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Poverty in Nebraska: Estimates for 1993

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The U.S. Census Bureau recently released estimates of poverty rates by state and county for 1993. These estimates are the first comparable data available for substate areas since 1989. The data reveal poverty trends for total and school-age (age 5 to 17) populations. Estimates for school-age population are a factor in the allocation of federal funds to school districts.

Although the Census Bureau utilizes carefully constructed statistical techniques to derive estimates of poverty, the 1993 estimates are subject to error. In addition, trends and conditions in the 1989 to 1993 period may not be descriptive of current trends and conditions.

State poverty rates for total population and for school-age children decreased over the 1989 to 1993 period. Poverty rates decreased in most of Nebraska's 93 counties. Rate decreases were particularly notable for school-age populations.

The number of persons living in poverty decreased substantially relative to the changes in total population in many counties. A small number of counties experienced disproportionately high growth in the number of impoverished persons compared to growth in total population.

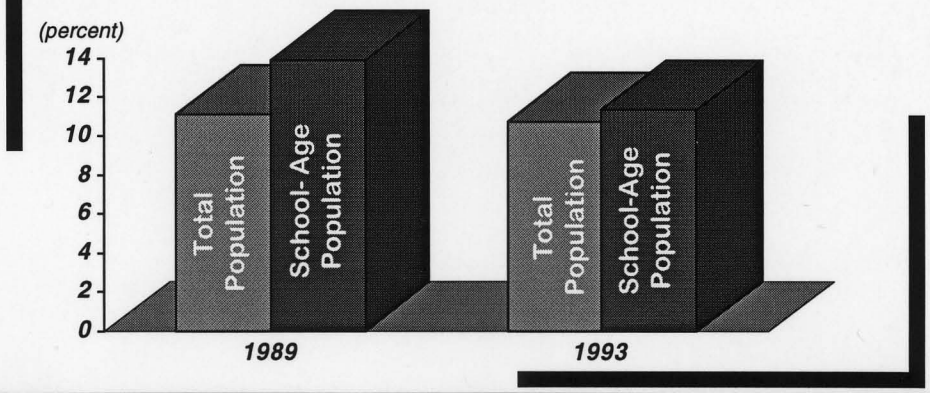
Statewide

The total number of persons living below the poverty level in Nebraska was virtually unchanged from 1989 to 1993. Total population increased an estimated 2.5 percent over the same period. Thus, the state's poverty rate decreased slightly—from 11.1 percent in 1989 to 10.7 percent in 1993 (Figure 1). The change, however, was not statistically significant.

The number of school-age children (age 5 to 17) living in poverty decreased nearly 14 percent from 1989 to 1993. In comparison, the total number of school-age children in the state increased 5 percent over roughly the same time period. Thus, the poverty rate for this age group fell from 14 percent to 11 percent from 1989 to 1993.

Since poverty is determined for persons in households, the changes noted may infer that the incidence of poverty among all individuals in households with school-age children (roughly ages 25 to 50) decreased while poverty

Figure 1
Comparison of Statewide Poverty Rates, 1989 vs 1993



among individuals over age 50 increased. However, poverty estimates for demographic subgroups other than school-age children, are not available to confirm the inference.

County Trends

Poverty rates for 1993 (Figure 2) were lower than 1989 rates in 75 counties. Among the remaining 18 counties, none experienced an increase of greater than 2 percentage points in the poverty rate (Table 1). The 1993 poverty rates among school-age children (Figure 3) decreased in 86 counties. Rate increases in the remaining seven counties also were relatively small in percentage point terms (Table 2).

Thurston County had the highest 1993 poverty rates for both the total and school-age populations, at 24 and 28 percent respectively (Table 3). These rates, however, are substantially lower than comparable 1989 figures. Sarpy County experienced the lowest rates in both demographic categories at roughly 5 percent each.

As noted, poverty rates dropped in most of Nebraska's counties. In eight counties, poverty rates for the total population decreased roughly 5 or more percentage points from 1989 to 1993 (Table 4). Seven counties experienced drops in the school-age poverty rate of 10 or more percentage points over the period (not shown). Sioux and Thurston counties experienced the largest rate decreases in both demographic categories. The total poverty rate in Sioux County, which ranked 6th highest in 1989, fell to 57th in 1993. In contrast, despite a substantial drop in the rate in Thurston County, it remained the highest in the state. The school-age poverty rate in Sioux County dropped from 1st in 1989 to 19th in 1993 (not shown). Despite an 18 percentage point decrease in the school-age poverty rate in Thurston County, it moved from 2nd to 1st over the period.

While the incidence of poverty was down for the most part across the state, a small number of counties experienced disproportionately high growth in the number of impoverished persons compared to changes in the total population (Table 5.) Box Butte County, for example, experienced an 18 percent increase in the number of impoverished persons and a 3 percent decrease in the total number of persons from 1989 to 1993.

Calculating Changes in Poverty Rates

There are two key components in the calculation of the poverty rate—the total population (or that of the group in question) and the number of people in that population determined to be poor, based on their family size and income. Changes in these two measures drive changes in the poverty rate (Table 6). In Sioux County, for example, the poverty rate among school-age children dropped more than 36 percentage points from 1989 to 1993. One component of that change

(continued, p. 4)

Table 1
Comparison of Total Population Poverty Rates in Counties Showing Rate Increases

	Total Population		
	1989 Rate	*1993 Rate*	*Difference**
	%	%	
Box Butte	8.9	10.7	1.8
Banner	12.0	13.7	1.7
Garden	11.3	12.5	1.2
Thomas	12.9	14.1	1.2
Hall	10.3	11.4	1.1
Red Willow	11.6	12.6	1.0
Arthur	11.5	12.4	0.9
Grant	10.0	10.9	0.9
Madison	9.6	10.4	0.8
Douglas	11.7	12.3	0.6
Platte	8.2	8.8	0.6
Lincoln	11.4	12.0	0.6
Cass	8.1	8.5	0.4
Dakota	11.1	11.4	0.3
Dawson	11.6	11.9	0.3
Phelps	8.2	8.5	0.3
Thayer	11.6	11.8	0.2
Sarpy	4.7	4.8	0.1

*In percentage points

Table 2
Comparison of School-Age Poverty Rates in Counties Showing Rate Increases

	School-Age Population		
	1989 Rate	*1993 Rate*	*Difference**
	%	%	
Grant	9.2	11.3	2.1
Thomas	13.0	15.1	2.1
Garden	14.4	15.8	1.4
Madison	9.1	10.2	1.1
Hall	11.5	12.2	0.7
Sheridan	18.2	18.7	0.5
Box Butte	9.8	10.3	0.5

*In percentage points

Figure 2
Total Population Poverty Rates, 1993

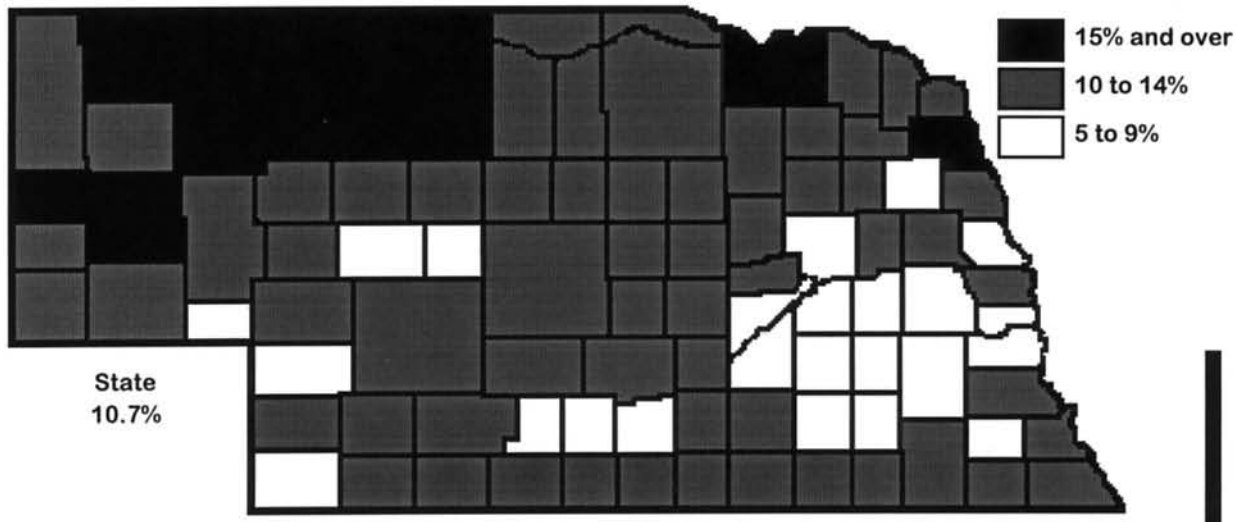


Table 3
Counties with Highest and Lowest Poverty Rates, 1993

Total Population		*School-Age Population*	
High	***%***	***High***	***%***
Thurston	23.9	Thurston	28.0
Dawes	18.2	Sheridan	18.7
Sheridan	17.1	Scotts Bluff	18.5
Scotts Bluff	16.3	Cherry	18.2
Cherry	15.4	Dawes	16.9
Low	***%***	***Low***	***%***
Sarpy	4.8	Sarpy	4.8
Washington	6.0	Washington	4.9
Gosper	6.2	Gosper	5.9
Polk	6.9	Polk	7.2
Logan	7.1	York	7.3

Table 4
Counties with Largest Percentage Point Decreases in Poverty Rate, Total Population, 1993 vs 1989

	Poverty Rate			*Poverty Rate Rank*	
	1989	*1993*	*Difference**	*1989*	*1993*
	%	*%*		*%*	*%*
Sioux	18.4	10.5	-7.9	6	57
Thurston	30.6	23.9	-6.7	1	1
Logan	12.7	7.1	-5.6	44	89
Blaine	17.1	11.6	-5.5	9	33
Greeley	17.8	12.6	-5.2	8	19
Frontier	15.2	10.1	-5.1	20	63
Wayne	15.3	10.2	-5.1	18	62
Boyd	18.5	13.7	-4.8	5	11

*In percentage points

Table 5
Comparison of Change in Poverty Population and Total Population, Selected Counties, 1989 to 1993

	Poverty	*Total*
	%	*%*
Box Butte	17.8	-2.8
Garden	3.6	-10.4
Grant	11.5	-0.1
Hall	15.5	3.9
Madison	13.7	2.5
Banner	14.4	4.2
Red Willow	5.7	-4.1
Platte	11.8	2.1

*In percentage points

Figure 3
School-Age Poverty Rates 1993

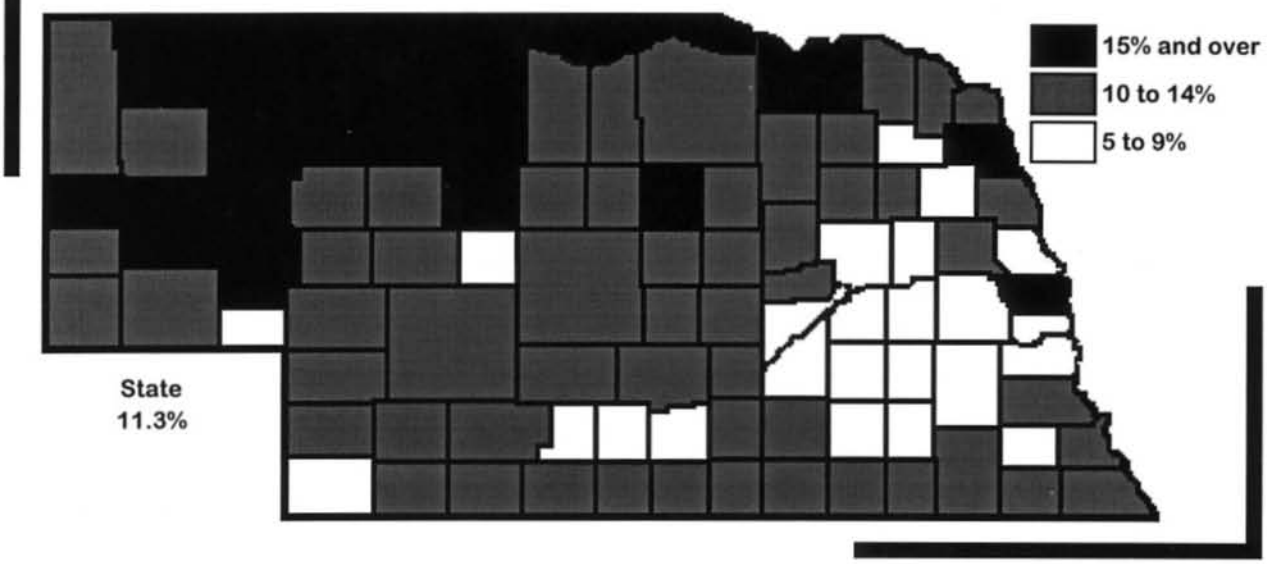


Table 6
Components of Poverty Rate Change Illustrated

	School-Age Poverty Rate			Change in School-Age Population	
	1989	*1993*	*Difference**	*In poverty 1989-1993*	*Total 1990-1995*
	%	%		%	%
Sioux	50.6	14.0	-36.6	-71.2	4.9
Blaine	22.4	13.8	-8.6	-34.4	-7.5
Dakota	12.9	11.9	-1.0	2.0	8.1
Madison	9.1	10.2	1.1	17.0	10.1

*In percentage points

was an estimated 71 percent[1] *decrease* in the number of impoverished school-age children from 1989 to 1993. The other component of change was an estimated 5 percent *increase* in the total number of school-age children from 1990 to 1995. The time periods are adequately comparable for the purpose of this analysis. In Blaine County, both components showed percent decreases, but the decrease in impoverished children far outpaced the decrease in all children. Thus, the poverty rate in Blaine County also dropped. Madison experienced an *increase* in the school-age poverty rate due to a disproportionate increase in the number of impoverished children relative to the increase in total children.

Why the Changes?

The 1989 to 1993 period was not characterized by significant changes in social welfare policies or programs statewide that may account for significant movements of persons, particularly children, out of poverty. However, the period was characterized by increases in employment, average wages per job, and per capita income as well as decreases in unemployment rates. Taken together, these factors signal a healthy economy—one that appears to have had generally positive impacts on poor families.

In light of these positive signals, the rise in poverty, particularly in the three larger counties (Hall, Madison, and Platte) is somewhat puzzling. Trends within the three counties in the factors discussed above do not provide any clear answers. High job turnover rates within major industries, however, may have played a role.

Current Conditions

Since 1993 the state's economy has continued to experience growth in employment and income and decreases in the unemployment rate. Therefore, it is likely that poverty rates have continued to decrease. A more reliable assessment of current trends and conditions can be made when the Census Bureau releases poverty estimates for states, counties, and school districts for 1995 later this year.

[1]Counties profiled have relatively small populations, therefore, small changes in numbers will have fairly sizable impacts on percentages.

Average Wages by Occupation: A Comparison of Nebraska with Selected States

Annette Miller

Wage competitiveness currently is a key issue for policy makers. The discussion surrounding wages in Nebraska causes concern in terms of whether wages in Nebraska differ significantly from other states. After accounting for cost of living differences, indications are that Nebraska wages are comparable and similar to those in other states, suggesting that living in states other than Nebraska would not substantially increase or decrease a household's real disposable income.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 show average wages from the *1996 Occupational Employment Statistics Survey (OES)*. Using the OES survey, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces comparable employment and wage estimates for every state. These wages were collected in 1996 from a random third of the sample meant to represent each state. Therefore, these estimates need to be viewed with caution. Average wage estimates from entire-state samples will be available after data collection in 1998. Additional information regarding the OES survey is available at the web site http://stats.bls.gov/oeshome.htm.

Many states chosen for comparison neighbor Nebraska or employ a number of Nebraska graduates. The selected occupations and three major occupational divisions: Managerial and Administrative (Figure 1); Professional, Paraprofessional, and Technical (Figure 2); and Production, Construction, Operating, Maintenance, and Material Handling (Figure 3) are all classified by OES. The wage for each division is the overall average wage of occupations included in that division, and is weighted by state employment estimates.

Accurately comparing wage rates involves adjusting for differences in cost of living. The ACCRA cost of living

Figure 1
Average Wages—Managerial and Administrative Occupations

	Engineering & Natural Science Managers	*Marketing Advertising Public Relations*	*General Managers & Top Executives*	*Education Administrators*	*Financial Managers*	*Medicine & Health Services Managers*	*Personnel Training & Labor Relations*	*Construction Managers*	*Administrative Services*
$34 - $34.99	TX								
$33 - $33.99									
$32 - $32.99									
$31 - $31.99									
$30 - $30.99	CA/MN								
$29 - $29.99	GA/MI/ NE/CO	TX							
$28 - $28.99			TX/MN/ IL/CO						
$27 - $27.99	KS/IL/ IA/PA		CT/CA	GA	TX/CO				
$26 - $26.99	CT	MN/GA	MO	NE	MN/GA				
$25 - $25.99	NY		MI/PA	MN/TX/IA	CT/MO/NY				
$24 - $24.99		MI/CT/IL	NE	KS/MO/ IL	MI/IL/CA/ NE/PA	MN	CT		
$23 - $23.99		CA/KS/CO	KS	PA/MI/NY	KS/IA	MO/NE/KS	TX/MI	GA	
$22 - $22.99		NY/PA/ NE/MO	IA	CT/CA		TX/CT/MI	GA/KS	IL/TX/CA	MN/TX
$21 - $21.99		IA				CO/IL	MN/NE	MO/CT	MO
$20 - $20.99						NY	IA/MO/NY/ CA/PA/CO	NY/MI/MN	CA/NY
$19 - $19.99								KS/NE	CT/GA
$18 - $18.99						CA/PA/IA	IA	CO/PA	CO/KS/NE
$17 - $17.99								IA	IL/MI/PA
									IA

index for 2nd quarter 1997 was used in this analysis to adjust for these differences. The ACCRA index was developed by the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association and is composed of expenses such as housing costs, grocery items, and utilities. ACCRA publishes estimates for selected cities and metropolitan areas. The index is copyrighted so Table 1 is based on ACCRA but adjusted to avoid disclosing real estimates. The table shows relative cost of living estimates for cities in Nebraska. It indicates that the Scottsbluff/Gering area has a somewhat higher cost of living than Omaha or Hastings.

State cost of living estimates were calculated from the various city estimates. For example, California has composite indexes for eleven of its cities. The indexes were weighted by employment for the cities and averaged to produce a state estimate. Employment data were not available for some

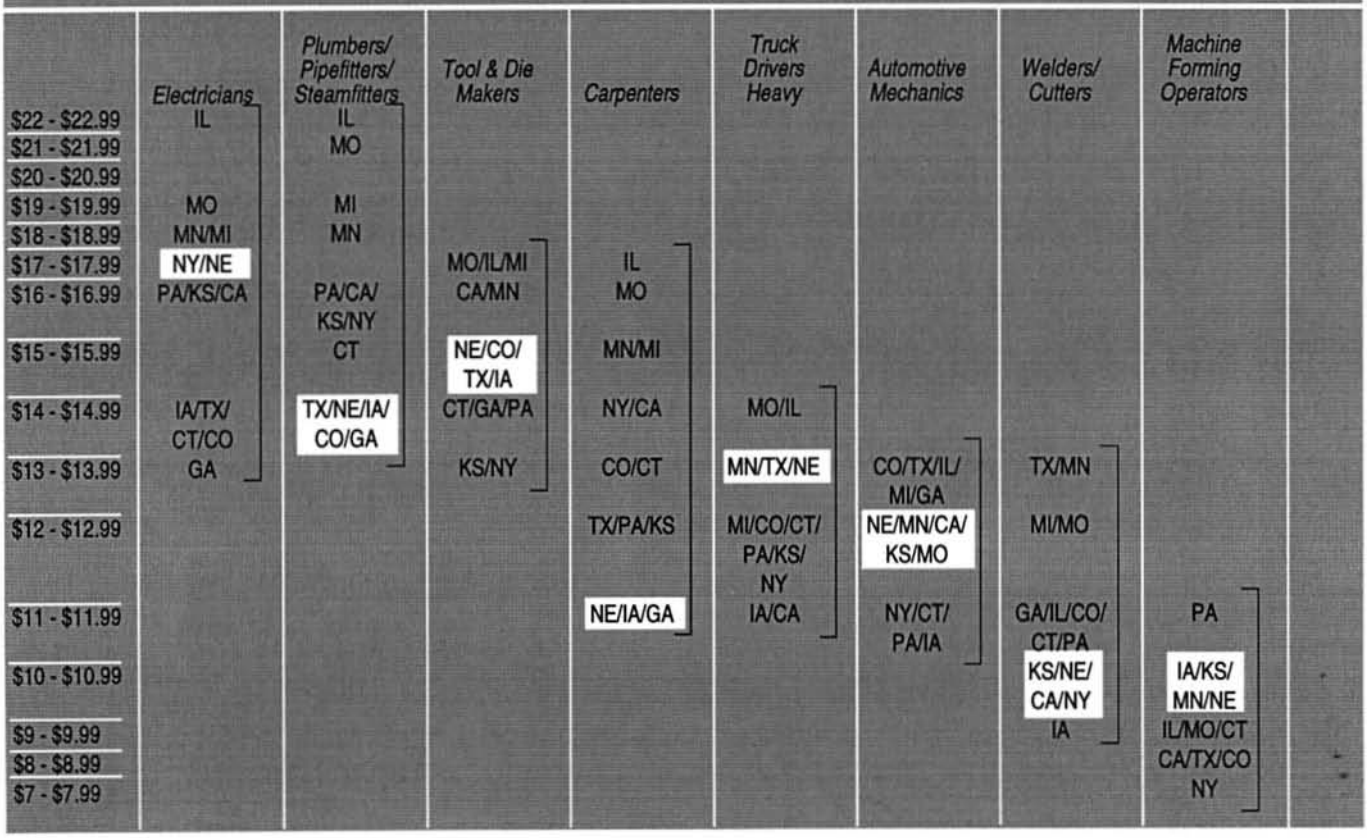
Table 1
Relative Cost of Living Estimates, Selected Cities

	Cost of Living
Omaha	100.0
Hastings	100.6
Scottsbluff/Gering	106.3

Figure 2
Average Wages—Professional, Para-Professional, and Technical Occupations

	Lawyers	*Electrical Engineers*	*Psychologists*	*Pharmacists*	*Analysts/ Computer Programmers*	*Data Base Admin.*	*Architects*	*Social Workers*	*Registered Nurses*	*Accountants/ Auditors*
$37 - $37.99	GA									
$36 - $36.99	TX									
$35 - $35.99										
$34 - $34.99										
$33 - $33.99	IL									
$32 - $32.99	CO/MN									
$31 - $31.99	NE/MI									
$30 - $30.99	CA/CT/PA	NE	IL							
$29 - $29.99	MO									
$28 - $28.99	NY	TX		TX						
$27 - $27.99			CO							
$26 - $26.99	IA			KS						
$25 - $25.99		MO/CO		MN/MO/CO	IL	MO				
$24 - $24.99	KS	GA/MN		IL/GA/MI/ IA/CA/PA			GA			
$23 - $23.99		CA		NE	NE/TX/GA	MN/TX/NE	MI			
$22 - $22.99		CT	MI/TX	CT	MN/CO/MO		KS/PA			
$21 - $21.99		PA	CT/NE		KS/CT		IA/MO	MN		
$20 - $20.99		MI	NY/MO/ CA/GA	NY	NY	CA/CT	TX/NY/CT		TX	
$19 - $19.99		NY/IA	KS/IA		PA/IA/MI	CO/NY	MN/CO/ NE/CA		MN	
$18 - $18.99						PA/IA/ KS/MI			CA/IL/ KS/MO	NE/TX/GA
$17 - $17.99			PA			GA/IL		CO	MI/CT/ NE/CO/ GA/PA/ NY	MI/MN/ MO/IL KS/CT
$16 - $16.99								CT		CA/IA/CO
$15 - $15.99								GA		NY/PA
$14 - $14.99								IL/MI/ KS/NE	IA	
$13 - $13.99								TX/IA/ CA/NY/ MO		
$12 - $12.99								PA		

Figure 3
Average Wages—Production, Construction, Operating, Maintenance, and Material Handling Occupations



states, so population estimates were used. In addition, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and New York did not have ACCRA estimates for heavily populated places within the states, so were adjusted using cost of living information from the Center for Mobility Resources. For example, Illinois did not have an estimate for Chicago or its surrounding suburbs, so the average was increased to more accurately represent the state. ACCRA does not incorporate taxes or other non-consumer expenditures in its estimates. Multiple types of taxes and varying tax structures within states make a tax adjustment difficult, therefore, it was not incorporated into this analysis.

Dividing the cost of living estimates into the reported wages yields real wages, adjusted for cost of living. Nebraska wages resemble wages in most other states. None of the other states is extremely low or high in comparison. In Nebraska, certain occupations such as electrical engineers, computer systems analysts, and education administrators are highly paid compared to other states. Other occupations such as public relations managers, architects, and carpenters in Nebraska receive relatively low pay. Overall, wage comparisons show Nebraska wages to be comparable to most other states. Thus, it appears that working and living in states other than Nebraska would not provide a significant increase or decrease in real disposable income. □□ □□

1997 Consumer Price Index

See page 16 for instructions on how to view monthly postings of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) on BBR's website, www.bbr.unl.edu.

Bureau of Business Research
College of Business Administration
University of Nebraska Lincoln

Consumer Price Index
Seasonally Unadjusted, 1982-84 = 100

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE	ANNUAL % CHANGE
% Change*	1.4	2.1	3.0	3.8	3.8	3.7	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.5	4.4		
1987(u)	111.2	111.6	112.1	112.7	113.1	113.5	113.8	114.4	115.0	115.3	115.4	115.4	113.6	3.7%
% Change*	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.3	4.2	4.4		
1988(u)	115.7	116.0	116.5	117.1	117.5	118.0	118.5	119.0	119.8	120.2	120.3	120.5	118.3	4.1%
% Change*	4.7	4.8	5.0	5.1	5.4	5.2	5.0	4.2	4.3	4.5	4.7	4.6		
1989(u)	121.1	121.6	122.3	123.1	123.8	124.1	124.4	124.6	125.0	125.6	125.9	126.1	124.0	4.8%
% Change*	5.2	5.3	5.2	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.8	5.6	6.2	6.3	6.3	6.1		
1990(u)	127.4	128.0	128.7	128.9	129.2	129.9	130.4	131.6	132.7	133.5	133.8	133.8	130.7	5.4%
% Change*	5.7	5.3	4.9	4.9	5.0	4.7	4.4	3.8	3.4	2.9	3.0	3.1		
1991(u)	134.6	134.8	135.0	135.2	135.6	136.0	136.2	136.6	137.2	137.4	137.8	137.9	136.1	4.2%
% Change*	2.6	2.8	3.2	3.2	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.1	3.0	3.2	3.0	2.9		
1992(u)	138.1	138.6	139.3	139.5	139.7	140.2	140.5	140.9	141.3	141.8	142.0	141.9	140.3	3.1%
% Change*	3.3	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.7		
1993(u)	142.6	143.1	143.6	144.0	144.2	144.4	144.4	144.8	145.1	145.7	145.8	145.8	144.4	2.9%
% Change*	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.8	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.7		
1994(u)	146.2	146.7	147.2	147.4	147.5	148.0	148.4	149.0	149.4	149.5	149.7	149.7	148.2	2.6%
% Change*	2.8	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.8	2.6	2.5		
1995(u)	150.3	150.9	151.4	151.9	152.2	152.5	152.5	152.9	153.2	153.7	153.6	153.5	152.3	2.7%
% Change	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.3		
1996(u)	154.4	154.9	155.7	156.3	156.4	156.7	157.0	157.3	157.8	158.3	158.6	158.6	156.8	3.0%
% Change	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.5	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.8	1.7		
1997(u)	159.1	159.6	160.0	160.2	160.1	160.3	160.5	160.8	161.2	161.6	161.5	161.3	160.5	2.3%

	JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	ANNUAL AVERAGE	ANNUAL % CHANGE**
1987(w)	110.0	110.5	111.0	111.6	111.9	112.4	112.7	113.3	113.8	114.1	114.3	114.2	112.5	3.6%
1988(w)	114.5	114.7	115.2	115.7	116.2	116.7	117.2	117.7	118.5	118.9	119.0	119.2	117.0	4.0%
1989(w)	119.7	120.2	120.8	121.8	122.5	122.8	123.2	123.2	123.6	124.2	124.4	124.6	122.6	4.8%
1990(w)	125.9	126.4	127.1	127.3	127.5	128.3	128.7	129.9	131.1	131.9	132.2	132.2	129.0	5.2%
1991(w)	132.8	132.8	133.0	133.3	133.8	134.1	134.3	134.6	135.2	135.4	135.8	135.9	134.3	4.1%
1992(w)	136.0	136.4	137.0	137.3	137.6	138.1	138.4	138.8	139.1	139.6	139.8	139.8	138.2	2.9%
1993(w)	140.3	140.7	141.1	141.6	141.9	142.0	142.1	142.4	142.6	143.3	143.4	143.3	142.1	2.8%
1994(w)	143.6	144.0	144.4	144.7	144.9	145.4	145.8	146.5	146.9	147.0	147.3	147.2	145.6	2.5%
1995(w)	147.8	148.3	148.7	149.3	149.6	149.9	149.9	150.2	150.6	151.0	150.9	150.9	149.8	2.8%
1996(w)	151.7	152.2	152.9	153.6	154.0	154.1	154.3	154.5	155.1	155.5	155.9	155.9	154.1	2.9%
1997(w)	156.3	156.8	157.0	157.2	157.2	157.4	157.5	157.8	158.3	158.5	158.5	158.2	157.6	2.2%

(u) For All Urban Consumers
(w) For Urban Wage and Clerical Workers
* The percent change from same month one-year earlier.
** Annual percent change is same as rate of inflation.

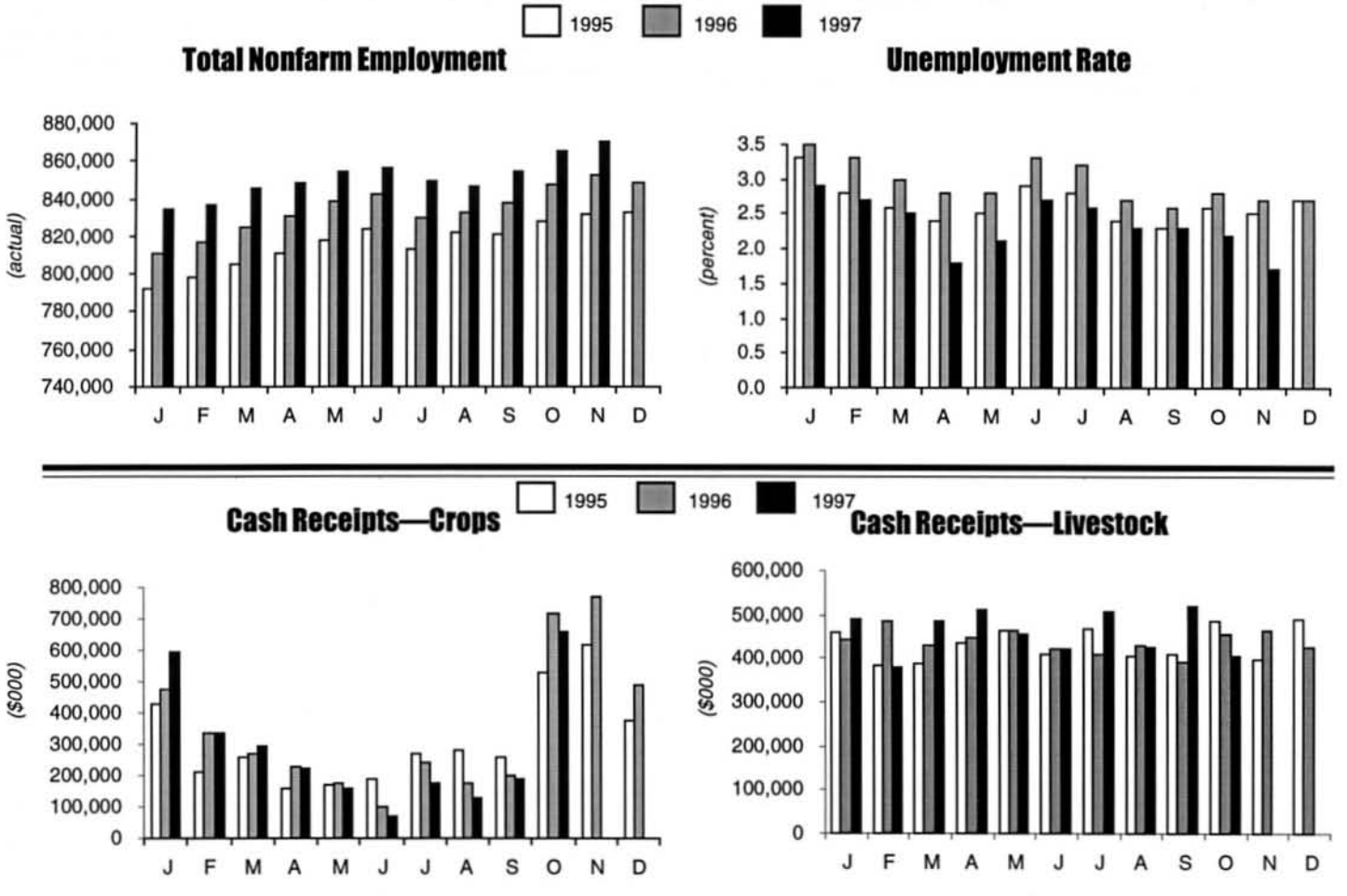
News Briefs

The following table expands on the 3rd quarter Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey (NQBCS) report (Business in Nebraska, January 1998) by focusing on average salaries and unfilled professional jobs for 3rd quarter 1997.

	Average Annual Salary		Percent of Unfilled Jobs
	New Job Hires	Replacement Hires	that were Professional[1]
All Industries	$36,800	$26,478	25%
Manufacturing	$37,294	$32,094	18%
TCU*	$48,422	$29,058	8%
Wholesale Trade	$37,794	$30,992	29%
Retail Trade	$23,712	$18,845	29%
FIRE**	$41,434	$27,456	55%
Services	$37,814	$28,038	44%

[1]Professional includes executives/administrators, managers, professional specialists, and marketing/sales.
*Transportation, Communication, and Utilities
**Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Nebraska Stats



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

	October 1997 ($000)	YTD ($000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,836	17,724	8.1
Albion, Boone	1,787	17,774	-7.0
Alliance, Box Butte	6,120	60,144	5.9
Alma, Harlan	626	6,734	2.9
Arapahoe, Furnas	831	7,146	11.9
Arlington, Washington	190	1,836	6.1
Arnold, Custer	212	2,543	-0.5
Ashland, Saunders	956	11,926	27.6
Atkinson, Holt	815	9,209	14.6
Auburn, Nemaha	2,494	24,278	1.8
Aurora, Hamilton	2,648	26,001	2.1
Axtell, Kearney	72	775	-8.4
Bassett, Rock	446	4,532	2.3
Battle Creek, Madison	642	6,357	8.2
Bayard, Morrill	378	4,120	1.9
Beatrice, Gage	10,932	103,928	11.3
Beaver City, Furnas	128	1,247	8.7
Bellevue, Sarpy	17,958	173,678	1.8
Benkelman, Dundy	530	5,402	5.8
Bennington, Douglas	460	3,894	3.6
Blair, Washington	6,096	62,314	7.3
Bloomfield, Knox	732	6,548	9.7
Blue Hill, Webster	457	4,480	9.9
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,101	10,910	15.7
Broken Bow, Custer	3,857	37,826	-9.6
Burwell, Garfield	777	7,538	10.0
Cairo, Hall	241	2,304	25.5
Cambridge, Furnas	659	7,872	-28.1
Central City, Merrick	1,836	16,770	3.9
Chadron, Dawes	3,342	35,004	10.0
Chappell, Deuel	363	4,121	10.5
Clarkson, Colfax	576	4,586	6.8
Clay Center, Clay	285	3,162	16.0
Columbus, Platte	19,702	196,515	3.9
Cozad, Dawson	3,116	29,591	13.0
Crawford, Dawes	453	5,490	13.2
Creighton, Knox	1,043	9,867	2.3
Crete, Saline	3,175	31,614	-5.5
Crofton, Knox	398	3,999	-1.4
Curtis, Frontier	323	3,241	12.5
Dakota City, Dakota	389	4,105	-24.1
David City, Butler	1,436	13,627	-6.7
Deshler, Thayer	172	2,223	-0.6
Dodge, Dodge	257	2,431	9.9
Doniphan, Hall	790	7,069	24.1
Eagle, Cass	255	3,845	23.8
Elgin, Antelope	425	4,215	4.7
Elkhorn, Douglas	1,996	21,173	18.9
Elm Creek, Buffalo	345	3,091	13.1
Elwood, Gosper	305	4,247	7.2
Fairbury, Jefferson	3,187	29,159	-0.5
Fairmont, Fillmore	122	1,560	20.6
Falls City, Richardson	2,441	25,169	4.0
Franklin, Franklin	493	4,558	-1.0
Fremont, Dodge	20,534	196,572	-2.4
Friend, Saline	371	4,507	-1.7
Fullerton, Nance	496	5,405	13.1
Geneva, Fillmore	1,670	17,438	4.4
Genoa, Nance	219	2,380	-8.9
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,437	32,562	-2.3
Gibbon, Buffalo	806	8,009	16.4
Gordon, Sheridan	1,751	17,762	8.6
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,212	21,706	9.8
Grand Island, Hall	47,782	467,845	5.5
Grant, Perkins	796	10,006	12.1
Gretna, Sarpy	3,282	32,645	-2.4
Hartington, Cedar	1,787	16,224	9.3
Hastings, Adams	19,620	196,023	2.7
Hay Springs, Sheridan	370	3,278	5.8
Hebron, Thayer	1,880	19,117	23.7
Henderson, York	563	6,078	-10.6
Hickman, Lancaster	226	2,324	7.4
Holdrege, Phelps	4,300	44,717	-2.8
Hooper, Dodge	294	3,438	13.1
Humboldt, Richardson	466	5,054	5.8
Humphrey, Platte	880	7,378	2.6
Imperial, Chase	2,010	19,008	17.6
Juniata, Adams	186	2,157	8.6
Kearney, Buffalo	29,539	287,226	4.0
Kenesaw, Adams	105	1,151	12.0
Kimball, Kimball	1,529	16,124	12.1
La Vista, Sarpy	7,998	74,310	4.7
Laurel, Cedar	457	3,850	5.5
Lexington, Dawson	6,824	69,062	-3.4
Lincoln, Lancaster	184,829	1,822,156	5.5
Louisville, Cass	520	5,808	36.4
Loup City, Sherman	514	5,736	-1.2
Lyons, Burt	516	4,900	6.4
Madison, Madison	829	7,584	-0.6
McCook, Red Willow	10,721	106,523	4.4
Milford, Seward	1,110	9,054	9.9
Minatare, Scotts Bluff	156	1,974	1.0
Minden, Kearney	1,799	17,680	13.5
Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	632	8,217	19.2
Morrill, Scotts Bluff	385	4,440	12.9
Nebraska City, Otoe	6,563	60,863	12.7
Neligh, Antelope	1,479	14,704	22.7
Newman Grove, Madison	286	3,339	3.7
Norfolk, Madison	29,184	281,865	5.6
North Bend, Dodge	425	4,856	4.5
North Platte, Lincoln	20,343	207,091	2.1
O'Neill, Holt	4,275	41,776	-0.6
Oakland, Burt	606	6,467	6.0
Ogallala, Keith	4,995	53,707	0.3
Omaha, Douglas	435,430	4,311,046	4.2
Ord, Valley	1,868	18,548	9.1
Osceola, Polk	792	7,606	8.1
Oshkosh, Garden	406	4,175	0.2
Osmond, Pierce	441	4,189	-1.6
Oxford, Furnas	451	5,197	70.7
Papillion, Sarpy	5,536	58,779	19.8
Pawnee City, Pawnee	285	2,985	8.6
Pender, Thurston	779	7,455	12.0
Pierce, Pierce	674	6,714	10.0
Plainview, Pierce	694	6,900	17.5
Plattsmouth, Cass	3,264	32,446	9.2
Ponca, Dixon	438	5,053	2.6
Ralston, Douglas	3,147	31,341	9.4
Randolph, Cedar	387	3,824	5.9
Ravenna, Buffalo	784	7,741	25.1
Red Cloud, Webster	684	7,518	18.6
Rushville, Sheridan	478	5,233	-1.1
Sargent, Custer	182	1,911	0.1
Schuyler, Colfax	1,947	18,693	2.0
Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	20,297	206,551	9.0
Scribner, Dodge	490	4,962	6.0
Seward, Seward	5,310	48,218	5.5
Shelby, Polk	376	3,261	5.1
Shelton, Buffalo	554	5,591	-5.9
Sidney, Cheyenne	8,651	72,875	7.5
South Sioux City, Dakota	7,744	78,866	1.1
Springfield, Sarpy	302	3,016	7.7
St. Paul, Howard	1,345	12,543	10.8
Stanton, Stanton	597	5,764	8.1
Stromsburg, Polk	941	10,757	9.7
Superior, Nuckolls	1,486	15,792	7.1
Sutherland, Lincoln	282	2,940	0.8
Sutton, Clay	792	9,788	-18.6
Syracuse, Otoe	1,158	10,698	7.5
Tecumseh, Johnson	851	9,244	-7.0
Tekamah, Burt	1,153	10,997	7.2
Tilden, Madison	389	4,386	0.8
Utica, Seward	258	2,281	-11.1
Valentine, Cherry	3,835	38,331	5.6
Valley, Douglas	1,167	12,201	6.2
Wahoo, Saunders	2,552	25,965	10.9
Wakefield, Dixon	348	3,628	2.8
Wauneta, Chase	279	3,007	-4.7
Waverly, Lancaster	744	7,350	20.2
Wayne, Wayne	3,271	30,704	3.4
Weeping Water, Cass	664	6,409	11.1
West Point, Cuming	3,792	38,106	6.7
Wilber, Saline	441	4,616	8.5
Wisner, Cuming	689	6,574	22.7
Wood River, Hall	357	4,428	2.4
Wymore, Gage	380	4,139	3.3
York, York	9,848	89,996	8.9

*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)

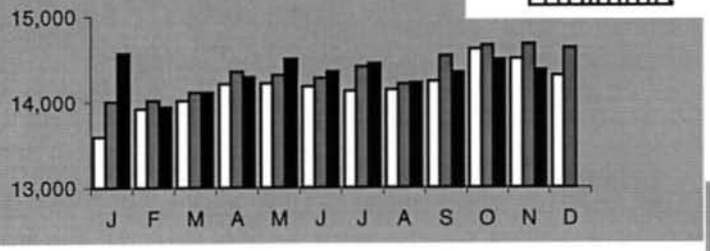
	Motor Vehicle Sales			Other Sales		
	October 1997 ($000)	YTD ($000)	YTD % Chg. vs Yr. Ago	October 1997 ($000)	YTD ($000)	YTD % Chg. vs Yr. Ago
Nebraska*	194,305	1,887,610	7.4	1,270,910	12,518,180	4.9
Adams	2,860	32,703	6.2	20,115	202,180	2.9
Antelope	939	10,661	11.1	2,260	22,765	13.4
Arthur	69	497	10.9	(D)	(D)	(D)
Banner	151	1,403	-8.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Blaine	93	904	33.3	72	799	(D)
Boone	991	8,923	8.9	2,368	23,334	-3.7
BoxButte	1,380	14,814	-2.0	6,373	63,038	6.0
Boyd	300	2,413	15.0	535	5,753	1.7
Brown	377	3,762	17.7	1,961	18,642	9.4
Buffalo	4,898	46,596	8.7	32,323	315,350	4.6
Burt	1,083	10,257	5.1	2,493	24,294	6.0
Butler	979	9,583	1.2	1,799	18,332	-4.5
Cass	3,695	31,483	5.2	5,832	61,781	11.8
Cedar	1,142	12,739	13.6	2,991	27,573	8.8
Chase	544	6,788	30.2	2,319	22,456	14.0
Cherry	906	8,007	30.6	4,039	40,246	4.9
Cheyenne	1,170	11,705	-5.2	8,874	75,635	7.2
Clay	817	9,464	6.7	1,893	21,396	-7.9
Colfax	1,046	10,999	11.0	2,914	27,318	1.7
Cuming	1,508	14,347	17.9	5,112	50,694	9.0
Custer	1,504	14,208	21.9	4,709	47,004	-7.4
Dakota	2,214	20,493	2.8	8,941	91,141	1.1
Dawes	863	7,519	8.7	3,795	40,509	10.4
Dawson	2,580	28,578	15.8	12,567	124,769	2.8
Deuel	248	2,829	1.7	893	8,586	12.4
Dixon	776	7,354	21.8	933	9,935	3.3
Dodge	3,967	39,721	7.2	22,296	215,377	-1.4
Douglas	50,343	473,506	4.8	444,449	4,400,185	4.3
Dundy	347	3,353	-7.7	551	5,693	4.3
Fillmore	920	9,206	9.1	2,304	25,763	1.6
Franklin	419	4,448	25.2	716	6,989	-2.8
Frontier	408	4,198	21.8	586	6,496	7.9
Furnas	718	6,976	8.3	2,173	22,984	0.5
Gage	2,408	24,396	7.8	12,133	115,312	10.9
Garden	215	2,991	3.6	520	5,706	-1.6
Garfield	300	2,046	13.8	777	7,538	10.0
Gosper	276	2,877	-3.7	373	4,823	7.0
Grant	173	1,183	42.5	232	1,890	14.1
Greeley	345	3,087	7.9	706	6,607	2.6
Hall	6,226	58,034	-0.3	49,435	485,088	5.8
Hamilton	995	12,373	6.2	3,109	30,155	1.1
Harlan	324	4,546	-4.4	756	8,713	0.8
Hayes	143	1,505	9.0	(D)	(D)	(D)
Hitchcock	345	3,646	-7.5	528	6,139	3.9
Holt	1,349	15,274	24.8	5,743	57,708	2.0
Hooker	113	840	-10.4	279	3,188	-0.5
Howard	926	8,359	22.7	1,644	16,066	8.5
Jefferson	934	10,175	10.9	4,265	38,256	2.0
Johnson	464	4,684	2.7	1,145	12,442	-6.3
Kearney	1,083	10,158	16.4	2,006	19,900	10.2
Keith	1,110	10,629	10.2	5,432	59,008	0.8
KeyaPaha	241	1,195	13.1	68	851	5.6
Kimball	505	5,327	10.6	1,555	16,566	12.4
Knox	843	10,098	2.7	2,746	26,655	4.1
Lancaster	23,278	232,863	9.1	187,154	1,844,239	5.8
Lincoln	3,910	35,370	1.9	21,199	215,934	1.9
Logan	124	937	-5.3	(D)	(D)	(D)
Loup	65	900	45.4	(D)	(D)	(D)
McPherson	75	639	-1.1	(D)	(D)	(D)
Madison	4,413	39,160	9.1	31,373	304,748	5.5
Merrick	691	9,227	-5.6	2,313	22,468	3.3
Morrill	881	6,980	22.7	1,491	15,323	11.0
Nance	540	5,121	12.7	743	8,179	6.2
Nemaha	916	8,818	15.3	2,742	26,893	2.3
Nuckolls	694	6,434	18.1	2,001	21,319	7.1
Otoe	2,067	18,625	10.3	8,097	75,757	11.8
Pawnee	431	3,656	8.4	475	5,020	1.1
Perkins	624	4,941	8.5	973	12,091	9.6
Phelps	1,124	14,602	-3.0	4,511	47,347	-2.3
Pierce	890	9,974	11.3	1,910	18,672	9.7
Platte	4,041	38,686	8.7	21,116	210,411	4.1
Polk	798	8,350	19.8	2,247	22,830	8.8
RedWillow	1,484	12,685	4.9	10,968	109,741	4.5
Richardson	896	9,968	8.3	3,067	33,148	4.0
Rock	196	2,335	21.7	451	4,667	1.9
Saline	1,463	13,990	-2.9	4,361	44,618	-2.6
Sarpy	14,114	134,840	8.4	35,837	349,794	5.5
Saunders	2,528	25,620	10.0	5,183	58,811	10.9
ScottsBluff	4,236	39,389	4.4	24,965	254,570	7.6
Seward	1,924	18,586	11.6	6,885	62,134	5.8
Sheridan	836	7,603	13.1	2,868	28,979	5.7
Sherman	420	4,138	16.5	608	7,272	-4.1
Sioux	266	2,302	11.7	166	1,517	9.3
Stanton	881	7,707	12.6	760	7,399	5.9
Thayer	661	8,266	15.7	2,578	27,477	16.4
Thomas	194	1,318	41.4	361	4,279	24.4
Thurston	548	5,549	9.5	879	8,904	12.3
Valley	469	5,172	10.3	2,068	20,437	8.7
Washington	2,826	25,831	3.4	6,758	68,680	7.4
Wayne	1,258	10,617	20.4	3,424	32,274	3.4
Webster	362	4,846	19.2	1,233	13,167	14.8
Wheeler	95	1,590	20.2	73	1,032	7.2
York	1,670	18,852	16.2	10,938	100,970	7.3

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

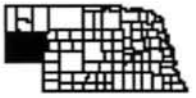
Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

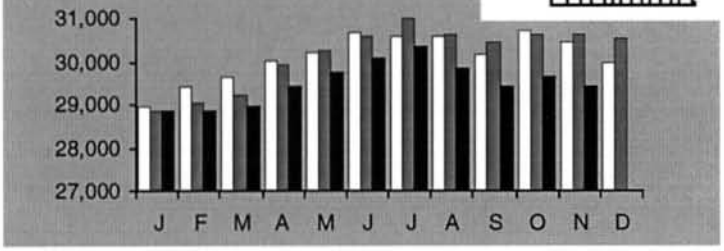
Regional Employment—1995 to November 1997

Northwest Panhandle

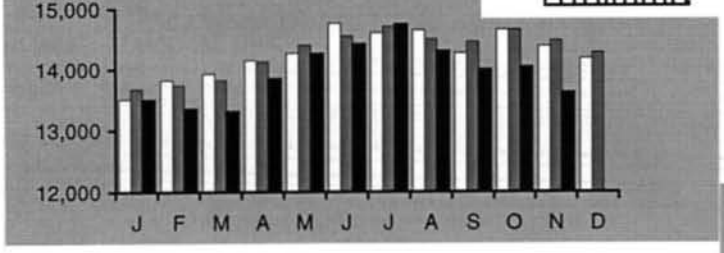


Southwest Panhandle

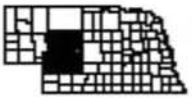


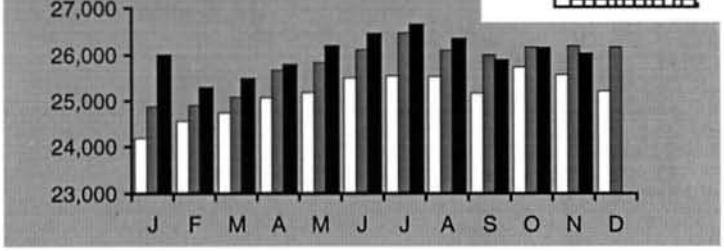


North Central

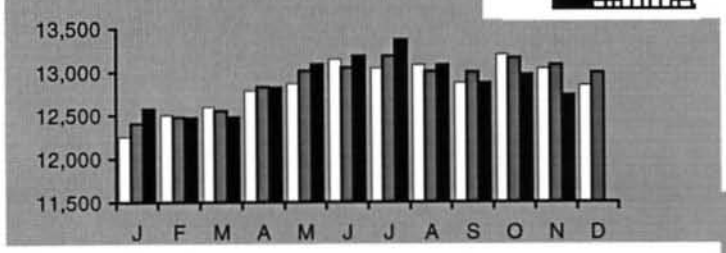


West Central

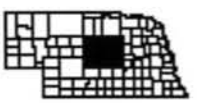


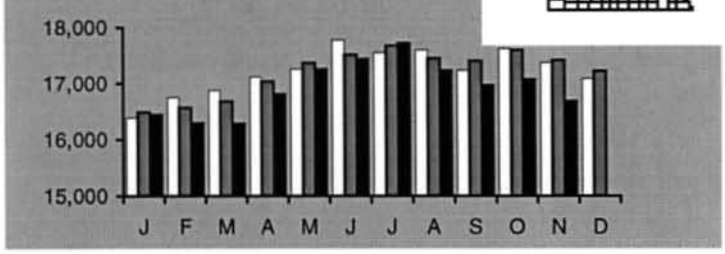


Southwest Central

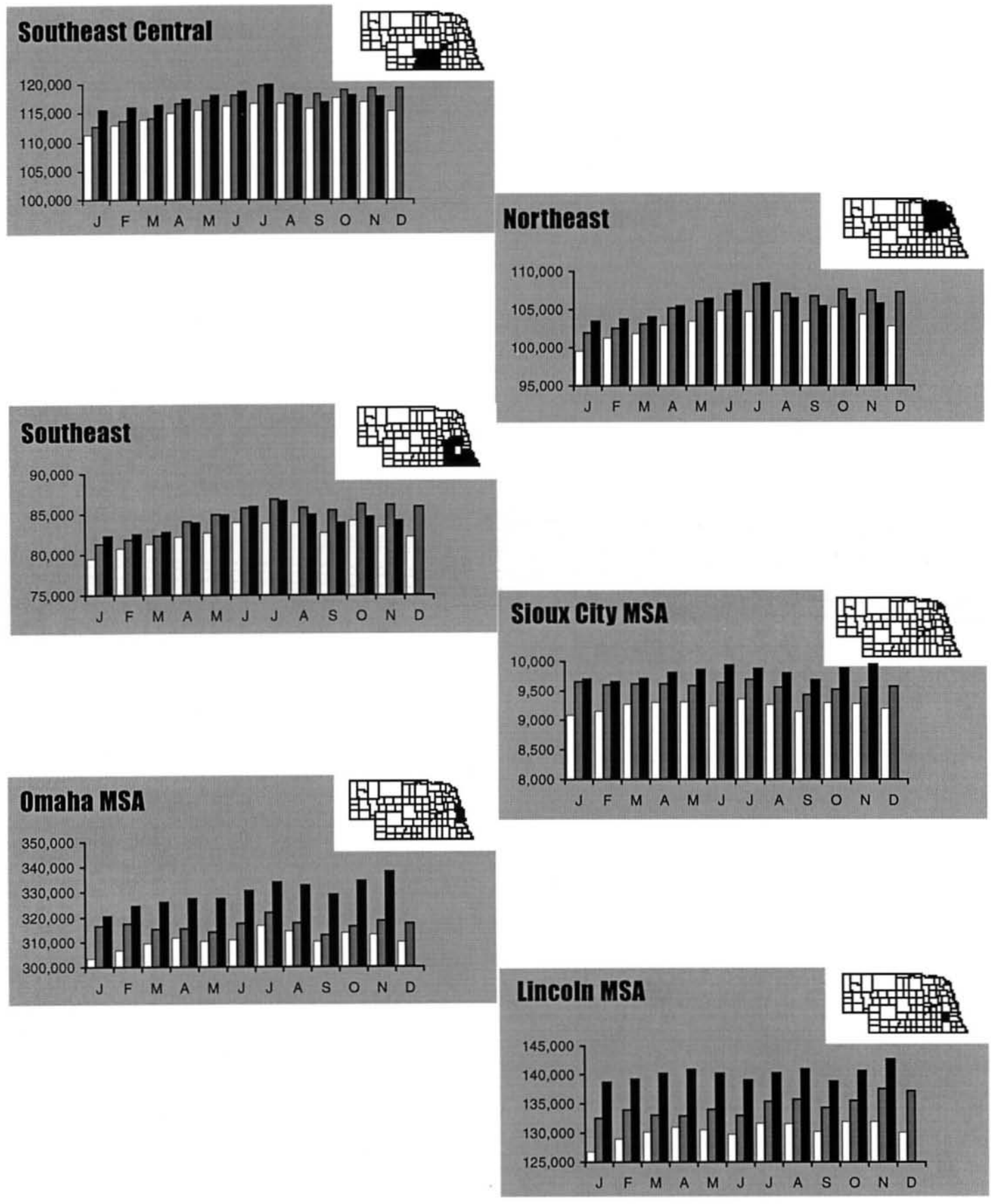


East Central

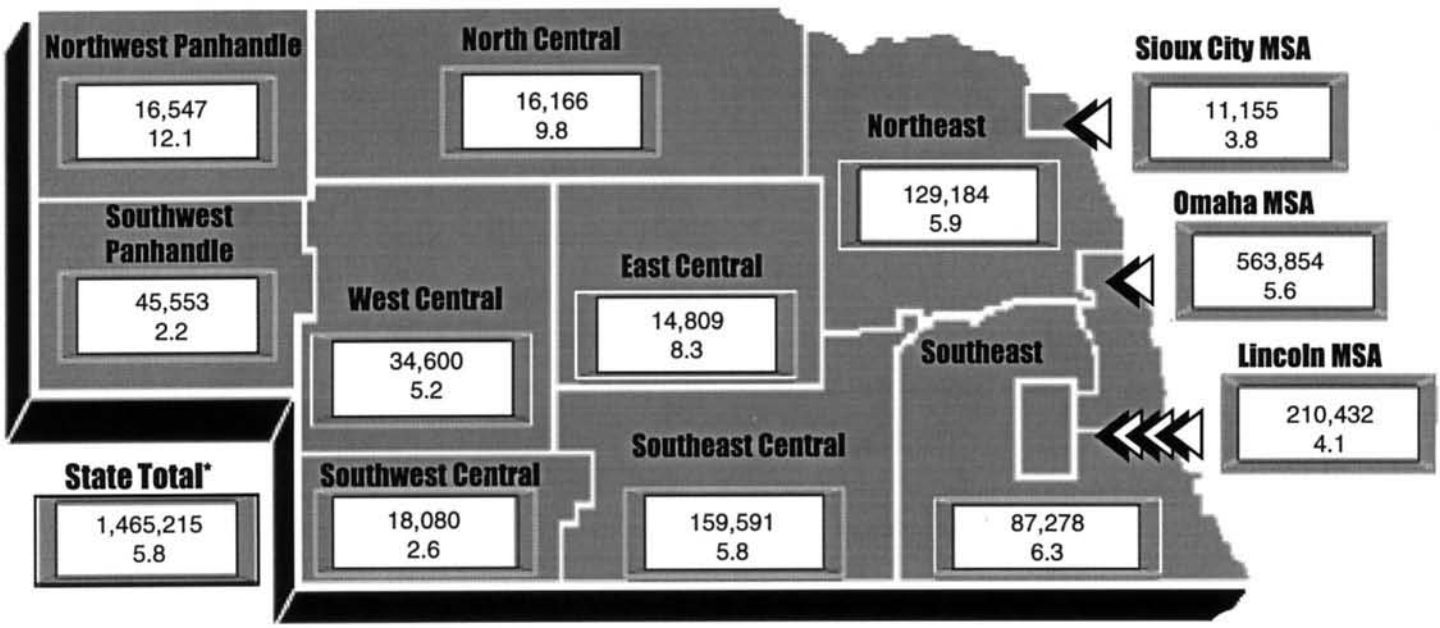




Regional Employment—1995 to November 1997



October 1997 Regional Retail Sales ($000)
Percent Change from Year Ago



*Regional values may not add to state total due to unallocated sales

Employment by Industry

	Revised October 1997	*Preliminary November 1997*	*% Change vs Yr. Ago*
Nonfarm Emp (W&S)	865,037	870,061	0.6
Construction & Mining	40,969	40,242	-1.8
Manufacturing	115,164	115,740	0.5
Durables	56,103	56,537	0.8
Nondurables	59,061	59,203	0.2
TCU*	53,219	53,524	0.6
Trade	212,307	214,349	1.0
Retail	155,371	157,909	1.6
Wholesale	56,936	56,440	-0.9
FIRE**	55,791	56,136	0.6
Services	233,843	234,026	0.1
Government	153,744	156,044	1.5
Labor Force	928,967	927,114	-0.2
Unemployment Rate	2.2	1.7	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities
** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Price Indices

*Consumer Price Index - U**
(1982-84 = 100)

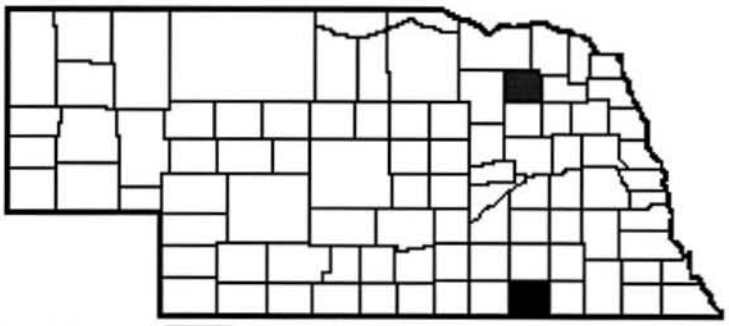
	December 1997	*% Chg. vs Yr. ago*	*YTD % Chg. vs Yr. ago*
All items	161.3	1.7	2.3
Commodities	142.3	0.2	1.4
Services	181.0	2.8	3.0

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

County of the Month

Thayer

Hebron-County Seat



License plate prefix number: 32
Size of county: 575 square miles, ranks 55th in the state
Population: 6,418 in 1996, a change of -3.3 percent from 1990
Per capita personal income: $18,247 in 1994, ranks 48th in the state
Net taxable retail sales ($000): $38,338 in 1996, a change of 5.0 percent from 1995; $35,743 from January through October of 1997, a change of 16.2 percent from the same period the previous year.
Number of covered business and service worksites: 218 in 1996
Unemployment rate: 2.1 percent in Thayer County, 2.4 percent in Nebraska for 1996

	State*	Thayer County*
Covered nonfarm employment (1996) :	798,618	2,136
	(percent of total)	
Construction and Mining	4.3	3.5
Manufacturing	14.4	18.6
TCU	5.1	3.5
Wholesale Trade	6.5	7.7
Retail Trade	19.1	15.4
FIRE	6.5	6.7
Services	26.1	13.0
Government	18.0	31.6

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 623 in 1992, 744 in 1987
Average farm size: 558 acres in 1992
Market value of farm products sold: $80.4 million in 1992 ($129,058 average per farm)

* Coverage differs due to a change in the source of employment data. See next month's issue for further details.
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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Consumer Price Index

CPI

In response to numerous requests, BBR now publishes the Consumer Price Index (CPI) online.

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OR
The direct address for the CPI is: www.bbr.unl.edu/CPI.html

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