

Nebraska Workforce

Trends

February 2013



**Total
Compensation**

*Nonfatal
Injuries in the
Workplace*

**Poverty in
Nebraska**

Nebraska Family
Income

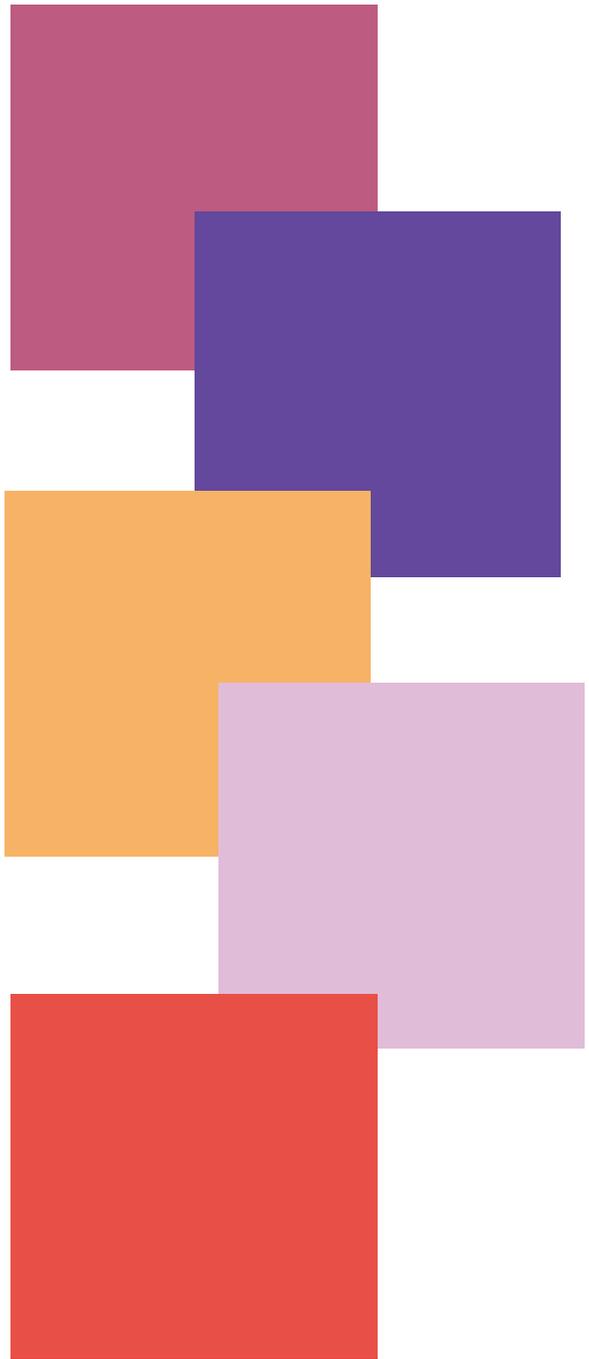


NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Feature Story

Nonfatal Injuries in the Workplace

Aaron Ziska, Research Analyst

Lots of folks wake up, strap on their work boots and head for the jobsite every day, plugging away in the giant machine that is our economy thinking that it's just another day, another dollar. However, not every day is a day filled with problem solving, goal making and achievements. Some days have issues that far and above surpass the late meeting, the slow computer, or the flat tractor tire. The days when employees are injured or made ill on the job are some of the toughest and most difficult to handle of nearly any situation that can arise in the work place. First and foremost, there is the worry for the wellbeing of the employee. Is the employee all right? Will they recover fully? What can we do to support their family through the troubled time? Is there anything more we can do to protect our company's most valuable asset - the workers?

Next, there is the worry of how to keep anything like the injury from happening again. How did it happen? What can we do to prevent it next time? In today's economy, it is all too easy to have to close the door due to a negligence law suit, and employers must do everything possible to protect themselves and their business to make sure that they do not fall prey to one of these legal calamities. Looking into Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards of practice, there are laws and regulations that have been put in place to protect workers from harm, but not every situation can be accounted for. OSHA specifically targets serious recognized hazards in the workplace, some specific examples being limiting exposure to volatile chemicals, requiring safety harnesses for fall hazards, and protective measures against infectious diseases. More information on OSHA, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 can be found online at www.osha.gov or by contacting your regional or area office.

Instances such as equipment failure, not due to neglected maintenance, can still happen at work, causing serious injuries and even fatalities. But just how many of these

instances occur? Are they more common to different regions, industries or occupations? The focus of this article is to explore the statistics on workplace injuries and illnesses that were nonfatal in Nebraska with respect to the United States as per the U.S. Department of Labor, Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses, in cooperation with participating State agencies. We will look into cases involving days away from work, transfers or restrictions, as well as "other recordable cases," which would be those involving an incident that did not necessitate a day off of work.

Workplace injuries and illnesses are not a topic that leaps to the forefront often in the discussion of the labor force and our economy, so let's brush off the dust on the files and take a look into how different industries measure up. In Nebraska, the industry sector with the lowest incident rate is Finance and Insurance (NAICS¹ 52) with 0.8 incidents per 100 full time workers². This is divided up into 0.2 cases with days away from work and 0.6 cases of "other recordable cases." There were too few cases requiring transfer or restriction to be reported for Nebraska. For comparison, the rate of cases for the nation as a whole is 1.4 cases per 100 full time workers in the Financial Activities super sector, with rounding. Cases requiring days off of work were 0.4, requiring transfers or restrictions were 0.2, and other recordable cases were 0.7. The state of Nebraska weighs in with a lower rate in this particular instance; however, statistically, its rate is significantly higher than the rate of the nation for All Industries, Including State and Local Government, with rates of 4.1 cases and 3.8 cases per 100 full time employees, respectively.

There is a disparity between the numbers of releasable industries in Nebraska versus the United States as a whole, due to confidentiality constraints with regard to sample sizes in the survey. While the list of industries available to be released is smaller in Nebraska, due to the way the survey is collected, the Bureau of Labor Statistics

does its best to ensure the highest level of comparability amongst the industries that can be published for every region.

Nebraska had 29,900 total recordable cases of nonfatal injuries and illnesses with just under half of them involving days away from work, relocation, or restrictions - 13,500 incidents. Just fewer than 13.5% of all cases reported were attributed to the largest industry sector, Health Care and Social Assistance (NAICS 62), a slightly higher than proportionate percentage of incidents with Health Care and Social Assistance composing 12.6% of the workforce in 2010. So, with Finance and Insurance being the safest Sector in Nebraska, what is the Sector/Industry that reports the highest rates of injuries throughout the State? Weighing in with a staggering 32.2 for every 100 workers reporting an injury, Police Protection (NAICS 92212) of local government ownership is far and away the highest rate throughout Nebraska. The nearest competitor, Correctional Institutions (NAICS 92214) of state government ownership, reports a rate of 17.6; these two government ownerships are a distinction from private enterprise.

The United States industry with the highest rate of incidents per 100 full time workers is Nursing and Residential Care Facilities (NAICS 623) of state government ownership, at over three times the rate of the entire workforce. State government, again, used as a separate distinction from private enterprise. The Nursing and Residential Care Facilities rate of 13.1 cases is followed by Justice, Public Order, and Safety

Activities (NAICS 922) of local government ownership, with a rate of 10.3 cases per 100 full time workers.

While a person may have guessed that construction crews working on scaffolding on high rise buildings, or workers in manufacturing plants with large, powerful machinery would top the charts of most dangerous industries to be employed in, it is actually those workforce individuals who are taking care of us and protecting us and our neighbors who have the highest risk of workplace injuries and illnesses. An unpleasant and sometimes devastating reality of the working world, workplace injury is an important topic that will never cease to exist, but employers and employees alike must take precautions to avoid unnecessary harm. No one wants to receive a call that their loved one is in route to the emergency room, so make sure to slow down and be safe in the work place.

The current annual statistics of nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses by industry were released October 2012, reporting incidents through 2011. The .pdf report can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/osh.pdf>.



Sources:

1: North American Industry Classification System – United States 2007

2: Incident Rates represent the number of injuries and illnesses per 100 full time workers and were calculated as: $(N/EH) \times 200,000$ where

- N = Number of injuries and illnesses
- EH = Total hours worked by all employees during the calendar year
- 200,000 = Base for 100 equivalent full-time workers (40 hours/week, 50 weeks/year)

Feature Story

Total Compensation

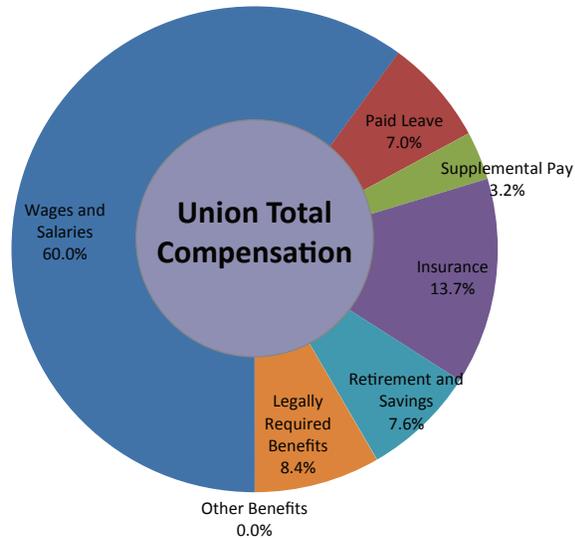
Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

Every quarter the Bureau of Labor Statistics conducts the National Compensation Survey. This survey is broken into two parts, Employment Costs Trends and Employer Costs for Employee Compensation. The Employer Costs for Employee Compensation breaks down what an employer spends on its employees into several different categories. Most employers offer a benefit package to employees that includes more than just a basic wage for time worked. Many employers offer medical, dental and vision insurance, retirement and vacation and sick time. Additionally, employers are required to pay a portion of their employees' salary into Medicare, social security, and unemployment insurance. The total amount paid in benefits, along with their wages and salaries, make up employees' total compensation.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics also keeps track of compensation by employee type. Are they union or nonunion? State or local government? What part of the country are they from? What type of job do they have? Do they work part-time or full-time? The Bureau of Labor Statistics makes it possible to look at the total compensation and each of its components for a wide variety of employees. Each data set also measures compensation as a percentage of the total and in dollars per hour worked, making cross class comparisons possible.

For starters, let's take a look at the total compensation of union and nonunion workers. Most people automatically assume that union workers make more money than nonunion workers. And while this is true, the question is: how much more? On the surface it appears that union and nonunion workers earn a similar wage, with union workers earning an average of \$23.51 per hour and nonunion workers earning \$20.04 per hour. The real differences begin to appear once we take a look at total compensation costs to employers.

Wages and salaries make up 71.8% of a nonunion

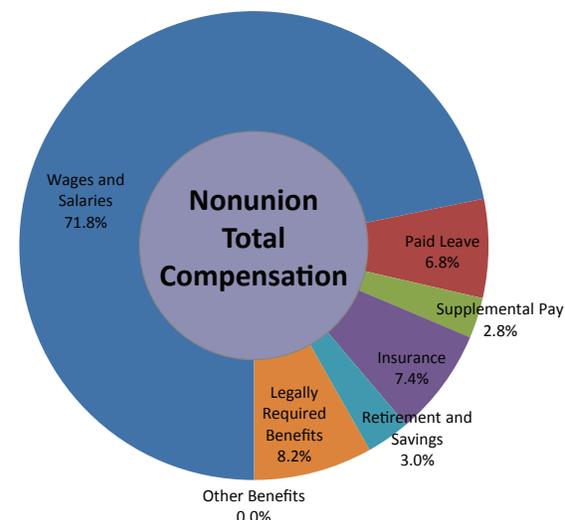


workers total compensation package, while only 60.0% of union workers' compensation is from wages and salaries. 8.2% compensation package, while only 60.0% of union workers' compensation

is from wages and salaries. 8.2% and 8.4% of nonunion and union workers compensation goes to legally required benefits. Legally required benefits consist of social security and Medicare taxes, federal and state unemployment insurance taxes, and workman's compensation taxes. Paid leave also makes up about the same percentage of union and nonunion workers' total compensation, at 7.0% and 6.8% respectively, as does supplemental pay, at 3.2% and 2.8% respectively.

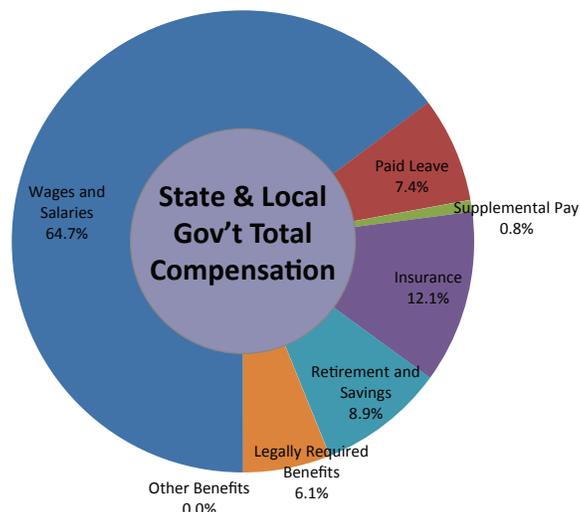
The main differences in total compensation between union and nonunion workers are found in insurance and retirement. Employer-paid insurance accounts for 13.7% of union workers' total compensation, compared to just 7.4% for nonunion workers. This equates to \$5.38 per hour for union workers and \$2.06 per hour for nonunion workers.

Employer payments into retirement make up 7.6% of union workers' compensation, compared with 3.0% for nonunion workers. This amounts to \$2.96 per hour for union workers and \$0.84 per hour for nonunion workers.



So how much more compensation do union workers receive compared to their nonunion counterparts? On average across the U.S., the total cost to employers for union workers is \$39.15 per hour, compared with \$27.91 per hour for nonunion workers.

Another group of workers covered by the survey is State and Local Government workers. The total compensation profile of state and local government workers closely resembles that of union workers described above, mostly because a high percentage of public sector workers are also members of a union¹. Wages and salaries compose 64.7% of government workers total compensation. Paid leave accounts for another 7.4%, insurance 12.1%, retirement 8.9%, and legally required benefits 6.1%. The average wages and salaries for state and local government workers is \$26.91 per hour, but when all the other benefits are included, their total compensation jumps to an average of \$41.56 per hour worked.

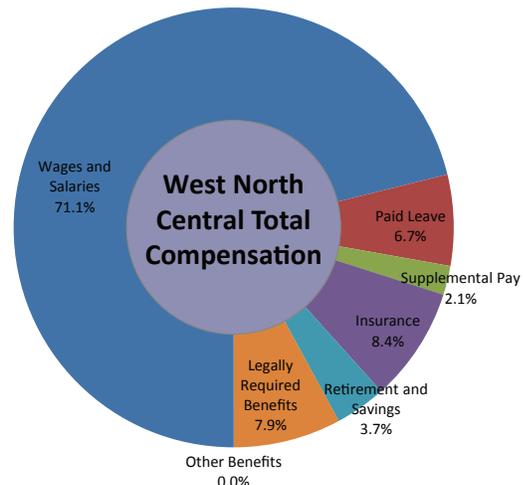


All the data presented thus far has been national averages for large groups of workers. For something that hits a little closer to home we must turn to the different regions that the survey covers. Nebraska falls into what is called the West North Central region of the country. This region includes the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota. These data still cover a broad group of people, specifically “all private sector workers” in the included states, and thus their total compensation profile more closely matches the nonunion workers profiled above. For all workers in the West North Central Region, their average wages and salaries are \$20.32 per hour, which constitutes 71.1% of their

total compensation. Paid leave made up 6.7% of workers total compensation, insurance 8.4%, retirement 3.7%, and legally required benefits 7.9%. All totaled, West North Central region workers averaged \$28.57 per hour in total compensation.

While we have focused so far on only four major groups of workers, and only one time period, the BLS data set is more robust. Each pay category can be broken down into its component parts. For example, paid leave consists of vacation, holiday, sick, and other paid leave. Employee characteristics can be broken down into employer size, geographic region, metro and non-metro areas, union and nonunion workers, full-time and part-time, or by individual occupations. Data is shown by quarter and ranges from the first quarter of 2004 through the third quarter of 2012. This allows for time series analysis of many different categories of workers. Further analysis of some of the individual components of total compensation may reveal more useful patterns.

This data set can be broken down many ways, and is useful in a variety of applications. One important thing to remember is that compensation for time on the job doesn't just include someone's salary or hourly wage. It also includes paid leave, supplemental pay, insurance, retirement, and legally required benefits. In some cases, these other forms of compensation can amount to a significant difference between wages and salaries and total compensation. They can also amount to a large difference between two groups of workers who might earn about the same wage, but otherwise have a very different benefit package.



Source:

1. <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/union2.pdf>

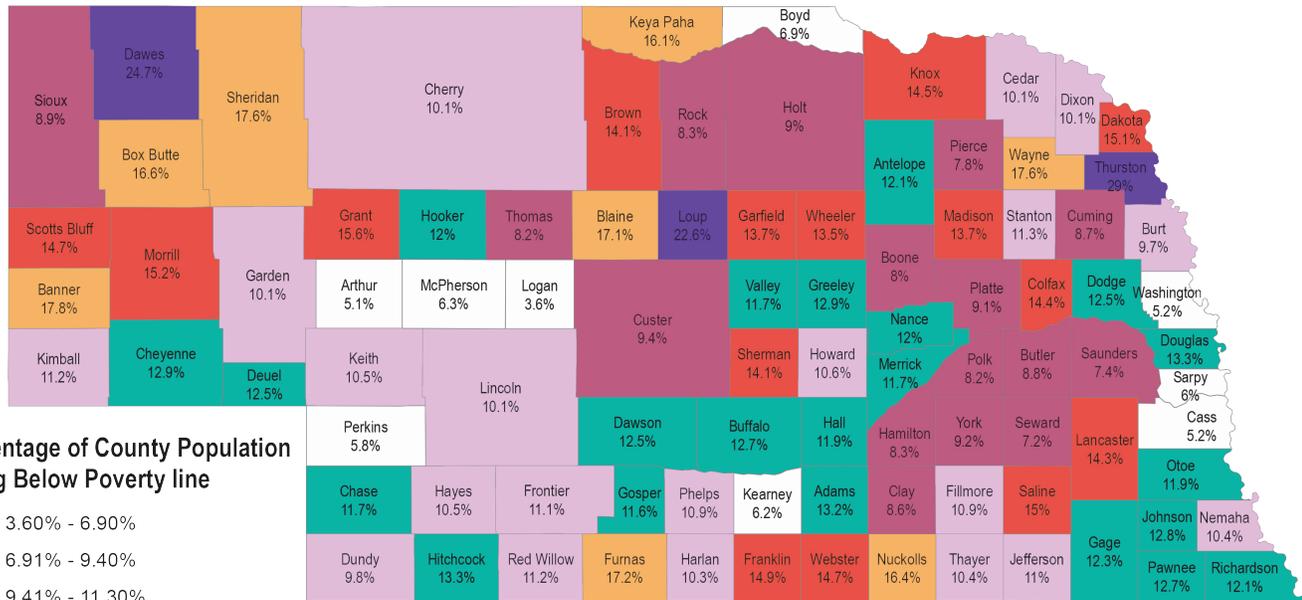
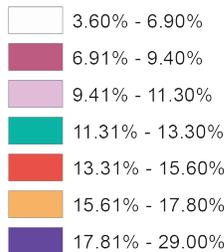
Map Facts

Poverty in Nebraska

Ed Jaros, Research Analyst

The adjacent map depicts each county in the state of Nebraska labeled with its name and the percentage of its population living below the poverty level. The counties have also been divided into seven categories ordered by poverty level and colored accordingly.

Percentage of County Population Living Below Poverty line



The information on this map comes from the 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) 5 year estimates. These estimates use data from 5 years of surveys, 2007-2011, and are the most accurate estimates the United States Census Bureau produces from its annual survey measuring how Americans live. The particular tabulation used to create the adjacent map is Table S1701 and can be retrieved and viewed using <http://factfinder2.census.gov>. The complete table includes counts of total population and population living below poverty level, as well as a margin of error for each figure, which are not depicted here.

The United States Census Bureau provides the following description of the method it employs to measure poverty: "Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Statistical Policy Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If a family's total income is less than the family's threshold, then that family and every individual in it is considered in poverty. The official poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated for inflation using Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). The official poverty definition uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps)." ¹

There are 48 of the aforementioned thresholds and as stated they are based on family size and composition. For example, the

poverty threshold for a family comprised of only an individual adult less than 65 years of age in 2011 was \$11,702, while the poverty threshold for a family of four with two adults under 65 years of age and two related children was \$22,811. Links to the complete table of income thresholds used to determine poverty status can be found at the URL cited¹. These thresholds represent the evolution of standards created by Mollie Orshansky, an economist at the US Social Security Administration in 1963². The history of these thresholds' development is a fascinating story and is told with a wealth of context at the URL cited².

Nebraska's poverty can be analyzed in relation to geography. In general those counties in the map category with the lowest percentage of population in poverty contain or are adjacent to Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical areas, which are centers of population and economic activity. Conversely, those counties belonging to the higher percentage map categories are generally far from these population centers. In general, higher percentages of the population live in poverty in the sparsely populated western third of Nebraska, while lower percentages of the population live in poverty at the relatively densely populated eastern third. For more detailed information on the interactions of the industrial, occupational, and labor force composition of each county, which are prime determinants of income (and thus poverty) visit networks.nebraska.gov.

Sources:

1. United States Census Bureau. How the Census Bureau Measures Poverty <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/about/overview/measure.html>
2. Fisher, Gordon M. The Development of the Orshansky Poverty Thresholds and Their Subsequent History as the Official U.S. Poverty Measure <http://www.census.gov/hhes/povmeas/publications/orshansky.html>

Nebraska Family Income

Fast Facts

Nisha Avey, Research Analyst

The United States Census Bureau states “the American Community Survey (ACS) is the leading source of statistics about our nation and its people.” This survey collects data every year on age, race, income, education, employment, and more. The data from this survey helps to determine how state and federal funds are spent.

The more years of data combined the better and more accurate the information. Based on that, the **ACS 5-Year Estimates** are the best data to give you a true picture of the American people. Family income in the past 12 months, available on the new **census.gov** feature Easy Stats, provides us with detailed information on income by reported race down to the state level.

Looking at **ACS 2007-2011 5-Year Estimates** data for Nebraska, we see some interesting trends. This family income data is based on 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars.

In the table we see that over 50% of white Nebraska families earned between **\$50,000 and \$124,999** in the last year. Almost 58% of

Sources: United States Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



black Nebraska families earned \$0 to \$39,999 during the last year. American Indians and Alaska Native Nebraskans had the highest percentage of \$0 to \$19,999 earning families in the last twelve months, at **35%**.

The makeup of Asian Nebraskans’ earnings closely resembles the white Nebraskans’ earnings, with 47% of families earning between **\$50,000 and \$124,999** last year. Earnings for 57% of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander families were between \$20,000 and \$34,999, but this group also had the highest percentage of families earning over **\$200,000**, at 13%. (It is important to remember that this data contains a margin of error.)

Over 73% of Hispanic Nebraskan families earned under **\$60,000** last year. The same is true for 74% of Some Other Race families and 64% of Two or More Race families.

American Community Survey data is important and helps government agencies determine where to allocate their dollars. Family income by race data might be useful when distributing school and training dollars.



Flash Forward

Projected Occupational Employment within Nebraska's Industries

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

Occupations can vary widely from industry to industry. For example, a chemist can be working in the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry doing research into new medications, working in Construction developing stronger building materials, or working for a Manufacturing company creating new candy flavors. All of these jobs involve conducting chemical analyses or experiments, but for different end product results with very different applications.

The Breakdown

In 2010, the base year for examining occupational projections, Office and Administrative Support occupations made up 15.6% of all occupations and were the largest occupational group. Not surprisingly, this is the biggest occupational group in four of the eleven industry super-sectors: Information, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services, and Government. The top occupation from this occupational group is Customer Service Representatives for each of these super-sectors except Government. In Government the top Office and Administrative Support occupation is Postal Service Mail Carriers.

Job Gains

The occupation of Truck Drivers, Heavy and Tractor Trailer is projected to see the largest increase from 2010-2020 and add 5,392 jobs. Of these, 4,581 are expected to be in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry sector, accounting for 85% of the occupation's increase. Registered Nurses are also expected to experience large gains in employment by 2020 and most of the gain of 2,691 is to be within the Education and Health Services industry sector, adding 2,541 jobs and accounting for 94% of the growth within this occupation. The third fastest growing occupation is projected to be Retail Salespersons, expected to add 2,414 jobs by 2020. Most of the employment for this occupation is expected to be in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities industry sector, accounting for 96% of the occupation's growth and adding 2,313 jobs.

In the Construction industry, Carpentry is expected to increase by 24.8%, adding 1,161 jobs in the industry by 2020. The related occupation of Helpers of Carpenters is also expecting rapid growth within this industry of 50.3%. Much of the increase in the demand for carpenters and their helpers is expected from

Industry Sectors With Largest Occupational Group and Occupation

Industry Sector	Largest Occupational Group	% of Industry Jobs	Largest Occupation	% of Industry Jobs
Natural Resources & Mining	Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	54.6%	Farmworkers & Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse	***
Construction	Construction & Extraction	66.2%	Carpenters	11.2%
Manufacturing	Production	61.7%	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	12.8%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	Sales & Related	32.7%	Retail Salespersons	12.2%
Information	Office & Administrative Support	22.2%	Customer Service Representatives	6.2%
Financial Activities	Office & Administrative Support	47.9%	Customer Service Representatives	8.1%
Professional & Business Services	Office & Administrative Support	28.0%	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	5.5%
Education & Health Services	Education, Training, & Library	27.9%	Registered Nurses	8.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	Food Preparation & Serving Related	74.4%	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	19.0%
Other Services (Except Government)	Personal Care & Service	17.0%	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	5.9%
Government	Office & Administrative Support	20.8%	Police & Sheriff's Patrol Officers	***

an increased demand for homebuilding and remodeling. These activities had decreased during the recent recession and some of the rapid growth of these occupations can be attributed to recovery.

The occupations of Market Research Analyst and Marketing Specialist are found in almost every industry sector. These occupations are expected to increase steadily in every industry sector they are found. The largest numeric change is expected in the Professional and Business Services industry sector with an increase of 573 jobs in these areas and posting the second fastest growth rate at 43.7%. Construction is expected to add 11 jobs, the fastest growth rate (61.1%) due to the small number of market research and marketing employees within this sector. Growth of these occupations in all industries is expected as companies and organizations increasingly rely on market data to make business decisions and cater to consumer preferences.

Job Losses

Every industry sector has occupations projected to decline, but Construction has only six for a total loss of 11 jobs. Most of the loss is expected from the occupation of Helpers of Roofers. The Education and Health Services industry sector has only two occupations expected to decline, Switchboard Operators (Including Answering Service) and File Clerks.

The occupation of File Clerks is expected to be the largest declining occupation for two industries, Professional and

Business Services and Education and Health Services. For the Professional and Business Services industry, this occupation is expected to decline by 68 jobs and for the Education and Health Services industry it is expected to decline by 23 jobs. Much of the decline in this occupation can be attributed to the growing use of electronic files leading to large workload declines and remaining duties increasingly being handled by other occupations. Crop, Nursery, Greenhouse Farmworkers and Laborers are expected to see the largest numeric decline of any occupation, losing 612 jobs by 2020. The majority of this job loss is expected to be within the Natural Resources and Mining Industry.

The occupation of Fast Food Cooks is expected to experience one of the greatest declines in the state with a projected decrease of 265. Within the Leisure and Hospitality industry, it is expected to decline by 273 jobs. This decline is greater than that of the occupation as a whole, because in a few industries slight increases are projected. Much of the decline in this occupation is due to the shifting of job responsibilities of Fast Food Cooks to include serving, which causes a reclassification of these workers into the occupation of Combined Preparation and Serving Workers, including Fast Food which has a projected increase within the Leisure and Hospitality sector of 1,930.

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

Occupations with the Greatest Numeric Change in Employment 2010-2020 by Industry

	Industry Sector	Occupation	2010 Estimated	2020 Projected	Numeric Change	% Change	
Growing	Natural Resources & Mining	Dredge Operators	***	***	***	26.0%	
	Construction	Carpenters	4,680	5,841	1,161	24.8%	
	Manufacturing	Meat, Poultry, & Fish Cutters & Trimmers	11,783	14,167	2,384	20.2%	
	Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	22,831	27,412	4,581	20.1%	
	Information	Retail Salespersons	465	579	114	24.5%	
	Financial Activities	Insurance Sales Agents	3,365	3,950	585	17.4%	
	Professional & Business Services	Customer Service Representatives	4,083	5,158	1,075	26.3%	
	Education & Health Services	Registered Nurses	19,832	22,373	2,541	12.8%	
	Leisure & Hospitality	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	15,310	17,240	1,930	12.6%	
	Other Services (Except Government)	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	2,275	2,723	448	19.7%	
	Government	Compliance Officers	1,175	1,320	145	12.3%	
	Declining	Natural Resources & Mining	Farmworkers & Laborers, Crop, Nursery, & Greenhouse	***	***	***	-2.5%
		Construction	Helpers--Roofers	76	72	-4	-5.3%
Manufacturing		Printing Press Operators	1,429	1,263	-166	-11.6%	
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities		Stock Clerks & Order Fillers	10,752	10,471	-281	-2.6%	
Information		Reporters & Correspondents	686	599	-87	-12.7%	
Financial Activities		Data Entry Keyers	681	589	-92	-13.5%	
Professional & Business Services		File Clerks	339	271	-68	-20.1%	
Education & Health Services		File Clerks	365	342	-23	-6.3%	
Leisure & Hospitality		Cooks, Fast Food	4,699	4,426	-273	-5.8%	
Other Services (Except Government)		Laundry & Dry-Cleaning Workers	612	524	-88	-14.4%	
Government		Postal Service Mail Sorters, Processors, & Processing Machine Operators	1,095	588	-507	-46.3%	

Openings & 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 with your information.

Lincoln

- UNICO Midlands – new company resulting from alliance of UNICO Group and Midlands Financial Benefits (Lincoln location not specified)
- Crazy 4 Consignment – 5740 Old Cheney (upscale consignment shop)
- Organize by Design – business/residence organization and design service (Lincoln location not specified)
- Inner Balance Myotherapy – 4200 Pioneer Woods Drive, Ste A (pain therapy clinic)
- BigShots Indoor Range - 399 Sun Valley Blvd (indoor firearms and archery range)
- Active ChiroCare – 1245 Libra Drive (chiropractic clinic)
- Courtyard by Marriott in the Haymarket – 808 R Street (new Haymarket hotel venue)
- Capital Cigar Company – Cotner and R Street (upscale cigar and accessories shop)
- Warehouse #4 – 228 N 12th Street (old Spaghetti Works – event venue managed by Grand Manse owners/managers)
- Whitehead Oil Company U-Stop – 6400 N 84th Street (remodeled/reconstructed)

Omaha

- Business openings in Omaha reported by the Omaha World Herald include: Tommy Colina's Kitchen, restaurant & bar; Lotus House of Yoga, Yoga training; Fareway Food Store, grocery store; Three Clothing, women's boutique; Airlite Plastic, Plastic manufacturer.
- Business openings in Omaha reported by the Omaha

Chamber of Commerce include: Dunkin' Donuts, donut shop; Big Lots, discount store; Blue Moon Fitness, fitness center; Hillcrest Health Services, Asst. Living facility; Quality Living Center, rehab housing; Tenaska, INC., utilities/energy; Our Bookstore, bookstore; The Corky Canvas, crafting and wine store; Hot Mama, clothing boutique; Our Specialtea, tea and lunch shop; Omaha Bicycle Shop, bicycle and coffee shop; Smej's Snacks and More, snacks and candy; First National Bank, bank/financial service; HHI Restore, building material store; CO2 on Tenth St Apt, 9 unit apt. complex; Omaha Police Dept., evidence storage; 8th Street Apts., 47 unit apt. complex; Google, server farm; Ballantyne Strong, digital cinema equip.; Lexus of Omaha, car dealership.

Southeast Falls City

- Consolidated Grain Company broke ground in Falls City. It is scheduled to be operational next September.

Northeast Norfolk

- Covidien (additional jobs to follow), Federal Express (additional jobs to follow), Avera Hospital in Creighton new surgery wing, McHughs Metal.

Fremont

- Fremont continues the development of its Technology Park, an 80-acre shovel-ready site for business locations. Bosselman's Pump and Pantry is still under construction and is expected to be open in March.

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	Q3-12	3.1%
Unemployment Rate	Dec-12	7.8%
Federal Funds Target Range - Upper Limit	Nov-12	0.25%
Current Account Balance	Q3-12	-\$107.5 Billion

Nebraska Indicators	Date	Value
Unemployment Rate	Nov-12	3.7%
House Value Appreciation	Q2-12 - Q3-12	0.21%
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	Dec-12	41
Net Taxable Retail Sales	Oct-12	\$2.075 Billion
Median Employment Wages	Q3-12	\$31,257

Pricing Indicators	Date	Value
Barrel of Crude Oil-WTI	Nov-12	\$86.53
ECI Change	Q3-12	0.4%
PPI Change	Nov-12	-0.8%

	Indexes			% Change From	
	Dec-12	Nov-12	Dec-11	Nov-12	Dec-11
CPI: U.S. All Items	229.601	230.221	226.665	-0.3%	1.3%
CPI: Midwest Urban All Items	219.033	219.483	215.173	-0.2%	1.8%
CPI: Northeast Urban All Items	246.456	247.097	241.987	-0.3%	1.8%
CPI: South Urban All Items	223.109	223.404	219.469	-0.1%	1.7%
CPI: West Urban All Items	232.029	233.206	228.117	-0.5%	1.7%
University of Michigan: Consumer Sentiment	72.9	82.7	69.9	-11.9%	4.3%

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

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 <http://www.bls.gov/sae/cesprocs.htm>

Total Nonfarm

From November to December this year, Nebraska non-seasonally adjusted employment declined by 2,043 to 958,211 jobs (-0.2%). The over-the-month change in December has ranged from -6,400 (2009) to 1,000 (2004) jobs in the past ten years. The majority of the reduction this year happened in Leisure and Hospitality (-1,809 jobs); Professional and Business Services (-1,208 jobs); and Mining and Construction (-1,060 jobs). Seasonal gains in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (2,306 jobs) helped offset some of the losses.

Over the year, total nonfarm employment expanded by 6,190 jobs (0.7%). Over-the-year employment progressed the most in Mining and Construction (4,679 jobs or 12.0%); followed by Education and Health Services (3,518 jobs or 2.5%). The MSAs lead the yearly progress while the non-MSA area lapsed.

Since November 2012, the Lincoln MSA employment dropped slightly by 359 to 178,747 (-0.2%). Leisure and Hospitality accounted for the majority of the loss (-351 jobs or -2.1%). Since December 2011, Total Nonfarm employment improved by 2,267 jobs (1.3%). Yearly growth occurred in seven of the ten industries. The largest additions came from Leisure and Hospitality (627 jobs); followed by Education and Health Services (572 workers).

In the Omaha MSA, monthly employment declined by -2,065 to 472,687 jobs (-0.4%), with the majority of the decrease coming from Leisure and Hospitality (-1,718 jobs or -3.8%), followed by Government (-1,062 jobs or -1.6%).



Yearly employment grew by 7,540 (1.6%). Slightly over half of last year's growth came from two industries – Mining and Construction (2,978 jobs or 15.5%), followed by Education and Health Services (2,601 jobs or 3.5%).

Mining & Construction

Over the month, statewide employment in Mining and Construction diminished less than normal (-2.4%) because of the large abnormal drop last month (-5.1%). The majority of the drops occurred outside the MSAs. Since December 2011, employment expanded by 12.0% to 43,652 (4,679 jobs), which is the highest December percentage growth in the past decade. Over-the-year increases of 10% or more have only occurred in three other months in the past decade. The monthly drop of 51 to 7,105 jobs (-0.7%) in the Lincoln MSA is the smallest decrease for December in the past decade (-6.3% to -1.7%). Over the year, employment grew by 463 jobs (7.0%), which has only been beaten by the December 2003 growth of 679 jobs (8.3%) in the past decade.

From December 2011 to December 2012, employment in the Omaha MSA rose by 2,978 to 22,227 jobs (15.5%), which is the largest yearly growth of any month in the past decade. Growth from 10% to 12% has only occurred in four other months.

Manufacturing

Statewide employment grew slightly by 252 to 95,322 (0.3%) from November to December after largely increasing from October to November by 659 jobs. December's over-the-year employment added 1,089 jobs (1.2%) with all three manufacturing sectors contributing.

Since last year, employment in the Lincoln MSA went down by 23 to 12,860 (-0.2%), after Durable Goods (+65) were balanced by Non-Durable Goods (-88). Since December 2011, employment rose by 271 in the Omaha MSA to 32,446 jobs, with Non-Durable Goods increasing 297 jobs (1.5%), barely being offset by Durable Goods decreasing by 26 jobs (-0.2%).

Trade, Transportation & Utilities

Statewide employment had a higher than ten-year average (1.0%) increase of 2,306 to 200,448 jobs (1.2%) in December. Since December 2011, employment dropped (-1,239), with the majority of losses coming from Transportation and Warehousing (-1,121).

Yearly employment in the Lincoln MSA declined by 362 to 33,681 jobs (-1.1%), which is the smallest decrease in December of the past decade and is not bad relative to the past December range of -5.1% (2009) to 8.1% (2003). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-month employment increased by 1,023 in December to 97,343 jobs (1.1%). From December 2011 to December 2012, employment gained 785 jobs (0.8%), with Wholesale Trade being the main provider (870 jobs).

Information

Since November 2012, employment fell by 154 to 16,443 jobs (-0.9%); the largest decrease in December in the last decade (-131 to +187). This is due to the large increases in September (205) and November (240). Statewide over-the-year employment dropped -636 jobs or -3.7%.

Over the year, employment in the Lincoln MSA went down by 73 to 2,133 jobs (-3.3%) in comparison to the past decade in December ranging from -23.4% (2008) to 11.5% (2003). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment is down by 421

jobs (-3.8%). Yearly growth has only been met in two months in the past decade – November 2007 (0.4%) and December 2007 (0.2%).

Financial Activities

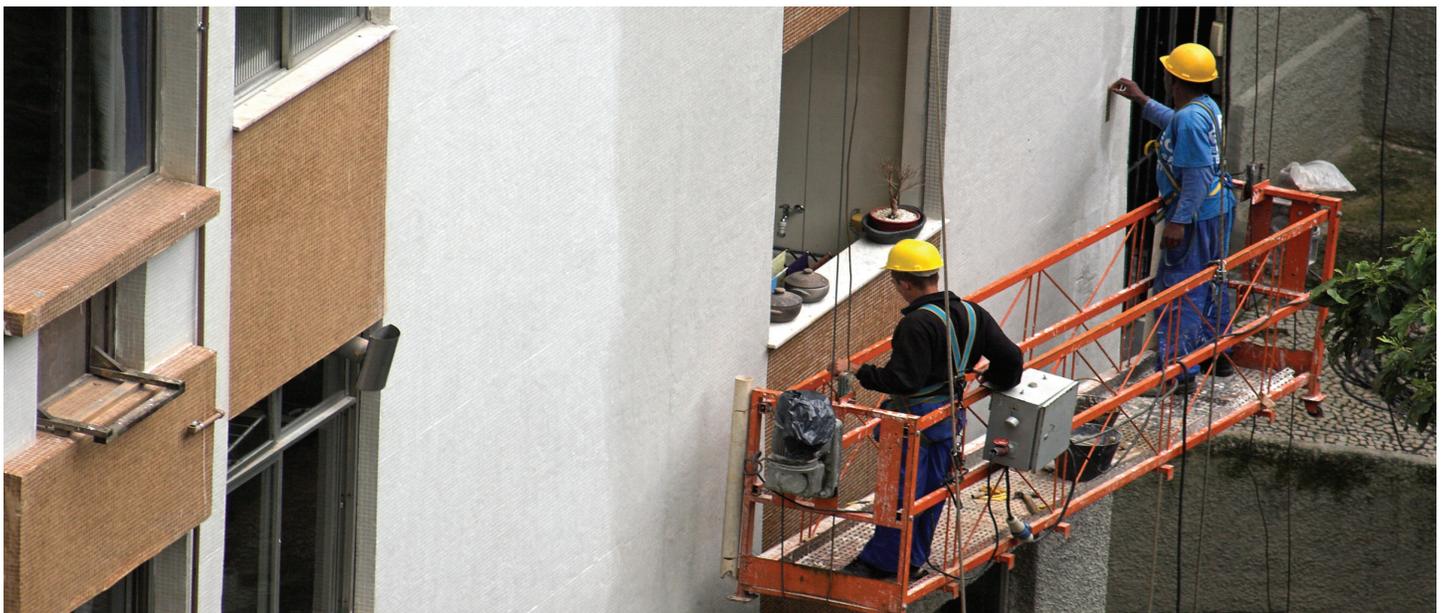
Statewide monthly employment remained unchanged at 68,207 jobs (-0.1%). Over the year, employment dropped the most in December during the past decade (-1,097 jobs or -1.6%). Yearly employment had been dropping every month since September 2011, between -0.1% to -2.3%.

From December 2011 to December 2012, Lincoln MSA employment increased by 114 to 13,652 workers (0.8%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment declined by 679 to 40,071 jobs (-1.7%), with the decline in Finance and insurance (-963 jobs or -2.7%) only being offset slightly by an increase in Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (284 jobs or 5.1%).

Professional & Business Services

Statewide employment peaked in September at 108,054 jobs, but has since declined. Over-the-month employment dropped by 1,208 (-1.1%) from November to December to 104,417 jobs. The majority of the decrease came from Administrative and Waste Services, dropping 1,563 jobs (-3.6%). Since December 2011, statewide employment remained steady (+0.1%). Over the past decade, the December yearly change has varied from -5.5% to 5.4%.

In Lincoln, over-the-year employment rose by 453 to 18,317 jobs (2.5%). Since December 2011, employment in the Omaha MSA has grown by 1,854 to 67,727 workers (2.8%). Continuous yearly gains have been from 1.3% to 4.7% since July 2010.



Education & Health Services

Over the month, statewide employment progressed by 335, to reach a high of 142,577 jobs (0.2%). Over-the-year employment has expanded by 3,518 jobs (2.5%), with the majority of gains due to the growth in the Ambulatory Health Care Services subsector (1,732 jobs or 4.9%), Hospitals subsector (1,228 jobs or 3.0%) and Social Assistance subsector (990 jobs or 6.4%).

Over-the-year employment in the Lincoln MSA grew by 572 jobs to 26,989 jobs (2.2%). It has posted continuous yearly growth from 1.8% to 2.8% since November 2011. Since December 2011, the Omaha MSA rose by 2,601 (3.5%), with the yearly expansion attributable to Health Care and Social Assistance (3,053 workers or 4.9%).

Leisure & Hospitality

Statewide employment fell by 1,809 to 79,483 jobs (-2.2%) in December. Over-the-year employment remained fairly steady

(-70 jobs or -0.1%), with the gains in one sector offsetting the losses in the other.

From December 2011 to December 2012, the Lincoln MSA employment gained 627 jobs (4.0%). Over the month, the Omaha MSA declined by 1,718 to 43,066 jobs (-3.8%), which is the largest December decline in the past decade, the previous record of -894 (-2.1%) occurring in 2009. Since last year, employment progressed by 659 jobs (1.6%).

Other Services

Monthly statewide employment went up by 195 to 36,934 jobs (0.5%). Over-the-year employment declined by 199 jobs (-0.5%).

Since last year, the Lincoln MSA employment expanded by 89 to 7,064 jobs (1.3%) and has stayed above 7,000 since May 2012. In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment increased by 70 to 17,447 jobs (0.4%).

	Number of Workers			Over the Month		Over the Year	
	Dec-12	Nov-12	Dec-11	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	958,211	960,254	952,021	-2,043	-0.2%	6,190	0.7%
Mining, Logging & Construction	43,652	44,712	38,973	-1,060	-2.4%	4,679	12.0%
Construction	9,239	9,523	8,382	-284	-3.0%	857	10.2%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	5,989	6,916	5,158	-927	-13.4%	831	16.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	26,705	27,011	24,158	-306	-1.1%	2,547	10.5%
Manufacturing	95,322	95,070	94,233	252	0.3%	1,089	1.2%
Durable Goods	43,820	44,291	43,200	-471	-1.1%	620	1.4%
Non-Durable Goods	51,502	50,779	51,033	723	1.4%	469	0.9%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	200,448	198,142	201,711	2,306	1.2%	-1,263	-0.6%
Wholesale Trade	40,663	40,051	40,383	612	1.5%	280	0.7%
Retail Trade	108,417	107,613	108,721	804	0.8%	-304	-0.3%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	51,368	50,478	52,607	890	1.8%	-1,239	-2.4%
Information	16,443	16,597	17,079	-154	-0.9%	-636	-3.7%
Financial Activities	68,207	68,254	69,304	-47	-0.1%	-1,097	-1.6%
Finance and Insurance	59,368	59,469	60,433	-101	-0.2%	-1,065	-1.8%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,839	8,785	8,871	54	0.6%	-32	-0.4%
Professional & Business Services	104,417	105,625	104,276	-1,208	-1.1%	141	0.1%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	45,120	44,988	44,022	132	0.3%	1,098	2.5%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17,809	17,586	17,617	223	1.3%	192	1.1%
Admin & Support & Waste Mngmt & Remdtn Srvcs	41,488	43,051	42,637	-1,563	-3.6%	-1,149	-2.7%
Education & Health Services	142,577	142,242	139,059	335	0.2%	3,518	2.5%
Educational Services	17,897	18,390	18,308	-493	-2.7%	-411	-2.2%
Health Care and Social Assistance	124,680	123,852	120,751	828	0.7%	3,929	3.3%
Leisure and Hospitality	79,483	81,292	79,553	-1,809	-2.2%	-70	-0.1%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,787	11,469	10,192	-682	-6.0%	595	5.8%
Accommodation and Food Services	68,696	69,823	69,361	-1,127	-1.6%	-665	-1.0%
Other Services	36,934	36,739	37,133	195	0.5%	-199	-0.5%
Repair and Maintenance	10,104	10,255	10,267	-151	-1.5%	-163	-1.6%
Personal and Laundry Services	8,020	7,830	7,943	190	2.4%	77	1.0%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Profssnl, & Sim Orgs	18,810	18,654	18,923	156	0.8%	-113	-0.6%
Government	170,728	171,581	170,700	-853	-0.5%	28	0.0%
Federal Government	16,752	16,490	16,754	262	1.6%	-2	0.0%
State Government	42,701	42,788	42,430	-87	-0.2%	271	0.6%
Local Government	111,275	112,303	111,516	-1,028	-0.9%	-241	-0.2%

County Rates

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2012

Office of Labor Market Information

Statewide

- December Total Non-farm: 958,211
- Manufacturing: 95,322
- Average Weekly Hours: 41.0 hours
- Average Weekly Earnings: \$675.27
- Average Hourly Earnings: \$16.47

Omaha MSA

- December unemployment rate: 4.1%
- December Total Non-farm: 472,687
- Manufacturing: 32,446
- Largest OTM Increase: Trade, Transportation & Utilities (1.1%)

Lincoln MSA

- December unemployment rate: 3.4%
- December Total Non-farm: 178,388
- Manufacturing: 12,860
- Largest OTM Increase: Manufacturing (0.5%)

Labor Force Employment by Place of Residence:
Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted):

- December unemployment rate: 3.7%
- Change (OTM): unchanged at 3.7%
- Change (OTY): -0.5%

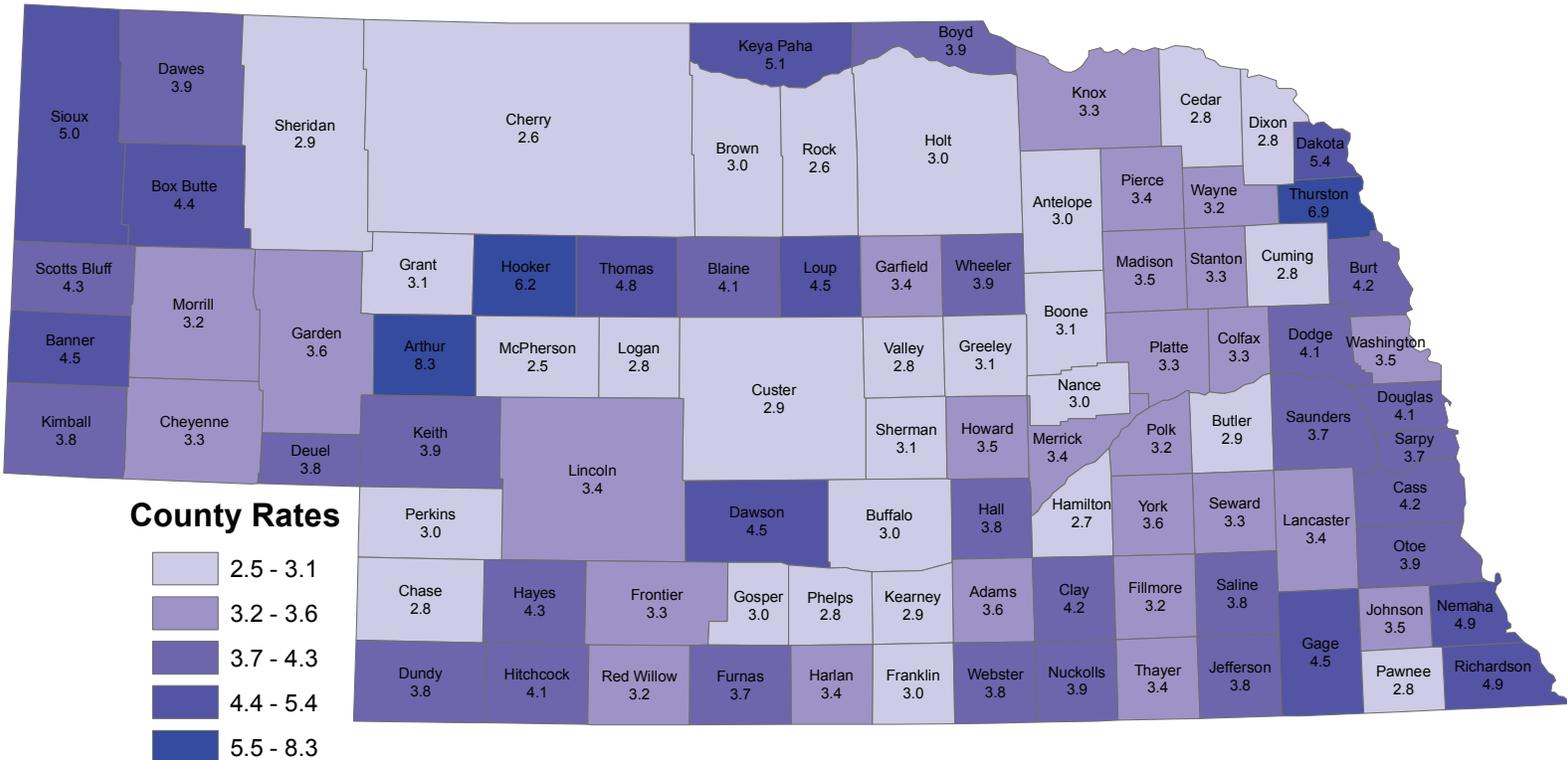
Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted):

- Central: 3.3%
- Mid Plains: 3.6%
- Northeast: 3.6%
- Panhandle: 4.0%
- Southeast: 4.0%

Revisions to November Data:

- Unemployment rate: unchanged at 3.7%
- Labor Force: 170
- Unemployment: 92
- Employment: 78

December 2012 County Rates



Credits

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