

NEBRASKA WORKFORCE **JUNE 2012** Trends



Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey



Resources for Nebraska Veterans

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Fast Facts...
Father's Day!

Map Facts...
Tornadoes

College Placement...
Northeast Community
College

Flash Forward...
The Projections Process



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GRADUATE OUTCOMES

Northeast Community College

There were 735 Northeast Community College graduates from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Of these graduates, 535 (73%) were employed in Nebraska in first quarter 2011. The percentage of graduates working in the state was 5% higher than the previous year. Estimated annual average earnings were \$21,850. Females (75%) were more likely than males (71%) to be working in Nebraska. The average wage for females was \$18,812 and for males \$24,500.

Northeast Community College graduates were employed in 38 of Nebraska's 93 counties with nearly half (46%) working in Madison County.

The Health Care industry employed the highest number of graduates with 120, followed by Retail Trade with 76 and Manufacturing with 52. Graduates working in Health Care had estimated annual average wages of \$24,954 and those working in Retail Trade earned \$13,550. Graduates employed in Manufacturing had earnings of \$34,341. The highest wages were earned by the 15 graduates working in the Utilities industry with \$44,782.

The field of study with the highest earnings was Industrial Technology one to two year award graduates with \$46,660 annually. This was followed by Registered Nursing Associate Degree graduates and Medium/Heavy Vehicle and Truck

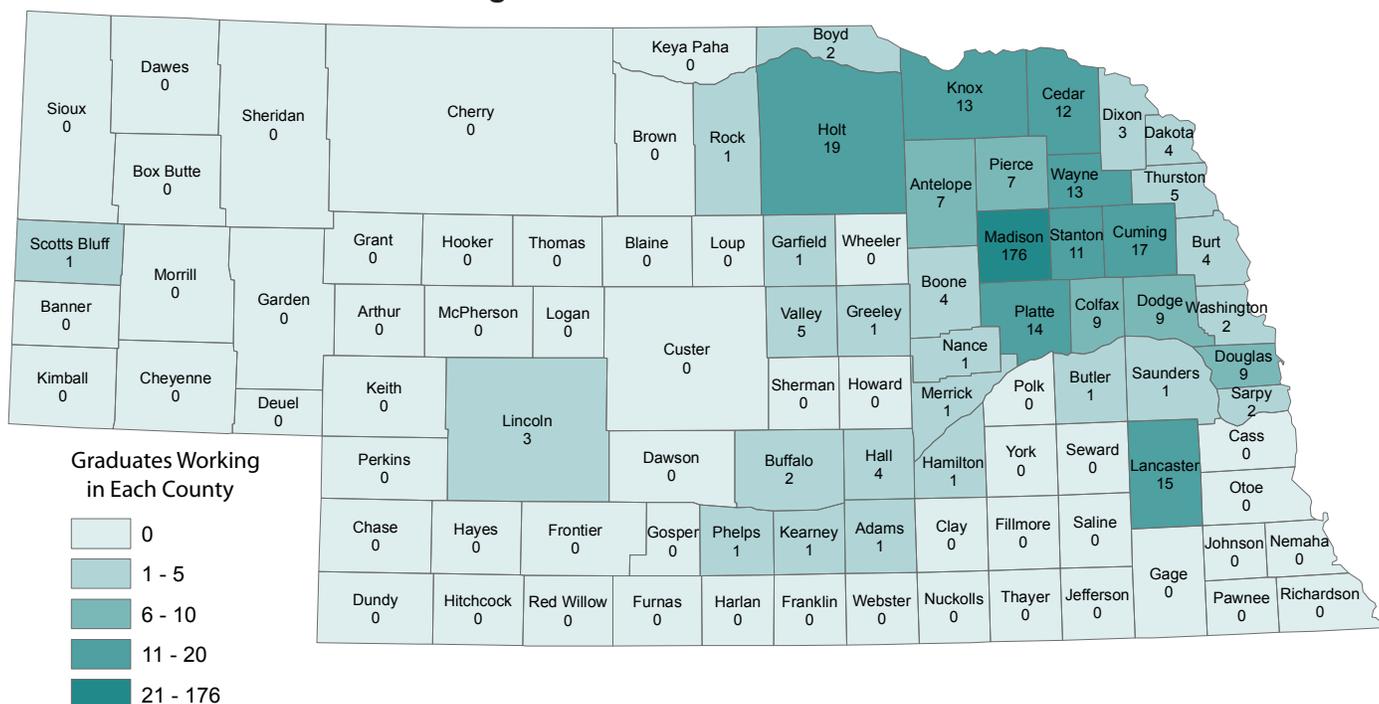


Technology Associate Degree graduates with \$37,737 and \$36,193, respectively. Overall, there were eight fields of study that had estimated wages above \$30,000, primarily in technical and medical fields.

Twenty-six degree/fields of study had more than 90% of graduates working in Nebraska. The Registered Nursing Associate Degree field of study had the highest number (44) of graduates working in the state followed by Lineworker with 31 graduates.

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

2009-2010 Northeast Community College Graduates Working in Nebraska in First Quarter 2011





Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey

BYRON LEFLER, RESEARCH ANALYST

How many job openings are there in the United States? What is the current hiring rate? What is the current layoffs/discharges rate within the United States? Answers to questions such as these are available via the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS). This survey provides a monthly look at the job openings, hires and separations occurring within the United States and is available at an industry and regional level. The rest of this article will provide insight into how the survey is conducted, what data elements are collected by the JOLTS, and how the data is published, along with a brief summary of the most current data available from the JOLTS.

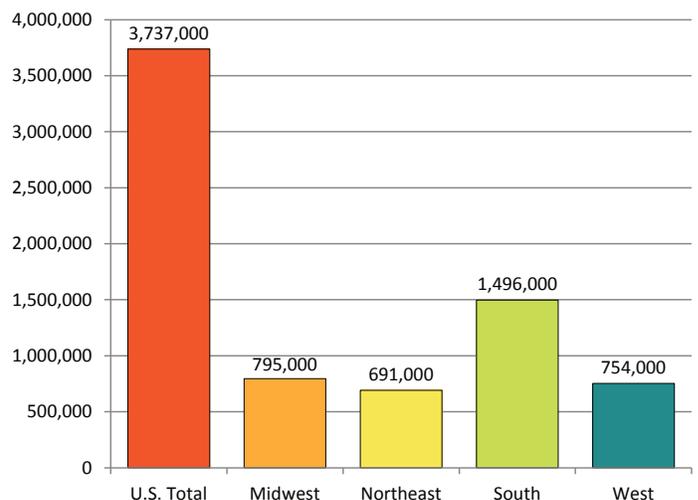
There are 16,000 businesses in the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) sample. These businesses are chosen from a universe of approximately 8,000 businesses within the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW). Those businesses that have the potential to be a part of the JOLTS sample include: all nonagricultural industries, all Federal, State, and Local Government, and logging. Not included in the sample are private households and all businesses within the agricultural, forestry, fishing and hunting industry.

Once a business has been chosen to be a part of the JOLTS sample, data is collected from that business for two years. For the first six months a business is a part of the JOLTS sample, data is collected via a Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview. This method of data collection involves a JOLTS data collection interviewer asking the business questions and entering the data into the computer. After a particular business has responded to the survey for six months, they move to touch-tone data entry. This method of data collection involves the business responding to the survey at their own leisure via their touch-tone phone. Finally, those businesses classified as temporary agencies, professional employment organizations, and educational services industries receive special surveys that address industry-specific issues.

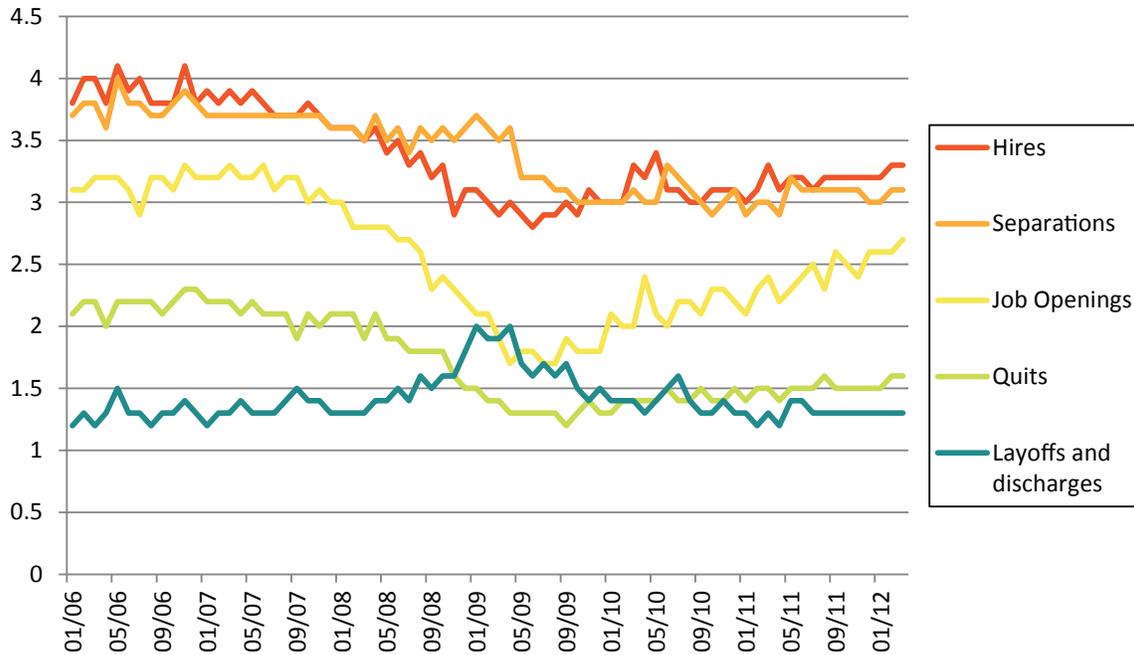
When conducting the JOLTS, several data elements are collected. These data elements include: total employment, job openings, hires, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations. Total employment is defined by the JOLTS as all employees who worked during or were paid during the payroll period including the 12th of the month. Job openings are defined as all positions that are open (not filled) on the last business day of the month. Hires include all additions to the payroll during the entire calendar month. Finally, the JOLTS defines separations, which includes quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations, as all employees separated from the payroll during the entire calendar month.

Once the survey sample has been drawn, and the necessary data collected, the job of analyzing and publishing the data occurs. The data collected by JOLTS is available by industry and region. Data for job openings, hires, total separations, quits, layoffs and discharges, and other separations

Job Openings Levels by Region, Seasonally Adjusted March 2012



Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey Jan 2006-Mar 2012 Monthly Percentage Data



are available at a super sector and sector level, both not seasonally adjusted and seasonally adjusted. There is seasonally adjusted data for layoffs and discharges but they are not available at a super sector or sector level, rather they are only available for total non-farm, total private, and government. Finally, JOLTS data is collected for all 50 states and the District of Columbia and is broken down by region. These regions are: Northeast, South, Midwest, and West. Nebraska is part of the Midwest region, which includes Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin, and had a total of 795,000 job openings in March of 2012. All other Midwest data matched

the national data, except the job openings rate, which was 2.6%. Not seasonally adjusted data is available by region for all data elements of the survey, while seasonally adjusted data is only available by region for job openings, hires, total separations, and quits.

With an understanding of the Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) data collection process, a brief overview of the survey's most current data will be provided. All of the following data is total non-farm and seasonally adjusted. Currently, the most recent data for JOLTS is available for March 2012. In that month, there were a total of 3,737,000 job openings and a 2.7% job openings rate in the United States. In March 2011, there were 3,189,000 job openings and a job openings rate of 2.4% in the United States. The current hiring rate within the United States was 3.3%, while the quits rate was 1.6%, and the layoffs/discharges rate was 1.3%. The hires rate a year prior was 3.3%, with a quits rate of 1.5%, and a layoffs/discharges rate of 1.3%.

As you can see the Bureau of Labor, Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey provides many pieces of useful data on job openings, hires, and quits. The next time you are curious about the current number of job openings or hires within the United States, a particular industry, or region, look no further than the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey. More detailed survey data can be found at <http://www.bls.gov/jlt/home.htm>.





Resources For Nebraska Veterans

KERMIT SPADE, RESEARCH ANALYST

According to the 2010 American Community Survey (ACS), there are approximately 149,594 veterans currently living in Nebraska. Veterans are categorized by the U.S. Census into periods of service. These periods of service are: Gulf War era II (September 2001-Present), Gulf War era I (August 1990-August 2001), Vietnam era (August 1964-April 1975), Korean War (July 1950-January 1955), WWII (December 1941-December 1946), and other service periods. In Nebraska, the largest number of veterans are from the Vietnam Era (31.2%), followed by all Gulf War era veterans (21.6%), Korean War (13.4%) and WWII (11.0%). 22.9% of veterans served sometime between these defined service periods.

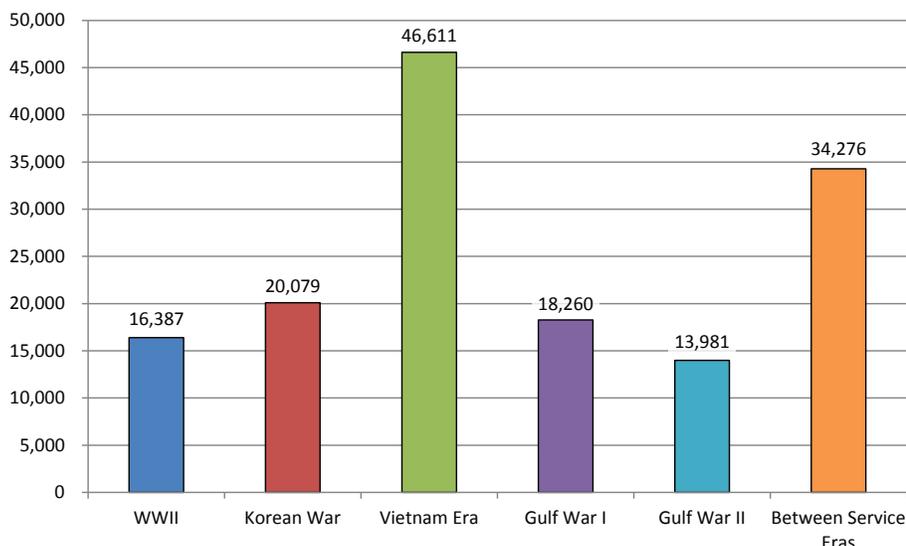
When comparing educational attainment levels between veterans and non-veterans, on average, Nebraska veterans have a higher educational attainment than non-veterans. Overall, 92.2% of veterans have at least a high school diploma (or equivalency), compared to 89.6% of non-veterans. Of veterans, 34.0% are high school graduates while 34.4% have some college or an associate's degree. This compares with Nebraska non-veterans who are high school graduates (29.1%), or have some college or an associate's degree (32.4%). The only educational attainment category in which

non-veterans lead veterans is Bachelor's degree or higher, where 28.2% of non-veterans have a Bachelor's degree or higher, compared to veterans at 23.8%.

As with Nebraska as a whole, the employment situation for veterans in Nebraska appears to be considerably better than it is nationally. While 8.7% of veterans were unemployed nationally in 2010, only 5.3% of Nebraska veterans were unemployed. Taking a closer look at unemployment in Nebraska by age and veteran status paints a different picture though. Over the last four years (2007-2010), veterans age 35-64 saw slightly higher unemployment rates than their non-veteran counterparts. In 2010, veterans between the ages of 35 to 54 had a 4.7% unemployment rate, compared to 4.1% for non-veterans. Similarly, veterans between the ages of 55-64 had an unemployment rate of 3.6%, compared to non-veterans rate of 3.4%. Only veterans age 18 to 34 fared better than their non-veteran counterparts, with an unemployment rate of 6.1% versus 7.4% for non-veterans. However, veterans in Nebraska tended to have slightly higher unemployment rates than non-veterans.

The unemployment situation for veterans is one of the reasons why the U.S. Department of Labor, Department of Veterans Affairs, Nebraska Department of Labor, and many other federal and state agencies have developed numerous veterans outreach programs. One of the key components of finding a job in today's tight labor market is education. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is an education benefit available to veterans who served on active duty after September 10, 2001. It will pay all tuition and fees directly to any public school on the veteran's behalf, a monthly housing allowance (currently \$1,107 per month in Lincoln, NE), and up to \$1,000 for books and supplies per year. For veterans that served prior to September 10, 2001, there is the Montgomery GI Bill, which has slightly different payment rates. See http://www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/montgomery_gibill/index.html for details.

Nebraska Veterans by Service Period



There are also numerous job seeker programs available for veterans, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and the Nebraska Department of Labor. The Nebraska Department of Labor website has a special section dedicated to providing veterans with the resources they need to gain employment. There are links to the VA, career resources, employment locators, skills profilers, and resume tutorials. Additionally, the Nebraska Department of Labor has career centers throughout the state, and each one has a representative specifically assigned to assisting veterans with employment and training opportunities. A list of Nebraska Department of Labor Career Centers can be found at <http://www.servicelocator.org/> or the Nebraska Department of Labor website. It should also be noted that veterans are eligible for priority of service in all U.S. Department of Labor funded employment and training programs. Unemployed post- 9/11 era veterans also qualify for the Gold Card program, which provides access to enhanced intensive services, including up to six months of follow up. These services may include job readiness assessments, interviews, career counseling, provision of labor market information and skill transferability, referral to job banks, portals and openings, referral to employers, referral to training, and monthly follow-up by an assigned case manager.

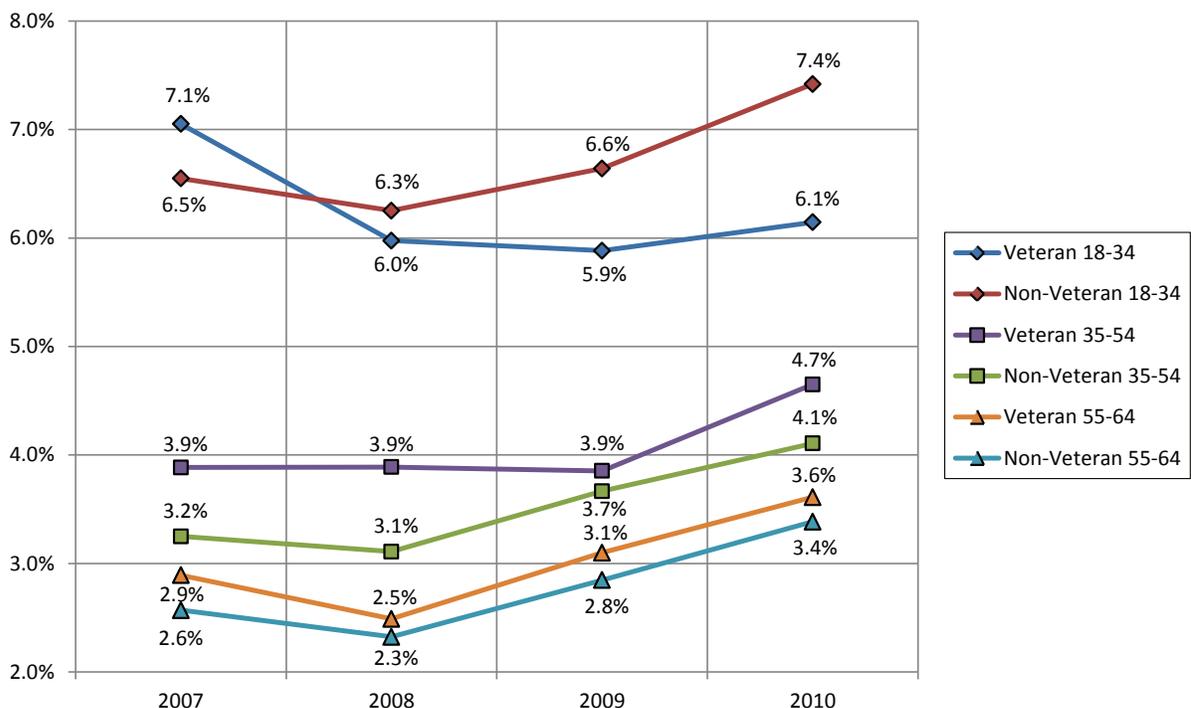
In addition to career resources and education benefits, veterans also qualify for a variety of health care benefits. Veterans must enroll in the VA health care system, and once enrolled, can begin receiving health care at VA facilities anywhere in the country. When enrolled, veterans will be assigned to one of eight priority groups, depending on their level of disability and ability to pay. This is nearly identical

health care service to what active duty personnel receive. For unemployed veterans without private medical insurance, it can be a lifesaver.

One last veteran benefit worth noting is the VA home loan program, because not many veterans know it's out there. This program is available to veterans, active duty personnel and certain reservists. In short, this program allows you to buy a home without a down payment. The VA provides the mortgage insurance for the loan, which means the veteran doesn't have to buy it separately. It also limits the amount veterans can be charged by banks for closing costs, and the lender cannot charge a penalty if the veteran pays off the loan early. The loan is still subject to regular interest, and the veteran must qualify for the amount borrowed based on income and credit. The only other stipulation is that the home purchased must be used as the veteran's primary residence.

On average the unemployment rate of veterans in Nebraska is slightly higher than their non-veteran counterparts. Despite this, Nebraska veterans still enjoy a lower unemployment rate than the national trend. This is due, in part to the many career resources available to veterans in Nebraska. There are many different programs available to veterans: Career resources, education, health care and home loan benefits are just a few, and each program has its own eligibility requirements and conditions. The Nebraska Department of Labor website is a great place to begin learning about all the resources available to the veterans who have bravely served our country. Click on Veterans Services in the Quick Links on the right side of the home page and you will find a wealth of information relating to veterans services.

Annual Unemployment Rate by Veteran Status and Age



Map Facts



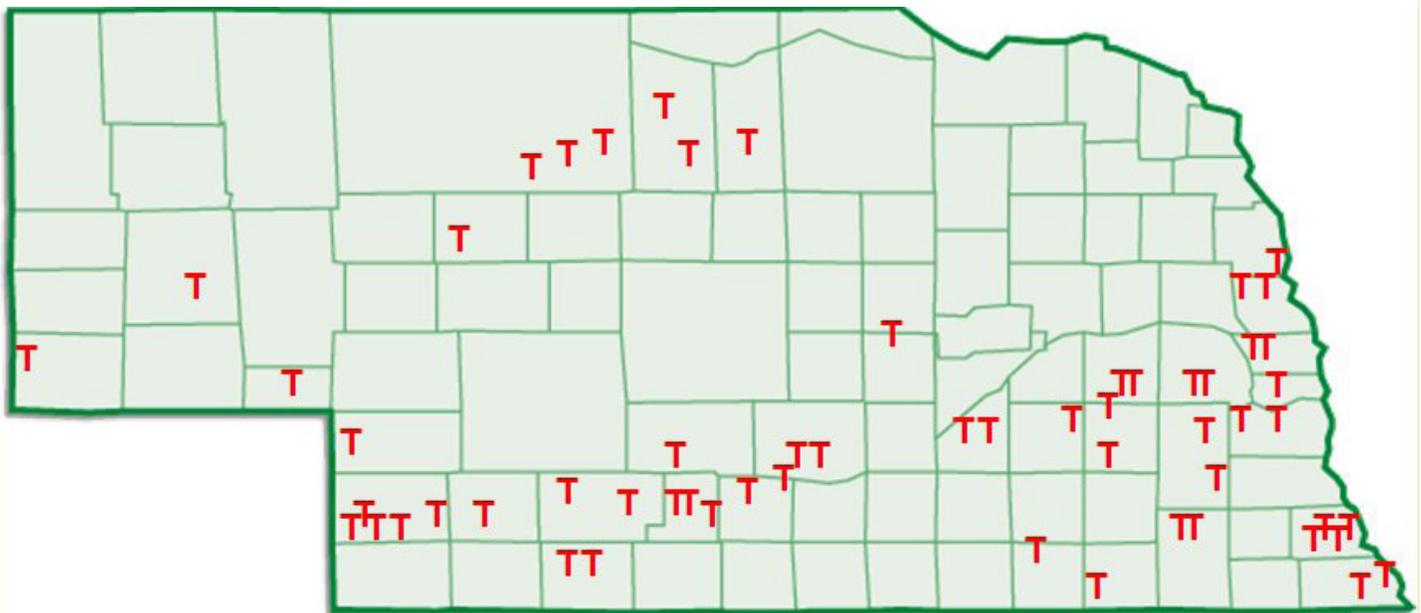
The people most at risk from tornadoes are those who are in mobile homes or outdoors. The safest place to be is an underground shelter or basement. If that isn't available, the next best is a small, windowless interior room or hallway, on the lowest level possible. If you are caught outside, seek shelter immediately. The National Weather Service recommends driving to the nearest sturdy shelter. If you are caught in flying debris, as a last resort you can stay in your vehicle with your seatbelt on, put your head below the windows, and cover your head with your hands or a blanket if possible. If you can get noticeably lower than the level of the roadway, you can exit your car and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands.

The month of June is typically the most frequent month for tornadoes in Nebraska. From 1971 to 2008, there was an average of just over 16 tornadoes per month in June, followed closely by May, with just under 14. In 2008, a total of 59 tornadoes occurred in Nebraska, 34 of which occurred in June. That's 57.6% of all tornadoes for the year happening in one month!

According to the National Weather Service, tornadoes cause an average of 60-65 fatalities and 1,500 injuries nationally each year. They can produce wind speeds in excess of 200 mph, be up to a mile wide, and stay on the ground for over 50 miles. They are some of the most violent, destructive storms produced by nature. The National Weather Service recommends people be prepared year round, as tornadoes can occur any day of the year, at any time of day or night. A case in point was February 29th, 2012, when a tornado produced by a winter storm touched down in Logan County. It was Nebraska's first ever recorded tornado in February.

How do you know when it's time to take shelter? When conditions are warm, humid, and windy, or skies are threatening, you should monitor for severe weather watches and warnings. You can listen to a NOAA Weather Radio, log onto weather.gov, or tune into a local television or radio weather information source. A tornado watch means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to develop in your area. Remain alert for approaching storms. A tornado warning means that a tornado is currently occurring, or likely to occur within minutes, in the specified area. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property, and you should take shelter immediately. The National Weather Service also recommends that you keep an emergency supply kit at home and in your vehicle. Guidelines on building an emergency supply kit can be found at <http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit>. With Nebraska's unpredictable weather, it is better to be safe than sorry. Stay prepared, stay vigilant, stay safe this season!

Tornadoes in Nebraska in 2008



Each "T" represents the approximate location of the 59 tornadoes that occurred in 2008 in Nebraska. The monthly tornado totals were: April (2), May (18), June (34), July (3), August (2) = 59

Source: School of Natural Resources, Applied Climate Science, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Father's Day!



JODIE MEYER, RESEARCH ANALYST

Father's Day this year is June 17th and is a day to celebrate dear old dad. The first presidential proclamation for Father's Day was issued in 1966 by Lyndon Johnson and the holiday became permanent in 1972 when Richard Nixon signed it to law. However, Father's Day has been around since 1910, when Sonora Dodd of Spokane, WA wanted a day to honor her dad who was widowed and left to raise his six children alone. The mayor of the town declared June 17th as Father's Day because June was the month Dodd's father was born.

In 2011, there were **70.1 million fathers** in the U.S. who were part of a married-couple family with children younger than 18. Of these, 21% were raising three or more children younger than 18.

There were 1.7 million single fathers in 2011, and ten percent of these were raising three or more children younger than 18, the same as Dodd's father.

An estimated **176,000** dads stayed out of the labor force to care for children younger than 15 in 2011. These fathers cared for approximately 332,000 children.

In spring of 2010, **17%** of preschoolers were regularly cared for by their father while their mother was at work.

In 2009, more than one in six, or **17.8%**, custodial parents were fathers.

Custodial fathers received **\$1.9 billion** in child support in 2009. To compare, custodial mothers received **\$19.5 billion** in child support payments.

A little over one-third (34%) of custodial fathers received all child support that was due in 2009, compared to the 42% of custodial mothers that received all support that was due.

Looking for a gift for Dad? If you are looking for the traditional tie, try one of Nebraska's 701 Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores. Is dad more of a do-it-yourself type? How about some new tools from one of the 642 Building Material and Garden Supply Stores in the state? Or if Dad would rather have a new fishing rod or a set of golf clubs, Nebraska has **372 Sporting Goods, Hobby, Book, and Music Stores**. 

Source: United States Census Bureau-Facts for Features; Nebraska Department of Labor

The Projections Process



JODIE MEYER, RESEARCH ANALYST

Occupational and industry projections are one of the most widely used data sets produced by the Nebraska Department of Labor. Identifying which industries and occupations are expecting to have the largest amount of growth is beneficial to a wide variety of groups, from students determining a college major to career counselors assisting students and job seekers to businesses and educational program planners reviewing curriculum. Every state has to develop employment projections under a contract with the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (DOL-ETA) as part of the Workforce Information Grant.

The two types of projections, industry and occupational, are produced for two different time frames. Short-term projections are calculated every year for a two-year time frame. The new set of short-term projections will be for 2011-2013. Long-term projections are calculated every other year and are for a ten-year time frame. The new set of long-term projections will cover 2010-2020. These data sets are released at the end of June and are calculated for the state and each of Nebraska's seven economic regions. New this year is the addition of the Omaha MSA and the Sioux City MSA. Each of these new data sets will include cross-state data from Iowa and South Dakota in addition to Nebraska data.

The projections process starts with industry projections. The first step is gathering time series data, starting with Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data. Employment is added to some data series to account for business that employ people that are not covered by state unemployment insurance laws. Employment such as railroads, private schools, and many agricultural workers fall into this category. Some employment is also rearranged to combine private and publicly-owned industries, such as education and utilities, into one category. Due to these changes in how the totals are calculated, the data from the projections program is not directly comparable to QCEW data.

Next, employment time series data is loaded into the software along with current economic indicators. Past trends are examined and knowledge of current trends in the economy is applied to develop projections for the future. The software processes a variety of economic models and allows the analyst to adjust several settings in order to decide on a final projection. The basic process is the same for the short-term and long-term projections; however, different models are used to better suit the differing time frames. Another difference is that national Industry projections are necessary in order to calculate certain models for long-term projections.

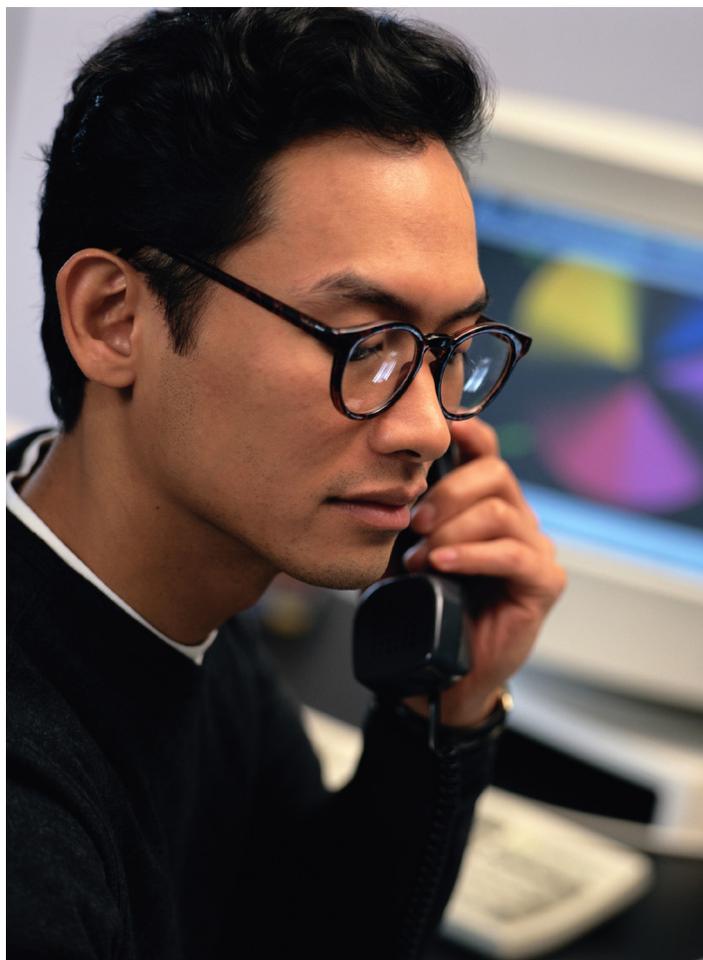
This is one reason why state projections are released after national projections.

Industries used in projections are classified by the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). The most specific level of detail projections are produced for is the three-digit NAICS level or sub-sector. Sub-sector industries at the three-digit level sum to equal the two-digit level called a sector. These sectors are further added up to produce the largest and broadest industry classification, super-sectors. There are 93 sub-sector industries multiplied by ten different geographies, which equals 930 projections for both the short-term and the long-term! All of these calculations take time, even with advanced computer software doing much of the legwork. Experienced analysts are still necessary to determine which models appear to fit each industry the best.

The occupational projections rely more on the software than industry projections do, but there are still things that the analyst needs to review. Industry projections data is merged with staffing patterns from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program to create an industry-occupational matrix. This matrix shows the ratios of employment by occupation in a specific industry and is used to make projections for occupations. Analysts need to review the staffing patterns to make sure no inconsistent data is used that could cause problems with the projections. Additionally, some industries do not have staffing patterns available for the state, meaning the analyst has to produce data from another source.

Occupational projections are classified by the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system. The lowest level of publication detail is the six-digit detailed occupation level. Occupations are grouped into minor groups, which are at the three-digit level. These minor groups sum to 23 major (two-digit level) groups. For projections, only 22 major groups are included, as projections for Military Specific Occupations are not produced because no data is available for those occupations.

Where the industry projections produce an estimated and projected employment number, occupational projections



produce a wider variety of figures. The numbers that are most often published are: estimated employment, projected employment, growth openings, replacement openings, total openings, numeric change, and percent change. The estimated employment represents the employment level during the base year (2010 or 2011). The projected employment is the total employment level expected at the end of the projection period, 2013 or 2020. The numeric change is the difference between the estimated and projected employment, and the percent change is a reflection of this difference.

Growth and replacement openings help to paint a picture of the two major components of employment change. Growth openings refer to the number of jobs created by economic expansion. Replacement openings are created by people permanently leaving the labor force through death, retirement, disability, or by transfer to another occupation. The total number of openings comes from adding together growth and replacement openings and can vary from the numeric change.

Look for the new industry and occupational projections at the end of June and for articles highlighting this new data in upcoming issues of Nebraska Workforce Trends. 



Source: Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

Openings

and

Expansions



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.

JACOB LIUDAHL, RESEARCH ANALYST

Lincoln

- The Lincoln Chamber of Commerce reported the following businesses are opening or expanding their operations: VictoryQuest LLC – obstacle course, team building, sports and fitness company; Asha Salon – spa and salon; Lincoln Family Funeral Care – funeral home; Camy Couture – salon; Fashion II – clothing; Maly Marketing – specializing in media marketing/small business; Appleton Apartments – new apartment complex at 8600 Leighton Avenue
- The Lincoln Journal Star reported the Penguin Pit Stop opened its retail store at 70th and Vine specializing in Nebraska based products.

Omaha

- The Greater Omaha Chamber of Commerce reported the following businesses are opening or expanding their operations: Great Plains Auto Body, car repair, 15 employees; Berry Law Firm, law office, 5 employees; Holstein Vet Clinic, veterinary clinic, 5 employees; Lululemon Athletica, athletic clothing, 5 employees; Cherry Berry Yogurt Bar, yogurt shop, 5 employees; ULTA, cosmetics store, 10 employees; Peach Wave, yogurt shop, 5 employees; Wraps & Crepes, restaurant, 15 employees; Forever 21, clothing store, 10 employees; Residence Inn by Marriott, hotel, 50 employees; Ellie's Deli, restaurant, 5 employees; Cat Daddy's Catfish Kitchen, restaurant, 20 employees; Uptown Bakery, food service, 3 employees; Belle VUE Café & Marketplace, restaurant, 5 employees; HyVee, grocery store, 25 employees; Dial America, call center, 50 employees.
- The Omaha World Herald reported the following businesses are opening or expanding their operations: Beercade, bar, 10 employees; Renewable Nations Institute, energy institute,

- 225 employees; Hibachi Grill, food service, 20 employees; West Corporation, call center, 250 employees; Convergys, healthcare center, 50 employees.
- The Midlands Business Journal reported that Myers Funeral Home opened for business, hiring ten employees.

Beatrice

- Goob's Restaurant and Bar opened in Plymouth in April. A new hotel named Cobblestone opened in Fairbury.

Nebraska City

- The Sweet Expressions Bakery added two employees to their business, as did Carousel. World Auto Sales expanded their business by adding the employees from Sundance Laundry.

Norfolk

- HWH Express Lube opened their business with three employees. Realizations Counseling Services, counseling depression, trauma, stress management, anxiety and substance abuse, opened in Norfolk. Lee's Wireless, a Viero Wireless retailer, opened in Creighton.

Sidney

- The Cheyenne County Chamber of Commerce reported three openings: In Good Counsel, counseling services, 3-4 employees; Sidney Floral & Greenhouse Too, florist & greenhouse, 2 employees; Raffelson Rock Company, rock supplier, 2 employees.

Facts Sheet

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

National Indicators	Date	Value
GDP Growth	Q1-12	2.2%
Unemployment Rate	Apr-12	8.1%
Fed Interest Rate	May-12	0.25%
Current Account Balance	Q4-11	-\$124.1 Billion

Nebraska Indicators	Date	Value
Unemployment Rate	Apr-12	3.9%
House Value Appreciation	Q4-11 - Q1-12	1.35%
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	Mar-12	39.4
Net Taxable Retail Sales	Feb-12	\$1.851 Billion
Median Employment Wages	Q4-11	\$30,790

Pricing Indicators	Date	Value
Barrel of Crude Oil - WTI	Apr-12	\$103.32
ECI Change	Q1-12	0.40%
PPI Change	Apr-12	-0.20%

April 2012	Indexes			% Change From	
	Apr-12	Mar-12	Apr-11	Mar-12	Apr-12
U.S. All Items	230.085	229.392	224.906	0.3%	2.3%
Midwest Urban All Items	219.405	218.975	214.535	0.2%	2.3%
Northeast Urban All Items	245.850	245.125	240.267	0.3%	2.3%
South Urban All Items	224.275	223.314	218.820	0.4%	2.5%
West Urban All Items	232.561	232.039	227.837	0.2%	2.1%

Sources: bea.gov, bls.gov, eia.gov, fhfa.gov, research.stlouisfed.org, revenue.state.ne.us

Industry Developments



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 DERBRING, RESEARCH ANALYST

Nationally, over-the-month non-seasonally adjusted employment increased (0.7% or 896,000 jobs), a normal occurrence in April. Of the ten super sectors, four industries expanded and six were unchanged since last month. Over half of the gains came from the Leisure and Hospitality (285,000 jobs) and Professional and Business Services (216,000 jobs) super sectors. Over-the-year non-seasonally adjusted employment gained 1,727,000 jobs (1.3%). Since April 2011, over-the-year employment increases have been between 0.8% and 1.6% every month. A bulk of the yearly increase came from Professional and Business Services (582,000 jobs) and Education and Health Services (437,000 jobs).

Since last month, Nebraska non-seasonally adjusted employment increased to 952,904 jobs by adding 15,979 jobs (1.7%), which is the largest growth numerically and percentage-wise of any month in the past decade. April is typically the month with the highest employment increases, having recorded 1.4% increases in April 2004, 2010, and 2011. During the month, six industries increased, one decreased, and three were unchanged. The top three super sector over-the-month gains were in Leisure and Hospitality (4,176 jobs or 5.2%), Mining and Construction (3,651 jobs or

9.6%), and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (3,413 jobs or 1.8%). Over the year, total nonfarm employment rose by 6,194 jobs (0.7%). Since April 2011, the yearly growth has ranged from 0.0% to 0.8%. Over-the-year employment improved the most in Professional and Business Services (2,949 jobs or 2.9%), followed by Education and Health Services (2,244 jobs or 1.6%).

The Lincoln MSA employment went up by 1,319 jobs from last month to 174,650 jobs (0.8%), usual for April. Much of the gains were due to the Retail Trade sector (928 jobs or 5.2%) in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities super sector (1,029 jobs or 3.2%). Since April 2011, employment has increased by 1,172 jobs (0.7%), with the majority of additions coming from Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (726 jobs) and Education and Health Services (552 jobs). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-month employment expanded by 8,979 to 467,225 jobs (2.0%), the largest growth of any month in the past decade. The total nonfarm monthly percentage increase has been above 1.5% only twice in the past decade. Over the month, the Omaha MSA had six super sector industries increase, one decrease, and three remained stable. The largest super sector monthly gains were in Leisure and Hospitality (2,416 jobs or 5.6%), Mining and Construction (2,009 jobs or 10.7%), and Professional and Business Services (1,979 jobs or 3.1%). Since last year, there has been an increase of 6,881 jobs (1.5%). The majority of the yearly additions came from Education and Health Services (3,554 jobs or 5.0%).

MINING AND CONSTRUCTION

Over the month, statewide employment in Mining and Construction advanced by 3,651 to 41,848 jobs (9.6%). April's seasonal increase usually ranges from 5.4% to 7.6%, but went as high as 10.0% in 2010. Over the year, employment went up by 2.2%, mostly due to Construction of Buildings (1,078 jobs or 13.5%).

Since last month, employment in the Lincoln MSA jumped up by 290 to 6,645 jobs (4.6%). Over-the-year employment

cut 216 workers (-3.1%). In the Omaha MSA, from March to April employment expanded by 2,009 to 20,716 jobs (10.7%), which is the largest growth numerically and percentage-wise of any month in the past decade. Since April 2011, employment rose by 1,013 jobs (5.1%).

MANUFACTURING

From March to April this year, statewide Manufacturing employment fell by 515 jobs to 93,072 (-0.6%), after rising the previous month by 859 jobs. April's over-the-year employment remained steady, with the growth in Durable Goods (1,340 jobs) offsetting the loss in Non-Durable Goods (-1,265 jobs).

Since last month, Lincoln MSA employment declined by 417 to 12,372 jobs (-3.3%). Since last year, Manufacturing employment shed 462 jobs (-3.6%). Over the month, employment in the Omaha MSA fell by 428 jobs to 31,679 (-1.3%). This is an unusually large decrease for April; however, it follows a historically large increase in March of 2.0%. Since April 2011, employment rose by 326 jobs (1.0%).

TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES

Since last month, statewide Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment grew by 3,413 to 195,553 jobs (1.8%), with most of the increase coming from Retail Trade (2,215 jobs or 2.2%). This super sector usually only sees increases over 3,000 jobs (1.7% to 1.9%) in November or December. Since April 2011, employment fell by 569 jobs (-0.3%), with the bulk of the year's decline due to the Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities sector dropping 1,593 jobs (-3.1%).

Employment in the Lincoln MSA rose by 1,029 jobs to 33,162 jobs (3.2%) since last month. Since April 2011, employment was up by 726 jobs (2.2%). The Retail Trade sector is responsible for much of the monthly (928 jobs) and yearly (541 jobs) increases. In the Omaha MSA, over-the-month employment expanded by 1,421 to 94,006 jobs (1.5%). The Retail Trade sector made up the majority of the gains (1,176 jobs or 2.4%). From April 2011 to April 2012, employment improved by 895 jobs (1.0%), with Retail Trade adding 998 jobs (2.0%).



INFORMATION

Statewide over-the-month employment remained stable at 16,995 jobs, common for April. Since April 2011, employment expanded by 224 jobs (1.3%), the highest over-the-year increase since November 2007 (1.5%).

Employment in the Lincoln MSA decreased to 2,194 jobs (-25 jobs or -1.1%) since April 2011. In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment is down by 199 to 10,837 jobs (-1.8%).

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Over the month, statewide employment increased by 263 jobs to 68,189 (0.4%). Over the year, employment decreased by 1,597 jobs (-2.3%), the largest over-the-year decline of any month in the past decade.

Since April 2011, employment in the Lincoln MSA increased slightly to 13,574 jobs (49 jobs or 0.4%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment fell to 40,126 jobs (-1,056 jobs or -2.6%) with the Finance and Insurance sector declining by 1,106 jobs (-3.1%).

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

From March 2012 to April 2012, employment advanced by 3,056 to 105,209 jobs (3.0%). This is the largest monthly numeric or percentage growth Professional and Business Services has had in the past decade. The majority of the gain came from Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (2,660 jobs or 6.5%). Since April 2011, statewide employment has grown by 2,949 jobs (2.9%).

In Lincoln, over-the-year employment was relatively unchanged. Since March 2012, the Omaha MSA grew by 1,979 to 65,802 jobs (3.1%). This is the largest monthly numeric or percentage growth Professional and Business Services has had in the past decade. Over the year, employment increased by 1,552 jobs (2.4%), with most of the increase due to Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (1,061 jobs or 4.0%).



	Number of Workers			Over the Month		Over the Year	
	Apr-12	Mar-12	Apr-11	Numeric Change	Percent Change	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Total Nonfarm	952,904	936,925	946,710	15,979	1.7%	6,194	0.7%
Mining, Logging & Construction	41,848	38,197	40,956	3,651	9.6%	892	2.2%
Construction	9,064	8,250	7,986	814	9.9%	1,078	13.5%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	6,214	4,893	6,283	1,321	27.0%	-69	-1.1%
Specialty Trade Contractors	25,240	23,432	25,675	1,808	7.7%	-435	-1.7%
Manufacturing	93,072	93,587	92,997	-515	-0.6%	75	0.1%
Durable Goods	43,730	43,830	42,390	-100	-0.2%	1,340	3.2%
Non-Durable Goods	49,342	49,757	50,607	-415	-0.8%	-1,265	-2.5%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	195,553	192,140	196,122	3,413	1.8%	-569	-0.3%
Wholesale Trade	41,313	40,283	40,721	1,030	2.6%	592	1.5%
Retail Trade	104,079	101,864	103,647	2,215	2.2%	432	0.4%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	50,161	49,993	51,754	168	0.3%	-1,593	-3.1%
Information	16,995	16,986	16,771	9	0.1%	224	1.3%
Financial Activities	68,189	67,926	69,786	263	0.4%	-1,597	-2.3%
Finance and Insurance	59,521	59,419	60,920	102	0.2%	-1,399	-2.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,668	8,507	8,866	161	1.9%	-198	-2.2%
Professional & Business Services	105,209	102,153	102,260	3,056	3.0%	2,949	2.9%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	44,914	44,593	43,304	321	0.7%	1,610	3.7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	16,961	16,886	16,817	75	0.4%	144	0.9%
Admin & Support & Waste Mngmt & Remdtn Svcs	43,334	40,674	42,139	2,660	6.5%	1,195	2.8%
Education & Health Services	139,563	139,449	137,319	114	0.1%	2,244	1.6%
Educational Services	18,191	18,074	17,770	117	0.7%	421	2.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	121,372	121,375	119,549	-3	0.0%	1,823	1.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	83,836	79,660	82,321	4,176	5.2%	1,515	1.8%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	12,827	11,160	12,529	1,667	14.9%	298	2.4%
Accommodation and Food Services	71,009	68,500	69,792	2,509	3.7%	1,217	1.7%
Other Services	36,771	36,238	36,824	533	1.5%	-53	-0.1%
Repair and Maintenance	10,118	9,781	9,903	337	3.5%	215	2.2%
Personal and Laundry Services	7,915	7,817	7,907	98	1.3%	8	0.1%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Profssnl, & Sim Orgs	18,738	18,640	19,014	98	0.5%	-276	-1.5%
Government	171,868	170,589	171,354	1,279	0.8%	514	0.3%
Federal Government	16,727	16,552	16,588	175	1.1%	139	0.8%
State Government	41,913	42,277	41,256	-364	-0.9%	657	1.6%
Local Government	113,228	111,760	113,510	1,468	1.3%	-282	-0.3%

EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

Statewide, over-the-month employment remained steady at 139,563 jobs. Over-the-year employment was up by 2,244 jobs (1.6%), with the majority of gains coming from the Health Care and Social Assistance sector (1,823 jobs or 1.5%) due mostly to the growth in the Ambulatory Health Care Services subsector (1,538 jobs or 4.5%).

Over the year, employment in the Lincoln MSA increased by 552 to 26,494 jobs (2.1%). Since April 2011, the Omaha MSA rose by 3,554 to 74,616 jobs (5.0%), with the majority of the yearly expansion attributable to Health Care and Social Assistance (3,315 jobs or 5.5%).

LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

From March to April, statewide employment improved by 4,176 to 83,836 jobs (5.2%), the highest monthly numeric or percentage increase in over a decade. April is the month that usually has the greatest monthly growth. Both sectors contributed heavily to the employment increase. Over-the-year employment expanded by 1,515 jobs (1.8%), due largely in part to the Full-Service Restaurants subsector

adding 1,057 jobs (3.9%).

In the Lincoln MSA, over-the-month employment added 369 to 16,306 jobs (2.3%). Over-the-year employment gains between 0.9% and 3.8% had occurred continuously since February 2011; however, Leisure and Hospitality employment in the Lincoln MSA has lost 110 jobs since April 2011 (-0.7%). Since March 2012, the Omaha MSA grew by 2,416 to 45,480 jobs (5.6%), the largest monthly growth in a decade. Since last year, Omaha MSA employment rose by 735 jobs (1.6%).

OTHER SERVICES

Since last month, statewide employment increased by 533 to 36,771 jobs (1.5%), higher than normal for April. The Repair and Maintenance subsector (337 jobs or 3.5%) contributed the bulk of the monthly increase. Over-the-year employment remained stable.

Since April 2011, employment in the Lincoln MSA expanded by 114 to 6,999 jobs (1.7%). In the Omaha MSA, over-the-year employment fell by 157 to 17,248 jobs (-0.9%).

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INFORMATION FOR APRIL 2012

OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Statewide

Non-farm employment estimates were 952,904 in April 2012; 15,979 more jobs than last month and 6,194 more than in April 2011.

Manufacturing industries employed 93,072 workers; 515 less people than last month and 75 more than in April 2011.

Average weekly hours worked in manufacturing industries were 40.3, an increase of 0.9 hours since March, and a decrease of 1.5 hours since April 2011. Average weekly earnings increased by \$12.27 since March to \$673.01, and have fallen by \$18.73 since April 2011.

Omaha MSA

Non-farm employment estimates were 467,225 in April 2012; 8,979 more jobs than last month and 6,881 more than in April 2011.

Lincoln MSA

Non-farm employment estimates were 174,650 in April 2012; 1,319 more jobs than last month and 1,172 more than in April 2011.

Labor Force Employment by Place of Residence:

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted):

- April unemployment rate: 3.9%
- Change (OTM): -0.1%
- Change (OTY): -0.6%

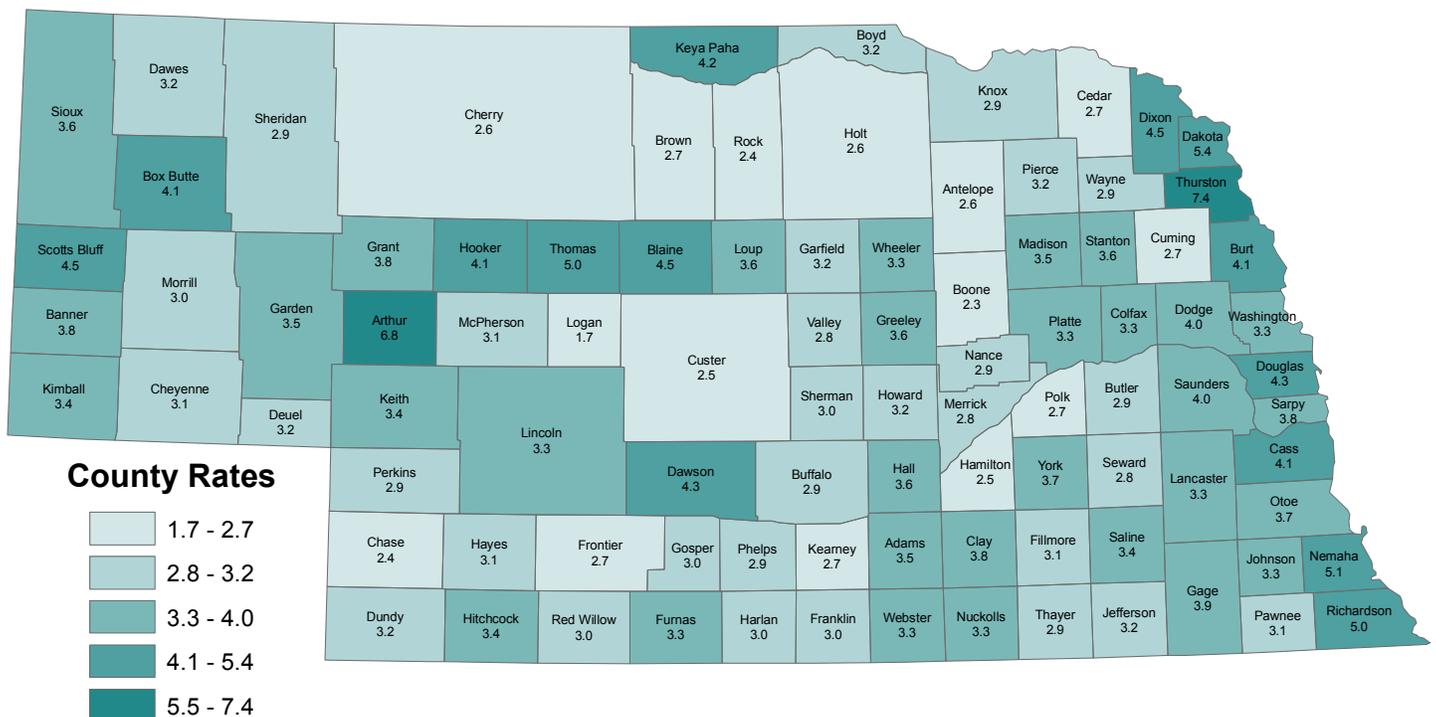
Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted):

- Central: 3.2%
- Mid-Plains: 3.4%
- Northeast: 3.5%
- Panhandle: 3.9%
- Southeast: 3.7%

Revisions to March Data:

- Unemployment rate: unchanged at 4.0%
- Labor Force: +188
- Unemployment: +167
- Employment: +21

April 2012 Nebraska Unemployment Rates by County



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