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William Scheideler
Bureau of Business Research

Stuart Severns
Bureau of Business Research

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Nebraska's Nonemployer Business Growth—1997-2000

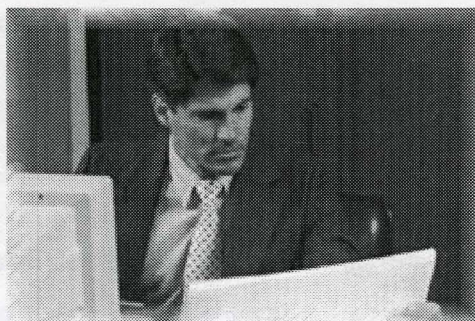
William Scheideler and Stuart Severns

The common notion of a business is a physical place(s) of operation with paid employees. Approximately 49,000 Nebraska businesses fit that concept during the period from 1997 to 2000. But, this group represented only about a third of all businesses operating in the state. The largest and fastest growing type of business was the nonemployer. Recently released U.S. Census Bureau data through 2000, the most recent available, include nonfarm businesses without paid employees that reported over \$1,000 in annual receipts to the Internal

Revenue Service. However, there are two important exceptions: 1) all nonemployer establishments in construction are included, regardless of the level of receipts; and 2) all agricultural production establishments (e.g., farms, greenhouses, and nurseries) are excluded.

The number of nonemployer businesses in Nebraska grew 4 percent from 99,298 in 1997 to 103,272 in 2000. During the period, establishments with employees

grew 2.1 percent. Nationally, the number of nonemployer businesses increased 7.1 percent from 1997 to 2000. Nebraska's rate of increase in nonemployer businesses ranked 40th nationally. Nebraska's neighbors and other states in the region, except for Oklahoma, ranked even higher.



Nebraska's nonemployer businesses reported \$3.4 billion in receipts in 2000, an increase of 16.1 percent from 1997. Although, nonemployer businesses represented 68 percent of all businesses in the state, they generated only about 3 percent of all business receipts¹.

Nonemployer businesses provided at least part-time work for over 100,000 Nebraskans in 2000, about 12 percent of the state's workers.

Various business situations are included under the definition of nonemployer. In addition to full-time self-employed individuals, some nonemployer businesses are part-time or seasonal, carried out in addition to a regular full-time job (e.g., a school teacher with a business that operates only in the summer). Nonemployers also include new

¹Based on Census Bureau 1997 Economic Census

business starts by entrepreneurs, struggling businesses that may have downsized and no longer employ other workers, and individuals working in industries where it is common practice to use independent contractors—including those that do business exclusively with one firm (e.g., truck drivers, real estate agents, and insurance agents).

About 63 percent of Nebraska's nonemployer businesses were concentrated in construction, retail trade, professional/scientific/technical services, health care and social assistance, and other services industries. Two major industries, finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) and other services, accounted for all statewide net growth in the number of nonemployer businesses from 1997 to 2000. Over half the growth in receipts also was generated by nonemployer businesses in these industries.

Statewide, average receipts reported per business by nonemployers increased 11.6 percent from 1997 to 2000. Only three industries reported lower average receipts for the period: forestry/fishing/agricultural services, -0.4 percent; retail trade, -2.2 percent; and information, -14.8 percent. Information industries include publishing, broadcasting, telecommunications, information services, and data processing services. Among the larger industry groups, average receipts increased from 4.4 percent in other services industries to 16.2 percent in the FIRE industries.

Four major industries in Nebraska ranked among the top 25 states based on their rate of growth in nonemployer businesses:

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Information	42.8	13 th
Educational Services	23.1	13 th
Transportation	12.4	22 nd
FIRE	17.2	20 th

On the down side, the number of nonemployers in retail trade declined 6.8 percent, and nonemployers in professional/scientific/technical services declined 12.4 percent, statewide. Together, these two industry groups lost nearly 2,500 nonemployer business from 1997 to 2000, at a rate of loss nearly 50 percent faster than those industries at the national level. Two industries ranked very low based on growth rates:

<i>Industry</i>	<i>Growth Rate</i>	<i>Rank</i>
Administrative Support	1.9	49 th
Other Services	13.4	44 th

Nonemployer Business Density

Many states with high growth rates in nonemployer businesses were those with rapidly growing populations. In 2000 Nebraska had 603 nonemployer businesses for every 10,000 residents and ranked 23rd. Among Nebraska's neighbors, only Colorado with 770 and South Dakota with 637 nonemployers per 10,000 population ranked higher, 4th and 12th, respectively.

Comparison—Nonemployer/Employer Businesses

From 1997 to 2000 the number of businesses with employees increased 2.1 percent, compared to 4 percent in nonemployer businesses. With few exceptions, industry growth rates varied widely between nonemployer and employer establishments. This reflected differences in the industry and occupational structure within each major industry between employers and nonemployers. For example, less than 6 percent of nonemployer establishments in Nebraska's retail trade industry were classified as motor vehicle and parts dealers, compared to over 13 percent among establishments with employees. In the construction industry 6.6 percent of employer establishments were involved in heavy construction, compared to just 1.8 percent of nonemployer establishments.

Nonemployer Business Growth—Metro/Nonmetro

Overall, the number of nonemployer businesses in metro counties increased 4.7 percent from 48,213 in 1997 to 50,485 in 2000 (Table 1). Nebraska's metro counties are Cass, Dakota, Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster, and Washington. Nearly half the state's nonemployer businesses were located in metro counties.

Nonemployers in the FIRE and other services industries contributed about 90 percent of the net growth in metro Nebraska, although the much smaller information industry grew at a faster rate. The number of metro nonemployers in two smaller industries—manufacturing and

forestry/fishing/agricultural services—dropped severely, while wholesale trade, retail trade, and professional/scientific/technical services also declined.

Metro nonemployers reported that receipts increased nearly 20 percent from 1997 to 2000, nearly double the growth rate in nonmetro counties. Receipts averaged \$36,921 in nonemployer businesses in 2000 (Table 2, page 4).

The number of nonemployer businesses and their corresponding receipts in large trade center counties was second only to metro counties. Large trade center counties have a city

larger than 7,500. The number of nonemployer establishments in large trade center counties increased 4 percent and receipts increased 14.4 percent from 1997 to 2000. FIRE, health care, and other services provided most of the growth in

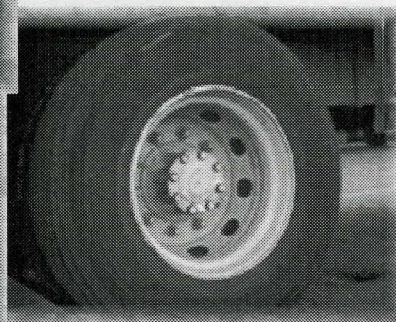
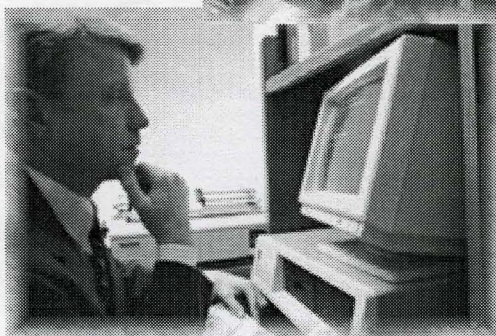


Table 1
Number of Nonemployer Business Establishments in 2000 and Percent Growth from 1997 to 2000, by Selected Industry and Geographic Classification

	Metro		Nonmetro Large Trade Center		Nonmetro Small Trade Center		Nonmetro No Trade Center	
	2000	% Growth	2000	% Growth	2000	% Growth	2000	% Growth
Total Nonemployers	50,485	4.7%	22,366	4.0%	16,380	2.2%	14,041	3.7%
Selected Industries								
Forestry/Fishing /Ag. Services	263	-26.7%	439	0.5%	453	-9.0%	350	-15.9%
Manufacturing	335	-40.4%	250	-5.3%	168	-8.7%	34	6.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,000	-0.2%	379	4.4%	231	-22.2%	134	-19.3%
Retail Trade	6,329	-3.1%	3,084	-12.3%	2,339	-6.4%	2,047	-9.4%
Transportation/Warehousing	1,476	6.1%	1,301	14.7%	1,107	7.7%	1,075	25.6%
Information	353	40.6%	110	46.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
FIRE*	8,347	15.0%	3,129	18.7%	1,836	23.1%	1,248	32.3%
Professional/Scientific/ Technical Services	6,643	-9.9%	1,824	-14.7%	1,191	-19.2%	834	-14.5%
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	2,338	8.2%	689	1.0%	408	5.4%	101	12.2%
Other Services	6,768	16.1%	3,700	15.6%	2,894	7.6%	2,761	10.7%

*Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

nonemployers in large trade center counties. Average receipts of nonemployers in 2000 were \$30,040, nearly 20 percent lower than average receipts in metro counties.

In nonmetro counties without a trade center—those that lack a city with a population of more than 2,500—the number of nonemployer businesses increased 3.7 percent and receipts grew 11.2 percent from 1997 to 2000. FIRE, health care, transportation/warehousing, and other services accounted for most of the growth. Several nonemployer industries in these counties declined over the period—retail trade, wholesale trade, professional services, and forestry/fishing/agricultural services. The number and receipts of nonemployer businesses in Nebraska's nonmetro counties that do not contain a trade center grew significantly faster than the 2.2 percent growth rate in such businesses in small trade center counties—those with a city of between 2,500 and 7,499.

This indicates that many nonmetro counties without trade centers had fewer attractive wage and salary jobs to offer their

residents, pushing many into self-employment. One of the counties in this group—Grant County—ranked first among Nebraska counties for its growth rate in the number of nonemployer establishments. For individual county detail, go to www.bbr.unl.edu. Average receipts of nonemployers in these nonmetro counties were \$28,262 in 2000, over 23 percent lower than the metro county average and somewhat lower than the nonmetro trade center counties.

The number of nonemployer businesses in small trade center counties increased just 2.2 percent and receipts grew 9.7 percent from 1997 to 2000, the lowest among the four geographic

classifications. As in large trade center counties, FIRE, health care, and other services accounted for most of

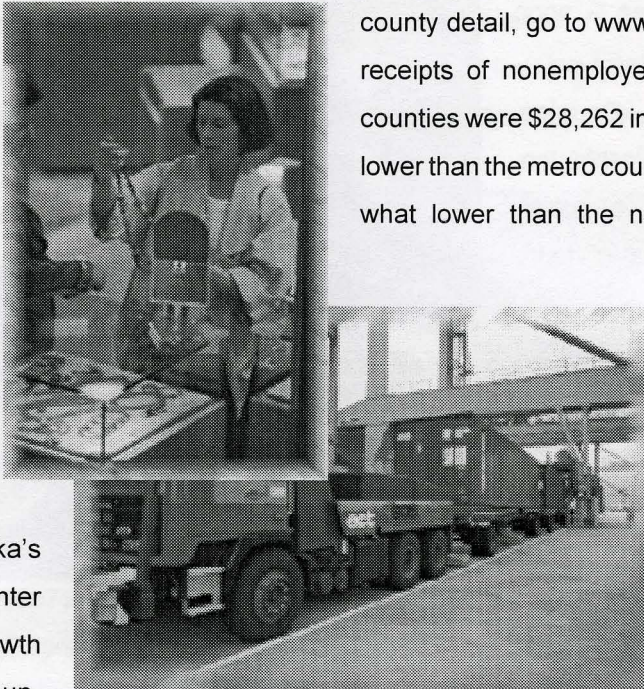


Table 2
Average Nonemployer Business Receipts, 2000 and Percent Growth
from 1997 to 2000, by Selected Industry and Geographic Classification

	Metro		Nonmetro Large Trade Center		Nonmetro Small Trade Center		Nonmetro No Trade Center	
	2000	% Growth	2000	% Growth	2000	% Growth	2000	% Growth
Average Receipts	\$36,921	14.2%	\$30,040	10.0%	\$28,891	7.3%	\$28,262	7.3%
Selected Industry Receipts								
Forestry/Fishing/Ag. Services	\$26,057	18.4%	\$36,157	12.7%	\$39,384	-12.2%	\$37,720	6.1%
Manufacturing	\$50,943	64.3%	\$37,408	22.5%	\$33,679	-6.4%	\$41,147	47.0%
Wholesale Trade	\$54,676	9.2%	\$58,348	-14.7%	\$60,074	33.7%	\$44,851	5.3%
Retail Trade	\$25,882	-7.2%	\$32,534	1.1%	\$30,953	-1.3%	\$30,585	7.6%
Transportation/Warehousing	\$49,534	-6.0%	\$63,440	7.2%	\$71,446	8.2%	\$67,611	-4.4%
Information	\$37,785	-19.7%	\$23,973	-48.7%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
FIRE*	\$76,403	16.2%	\$46,560	17.1%	\$33,268	15.3%	\$30,539	36.5%
Professional/Scientific/ Technical Services	\$30,947	20.4%	\$22,383	26.0%	\$16,520	-17.3%	\$15,146	7.6%
Arts/Entertainment/Recreation	\$20,494	35.3%	\$13,318	-1.0%	\$11,490	-3.2%	\$17,584	34.7%
Other Services	\$21,393	8.0%	\$17,723	7.6%	\$18,549	1.7%	\$18,193	-5.0%

*Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate

the increase in nonemployers. In 2000 average receipts in small trade center counties were \$28,891, about 22 percent below the levels reported in metro counties.

Nonmetro county nonemployer businesses were concentrated differently by industry than metro businesses. In 2000 over 73 percent of nonemployer businesses in nonmetro counties without a trade center operated in construction, retail trade, transportation/warehousing, health care, social services, or other services, compared to just 53 percent in metro counties. On the other hand, metro nonemployer businesses tended to be concentrated in FIRE, professional/scientific/technical services, and arts/entertainment/recreation.

Across all nonmetro counties, nonemployers in transportation/warehousing averaged the highest levels of receipts in 2000, ranging from \$63,440 in large trade center

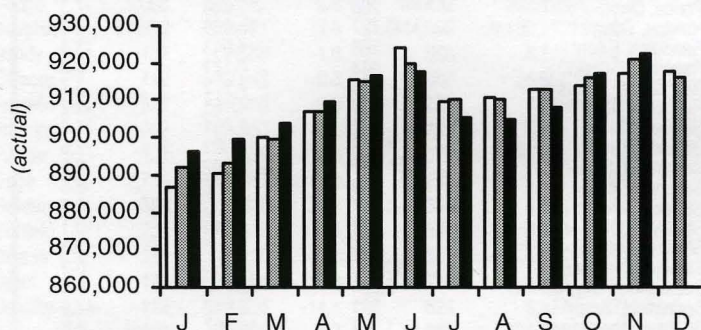
counties, to \$71,446 in small trade center counties. The industry averaged only \$49,534 in metro counties, down from the 1997 metro average of \$52,692. In all but a few industries, forestry/fishing/agricultural services, wholesale trade, retail trade, and transportation/warehousing, metro counties reported higher average receipts. Metro counties averaged the highest level of receipts in the FIRE industries, \$76,403 in 2000.

Summary

For a variety of reasons, numbers of nonemployer businesses in the state are on the rise. Nonemployer businesses comprise an important part of the Nebraska economy, but information on establishments that employ workers, as well, such as that in the Census Bureau's *County Business Patterns*, for example, must be considered to reach a comprehensive understanding of local business trends.

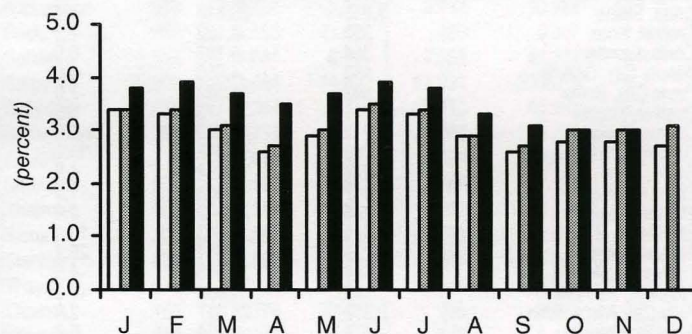
Nebraska Stats

Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment 2000 2001 2002

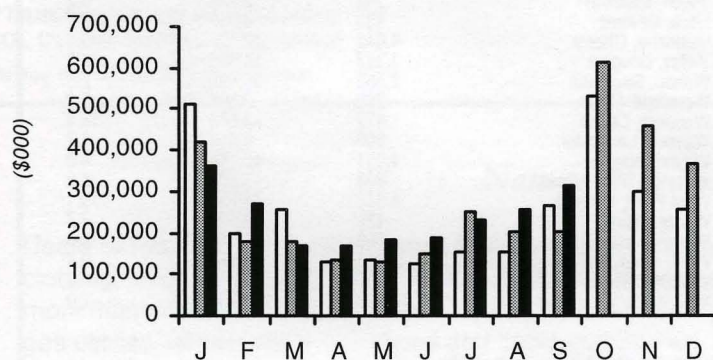


Note: Monthly data through March 2001 are benchmarked. Data for April-December 2001 are estimates until benchmarked in early 2003. All estimates are the most current revised data available.

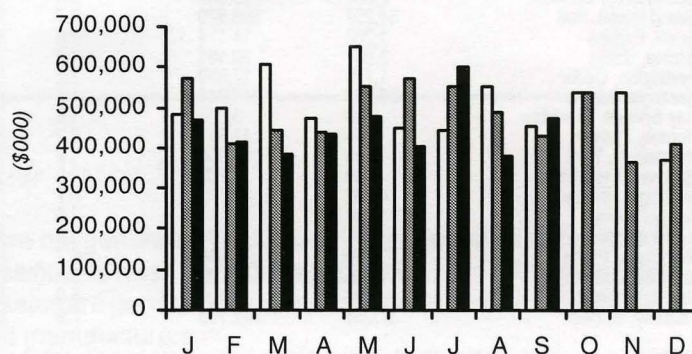
Unemployment Rate



Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



Net Taxable Retail Sales* for Nebraska Cities (\$000)

	October 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago		October 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,628	16,363	-3.5	Kenesaw, Adams	236	3,017	5.5
Albion, Boone	1,717	16,553	-0.6	Kimball, Kimball	1,451	17,448	-6.2
Alliance, Box Butte	5,721	57,586	0.4	La Vista, Sarpy	10,695	109,987	8.6
Alma, Harlan	587	6,396	4.4	Laurel, Cedar	379	3,801	-1.4
Arapahoe, Furnas	704	7,521	-9.5	Lexington, Dawson	7,323	79,462	2.0
Arlington, Washington	215	2,242	-5.3	Lincoln, Lancaster	224,671	2,286,036	4.2
Arnold, Custer	218	2,667	3.8	Louisville, Cass	445	4,561	-5.9
Ashland, Saunders	1,174	14,447	2.2	Loup City, Sherman	416	4,792	-0.1
Atkinson, Holt	855	11,188	7.5	Lyons, Burt	407	4,486	0.5
Auburn, Nemaha	2,328	24,121	-0.3	Madison, Madison	997	8,348	-0.5
Aurora, Hamilton	2,208	22,891	-4.3	McCook, Red Willow	9,331	99,235	1.2
Axtell, Kearney	75	791	-0.3	Milford, Seward	1,165	10,128	-1.4
Bassett, Rock	455	5,250	1.8	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	118	1,464	-6.1
Battle Creek, Madison	591	7,512	-3.3	Minden, Kearney	1,665	19,769	3.7
Bayard, Morrill	378	4,813	6.9	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	532	6,068	8.4
Beatrice, Gage	11,502	121,278	-0.3	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	456	5,266	0.2
Beaver City, Furnas	115	1,295	6.1	Nebraska City, Otoe	6,304	61,276	-1.5
Bellevue, Sarpy	25,029	259,433	5.9	Neligh, Antelope	1,481	14,855	5.6
Benkelman, Dundy	549	6,088	-4.4	Newman Grove, Madison	260	2,923	-4.5
Bennington, Douglas	604	6,116	-4.7	Norfolk, Madison	31,492	322,621	2.2
Blair, Washington	6,859	75,001	-0.6	North Bend, Dodge	467	5,516	1.6
Bloomfield, Knox	521	5,502	-7.1	North Platte, Lincoln	24,955	257,293	4.0
Blue Hill, Webster	445	4,646	5.8	ONEll, Holt	4,338	45,448	1.0
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,075	11,267	-1.0	Oakland, Burt	534	5,672	-6.1
Broken Bow, Custer	3,974	39,032	2.0	Ogallala, Keith	5,240	59,650	1.1
Burwell, Garfield	847	9,360	-3.5	Omaha, Douglas	504,440	5,090,017	0.7
Cairo, Hall	318	3,553	13.9	Ord, Valley	1,769	21,838	1.8
Central City, Merrick	1,753	18,251	-3.3	Osceola, Polk	552	4,890	-5.1
Ceresco, Saunders	1,250	12,118	-2.2	Oshkosh, Garden	401	4,534	-1.0
Chadron, Dawes	5,178	55,988	-12.2	Osmond, Pierce	472	4,457	10.6
Chappell, Deuel	594	5,095	6.9	Oxford, Furnas	363	4,819	12.6
Clarkson, Colfax	429	3,946	-2.4	Papillion, Sarpy	8,382	79,799	5.2
Clay Center, Clay	206	2,214	-0.2	Pawnee City, Pawnee	328	3,049	2.9
Columbus, Platte	20,364	211,382	1.6	Pender, Thurston	818	7,963	-0.5
Cozad, Dawson	3,163	30,799	2.9	Pierce, Pierce	686	7,352	2.6
Crawford, Dawes	561	6,371	6.2	Plainview, Pierce	600	6,937	4.3
Creighton, Knox	1,136	10,807	0.2	Plattsmouth, Cass	3,420	36,636	3.1
Crete, Saline	2,845	29,518	-1.4	Ponca, Dixon	209	2,688	-7.3
Crofton, Knox	365	4,122	-7.3	Ralston, Douglas	3,727	35,066	-0.8
Curtis, Frontier	354	4,183	6.0	Randolph, Cedar	288	4,043	-3.4
Dakota City, Dakota	483	4,256	-5.0	Ravenna, Buffalo	518	6,121	3.3
David City, Butler	1,503	16,583	-2.0	Red Cloud, Webster	655	7,272	3.7
Deshler, Thayer	241	3,173	0.9	Rushville, Sheridan	365	4,165	-1.2
Dodge, Dodge	212	2,779	-1.9	Sargent, Custer	192	2,091	-11.4
Doniphan, Hall	1,060	8,448	15.1	Schuyler, Colfax	1,918	19,081	-2.6
Eagle, Cass	274	4,384	4.8	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	21,466	228,302	0.9
Elgin, Antelope	417	4,058	-11.3	Scribner, Dodge	394	3,952	-8.6
Elkhorn, Douglas	2,174	24,342	0.4	Seward, Seward	4,837	46,830	-0.3
Elm Creek, Buffalo	375	3,443	-10.4	Shelby, Polk	311	3,543	-10.1
Elwood, Gosper	235	3,511	25.1	Shelton, Buffalo	350	4,933	3.1
Fairbury, Jefferson	2,684	28,518	-4.5	Sidney, Cheyenne	10,860	95,859	-0.2
Fairmont, Fillmore	147	1,963	11.2	South Sioux City, Dakota	8,294	85,090	0.9
Falls City, Richardson	2,312	25,007	-2.8	Springfield, Sarpy	321	2,912	-42.9
Franklin, Franklin	571	6,134	5.0	St. Paul, Howard	1,381	15,007	4.8
Fremont, Dodge	24,734	242,829	2.1	Stanton, Stanton	640	6,628	2.1
Friend, Saline	412	4,779	-15.2	Stromsburg, Polk	949	9,596	-3.0
Fullerton, Nance	531	5,909	5.2	Superior, Nuckolls	1,438	14,946	-5.8
Geneva, Fillmore	1,281	14,608	-3.5	Sutherland, Lincoln	297	3,694	-8.3
Genoa, Nance	304	3,264	-0.7	Sutton, Clay	705	8,276	-1.7
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,642	44,235	1.4	Syracuse, Otoe	1,205	12,753	6.7
Gibbon, Buffalo	819	8,713	0.3	Tecumseh, Johnson	809	8,082	-12.8
Gordon, Sheridan	1,448	15,608	-2.8	Tekamah, Burt	1,012	10,968	0.5
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,307	25,502	0.4	Tilden, Madison	242	2,779	5.2
Grand Island, Hall	54,257	558,570	3.7	Utica, Seward	432	4,052	7.7
Grant, Perkins	1,208	14,174	7.4	Valentine, Cherry	4,642	48,127	-9.4
Gretna, Sarpy	3,867	30,161	-4.0	Valley, Douglas	1,383	14,185	-14.3
Hartington, Cedar	1,725	17,858	3.2	Wahoo, Saunders	2,555	25,490	2.8
Hastings, Adams	20,593	210,946	1.5	Wakefield, Dixon	365	3,505	-6.2
Hay Springs, Sheridan	430	3,898	1.8	Wauwata, Chase	472	3,686	18.4
Hebron, Thayer	984	11,317	0.2	Waverly, Lancaster	806	9,852	1.7
Henderson, York	546	7,304	1.4	Wayne, Wayne	4,031	42,144	4.8
Hickman, Lancaster	299	2,736	11.8	Weeping Water, Cass	698	7,200	8.2
Holdrege, Phelps	4,052	43,933	-4.7	West Point, Cuming	4,372	44,769	-9.1
Hooper, Dodge	326	4,149	2.6	Wilber, Saline	422	4,601	-3.7
Humboldt, Richardson	211	3,084	-5.9	Wisner, Cuming	469	5,653	-15.0
Humphrey, Platte	759	7,640	-6.7	Wood River, Hall	348	4,571	0.4
Imperial, Chase	1,925	19,724	5.3	Wymore, Gage	414	4,312	-5.2
Juniata, Adams	193	2,409	-5.9	York, York	10,178	103,563	2.0
Kearney, Buffalo	37,054	392,155	7.9				

*Does not include motor vehicle sales. Motor vehicle net taxable retail sales are reported by county only.

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Net Taxable Retail Sales for Nebraska Counties (\$000)

	Motor Vehicle Sales			Other Sales				Motor Vehicle Sales			Other Sales		
	October 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	October 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago		October 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	October 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago
Nebraska	226,948	2,517,487	7.6	1,444,575	14,933,314	1.6		Howard	740	9,147	1,702	18,980	4.7
Adams	3,294	37,789	1.6	21,191	218,941	1.5		Jefferson	929	11,779	3,849	39,775	-2.8
Antelope	984	11,592	3.1	2,259	23,291	0.9		Johnson	586	6,557	1,086	11,080	-11.5
Arthur	133	912	17.2	(D)	(D)	(D)		Kearney	905	11,961	1,831	21,768	3.4
Banner	212	1,641	-8.8	(D)	(D)	(D)		Keith	1,181	14,466	5,716	65,883	1.4
Blaine	99	908	-20.9	(D)	(D)	(D)		Keya Paha	87	1,605	99	1,423	1.4
Boone	882	9,030	-6.6	2,140	21,462	-1.7		Kimball	370	6,177	1,472	17,896	-6.2
Box Butte	1,343	18,100	5.9	6,056	61,125	0.6		Knox	870	11,699	2,721	27,694	-1.1
Boyd	230	3,179	7.9	504	5,515	-5.8		Lancaster	31,794	334,761	228,111	2,323,869	4.2
Brown	356	4,574	-11.4	1,732	17,487	-3.0		Lincoln	4,812	52,182	25,826	267,317	3.7
Buffalo	6,241	65,508	13.7	39,618	420,986	7.5		Logan	252	1,731	(D)	(D)	(D)
Burt	1,197	12,191	3.0	2,402	25,177	-0.4		Loup	87	969	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	985	11,505	0.8	1,933	21,163	-1.4		McPherson	44	894	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	3,838	42,969	12.4	6,386	69,076	2.5		Madison	3,902	47,805	33,646	344,783	1.9
Cedar	1,273	13,999	5.7	2,709	28,985	1.0		Merrick	1,070	10,132	2,328	25,943	-1.6
Chase	680	8,585	13.9	2,405	23,626	6.9		Morrill	713	7,852	1,470	16,387	0.9
Cherry	871	10,500	4.1	4,901	50,382	-8.9		Nance	479	5,712	870	9,605	2.2
Cheyenne	1,301	15,625	1.2	11,069	98,731	-0.6		Nemaha	1,080	11,177	2,551	27,037	-0.8
Clay	751	10,563	0.4	1,732	20,172	-3.3		Nuckolls	656	7,149	2,254	24,128	-3.1
Colfax	960	13,168	4.1	2,740	27,745	-1.3		Otoe	1,966	23,580	7,840	78,595	-0.3
Cuming	1,238	15,094	3.1	5,288	55,244	-9.7		Pawnee	285	4,096	537	5,143	2.8
Custer	1,318	16,511	-7.2	4,845	49,994	0.9		Perkins	640	6,616	1,425	16,712	6.3
Dakota	1,815	24,923	-0.6	9,337	95,576	0.3		Phelps	1,572	16,812	4,337	47,395	-3.9
Dawes	1,066	11,385	7.8	5,739	62,358	-10.6		Pierce	738	11,348	1,906	19,729	5.3
Dawson	2,944	31,828	-2.2	13,231	139,994	1.4		Platte	4,508	46,603	21,685	226,056	1.5
Deuel	313	3,005	-8.8	1,242	11,351	2.1		Polk	848	8,550	1,959	19,628	-3.8
Dixon	667	8,507	-4.4	691	7,333	-6.3		Red Willow	1,541	17,194	9,584	102,398	1.0
Dodge	5,098	53,052	9.5	26,432	262,446	1.9		Richardson	958	11,651	2,713	30,168	-3.7
Douglas	61,592	667,771	10.0	514,689	5,188,182	0.7		Rock	257	2,558	463	5,357	1.4
Dundy	437	4,320	-1.8	550	6,172	-4.5		Saline	1,614	18,681	3,988	42,521	-3.9
Fillmore	712	10,248	0.3	1,906	24,504	-1.2		Sarpy	20,509	224,264	53,021	523,670	4.7
Franklin	525	5,250	0.3	786	8,666	2.3		Saunders	2,830	32,244	6,813	68,591	5.7
Frontier	449	4,953	-9.1	743	7,506	2.7		Scotts Bluff	4,358	50,738	26,388	286,735	1.2
Furnas	621	7,575	-10.6	2,027	23,825	2.3		Seward	1,718	22,428	6,751	63,967	0.2
Gage	2,755	30,282	-2.4	12,941	136,349	-0.9		Sheridan	604	8,605	2,596	27,081	-1.0
Garden	359	3,948	11.2	580	6,691	0.3		Sherman	402	4,354	540	6,191	-1.0
Garfield	235	2,645	9.5	847	9,360	-3.5		Sioux	305	2,592	148	1,362	7.8
Gosper	244	3,710	0.3	312	4,237	21.6		Stanton	838	9,652	844	8,563	-2.2
Grant	171	1,809	18.9	296	2,989	-0.4		Thayer	678	8,926	1,699	19,928	-0.9
Greeley	178	3,334	-14.6	624	6,577	-7.4		Thomas	106	1,776	286	2,952	0.6
Hall	6,630	72,400	5.2	56,350	578,248	3.8		Thurston	432	5,098	915	9,172	-3.9
Hamilton	1,541	14,834	11.5	2,621	26,370	-3.7		Valley	513	5,944	2,053	24,563	3.7
Harlan	526	6,194	1.0	750	9,046	4.0		Washington	3,559	37,611	7,635	82,485	-1.5
Hayes	193	1,908	0.1	(D)	(D)	(D)		Wayne	951	12,846	4,139	43,596	4.4
Hitchcock	436	4,748	-4.1	578	7,080	6.0		Webster	501	5,361	1,227	13,332	4.0
Holt	1,500	17,643	13.2	5,712	64,605	4.0		Wheeler	100	1,694	68	912	14.4
Hooker	59	1,071	-8.5	272	4,092	-4.3		York	1,815	21,129	11,176	115,128	2.2

*Totals may not add due to rounding
(D) Denotes disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

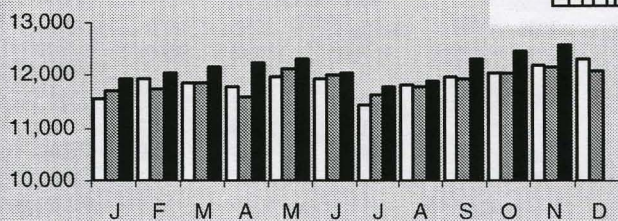
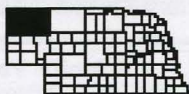
Note on Net Taxable Retail Sales

Users of this series should be aware that taxable retail sales are not generated exclusively by traditional outlets such as clothing, discount, and hardware stores. While businesses classified as retail trade firms account for, on average, slightly more than half of total taxable sales, sizable portions of taxable sales are generated by service establishments, electric and gas utilities, wholesalers, telephone and cable companies, and manufacturers.

Regional Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment* 2000 to November** 2002

2000 2001 2002

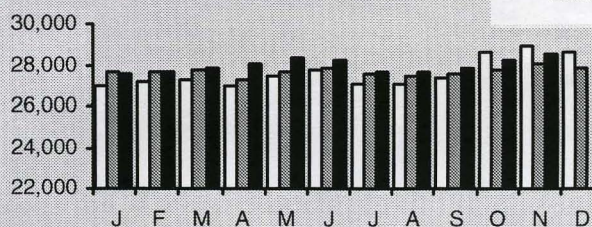
Northwest Panhandle



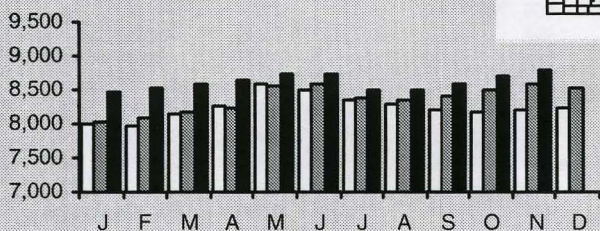
Note to Readers

The charts on pages 8 and 9 report nonfarm employment by place of work for each region.

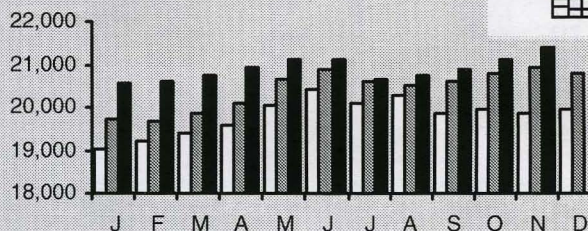
Southwest Panhandle



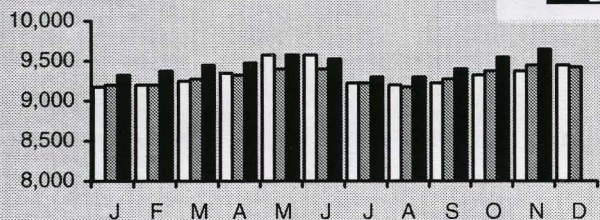
North Central



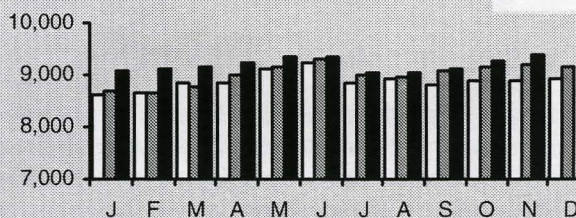
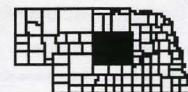
West Central



Southwest Central



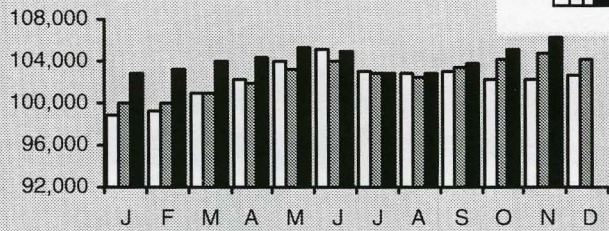
East Central



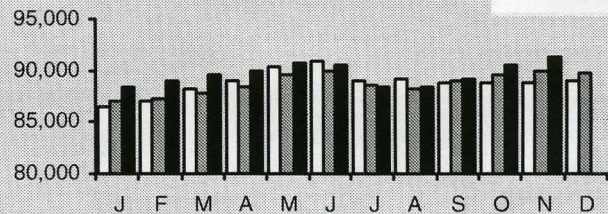
Regional Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment* 2000 to November** 2002

2000 2001 2002

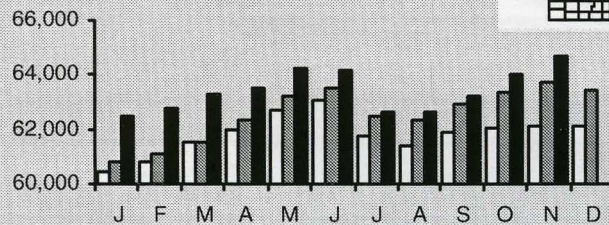
Southeast Central



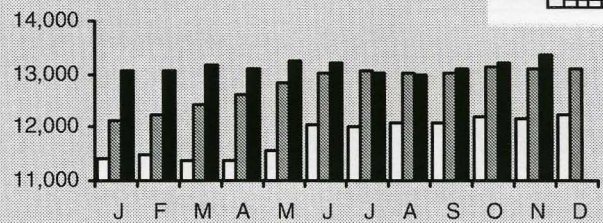
Northeast



Southeast



Sioux City MSA Nebraska portion only



Omaha MSA

Nebraska portion only



Lincoln MSA



*By place of work

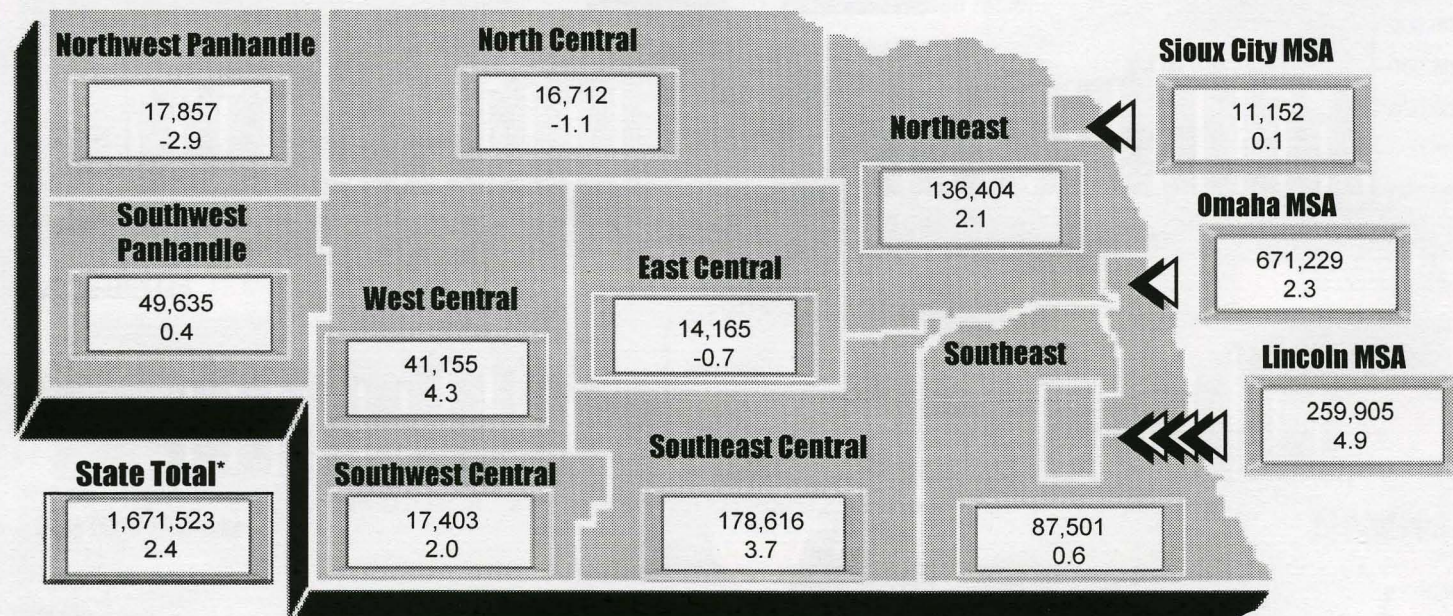
**Current month data are preliminary and subject to revision

***Previously, other than Nebraska data were included in the Omaha and Sioux City MSA

Note: Monthly data through March 2001 are benchmarked. Data for April-December 2001 are estimates until benchmarked in early 2003. All estimates are the most current revised data available.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information - Kathy Copas

October 2002 Regional Retail Sales (\$000) YTD Change vs Yr. Ago



*Regional values may not add to state total due to unallocated sales
Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

State Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment by Industry*

	November 2002
Total	922,352
Construction & Mining	43,866
Manufacturing	112,967
Durables	50,941
Nondurables	62,026
TCU**	58,328
Trade	217,555
Wholesale	54,729
Retail	162,826
FIRE***	63,220
Services	264,729
Government	161,687

*By place of work

**Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

***Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

Note: Monthly data through March 2001 are benchmarked. Data for April-December 2001 are estimates until benchmarked in early 2003. All estimates are the most current revised data available. Labor force data for 2002 will be revised.

Consumer Price Index

Consumer Price Index - U*
(1982-84 = 100)
(not seasonally adjusted)

	January 2002	% Change vs Yr. Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago (inflation rate)
All Items	181.7	2.6	2.6
Commodities	150.0	1.5	1.5
Services	213.1	3.3	3.3

*U = All urban consumers
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Inflation Rate

2.6

State Labor Force Summary*

	November 2002
Labor Force	957,090
Employment	928,066
Unemployment Rate	3.0

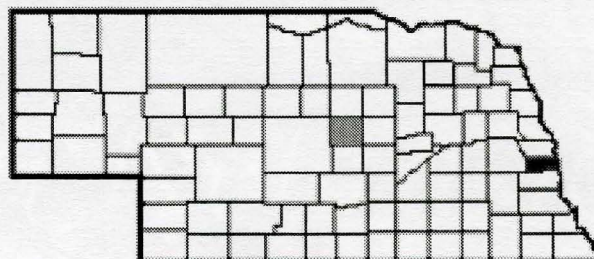
*By place of residence

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

County of the Month

Sarpy County

Papillion - County Seat



Next County of Month

License plate prefix number: 59

Size of county: 238 square miles, ranks 93rd in the state

Population: 22,595 in 2000, a change of 19.5 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$25,830 in 2000, ranks 15th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$871,419 in 2001 a change of 14.3 percent from 2000; \$747,934 from January through October 2002, a change of 7.4 percent from the same period the previous year.

Unemployment rate: 2.5 percent in Sarpy County, 3.1 percent in Nebraska in 2001

	State	Sarpy County
Nonfarm employment (2001)¹:	909,402	40,163
(wage & salary)	(percent of total)	
Construction and Mining	4.8	4.9
Manufacturing	12.9	7.1
TCU	6.4	(D)
Wholesale Trade	5.8	4.2
Retail Trade	17.6	19.3
FIRE	6.8	(D)
Services	28.5	21.2
Government	17.0	17.8
(D) = disclosure suppression		

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 367 in 1997; 362 in 1992; 437 in 1987

Average farm size: 277 acres in 1997; 290 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$57.2 million in 1997 (\$155,882 average per farm);

\$60.4 million in 1992 (\$166,817 average per farm)

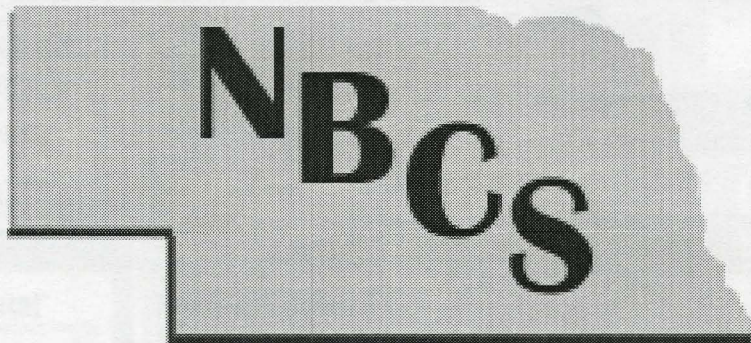
¹By place of work

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Department of Revenue.

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