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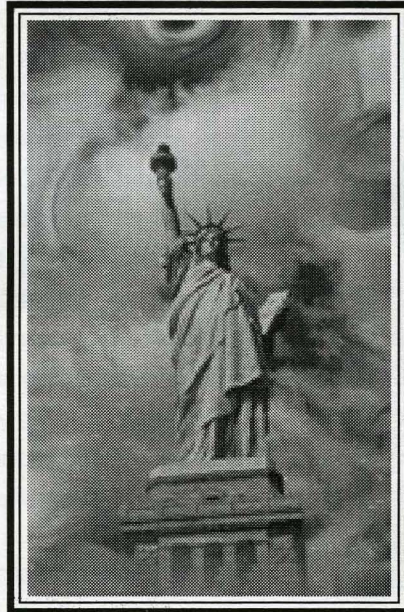
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April 2003

Nebraska Immigrants—1990 to 2000

Beth Moorhouse, Graduate Research Assistant

In the twenty-first century, Nebraska promises to be more diverse, benefiting from the rich culture of our Hispanic, Asian, and European immigrants. In Colfax, Dakota, and Dawson counties, about one in five residents has a Hispanic background. These immigrants empower the state's vital industries with manpower and commitment, allowing these industries to prosper, despite current sluggish economic conditions. In addition, since immigrants are both workers and consumers, their spending on food, clothing, housing, and other items supports employment opportunities and helps increase the incomes of other residents. Immigrants from Latin America provide the largest inflow of labor and culture to Nebraska. The terms Hispanic and Latino are used interchangeably and refer to a group of Americans who share common cultural origins and language. However, Hispanics come from diverse nations and backgrounds with distinctive histories as well as socio-economic and political experiences.

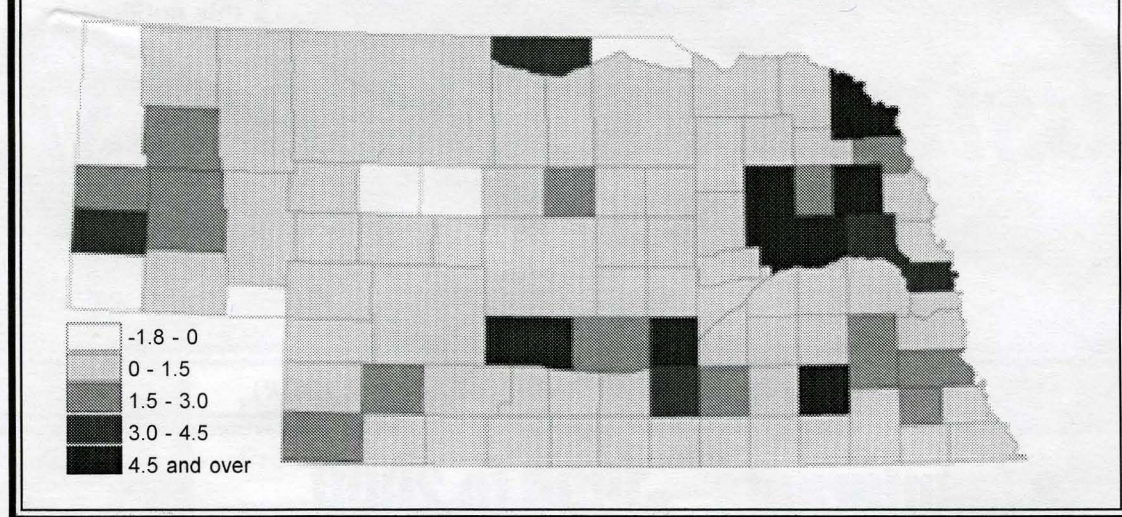


Immigrant Growth Trends—U.S. and Nebraska

Nebraska's white population in 1990 accounted for 93.8 percent of the total. Blacks comprised the largest minority group, 3.6 percent, with Hispanics following at 2.3 percent, and Asians consisting of only 0.8 percent. Because of the increasing number of Hispanic/Latino immigrants, by 2000 this group became the largest minority in Nebraska, representing 5.5 percent of the total population. The black population increased to 4 percent and the Asian population nearly doubled to 1.3 percent in 2000. The white majority dropped to 87.3 percent.

Nebraska's Hispanic population more than doubled during the 1990s from 36,969 in 1990 to 94,425 in 2000. The expansion of the Hispanic population occurred statewide, with significant growth concentrated in several counties (Figure 1, page 2). Colfax County's Hispanic population grew from 224 in 1990 to 2,732 in 2000, increasing its share from 2.5 to 26.2 percent. This growth largely is attributable to a meatpacking plant in Schuyler that provides over 1,000 jobs to machine operators, fabricators, and labors.

Figure 1
Percent Change in Hispanic Share of Total Population, by County—1990-2000



Similar growth patterns occurred in Dakota, Dawson, Hall, and Madison counties where the Hispanic portion of the total population increased 16.6 percent, 22 percent, 9.7 percent, and 6.9 percent, respectively. Employment in meatpacking, poultry, and food processing industries is prevalent in these counties, as well, and largely was responsible for the continued growth in the Hispanic population. Only six counties, Boyd, Deuel, Hooker, Kimball, Sioux, and Thomas experienced declining Hispanic populations. Deuel County had the largest decline, 1.8 percent.

The U.S. continues to be more diverse than Nebraska. In 1990 the white population made up 80.3 percent of the nation's total. By 2000 this percentage dropped to 69 percent—significantly lower than Nebraska's white population in 2000 of 87.3 percent. The nation's largest minority groups in 1990 were blacks, 12.1 percent, Hispanics, 9 percent, and Asians, 2.8 percent of total population. In the 1990s the U.S. experienced minority growth patterns consistent with Nebraska's experience. By 2000 Hispanics became the largest minority group constituting 12.6 percent of the nation's population. The black population remained constant at 12.1 percent, and the Asian population grew to 3.6 percent.

Nebraska and the U.S. have experienced similar immigrant growth patterns throughout the 1990s (Figure 2). From 1993 to 2000 Nebraska's immigrant growth rate was greater than the nation's in five of the eight years. The U.S. attracted 654,451 immigrants in 1998 and 1,267 of them settled in Nebraska. In 1999 the U.S. experienced a 1.2 percent decline in the number of immigrants entering its borders.

However, Nebraska's immigrant population increased 13.6 percent, adding 1,439 immigrants to its population. Immigrant populations grew substantially in both the U.S. and Nebraska from 1999 to 2000, 31.4 percent and 55 percent in the U. S. and the state, respectively.

Countries of Origin

Nearly 850,000 immigrants came to the U.S. in 2000, but only 20.4 percent came from Mexico. Of the 2,230 immigrants that came to Nebraska in 2000, 37.4 percent came from Mexico. The next most common countries of origin of U.S. immigrants were Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. Immigrants from these countries represented 7 percent of all immigrants entering the U.S., but only 1 percent of Nebraska immigrants. The second most common country of origin of Nebraska immigrants was Vietnam, 13 percent. Nationwide, Vietnamese immigrants constituted only 3 percent in 2000. This disparity largely is attributable to the Vietnam refugee services offered in Lincoln. The predominant countries of origin of U.S. and Nebraska immigrants are shown in Table 1.

Ages of Immigrants

According to the 2000 Census, Nebraska's dominant minority populations were younger than nationwide averages. Nearly 75 percent of Hispanic men living in Nebraska were under age 35, compared to only 68 percent nationwide. The disparity was nominally higher for Hispanic women. Seventy-five percent of Hispanic Nebraska women were under 35, compared to only 65 percent nationwide. The pattern was

Figure 2
Immigrant Growth Trends, U.S. and Nebraska, 1993-2000

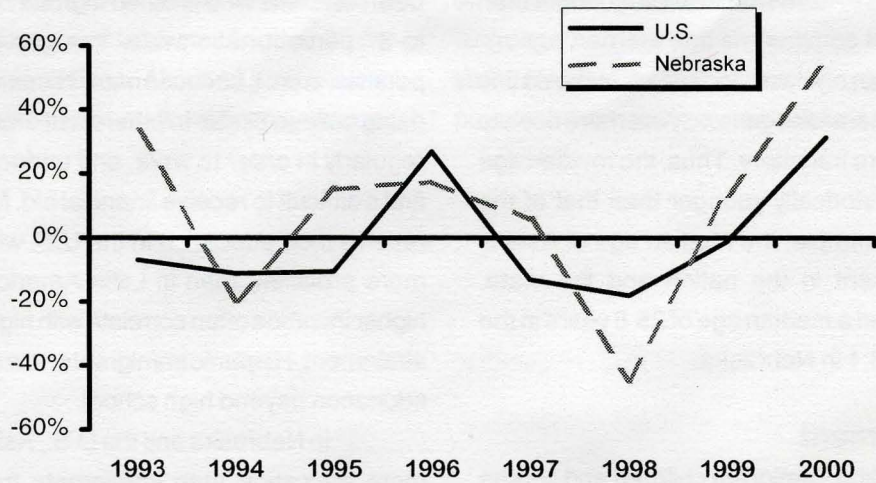

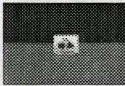

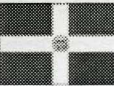










Table 1
Predominant Countries of Origin of Immigrants U.S. and Nebraska Immigrants—2000

		<i>Number of Immigrants</i>			
U.S.					
Mexico	173,919				
Haiti/Cuba/Dominican Republic	60,731				 
China	45,652				
Philippines	42,474				
India	42,046				
Total	364,822				
Nebraska					
Mexico	834				
Vietnam	281				
China	86				
Bosnia-Herzegovina	81				
Philippines	64				
Total	1,346				

similar for Asian minorities. Slightly over half of Asian males in the U.S. were younger than 35. The proportion of Asian women under 35 was 52 percent. In Nebraska nearly 70 percent of Asian men and 62 percent of Asian women were younger than 35.

The overall median age was 35.3 years in the nation and the state. Younger generations generally are more open to change and tend to be more transitory. Thus, the median age of minorities has been historically younger than that of the general population. For example, the median age of Asians was 32.7 and 28.2 percent in the nation and the state, respectively. Hispanics had a median age of 25.8 years in the U.S., compared to only 23.1 in Nebraska.

Educational Attainment

More than 2.3 million immigrant children and youths were enrolled in U.S. schools and colleges and represented about 5 percent of all students in 1990. Many of these children had to overcome poor academic preparation in their country of origin and nearly all had to learn English as well as new institutional customs and norms. Schools often are ill equipped to adequately serve the growing immigrant populations. Hispanic immigrants historically have scored lower than Asians, whites, and blacks on key factors of educational attainment— income, parental education, and educational aspirations.

In Nebraska 22.8 percent of Hispanic men and 28.3 percent of Hispanic women 25 years and older possessed education beyond high school in 1990. Education levels varied by country of origin. Those from Mexico and Central American countries like El Salvador and Honduras were less likely to finish high school than new arrivals from South America and the Caribbean. Nationwide, the number of Hispanics with education beyond high school was slightly higher at 29 percent and 31.6 percent for Hispanic men and women, respectively. Historically, immigrants from Latin American countries had less education than the white population. Over half of white men and women pursued education beyond high school in Nebraska.

Though the education gap exists, many more Hispanic immigrants completed high school and earned college

degrees than 30 years ago. The share of Hispanic immigrants over 25 who graduated from high school increased from 28 percent in 1970 to 59 percent in 2000, while the number of U.S.-born residents who finished high school grew from 53 percent to 87 percent nationwide. The gap with US-born residents persists, in part, because many Hispanic families cannot afford rising college costs. In others, children may not attend school regularly in order to work, and undocumented students may find it difficult to receive financial aid. Many immigrant families receive their education in the U.S. where schools tend to be more proficient than in Latin American countries. Because higher incomes often correlate with higher levels of educational attainment, Hispanic immigrants now are more likely to pursue education beyond high school.

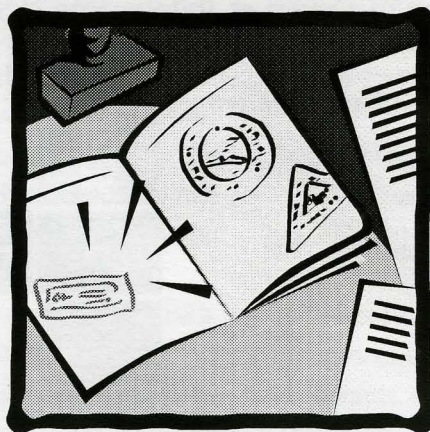
In Nebraska and the U.S., Asian immigrants possess more education than immigrants from other countries. In Nebraska 66 percent of Asian men and 55.5 percent of Asian women 25 years and older had acquired education beyond high school. Asian immigrants in Nebraska have a slightly lower level of educational attainment compared to the nationwide averages. Sixty-nine percent of Asian men and 60.7 percent of Asian women have pursued education beyond high school in the U.S.

Asian immigrants who resided in Nebraska in 2000 held more graduate and professional degrees compared to the national statistics. Twenty-seven percent of Asian men and 13.9 percent of Asian women in Nebraska attained graduate or professional degrees compared to 22.1 percent

and 13.2 percent for Asian men and women, respectively, in the nation. These numbers were superior to those of the white population in Nebraska where 8.4 percent of men and 6.5 percent of women attained graduate or professional degrees.

Occupations

The skills, work ethic, and education that immigrants bring to Nebraska facilitate its economy. Many immigrants aid in the operations of some of the state's key industries, such as meatpacking and food processing. More than half of the population in Lexington is Hispanic and these workers help the area economy by working in these plants. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly 40 percent of Hispanics employed in Nebraska work in manufacturing industries. The



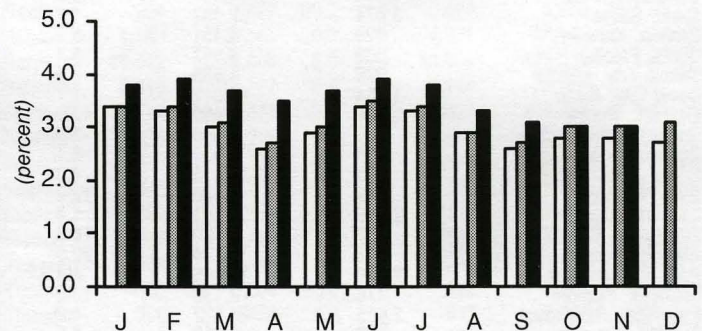
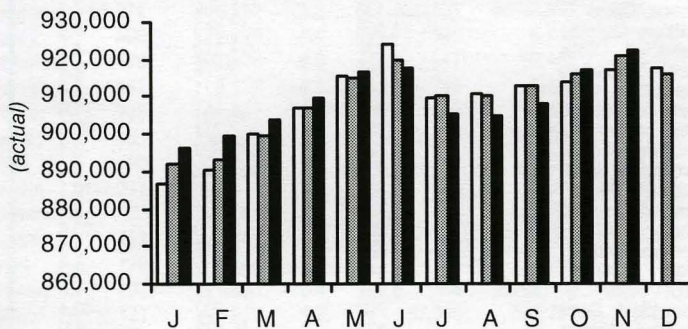
services, trade, and government sectors represent the next largest employers of Hispanics in the state with 18, 15, and 10 percent, respectively. Of the more than 38,000 Hispanics employed in Nebraska in 2000, over 31 percent worked as machine operators, fabricators, or laborers. Another 20 percent worked in service occupations. About 16 percent were employed in precision production, craft, and repair occupa-

tions while 8 percent worked in farming, forestry, and fishing occupations.

As immigrants gain experience and attain higher levels of education, they will be better equipped to break through language barriers and stereotypes to relocate throughout the state. Nebraska will continue to reap the benefits of housing a population rich with diverse cultures.

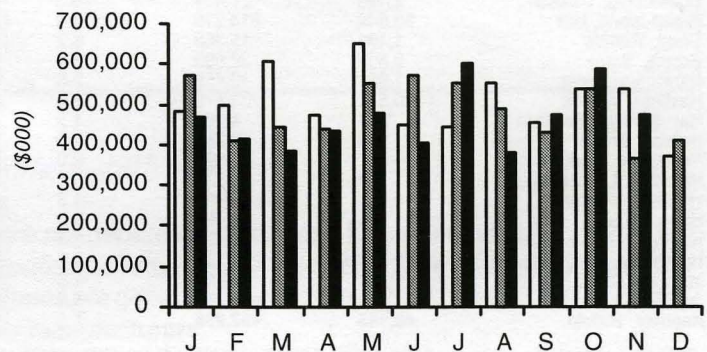
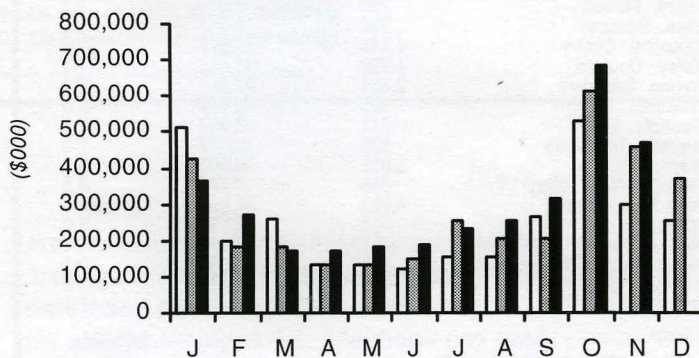
Nebraska Stats

Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment 2000 2001 2002 **Unemployment Rate**



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.

Cash Receipts—Crops 2000 2001 2002 **Cash Receipts—Livestock**



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

	November 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago		November 2002 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,673	18,036	-3.1	Kenesaw, Adams	328	3,345	7.4
Albion, Boone	1,495	18,048	-0.4	Kimball, Kimball	1,488	18,936	-6.6
Alliance, Box Butte	5,394	62,980	0.0	La Vista, Sarpy	11,976	121,963	7.2
Alma, Harlan	489	6,885	3.0	Laurel, Cedar	311	4,112	-2.3
Arapahoe, Furnas	691	8,212	-8.9	Lexington, Dawson	7,859	87,321	2.4
Arlington, Washington	203	2,445	-7.0	Lincoln, Lancaster	232,044	2,518,080	3.4
Arnold, Custer	209	2,876	2.4	Louisville, Cass	480	5,041	-3.8
Ashland, Saunders	1,082	15,529	1.3	Loup City, Sherman	425	5,217	0.1
Atkinson, Holt	870	12,058	6.5	Lyons, Burt	411	4,897	-0.5
Auburn, Nemaha	2,406	26,527	-0.9	Madison, Madison	734	9,082	-1.1
Aurora, Hamilton	2,259	25,150	-3.5	McCook, Red Willow	9,918	109,153	1.1
Axtell, Kearney	61	852	0.4	Milford, Seward	565	10,693	-2.7
Bassett, Rock	413	5,663	2.3	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	109	1,573	-6.7
Battle Creek, Madison	733	8,245	-2.3	Minden, Kearney	1,540	21,309	3.0
Bayard, Morrill	419	5,232	6.5	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	512	6,580	6.8
Beatrice, Gage	12,179	133,457	-0.7	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	419	5,685	-0.8
Beaver City, Furnas	134	1,429	7.3	Nebraska City, Otoe	5,696	66,972	-1.8
Bellevue, Sarpy	26,798	286,231	5.3	Neligh, Antelope	1,335	16,190	6.0
Benkelman, Dundy	521	6,609	-4.2	Newman Grove, Madison	251	3,174	-5.6
Bennington, Douglas	439	6,555	-5.3	Norfolk, Madison	33,247	355,868	1.7
Blair, Washington	7,014	82,015	-0.9	North Bend, Dodge	447	5,963	1.6
Bloomfield, Knox	477	5,979	-7.1	North Platte, Lincoln	27,062	284,355	4.4
Blue Hill, Webster	438	5,084	5.8	ONEill, Holt	4,487	49,935	1.6
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,018	12,285	-1.1	Oakland, Burt	503	6,175	-6.8
Broken Bow, Custer	4,191	43,223	3.4	Ogallala, Keith	5,165	64,815	1.0
Burwell, Garfield	772	10,132	-4.8	Omaha, Douglas	510,502	5,600,519	0.6
Cairo, Hall	247	3,800	11.9	Ord, Valley	1,906	23,744	1.5
Central City, Merrick	1,577	19,828	-2.9	Osceola, Polk	383	5,273	-5.1
Ceresco, Saunders	1,326	13,444	-2.6	Oshkosh, Garden	468	5,002	-0.1
Chadron, Dawes	5,321	61,309	-11.3	Osmond, Pierce	594	5,051	13.0
Chappell, Deuel	516	5,611	6.9	Oxford, Furnas	378	5,197	12.0
Clarkson, Colfax	358	4,304	-1.3	Papillion, Sarpy	9,101	88,900	6.3
Clay Center, Clay	222	2,436	2.1	Pawnee City, Pawnee	328	3,377	3.4
Columbus, Platte	20,671	232,053	1.2	Pender, Thurston	714	8,677	0.3
Cozad, Dawson	3,048	33,847	2.8	Pierce, Pierce	622	7,974	2.9
Crawford, Dawes	548	6,919	5.9	Plainview, Pierce	784	7,721	2.6
Creighton, Knox	1,151	11,958	0.7	Plattsmouth, Cass	3,724	40,360	4.4
Crete, Saline	2,874	32,392	-1.7	Ponca, Dixon	198	2,886	-7.2
Crofton, Knox	329	4,451	-6.9	Ralston, Douglas	3,503	38,569	-0.6
Curtis, Frontier	359	4,542	5.1	Randolph, Cedar	327	4,370	-4.5
Dakota City, Dakota	279	4,535	-7.4	Ravenna, Buffalo	555	6,676	2.9
David City, Butler	1,464	18,047	-1.7	Red Cloud, Webster	649	7,921	3.0
Deshler, Thayer	296	3,469	2.0	Rushville, Sheridan	386	4,551	-1.0
Dodge, Dodge	209	2,988	-2.9	Sargent, Custer	183	2,274	-12.6
Doniphan, Hall	488	8,936	6.7	Schuyler, Colfax	1,828	20,909	-2.1
Eagle, Cass	251	4,635	4.9	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	24,000	252,302	0.9
Elgin, Antelope	362	4,420	-12.7	Scribner, Dodge	368	4,320	-10.1
Elkhorn, Douglas	2,239	26,581	1.4	Seward, Seward	4,601	51,431	-0.6
Elm Creek, Buffalo	337	3,780	-10.7	Shelby, Polk	287	3,830	-10.6
Elwood, Gosper	223	3,734	22.6	Shelton, Buffalo	380	5,313	2.5
Fairbury, Jefferson	2,930	31,448	-4.4	Sidney, Cheyenne	12,143	108,002	-0.3
Fairmont, Fillmore	176	2,139	12.0	South Sioux City, Dakota	8,632	93,722	1.3
Falls City, Richardson	2,515	27,522	-4.0	Springfield, Sarpy	290	3,202	-40.4
Franklin, Franklin	522	6,656	4.5	St. Paul, Howard	1,432	16,439	4.9
Fremont, Dodge	24,704	267,533	2.0	Stanton, Stanton	657	7,285	2.3
Friend, Saline	360	5,139	-14.4	Stromsburg, Polk	1,013	10,609	-2.5
Fullerton, Nance	537	6,446	4.6	Superior, Nuckolls	1,339	16,285	-6.0
Geneva, Fillmore	1,202	15,810	-3.9	Sutherland, Lincoln	316	4,010	-8.3
Genoa, Nance	335	3,599	0.5	Sutton, Clay	764	9,040	-1.8
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,461	47,696	0.2	Syracuse, Otoe	1,003	13,756	4.9
Gibbon, Buffalo	779	9,492	0.0	Tecumseh, Johnson	878	8,960	-12.1
Gordon, Sheridan	1,536	17,144	-3.5	Tekamah, Burt	1,008	11,976	0.5
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,129	27,631	-0.3	Tilden, Madison	193	2,972	3.1
Grand Island, Hall	55,649	614,219	3.4	Utica, Seward	399	4,451	7.4
Grant, Perkins	1,191	15,365	6.2	Valentine, Cherry	4,445	52,572	-9.6
Gretna, Sarpy	2,838	32,999	-3.8	Valley, Douglas	1,232	15,417	-14.3
Hartington, Cedar	1,601	19,459	2.9	Wahoo, Saunders	2,381	27,871	2.1
Hastings, Adams	20,533	231,479	1.4	Wakefield, Dixon	305	3,810	-3.6
Hay Springs, Sheridan	384	4,282	1.9	Wauneta, Chase	311	3,997	16.6
Hebron, Thayer	963	12,280	0.0	Waverly, Lancaster	830	10,682	1.0
Henderson, York	631	7,935	2.0	Wayne, Wayne	3,922	46,066	5.2
Hickman, Lancaster	194	2,930	10.4	Weeping Water, Cass	665	7,865	8.5
Holdrege, Phelps	4,083	48,016	-4.3	West Point, Cuming	4,222	48,991	-9.0
Hooper, Dodge	353	4,502	3.0	Wilber, Saline	431	5,032	-3.2
Humboldt, Richardson	239	3,323	-6.5	Wisner, Cuming	467	6,120	-15.9
Humphrey, Platte	643	8,283	-7.2	Wood River, Hall	343	4,914	-0.1
Imperial, Chase	1,731	21,455	4.8	Wymore, Gage	406	4,718	-5.0
Juniata, Adams	261	2,670	-4.4	York, York	9,896	113,459	2.1
Kearney, Buffalo	40,143	432,298	7.5				

*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		
November				November			November				November		
2002	YTD	% Chg. vs	YTD	2002	YTD	% Chg. vs	2002	YTD	% Chg. vs	YTD	2002	YTD	% Chg. vs
(\$000)	(\$000)	Yr. Ago		(\$000)	(\$000)	Yr. Ago	(\$000)	(\$000)	Yr. Ago		(\$000)	(\$000)	Yr. Ago
Nebraska	198,324	2,715,811	2.6	1,496,290	16,429,604	1.5	Howard	864	10,011	2.2	1,825	20,805	5.0
Adams	3,001	40,790	-2.6	21,316	240,257	1.4	Jefferson	705	12,484	-3.6	3,898	43,673	-2.8
Antelope	797	12,389	-1.2	2,069	25,360	0.7	Johnson	740	7,297	15.8	1,150	12,230	-11.2
Arthur	21	933	12.0	(D)	(D)	(D)	Kearney	973	12,934	10.3	1,686	23,454	2.8
Banner	164	1,805	-6.3	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	712	15,178	-3.8	5,650	71,533	1.3
Blaine	22	930	-24.2	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keya Paha	151	1,756	-11.5	96	1,519	0.1
Boone	590	9,620	-12.5	1,934	23,396	-1.7	Kimball	368	6,545	-12.5	1,507	19,403	-6.6
Box Butte	1,242	19,342	2.0	5,736	66,861	0.2	Knox	980	12,679	-5.8	2,648	30,342	-0.9
Boyd	199	3,378	1.1	464	5,979	-5.3	Lancaster	28,041	362,802	6.0	235,293	2,559,162	3.4
Brown	421	4,995	-12.6	1,767	19,254	-2.7	Lincoln	4,269	56,451	7.9	27,999	295,316	4.1
Buffalo	5,388	70,896	8.4	42,692	463,678	7.1	Logan	270	2,001	-0.5	(D)	(D)	(D)
Burt	1,219	13,410	-0.1	2,213	27,390	-1.7	Loup	95	1,064	-26.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	795	12,300	-5.5	1,824	22,987	-1.2	McPherson	47	941	-22.8	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	3,451	46,420	5.4	6,549	75,625	3.4	Madison	3,730	51,535	8.0	35,234	380,017	1.5
Cedar	845	14,844	-0.6	2,578	31,563	0.5	Merrick	1,041	11,173	-7.4	2,109	28,052	-1.7
Chase	776	9,361	14.3	2,053	25,679	6.4	Morrill	538	8,390	-8.2	1,460	17,847	0.7
Cherry	739	11,239	-3.8	4,654	55,036	-9.1	Nance	434	6,146	1.1	911	10,516	2.1
Cheyenne	1,301	16,926	0.7	12,355	111,086	-0.6	Nemaha	648	11,825	-4.7	2,657	29,694	-1.3
Clay	555	11,118	-5.1	1,800	21,972	-2.7	Nuckolls	422	7,571	-2.1	2,272	26,400	-3.1
Colfax	1,161	14,329	2.7	2,548	30,293	-0.9	Otoe	1,745	25,325	5.5	7,097	85,692	-0.7
Cuming	1,025	16,119	-2.4	5,142	60,386	-9.8	Pawnee	257	4,353	-12.3	494	5,637	2.2
Custer	1,293	17,804	-10.8	5,034	55,028	1.7	Perkins	501	7,117	5.7	1,378	18,090	5.1
Dakota	1,879	26,802	-6.1	9,487	105,063	0.6	Phelps	1,097	17,909	-1.4	4,353	51,748	-3.6
Dawes	760	12,145	4.0	5,869	68,227	-9.8	Pierce	866	12,214	4.5	2,137	21,866	5.5
Dawson	2,679	34,507	-5.5	13,367	153,361	1.5	Platte	3,720	50,323	4.7	21,840	247,896	1.1
Deuel	246	3,251	-13.7	1,071	12,422	1.6	Polk	710	9,260	-2.0	1,835	21,463	-3.6
Dixon	578	9,085	-10.4	604	7,937	-4.9	Red Willow	1,499	18,693	3.4	10,190	112,588	0.9
Dodge	4,130	57,182	4.7	26,357	288,803	1.7	Richardson	992	12,643	-5.2	2,979	33,147	-4.6
Douglas	51,371	719,142	3.9	520,301	5,708,483	0.5	Rock	264	2,822	-22.2	421	5,778	1.9
Dundy	400	4,720	-4.4	540	6,712	-4.1	Saline	1,180	19,861	-0.3	4,021	46,542	-3.7
Fillmore	776	11,024	-4.9	1,947	26,451	-1.3	Sarpy	18,542	242,806	8.0	55,666	579,336	4.4
Franklin	442	5,692	-8.1	749	9,415	2.4	Saunders	2,518	34,762	0.6	6,446	75,037	5.3
Frontier	289	5,242	-14.0	672	8,178	1.7	Scotts Bluff	4,147	54,885	-2.2	28,663	315,398	1.1
Furnas	485	8,060	-13.6	2,044	25,869	2.2	Seward	1,838	24,266	-1.7	5,879	69,846	-0.1
Gage	2,190	32,472	-5.3	13,668	150,017	-1.1	Sheridan	733	9,338	-6.8	2,630	29,711	-1.2
Garden	391	4,339	9.5	640	7,331	0.8	Sherman	348	4,702	-14.5	550	6,741	-0.7
Garfield	237	2,882	3.4	772	10,132	-4.8	Sioux	399	2,991	-4.6	127	1,489	7.8
Gosper	452	4,162	-6.7	304	4,541	19.7	Stanton	787	10,439	7.4	866	9,429	-1.3
Grant	176	1,985	9.2	267	3,256	-1.0	Thayer	514	9,440	2.2	1,741	21,669	-0.9
Greeley	297	3,631	-15.4	606	7,183	-6.5	Thomas	163	1,939	25.8	252	3,204	-2.6
Hall	6,121	78,521	1.7	57,045	635,293	3.3	Thurston	390	5,488	4.3	813	9,985	-3.1
Hamilton	1,253	16,087	8.0	2,575	28,945	-2.8	Valley	457	6,401	-13.9	2,138	26,701	3.3
Harlan	518	6,712	-1.7	649	9,695	2.9	Washington	2,936	40,547	6.1	7,693	90,178	-1.9
Hayes	101	2,009	-13.4	(D)	(D)	(D)	Wayne	949	13,795	6.3	4,037	47,633	4.8
Hitchcock	263	5,011	-10.2	604	7,684	6.9	Webster	405	5,766	-8.4	1,225	14,557	3.8
Holt	1,548	19,191	7.8	5,851	70,456	4.0	Wheeler	118	1,812	-9.5	80	992	16.2
Hooker	87	1,158	-10.4	202	4,294	-4.7	York	1,393	22,522	-0.1	10,952	126,080	2.4

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

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

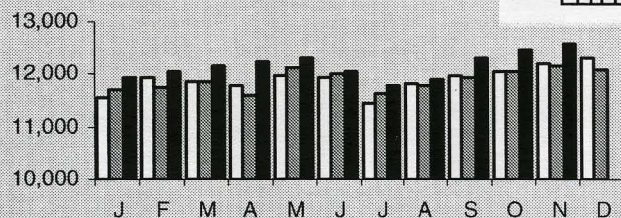
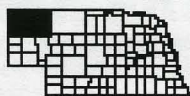
Note on Net Taxable Retail Sales

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



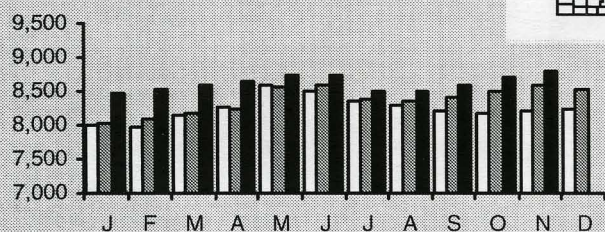
Note to Readers

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

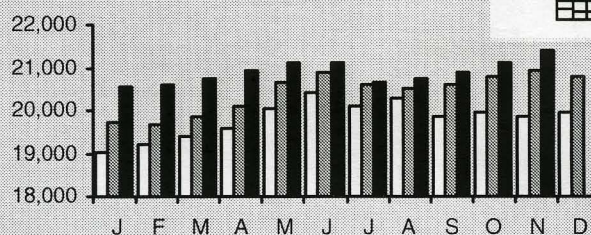
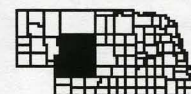
Southwest Panhandle



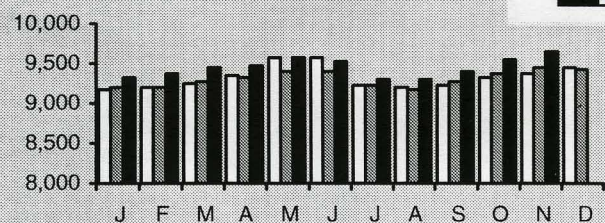
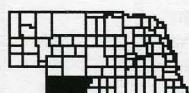
North Central



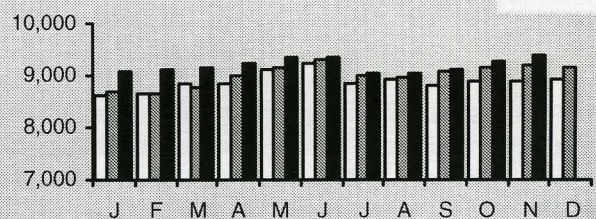
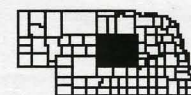
West Central



Southwest Central



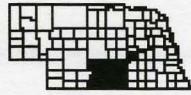
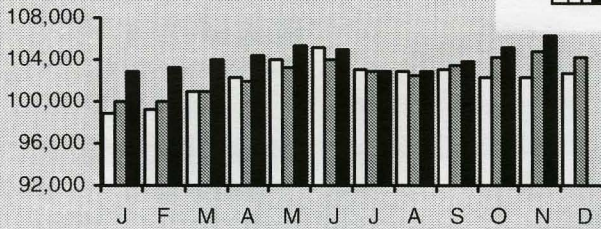
East Central



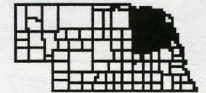
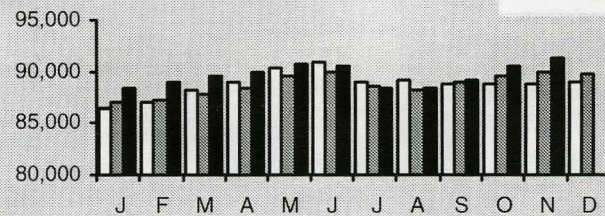
Regional Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment* 2000 to November** 2002

2000 2001 2002

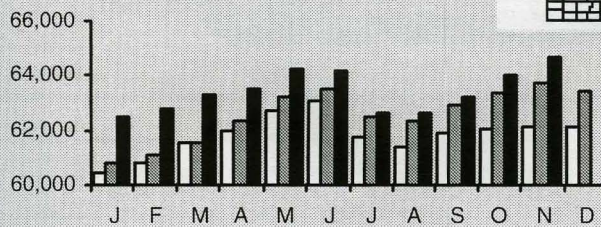
Southeast Central



Northeast

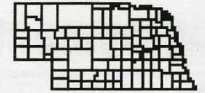
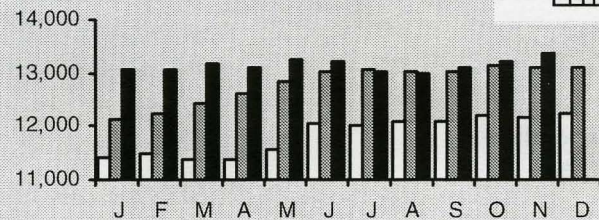


Southeast



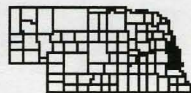
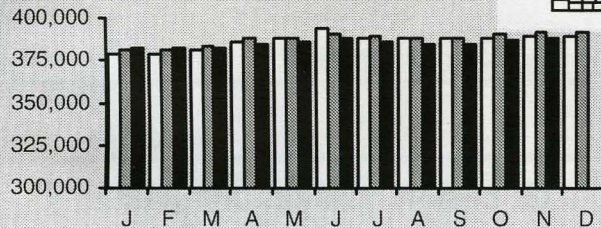
Sioux City MSA

Nebraska portion only

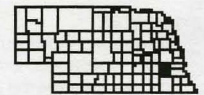
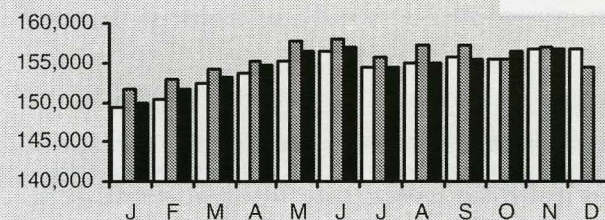


Omaha MSA

Nebraska portion only



Lincoln MSA



*By place of work

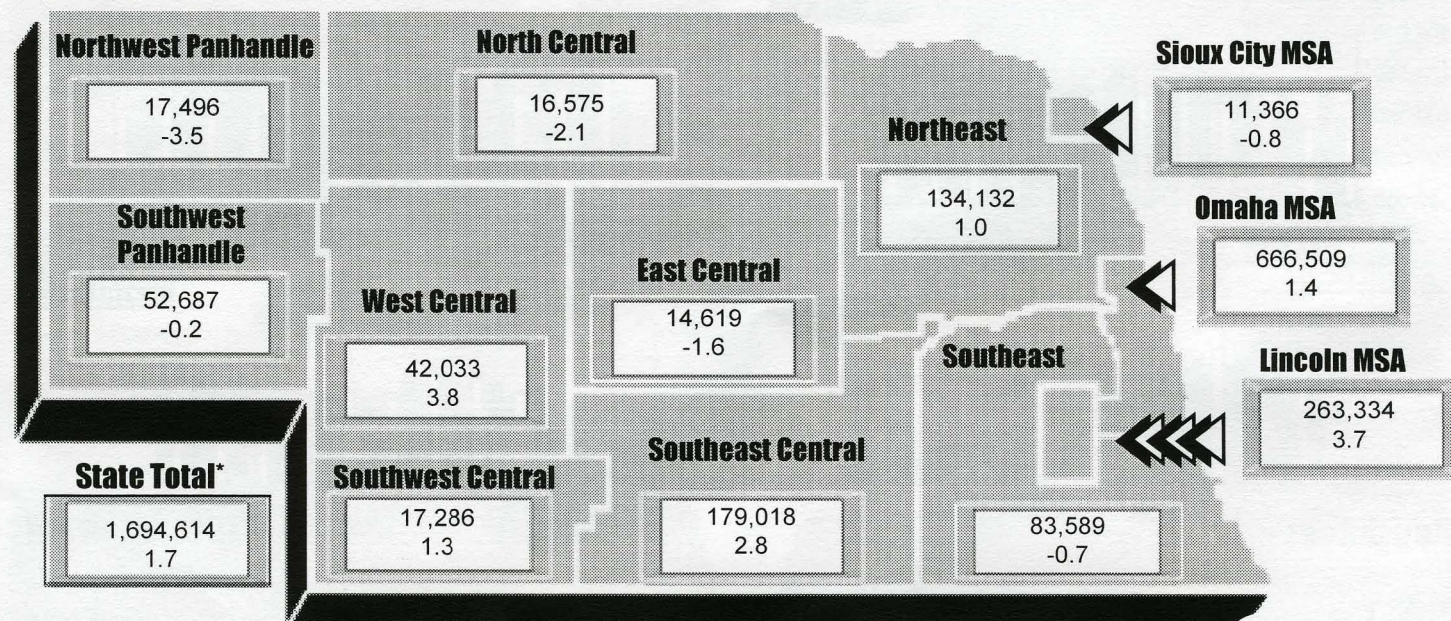
**Current month data are preliminary and subject to revision

***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 - Katry Copas

November 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.

Inflation Rate

2.8

Consumer Price Index

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

	February 2003	% Change vs Yr. Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago (inflation rate)
All Items	183.1	3.0	2.8
Commodities	152.0	2.6	2.1
Services	214.0	3.2	3.3

*U = All urban consumers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

State Labor Force Summary*

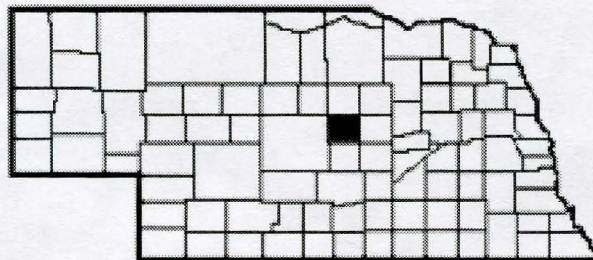
	November 2002
Labor Force	957,090
Employment	928,066
Unemployment Rate	3.0

*By place of residence

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information

County of the Month

Valley Ord - County Seat



License plate prefix number: 47

Size of county: 568 square miles, ranks 63rd in the state

Population: 4,647 in 2000, a change of -10.1 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$20,077 in 2000, ranks 71st in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$37,429 in 2001 a change of 6.1 percent from 2000; \$36,839 from January through December 2002, a change of -1.5 percent from the same period the previous year.

Unemployment rate: 2.8 percent in Valley County, 3.1 percent in Nebraska in 2001

	State	Valley County
Nonfarm employment (2001)¹:	909,402	1,507
(wage & salary)	(percent of total)	
Construction and Mining	4.8	4.8
Manufacturing	12.9	1.7
TCU	6.4	3.3
Wholesale Trade	5.8	5.5
Retail Trade	17.6	20.2
FIRE	6.8	4.9
Services	28.5	14.3
Government	17.0	45.3

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 445 in 1997; 488 in 1992; 541 in 1987

Average farm size: 499 acres in 1997; 501 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$59.6 million in 1997 (\$157,132 average per farm); \$54.5 million in 1992 (141,109 average per farm)

¹ By place of work

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

bulletin board



Notice

Due to recent state budget reductions, the Bureau of Business Research will be permanently closed on June 30, 2003. NU ONRAMP data are updated through April 1, 2003, and the BBR website will be available until June 1, 2003.

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