

# NEBRASKA WORKFORCE **MAY 2011** Trends

**Good News/Bad News**  
Easy Ways to Get Labor Force Data

**Unemployment Situation in  
Nebraska, Post-Recession**



**Also Featuring...**

**Census...**

Drawing the Boundaries  
Redistricting Begins, Part II

**Map Facts...**

Cinco de Mayo

**Occupational Profile...**

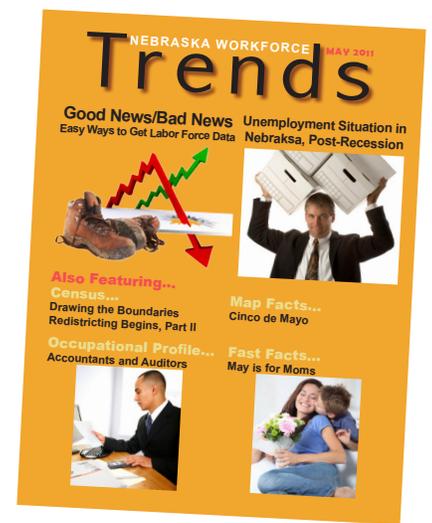
Accountants and Auditors

**Fast Facts...**

May is for Moms



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## Good News

### Easy Ways to Get Labor Force Data

LENORA CASTILLO, RESEARCH ANALYST II

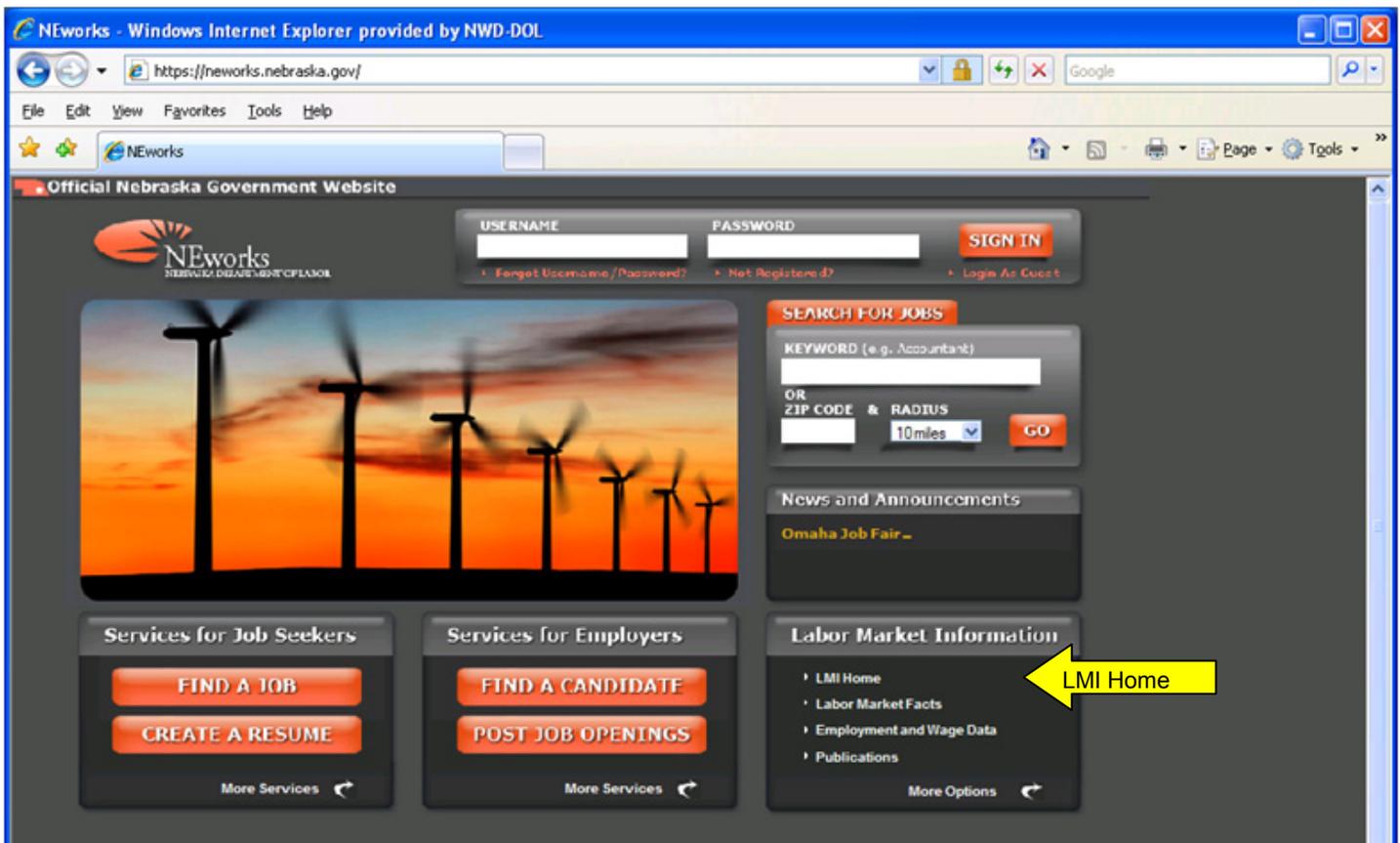
We all know that when you have good news there is, on occasion, some bad news attached. First the good news: we have a new website. Here you can compare data for various areas and immediately see the difference. You can even view data on a graph or map. The bad news is that links and ways to pull labor force data have changed. Although some data may be formatted differently, we hope that it will be adaptable for your use.

Some of these ways are easy and very direct while others can be downright confusing so for now, we'll stick to easy.

#### First Things First:

Begin by logging into the NEworks, the Nebraska Department of Labor official website: <https://networks.nebraska.gov>. On the right side of the NEworks page, under Labor Market Information, click on the LMI Home link (See yellow arrow below).

## Bad News



## Below is what the LMI Home Page looks like:

**Office of Labor Market Information**

**Current Data Analysis**

- Labor Market Facts
- Area Profile
- Occupation Profile
- Industry Profile
- Comparisons
- Education and Training Data
- Employers
- Area Specific Data
- Industry Specific Data
- Occupation Specific Data

**Historic Data Analysis**

- Employment and Wage Data
- Economic Indicators
- Demographics

**Other Services**

- Assistance Center

**Labor Market Data**

Research labor market, economic and demographic data and compare information over time and between regions.

- [Data Download Center](#)
- [Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#)
- [Labor Force Data](#)
- [Layoff Report & Maps](#)

[Get More](#)

**Publications**

The Office of Labor Market Information produces several publications. A few of them include:

- [Nebraska Workforce Trends](#)
- [Labor Market Regional Reviews](#)
- [Licensed & Certified Occupations](#)
- [2009-2010 Layoff Comparison](#)

[Get More](#)

**Unemployment Rates**

Monthly Press Release

	Feb-11	Jan-11	Feb-10
Nebraska	4.7%	4.8%	5.4%
Seasonally Adj.	4.3%	4.3%	4.9%
National	9.5%	9.8%	10.4%
Seasonally Adj.	8.9%	9.0%	9.7%

**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates**

**Follow us on Twitter!**

If you are looking for:

### 1. Unemployment Rates for Nebraska and National (view only):

You can find this information on the far right of the LMI Home page under Unemployment Rates. Here you'll find seasonally and non-seasonally adjusted unemployment rates for the state of Nebraska and for the United States. Below this is a graph comparing U.S and Nebraska unemployment rates over the month and the year.

### 2. Unemployment Rates for All Areas (view and download):

Here are 3 ways to get to the same data (there may be more):

- In the center panel, under Labor Market Data, click on •Labor Force Data.
- In the sidebar area, under Historic Data Analysis (orange heading), hover over Employment and Wage Data, down to Labor Force Data (on the pop-out menu) then click on Labor Force Employment and Unemployment Data.
- And finally, if you click on Labor Market Facts link under the (orange heading) Current Data Analysis scroll down until you locate the question: What is the unemployment rate in an area?

When the window opens, you will have to select search criteria. In Step 1 select an area type (city, county, MSA, etc.). A list of specific area names will appear. You can select all, select one or select more than one area. Click on the Select button at the bottom of the page. In Step 2 select the time period, monthly or yearly, and click on the Search button. NOTE: If you select only one area, you will be able to choose more than one date (up to a maximum of 124 time periods) by selecting the start date, holding the shift button and selecting the end date. If more than one area is chosen, only one time period will be selectable.

Data can be downloaded as an Excel or a Text file and can be printed if you select Print View.

On the right edge of the chart is a Time link. If you click on this you'll get a labor force comparison over time: current and previous 2 months; 5 Year Annual Average; and 10 Year Annual Average. Below this will be Labor Force estimates for a 24 month period for the single area you selected.

To select a new area click on [Change Search Criteria]. In the window that opens you can change the area, change the time or change both.

### **3. Downloading labor force data for all areas (in Excel):**

To download data, return to LMI Home by select the Home icon located on the menu that runs along the top of the page or click on NEWorks star burst logo on the upper left side of the page and follow instructions described earlier.

In the center panel, to the right of the sidebar, is the heading Labor Market Data. Below this click on Data Download Center. At the top of the list that appears on the new page, click on Local Area Unemployment Statistics Data Files link. Here you'll find non-seasonally adjusted labor force data from 1976 to the current year. Scroll down to see the latest year at the bottom of the list. Files can be saved in Excel and filtered to select specific areas. NOTE: The annual average is listed as month 13.

### **4. Monthly Press Release/INFOLink, etc.\***

From the LMI home page, under the Unemployment Rates (on the far right) click on the Monthly Press Release. This link takes you to INFOLink. On the top, right side of the page click on Monthly Unemployment Rates Release. This news release will include an analysis of labor force and workforce data along with a statement from Commissioner Catherine D. Lang. Included is a chart with labor force estimates for the U.S., Nebraska, Lincoln MSA and Omaha MSA along with data for the Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MCs) and Red Willow (Small Labor Market Area).

Below the regional summaries (at the bottom of the list of areas) click on Monthly Rates to get a printable document that includes labor force data for all areas for the current month and previous 2 months.

Click on the Annual Rates link, to get all area rates for the current month, previous month and a year ago.

**5. Looking for the ranking of unemployment rates for all states in the Nation?** Click on the Unemployment Rates for States link located on the bottom of the INFOLink page.

A future article will explore the links in the sidebar (under Current Data Analysis). Included will be specific area information and area comparisons with graphs and maps that can be manipulated by adding data labels, cities, interstates, major roads, lakes/rivers and area name labels.

If you have questions please contact: Lenora Castillo, Research Analyst II at 402-471-9841 or email me at lenora.castillo@nebraska.gov. 

**\*NOTE:** INFOLink will be changing its look. The data will remain but the location on the page may change.



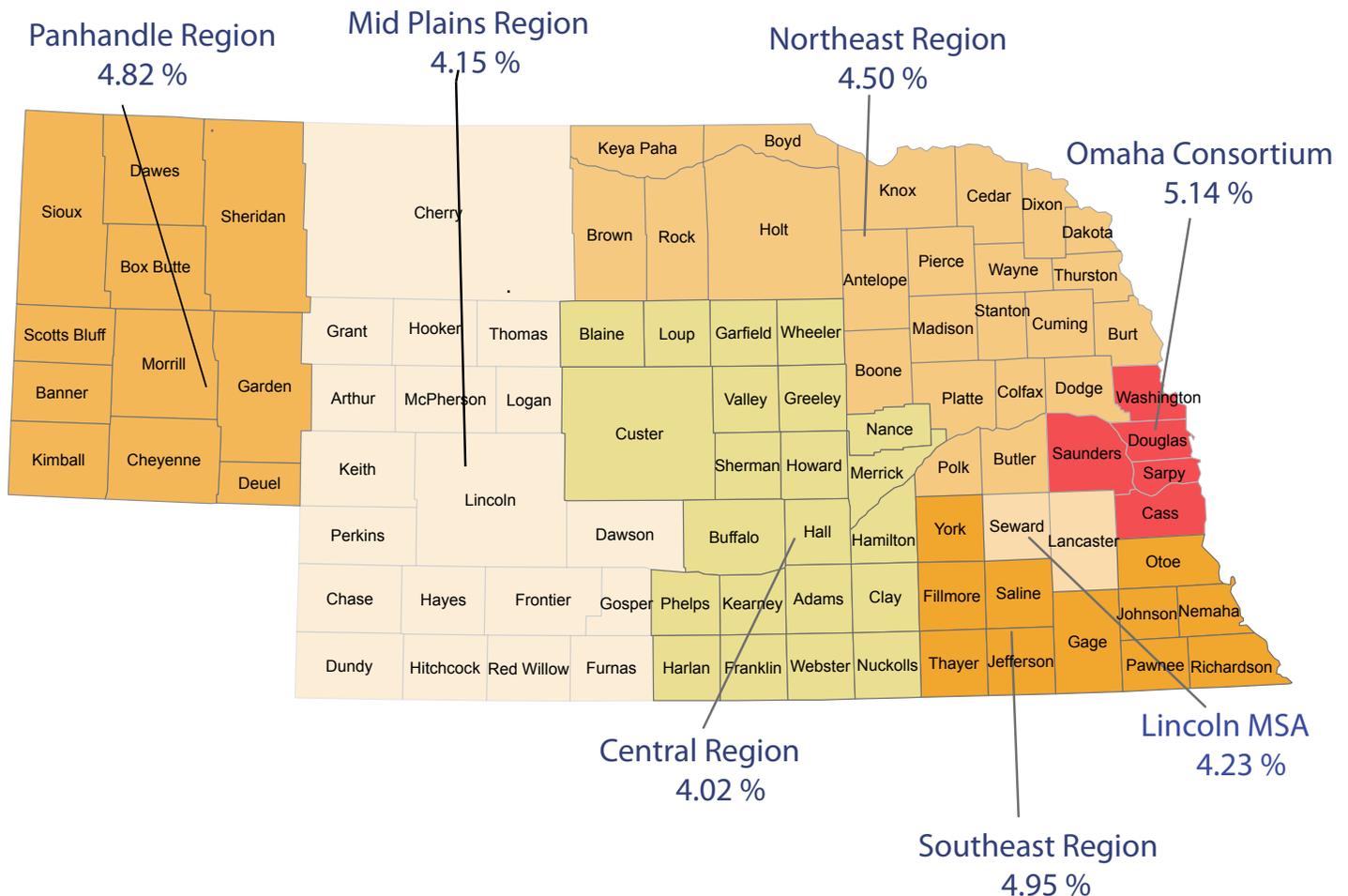
# Unemployment Situation in Nebraska Post-Recession

BYRON LEFLER, RESEARCH ANALYST

Though the recession was declared over in June of 2009 according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the United States seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continued to trend upward for several months, peaking at 10.1 percent in October of 2009. Since the peak in October 2009, the national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has made slow progress towards the pre-recessionary level of 4.7 percent from November of 2007. The February 2011 unemployment rate of 8.9 percent

was well above this.

Post-recession, the State of Nebraska did not see a decline in its seasonally adjusted unemployment rate until February of 2010. In February of 2010 the unemployment rate dropped 0.1 percent from 5.0 percent in January to 4.9 percent in February. Since February of 2010 the unemployment rate has been on a slow decline, and as of February 2011 has reached 4.3 percent.



As we look deeper into the unemployment situation in the State of Nebraska post-recession, we find the area with the highest average unemployment rate was the Omaha Consortium. The Omaha Consortium includes: Douglas, Cass, Saunders, Washington, and Sarpy counties. This region of the state has an average unemployment rate of 5.14 percent since the recession ended. The region of the state with the lowest average unemployment rate for this same period is the Central region. This region includes: Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Clay, Custer, Franklin, Garfield, Greely, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, Webster, and Wheeler counties. The Central region's average unemployment rate is 4.02 percent since the recession ended.

### Unemployment Insurance claims post-recession

Since the recession ended in June of 2009, 184,465 new jobless claims have been filed in Nebraska. These jobless claims have accounted for 1,544,465 weeks of unemployment claimed. The 1,544,465 weeks claimed resulted in 1,373,244 weeks of unemployment compensated. These 1,373,244 compensated weeks of unemployment have accounted for \$285,725,899 in unemployment benefits paid. Finally, the average duration of unemployment compensation since the recession ended in June of 2009 is 14.8 weeks.

### Demographics of the unemployed post-recession

The demographics of the individuals filing a claim for unemployment post-recession are very similar to what it was during the recession. The average age of the unemployed is 41 years old, the same as it was during the recession. Men have accounted for 60 percent of the claims filed in Nebraska, a decrease of 2 percentage points since the recession ended. Finally, those individuals with a high school degree or less have accounted for 65 percent of the claims filed, while only 11 percent of the claimants have a bachelor's degree or higher level of education. The number of claimants in both educational attainment categories has increased by 2 percentage points since June of 2009.

### Industry and Occupations of the unemployed post-recession

Fifty-three percent of the unemployment claims filed have been by individuals working in the industries of Construction,

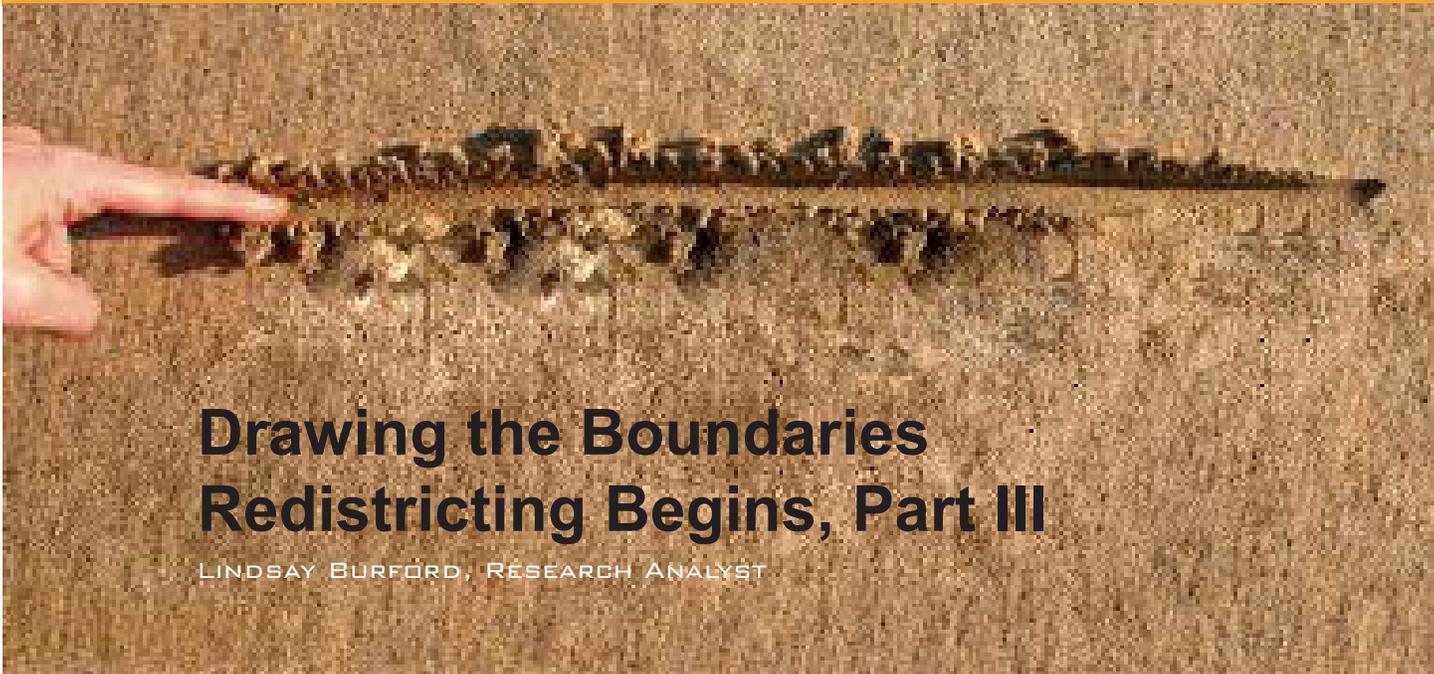
Manufacturing, Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services, and Retail Trade. The average age of the individuals filing an unemployment claim within these industries was 41 years old. Men accounted for 70 percent of the unemployment claims within these industries. Finally, 71 percent of the claimants within these industries have a high school degree or less level of education, while only 6 percent have a bachelors' degree or higher level of educational attainment.

The occupational groups of Office and Administrative Support, Production, Construction and Extraction, and Transportation and Material Moving have accounted for 58 percent of the claims for unemployment filed since the end of the most recent United States recession. The average age of the claimants within these occupations was 42 years old. Men have accounted for 69 percent of the claimants within these occupational groups. Finally, 73 percent of those individuals filing an unemployment claim within these occupation groups have a high school degree or less level of education, while only 7 percent having a bachelors' degree or higher level of educational attainment.

Since the end of the most recession United States recession, both the United States and within the State of Nebraska we have continued to experience higher than normal levels of unemployment. Progress towards lower unemployment levels has been a slow process, with the most recent months showing the most positive progress towards lower unemployment levels.

If any of the data in this article caught your interest you can get a customized report by contacting Byron Lefler at the Nebraska Department of Labor at (402) 471-7079 or Byron.Lefler@Nebraska.gov. You can request your customized report by demographic group, industry group, occupation group, and area within the state.





# Drawing the Boundaries Redistricting Begins, Part III

LINDSAY BURFORD, RESEARCH ANALYST

## Introduction

The U.S. Census Bureau released its first state population counts to Virginia, Louisiana, Mississippi and New Jersey within the first few days of February. The Bureau continued to release a handful of states' population counts. Nebraska received their population counts on March 1, 2011. March 2, 2011 and the following days saw droves of articles released from multiple entities citing analysis for Nebraska's population between Census 2010 and the 2000 Census. The Census concluded the population count releases on March 24, 2011 when it released the nation's population count.

## National Population Count

The United States saw a growth of 27.3 million people from 2000 for a total population of 308.7 million Americans in 2010. This is a 9.7 percent increase during the same time frame. While the U.S. population surpassed 300 million, this decade has shown to be one of the slowest growth periods since the Great Depression's population growth rate of 7.3 percent. These patterns can be found in the "Population Changes throughout the Decades" table.

## Nebraska Population Count

Nebraska experienced a 6.7 percent population growth between 2000 and 2010 for a total population of 1,826,341. Comparatively, Nebraska ranked 30th in percentage growth, up from a 37th ranking after the 2000 Census. Nebraska had a larger percentage growth rate than neighboring Iowa and Kansas, with growth rates of 4.1 and 6.1 percent,

### Census Fun Facts

- The new Center of Population after the 2010 Census is now found in Texas County, Missouri; specifically 2.7 miles northeast of Plato, Missouri.
- The geographic center of the United States (all 50 states) is 17 miles west of Castle Rock, South Dakota; the geographic center of the United States of the contiguous 48 states is two miles northwest of Lebanon, Kansas.
- The geographic center of Nebraska is in Custer County, approximately 10 miles northwest of Broken Bow.
- If the Legislature decides to keep a 49-seat body, each legislative district will need an average of 37,272 people.

respectively. Nebraska's growth rate compared to other states seems irrelevant to most individuals. However, it could jeopardize Nebraska's 3rd Congressional seat in future censuses. Every decade since 1960, the 3rd District seat has gotten closer to the 435 cutoff. This distance is what would determine losing a seat. The further away from the 435 cutoff, the less likely a state is to lose a Congressional seat after the reapportionment process. In 1960, the distance was

Population Changes throughout the Decades											
	1910	1920	1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
U.S. Population	92,228,531	106,021,568	123,202,660	132,165,129	151,325,798	179,323,175	203,211,926	226,545,805	248,709,873	281,421,906	308,745,538
U.S. Growth	21.0%	15.0%	16.2%	7.3%	14.5%	18.5%	13.3%	11.5%	9.8%	13.2%	9.7%
Nebraska Population	1,192,214	1,296,372	1,377,963	1,315,834	1,325,510	1,411,330	1,485,333	1,569,825	1,578,417	1,711,265	1,826,341
Nebraska Growth	12.6%	8.7%	6.3%	-4.5%	0.7%	6.5%	5.2%	5.7%	0.5%	8.4%	6.7%



119 seats away from the 435 cutoff. By the 1990 Census, it was 47 seats away. Most recently, the distance from the 435 cutoff is 18. Iowa lost a Congressional District seat during the most recent reapportionment process. Depending upon the next decade's growth for Nebraska (and the rest of the states), Nebraska could be at risk of losing the 3rd Congressional District seat.

Despite a respective growth rate for the state, only 24 counties saw a population increase since 2000. This means 69 counties throughout Nebraska lost population. Nebraska saw a higher rate of counties losing population when compared to other Midwestern states. Looking at the Nebraska & Other States' County Population Loss table, 25 percent of Nebraska counties lost 10 percent or more of their population from 2000 to 2010. Compared to other Midwestern states, only South Dakota saw a higher percentage of counties losing 10 percent or more of their population, at a rate of 29 percent. Kansas followed closely behind with 19 percent of their counties losing 10 percent or more of its population.

### Nebraska Redistricting

As found in the Population Changes for Nebraska's Congressional Districts between 2000 and 2010, Nebraska's 3rd Congressional District was the only district to lose population. The 2nd District had a 12 percent increase since 2000 while the 1st District had a 9.8 percent increase. The

Nebraska & Other States' County Population Loss				
State	No. of Counties Losing Population	Total Counties w/in state	Counties w/ population loss	% of Counties with 10% loss
Nebraska	69	96	75%	25%
Iowa	66	99	67%	5%
South Dakota	41	66	62%	29%
Illinois	61	102	60%	5%
Indiana	29	92	32%	0%
Texas	79	254	31%	9%
Oklahoma	23	77	30%	5%
Colorado	17	63	27%	14%
Missouri	30	115	26%	1%
Kansas	77	105	73%	22%
Wyoming	2	23	9%	0%

Population Changes for Nebraska's Congressional Districts, 2000 and 2010					
District	2000 Population	2010 Population	Population Change	Percentage Change	VS new district size
Nebraska - 1st	570,421	626,092	55,671	9.8%	17,312
Nebraska - 2nd	570,421	638,871	68,450	12.0%	30,091
Nebraska - 3rd	570,421	561,378	(9,043)	-1.6%	(47,402)

average district size based on the 2010 Census is 608,780. This means that both the 1st and 2nd Districts will have to lose some level of territory because they have a higher population than the average district size. The 3rd District, however, has a lower population count than the average district size. Therefore, it will have to gain territory and population.

Specifically, the 1st District will need to gain territory from the 2nd District, but will lose territory to the 3rd District with consideration of the population differences. The 2nd District will lose territory and population, while the 3rd District will gain territory and population.

### Nebraska Redistricting Committee

These specific population changes and trends will influence how the Redistricting Committee determines the needed adjustments for the Congressional Districts. The Redistricting Committee established guidelines to be followed at a March 2011 meeting. Those include following county lines whenever practical, giving no favor to political parties or affiliations, and retaining the voting strength of any minority populations. There have been two proposed bills impacting the number of members in the Nebraska Legislature. Sen. Kate Sullivan introduced LB195 to increase the 49-seat Legislature to 50 seats. Sen. Bob Krist introduced LB233 to decrease the 49-seat Legislature to 45 seats. Both bills were referred to the Redistricting Committee. The Redistricting Committee met on April 19th, 2011 to review, discuss, and adopt redistricting plans, with additional items on the agenda. The Legislature has until November 6, 2011 to finalize all redistricting plans.

### New and Upcoming Census Releases

- Educational Attainment in the United States (2010 data, April release)
- Fertility of American Women (2010 data, April release)
- State and Local Government Employee Retirement Systems (2009 data, April release)
- 2010 Census Demographic Profiles (new topics to include sex, household relationship, group quarters population and housing tenure, May release)
- Advance Group Quarters Summary File (Census 2010 data, late April release)



# May is for Moms

RYAN CALDWELL, RESEARCH ANALYST



The driving force behind Mother's Day was Anna Jarvis who organized observances in Grafton, W.Va. and Philadelphia on May 10, 1908. As the annual celebration became popular around the country, Jarvis asked members of Congress to set aside a day to honor mothers. She finally succeeded in 1914, when Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

There were approximately **85.4** million mothers in the United States in 2008.

The proportion of mothers with a recent birth who were in the labor force increased from **57%** in 2006 to **61%** in 2008.

**Eighty percent** of first-time mothers worked within a month or less of giving birth in the early 2000s. This compares with the **35%** who did so between 1961 and 1965.

Eighty-three percent of mothers went back to work within a year of their child's birth and returned to the same employer. **7 of 10** returned to jobs at the same pay, skill level and hours worked per week.

In 2007 there were **71 births per 1,000** women who were 15 to 50 and had a graduate or professional degree. These women have a higher fertility rate than those with any other level of education.

**Five million** moms stayed at home in 2010. This was down from 5.1 million in 2009 and 5.3 million in 2008. In 2010, **23%** of married-couple family groups with children under 15 had a stay-at-home mother, up from 21 percent in 2000. In 2007, prior to the economic downturn, stay-at-home mothers were found in 24 percent of married-couple family groups with children under the age of 15.

There were **777,817** child care centers across the country in 2008. These included 74,920 centers employing 884,235 workers and another **702,897** self-employed people or other businesses without paid employees. Many mothers turn to these centers to help juggle motherhood and careers.

With **18,509** florist establishments nationwide in 2008, the 89,741 employees in floral shops across our nation will be especially busy preparing, selling and delivering floral arrangements for Mother's Day.

## Metropolitan Community College

### Employment Outcomes

There were 1,173 Metropolitan Community College graduates between July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010. Of these graduates, 871 (74%) were working in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2010. This figure is down 2% from the previous year. More than half (61%) of the graduates were female. Female graduates (73%) were slightly less likely to be working in the state than male graduates (76%). The percentage of females working in the state was down 3% from the previous year.

There was at least one graduate employed in 16 of the state's 93 counties. However, 89% of the graduates worked in either Douglas or Sarpy counties.

The 18 graduates employed in the Utilities industry had the highest disclosable estimated average annual earnings of \$49,967, followed by the 35 graduates employed in Information with \$37,270. The Health Care industry had the highest number (230) of graduates working in the state with estimated average annual earnings of \$29,016.

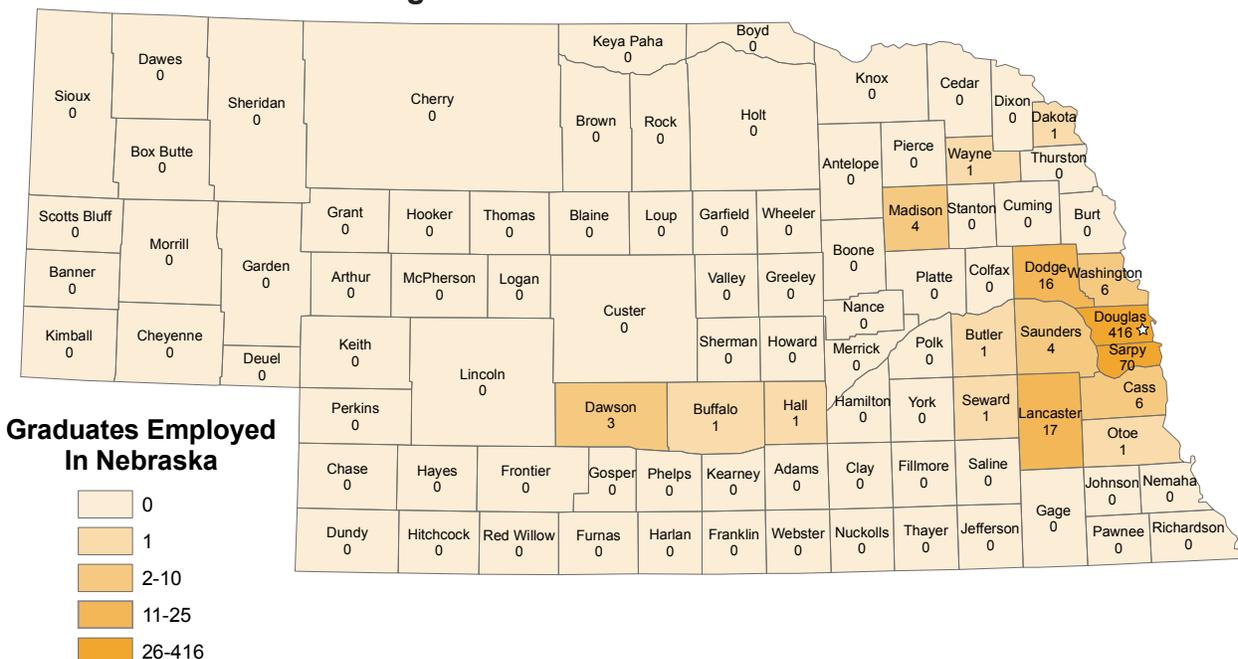
There were 186 graduates in 25 degree/fields of study that had 85% or more of the graduates working in the state. Within this group, the 9 Fire Fighting Associate Degree graduates had the highest estimated average annual earnings of \$44,510 followed by Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology Associate Degree graduates. The highest number of graduates working in the state within this group was the 69 Licensed Practical Nursing graduates with estimated average annual earnings of \$23,701.



There were 14 degree/fields of study with 226 graduates working in the state that had estimated wages above \$30,000 per year. Majors in technical and medical fields of study produced graduates with the highest wages. Associate Degree graduates in Heavy/Industrial Equipment Maintenance Technology had the highest estimated average annual wages of all fields of study with \$46,335.

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

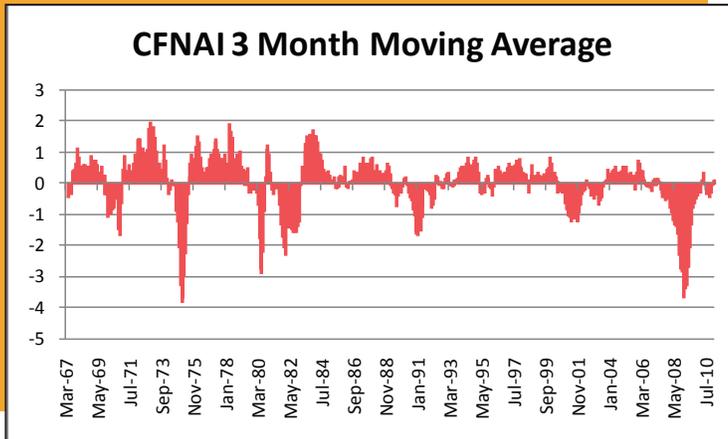
### 2008-2009 Metropolitan Community College Graduates Working in Nebraska in First Quarter 2010



## Economic Indicators of the Month

## CFNAI

TREVOR NELSON, RESEARCH ANALYST



Notes: Unemployment Rates are smoothed seasonally adjusted. DXY is the U.S. Dollar compared to a basket of international currencies. Retail Sales figures are in billions of dollars. Median Employment Wages are OES 50th percentile Annual Wage for All Occupations. Crude Oil Price is as of the close of business on the last Thursday of the month. Corn for Grain is based on the price per bushel. Cattle 500+ Lbs is price per cwt. ECI is Employer Cost Index. PPI is Producer Price Index. CPI is Consumer Price Index.

National Indicators	Date	Value
GDP Growth	10Q4	3.1%
Unemployment Rate	Mar-11	8.8%
Fed Interest Rate	Mar-11	0.25%
Current Account Balance	10Q4	-\$113.3 Billion
Exchange Rate DXY	Apr-11	-1.27%

Nebraska Indicators	Date	Value
Unemployment Rate	Mar-11	4.2%
House Value Appreciation	10Q4	-4.18%
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	Mar-11	41.6
Net Taxable Retail Sales	Jan-11	\$1.756 Billion
Median Employment Wages	10Q4	\$30,421

Pricing Indicators	Date	Value
Barrel of Crude Oil	Mar-11	\$106.60
Corn for Grain	Mar-11	\$5.30
Cattle 500+ Lbs	Mar-11	\$113.00
ECI Change	10Q4	0.40%
PPI Change	Mar-11	0.70%

The Chicago branch of the Federal Reserve Bank publishes a monthly index of economic activity and inflationary pressures called the CFNAI or Chicago Fed National Activity Index. This is designed to measure economic performance of the entire nation taking into account 85 monthly variables, which it places into four categories: Production and income (23 variables), employment, unemployment, and hours (24 variables), personal consumption and housing (15 variables) and sales, orders, and inventories (23 variables). This broad array of data, along with econometric procedures to prevent statistical noise, makes the CFNAI a broad-based leading indicator of economic performance and inflation. The index is designed so that 0 is the historical trend for economic growth, which values above 0 are consider above average growth while values below 0 are below average but not necessarily negative growth, also known as economic contraction. The Chicago Fed produces both a monthly index value and a 3 month moving average.

The chart to the left is tracking the three month moving average of the CFNAI going back to 1967 when the data set was created. This chart allows for easy reading of the state of the national economy through time, with peaks and troughs clearly visible. In December of 2008 and January of 2009 the CFNAI recorded its second and third lowest monthly numbers on record, which extends back to March of 1967. The 3 month moving average also hit its third, fourth, and fifth worst months on record in January, February, and March of 2009 respectively. Most recently, the monthly CFNAI has slipped back into the negative numbers in January and February but is still very close to 0 indicating slightly below average economic growth. The three month moving average has turned positive in January for the first time since May of 2007. The CFNAI is released on scheduled days normally toward the end of each month. The data, as well as technical information on the CFNAI, is available at [chicagofed.org](http://chicagofed.org), on the Research tab and listed under Economic Data.

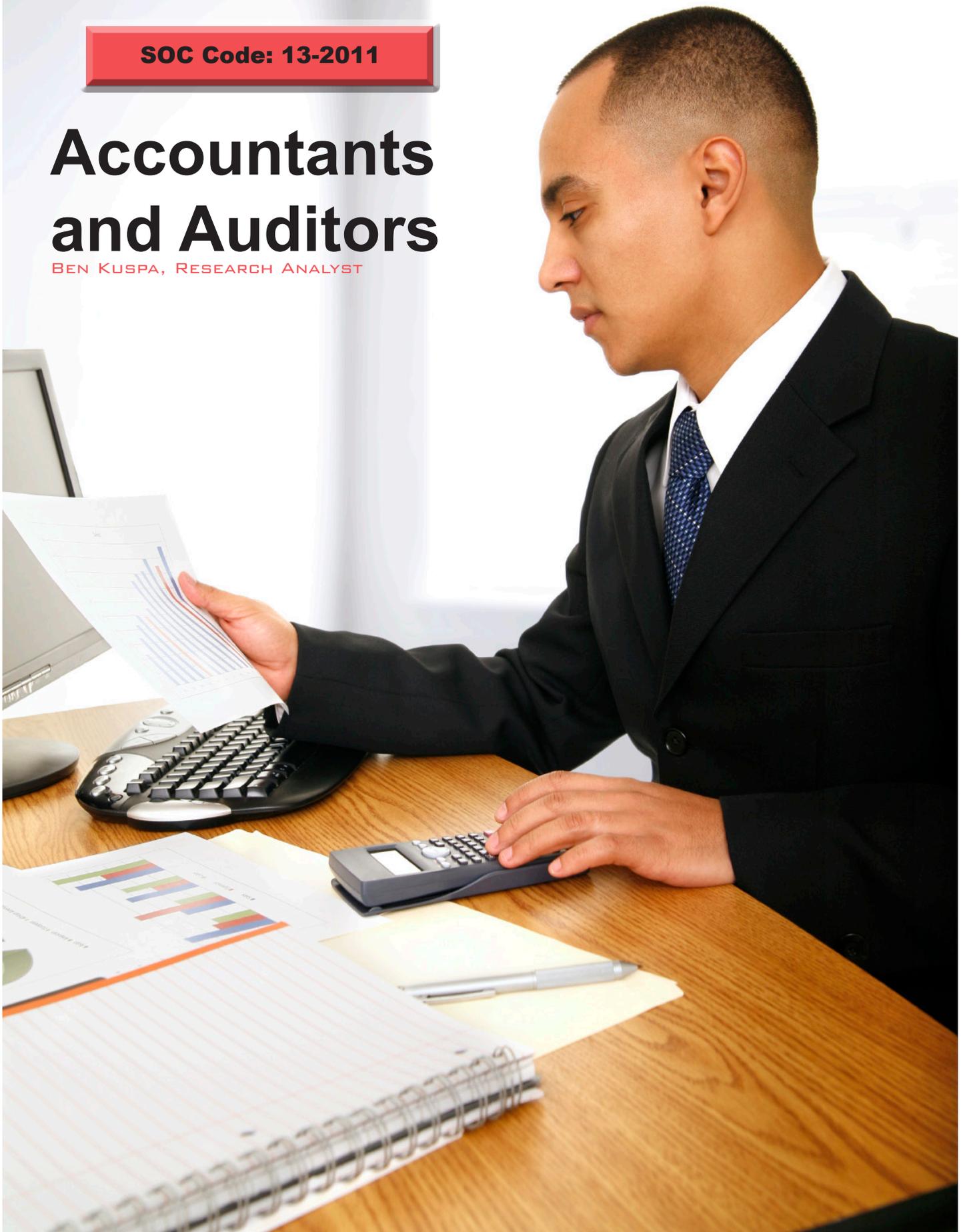
March 2011	Indexes			% Change From	
	Mar-11	Feb-11	Mar-10	Feb-11	Mar-10
U.S. All Items	223.467	221.309	217.631	1.0%	2.7%
Midwest Urban All Items	212.954	211.090	207.359	0.9%	2.7%
Northeast Urban All Items	239.074	237.110	233.188	0.8%	2.5%
South Urban All Items	217.214	214.735	211.216	1.2%	2.8%
West Urban All Items	226.558	224.431	220.809	0.9%	2.6%

Sources: [tradingeconomics.com](http://tradingeconomics.com), [bea.gov](http://bea.gov), [bls.gov](http://bls.gov), [fhfa.gov](http://fhfa.gov), [usda.gov](http://usda.gov), [revenue.state.ne.us](http://revenue.state.ne.us), [oil-price.net](http://oil-price.net), [chicagofed.org](http://chicagofed.org).

**SOC Code: 13-2011**

# Accountants and Auditors

BEN KUSPA, RESEARCH ANALYST

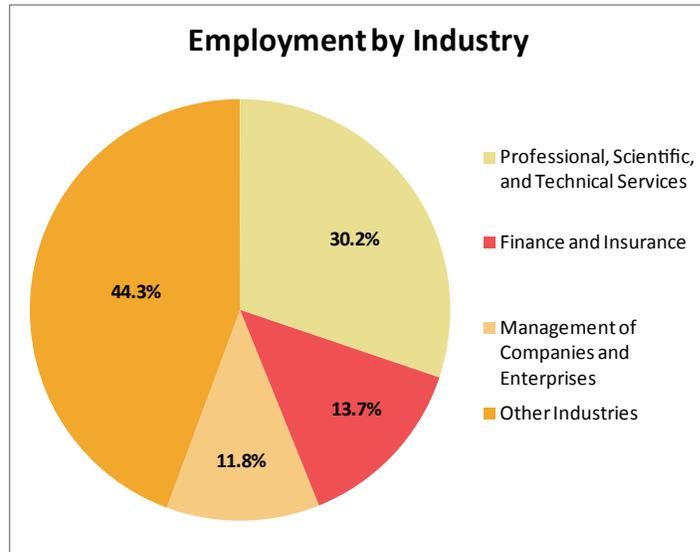


According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Nebraska's 2009 gross domestic product was over \$84 billion dollars. With so many business transactions taking place, it is important to have someone that can manage budgets for corporations and government. That is the role that accountants and auditors fulfill. The accountants and auditors occupation is one of the top Nebraskan high-wage, high-skill, and high-demand jobs.

Accountants and auditors typically work in four different fields: public, management, government, or internal. Public accountants provide advice concerning private and corporate tax, employee wages and benefits, and other personal and corporate financial concerns. They usually operate their own businesses or work for an accounting firm. Management accountants supervise budgets and keep track of costs for the business employing them. Government accountants and auditors oversee government budgets or businesses that are subject to government regulation or taxation. Internal auditors regulate business practices to prevent mismanagement, fraud, or waste.

These different fields are also distributed across various industries. The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services sector represents 30.2% of accountant employment, followed by the Finance and Insurance sector (13.7%) and the Management of Companies and Enterprises sector (11.8%). The balance of employment is spread across other industries that each constitutes less than 10% of the total share.

Within Nebraska, an estimated 7,060 accountants were working as of May 2009. The number of accountants is expected to grow significantly over both the short and long-term. During the time period of 2008 to 2018, the number

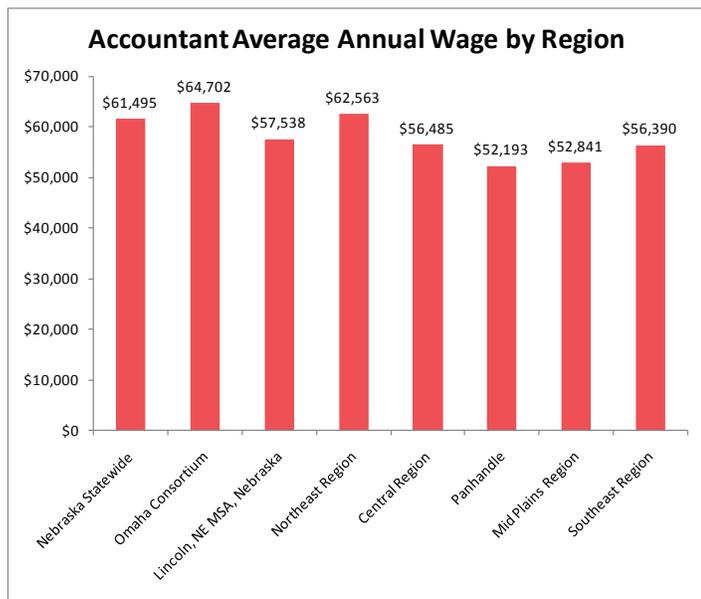


of accountants needed is projected to grow by 20.1% with 1,789 growth openings and 1,502 replacement openings. From 2009 to 2011, the number of accountants was projected to grow by 30.4%.

Accountants and auditors typically need at least a bachelor's degree to start practicing. Graduate and doctorate degrees are also available through some institutions. Those accountants who wish to further their education may choose to become Certified Public Accountants (CPA). CPAs are licensed through the Nebraska Board of Public Accountancy. The minimum requirements for obtaining a CPA license entail earning a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, passing a written exam, passing an ethics exam, and attaining 4,000 hours of accounting experience over two years or more working under the supervision of a licensed CPA in a licensed accounting firm. This certification must be renewed every two years and requires continuing professional education to qualify. Because of the strict licensing procedure, becoming a CPA is a good move professionally and may provide opportunities that would otherwise not be available. For more information on the CPA licensing procedure in Nebraska, visit [www.nbpa.ne.gov](http://www.nbpa.ne.gov).

The skill level of accountants and auditors is high and demand is increasing; both of these factors are reflected in the wages paid. The state-wide average entry annual wage is \$39,429, but the total average annual wage is \$61,495. For experienced accountants or auditors, the average annual wage is \$72,529. By region, Omaha and the surrounding Northeast region have the highest average wages, followed by the Lincoln MSA and the Central and Southeast regions. See the attached chart for all wages by region.

To find out more about accountants and auditors, visit [networks.nebraska.gov](http://networks.nebraska.gov) and visit the occupational profile section.



# Statewide **R**egional **R**evue

TREVOR NELSON, RESEARCH ANALYST

[networks.nebraska.gov](http://networks.nebraska.gov)

In April the Statewide version of the Labor Market Regional Reviews were published by the Nebraska Department of Labor. This publication presents a large variety of labor market related data in a concise, simple to understand, and commonly used format. Regional Reviews contain information on demographic trends, educational achievement, employee compensation, inflation, labor supply, and industry and occupational employment and projected growth. Each of the data pieces are explained in three sections titled “What is it?”, “How to use it”, and “Where to find it”.

In the month of May, NDOL will be publishing 12 more Regional Reviews for each of two Metropolitan Statistical Areas and ten Micropolitan Statistical Areas within the state. This publication is designed for local policy makers, economic developers, businesses, employers and employees to have quick and easy access to the data that will help them make more informed decisions.



# Openings and Expansions

TREVOR NELSON, 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 own or know of a business which is opening or expanding, please email Trevor.Nelson@nebraska.gov with your information.

## Lincoln

- Two new Chinese restaurants filed for building permits in the past month.
- JJ's Bar and Grill is now open at 1st and Cornhusker.
- Duncan Aviation is planning on breaking ground on a new paint facility on May 1 to be completed by April 30, 2012.
- Farrell's is opening a second gym in Lincoln.
- HobbyTown is opening its second store in Lincoln at 27th and Superior.
- TMCO is expanding their facility in a \$7 million project.
- MembersOwn is planning to move to a new building which it hopes to break ground on in July.

## Omaha

- Behlen Mfg Co is purchasing the former Nashua Corp building on 108th Street in Omaha. This move will consolidate 2 facilities the company owns in north Omaha.
- The following openings and expansions were reported by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce: Great River Buffet, 20 employees; Blue Agave Restaurant, 25 employees; CVS Pharmacy, 20 employees; Stadium Dawgs Restaurant, 25 employees.

## Southeast

### Beatrice

- Neapco has added 70 positions and a company press release says the company now expects to hire an additional 150 by the end of the year, rather than the 70 originally reported.
- Encore was purchased by World Lawn; they are hoping to bring in 40 positions this summer.
- CJ Foods in Pawnee city will be adding 30 positions for a new line.

## Nebraska City

- Ariens in Auburn is ramping up for their busy season and is looking to hire 60 temporary employees. This employer produces lawn mowers.

## Northeast

### Columbus

- Pizza Ranch opened in Columbus creating 70 new jobs.
- Apogee call center announce that it plans to add 100 additional full and part time positions in 2011.
- Katana Summit has recalled all welder layoffs and is hiring 40+ more. Many other positions with Katana are available too.

## Central

### Grand Island

- Stone Creek Homes has acquired a facility in Central City to build manufactured homes for the construction and oil industries. It will employ 25 workers initially and up to 75 potentially.

## MidPlains

### North Platte

- Greenbriar Rail Services opening in Hershey soon and this spring will be employing approximately 40 employees.

## Panhandle

### Alliance

- The school district is building a new high school auditorium.

## Scottsbluff

- A proposed plan to construct a 30,000 square foot manufacturing/processing plant near Western Nebraska Regional Airport was revealed during an airport board meeting recently.
- Charbrite Photography opened in Morrill, Nebraska.
- Hot Stuff Foods franchise has opened in the Cyclone Express Martin Gering.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE INFORMATION FOR MARCH 2011

OFFICE OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

### Statewide

Statewide, Non-farm employment estimates were 938,978 in March 2011; 7,522 more jobs than last month and 12,746 more than in March 2010.

Manufacturing industries employed 92,374 workers; 163 less people than last month and 1,419 more than in March 2010.

Statewide, average weekly hours worked in manufacturing industries were 41.6, an increase of 0.7 hours since February, and an increase of 1.3 hours since March 2010. Average weekly earnings increased by \$23.08 since February to \$691.39 and have risen by \$48.20 since March 2010.

Average hourly earnings in manufacturing industries of \$16.62 were \$0.28 higher than in February and \$0.66 more than in March 2010.

### Omaha MSA

Non-farm employment estimates were 452,138 in March 2011; 3,862 more jobs than last month and 2,543 more than in March 2010.

### Lincoln MSA

Non-farm employment estimates were 171,632 in March 2011; 2,149 more jobs than last month and 1,938 more than in March 2010.

### Labor Force Employment by Place of Residence:

#### Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted):

- March unemployment rate: 4.2%
- Change (OTM): -0.1%
- Change (OTY): -0.7%

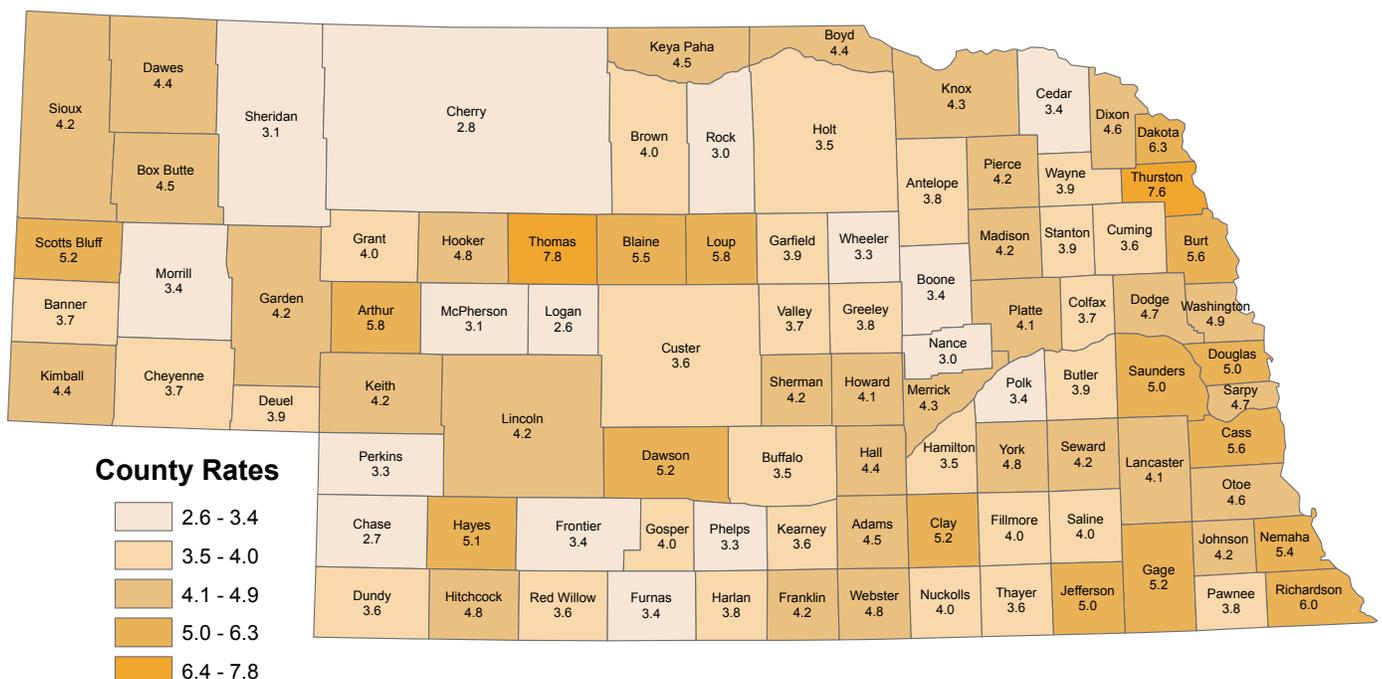
#### Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted):

- Central: 4.0%
- Panhandle: 4.5%
- Mid Plains: 4.2%
- Southeast: 4.7%
- Northeast: 4.4%

#### Revisions to February Data:

- Unemployment rate: 4.3%
- Labor Force: -95
- Unemployment: -110
- Employment: +15

### March 2011 Nebraska Unemployment Rates by County



# Industry Developments



## TOTAL NONFARM

JANET DENBRING

Nationally, over-the-month non-seasonally adjusted employment progressed by 0.7% which is just above the past five years' average of 0.5%. Since February, six industries rose and four remained stable. The top two increases were in Mining and Construction (2.2%) and Leisure and Hospitality (1.9%), both with higher than normal seasonal growth. Over-the-year employment advanced by 1.0% which is the fourth month in a row it has been over 0.5%. This month's highest over-the-year growth industries were Professional and Business Services (3.3%), Other Services (2.1%), followed by Educational and Health Services (2.1%).

Nebraska Total Nonfarm over-the month employment was 938,978. It improved slightly more (0.8%) than its past five years' average (0.6%). About half of the monthly growth came from the two largest seasonal gainers: Mining and Construction (6.4%), trailed by Leisure and Hospitality (2.2%). Over-the-year employment in Total Nonfarm increased 1.4% which is the fifth month in a row it has grown. Professional and Business Services expanded the most (5.5%), followed by Mining and Construction (4.2%).

From February to March, employment in the Lincoln MSA rose by 2,149 jobs to 171,632 (1.3%) slightly less than the largest increase in the last five years, which occurred in September 2008 (2,501 jobs or 1.4%). Over the year,

employment improved by 1.1% in March. It has not seen that much growth since December 2008 (1.3%). Employment percentage advanced the most in Professional and Business Services (6.5%), as well as in Leisure and Hospitality (4.2%).

Over the month, the Omaha MSA employment added 3,862 jobs (0.9%) to 452,138, slightly above the past five years' percentage average of 0.6%. Over the year, the 0.6% gain is twice the past five years' average of 0.3%. The greatest percentage growth came from Professional and Business Services (3.8%), followed by Other Services (2.5%).

## MINING AND CONSTRUCTION

Since national over-the-year employment in Mining and Construction started declining in August 2007, it increased for the past two months (0.9%; 0.8%).

Since February, statewide employment escalated by 6.4% which is twice the past five year's average of 3.2%. A seasonal increase in Specialty Trade Contractors of 1,825 jobs accounted for about 75% of the growth. Since March 2010, Mining and Construction has expanded by 4.2%. It has not seen growth that high since November 2007 (4.6%). The majority of the upsurge came from Specialty Trade Contractors (5.8%). Previously, Mining and Construction posted declines from July 2008 thru February 2011.

In the Lincoln MSA, employment surged by 335 jobs (5.6%) in March, more than twice the past five year's average of 2.6%. Over-the-year employment in Mining and Construction rose by 3.4% for the first time since February 2006 (2.8%).

Since February, employment in Omaha MSA added 1,296 jobs (7.1%), which is more than twice as much as the past five years average rate in March of 2.4%. Since last year, employment increased 1.2%, the first increase since September 2008 (2.7%).



## MANUFACTURING

For the past five years, national non-seasonally adjusted Manufacturing over-the-year employment had repeatedly declined ranging from -0.1% (June 2006) to -13.2% (June 2009). Recently, it has been continuously increasing from 0.1% (October 2010) to 1.8% (March 2011).

Statewide Manufacturing over-the-year employment has progressed over the past four months (1.6% to 1.9%) after it has primarily regressed over the past two years (-0.7% to -9.6%).

In the Lincoln MSA, the Manufacturing monthly employment grew 0.7% to 12,817; which is opposite of its historical average of -0.6%. Since January 2008, over-the-year employment repeatedly declined by more than 1.0%. Since December 2010, yearly employment has continually increased by more than 1.0%.

The year-to-year employment in the Omaha MSA change was 0.9% which is abnormal compared to its past five years' average of -1.1%. This is only the third month it has been higher than 0.5% since early 2008.

## TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, AND UTILITIES

For the previous three years, national over-the-year employment had repeatedly declined, ranging from -0.3%

(April 2008) to -5.8% (July 2009). In recent months, employment has consistently increased from 0.1% (October 2010) up to 1.0% (March 2011).

Since February, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment in Nebraska remained flat (0.2%), but lower than its past average of 0.5%. Over-the-month employment in Wholesale Trade lost 0.8%, which is unusual for March as the month usually shows a gain. Retail Trade remained flat after declining the past two months. Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities grew by 1.2% following two months of decay. Over the year, Trade, Transportation, and Utilities employment added 2,760 jobs (1.4%) which continued its expansion that started in November 2010 after almost two years of decline. Wholesale Trade was unchanged after increasing the past two months. Retail Trade remained steady after improving the past three months. Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities went up by 4.9% following five months of gains.

Over the month, the Lincoln MSA held steady in this industry and its subsectors after losing the previous two months. Over-the-year employment has repeatedly gained 1.0% or more since November 2010 after constant losses the previous year.

The majority of the industry monthly growth in the Omaha MSA came from the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities subsector. Since November 2010, the industry has grown over-the-year continuously above 0.5%, following two years of declines.



## INFORMATION

From September 2008 to November 2010, national Information over-the-year employment dropped continuously by more than -2.0%. Since December 2010, it has been less than -2.0%.

Over the month, after unusual expansions in the past two

	Number of Workers			Over the Month		Over the year	
	Mar-11	Feb-11	Mar-10	Numeric	Percent	Numeric	Percent
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>938,978</b>	<b>931,456</b>	<b>926,232</b>	<b>7,522</b>	<b>0.81%</b>	<b>12,746</b>	<b>1.38%</b>
<b>Mining, Logging &amp; Construction</b>	<b>40,223</b>	<b>37,819</b>	<b>38,598</b>	<b>2,404</b>	<b>6.36%</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>4.21%</b>
Construction	39,255	36,929	37,756	2,326	6.30%	1,499	3.97%
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	4,852	4,563	4,947	289	6.33%	-95	-1.92%
Specialty Trade Contractors	26,307	24,482	24,864	1,825	7.45%	1,443	5.80%
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>92,374</b>	<b>92,537</b>	<b>90,955</b>	<b>-163</b>	<b>-0.18%</b>	<b>1,419</b>	<b>1.56%</b>
Durable Goods	42,178	41,859	41,026	319	0.76%	1,152	2.81%
Non-Durable Goods	50,196	50,678	49,929	-482	-0.95%	267	0.53%
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>195,244</b>	<b>194,825</b>	<b>192,484</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>2,760</b>	<b>1.43%</b>
Wholesale Trade	40,052	40,358	40,064	-306	-0.76%	-12	-0.03%
Retail Trade	102,204	102,132	101,910	72	0.07%	294	0.29%
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	52,988	52,335	50,510	653	1.25%	2,478	4.91%
<b>Information</b>	<b>17,052</b>	<b>17,219</b>	<b>16,975</b>	<b>-167</b>	<b>-0.97%</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>0.45%</b>
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>68,154</b>	<b>67,851</b>	<b>68,268</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>0.45%</b>	<b>-114</b>	<b>-0.17%</b>
Finance and Insurance	59,512	59,262	59,488	250	0.42%	24	0.04%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	8,642	8,589	8,780	53	0.62%	-138	-1.57%
<b>Professional &amp; Business Services</b>	<b>103,335</b>	<b>102,263</b>	<b>97,962</b>	<b>1,072</b>	<b>1.05%</b>	<b>5,373</b>	<b>5.48%</b>
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	44,025	43,955	42,982	70	0.16%	1,043	2.43%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	17,269	17,063	17,299	206	1.21%	-30	-0.17%
Admin & Support & Waste Mngmt & Remdtn Svcs	42,041	41,245	37,681	796	1.93%	4,360	11.57%
<b>Education &amp; Health Services</b>	<b>137,583</b>	<b>136,707</b>	<b>135,476</b>	<b>876</b>	<b>0.64%</b>	<b>2,107</b>	<b>1.56%</b>
Educational Services	18,332	18,363	17,885	-31	-0.17%	447	2.50%
Health Care and Social Assistance	119,251	118,344	117,591	907	0.77%	1,660	1.41%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>77,967</b>	<b>76,317</b>	<b>77,330</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>2.16%</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>0.82%</b>
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	10,542	9,882	10,738	660	6.68%	-196	-1.83%
Accommodation and Food Services	67,425	66,435	66,592	990	1.49%	833	1.25%
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>37,473</b>	<b>36,932</b>	<b>36,856</b>	<b>541</b>	<b>1.46%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>1.67%</b>
Repair and Maintenance	9,774	9,687	9,801	87	0.90%	-27	-0.28%
Personal and Laundry Services	7,771	7,609	7,779	162	2.13%	-8	-0.10%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Profssnl, & Sim Orgs	19,928	19,636	19,276	292	1.49%	652	3.38%
<b>Government</b>	<b>169,573</b>	<b>168,986</b>	<b>171,328</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>0.35%</b>	<b>-1,755</b>	<b>-1.02%</b>
Federal Government	16,357	16,292	17,395	65	0.40%	-1,038	-5.97%
State Government	41,555	41,134	41,560	421	1.02%	-5	-0.01%
Local Government	111,661	111,560	112,373	101	0.09%	-712	-0.63%

months, statewide employment dropped by 1.0%. The last year it fell this much was in March 2002 (-1.2%). Over the year, jobs improved by 0.5% after a 0.8% gain in February.

Since 2005, the Lincoln MSA Information employment posted its high of 2,950 jobs in October 2007 and its low of 2,101 in May 2010. Though the sector only lost 30 jobs (-1.4%) from last month, low employment in this industry makes small changes look like heavy volatility.

Over-the year employment in the Omaha MSA has continuously gone down, starting in December 2007 at -0.3% to as high as -7.8% in April 2009 to its current rate of -4.8%. Information employed 12,608 in December 2007,

but has declined to 10,680 in March 2011, a loss of about 2,000 jobs.

## FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Nationally, Financial Activities over-the-year employment has reached the current rate of -0.4% since August 2007. During the past three years, it ranged from -0.7% to -5.4%.

Statewide Financial Activities employment was even for over the month (0.4%) and over the year (-0.2%).

Financial Activities has been fairly stable over the month in the Lincoln MSA for the past nine months. Over the year, the Lincoln MSA has expanded by over 1.0% for the past three

months which has not happened since the first quarter of 2009.

Over-the-month and over-the-year employment in the Omaha MSA held steady at 0.4% and -0.4%, respectively.



## PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS SERVICES

Since May 2010, the over-the-year national employment has been steadily growing to 3.3% this month. It had not been at or over 3.0% since February 2007.

Statewide, Professional and Business Services gains in over-the-month (1.0%) and over-the-year (5.5%) employment came mostly from Administrative and Waste Services (1.9%; 11.6%).

In the Lincoln MSA, Professional and Business Services oddly escalated by 4.4% over the month, the highest it has been for any month in the past ten years. The over-the-month high in the past five years was 2.5% in June 2006. Over the year, employment unusually surged by 6.5%. The last time it was this high was in June (6.5%) and July (7.1%) of 2006.

Since last month, employment in the Omaha MSA grew 1.1% with all of the subsectors contributing to the gain. Since March 2010, Professional and Business Services increased by 3.8% (2,283 jobs) with the majority of the expansion from Administrative and Waste Services (8.3% or 1,924 jobs).

## EDUCATION AND HEALTH SERVICES

Since January 2006, national over-the-year employment has continuously increased, ranging from 1.6% to 3.2%.

Statewide, Educational and Health Services expansion in over-the-month (0.6%) and over-the-year (1.6%) employment came by and large from Health Care and Social Assistance (0.8%; 1.4%).

Since February, Education and Health Services in the

Lincoln MSA held steady (0.4%). Over the year, the Lincoln MSA contracted by 632 jobs (-2.4%) which has continued its consecutive losses since July 2010.

Over the month, the Omaha MSA grew 0.8%, more than usual for March but possibly explained by lower than normal (0.3%) February gains. Since March 2010, employment improved by 1.0%, mostly due to advances in Health Care and Social Assistance (1.6%).

## LEISURE AND HOSPITALITY

The over-the-year employment increased in March by 1.6%. It has not been this high nationally since January 2008. Employment has been steadily growing since September 2010 (0.4%).

Since February, statewide Leisure and Hospitality employment started its usual seasonal growth in both subsectors. Over-the-year employment has advanced greater than 0.7% for the past five months. Prior to November 2010, it had declined most months dating back to October 2008.

Leisure and Hospitality in the Lincoln MSA posted a fairly healthy over-the-month growth of 2.3%. Over the year, the industry has constantly gained greater than 3.0% since November 2010, with March's growth at 4.2%. Prior to past several months, the last increase above 3.0% occurred in February 2006 (3.6%).

Over-the-month employment levels are up 2.5% due to a normal seasonal increase for the Omaha MSA. Over the year, there was a small decline in jobs this month (-0.8%), compared to the past large losses in March 2009 (-1.8%) and March 2010 (-3.3%).

## OTHER SERVICES

Over the past seven months, the national over-the-year employment has grown between 1.6% and 2.3%. It has not been in as high as this range during the prior five years.

Statewide, Other Services over-the-month employment rose by 1.5% after two flat months. This industry is 1.7% higher than this month last year. Additions in both time periods were mostly due to Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, and Similar Organizations.

The Lincoln MSA stepped up some over the month (0.9%), but slipped a little over the year (0.5%). Over the past five years, employment has not varied much from a high of 7,153 in October 2008 to a low of 6,680 in January 2007. Other Services is currently at 6,962.

The Omaha MSA continued over-the-year growth greater than 2.0% since June 2009 with this month's increase being 2.5%. 

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**Commissioner of Labor**

**Catherine D. Lang**

**LMI Administrator**

**Phil Baker**

**Editor**

**Scott Hunzeker**

**Editor**

**Jacob Liudahl**

**Graphic Designer**

**Kristin Brehmer**

