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Nebraska's Economy Keeps on Humming

Charles Lamphear

Second quarter (April-June) 1997 business conditions survey results indicate that the state's economy continues to expand at a healthy pace with no evidence of a slowdown. Substantial numbers of the reporting businesses continue to indicate gains in operating revenues. Only 21 percent reported a decrease in 2nd quarter earnings over 1st quarter earnings. Only 25 percent reported a decrease in 2nd quarter 1997 earnings over 2nd quarter 1996 earnings.

Creation of new jobs across the state continues to grow at a nearly constant rate. At the state level, the survey shows that new job growth is averaging about 20,000 full-time jobs each quarter. Generally, the state's metro and nonmetro counties are sharing about equally in new job growth.

Many workers are taking home bigger pay checks, especially those who are finding new full-time jobs. The hourly wage differential between replacement hires for existing full-time jobs and new full-time jobs continues to average around \$3.00 per hour. The differential is higher in the state's metro counties.

The number (and rate) of unfilled positions continues to be a significant factor affecting the state's overall economic growth. During 2nd quarter 1997, slightly over 1,200 positions were unfilled, equaling about 1.6 percent of the survey employment base for the quarter. At the state level, the 1.6 percent rate represents an estimated 11,000 full-time jobs that remained unfilled at the end of 2nd quarter.

Table 1
Revenue Activity 2nd Quarter 1997¹

		2 nd Quarter Compared to	
		1 st Quarter 1997	2 nd Quarter 1996
All Establishments—number reporting		1,131	
Revenues increased	52%		48%
Revenues decreased	21%		25%
Revenues stayed the same	27%		27%
Manufacturing—number reporting		163	
Revenues increased	54%		57%
Revenues decreased	23%		26%
Revenues stayed the same	23%		17%
Wholesale Trade—number reporting		126	
Revenues increased	52%		50%
Revenues decreased	27%		26%
Revenues stayed the same	21%		24%
Retail Trade—number reporting		300	
Revenues increased	55%		44%
Revenues decreased	21%		28%
Revenues stayed the same	24%		28%
FIRE—number reporting		73	
Revenues increased	47%		54%
Revenues decreased	18%		18%
Revenues stayed the same	35%		28%
TCU—number reporting		67	
Revenues increased	58%		51%
Revenues decreased	21%		29%
Revenues stayed the same	21%		20%
Services—number reporting		280	
Revenues increased	47%		47%
Revenues decreased	23%		25%
Revenues stayed the same	30%		28%
Other—number reporting		122	
Revenues increased	50%		39%
Revenues decreased	15%		20%
Revenues stayed the same	35%		41%

¹Based on survey responses through September 5, 1997.

The 2nd quarter business conditions survey represents nearly 1,200 participating businesses and organizations across the state with a combined employment base of approximately 79,000 workers. Businesses and organizations excluded from the quarterly survey include agriculture producers, local, state, and federal government units, and nonprofit organizations. The survey covers the nonfarm, private sector of the state's overall economy. The employment base for the non-farm, private sector for the 2nd quarter of this year was about 699,000 workers. The 2nd quarter survey represents about 11 percent of that employment base.

Operating Revenues

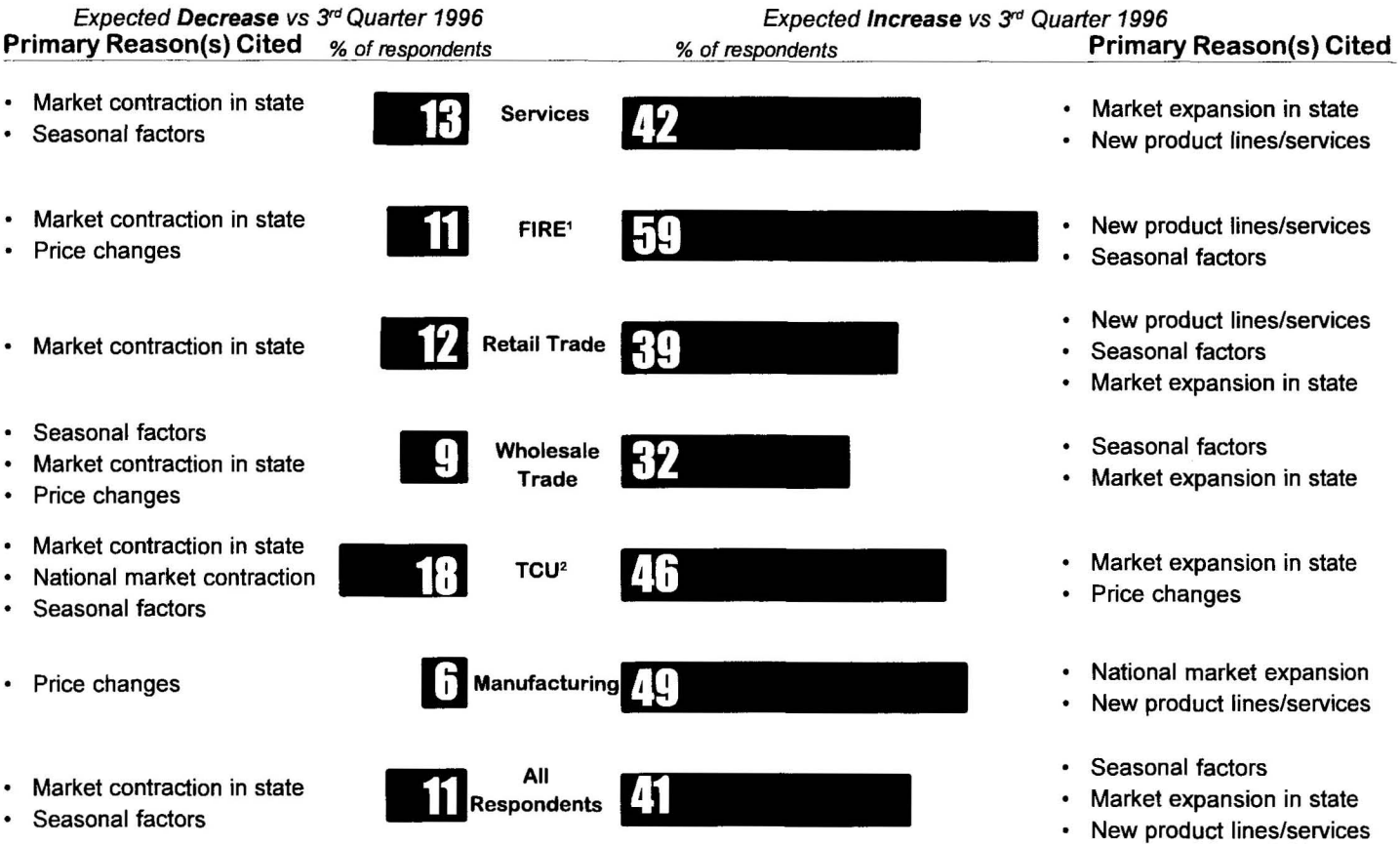
Seventy-nine percent of respondents reported 2nd quarter revenues equal to or higher than 1st quarter 1997 revenues (Table 1). In addition, 75 percent reported 2nd quarter 1997 revenues equal to or higher than 2nd quarter 1996 revenues (Table 1). This survey of Nebraska business conditions shows that 89 percent of reporting businesses expect 3rd quarter revenues to exceed, or at least equal, revenue levels realized during 3rd quarter 1996 (Figure 1).

At the industry level, 57 percent of manufacturers responding to the survey indicated revenue gains during 2nd quarter 1997 compared to 2nd quarter 1996 (Table 1). In addition, 49 percent expect 3rd quarter 1997 revenues to exceed 3rd quarter 1996 revenues (Figure 1). For the FIRE group (finance, insurance, and real estate) 54 percent of reporting businesses indicated higher 2nd quarter 1997 revenues than 2nd quarter 1996 revenues. Additionally, 59 percent expect 3rd quarter 1997 revenues to exceed 3rd quarter 1996 revenues. Forty-four percent of the 300 retailers responding to the survey indicated higher 2nd quarter 1997 revenues compared to 2nd quarter 1996 revenues. Only 12 percent (36) of the retailers in the survey expect 3rd quarter 1997 revenues to fall below 3rd quarter 1996 revenues. Revenue reports for other industry groups are given in Table 1 and Figure 1.

Job Creation and Replacement Hires

Survey respondents reported the creation of slightly over 2,200 new full-time jobs during the 2nd quarter 1997, or about 29 new full-time jobs per 1,000 employees (Tables 2 and 3). The full-time, new job growth rate in the state's nonmetro counties was 30 new jobs per 1,000 employees. The rate for the metro counties was 28 new jobs per 1,000 employees.

Figure 1
Respondents Expecting Revenue Change in 3rd Quarter 1997



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

Table 2
Number of New and Replacement Hires
2nd Quarter 1997

	State		Metro ¹		Nonmetro	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Replacement hires	3,668	2,279	2,293	1,465	1,374	814
New job hires	2,254	939	1,246	573	1,008	366
Total	5,922	3,218	3,539	2,038	2,382	1,180

¹Metro includes Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

Note: Sum of Metro and Nonmetro may not add to State total because some businesses' activities are not restricted to a single county or region.

The rates for the two metro county areas, Omaha MSA and Lincoln MSA, were 25 and 34 per 1,000 employees, respectively. Of the state's nonmetro county areas—Northeast, Southeast, Central, Mid-Plains, and Panhandle regions—the Northeast and Central regions reported the highest rate at 34 new full-time jobs per 1,000 employees.

Table 4 gives average rates of new and replacement full-time hires per 1,000 employees for the combined 1st and 2nd quarters, 1997. The Northeast region led with 47 new full-time hires per 1,000 employees. The Omaha MSA was a distant second with 31 new full-time hires per 1,000 employees.

Survey respondents reported a total of 3,668 full-time replacement hires during 2nd quarter 1997 (Table 2). Slightly over 62 percent of the total replacement hires occurred in the metro counties. The Omaha MSA replacement hire rate was 51 per 1,000 employees (Table 3). The average rate for the Omaha MSA for the combined 1st and 2nd quarters was 51 replacement hires per 1,000 employees (Table 4). The average for the central region was also 51 replacement hires per 1,000 employees.

Nearly 6,000 total new and replacement full-time hires were reported during 2nd quarter 1997 (Table 2). About 4 out of every 10 full-time hires (38 percent) represented new hires. The rate for the state's nonmetro counties was 42 percent.

Assuming that the 2nd quarter survey is representative of the state's total nonfarm private sector employment, an estimated 20,000 new full-time jobs were created during 2nd quarter 1997. Moreover, an estimated 52,600 full-time hires occurred during 2nd quarter that include both new and replacement hires.

Substantial new job growth occurred in all nine occupational groups (Table 5). Nearly 35 percent of all hires for new jobs occurred in the professional groups (executives/administrators, managers/professional specialists, and marketing/sales representatives). This is comparable to 1st quarter 1997 and 4th quarter 1996 survey findings of 32 percent and 29 percent, respectively. In the state's nonmetro counties, about 20 percent of new full-time hires occurred in the professional group. The rate for the metro counties was nearly 47 percent.

Table 3
Job Hire Rates for Full-time New and Replacement Positions per 1,000 Employees
2nd Quarter 1997

	New Hires	Replacement Hires
State	29	47
Metro	28	51
Nonmetro	30	41
Regions ¹		
Omaha MSA	25	51
Lincoln MSA	34	50
Northeast	34	34
Southeast	24	37
Central	34	50
Mid-Plains	27	32
Panhandle	19	54

¹See region composition note at end of article.

Table 4
Average Job Hire Rates for Full-time New and Replacement Positions per 1,000 Employees
1st and 2nd Quarter 1997

	New Hires	Replacement Hires
State	32	44
Metro	30	48
Nonmetro	34	38
Regions ¹		
Omaha MSA	31	51
Lincoln MSA	29	42
Northeast	47	31
Southeast	22	31
Central	30	51
Mid-Plains	24	30
Panhandle	25	41

¹See region composition note at end of article.

Table 5
Number of New and Replacement Hires by Occupation
2nd Quarter 1997 (Full-time Positions)

Occupation	State		Metro ¹		Nonmetro	
	New Position Hires	Replace- ment Hires	New Position Hires	Replace- ment Hires	New Position Hires	Replace- ment Hires
Executives/Administrators	81	22	59	14	22	8
Managers	227	126	162	103	65	22
Professional Specialists	319	318	251	241	68	77
Marketing/Sales	154	196	108	148	46	48
Administrative Support/Clerical	216	333	145	250	71	83
Service Workers	388	756	207	461	181	295
Transportation/Material Movers	92	244	47	93	45	151
Production/Craft/Repair	267	635	122	389	145	246
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	510	1,038	145	594	365	444
Total	2,254	3,668	1,246	2,293	1,008	1,374

¹Metro includes Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

Note: Sum of Metro and Nonmetro may not add to State total because some businesses' activities are not restricted to a single county or region.

Wages

Survey results of wages for 2nd quarter 1997 are reported in Tables 6 through 8. Table 6 shows average hourly wages without regard to occupation. Tables 7 and 8 show average hourly wages by occupation. Results of this survey plus the results from previous surveys show a consistent, substantial wage differential between full-time new hires and full-time replacement hires. At the state level, the average hourly wage differential for full-time hires is \$2.83 (Table 6). For nonmetro

and metro counties, the average hourly wage differentials are \$1.63 and \$3.97, respectively. One reason for these differentials is regional differences in the occupation mix of both job turnover and new job growth. New job hires represent a higher percent of professional occupations than the comparable percent for replacement hires. Also, total job hires in nonmetro counties represent a greater proportion of production and service occupations than the comparable proportion for metro

Table 6
Average Hourly Wages for New and Replacement Hires
2nd Quarter 1997

	State		Metro ¹		Nonmetro	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Replacement hires	\$9.30	\$6.43	\$9.77	\$6.69	\$8.51	\$5.96
New hires	\$12.13	\$6.57	\$13.74	\$6.97	\$10.14	\$5.96

¹Metro includes Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

Table 7
Average Hourly Wages for Replacement Hires by Occupation
2nd Quarter 1997

Occupation	State		Metro ¹		Nonmetro	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Executives/Administrators	\$23.68	—	\$25.50	—	\$20.50	—
Managers	\$18.93	\$9.80	\$20.01	\$10.00	\$14.40	—
Professional Specialists	\$15.49	\$14.06	\$16.30	\$14.84	\$12.93	\$10.94
Marketing/Sales	\$11.48	\$6.21	\$11.59	\$6.52	\$11.13	\$5.80
Administrative Support/Clerical	\$8.35	\$6.59	\$8.50	\$6.87	\$7.88	\$6.07
Service Workers	\$6.61	\$5.74	\$6.65	\$5.81	\$6.56	\$5.62
Transportation/Material Movers	\$12.28	\$8.72	\$9.76	\$10.77	\$13.83	\$7.76
Production/Craft/Repair	\$8.38	\$7.62	\$8.94	\$8.37	\$7.49	\$7.00
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	\$7.66	\$6.51	\$8.05	\$6.79	\$7.13	\$5.94

¹Metro includes Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

counties. As reported in the June 1997 issue of *Business in Nebraska*, the possibility exists of a new trend in higher-wage job growth in Nebraska. If this is an emerging new trend, and there is evidence to support this notion, it should be welcome news for job seekers who want to make Nebraska their home.

Tables 7 and 8 compare wages by occupation for new and replacement full-time hires. The average hourly wage for

replacement hires at the state level exceeded the average hourly wage for new hires in three occupational categories—executive/administrators, managers/professional specialists, and transportation/material movers. The average hourly wage for replacement hires for the nonmetro counties exceeded the average hourly wage for new hires in one occupational category—transportation/material movers.

Table 8
Average Hourly Wages for New Position Hires by Occupation
2nd Quarter 1997

Occupation	State		Metro ¹		Nonmetro	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
Executives/Administrators	\$22.59	—	\$22.77	—	\$22.11	—
Managers	\$18.83	\$11.57	\$19.26	—	\$17.75	—
Professional Specialists	\$17.48	\$12.27	\$17.95	\$12.69	\$15.75	\$10.72
Marketing/Sales	\$12.95	\$6.28	\$12.83	\$6.30	\$13.23	\$6.26
Administrative Support/Clerical	\$9.75	\$6.48	\$9.89	\$6.56	\$9.45	\$6.19
Service Workers	\$7.52	\$6.03	\$7.51	\$6.16	\$7.53	\$5.76
Transportation/Material Movers	\$9.83	\$6.64	\$9.86	\$5.54	\$9.81	\$8.29
Production/Craft/Repair	\$10.86	\$7.15	\$14.37	\$6.98	\$7.91	\$7.22
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	\$9.52	\$6.22	\$10.82	\$7.67	\$9.00	\$5.35

¹Metro includes Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

Unfilled Positions

Respondents reported that 1,232 open full-time positions went unfilled during 2nd quarter 1997 (Table 9). Of that total, 645 (52 percent) were not filled due to a lack of qualified applicants. A proportionately higher number of unfilled jobs occurred in the state's nonmetro counties (61 percent). The comparable rate for the state's metro counties was 49 percent. As reported in previous issues of *Business in Nebraska*, data on unqualified applicants should be interpreted with caution. Applicants may be unqualified for a variety of reasons, including lack of necessary job skills, previous work habits, or employer expectations. Further, it takes time to find suitable matches of jobs and skilled workers at virtually all occupational levels. Unfilled positions are an indication of how intense the search is for new employees.

Detailed regional reports for the five nonmetro regions and two metro regions for the 2nd quarter survey are available on the following internet sites:

www.bbr.unl.edu
www.ded.state.ne.us
www.dol.state.ne.us

NQBCS is a joint project of the Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Labor, and BBR. The following individuals contributed to the completion of this report: Phil Baker, Jolee Wheatley, Jane Sutherland, and Clarence Waldman, Nebraska Department of Labor; Tom Doering and Stu Miller, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; and David Bennett, Annette Miller, and Charles Lamphear, BBR.

Region Composition

Omaha MSA: Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

Lincoln MSA: Lancaster County

Northeast: Antelope, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Colfax, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Holt, Keya Paha, Knox, Madison, Pierce, Platte, Rock, Stanton, Thurston, and Wayne Counties.

Southeast: Butler, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, and York Counties.

Central: Adams, Blaine, Buffalo, Clay, Custer, Franklin, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Harlan, Howard, Kearney, Loup, Merrick, Nance, Nuckolls, Phelps, Sherman, Valley, Webster, and Wheeler Counties.

Mid-Plains: Arthur, Chase, Cherry, Dawson, Dundy, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Grant, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Keith, Lincoln, Logan, McPherson, Perkins, Red Willow, and Thomas Counties.

Panhandle: Banner, Box Butte, Cheyenne, Dawes, Deuel, Garden, Kimball, Morrill, Scotts Bluff, Sheridan, and Sioux Counties.

Table 9
Total Unfilled Positions and Positions Unfilled Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants (Full-time Positions)
2nd Quarter 1997

Occupation	State		Metro ¹		Nonmetro	
	Total Unfilled	Unfilled Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants	Total Unfilled	Unfilled Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants	Total Unfilled	Unfilled Due to Lack of Qualified Applicants
Executives/Administrators	11	2	9	2	2	0
Managers	58	29	38	20	18	9
Professional Specialists	153	78	106	60	39	18
Marketing/Sales	123	68	68	29	52	39
Administrative Support/Clerical	65	14	44	8	12	6
Service Workers	249	115	117	59	130	56
Transportation/Material Movers	71	45	29	12	42	33
Production/Craft/Repair	188	144	125	96	63	48
Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	314	150	226	88	88	62
Total	1,232	645	762	374	446	271

¹Metro includes Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, and Washington Counties.

Note: Sum of Metro and Nonmetro may not add to State total because some businesses' activities are not restricted to a single county or region.

The Potential Impact of Population Change on School Districts in Nebraska

Lisa Darlington

Projections of the school-age population (age 5 to 17) were presented in the last issue of *Business in Nebraska*. The analysis showed that the school-age population statewide will decrease from 1995 to 2010. Only 18 of the state's 93 counties will experience increases in the number of school age children.

What are the potential impacts of these population losses on school districts across the state? One way to examine the impact is to focus on the number of school districts. Table 1 (see pages 8-9) presents the following for each of the state's 93 counties:

Column A—Projected rate of change in school age population from 1995 to 2010.

Column B—Total number of students enrolled in all (public and nonpublic) elementary and secondary schools in Fall 1996¹.

Column C—Projected number of students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools in Fall 2010 based on the projected rate of change in column A.

Column D—The difference in numbers of students enrolled, 1996 versus 2010.

Column E—Total number of school districts in 1996.

Column F—Average enrollment per district in 1996.

Column G—Projected average enrollment per district in 2010, assuming that the number of districts does not change.

¹Source: Nebraska Department of Education

Column H—The change in the number of school districts that would be required to maintain 1996 average enrollment per district in 2010.

Columns I & J—The range of enrollment across districts, 1996.



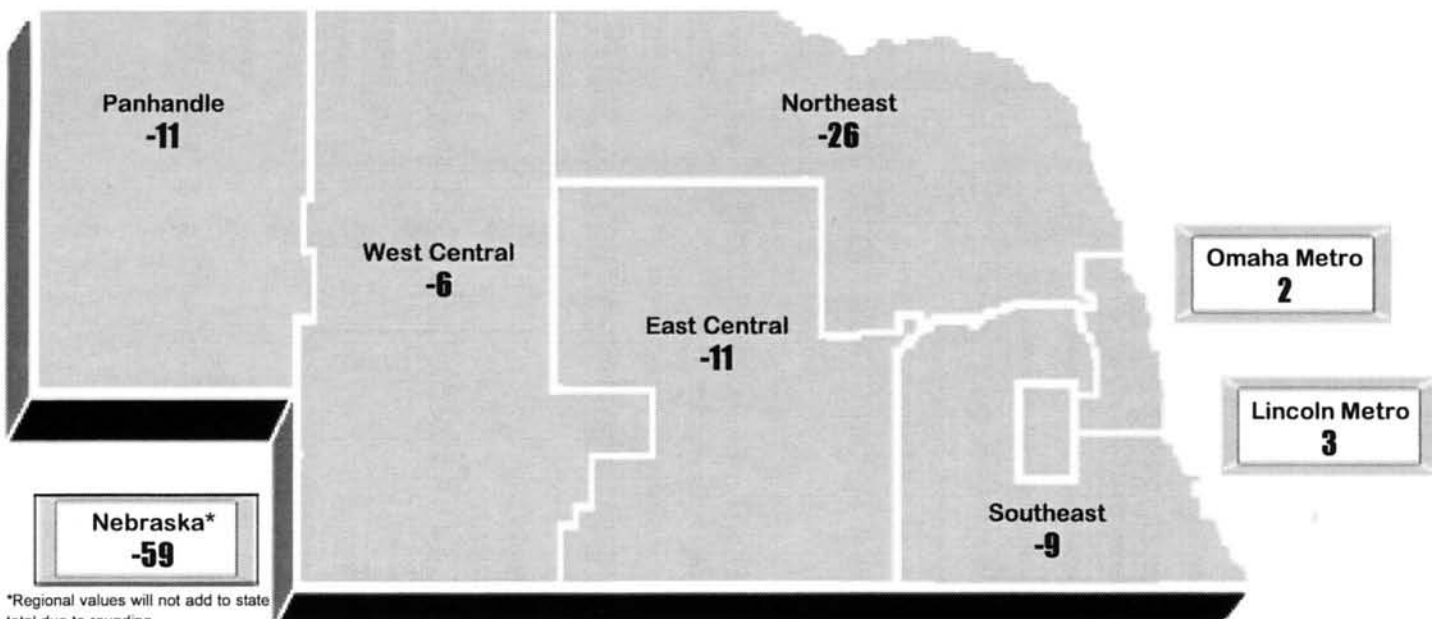
A negative number in Column H indicates that in order to maintain current average student enrollment per district in 2010, the number of districts in a county would have to decrease. A positive number indicates that the average would be maintained with an increase in the number of districts.

In 49 counties the number of school districts would have to decrease by at least one in order to maintain current average enrollment in 2010. Holt County would require a reduction of seven districts; Boone County would lose four districts. Conversely, Dawson County would require an increase of six districts to maintain average enrollment at current levels; Lancaster County would require the addition of three districts. Summing the values in Column H yields a net loss of 59 districts statewide.

Changes would vary widely across regions of the state (Figure 1). The Northeast region would have to lose 26 districts to maintain current average enrollments. The East Central and Panhandle regions each would lose 11 districts. Only the two metro regions would gain districts in this analysis.

Figure 1

Change in Number of School Districts Needed to Maintain 1996 Average Enrollment in 2010, by Region



*Regional values will not add to state total due to rounding.

Table1
School District Impact Analysis, by County

	Population Change 1995-2010	Enrollment 1996	Enrollment 2010	Column C Minus Column B	Number of Districts 1996	Average Enrollment Per District 1996	Average Enrollment Per District 2010	Change in Number of Districts	1996 Enrollment Range	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Adams	-15.3%	5,654	4,904	-750	15	377	327	-2	17	3,403
Antelope	-38.9%	1,499	1,079	-420	10	150	108	-3	0	546
Arthur	-15.3%	103	89	-14	5	21	18	-1	0	56
Banner	-36.7%	230	168	-62	1	230	168	**	230	230
Blaine	-5.1%	175	166	-9	1	175	166	**	175	175
Boone	-33.2%	1,500	1,127	-373	15	100	75	-4	8	659
Box Butte	-26.3%	3,042	2,408	-634	11	277	219	-2	4	2,269
Boyd	-27.8%	631	494	-137	3	210	165	-1	124	345
Brown	-24.1%	698	562	-136	9	78	62	-2	0	573
Buffalo	7.4%	7,871	8,501	630	18	437	472	1	10	4,636
Burt	-5.5%	1,694	1,606	-88	5	339	321	0	5	712
Butler	-7.5%	1,909	1,776	-133	12	159	148	-1	6	621
Cass	0.8%	3,885	3,915	30	8	486	489	0	32	1,573
Cedar	-17.9%	2,398	2,033	-365	8	300	254	-1	51	514
Chase	-34.8%	1,094	812	-282	5	219	162	-1	21	433
Cherry	-10.4%	1,201	1,088	-113	32	38	34	-3	1	464
Cheyenne	-9.2%	2,087	1,911	-176	6	348	318	-1	15	1,387
Clay	-6.5%	1,698	1,594	-104	7	243	228	0	6	482
Colfax	-0.5%	2,363	2,352	-11	13	182	181	0	5	760
Cuming	-7.0%	2,351	2,196	-155	10	235	220	-1	7	628
Custer	-8.6%	2,351	2,165	-186	19	124	114	-2	2	935
Dakota	4.5%	3,630	3,799	169	4	908	950	0	52	2,932
Dawes	0.8%	1,600	1,612	12	14	114	115	0	5	964
Dawson	23.7%	5,116	6,703	1,587	20	256	335	6	7	2,373
Deuel	-45.1%	533	367	-166	2	267	184	-1	256	277
Dixon	-3.6%	877	847	-30	4	219	212	0	44	423
Dodge	4.2%	7,023	7,334	311	21	334	349	1	7	4,501
Douglas	0.8%	92,821	93,605	784	76	1,221	1,232	1	1	44,761
Dundy	-30.7%	368	282	-86	1	368	282	**	368	368
Fillmore	-20.5%	1,440	1,195	-245	9	160	133	-2	15	553
Franklin	-29.8%	596	459	-137	4	149	115	-1	14	366
Frontier	-10.3%	742	673	-69	3	247	224	0	230	278
Furnas	-6.7%	1,315	1,232	-83	3	438	411	0	346	596
Gage	4.0%	3,612	3,761	149	10	361	376	0	4	2,306
Garden	-48.5%	446	300	-146	6	74	50	-2	6	192
Garfield	-38.3%	413	299	-114	7	59	43	-2	7	202
Gosper	-11.7%	268	240	-28	2	134	120	0	18	250
Grant	-26.2%	244	193	-51	6	41	32	-1	4	139
Greeley	-31.4%	788	600	-188	6	131	100	-1	36	229
Hall	7.9%	10,416	11,314	898	18	579	629	2	1	7,238
Hamilton	-5.4%	1,828	1,735	-93	5	366	347	0	18	1,323
Harlan	-32.4%	421	318	-103	2	211	159	0	3	418
Hayes	-55.7%	169	109	-60	1	169	109	**	169	169
Hitchcock	-46.2%	564	386	-178	3	188	129	-1	150	261
Holt	-25.0%	2,733	2,186	-547	34	80	64	-7	0	871
Hooker	-40.8%	220	156	-64	1	220	156	**	220	220
Howard	5.2%	1,619	1,709	90	6	270	285	0	26	678
Jefferson	-19.2%	2,131	1,787	-344	6	355	298	-1	39	1,056
Johnson	-16.9%	1,028	879	-149	6	171	147	-1	10	415
Kearney	-13.0%	1,387	1,228	-159	3	462	409	0	212	858
Keith	-11.6%	1,698	1,521	-177	8	212	190	-1	4	1,268
Keya Paha	-20.9%	183	151	-32	7	26	22	-1	4	72
Kimball	-6.8%	734	687	-47	1	734	687	**	734	734
Knox	-9.5%	2,324	2,122	-202	9	258	236	-1	57	484
Lancaster	6.4%	41,137	43,950	2,813	42	979	1,046	3	0	30,691
Lincoln	-2.4%	6,785	6,627	-158	15	452	442	0	9	4,429
Logan	-45.7%	220	151	-69	1	220	151	**	220	220
Loup	-8.7%	140	129	-11	1	140	129	**	140	140
Madison	1.7%	8,457	8,603	146	23	368	374	0	9	4,449
McPherson	-25.8%	112	89	-23	6	19	15	-1	0	47
Merrick	-0.3%	1,809	1,803	-6	6	302	301	0	43	845
Morrill	-26.5%	1,166	922	-244	6	194	154	-1	0	565
Nance	-27.9%	869	679	-190	6	145	113	-1	4	427
Nemaha	-12.1%	1,331	1,187	-144	5	266	237	-1	2	1,059
Nuckolls	-30.7%	997	763	-234	5	199	153	-1	7	589
Otoe	6.3%	2,982	3,183	201	13	229	245	1	5	1,420
Pawnee	-8.0%	674	624	-50	3	225	208	0	135	313
Perkins	-40.6%	682	485	-197	4	171	121	-1	24	444
Phelps	1.6%	1,988	2,020	32	7	284	289	0	43	1,189
Pierce	-16.4%	1,866	1,604	-262	10	187	160	-1	4	752
Platte	-13.8%	7,102	6,239	-863	20	355	312	-2	26	3,581
Polk	-7.0%	1,204	1,125	-79	5	241	225	0	258	331

(continued)

Table 1 (cont'd)

	Population Change 1995-2010	Enrollment 1996	Enrollment 2010	Column C Minus Column B	Number of Districts 1996	Average Enrollment Per District 1996	Average Enrollment Per District 2010	Change in Number of Districts	1996 Enrollment Range	
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Red Willow	-12.5%	2,349	2,088	-261	8	294	261	-1	13	1,595
Richardson	-12.9%	2,043	1,809	-234	6	341	301	-1	18	1,030
Rock	-51.3%	367	242	-125	8	46	30	-3	5	149
Saline	-13.1%	2,800	2,477	-323	9	311	275	-1	10	1,428
Sarpy	17.5%	21,284	25,808	4,524	11	1935	2,346	2	2	8,902
Saunders	-2.7%	3,754	3,656	-98	22	171	166	-1	0	823
Scotts Bluff	5.5%	7,443	7,876	433	13	573	606	1	19	3,209
Seward	-15.5%	3,361	2,910	-451	7	480	416	-1	37	1,442
Sheridan	-10.7%	1,365	1,233	-132	30	46	41	-3	0	403
Sherman	-31.6%	634	482	-152	5	127	96	-1	4	470
Sioux	-20.2%	162	135	-27	16	10	8	-3	3	53
Stanton	-27.7%	569	446	-123	7	81	64	-2	0	502
Thayer	-26.6%	1,314	1,038	-276	8	164	130	-2	24	438
Thomas	-21.5%	144	119	-25	2	72	59	0	62	82
Thurston	1.6%	2,144	2,179	35	6	357	363	0	69	474
Valley	-25.5%	906	722	-184	7	129	103	-1	7	640
Washington	-14.9%	3,622	3,151	-471	6	604	525	-1	20	2,223
Wayne	11.6%	1,856	2,100	244	8	232	262	1	8	944
Webster	-15.0%	789	686	-103	3	263	229	0	87	387
Wheeler	-26.4%	164	130	-34	1	164	130	**	164	164
York	-1.1%	2,803	2,773	-30	10	280	277	0	15	1,415
Nebraska	-1.3%	333,115	328,795	-4,320	892	373	369	***-59		

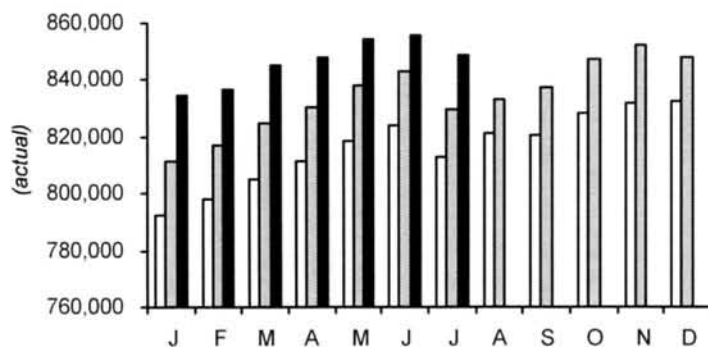
**Not applicable, county has only one (1) district.

***Sum of column values

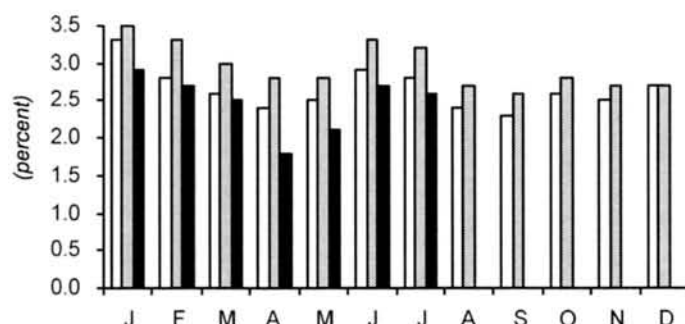
Nebraska Stats

1995 1996 1997

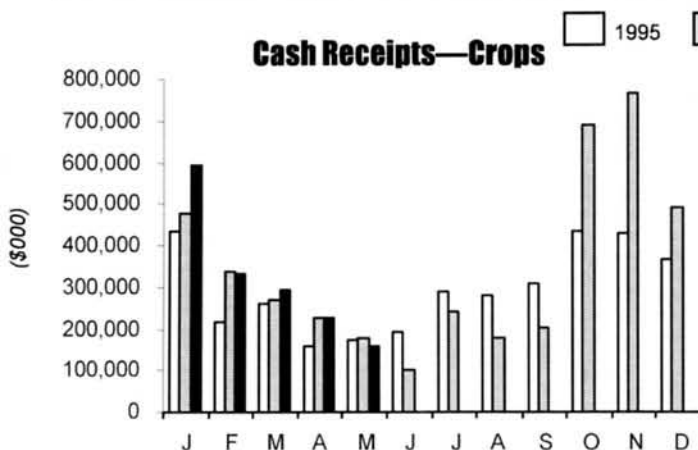
Total Nonfarm Employment



Unemployment Rate



Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



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

	May 1997 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago		May 1997 (\$000)	YTD (\$000)	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown	1,891	8,337	12.9	Kenesaw, Adams	119	473	-8.7
Albion, Boone	1,768	7,999	-13.5	Kimball, Kimball	1,693	7,414	15.3
Alliance, Box Butte	6,139	28,571	8.4	La Vista, Sarpy	8,316	35,416	5.1
Alma, Harlan	710	3,090	0.0	Laurel, Cedar	378	1,769	7.2
Arapahoe, Furnas	702	3,285	12.8	Lexington, Dawson	6,892	33,844	-3.3
Arlington, Washington	165	912	8.1	Lincoln, Lancaster	182,044	870,088	6.7
Arnold, Custer	234	1,242	6.5	Louisville, Cass	952	2,522	57.8
Ashland, Saunders	1,467	5,084	20.3	Loup City, Sherman	521	2,637	6.4
Atkinson, Holt	987	4,131	18.0	Lyons, Burt	461	2,058	14.1
Auburn, Nemaha	2,475	11,923	4.3	Madison, Madison	704	3,649	5.3
Aurora, Hamilton	2,535	12,555	1.9	McCook, Red Willow	11,242	51,602	8.0
Axtell, Kearney	54	355	-1.1	Milford, Seward	684	4,394	11.0
Bassett, Rock	464	1,874	-0.1	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	198	1,072	29.3
Battle Creek, Madison	508	3,055	2.8	Minden, Kearney	1,739	8,050	18.6
Bayard, Morrill	373	1,913	2.1	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	753	4,530	38.9
Beatrice, Gage	10,580	50,388	14.0	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	464	2,124	21.0
Beaver City, Furnas	109	539	7.4	Nebraska City, Otoe	6,373	28,015	15.8
Bellevue, Sarpy	18,780	81,415	2.1	Neligh, Antelope	1,559	6,991	36.8
Benkelman, Dundy	582	2,485	7.9	Newman Grove, Madison	310	1,674	7.2
Bennington, Douglas	523	1,782	9.6	Norfolk, Madison	29,367	134,110	6.9
Blair, Washington	6,600	30,636	11.7	North Bend, Dodge	481	2,370	4.1
Bloomfield, Knox	582	2,839	9.8	North Platte, Lincoln	21,396	97,455	2.3
Blue Hill, Webster	443	2,112	16.7	O'Neill, Holt	4,446	19,767	-4.2
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,088	5,234	26.7	Oakland, Burt	539	2,980	1.7
Broken Bow, Custer	3,871	18,318	-19.0	Ogallala, Keith	5,371	24,091	1.8
Burwell, Garfield	699	3,022	12.5	Omaha, Douglas	429,807	2,056,349	3.9
Cairo, Hall	181	967	11.0	Ord, Valley	1,946	9,035	13.9
Cambridge, Furnas	666	4,344	-28.0	Osceola, Polk	693	3,471	3.7
Central City, Merrick	1,731	8,038	7.9	Oshkosh, Garden	413	1,948	0.8
Chadron, Dawes	3,501	16,208	15.7	Osmond, Pierce	384	1,653	-1.9
Chappell, Deuel	411	1,922	11.4	Oxford, Furnas	507	2,796	112.8
Clarkson, Colfax	479	2,117	5.8	Papillion, Sarpy	5,765	28,172	24.4
Clay Center, Clay	259	1,377	21.6	Pawnee City, Pawnee	318	1,543	10.4
Columbus, Platte	20,817	94,440	1.4	Pender, Thurston	741	3,339	12.6
Cozad, Dawson	3,136	14,069	13.1	Pierce, Pierce	600	3,045	8.1
Crawford, Dawes	543	2,136	24.3	Plainview, Pierce	641	3,503	30.0
Creighton, Knox	867	4,510	2.2	Plattsmouth, Cass	3,337	15,469	14.3
Crete, Saline	3,254	15,517	-1.5	Ponca, Dixon	442	2,342	-0.8
Crofton, Knox	393	1,722	0.7	Ralston, Douglas	3,190	15,065	11.4
Curtis, Frontier	284	1,405	7.5	Randolph, Cedar	360	1,711	5.8
Dakota City, Dakota	395	1,942	-29.3	Ravenna, Buffalo	745	3,523	20.7
David City, Butler	1,322	6,573	-6.0	Red Cloud, Webster	777	3,733	37.0
Deshler, Thayer	234	1,040	-2.7	Rushville, Sheridan	563	2,424	-0.7
Dodge, Dodge	199	1,008	2.0	Sargent, Custer	188	947	6.3
Doniphan, Hall	685	3,578	54.1	Schuyler, Colfax	1,875	8,890	2.0
Eagle, Cass	471	1,389	17.7	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	21,342	99,927	11.9
Elgin, Antelope	395	2,112	10.5	Scribner, Dodge	459	2,098	2.2
Elkhorn, Douglas	2,390	9,440	23.6	Seward, Seward	4,853	22,811	6.1
Elm Creek, Buffalo	278	1,382	8.0	Shelby, Polk	297	1,550	1.2
Elwood, Gosper	465	1,707	10.4	Shelton, Buffalo	567	2,588	-0.2
Fairbury, Jefferson	3,044	14,426	1.7	Sidney, Cheyenne	7,245	30,841	15.7
Fairmont, Fillmore	143	758	22.5	South Sioux City, Dakota	7,946	38,285	-0.6
Falls City, Richardson	2,483	12,543	8.1	Springfield, Sarpy	334	1,250	6.4
Franklin, Franklin	424	1,965	-7.3	St. Paul, Howard	1,224	5,964	19.4
Fremont, Dodge	20,980	93,467	-4.2	Stanton, Stanton	502	2,750	7.6
Friend, Saline	434	2,474	6.0	Stromsburg, Polk	1,068	4,869	40.1
Fullerton, Nance	467	2,707	20.0	Superior, Nuckolls	1,649	7,970	20.6
Geneva, Fillmore	1,894	8,789	7.7	Sutherland, Lincoln	263	1,283	-0.2
Genoa, Nance	246	1,113	-3.5	Sutton, Clay	981	5,141	-17.8
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,514	14,966	-0.8	Syracuse, Otoe	1,084	4,818	6.6
Gibbon, Buffalo	764	3,973	19.2	Tecumseh, Johnson	912	4,750	-0.7
Gordon, Sheridan	1,800	8,333	10.3	Tekamah, Burt	987	5,058	8.7
Gothensburg, Dawson	2,148	10,116	19.7	Tilden, Madison	419	2,043	1.7
Grand Island, Hall	48,708	224,565	5.5	Utica, Seward	200	1,035	-6.8
Grant, Perkins	1,224	4,958	19.5	Valentine, Cherry	3,831	17,413	8.6
Gretna, Sarpy	3,376	14,640	2.8	Valley, Douglas	1,742	5,726	28.7
Hartington, Cedar	1,551	7,571	15.2	Wahoo, Saunders	2,621	12,410	14.9
Hastings, Adams	20,711	96,135	2.0	Wakefield, Dixon	322	1,743	4.5
Hay Springs, Sheridan	294	1,532	-0.8	Wauneta, Chase	252	1,526	12.5
Hebron, Thayer	1,836	9,097	26.0	Waverly, Lancaster	624	3,749	30.7
Henderson, York	618	2,650	-7.8	Wayne, Wayne	3,065	14,788	6.1
Hickman, Lancaster	187	1,007	5.8	Weeping Water, Cass	658	3,044	22.5
Holdrege, Phelps	4,796	21,881	1.9	West Point, Cuming	3,851	18,769	11.5
Hooper, Dodge	296	1,635	11.5	Wilber, Saline	441	2,215	13.8
Humboldt, Richardson	459	2,429	5.0	Wisner, Cuming	585	2,866	16.4
Humphrey, Platte	704	3,285	-0.4	Wood River, Hall	601	1,986	-2.8
Imperial, Chase	2,219	8,849	15.4	Wymore, Gage	396	2,000	9.3
Juniata, Adams	166	1,115	11.6	York, York	9,146	42,305	8.0
Kearney, Buffalo	29,577	135,263	4.5				

*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		
	May	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	May	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago		May	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago	May	YTD	% Chg. vs Yr. Ago
	1997	YTD		1997	YTD			1997	YTD		1997	YTD	
	(\$000)	(\$000)		(\$000)	(\$000)			(\$000)	(\$000)		(\$000)	(\$000)	
Nebraska*	191,834	888,555	6.1	1,253,575	5,945,100	4.8	Jefferson	1,093	5,237	19.2	3,907	18,631	6.8
Adams	3,450	16,047	8.1	21,149	98,909	2.0	Johnson	419	2,332	-3.9	1,180	6,314	-2.7
Antelope	1,102	5,326	11.3	2,317	10,742	22.7	Kearney	884	5,121	16.6	1,940	9,034	15.6
Arthur	70	190	-15.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	1,172	5,605	17.2	5,850	26,119	2.4
Banner	192	744	24.2	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keya Paha	185	462	-13.0	75	397	8.2
Blaine	70	454	51.3	90	379	303.2	Kimball	520	2,487	4.4	1,713	7,600	15.9
Boone	893	4,687	19.9	2,279	10,581	-8.2	Knox	885	5,245	9.6	2,362	11,885	4.8
Box Butte	1,134	6,972	-3.6	6,384	29,932	8.6	Lancaster	24,914	106,068	8.5	184,078	880,427	6.8
Boyd	237	996	2.2	547	2,725	2.7	Lincoln	3,510	16,208	-0.1	22,193	101,376	2.0
Brown	258	1,794	40.6	1,995	8,623	13.7	Logan	99	455	18.2	(D)	(D)	(D)
Buffalo	5,125	21,698	5.6	32,275	148,206	5.1	Loup	87	537	96.7	(D)	(D)	(D)
Burt	1,115	4,994	11.5	2,143	10,990	6.8	McPherson	49	286	-13.9	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	857	4,628	-4.9	1,678	8,872	-2.3	Madison	3,903	17,850	1.2	31,385	144,868	6.8
Cass	3,141	15,187	7.8	6,707	28,427	19.1	Merrick	697	4,631	-5.8	2,333	10,465	7.5
Cedar	1,201	5,745	7.3	2,598	12,533	11.9	Morrill	560	3,430	29.3	1,485	7,339	19.5
Chase	621	3,284	20.7	2,511	10,559	15.1	Nance	388	2,573	22.6	735	3,947	12.0
Cherry	873	3,862	31.3	3,973	18,240	7.2	Nemaha	937	3,919	-0.3	2,686	13,185	4.6
Cheyenne	970	5,815	-5.7	7,465	32,135	15.1	Nuckolls	687	3,129	7.0	2,144	10,448	15.6
Clay	815	4,778	8.1	1,959	10,432	-7.4	Otoe	2,028	8,888	6.7	7,873	34,803	14.3
Colfax	1,081	5,489	12.5	2,702	12,983	1.8	Pawnee	403	1,734	1.6	471	2,499	5.3
Cuming	1,529	7,210	21.5	4,936	24,241	11.5	Perkins	353	2,360	-4.9	1,410	5,901	13.0
Custer	1,140	6,917	14.7	4,714	22,550	-15.3	Phelps	1,553	7,993	7.4	5,003	22,974	1.9
Dakota	2,355	9,330	-0.6	9,088	44,276	-0.6	Pierce	656	4,904	12.8	1,717	8,584	13.8
Dawes	675	3,232	4.3	4,043	18,353	16.7	Platte	4,115	18,258	8.2	22,042	100,828	1.9
Dawson	2,732	14,861	19.2	12,593	59,818	4.2	Polk	734	4,249	8.8	2,165	10,478	18.4
Deuel	245	1,506	0.3	852	3,673	6.5	Red Willow	1,390	6,527	8.6	11,581	53,093	8.0
Dixon	773	3,493	15.4	849	4,643	2.4	Richardson	1,001	4,860	10.6	3,214	16,448	7.3
Dodge	4,013	18,953	16.8	22,663	101,919	-3.6	Rock	205	1,112	40.8	465	1,913	-0.6
Douglas	48,089	212,392	-0.6	439,866	2,097,833	4.1	Saline	1,295	6,684	-9.9	4,457	22,144	1.8
Dundy	317	1,765	-8.1	622	2,635	6.5	Sarpy	13,490	61,005	4.3	37,272	163,999	7.0
Fillmore	941	4,728	10.0	3,102	13,062	5.8	Saunders	2,520	12,382	12.5	5,880	27,317	11.1
Franklin	380	2,179	17.5	646	3,109	-8.7	Scotts Bluff	3,982	18,796	8.2	26,346	123,039	11.2
Frontier	486	2,169	24.5	560	2,955	5.1	Seward	1,806	8,936	10.7	5,939	29,446	6.5
Furnas	534	3,312	8.5	2,080	11,874	3.1	Sheridan	873	3,571	2.3	2,929	13,534	5.7
Gage	2,720	12,017	15.2	11,512	55,882	13.7	Sherman	396	2,065	9.0	657	3,359	3.8
Garden	261	1,452	-2.2	561	2,532	-1.3	Sioux	147	1,113	14.5	169	645	9.1
Garfield	206	874	-11.6	699	3,022	12.5	Stanton	731	3,533	7.3	630	3,524	9.5
Gosper	252	1,569	3.0	513	1,972	9.2	Thayer	1,071	4,300	26.3	2,633	12,822	17.3
Grant	73	462	37.9	174	676	-3.6	Thomas	119	449	-23.4	331	1,559	-3.0
Greeley	263	1,605	13.0	615	2,990	4.0	Thurston	523	2,724	5.2	867	4,085	12.6
Hall	6,248	26,745	-4.5	50,501	232,723	6.0	Valley	559	2,656	21.8	2,114	9,791	13.2
Hamilton	1,093	6,649	5.2	2,872	14,447	1.0	Washington	2,546	11,355	0.1	7,132	33,713	11.4
Harlan	434	2,339	-1.1	918	3,828	-0.9	Wayne	991	4,941	13.1	3,202	15,535	6.2
Hitchcock	350	1,772	-1.8	529	2,873	6.2	Webster	405	2,515	23.5	1,327	6,359	26.7
Holt	1,409	7,215	25.9	6,008	26,636	-1.6	Wheeler	214	959	34.3	206	484	49.4
Hooker	69	385	12.9	197	986	-9.5	York	1,953	10,104	25.4	10,156	47,194	6.9
Howard	947	4,211	25.0	1,519	7,606	14.0							

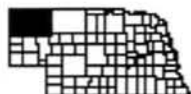
*Totals may not add due to rounding
(D) Denotes disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

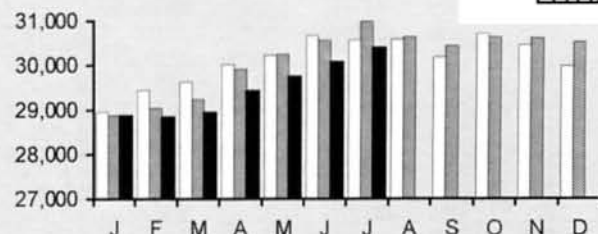
Regional Employment—1995 to July 1997

1995 1996 1997

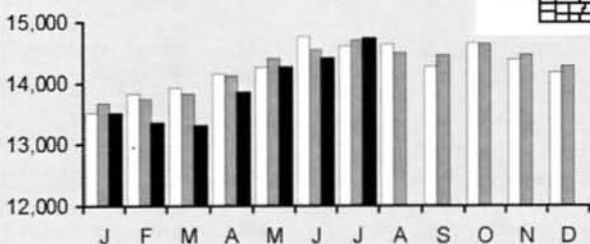
Northwest Panhandle



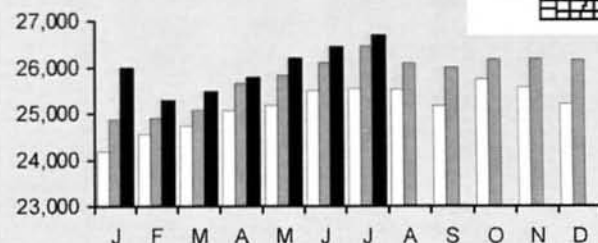
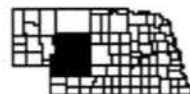
Southwest Panhandle



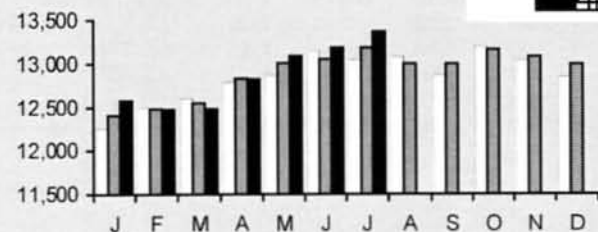
North Central



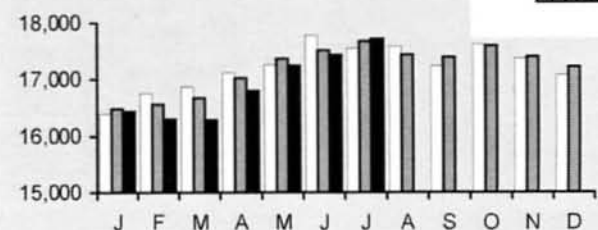
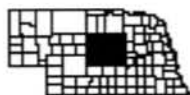
West Central



Southwest Central



East Central



Regional Employment—1995 to July 1997

1995 1996 1997

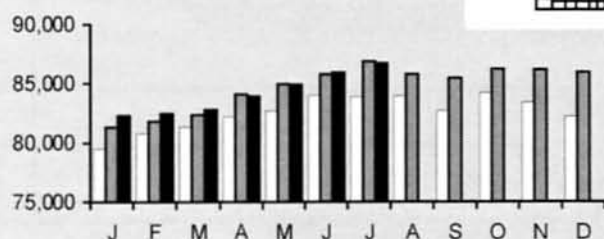
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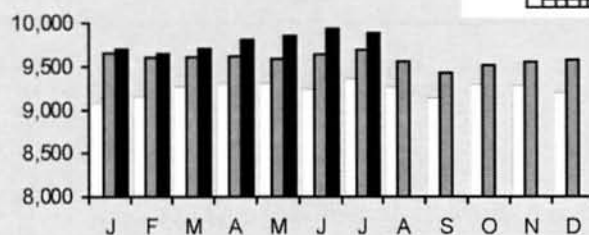
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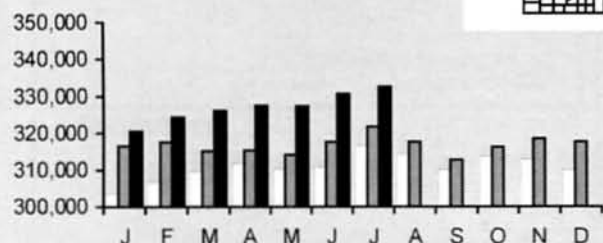
Southeast



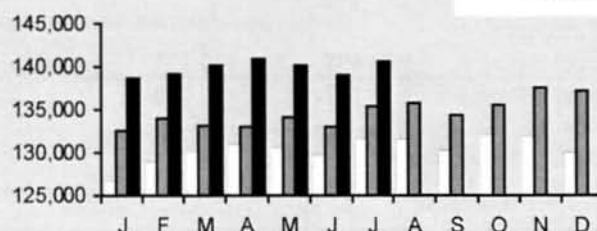
Sioux City MSA



Omaha MSA

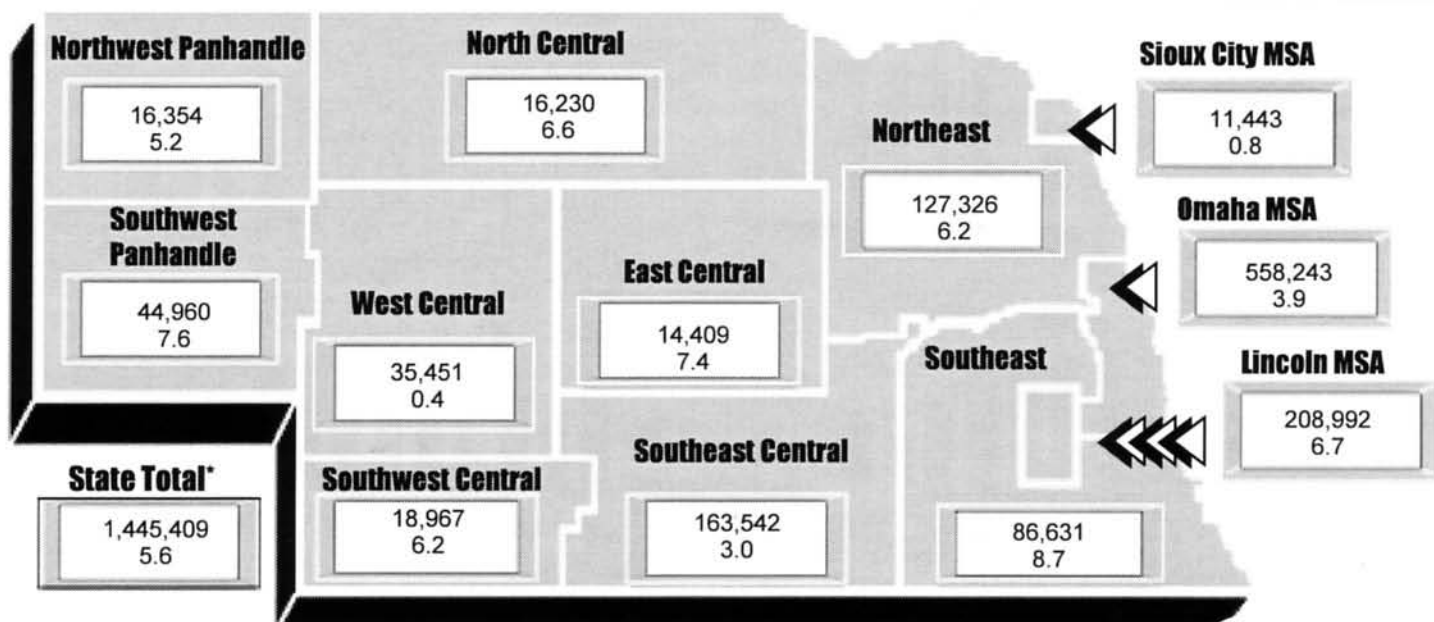


Lincoln MSA



May 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 June 1997	Preliminary July 1997	% Change vs Yr. Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	854,912	848,387	3.1
Construction & Mining	41,276	41,913	0.5
Manufacturing	115,432	115,694	1.8
Durables	56,273	56,634	3.8
Nondurables	59,159	59,060	-0.1
TCU*	53,184	52,686	5.2
Trade	208,002	207,722	0.3
Wholesale	53,776	54,509	0.3
Retail	154,226	153,213	0.2
FIRE**	55,246	55,432	3.5
Services	228,896	229,895	3.7
Government	152,876	145,045	7.0
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	932,462	940,131	0.2
Unemployment Rate	2.7	2.6	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Price Indices

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

	August 1997	% Change vs Yr. Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr. Ago
All Items	160.8	2.2	2.5
Commodities	141.4	1.4	1.7
Services	180.3	2.9	3.1

*U = All urban consumers

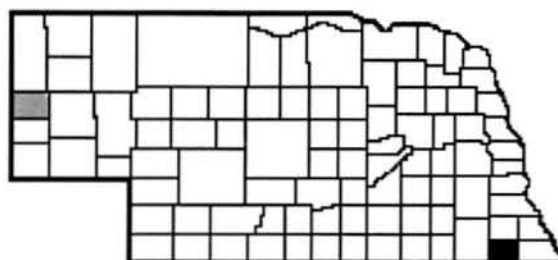
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Inflation Rate



Pawnee

Pawnee City-County Seat



Next County of Month

License plate prefix number: 54

Size of county: 432 square miles, ranks 84th in the state

Population: 3,261 in 1996, a change of -1.7 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$18,655 in 1994, ranks 58th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$10,544 in 1996, a change of 15.2 percent from 1995; \$4,233 from January through May of 1997, a change of 3.7 percent from the same period the previous year.

Number of business and service establishments: 80 in 1994, 69 percent had less than five employees

Unemployment rate: 3.6 percent in Pawnee County, 2.4 percent in Nebraska for 1996

	State	Pawnee County
Nonfarm employment (1996):	834,336	593
	<i>(percent of total)</i>	
Construction and Mining	4.5	2.2
Manufacturing	13.6	10.8
TCU	6.0	3.2
Wholesale Trade	6.4	2.7
Retail Trade	18.5	12.3
FIRE	6.4	2.5
Services	26.4	19.7
Government	18.2	46.4

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 463 in 1992, 502 in 1987

Average farm size: 484 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$29.7 million in 1992 (\$64,082 average per farm)

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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