected in occupations requiring some form of a college education. Occupations requiring Some College, no degree are expected to grow the fastest at 14%. All levels of degrees are expected to grow rapidly with percent changes ranging from 10.3% for Associate's degrees to 13.6% for Master's degrees. Occupations requiring less than a high school education are expected to grow the slowest at 8.0%. This indicates that employers are expected to require a higher skilled workforce in the future.

For some occupations, work experience in a related occupation may be a typical method of entry. Although work experience in a related occupation is generally beneficial for any occupation, this metric is meant to capture work experience that is considered necessary by employers or is commonly accepted as a substitute for other more formal types of training or education. In 2010 only 16.7% of occupations required work experience, most commonly 1 to

5 years with 11.6% of occupations falling into this category. Several of the occupations that require work experience in a related occupation are management occupations such as Construction Managers and Marketing Managers.

The third education and training category that is assigned to occupations is the typical on-the-job training needed to attain competency in the occupation. This category is designed to provide information on additional training or preparation that is typically needed once employed in the occupation to attain competency in the skills needed in that occupation. Approximately three-fourths of occupations require job training, with the most common measure being Short-term on-the-job training with 42.9% of occupations having this requirement.

Apprenticeships are common for 2.2% of occupations. An apprenticeship is a formal relationship between a worker and sponsor that consists of a combination of on-the-job training and related occupation-specific technical instruction in which the worker learns the practical and theoretical aspects of an occupation. Example occupations typically requiring apprenticeships are Electricians and Carpenters. Occupations requiring an apprenticeship are the fastest growing in the long-term with a 13.9% projected change from 2010 to 2020.

Internships/residency is a typical requirement for 3.4% of occupations in Nebraska. An internship or residency is training that is generally under supervision in a professional setting and may occur before one is employed. Completion of one of these programs is commonly required for licensure or certification. This category does not include internships that are suggested for advancement in a field. Many occupations



in the medical field, such as Dentists and Surgeons, and education related occupations such as Teachers typically require an internship or residency program.

All three of the educational categories paint a picture of the future of employment in Nebraska and are important and interesting factors to consider when anticipating needs of employers. A publication with more detail on both occupational and industry projections will be published online at [www.NebraskaWorkforce.com](http://www.NebraskaWorkforce.com). Look for additional articles spotlighting projections in upcoming issues of Nebraska Workforce Trends.

2010-2020 Long-term Occupation Projections by Education-Nebraska Statewide				
	2010 Estimated Employment	2020 Projected Employment	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>Education</b>				
Less than high school	292,201	315,709	23,508	8.0%
High school diploma or equivalent	435,218	471,507	36,289	8.3%
Some college, no degree	6,086	6,938	852	14.0%
Postsecondary non-degree award	90,652	102,826	12,174	13.4%
Associate's degree	51,472	56,769	5,297	10.3%
Bachelor's degree	146,704	165,461	18,757	12.8%
Master's degree	16,419	18,645	2,226	13.6%
Doctoral or professional degree	23,602	26,574	2,972	12.6%
<b>Work Experience</b>				
Less than 1 year	22,294	24,307	2,013	9.0%
1 to 5 years	123,562	135,846	12,284	9.9%
More than 5 years	31,724	33,121	1,397	4.4%
None	884,774	971,155	86,381	9.8%
<b>Job Training</b>				
Short-term on-the-job training	455,392	494,125	38,733	8.5%
Moderate-term on-the-job training	196,087	215,704	19,617	10.0%
Long-term on-the-job training	49,627	54,530	4,903	9.9%
Apprenticeship	23,220	26,455	3,235	13.9%
Internship/residency	36,590	40,776	4,186	11.4%
None	301,438	332,839	31,401	10.4%

## Openings

and

## Expansions



KERMIT SPADE, 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 [Kermit.Spade@Nebraska.gov](mailto:Kermit.Spade@Nebraska.gov) with your information.

### Lincoln

Tabitha – 4720 Randolph (expansion); NMPP Energy – 8377 Glynoaks Drive (moved into their new offices); Nebraska Mattress and Futopia – 3900 Yankee Hill Rd (new store); Complete Nutrition – 2801 Pine Lake Suite C (new store); Oliverde – 201 N 7th - specialty shop in the Haymarket (carries olive oils, spices, olives, pesto, etc.); Raising Canes – 201 N 14th Street – new store, 2nd location in Lincoln; Eakes Office Plus – approximately 40th and O (new store); Dickey's Barbecue Pit – 1226 P St. (new store - second location)

### Omaha

Phoenix Construction Group, construction; Studio Inc., photography; Spruce Boutique, home décor; Protex Central, security/Ins; West Center Pediatrics, clinic; Cake Kitchen & Bakery, bakery; Impulse, bar & food; Savory Spice Shop, spice shop; Bare Body Shop, tattoo & spa; Scooter's, coffee & yogurt; Taita, restaurant; Shop-a-Latte, coffee shop; Subway, sandwich shop; The Egg & I, restaurant; Red Dirt Running, athletic apparel; Pickleman's Café, restaurant; Maria's Mexican Restaurant, restaurant; CAN, data analysis; Sheplers, western apparel; American National Bank, banking; The Dugout, athletic apparel; Gigi's Cupcakes, bakery; River Point Acupuncture, clinic; Fidelity Investments, datacenter; Tripoint Coffee House, coffee shop; Walnut Creek, senior retirement living; Brown Virtual Assisting, computer consultant; Style Fitness & Nutrition, personal trainer; Bellevue Police Dept., Police headquarters; Northstar Financial, financial offices; Alegent Creighton Clinic, medical clinic; LeQuartier Bakery, bakery; Sepora Skin Care, skin care shop; Firehouse Subs, restaurant, Sam & Louie's, pizza shop; Baker's Grocery, grocery store; Joslyn Castle, meeting rooms; Hayneedle Inc, telemarketers; Omaha Steaks, telemarketers; NE Furniture Mart, furniture store; Cabela's, hunting & sports; Mangelson's, retail store; Hobby Lobby, craft retail store; Keller Williams Realty, real estate; Methodist Health System, surgery center; Gavilon, commodity management; L14 Flats Apts., apartments; Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, education/visitor center; Fair Deal Urban District, mixed use development; Vireo Resources, health/medical products; Lerner Building, mixed use development.

### Southeast

#### Nebraska City

C&G's Grill and Bar; S Systems; Tri-State Office Products; Anytime Fitness; Staffing Services, Inc.

### Plattsmouth

Ridgeview Redevelopment Plan, 225 apartment units, clubhouse, and, retail area and office space.

### Johnson

Johnson County Hospital.

### Falls City

FurEver Friends, pet grooming.

### York

Renegade's Antiques, York Tacos to Go, The 4th Quarter (restaurant/bar), The Natural Store.

### Northeast

#### Norfolk

Jeans Barber and Beauty; Dr. Thomas Fennessy, general health and medical; Cake and Icing Too, cake, candy and party supplies; A Touch of Country, country, rustic and primitive home décor.

### Fremont

All Metals Market, scrap metal recycling.

### Columbus

Central American Foods LLC, a cheese factory employing about 7 to 9 workers opened in Columbus.

### Panhandle

#### Scottsbluff/Sidney

Off Broadway Business Products, Gering NE.

### Central

#### Grand Island/Hastings

DunHam's Sports opened a new store in Hastings.

### Mid-Plains

#### North Platte/Lexington

Rue 21 opened 10/18 employing 7-10 people.



## 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	Q3-12	2.0%
Unemployment Rate	Oct-12	7.9%
Federal Funds Target Range - Upper Limit	Oct-12	0.25%
Current Account Balance	Q2-12	-\$117.4 Billion

Nebraska Indicators	Date	Value
Unemployment Rate	Sep-12	3.9%
House Value Appreciation	Q1-12 - Q2-12	0.75%
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	Oct-12	41.9
Net Taxable Retail Sales	Aug-12	\$2.264 Billion
Median Employment Wages	Q2-12	\$31,123

Pricing Indicators	Date	Value
Barrel of Crude Oil-WTI	Oct-12	\$89.49
ECI Change	Q3-12	0.4%
PPI Change	Oct-12	-0.2%

	Indexes			% Change From	
	Oct-12	Sep-12	Sep-11	Sep-12	Sep-11
CPI: U.S. All Items	231.317	231.407	226.421	0.0%	2.2%
CPI: Midwest Urban All Items	220.375	221.125	215.614	-0.3%	2.2%
CPI: Northeast Urban All Items	247.564	247.409	243.014	0.1%	1.9%
CPI: South Urban All Items	224.504	225.052	219.969	-0.2%	2.1%
CPI: West Urban All Items	234.966	234.083	229.195	0.4%	2.5%
University of Michigan: Consumer Sentiment	82.6	78.3	60.8	5.5%	35.9%

**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

*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>*

JANET DENBRING, RESEARCH ANALYST

### TOTAL NONFARM

In the last month, Nebraska non-seasonally adjusted employment rose by 3,571 to 964,026 jobs (0.4%) which is about average. In October, over-the-month change has ranged from -148 (2002) to 7,327 (2010) jobs in the past ten years. The majority of the increase came from the Omaha MSA (4,000). Over the year, total nonfarm employment improved by 10,165 jobs (1.1%). Half of the industries have grown. Over-the-year employment increased the most in Mining and Construction (4,476 jobs or 10.5%); followed by Education and Health Services (3,105 jobs or 2.2%). The Omaha MSA has dominated the yearly progress (11,207).

Since last month, the Lincoln MSA employment held steady at 177,846 jobs (0.2%). This is only 282 jobs higher than the previous highpoint set last month. Since October 2011, Total Nonfarm employment improved by 679 jobs (0.4%). Yearly growth happened in six of the ten industries. The largest additions came from Education and Health Services (554 jobs); followed by Mining and Construction (472 workers).

After remaining flat for the past four months, employment in the Omaha MSA set a new peak, increasing by 4,000 to 475,326 jobs (0.8%). Since October 2011, eight of the

industries have progressed. Since last year, there has been an incline of 11,207 jobs (2.4%). Slightly over half of last year's additions came from two industries - Education and Health Services (3,400 jobs or 4.6%); followed by Mining and Construction (2,361 jobs or 11.6%).

### MINING & CONSTRUCTION

Over the month, statewide employment in Mining and Construction dropped by only 250 jobs to 47,049 (-0.5%) which is a smaller than average fall in October. Over the year, employment added 4,476 jobs (10.5%), the highest October in the past decade, beating 6.2% set in 2007. The bulk of the growth came from Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction (1,469 or 22.6%) and Construction of Buildings (1,235 jobs or 14.7%).

Over the year, employment in the Lincoln MSA increased by 472 to 7,419 jobs (6.8%). The last October growths occurred in 2002 (1.2%) and 2003 (8.3%). From October 2011 to October 2012, employment in the Omaha MSA rose by 2,361 to 22,767 jobs (11.6%) which is the highest yearly percentage growth of the past decade. Since April 2012, over-the-year gains have ranged from 5.9% to 10.3%.

### MANUFACTURING

From September to October this year, statewide employment held steady at 94,313 (0.2%). October's over-the-year employment added 1,396 jobs. This is the largest percentage growth in October (1.5%) in the past decade with a wide range from -9.2% in 2009 to 0.9% in 2005 and 2011. The majority of growth came from Durable Goods (1,129 jobs).

Since last year, employment the Lincoln MSA is up 1.9%, which is unusually high for October. The only other year it grew in October was in 2006 (1.4%). Since October 2011, employment rose by 1.1% in the Omaha MSA. It has increased by 1.1% to 3.3% for all of the months in the past year except for April (0.6%).

## TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES

After a large monthly decrease in September (-1.1%), statewide employment remained flat (0.2%) in October at 195,431 when it has normally increased. Since October 2011, employment held steady (0.2%) after posting four months of sizeable yearly gains.

Employment in the Lincoln MSA dropped an unusual -0.9% in September, but rebounded by 0.9% in October to be at 33,205 workers. Over-the-year employment had been positive since July 2010, ranging from 0.4% to 4.6%; however, in October it fell (-0.4%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-month employment dropped about 700 in August and September, but rebounded slightly in October by adding almost 500 to end at 94,556 jobs. From October 2011 to October 2012, employment has grown by 1,864 jobs (2.0%), a high for October during the past decade (-5.3% to 1.3%). Retail Trade has been the main contributor (1,586 jobs).

### INFORMATION

Statewide over-the-month employment gained 246 to 16,656 jobs (1.5%); setting the largest percentage increase in any month in the past decade. Growth was posted in the non-MSA areas. Since October 2011, employment contracted by 243 jobs (-1.4%). Omaha MSA was accountable for the majority of the loss.

Since October 2011, employment in the Lincoln MSA went down by 51 jobs (-2.3%) which means there has been no annual growth since August 2011 (1.8%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment is down by 324 jobs (-3.0%). Yearly growth has only been seen in two months in the past decade – October 2007 (0.4%) and November 2007 (0.2%).

### FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Statewide monthly employment increased slightly as usual by 205 to 68,686 jobs (0.3%). Over the year, employment decreased by 395 (-0.6%) which is due mostly to the Omaha MSA (-467 jobs).

From October 2011 to October 2012, Lincoln MSA employment increased by 213 to 13,687 workers (1.6%).



In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment declined by 467 to 40,389 jobs (-1.1%).

## PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Statewide, over-the-month employment unusually gained 2,363 jobs in September to peak at 108,054 workers, but lost 951 jobs in October (-0.9%) to fall to 107,103 jobs. The majority of the increase came from Administrative and Waste Services dropping 1,300 jobs (-2.8%). Since October 2011, statewide employment fell by 811 jobs (-0.8%). Over the past decade, the yearly change has varied from -6.0% to 4.9%.

In Lincoln, over-the-month employment decreased by 102 to 18,697 jobs (-0.5%). Over the year, employment fell by 697 jobs (-3.6%). Employment in the Omaha MSA peaked in July 2012 at 68,398, then dropped for two months and has now added 1,050 jobs in October, setting the record increase for this month (1.6%) in the past decade. Since October 2011, it has rose by 2,001 to 68,170 workers (3.0%). The majority of the increase came from Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (1,721 jobs or 6.4%).

## EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

Over the month, statewide employment grew by 1,003 to reach a high of 141,209 jobs (0.7%) with Educational Services contributing the majority (655 jobs). Over-the-year employment has grown by 3,105 jobs (2.2%), with the majority of gains due mostly to the growth in the Ambulatory Health Care Services subsector (1,241 jobs or 3.5%) and Social Assistance subsector (1,484 jobs or 9.9%).

Over the month, employment in the Lincoln MSA increased by 160 to 26,790 jobs (0.6%), normal seasonal growth. Over-the-year employment grew by 554 jobs (2.1%). It has posted yearly growth of 1.8% to 2.8% since November 2011. The Omaha MSA monthly employment incline in Educational Services (253) was offset by the decline in Health Care and Social Assistance (-210); however, it went up a smidge to 76,693 jobs (+0.1%), a new high. Since October 2011, the Omaha MSA rose by 3,400 (4.6%), with the majority of the

	Number of Workers			Over the Month		Over the Year	
	Oct-12	Sept-12	Oct-11	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>964,026</b>	<b>960,455</b>	<b>953,861</b>	<b>3,571</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>10,165</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
<b>Mining, Logging &amp; Construction</b>	<b>47,049</b>	<b>47,299</b>	<b>42,573</b>	<b>-250</b>	<b>-0.5%</b>	<b>4,476</b>	<b>10.5%</b>
Construction	9,661	9,867	8,426	-206	-2.1%	1,235	14.7%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	7,965	8,228	6,496	-263	-3.2%	1,469	22.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	27,436	27,438	26,668	-2	0.0%	768	2.9%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>94,313</b>	<b>94,168</b>	<b>92,917</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>1,396</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Durable Goods	43,900	44,198	42,771	-298	-0.7%	1,129	2.6%
Non-Durable Goods	50,413	49,970	50,146	443	0.9%	267	0.5%
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>195,431</b>	<b>195,031</b>	<b>194,996</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>0.2%</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Wholesale Trade	39,972	40,047	40,617	-75	-0.2%	-645	-1.6%
Retail Trade	104,910	103,713	103,538	1,197	1.2%	1,372	1.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	50,549	51,271	50,841	-722	-1.4%	-292	-0.6%
<b>Information</b>	<b>16,656</b>	<b>16,410</b>	<b>16,899</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>-243</b>	<b>-1.4%</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>68,686</b>	<b>68,481</b>	<b>69,081</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>-395</b>	<b>-0.6%</b>
Finance and Insurance	59,769	59,525	60,172	244	0.4%	-403	-0.7%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,917	8,956	8,909	-39	-0.4%	8	0.1%
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>107,103</b>	<b>108,054</b>	<b>107,914</b>	<b>-951</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>	<b>-811</b>	<b>-0.8%</b>
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	44,677	44,317	43,532	360	0.8%	1,145	2.6%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17,186	17,197	17,336	-11	-0.1%	-150	-0.9%
Admin & Support & Waste Mngmt & Remdtn Srvc	45,240	46,540	47,046	-1,300	-2.8%	-1,806	-3.8%
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>141,209</b>	<b>140,206</b>	<b>138,104</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>3,105</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
Educational Services	17,960	17,305	18,153	655	3.8%	-193	-1.1%
Health Care and Social Assistance	123,249	122,901	119,951	348	0.3%	3,298	2.8%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>83,960</b>	<b>85,351</b>	<b>83,468</b>	<b>-1,391</b>	<b>-1.6%</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>0.6%</b>
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	13,133	13,574	12,306	-441	-3.3%	827	6.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	70,827	71,777	71,162	-950	-1.3%	-335	-0.5%
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>36,616</b>	<b>36,466</b>	<b>36,551</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>0.2%</b>
Repair and Maintenance	10,035	9,905	9,917	130	1.3%	118	1.2%
Personal and Laundry Services	7,846	7,836	7,834	10	0.1%	12	0.2%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Profssnl, & Sim Orgs	18,735	18,725	18,800	10	0.1%	-65	-0.4%
<b>Government</b>	<b>173,003</b>	<b>168,989</b>	<b>171,358</b>	<b>4,014</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	<b>1,645</b>	<b>1.0%</b>
Federal Government	16,714	16,607	16,612	107	0.6%	102	0.6%
State Government	42,888	42,790	42,183	98	0.2%	705	1.7%
Local Government	113,401	109,592	112,563	3,809	3.5%	838	0.7%

yearly expansion attributable to Health Care and Social Assistance (3,753 workers or 6.0%).

### LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

Statewide employment fell by 1,391 to 83,960 (-1.6) in October with all sectors contributing to the seasonal decrease. Over-the-year employment expanded 492 jobs (0.6%), with majority of growth coming from Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (827 or 6.7%).

From September to October, the Lincoln MSA employment contracted by 616 to 16,259 jobs (-3.7%). Drops of 400 or more have only occurred in January over the past decade. Over-the-year employment fell by 363 jobs (-2.2%). Over the month, the Omaha MSA two sectors counter-balanced each other to go up slightly by 153 to 45,725 jobs (0.3%). Since last year, employment progressed by 697 jobs (1.5%).

### OTHER SERVICES

Monthly statewide employment grew during second quarter (1,717) to peak in June; then fell in third quarter (-1,489) and went up a little this past month by 150 to 36,616 jobs (0.4%). Over-the-year employment held steady (+0.2%).

Since October 2011, the Lincoln MSA employment expanded by 44 to 7,028 jobs (0.6%). Over-the-month employment in the Omaha MSA shrank by 211 to 17,374 jobs (-1.2%) which is the largest drop in October in past decade. Since last year, employment rose by 525 jobs (3.1%).



## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INFORMATION FOR OCTOBER 2012

Office of Labor Market Information

### Statewide

- October Total Non-farm: 964,026
- Manufacturing: 94,313
- Average Weekly Hours: 41.9 hours
- Average Weekly Earnings: \$688.00

### Omaha MSA

- October unemployment rate: 3.9%
- October Total Non-farm: 475,326
- Manufacturing: 31,846

### Lincoln MSA

- October unemployment rate: 3.2%
- October Total Non-farm: 177,846
- Manufacturing: 12,764

### Labor Force Employment by Place of Residence:

#### Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted):

- October unemployment rate: 3.8%
- Change (OTM): -0.1%
- Change (OTY): -0.6%

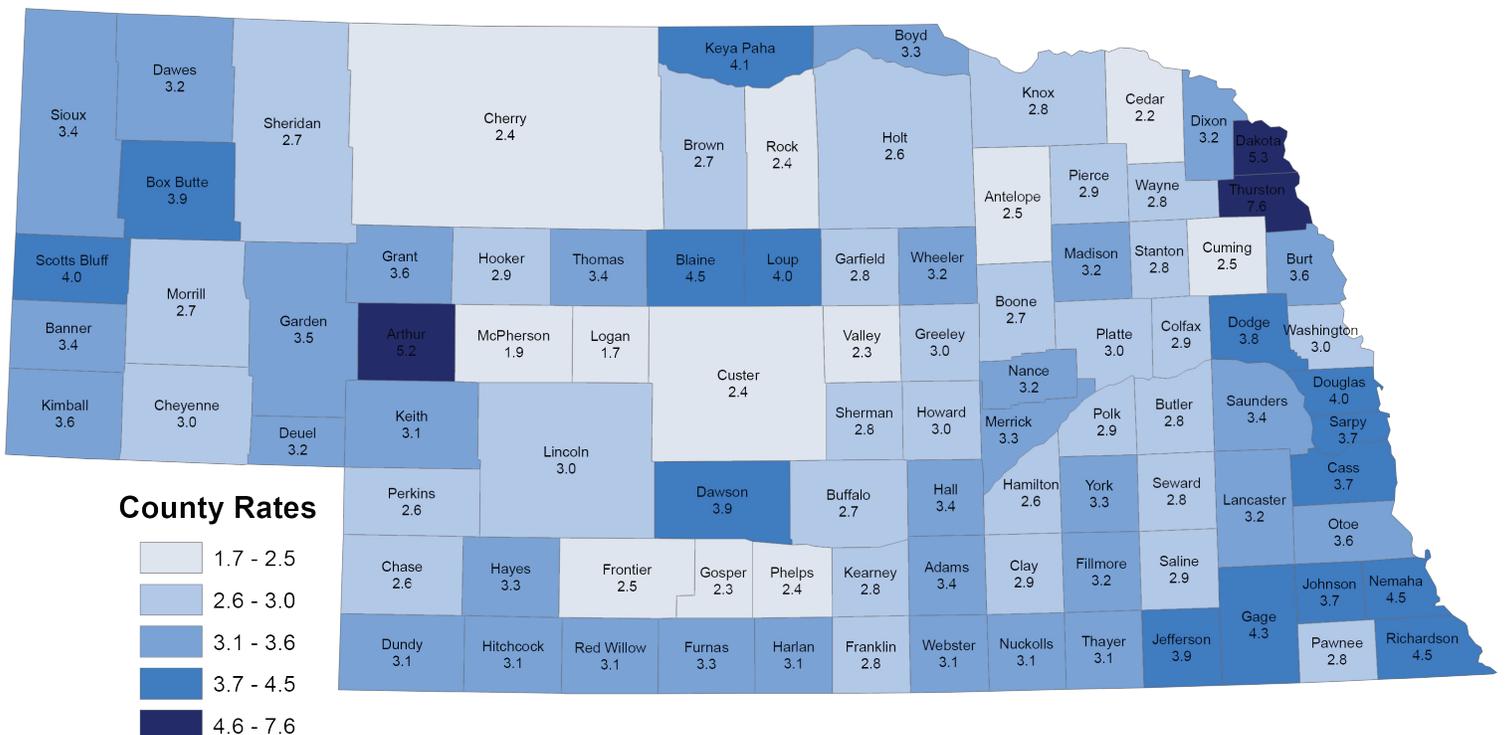
#### Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted):

- Central: 3.0%
- Panhandle: 3.5%
- Mid Plains: 3.1%
- Southeast: 3.7%
- Northeast: 3.3%

#### Revisions to September Data:

- Unemployment rate: unchanged at 3.9%
- Labor Force: +140
- Unemployment: +146
- Employment: -6

## October 2012 County Rates



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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