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Quarterly Business Survey Indicates Healthy Job Growth, but Many Positions Go Unfilled

Nearly 800 businesses and organizations in Nebraska recently responded to the newly launched **Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey**. The survey, a joint venture between the Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Labor and the Bureau of Business Research (BBR), has the following major objectives:

1. to continuously monitor business conditions throughout the Nebraska economy and detect early indications of emerging trends;
2. to assess job creation and turnover by occupation and industry;
3. to track wage levels by occupation and industry; and
4. to identify unfilled demand for labor by occupation and industry.

The second and fourth objectives produce important pieces of information for secondary schools and postsecondary institutions seeking to enhance and expand occupation-specific education and training to meet the demands of an evolving labor market. Survey results also will be useful in formulating statewide work force and labor availability policies and programs.

Major funding for the survey was provided by the federally-financed Nebraska School-to-Work Initiative. The survey will be conducted quarterly in January, April, July, and October of each year.

Operating Revenues

Approximately 42 percent of respondents reported increases in operating revenues during the 3rd quarter versus the 2nd quarter of 1996 (Table 1). Over 50 percent showed higher revenues versus the 3rd quarter 1995. Respondents in the finance, insurance, and real estate (FIRE) and the manufacturing sectors most commonly reported revenues increases over both 2nd quarter 1996 and 3rd quarter 1995.

Table 1
Revenue Activity 3rd Quarter 1996

Establishment Group	3 rd Quarter Compared to	
	2 nd Quarter 1996	3 rd Quarter 1995
All Establishments—number reporting	761	731
Revenues increased	42%	52%
Revenues decreased	31%	25%
Revenues stayed the same	27%	23%
Manufacturing—number reporting	106	102
Revenues increased	48%	52%
Revenues decreased	33%	29%
Revenues stayed the same	19%	19%
Wholesale Trade—number reporting	77	76
Revenues increased	35%	49%
Revenues decreased	42%	22%
Revenues stayed the same	23%	29%
Retail Trade—number reporting	109	100
Revenues increased	34%	46%
Revenues decreased	39%	31%
Revenues stayed the same	27%	23%
FIRE—number reporting	51	51
Revenues increased	55%	63%
Revenues decreased	10%	12%
Revenues stayed the same	35%	25%
Services—number reporting	226	222
Revenues increased	39%	55%
Revenues decreased	32%	24%
Revenues stayed the same	29%	21%

Only 15 percent of all respondents expected revenues to fall during the 4th quarter 1996 (Figure 1). The reason cited most often for the expected downturn was market contraction in the state. The highest percentage of respondents who expected declining revenues during the 4th quarter came from the retail trade sector.

Revenues increases were expected by just over 50 percent of FIRE sector respondents. Expanding markets in the state were cited as the main reason for growth in this sector. Nearly 50 percent of manufacturing sector respondents expected to see further growth in revenues during the 4th quarter. Expanding national markets and new product lines were seen as the main engines of the manufacturing revenue growth.

Job Creation and Replacement Hires

Survey respondents reported the creation of approximately 3,000 new nonfarm private-sector jobs in the state during the 3rd quarter of 1996 (Table 2). The 3,000 new jobs combined with replacement hires to produce nearly 9,500 total hires across the state during the 3rd quarter. Assuming the responses are representative of the state's labor market, over 70,000 total hires occurred during the quarter in the

state's nonfarm private sector. The ratio of hires to the roughly 800,000 total jobs in the economy indicates that Nebraska has a very fluid labor market.

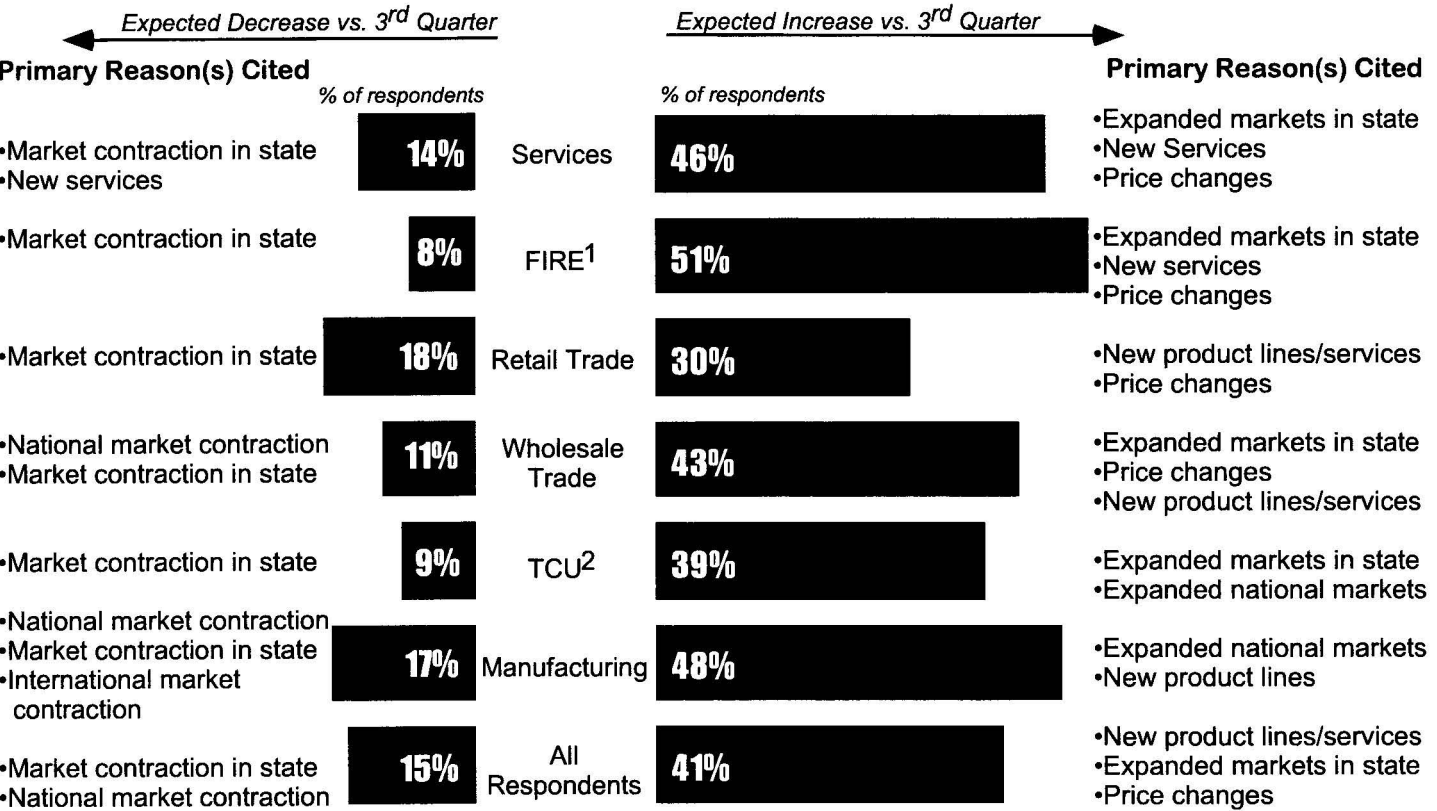
The survey classified jobs into nine occupational categories (Table 3). A distinction was made between full-time and part-time jobs. Nearly 40 percent of new hires and 42 percent of replacement hires were part-time positions. Hires (both new and replacement) were most commonly made for administrative support and operators/fabricators/laborers positions.

The hiring data were *normalized* on the basis of 1,000 jobs in order to make comparisons across both firm size and sectors (Tables 4 and 5). For every 1,000 existing jobs, a total of 31 new full-time jobs was created and filled throughout the state's economy in the 3rd quarter of 1996. Part-time new hires totaled 21 per 1,000 existing jobs. The manufacturing sector reported the most new full-time hires per 1,000 jobs. Part-time new hires were most prevalent in retail trade.

Wages

Average hourly wages for new hires in the 3rd quarter ranged from \$5.74 for part-time service workers to \$18.46 for full-time executives and administrators (Table 6). A similar pattern is evident among replacement hires. Part-time wages were consistently lower than full-time wages by occupation.

Figure 1
Respondents Expecting Revenue Change In 4th Quarter 1996



¹Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate
²Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

Table 2
Number of New and Replacement Hires
3rd Quarter 1996

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
Replacement hires	3,751	2,726	6,477
New jobs hires	1,798	1,198	2,996
Total	5,549	3,924	9,473

Table 3
Number of New and Replacement Hires by Occupation
3rd Quarter 1996

Occupation	New Hires		Replacement Hires	
	*Full-time	Part-time	*Full-time	Part-time
Executives/Administrators	56	0	23	0
Managers	157	9	102	4
Professional Specialists	170	31	226	192
Marketing/Sales	93	145	256	159
Administrative Support/Clerical	197	209	305	172
Service Workers	242	633	672	1,441
Transportation/Material Movers	55	4	194	30
Production/Craft/Repair	157	31	502	84
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	671	136	1,471	644
Total	1,798	1,198	3,751	2,726

*Full-time is defined as 36 hours or more per week.

Table 4
New and Replacement Hires by Employment Size
(per 1,000 jobs)

Employment Size	New Hires		Replacement Hires	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
0 to 49	63	44	90	80
50 to 249	39	23	72	48
250 & above	8	8	48	33
All	31	21	66	48

Table 5
New and Replacement Hires for Selected Sectors
(per 1,000 jobs)

Employment Size	New Hires		Replacement Hires	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Manufacturing	35	4	57	22
Wholesale Trade	21	4	121	38
Retail Trade	29	54	75	117
FIRE	17	3	40	9
Services	26	27	52	53

Table 6
Average Hourly Wages for New and Replacement Hires
by Occupation

Occupation	New Hires		Replacements	
	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time
Executives/Administrators	\$18.46	-	\$17.63	-
Managers	\$14.65	\$7.06	\$14.56	\$7.49
Professional Specialists	\$16.08	\$11.04	\$12.71	\$8.33
Marketing/Sales	\$12.75	\$6.77	\$10.76	\$6.83
Administrative Support/Clerical	\$9.16	\$7.66	\$8.10	\$6.40
Service Workers	\$7.43	\$5.74	\$6.28	\$5.79
Transportation/Material Movers	\$10.63	\$6.00	\$11.23	\$7.23
Production/Craft/Repair	\$9.74	\$8.69	\$7.69	\$7.13
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	\$8.21	\$5.95	\$7.11	\$6.12

The average hourly wages shown are weighted averages based on eight wage categories used in the survey (under \$4.74; \$4.75-\$5.99; \$6.00-\$6.99; \$7.00-\$7.99; \$8.00-\$9.99; \$10.00-\$14.99; \$15.00-\$17.99; and \$18.00 and above). With the exception of the first and last wage categories, mid-point rates (e.g., \$6.50 for the \$6.00-\$6.99 range) were multiplied by the number of hires by occupation in order to calculate average wages by occupation. Arbitrary wage rates of \$4.50 and \$20.50 were used for the first and last wage categories. Capping wages at \$20.50 probably understates average wages for high wage occupations, such as executives, administrators, and managers.

Unfilled Positions

Respondents reported that just over 1,100 open full-time positions went unfilled in the 3rd quarter. Of that total, nearly 900, or 81 percent, were not filled due to a lack of qualified job applicants (Table 7). The largest numbers of unfilled full-time positions were in the professional specialist, service, and administrative support occupational categories.

Assuming that the survey response is representative of all nonfarm private sector jobs in the state, then roughly 10,000 full-time jobs remained unfilled during the 3rd quarter

due to a lack of qualified applicants. This estimate reflects unmet opportunities in terms of lost business output and sales, personal income, and state and local tax revenues.

Of the 511 part-time positions that went unfilled in the 3rd quarter, 82 percent were attributed to a lack of qualified applicants. The vast majority of unfilled part-time positions was in the service occupational category.

Employment activity in certain sectors of the economy was underrepresented in this first round of survey responses (Table 8). We are confident, however, that the data will become more complete in future quarters as respondents become familiar with the survey instrument and the results it produces. A major effort is underway to increase the response level to at least 50 percent of the state's nonfarm private sector employment base. We encourage any business or organization receiving the survey to regularly participate in the process.

Reports from the Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey will be a regular feature of **Business in Nebraska**. Results of the survey for the 4th quarter 1996 are scheduled to appear in the March issue. In addition, work is underway to regularly report more detailed statistics from the survey on the BBR World Wide Web home page (www.cba.unl.edu/bbr/bbr.html). Watch for an announcement of this service in the Bulletin Board section (back page) of future issues.

(continued, p.5)

Table 7
Total Unfilled Positions and Positions Unfilled Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants

Occupation	Full-time Positions		Part-time Positions	
	Unfilled		Unfilled	
	Total Unfilled	Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants	Total Unfilled	Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants
Executives/Administrators	17	9	0	0
Managers	47	30	1	1
Professional Specialists	283	252	32	26
Marketing/Sales	46	42	21	9
Administrative Support/Clerical	136	104	26	19
Service Workers	263	188	330	278
Transportation/Material Movers	74	70	31	31
Production/Craft/Repair	122	108	22	18
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	115	95	48	38
Total	1,103	898	511	420

Table 8
Survey Representation

	Total Employment Statewide		Total Employment Survey Respondents		Survey Representation
	Number ¹	Distribution	Number	Distribution	Percent ²
Construction & Mining	39,277	5.8%	1,386	2.4%	41.4%
Manufacturing	113,211	16.6%	17,460	30.3%	182.5%
TCU	50,163	7.4%	2,406	4.2%	56.8%
Wholesale Trade	54,175	7.9%	3,746	6.5%	82.3%
Retail Trade	152,863	22.4%	11,768	20.4%	91.1%
FIRE	52,516	7.7%	4,824	8.4%	109.1%
Services	219,387	32.2%	16,066	27.9%	86.6%
Total	681,592		57,656		

¹Average monthly nonfarm private sector employment for 3rd quarter 1996 calculated from monthly reports by the Nebraska Department of Labor.

²Computed by dividing the Survey Respondent distribution value by the Total Employment distribution value.

The following individuals contributed to the compilation of this report: Phil Baker, Jolee Wheatley, Jane Sutherland, and Clarence Waldman: Nebraska Department of Labor; Tom Doering: Nebraska Department of Economic Development; and David Bennett, Lisa Darlington, and Charles Lamphear: Bureau of Business Research (BBR).

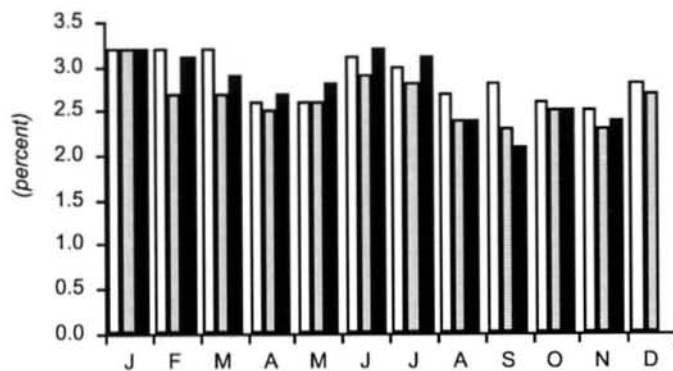
Nebraska Stats

□ 1994 ■ 1995 ■ 1996

Total Nonfarm Employment

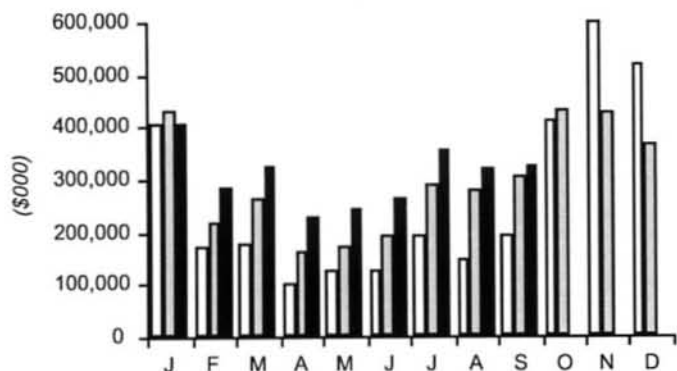


Unemployment Rate



□ 1994 ■ 1995 ■ 1996

Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



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

	September 1996 \$	YTD \$	YTD % Change		September 1996 \$	YTD \$	YTD % Change
Ainsworth, Brown	1,789	14,785	-3.5	Kearney, Buffalo	28,895	248,826	5.9
Albion, Boone	2,089	17,244	16.3	Kenesaw, Adams	98	927	-1.3
Alliance, Box Butte	6,041	51,300	5.1	Kimball, Kimball	1,625	13,115	-8.0
Alma, Harlan	664	5,976	3.1	La Vista, Sarpy	7,151	63,758	11.7
Arapahoe, Furnas	670	5,630	2.2	Laurel, Cedar	489	3,210	5.5
Arlington, Washington	228	1,568	-0.3	Lexington, Dawson	7,063	64,596	1.4
Arnold, Custer	289	2,287	-4.6	Lincoln, Lancaster	185,439	1,547,747	10.0
Ashland, Saunders	1,051	8,352	1.5	Louisville, Cass	888	3,814	19.8
Atkinson, Holt	1,024	7,252	7.7	Loup City, Sherman	766	5,266	9.0
Auburn, Nemaha	2,855	21,475	1.7	Lyons, Burt	577	3,914	2.4
Aurora, Hamilton	2,983	23,074	2.2	Madison, Madison	1,002	6,770	17.3
Axtell, Kearney	117	771	6.3	McCook, Red Willow	10,569	91,529	9.4
Bassett, Rock	437	4,074	-0.3	Milford, Seward	893	7,232	7.2
Battle Creek, Madison	605	5,354	0.3	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	238	1,757	-16.4
Bayard, Morrill	483	3,689	-13.2	Minden, Kearney	1,783	14,004	-4.4
Beatrice, Gage	9,707	83,419	4.8	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	812	6,299	-14.1
Beaver City, Furnas	169	1,049	-7.7	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	460	3,518	-2.0
Bellevue, Sarpy	18,792	152,835	19.3	Nebraska City, Otoe	6,667	48,093	10.2
Benkelman, Dundy	589	4,621	7.4	Neligh, Antelope	1,373	10,660	-1.4
Bennington, Douglas	460	3,361	39.0	Newman Grove, Madison	340	2,878	0.5
Blair, Washington	6,141	52,121	0.9	Norfolk, Madison	28,675	238,629	7.5
Bloomfield, Knox	760	5,333	8.7	North Bend, Dodge	537	4,257	4.5
Blue Hill, Webster	488	3,592	9.9	North Platte, Lincoln	21,182	183,108	2.6
Bridgeport, Morrill	903	8,459	-5.0	O'Neill, Holt	4,322	38,069	10.4
Broken Bow, Custer	3,705	37,974	-1.3	Oakland, Burt	767	5,521	6.9
Burwell, Garfield	961	6,104	-1.6	Ogallala, Keith	5,512	48,477	6.1
Cairo, Hall	223	1,642	0.6	Omaha, Douglas	434,134	3,722,845	5.1
Cambridge, Furnas	818	9,847	43.2	Ord, Valley	1,793	15,338	-2.5
Central City, Merrick	1,965	14,608	11.1	Osceola, Polk	809	6,315	-0.8
Ceresco, Saunders	1,177	9,983	8.8	Oshkosh, Garden	456	3,749	-11.6
Chadron, Dawes	3,411	28,629	-3.8	Osmond, Pierce	592	3,813	10.7
Chappell, Deuel	399	3,356	-11.3	Oxford, Furnas	371	2,695	-11.3
Clarkson, Colfax	477	3,761	6.1	Papillion, Sarpy	5,217	44,386	38.7
Clay Center, Clay	380	2,480	17.7	Pawnee City, Pawnee	286	2,484	-6.8
Columbus, Platte	19,518	171,304	3.9	Pender, Thurston	806	5,826	10.7
Cozad, Dawson	2,776	23,421	0.2	Pierce, Pierce	702	5,517	-1.4
Crawford, Dawes	566	4,455	4.7	Plainview, Pierce	680	5,213	-6.0
Creighton, Knox	1,086	8,632	1.5	Plattsmouth, Cass	3,534	26,652	6.5
Crete, Saline	3,606	29,992	-1.2	Ponca, Dixon	537	4,520	12.6
Crofton, Knox	499	3,658	16.2	Ralston, Douglas	2,803	25,527	11.2
Curtis, Frontier	335	2,570	-0.4	Randolph, Cedar	456	3,267	5.1
Dakota City, Dakota	526	5,008	-1.1	Ravenna, Buffalo	656	5,520	-7.0
David City, Butler	1,710	13,145	5.2	Red Cloud, Webster	807	5,744	-6.6
Deshler, Thayer	255	2,021	2.1	Rushville, Sheridan	628	4,777	-0.2
Dodge, Dodge	299	2,004	3.0	Sargent, Custer	211	1,705	-7.9
Doniphan, Hall	806	5,008	7.4	Schuyler, Colfax	2,062	16,608	4.8
Eagle, Cass	340	2,854	-5.5	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	19,970	169,796	4.8
Elgin, Antelope	492	3,627	8.3	Scribner, Dodge	547	4,209	8.1
Elkhorn, Douglas	2,279	16,086	15.9	Seward, Seward	5,109	40,711	1.1
Elm Creek, Buffalo	278	2,430	28.0	Shelby, Polk	359	2,770	4.6
Elwood, Gosper	484	3,639	6.7	Shelton, Buffalo	647	5,329	5.4
Fairbury, Jefferson	3,193	26,407	3.1	Sidney, Cheyenne	8,016	59,546	7.8
Fairmont, Fillmore	189	1,178	-15.4	South Sioux City, Dakota	7,777	70,033	3.5
Falls City, Richardson	2,749	21,790	4.8	Springfield, Sarpy	349	2,522	53.2
Franklin, Franklin	542	4,155	-0.7	St. Paul, Howard	1,297	10,091	2.5
Fremont, Dodge	20,285	181,806	4.2	Stanton, Stanton	555	4,789	3.8
Friend, Saline	456	4,137	-6.3	Stromsburg, Polk	1,389	8,531	9.8
Fullerton, Nance	549	4,338	-7.1	Superior, Nuckolls	1,727	13,218	4.6
Geneva, Fillmore	1,682	15,122	1.6	Sutherland, Lincoln	415	2,686	14.3
Genoa, Nance	306	2,360	11.7	Sutton, Clay	1,204	10,888	15.0
Gering, Scotts Bluff	4,120	29,865	4.2	Syracuse, Otoe	1,130	8,776	2.0
Gibbon, Buffalo	837	6,170	-1.9	Tecumseh, Johnson	1,081	8,930	2.6
Gordon, Sheridan	1,733	14,776	2.5	Tekamah, Burt	1,261	9,257	5.5
Gothenburg, Dawson	2,348	17,704	1.3	Tilden, Madison	501	3,940	6.7
Grand Island, Hall	46,481	400,149	-0.3	Utica, Seward	378	2,323	11.4
Grant, Perkins	928	8,203	6.9	Valentine, Cherry	3,975	32,689	5.2
Gretna, Sarpy	3,884	29,907	0.6	Valley, Douglas	1,450	10,413	12.0
Hartington, Cedar	1,755	13,094	-2.8	Wahoo, Saunders	2,631	20,798	-0.6
Hastings, Adams	19,027	172,712	1.6	Wakefield, Dixon	501	3,252	0.7
Hay Springs, Sheridan	348	2,815	4.6	Wauneta, Chase	340	2,885	9.8
Hebron, Thayer	1,800	13,957	-5.6	Waverly, Lancaster	648	5,517	10.5
Henderson, York	645	6,206	14.7	Wayne, Wayne	3,506	26,608	2.4
Hickman, Lancaster	249	1,997	3.3	Weeping Water, Cass	636	5,035	-7.4
Holdrege, Phelps	4,795	41,474	4.8	West Point, Cuming	4,094	31,864	10.8
Hooper, Dodge	369	2,743	14.2	Wilber, Saline	507	3,812	-4.5
Humboldt, Richardson	526	4,363	9.1	Wisner, Cuming	597	4,706	0.6
Humphrey, Platte	921	6,391	11.8	Wood River, Hall	429	3,956	2.7
Imperial, Chase	1,582	14,517	4.3	Wymore, Gage	442	3,635	4.3
Juniata, Adams	284	1,821	4.6				

*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				
	September		YTD		September		YTD		September		YTD		September		YTD
	1996	YTD	% Chg		1996	YTD	% Chg		1996	YTD	% Chg		1996	YTD	% Chg
	\$	\$			\$	\$			\$	\$			\$	\$	
Nebraska *	179,350	1,579,028	10.1		1,274,864	10,724,520	5.9	Howard	606	6,044	7.1		1,732	13,279	5.4
Adams	3,491	27,402	12.0		19,662	177,623	1.6	Jefferson	792	8,271	7.1		4,273	33,471	2.8
Antelope	1,140	8,747	21.5		2,473	17,933	2.7	Johnson	427	4,036	1.7		1,592	12,011	4.3
Arthur	35	431	27.9		62	(D)	(D)	Kearney	999	8,012	14.1		2,120	16,249	-2.1
Banner	202	1,272	31.1		(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	1,204	8,756	-2.1		6,184	53,063	7.7
Blaine	103	641	9.9		106	(D)	(D)	Keya Paha	150	952	3.1		95	738	9.0
Boone	716	7,296	9.1		2,765	21,797	12.1	Kimball	427	4,341	2.7		1,689	13,420	-8.0
Box Butte	1,525	14,091	0.6		6,353	53,719	4.8	Knox	1,093	8,816	18.7		3,171	22,997	7.0
Boyd	182	1,863	-2.1		696	5,137	5.2	Lancaster	21,972	191,613	12.4		187,504	1,563,463	10.0
Brown	422	2,757	-9.8		1,943	15,394	-3.5	Lincoln	3,600	31,303	3.4		22,339	191,374	2.6
Buffalo	4,092	38,601	15.6		31,713	271,401	5.6	Logan	122	894	-4.6		162	(D)	(D)
Burt	1,276	8,278	10.4		2,877	20,461	4.7	Loup	73	579	-18.9		(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	905	8,594	13.4		2,485	17,314	3.4	McPherson	42	601	38.5		(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	3,573	26,830	15.7		7,295	49,692	5.0	Madison	3,372	32,133	5.0		31,182	258,226	7.5
Cedar	1,285	10,020	4.1		3,123	22,459	-1.1	Merrick	771	8,689	28.6		2,675	19,631	12.0
Chase	496	4,653	-1.8		1,991	17,767	5.2	Morrill	584	5,064	5.3		1,432	12,441	-7.8
Cherry	479	5,378	-4.5		4,262	34,579	5.3	Nance	688	4,060	16.6		930	6,993	-0.9
Cheyenne	1,208	10,949	12.7		8,416	62,054	7.7	Nemaha	681	6,862	2.2		3,134	23,751	0.2
Clay	1,151	8,037	15.9		2,514	21,004	14.2	Nuckolls	568	5,073	6.4		2,338	17,889	4.8
Colfax	881	9,013	13.8		3,124	24,194	6.4	Otoe	1,462	15,015	10.8		8,264	60,285	8.4
Cuming	1,467	10,883	22.6		5,424	41,453	9.0	Pawnee	268	3,086	45.0		666	4,477	0.2
Custer	869	10,504	1.8		4,866	46,043	-1.0	Perkins	419	4,148	17.8		1,185	10,147	10.7
Dakota	2,038	18,178	16.9		9,047	81,180	3.2	Phelps	1,728	13,453	39.0		5,142	43,743	4.6
Dawes	573	6,220	2.8		3,980	33,101	-2.7	Pierce	857	8,193	14.8		2,090	15,270	0.2
Dawson	2,542	22,187	6.2		12,718	109,158	1.0	Platte	3,893	32,329	13.2		21,158	182,989	4.2
Deuel	271	2,481	37.1		805	6,880	-3.9	Polk	703	6,399	8.4		2,680	18,548	2.9
Dixon	550	5,276	2.9		1,216	8,851	7.5	Red Willow	1,079	10,851	-0.6		10,947	94,259	9.1
Dodge	4,036	33,024	15.6		22,303	197,382	4.4	Richardson	941	8,256	7.3		3,682	28,788	5.7
Douglas	45,764	404,924	10.0		442,987	3,795,565	5.2	Rock	177	1,725	-0.4		473	4,220	0.2
Dundy	292	3,143	25.4		633	4,943	6.9	Saline	1,498	13,150	15.7		4,970	41,130	-2.1
Fillmore	973	7,683	9.0		2,715	23,142	3.0	Sarpy	13,078	111,863	7.0		36,078	297,431	18.3
Franklin	224	3,059	-0.1		862	6,502	1.2	Saunders	2,661	21,231	15.0		6,010	47,473	2.9
Frontier	397	3,076	1.5		696	5,388	1.7	Scotts Bluff	3,765	33,175	4.3		25,737	212,020	3.7
Furnas	475	5,722	6.9		2,196	20,479	14.9	Seward	1,580	15,015	13.1		6,676	52,317	2.0
Gage	2,086	20,415	13.4		10,886	92,747	5.1	Sheridan	674	6,019	22.9		2,977	24,755	1.0
Garden	212	2,610	9.5		649	5,226	-10.3	Sherman	318	3,167	5.1		1,007	6,870	4.9
Garfield	167	1,613	24.8		961	6,104	-1.5	Sioux	131	1,857	15.9		181	1,236	1.1
Gosper	282	2,637	15.0		547	4,122	6.5	Stanton	657	6,102	8.0		732	6,281	8.0
Grant	90	775	-7.4		196	1,505	-0.3	Thayer	802	6,329	9.0		2,813	21,380	-2.5
Greeley	288	2,588	1.3		834	5,758	4.2	Thomas	62	861	-2.0		381	3,053	6.7
Hall	5,617	52,455	12.5		48,285	413,837	-0.3	Thurston	484	4,544	15.5		950	6,988	8.7
Hamilton	1,106	10,629	9.1		3,510	26,953	3.5	Valley	524	4,173	0.8		2,015	16,920	-2.5
Harlan	495	4,299	12.9		919	7,935	-3.0	Washington	2,530	22,662	22.3		6,880	57,388	1.6
Hayes	146	1,296	13.5		(D)	(D)	(D)	Wayne	955	7,993	7.6		3,724	27,983	2.3
Hitchcock	273	3,331	11.2		673	5,368	1.0	Webster	378	3,655	17.3		1,419	10,287	-0.8
Holt	1,523	10,962	-0.1		6,310	51,267	8.8	Wheeler	125	1,185	-3.3		128	963	14.2
Hooker	111	850	45.5		521	2,876	15.6	York	1,805	14,612	1.5		9,937	84,628	3.6

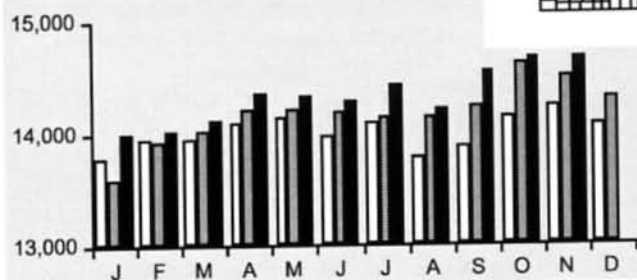
*Totals may not add due to rounding
(D) Denotes disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

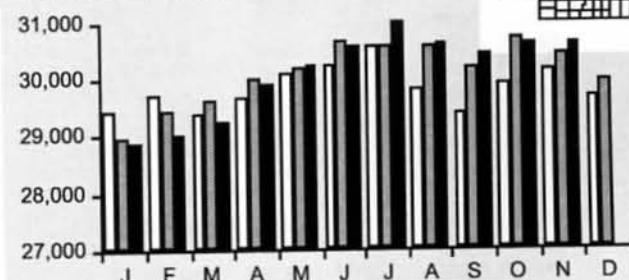
Regional Employment—1994 to November 1996

1994 1995 1996

Northwest Panhandle



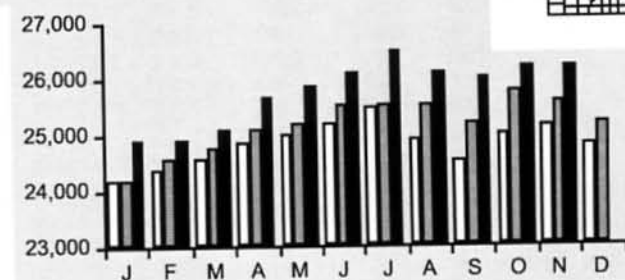
Southwest Panhandle



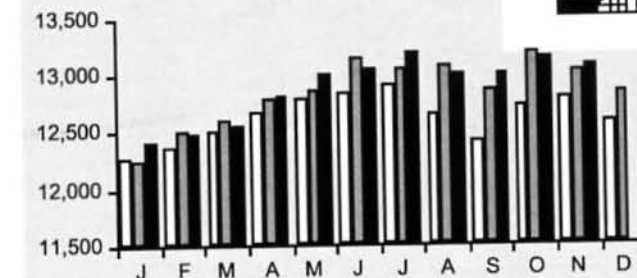
North Central



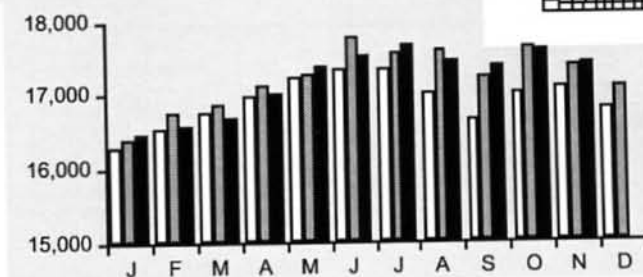
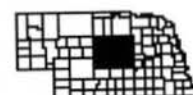
West Central



Southwest Central



East Central



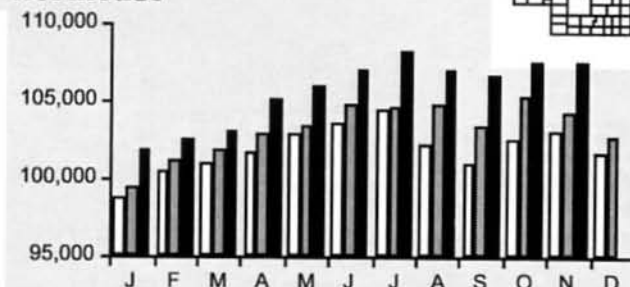
Regional Employment—1994 to November 1996

1994 1995 1996

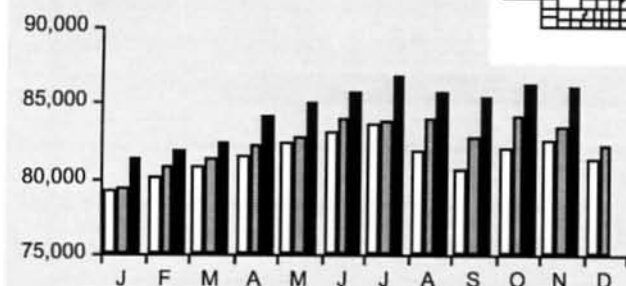
Southeast Central



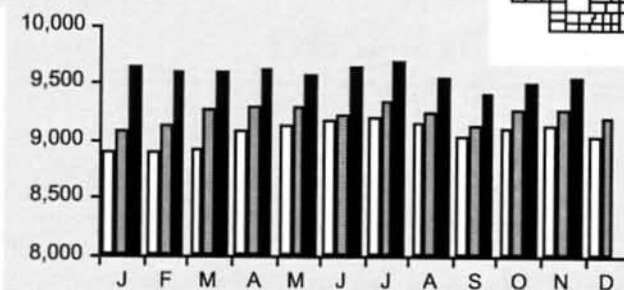
Northeast



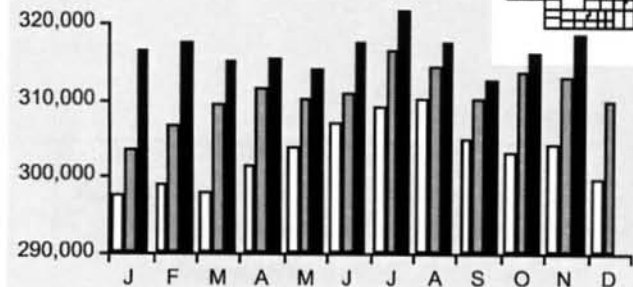
Southeast



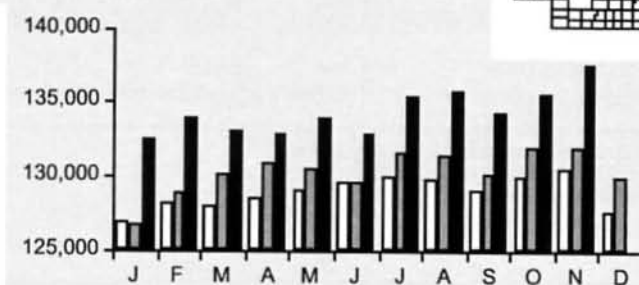
Sioux City MSA



Omaha MSA

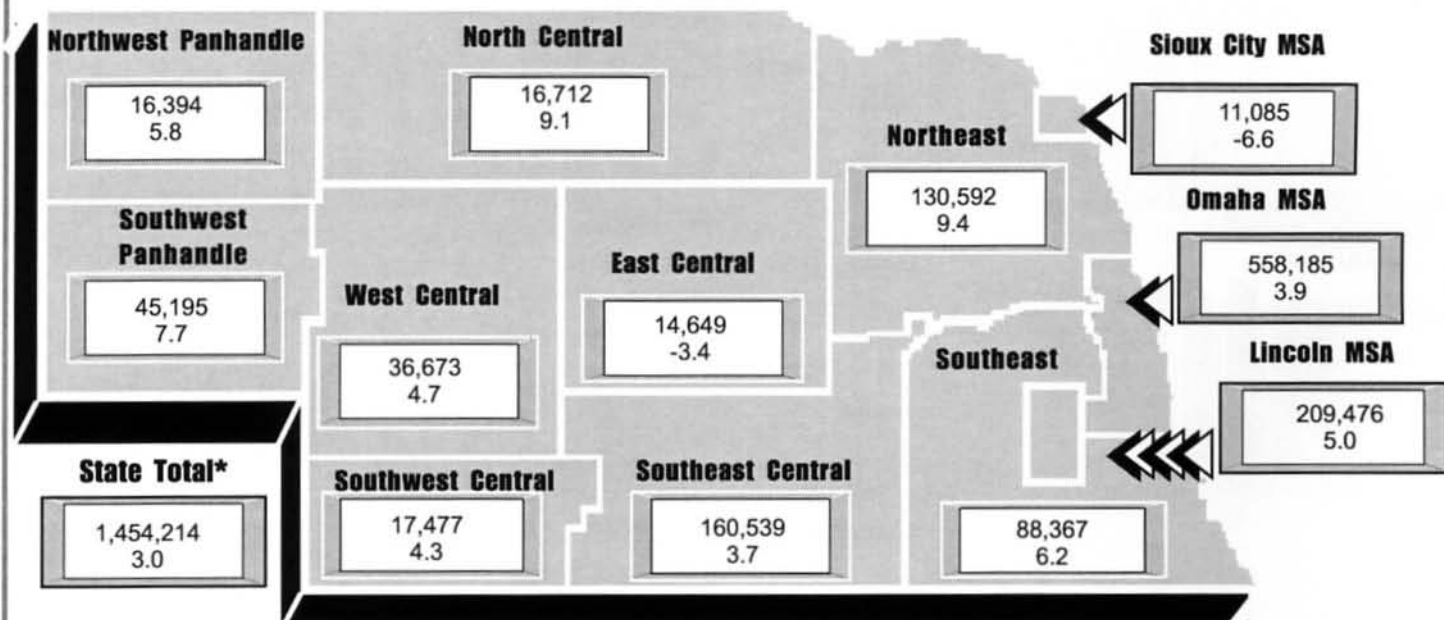


Lincoln MSA



September 1996 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 1996	Preliminary November 1996	% Change Yr. Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	840,440	844,101	2.1
Construction & Mining	38,746	37,143	0.1
Manufacturing	113,783	114,436	2.2
Durables	54,537	54,969	2.1
Nondurables	59,246	59,467	2.2
TCU*	50,351	50,847	2.4
Trade	209,804	212,215	1.1
Wholesale	55,587	54,367	0.9
Retail	154,217	157,848	1.2
FIRE**	52,548	52,666	0.3
Services	222,337	222,317	4.7
Government	152,871	154,477	0.9
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	914,144	917,011	1.6
Unemployment Rate	2.5	2.4	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Inflation Rate

Price Indices

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

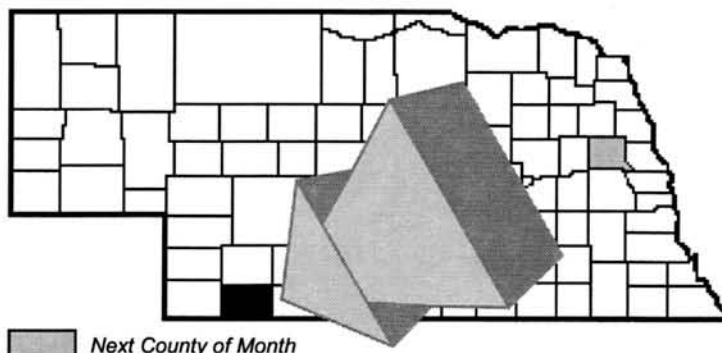
	December 1996	% Change vs Yr. Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
All Items	158.6	3.3	2.9
Commodities	141.4	3.2	2.5
Services	176.1	3.3	3.2

*U = All urban consumers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Hitchcock

Trenton-County Seat



License plate prefix number: 67

Size of county: 709 square miles, ranks 40th in the state

Population: 3,936 in 1995, a change of 5.0 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$19,049 in 1994, ranks 48th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$11,271 in 1995, a change of -7.7 percent from 1994; \$6,584 during January-July 1996, a change of 5.9 percent from the same period one year ago

Number of business and service establishments: 66 in 1993, 68.2 percent had less than five employees

Unemployment rate: 2.9 percent in Hitchcock County, 2.4 percent in Nebraska for 1995

Nonfarm employment (1995):

	State	Hitchcock County
Wage and Salary Workers	815,089	636
	(percent of total)	
Construction and Mining	4.4	4.6
Manufacturing	13.7	(D)*
TCU	6.1	(D)*
Wholesale Trade	6.5	9.4
Retail Trade	18.6	13.1
FIRE	6.4	3.9
Services	25.8	4.1
Government	18.5	55.2

*(D) denotes disclosure suppression

Agriculture:

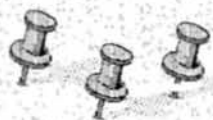
Number of farms: 379 in 1992, 426 in 1987

Average farm size: 1,065 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$30.6 million in 1992 (\$80,712 average per farm)

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

bulletin board



Data Review

The Tax Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the Nebraska Department of Revenue and is responsible for administration of state revenue laws. Tax programs administered include income tax, state and use tax, motor fuels taxes, and miscellaneous taxes.

BBR's NU ONRAMP contains data from the Nebraska Department of Revenue such as Individual Income Tax Statistics by County, Individual Income Tax Liabilities by County, Total Individual Income Tax Liability and Individual Income Tax Liability Per Return, and Per Capita Individual Income Tax Liability that the Department of Revenue compiles from state income tax returns. Personal tax and non-tax payments by state from federal, state, and local tax reports, compiled by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, also reside on NU ONRAMP.

To locate this information on NU ONRAMP, enter *Data Central* and choose *Subject Search*. Select *Government Finance and Expenditures*. Or, invoke an expert search for filenames TAX, GREV, CA, and SA5ONE.

NU ONRAMP World Wide Web Address

<http://www.cba.unl.edu/bbr/onramp.html>

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