University of Nebraska - Lincoln DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Cornhusker Economics

Agricultural Economics Department

1-1-2010

A Quick Look at Nebraska's Youth Population Data from Recent Census Estimates

Randy Cantrell *University of Nebraska - Lincoln,* rcantrell1@unl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/agecon_cornhusker

Part of the Agricultural and Resource Economics Commons

Cantrell, Randy, "A Quick Look at Nebraska's Youth Population Data from Recent Census Estimates" (2010). Cornhusker Economics. Paper 491.

http://digitalcommons.unl.edu/agecon_cornhusker/491

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Agricultural Economics Department at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Cornhusker Economics by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

CORNHUSKER ECONOMICS



September 1, 2010

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources
Department of Agricultural Economics
http://www.agecon.unl.edu/Cornhuskereconomics.html

A Quick Look at Nebraska's Youth Population Data from Recent Census Estimates

A Quick Look at Nebra	aska	5 1 OU	III PO
Market Report	Yr Ago	4 Wks Ago	8/27/10
Livestock and Products,			
Weekly Average			
Nebraska Slaughter Steers, 35-65% Choice, Live Weight Nebraska Feeder Steers,	\$83.49	\$92.91	\$99.17
Med. & Large Frame, 550-600 lb Nebraska Feeder Steers,	115.93	126.28	133.87
Med. & Large Frame 750-800 lb Choice Boxed Beef,	102.15	116.38	118.45
600-750 lb. Carcass	143.67	154.01	163.79
Carcass, Negotiated Feeder Pigs, National Direct	49.52	82.04	79.14
50 lbs, FOB	40.00	*	*
51-52% LeanSlaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., Heavy,	57.01	89.21	94.99
Wooled, South Dakota, Direct National Carcass Lamb Cutout,	91.87	136.00	140.00
FOB	244.68	303.88	304.41
Wheat, No. 1, H.W.			
Imperial, bu	3.94	5.25	5.40
Omaha, bu	3.13	3.55	3.81
Omaha, bu	11.73	10.28	10.13
Dorchester, cwt Oats, No. 2, Heavy	5.02	6.09	6.75
Minneapolis, MN , bu	2.01	2.79	2.64
Alfalfa, Large Square Bales, Good to Premium, RFV 160-185 Northeast Nebraska, ton	*	150.00	135.00
Alfalfa, Large Rounds, Good Platte Valley, ton	82.50	77.50	75.00
Grass Hay, Large Rounds, Premium Nebraska, ton.	*	82.50	95.00
Dried Distillers Grains, 10% Moisture, Nebraska Average	80.00	90.50	105.00
Wet Distillers Grains, 65-70% Moisture, Nebraska Average.	32.50	28.00	38.00
*No Market			

According to population estimates released by the Bureau of the Census, Nebraska's population under 18 years of age grew between the years 2000 and 2009, but at a rate much below that of the general population and in a geographically very uneven fashion.

Overall, it is estimated that Nebraska's population under 18 years of age grew by 0.31 percent between 2000 and 2009 (from 450,242 to 451,641), while the total population grew by 4.98 percent. However, young Nebraskans increased in number in only ten of the state's 93 counties. Of the 83 counties that saw their youth decline in number, 70 are estimated to have experienced declines in excess of ten percent, with 33 counties seeing declines of over 20 percent.

Among the 50 most rural Nebraska counties (those with no population center of 2,500 or more), the average population decline among residents under 18 years of age was 22 percent. Led by Grant County, it saw its population of youth decline by a staggering 45.9 percent.

Declines in the population of rural youth are not surprising. The age structure of rural Nebraska has resulted in a decline in the number of residents of childbearing age. Nebraska's median age is currently estimated to be 37.3 years, up from 36.6 years at the time of the 2000 Census. The state's median age is exceeded in 80 of Nebraska's 93 counties, led by Garden County with a median age of 52.6 years, an increase of seven years over the median age found in 2000. Grant County, noted earlier for the size of the decline in its young population, is estimated to have a median age of 44.4 years, placing half of its population near or beyond typical childbearing age, and representing an increase of 4.5 years over the median age found by the 2000 Census.

According to census estimates, in only ten Nebraska counties has the median age decreased since the year 2000.



Interestingly, very young Nebraskans (those under five years of age) have seen a relatively greater increase in numbers over the last nine years than has either the total population or the youth population in general.

Nebraska's population under five years of age is estimated to have increased by 15.1 percent between 2000 and 2009 (growing from 117,048 to 134,717). This is a growth rate roughly three-times that of the state's total population, and many times faster than the total population under 18 years of age.

Growth in the population under five years of age is estimated to have occurred in 32 of Nebraska's 93 counties, led by a 46 percent increase in Colfax County. That encouraging number is offset by the 61 counties in which the population under five years of age is estimated to have declined. This time the population decline was led by Wheeler County (-47.8%).

Among Nebraska's 50 most rural counties, nine saw the estimated size of their population under five years of age increase, with growth rates ranging from 0.25 percent (Howard County), to 32.5 percent (Logan County). On average, however, these 50 counties experienced a 7.7 percent decrease in the number of their preschool residents.

It is important to remember that in very rural counties the numbers involved are quite small, and therefore somewhat volatile. In the case of Logan County for instance, which saw an increase of 32.5 percent in their population of children younger than five years, rapid growth represents only 13 additional children (from 40 in 2000 to an estimated 53 in 2009). During the same period, Logan County's total youth population declined by 25 percent (from 211 to 158).

It is also important to consider the effect that minority populations have on some of these estimates. This is because minority populations are generally younger than the majority population in Nebraska, and can thus be expected to produce more offspring at any point in time. In Colfax County for instance, which has experienced a rapid increase among Latinos, the population under age 18 years is estimated to have increased by 10.6 percent, and the population under five years of age is estimated to have grown by 46.1 percent, while the total population simultaneously declined by one percent. Estimates indicate that births among Latinos are largely responsible for this growth.

Finally, these are estimates and have the potential to be quite wrong. A better picture of population trends over the last decade will be provided by Decennial Census data, which will be released next year.

Randy Cantrell, (402) 472-0919 University of Nebraska Rural Initiative University of Nebraska-Lincoln rcantrell1@unl.edu







