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Nebraska Horse Racing Industry Trends

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by Donald Nielsen, and Roger Sindt, UNO Department of Economics

Introduction

In its heyday, the 1920s through the late 1950s, horse racing was a highly popular spectator sport. But after decades of prosperity, horse racing has flashed warning signs of economic trouble. Throughout the industry, old tracks, like Hialeah, are closing and new tracks are experiencing economic difficulties due to legalized off-track betting and other forms of legalized gambling.¹ Off-track betting and inter-track wagering, along with the proliferation of other gambling options, have been cited by many as reasons for the recent decline in both on-track horse racing attendance and handle.

A widening gap between horse racing and other forms of wagering represents a shift in American gambling behavior. This shift in gambling preferences has long-term implications for the horse racing industry in general and specific implications for the industry in Nebraska.

¹"Fading Fast," William Reed, *Sports Illustrated* April 22, 1991

Fast Facts

Long work life provides more opportunities to accumulate wealth. Wealth increases with age until retirement, then begins to decline.

1993

Median Net
Worth

Householders

under 35

\$ 5,786

35 to 44

29,202

45 to 54

57,755

55 to 64

91,481



Wealth remains fairly constant through age 74. Householders age 75 and older had a net worth of \$77,654.

National Horse Racing Attendance and Wagering

In 1974, on-track live horse racing accounted for 35 percent of America's gambling dollar. By 1994, that share had fallen to 3 percent of each gambling dollar. In like manner, the amount legally bet on-track by attendees of live horse racing slipped steadily from approximately \$9.0 billion in 1989 to \$5.5 billion by 1994, a decrease of 39 percent (Table 1). During this same period, live on-track attendance declined by nearly 30 percent, with average wagering per attendee dropping nearly 14 percent.

National Horse Racing Pari-Mutuel Handle Trends

The fall in the amount legally bet by attendees of live horse racing across the United States has been countered by increases in off-track wagering (Table 2). Off-track sources increased wagering by a modest 1.9 percent from \$13.9 billion in 1989 to \$14.1 billion in 1994, despite declines in on-track betting during the same period.

Trends in Nebraska Horse Racing

Intrastate and interstate competition for the recreational gambling dollar has impacted the Nebraska horse racing industry. Attendance at Nebraska tracks for live horse racing has steadily declined from 1989 through 1994 (Figure 1 and Table 3). On-track attendance at live racing events in Nebraska averaged 4,360 in 1989 and steadily dropped to just above 2,900 by 1994.

The drop in Nebraska pari-mutuel horse racing attendance also has impacted the economics of horse racing by a reduction in total pari-mutuel on-track live racing handle (Figure 2 and Table 4). In 1989, the total on-track live race handle in Nebraska exceeded \$93.5 million, and by 1994 it had declined to just over \$32.2 million.

Consistent with the drop in total pari-mutuel on-track handle is the substantial decline in the Nebraska on-track live horse racing average daily handle which stood at \$386,280 in 1989, but dropped to \$176,062 by the 1994 horse racing season (Figure 3 and Table 4).

Table 1
United States Horse Racing Live On-Track Attendance, Total Pari-Mutuel Live On-Track Handle, and Average Live On-Track Wagering Per Attendee, 1989-1994

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	% Change 1989- 1994
Attendance							
Thoroughbreds	38,444,790	42,014,133	32,147,165	30,549,001	28,728,194	27,507,396	-28.5
Quarter Horse	745,959	1,083,879	507,532	447,424	537,851	846,327	13.5
Harness	15,145,077	14,694,882	13,378,410	12,209,861	11,176,245	9,900,382	-34.6
Mixed	5,557,372	6,009,849	6,841,283	6,068,945	5,245,390	3,811,272	-31.4
Total Attendance	59,893,198	63,802,742	52,874,390	49,275,231	45,687,680	42,065,377	-29.8
Handle							
Total Live On-Track Handle\$	9,024,133,263	8,722,750,930	7,983,686,124	7,071,360,141	6,055,658,676	5,481,883,751	-39.3
Average Wagering Per Attendee \$	151	137	151	144	133	130	-13.9

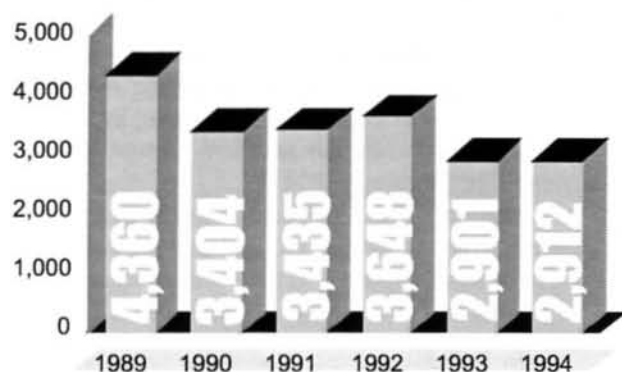
Source: Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc., "Annual Pari-Mutuel Racing Statistical Summary," Lexington, Kentucky, 1989-1994.

Table 2
U.S. Horse Racing Total Pari-Mutuel Handle from all Types of Horse Race Wagering, 1989-1994

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Pari-Mutuel Handle Total \$	13,866,759,463	14,328,457,401	13,906,437,390	14,077,701,040	13,717,385,363	14,143,229,078

Source: Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc., "Annual Pari-Mutuel Racing Statistical Summary," Lexington Kentucky, 1989-1994. Off-track betting, as contrasted with on-track wagering is known by alternative names such as inter-track wagering, satellite wagering, simulcasting, off-course wagering, and co-mingling. Off-track betting (OTB) and inter-track wagering (ITW) became common in the industry in the early 1980s. These terms refer to the process of sending or receiving races by television from a live race held at one track to another location, referred to as simulcasting. Races sent from one track to another within the state are termed intra-track wagering. Races sent from a track outside of the state to a track within the state are termed inter-state wagering. When races are transmitted to betting parlors in the state or to Las Vegas, it is referred to as off-track betting.

Figure 1
Average Daily Horse Racing Attendance in Nebraska,
1989-1994



While the drop in on-track attendance has decreased the live horse racing handle, the total annual inter-track pari-mutuel handle in Nebraska has risen since 1992 from \$43.4 million to a high of \$91.3 million in 1994 (Figure 4 and Table 5).

Figure 3
Nebraska On-Track Live Horse Racing Average
Daily Handle, 1989-1994

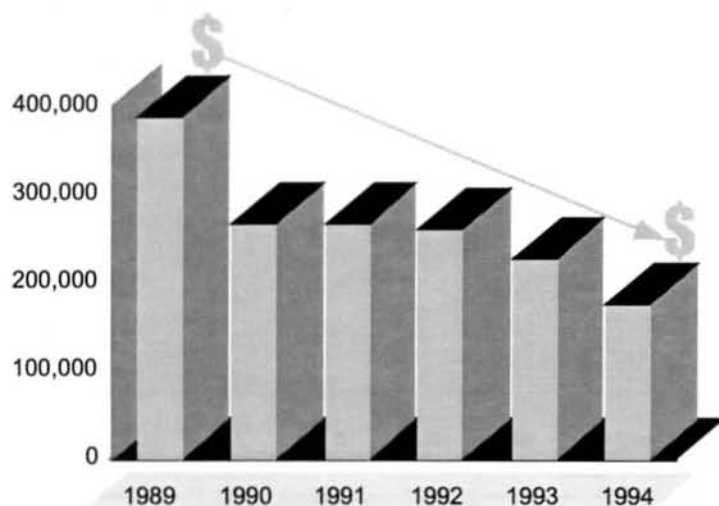


Figure 2
Nebraska Horse Racing Total Pari-Mutuel On-Track Live
Racing Handle, 1989-1994

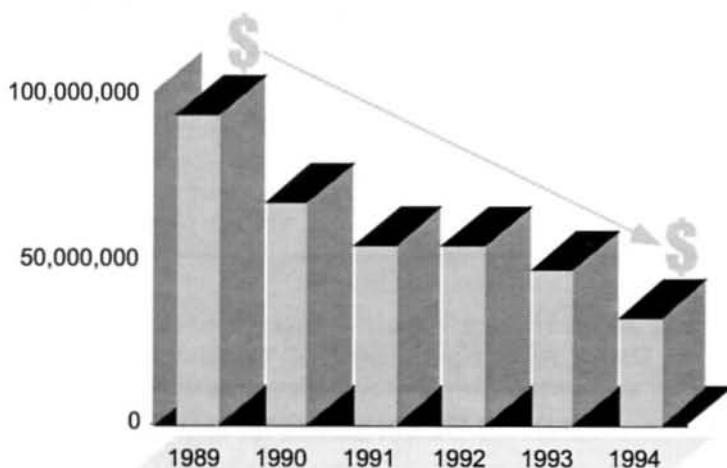
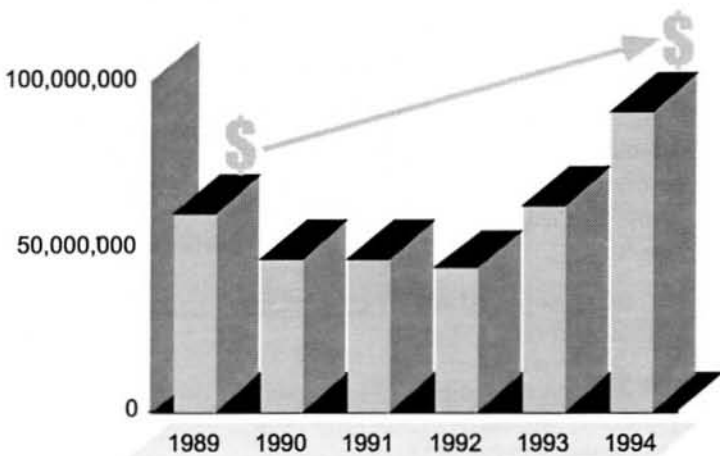


Table 3
Nebraska Horse Racing Live On-Track Attendance
and Nebraska Inter-Track Attendance, 1989-1994

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Thoroughbreds	1,051,580	837,177	693,806	728,793	582,065	532,816
Quarter Horse	7,968	19,874	—	4,406	1,080	—
Total	1,059,548	851,051	693,806	733,199	583,145	532,816
Total Horse Racing Days	243	250	202	201	201	183
Average Daily Attendance	4,360	3,404	3,434	3,647	2,901	2,911

Source: Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc., "Annual Pari-Mutuel Racing Statistical Summary," Lexington, Kentucky, 1989-1994.

Figure 4
Total Nebraska Annual Inter-Track Pari-Mutuel
Handle (\$), 1989-1994



Summary

The past two decades have seen pari-mutuel horse racing diminish as the dominant form of gambling in the United States. This long-term shift in gambling behavior has specific implications for the Nebraska horse racing industry. Trends in Nebraska live horse racing include a decline in attendance and pari-mutuel handle from 1989 through 1994. While the drop in on-track attendance has decreased the live horse racing handle, since 1992, due to the introduction of simulcasting, the total annual inter-track pari-mutuel handle has increased.

In conclusion, the Nebraska horse racing industry is presently facing a variety of situations including the introduction of innovative off-track wagering forms, the proliferation of alternative competitive gambling options, and changing regulations. As a result, the future of horse racing in Nebraska as a prospering industry is, at best, uncertain.



Table 4
Nebraska Horse Racing Pari-Mutuel On-Track Live Race Handle
and Daily Average Handle, 1989-1994

Total Pari-Mutuel Handle (\$)

	<i>Total Handle Live Race</i>	<i>Thoroughbred Live Total</i>	<i>Quarter Horse Live Total</i>
1989	93,865,993	93,558,535	307,458
1990	66,805,050	66,351,205	453,845
1991	53,670,338	53,670,338	0
1992	53,715,391	53,612,946	102,445
1993	46,789,968	46,748,825	41,143
1994	32,219,328	32,219,328	0

Average Daily Handle (\$) in Live Racing

<i>Daily Average Live Race</i>	<i>Thoroughbred Daily Average</i>	<i>Quarter Horse Daily Average</i>
386,280	423,342	13,975
267,220	297,539	16,809
265,695	265,695	0
259,495	266,731	17,074
227,136	232,581	8,229
176,062	176,062	0

Source: Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc., "Annual Pari-Mutuel Racing Statistical Summary," Lexington, Kentucky, 1989-1994.

Table 5
Nebraska Horse Racing Total Inter-Track Racing Handle
and Inter-Track Attendance, 1989-1994

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Handle \$	\$59,926,959	\$46,170,152	\$46,153,959	\$43,430,698	\$62,708,602	\$91,293,654
Attendance	439,179	437,379	397,314	410,894	343,664	—
Average Wagering Per Attendee	\$136	\$106	\$116	\$106	\$182	—

Source: Association of Racing Commissioners International, Inc., "Annual Pari-Mutuel Racing Statistical Summary," Lexington, Kentucky, 1989-1994. Attendance figures for 1994 not broken out

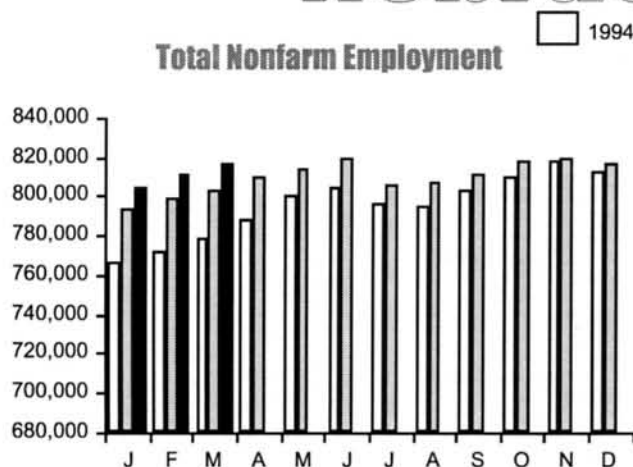
News Briefs

Recent Population Projections for Nebraska, U.S. Bureau of the Census (thousands)

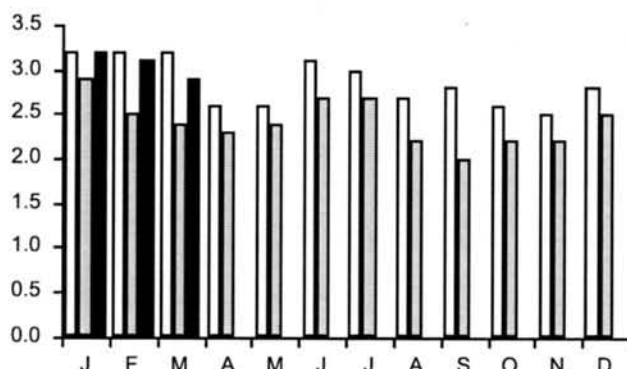
	1995	2000	2005	2010	2020
American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut					
0-19	6	7	7	7	7
20-64	7	7	8	8	9
65+	1	1	1	1	1
Asian and Pacific Islander					
0-19	6	8	10	12	15
20-64	10	13	15	18	23
65+	1	1	1	2	3
Black					
0-19	26	27	28	29	31
20-64	34	37	40	42	46
65+	4	4	5	5	8
White					
0-19	458	464	458	457	462
20-64	866	905	947	972	977
65+	226	230	232	241	305
Total	1,645	1,704	1,752	1,794	1,887
Hispanic					
0-19	24	30	36	41	52
20-64	27	33	40	47	62
65+	2	3	4	5	8

Nebraska Stats

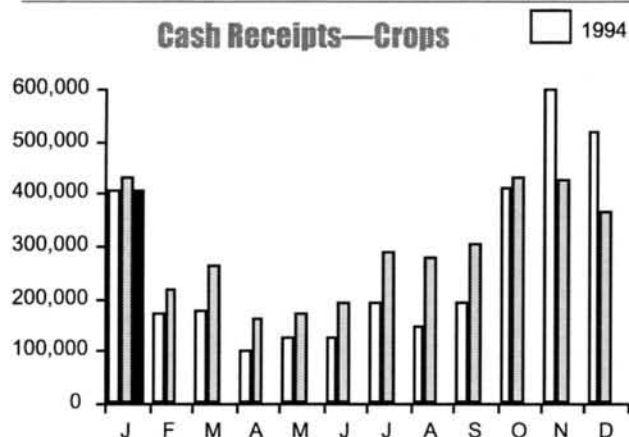
Total Nonfarm Employment



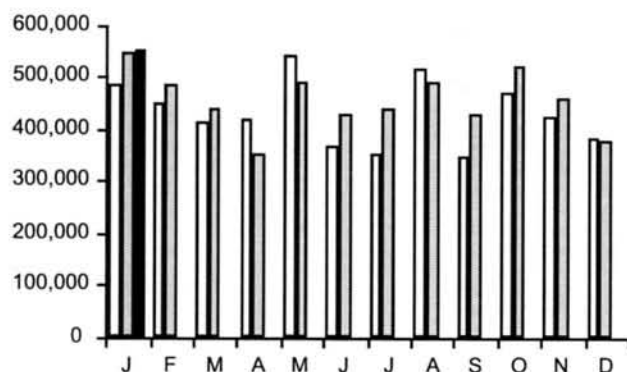
Unemployment Rate



Cash Receipts—Crops



Cash Receipts—Livestock



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

	January 1996	YTD \$	YTD % Change		January 1996	YTD \$	YTD % Change
Ainsworth, Brown	1,388	1,388	-15.7	Kearney, Buffalo	24,028	24,028	3.1
Albion, Boone	1,845	1,845	30.5	Kenesaw, Adams	78	78	-17.9
Alliance, Box Butte	5,192	5,192	8.8	Kimball, Kimball	1,171	1,171	-17.2
Alma, Harlan	530	530	-4.2	La Vista, Sarpy	6,086	6,086	14.7
Arapahoe, Furnas	480	480	-4.8	Laurel, Cedar	279	279	4.5
Arlington, Washington	167	167	-9.2	Lexington, Dawson	7,067	7,067	8.4
Arnold, Custer	202	202	-3.8	Lincoln, Lancaster	155,354	155,354	9.2
Ashland, Saunders	750	750	-3.7	Louisville, Cass	274	274	4.6
Atkinson, Holt	616	616	13.4	Loup City, Sherman	494	494	-0.4
Auburn, Nemaha	2,166	2,166	2.5	Lyons, Burt	372	372	-9.0
Aurora, Hamilton	2,214	2,214	-6.5	Madison, Madison	562	562	-2.1
Axtell, Kearney	79	79	-9.2	McCook, Red Willow	8,935	8,935	12.7
Bassett, Rock	328	328	6.1	Milford, Seward	1,017	1,017	4.5
Battle Creek, Madison	637	637	3.6	Minatare, Scotts Bluff	128	128	-39.9
Bayard, Morrill	398	398	-7.4	Minden, Kearney	1,117	1,117	-24.8
Beatrice, Gage	8,117	8,117	5.8	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff	598	598	-31.5
Beaver City, Furnas	87	87	-17.1	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	253	253	-12.2
Bellevue, Sarpy	15,711	15,711	32.0	Nebraska City, Otoe	4,012	4,012	2.6
Benkelman, Dundy	368	368	-0.8	Neligh, Antelope	813	813	-17.1
Bennington, Douglas	224	224	48.3	Newman Grove, Madison	301	301	26.5
Bertrand, Phelps	74	74	-10.8	Norfolk, Madison	23,281	23,281	9.0
Blair, Washington	5,109	5,109	-6.5	North Bend, Dodge	395	395	17.6
Bloomfield, Knox	467	467	2.6	North Platte, Lincoln	17,860	17,860	-1.6
Blue Hill, Webster	311	311	-3.1	O'Neill, Holt	4,303	4,303	25.4
Bridgeport, Morrill	701	701	-25.7	Oakland, Burt	589	589	5.6
Broken Bow, Custer	4,775	4,775	40.7	Ogallala, Keith	4,549	4,549	6.8
Burwell, Garfield	527	527	-5.6	Omaha, Douglas	369,697	369,697	4.7
Cairo, Hall	152	152	-6.2	Ord, Valley	1,287	1,287	-22.7
Cambridge, Furnas	1,703	1,703	240.6	Osceola, Polk	635	635	-11.1
Central City, Merrick	1,269	1,269	-1.5	Oshkosh, Garden	410	410	-8.3
Ceresco, Saunders	1,117	1,117	-8.2	Osmond, Pierce	238	238	15.5
Chadron, Dawes	2,821	2,821	-11.9	Oxford, Furnas	219	219	-31.1
Chappell, Deuel	315	315	-4.8	Papillion, Sarpy	2,854	2,854	-4.2
Clarkson, Colfax	414	414	4.0	Pawnee City, Pawnee	262	262	-12.7
Clay Center, Clay	222	222	-0.4	Pender, Thurston	515	515	0.8
Columbus, Platte	17,029	17,029	1.8	Pierce, Pierce	491	491	-9.1
Cozad, Dawson	2,138	2,138	-18.6	Plainview, Pierce	504	504	-28.8
Crawford, Dawes	298	298	9.2	Plattsmouth, Cass	2,517	2,517	3.1
Creighton, Knox	871	871	0.3	Ponca, Dixon	451	451	5.1
Crete, Saline	3,093	3,093	-4.8	Ralston, Douglas	2,418	2,418	10.4
Crofton, Knox	259	259	13.6	Randolph, Cedar	276	276	-1.1
Curtis, Frontier	256	256	2.8	Ravenna, Buffalo	558	558	-21.1
Dakota City, Dakota	445	445	0.7	Red Cloud, Webster	434	434	-26.8
David City, Butler	1,313	1,313	2.6	Rushville, Sheridan	443	443	-3.5
Deshler, Thayer	210	210	16.7	Sargent, Custer	180	180	0.0
Dodge, Dodge	157	157	-29.0	Schuyler, Colfax	1,756	1,756	9.8
Doniphan, Hall	297	297	-62.1	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	17,326	17,326	10.8
Eagle, Cass	172	172	-7.5	Scribner, Dodge	349	349	4.2
Elgin, Antelope	386	386	5.2	Seward, Seward	4,228	4,228	6.2
Elkhorn, Douglas	1,246	1,246	9.2	Shelby, Polk	315	315	13.7
Elm Creek, Buffalo	181	181	8.4	Shelton, Buffalo	483	483	-20.7
Elwood, Gosper	271	271	18.3	Sidney, Cheyenne	5,299	5,299	7.7
Fairbury, Jefferson	2,761	2,761	2.5	South Sioux City, Dakota	7,175	7,175	10.4
Fairmont, Fillmore	125	125	1.6	Springfield, Sarpy	168	168	18.3
Falls City, Richardson	2,143	2,143	9.4	St. Paul, Howard	832	832	-14.0
Franklin, Franklin	352	352	11.7	Stanton, Stanton	554	554	10.6
Fremont, Dodge	18,612	18,612	0.2	Stromsburg, Polk	656	656	10.8
Friend, Saline	405	405	-16.3	Superior, Nuckolls	1,211	1,211	-3.7
Fullerton, Nance	475	475	-10.0	Sutherland, Lincoln	237	237	20.3
Geneva, Fillmore	1,426	1,426	13.4	Sutton, Clay	1,565	1,565	44.9
Genoa, Nance	161	161	-22.2	Syracuse, Otoe	718	718	-16.5
Gering, Scotts Bluff	2,546	2,546	-15.6	Tecumseh, Johnson	910	910	2.5
Gibbon, Buffalo	645	645	9.1	Tekamah, Burt	861	861	2.9
Gordon, Sheridan	1,434	1,434	8.6	Tilden, Madison	387	387	-3.5
Gothenburg, Dawson	1,329	1,329	-24.3	Utica, Seward	180	180	-17.4
Grand Island, Hall	37,956	37,956	-8.5	Valentine, Cherry	2,820	2,820	9.6
Grant, Perkins	698	698	-1.4	Valley, Douglas	673	673	44.7
Gretna, Sarpy	2,293	2,293	-4.9	Wahoo, Saunders	1,858	1,858	-9.3
Hartington, Cedar	1,220	1,220	-24.8	Wakefield, Dixon	308	308	0.0
Hastings, Adams	16,593	16,593	-3.7	Wauneta, Chase	323	323	-5.0
Hay Springs, Sheridan	325	325	1.6	Waverly, Lancaster	550	550	43.6
Hebron, Thayer	1,385	1,385	-14.7	Wayne, Wayne	2,985	2,985	6.7
Henderson, York	481	481	25.6	Weeping Water, Cass	379	379	-29.4
Hickman, Lancaster	218	218	10.1	West Point, Cuming	3,069	3,069	13.3
Holdrege, Phelps	4,100	4,100	1.6	Wilber, Saline	427	427	-15.9
Hooper, Dodge	288	288	11.6	Wisner, Cuming	453	453	4.6
Humboldt, Richardson	418	418	-5.2	Wood River, Hall	352	352	13.2
Humphrey, Platte	558	558	27.7	Wymore, Gage	364	364	-1.6
Imperial, Chase	1,345	1,345	0.4	York, York	7,066	7,066	2.5
Juniata, Adams	221	221	6.3				

*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		
	January 1996	YTD	YTD % Chg	January 1996	YTD	YTD % Chg		January 1996	YTD	YTD % Chg	January 1996	YTD	YTD % Chg
Nebraska *	144,396	144,396	13.1	1,050,645	1,050,645	4.1	Howard	780	780	17.1	1,136	1,136	-7.9
Adams	2,626	2,626	7.5	17,032	17,032	-3.8	Jefferson	789	789	4.5	3,335	3,335	-0.5
Antelope	872	872	32.1	1,499	1,499	-7.4	Johnson	461	461	48.2	1,278	1,278	4.8
Arthur	42	42	-4.5	(D)	(D)	(D)	Kearney	955	955	19.8	1,279	1,279	-22.8
Banner	126	126	0.0	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keith	947	947	22.0	4,790	4,790	7.4
Blaine	49	49	-10.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	Keya Paha	148	148	0.0	86	86	32.3
Boone	816	816	26.7	2,234	2,234	22.1	Kimball	473	473	-2.3	1,189	1,189	-17.1
Box Butte	1,409	1,409	-1.0	5,441	5,441	8.5	Knox	741	741	1.8	2,122	2,122	5.5
Boyd	153	153	-27.1	442	442	-3.9	Lancaster	14,454	14,454	5.3	156,976	156,976	9.3
Brown	247	247	-7.5	1,414	1,414	-15.9	Lincoln	2,733	2,733	-16.6	18,599	18,599	-1.6
Buffalo	3,480	3,480	13.6	26,152	26,152	2.1	Logan	84	84	-38.7	(D)	(D)	(D)
Burt	826	826	1.0	1,979	1,979	0.6	Loup	58	58	-58.6	(D)	(D)	(D)
Butler	854	854	3.5	1,694	1,694	3.2	McPherson	90	90	60.7	(D)	(D)	(D)
Cass	1,903	1,903	-6.9	4,349	4,349	0.6	Madison	3,364	3,364	10.3	25,228	25,228	8.6
Cedar	1,019	1,019	0.4	2,014	2,014	-16.3	Merrick	1,096	1,096	38.6	1,676	1,676	1.5
Chase	440	440	-13.0	1,687	1,687	-0.4	Morrill	658	658	56.3	1,120	1,120	-20.2
Cherry	443	443	-23.5	2,992	2,992	7.5	Nance	469	469	27.8	650	650	-13.9
Cheyenne	1,172	1,172	16.4	5,559	5,559	8.3	Nemaha	827	827	46.1	2,450	2,450	-1.8
Clay	905	905	28.6	2,432	2,432	35.6	Nuckolls	698	698	0.4	1,656	1,656	-2.2
Colfax	1,048	1,048	20.9	2,571	2,571	11.4	Otoe	1,513	1,513	1.7	5,011	5,011	-1.7
Cuming	1,287	1,287	36.8	3,936	3,936	10.1	Pawnee	533	533	105.8	433	433	-5.0
Custer	1,151	1,151	13.1	5,491	5,491	34.7	Perkins	457	457	17.2	901	901	6.0
Dakota	1,285	1,285	-13.2	8,276	8,276	9.1	Phelps	1,955	1,955	53.8	4,290	4,290	1.4
Dawes	677	677	21.1	3,119	3,119	-10.3	Pierce	820	820	36.7	1,286	1,286	-14.0
Dawson	2,290	2,290	6.6	10,814	10,814	-3.2	Platte	3,312	3,312	23.9	17,987	17,987	1.8
Deuel	271	271	2.3	627	627	3.1	Polk	926	926	9.6	1,694	1,694	-5.2
Dixon	455	455	15.5	845	845	3.2	Red Willow	1,300	1,300	3.9	9,174	9,174	13.0
Dodge	2,490	2,490	5.2	20,015	20,015	0.1	Richardson	834	834	9.0	2,879	2,879	8.9
Douglas	34,166	34,166	30.5	375,876	375,876	4.8	Rock	159	159	-15.4	332	332	6.4
Dundy	545	545	29.1	388	388	-1.5	Saline	1,114	1,114	-18.4	4,261	4,261	-8.0
Fillmore	888	888	7.5	2,070	2,070	6.4	Sarpy	8,739	8,739	16.7	27,334	27,334	19.3
Franklin	400	400	5.0	583	583	20.0	Saunders	1,982	1,982	6.7	4,552	4,552	-8.1
Frontier	366	366	11.9	474	474	-8.3	Scotts Bluff	2,883	2,883	-9.7	20,904	20,904	4.0
Furnas	522	522	-15.4	2,622	2,622	70.5	Seward	1,404	1,404	6.2	5,637	5,637	5.1
Gage	1,759	1,759	8.8	9,032	9,032	5.9	Sheridan	832	832	105.4	2,409	2,409	3.2
Garden	460	460	10.8	535	535	-5.6	Sherman	366	366	29.3	631	631	-1.4
Garfield	155	155	2.0	527	527	-5.6	Sioux	275	275	-7.1	115	115	15.0
Gosper	326	326	35.3	331	331	22.1	Stanton	654	654	17.2	711	711	8.4
Grant	105	105	-11.8	123	123	9.8	Thayer	802	802	4.8	2,124	2,124	-4.0
Greeley	330	330	16.6	465	465	7.9	Thomas	143	143	101.4	312	312	7.6
Hall	4,395	4,395	10.5	39,010	39,010	-9.2	Thurston	620	620	38.7	645	645	-1.2
Hamilton	1,590	1,590	49.2	2,511	2,511	-5.4	Valley	538	538	19.8	1,407	1,407	-22.4
Harlan	396	396	-14.3	638	638	0.3	Washington	1,741	1,741	15.7	5,700	5,700	-4.6
Hayes	146	146	15.9	(D)	(D)	(D)	Wayne	655	655	-9.4	3,127	3,127	7.3
Hitchcock	371	371	36.9	552	552	-1.4	Webster	470	470	120.7	822	822	-18.0
Holt	974	974	-16.1	5,445	5,445	20.9	Wheeler	136	136	-2.9	49	49	22.5
Hooker	86	86	377.8	217	217	13.0	York	1,269	1,269	-27.3	7,906	7,906	3.2

*Totals may not add due to rounding

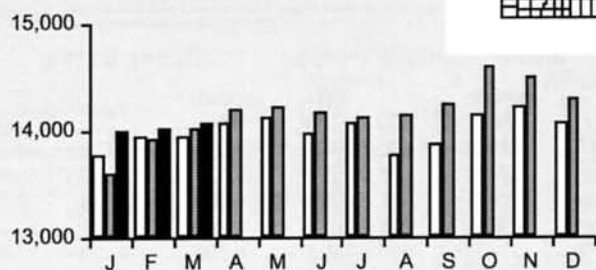
(D) Denotes disclosure suppression

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

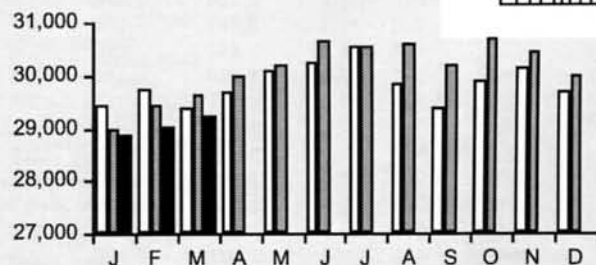
Regional Employment—1994 to March 1996

1994 1995 1996

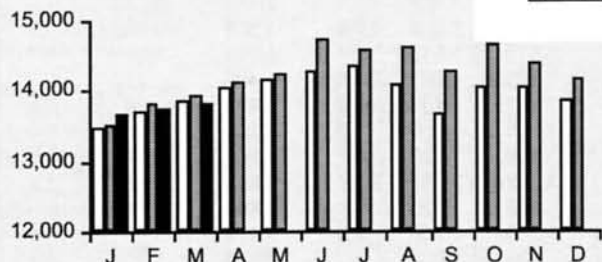
Northwest Panhandle



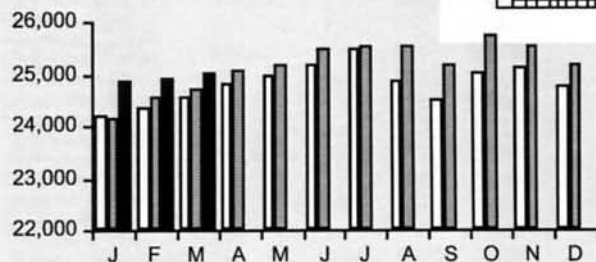
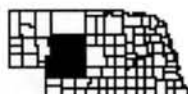
Southwest Panhandle



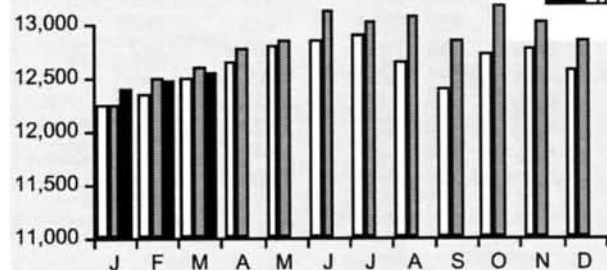
North Central



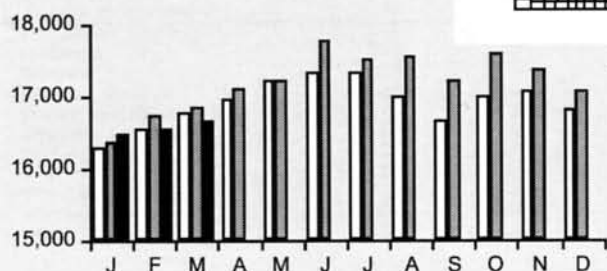
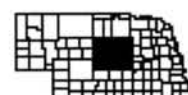
West Central



Southwest Central



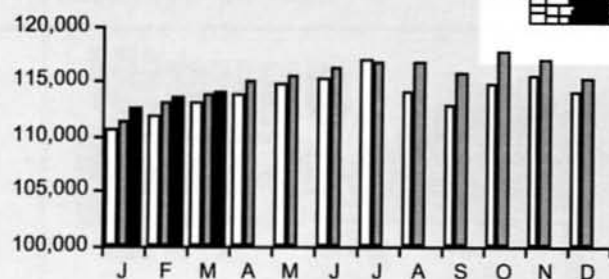
East Central



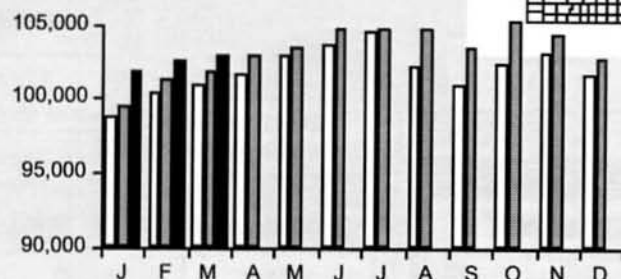
Regional Employment—1994 to March 1996

1994 1995 1996

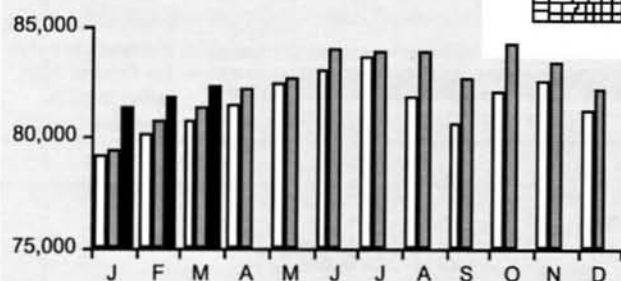
Southeast Central



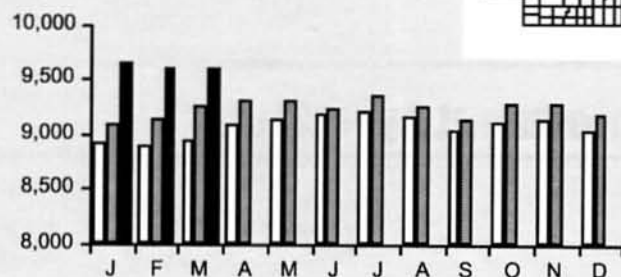
Northeast



Southeast

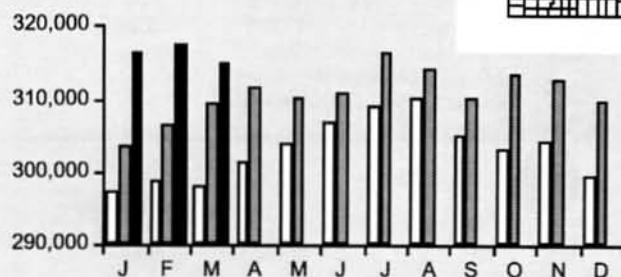


Sioux City MSA

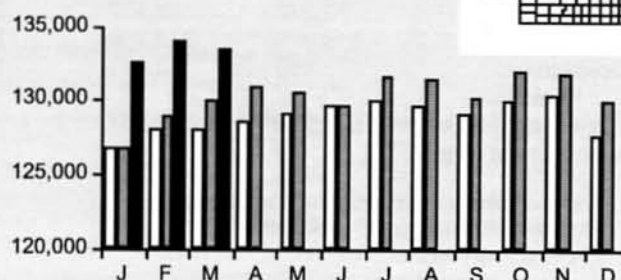


Note: Cass County is now included in the Omaha MSA, rather than the Southeast region

Omaha MSA

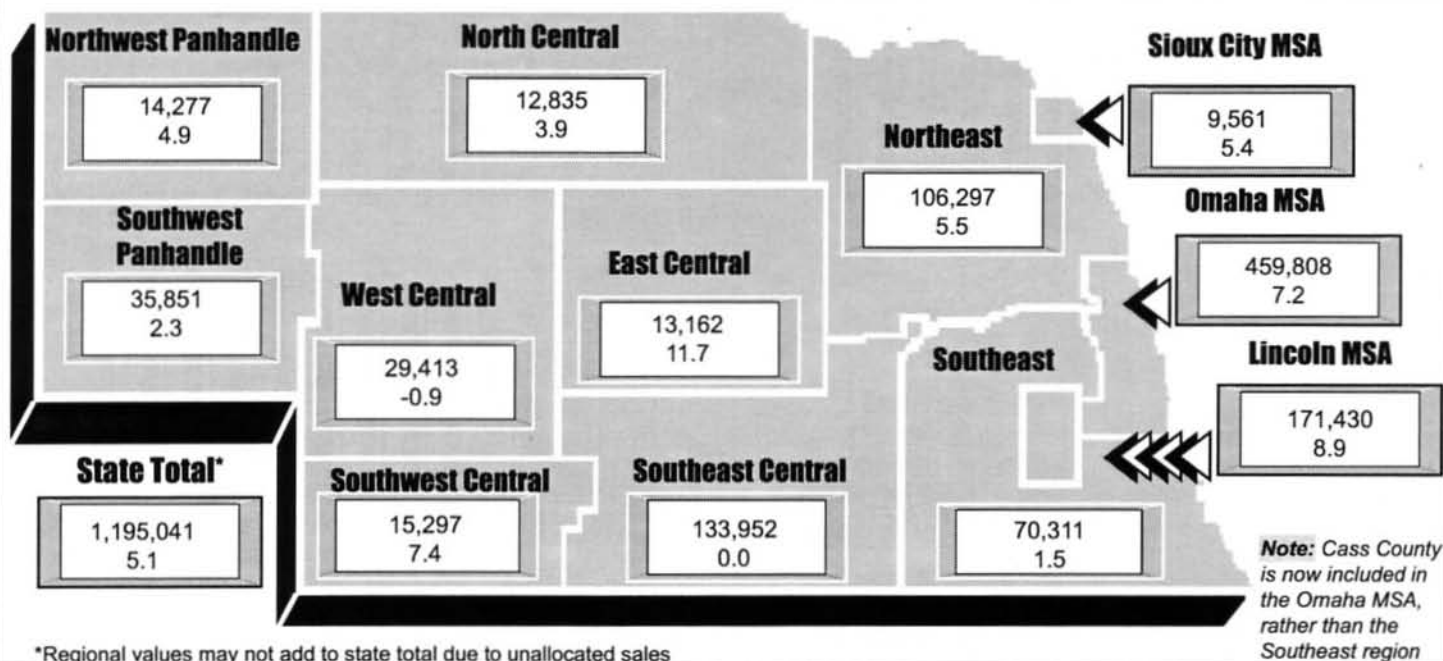


Lincoln MSA



January 1996 Regional Retail Sales (\$000)

Percent Change from Year Ago



Employment by Industry

	Revised February 1996	Preliminary March 1996	% Change vs Yr Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	810,869	816,871	1.6
Manufacturing	112,143	111,961	0.0
Durables	53,790	53,772	-0.5
Nondurables	58,353	58,189	0.5
Mining & Construction	31,264	33,040	7.4
TCU*	49,047	49,534	-0.5
Trade	203,216	204,150	2.1
Retail	150,211	150,877	2.1
Wholesale	53,005	53,273	2.2
FIRE**	52,242	52,167	0.3
Services	210,471	212,706	2.3
Government	152,486	153,313	1.1
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	897,755	895,067	1.9
Unemployment Rate	3.1	2.9	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Consumer Price Index

Price Indices

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

	February 1996	% Change vs Yr Ago	YTD % Change vs Yr Ago
All Items	155.7	2.8	2.7
Commodities	139.2	2.4	2.1
Services	172.6	3.2	3.2

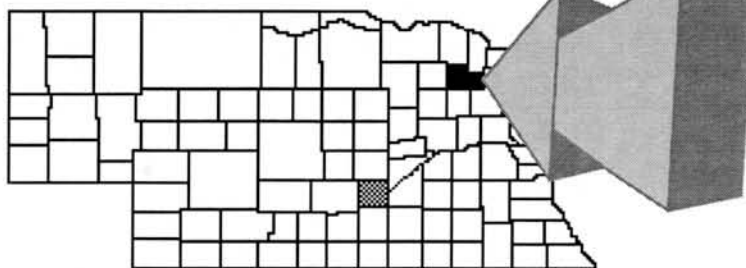
U* = All urban consumers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

County of the Month

Wayne

Wayne—County Seat



 *Next County of Month*

License plate prefix number: 27

Size of county: 443 square miles, ranks 80th in the state

Population: 9,364 in 1990, a change of -5.0 percent from 1980

Per capita personal income: \$14,813 in 1993, ranks 89th in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$47,055 in 1995, a change of -6.7 percent from 1994; \$3,782 during January 1996, a change of 4.0 percent from the same period one year ago

Number of business and service establishments: 229 in 1993, 59.4 percent had less than five employees

Unemployment rate: 3.2 percent in Wayne County, 2.9 percent in Nebraska for 1994

Nonfarm employment (1994):

	State	Wayne County
Wage and salary workers	795,486	3,838
	<i>(percent of total)</i>	
Manufacturing	13.7%	20.4%
Construction and Mining	4.4	2.1
TCU	6.1	1.8
Retail Trade	18.5	20.0
Wholesale Trade	6.5	2.8
FIRE	6.5	6.5
Services	25.4	12.0
Government	19.0	34.4

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 630 in 1992, 744 in 1987

Average farm size: 394 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$106.8 million in 1992 (\$169,476 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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NEW

Nebraska Statistics of Income for 1994

available on
ONRAMP

Search file name **NSI**

or

Government Finances & Expenditures
State Government Finance
Individual Income Tax

Note: Reports found here include Income by Size, Filing Status, Non-Agricultural and Agriculture Activity.

Vital Statistics Nebraska Department of Health

Search file name **VIT** or keyword Vital Statistics

Nebraska Annual Report 1994 Nebraska Department of Revenue

Search file name **TAX**

or

Government Finances & Expenditures
State Government Finance

Note: Reports found here include General Information, Income, Property, Sales, and Miscellaneous taxes.

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