

7-1995

The Economic Outlook for 1995 and 1996 Revisited

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Business in Nebraska

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The Economic Outlook for 1995 and 1996 Revisited

John S. Austin & Lisa Valladao

Significant revisions in historical employment and personal income data have been released since our 1995-96 economic outlook for Nebraska was originally presented (see *Business in Nebraska*, November/December 1994). At its most recent biannual meeting, the BBR consensus forecasting group reexamined the outlook in light of the data revisions. The results are presented below.

Despite some weakness in the agricultural sector over the past two years, the Nebraska economy is still expected to advance solidly. Employment, personal income, and retail sales all continue to show positive growth (Figure 1).

The revised outlook for 1995 and 1996 calls for total employment growth at around 3 percent in 1995 and slightly more than 2 percent in 1996. Employment numbers will top 800,000 in 1995 (Table 1). Strong employment gains are expected in retail sales and services. Personal income growth in 1995 and 1996 will be slightly above 5 percent. With inflation at around 3 percent, real gains in personal income will be slightly above 2 percent for both years. Retail sales will grow at around 6 percent in 1995 and 1996.

Employment

Total employment grew at a solid 3.7 percent in 1994 (Table 2). Growth is expected to be almost 3 percent in 1995 and will slow to slightly more than 2 percent in 1996. To the extent that employment gains are the result of conversions from full-time to part-time jobs or additions of part-time jobs, the magnitude of employment growth may be overstated. However, sectors traditionally characterized by full-time employment, including manufacturing, are expected to post positive employment growth.

The services sector is the state's largest employer—services employment equals one-fourth of total nonagricultural employment. Roughly 1 of 2 jobs in the service sector are part-time, with an average of 32 hours worked per week. It is an industry that includes many minimum wage jobs as well as some of the most highly paid jobs.

Figure 1
Key Economic Growth Rates
(percent)

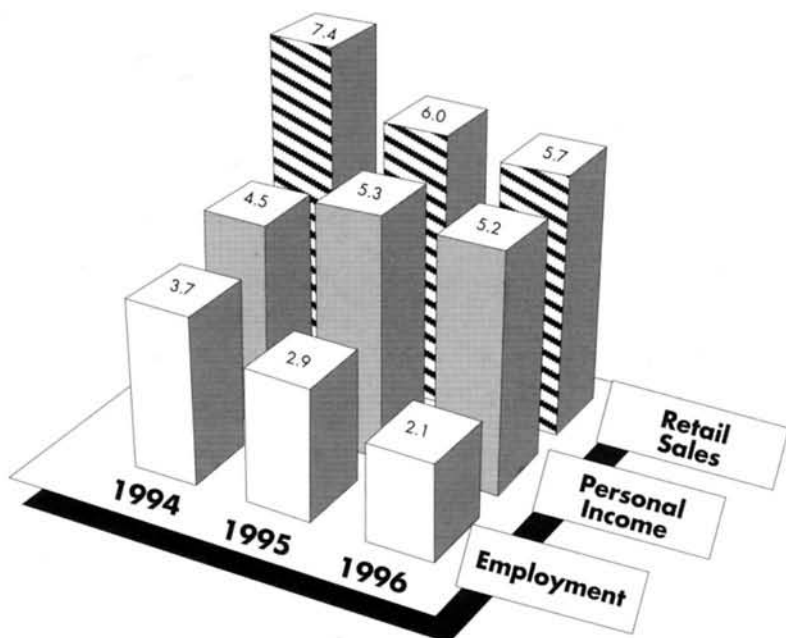


Table 1
Summary of Projections, Nebraska Employment, Personal Income, and Retail Sales
Annual Averages of Monthly Values

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total Employment (Jobs)	730,026	736,171	750,153	767,212	795,468	818,511	835,320
Personal Income*	27,470	28,689	30,778	(\$ millions)	31,738	33,176	34,927
Net Taxable Retail Sales							
Total	1,029	1,062	1,113	1,181	1,268	1,343	1,420
Motor Sales	127	120	125	142	151	155	160
Nonmotor Sales	902	942	988	1,039	1,117	1,188	1,259

*Annual Totals

Services employment topped 200,000 in 1994, a gain of 5.3 percent (Table 3). Gains are expected to be 4.5 percent in 1995, and 3.5 percent in 1996 (Figure 2).

Nebraska's second largest employment sector is retail trade. Growth in retail jobs will roughly parallel overall job growth. Retail employment jumped over 4 percent in 1994. The relatively large increase seen in 1994 probably came in the form of part-time jobs. After increasing 3 percent in 1995, growth will slow to 2 percent in 1996 (Figure 3).

The third largest employment sector is state and local government. We previously expected growth to be below 1 percent in 1994, however, revised figures put the jump at nearly 2 percent. Most of the growth was in local government employment and resulted in part from hiring pressures on local school districts. In 1995 and 1996, state and local government employment will grow less than 1 percent each year.

The manufacturing sector employs more than 100,000 workers statewide. Employment exceeded 50,000 in both durables and nondurable manufacturing for the first time in 1994.

Durable goods employment grew at a remarkable rate of 6.6 percent in 1994. This growth was largely the result of strength in fabricated metals and electrical machinery manufacturing across the state. Employment growth in durables will be strong in 1995, at just over 4 percent, and will slow to 2.5 percent in 1996 (Figure 4).

Figure 2
Projected Employment
Growth—Services

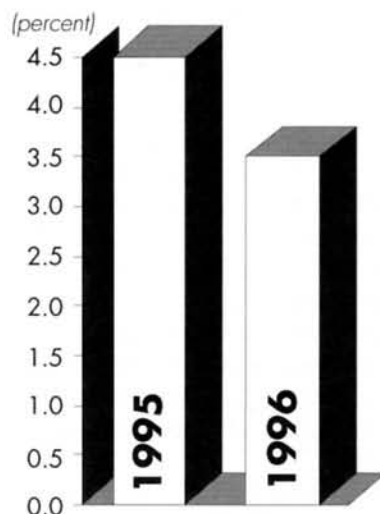
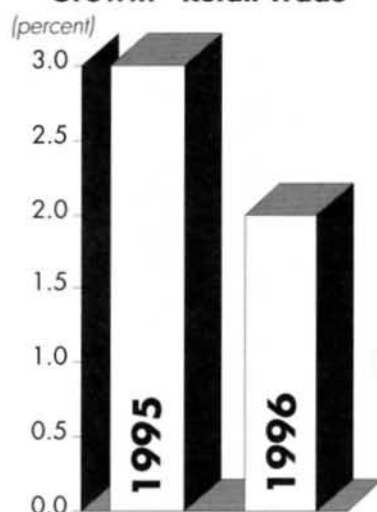


Table 2
Summary of Projections, Nebraska Employment, Personal Income,
and Retail Sales Average Annual Growth Rates

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
	(percent)						
Total Employment	3.1	0.8	1.9	2.3	3.7	2.9	2.1
Personal Income	8.7	4.4	7.3	3.1	4.5	5.3	5.2
Consumer Price Index	5.4	4.2	3.0	3.0	2.6	3.0	2.8
Net Taxable Retail Sales							
Total	4.3	3.2	4.8	6.1	7.4	6.0	5.7
Motor Sales	0.9	-5.8	4.0	13.7	6.8	2.7	3.2
Nonmotor Sales	4.8	4.5	4.9	5.1	7.5	6.4	6.0

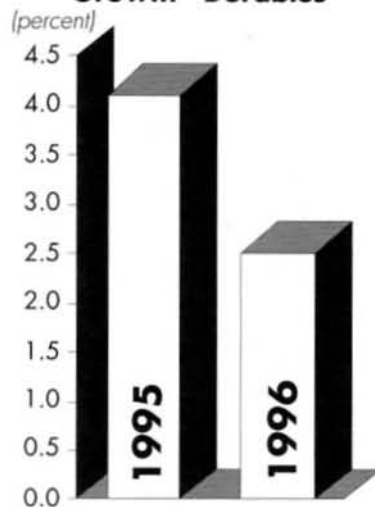
Figure 3
Projected Employment
Growth—Retail Trade



Nondurable manufacturing employment grew at a more modest rate of 3.6 percent in 1994, due mainly to advances in food production. In 1995 and 1996 growth will slow to 2.5 and 2 percent respectively. Over half of the jobs in nondurable manufacturing are in the food processing industry.

Growth in construction and mining employment topped 9 percent in 1994. Employment growth in this sector will continue, but at a slower pace. Factors contributing to continued growth include high levels of housing activity and road construction in selected areas across the state. Growth is ex-

Figure 4
Projected Employment
Growth—Durables



pected to be around 7 percent in 1995, and will drop to 3.5 percent in 1996.

Modest employment growth of 2 percent occurred in the Transportation, Communications and Utilities (TCU) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) sectors in 1994. Growth in both sectors will slow to under 2 percent in 1995. In 1996, TCU growth is expected to be below 1 percent, while FIRE growth will remain steady at just under 2 percent. Wholesale trade saw slight decreases in employment in 1994, but will rebound to between 1 and 2 percent in 1995 and 1996.

Federal government employment decreased just under 1 percent in 1994. Negative growth is expected in 1995; slight gains will occur in 1996.

Table 3
Number of Jobs and Percent Change, by Industry
(not seasonally adjusted)

Annual Average of Monthly Numbers											
Year	Const & Mining	Durables	Nondurables	TCU	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	FIRE	Services	Federal Gov't	State & Local Gov't	Total
1990	28,596	48,522	49,286	46,276	53,392	134,145	48,426	177,966	18,040	125,378	730,026
1991	29,105	47,588	51,680	47,505	51,475	135,107	48,479	179,730	17,616	127,888	736,171
1992	29,760	46,922	53,791	47,165	52,362	137,457	49,429	185,605	17,076	130,587	750,153
1993	31,778	48,752	55,032	47,338	51,998	141,160	50,506	191,681	17,312	131,655	767,212
1994	34,772	51,948	56,992	48,278	51,882	147,072	51,541	201,872	17,198	133,931	795,486
1995	37,206	54,078	58,417	49,011	52,873	151,484	52,396	210,956	17,087	135,002	818,511
1996	38,508	55,430	59,586	49,374	53,497	154,514	53,282	218,339	17,112	135,677	835,320
Percent Change											
1990	6.8	3.7	3.0	1.7	1.6	2.1	1.1	5.0	1.9	2.8	3.1
1991	1.8	-1.9	4.9	2.7	-3.6	0.7	0.1	1.0	-2.4	2.0	0.8
1992	2.3	-1.4	4.1	-0.7	1.7	1.7	2.0	3.3	-3.1	2.1	1.9
1993	6.8	3.9	2.3	0.4	-0.7	2.7	2.2	3.3	1.4	0.8	2.3
1994	9.4	6.6	3.6	2.0	-0.2	4.2	2.0	5.3	-0.7	1.7	3.7
1995	7.0	4.1	2.5	1.5	1.9	3.0	1.7	4.5	-0.7	0.8	2.9
1996	3.5	2.5	2.0	0.7	1.2	2.0	1.7	3.5	0.1	0.5	2.1

Personal Income

Total personal income grew solidly in 1994, reflecting strength in wages and salaries (Table 4). Gains are expected to be above 5 percent in 1995 and 1996. Following adjustment for inflation, real gains in personal income will be slightly above 2 percent for both years.

The largest component of total personal income is wages and salaries. Wages and salaries grew 6.5 percent in 1994 and will continue to show moderate strength in 1995 and 1996 (Figure 5). Real increases in wages and salaries will nearly match the increases in total employment.

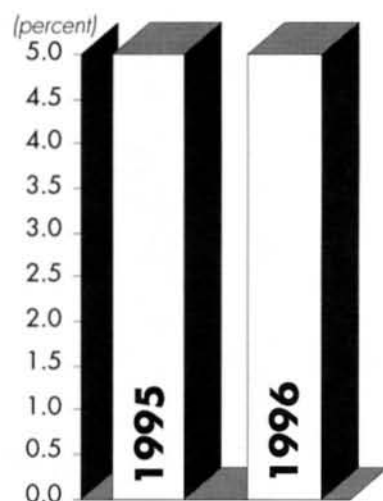
Gains in other labor income, including benefits, are still expected to outpace the advances in wages and salaries. The growth rate in other labor income will remain steady through 1996. Nonfarm proprietors' income growth also will outpace wage and salary growth. Slowing but solid growth is expected in nonfarm proprietors' income through 1996 (Figure 6).

Transfer payments growth has been slowing since 1992, but remains above the rate of inflation. In 1994, transfer payments growth was almost 6 percent, down from just under 8 percent in 1993. Growth is expected to slow to 4 percent by 1996 (Figure 7). Growth in Dividends, Interest and Rent (DIR) were just above the rate of inflation in 1994. DIR growth is expected to remain fairly steady in 1995 and 1996.

The decreases in farm proprietors' income in 1993 and 1994 shown in Table 4 are probably overstated. There is a good chance that the magnitude of the decreases will be smaller by half when the data is revised. The expected rebounds in 1995 and 1996 result from a low base—1994 farm proprietors' income was well below historical levels.

Grain prices are up overall so, despite heat losses, grain farmers will do well in 1995. Bumper crops of wheat have been harvested in the western part of the state at very high prices. Livestock producers and feeders are not expected to fare well in 1995. Cattle deaths and low weight gains due to heat combined with livestock

Figure 5
Expected Growth—Wages & Salaries



prices ranging from \$10 to 13 per hundredweight will reduce livestock income. High grain prices also dampen livestock expectations. Agricultural exports, particularly meat products, are improving, however. Asian markets show particularly good growth potential.

The forecast for total farm income (including farm wages and salaries) is \$1.8 billion in 1995 and \$2.1 billion in 1996.

Retail Sales

Slower motor vehicle sales in 1994 were offset by strong nonmotor vehicle sales. The result was an increase in total retail sales of over 7 percent in 1994 (Figure 8). In response to continued strength

Table 4
Nebraska Personal Income
(seasonally adjusted at annual rates)
(in \$ millions)

Annual Averages

Year	Total Wages & Salaries	Proprietors' Income		Other Labor Income	Pers. Cont. for Social Insurance	Dividends Int, Rent	Transfer Payments	Resid. Adjustment	Total Personal Income
		Farm	Nonfarm						
1989	13,816	1,642	1,876	1,315	-1,346	4,797	3,516	-339	25,276
1990	14,853	2,093	1,957	1,460	-1,396	5,028	3,833	-359	27,470
1991	15,604	2,097	2,007	1,631	-1,473	5,039	4,156	-372	28,689
1992	16,546	2,170	2,158	1,804	-1,553	5,504	4,555	-405	30,778
1993	17,263	1,777	2,335	1,971	-1,643	5,546	4,904	-414	31,738
1994	18,383	1,420	2,532	2,151	-1,794	5,735	5,193	-443	33,176
1995	19,302	1,569	2,697	2,346	-1,905	5,925	5,452	-460	34,927
1996	20,267	1,767	2,859	2,562	-2,023	6,100	5,670	-476	36,726

Percent Changes

Year	Total Wages & Salaries	Proprietors' Income	Other Labor Income	Pers. Cont. for Social Insurance	Dividends Int, Rent	Transfer Payments	Resid. Adjustment	Total Personal Income
		Farm	Nonfarm					
1990	7.5	27.5	4.3	11.1	3.7	4.8	9.0	5.8
1991	5.1	0.2	2.6	11.7	5.5	0.2	8.4	3.7
1992	6.0	3.5	7.5	10.6	5.4	9.2	9.6	9.0
1993	4.3	-18.1	8.2	9.3	5.8	0.8	7.7	2.2
1994	6.5	-20.1	8.4	9.1	9.2	3.4	5.9	7.0
1995	5.0	10.4	6.5	9.1	6.2	3.3	5.0	3.7
1996	5.0	12.6	6.0	9.2	6.2	2.9	4.0	3.5

Figure 6
Projected Employment
Growth—Nonfarm Proprietors' Income

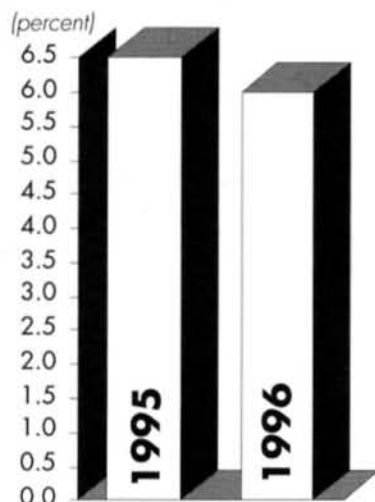
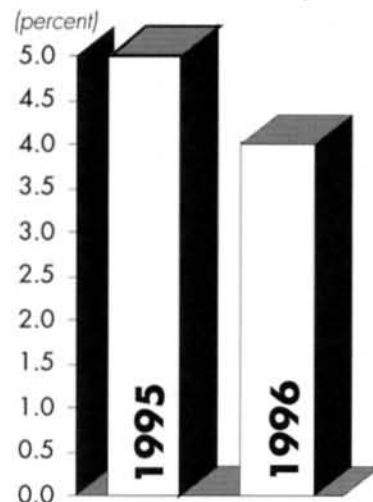


Figure 7
Projected Employment
Growth—Transfer Payments



in the Nebraska economy, retail sales will grow at around 6 percent in 1995 and 1996. Nonmotor vehicle sales will continue to do well.

Adjusted for inflation, real gains in retail sales will hold at roughly 3 percent in 1995 and 1996. (Although the mix of goods used to calculate CPI at the national level does not closely match the mix found in Nebraska's net taxable retail sales, CPI is still a reliable guide for gauging inflation at the state level.)

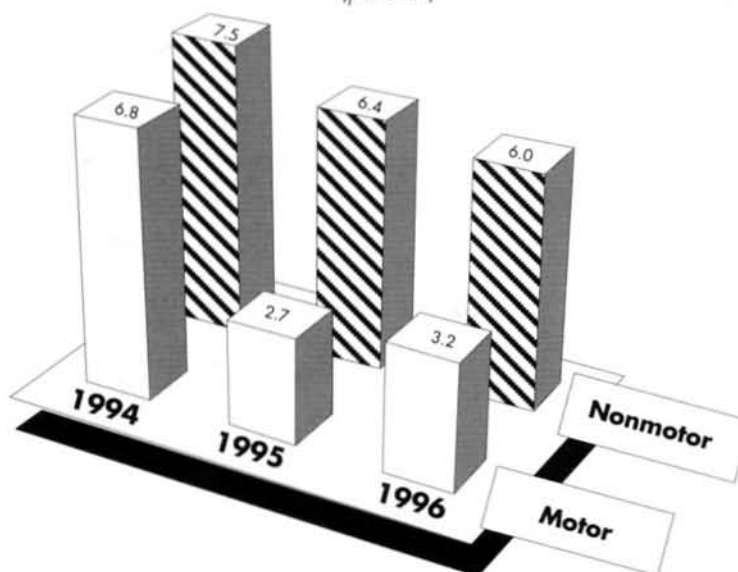
National Economic Outlook

The U.S. economy stumbled in the second quarter of 1995, but a recession is not expected. The nation's economic performance is expected to be characterized by slow growth and low inflation through 1996. Real GDP will grow approximately 2.5 percent annually, and inflation will hover around 3 percent.

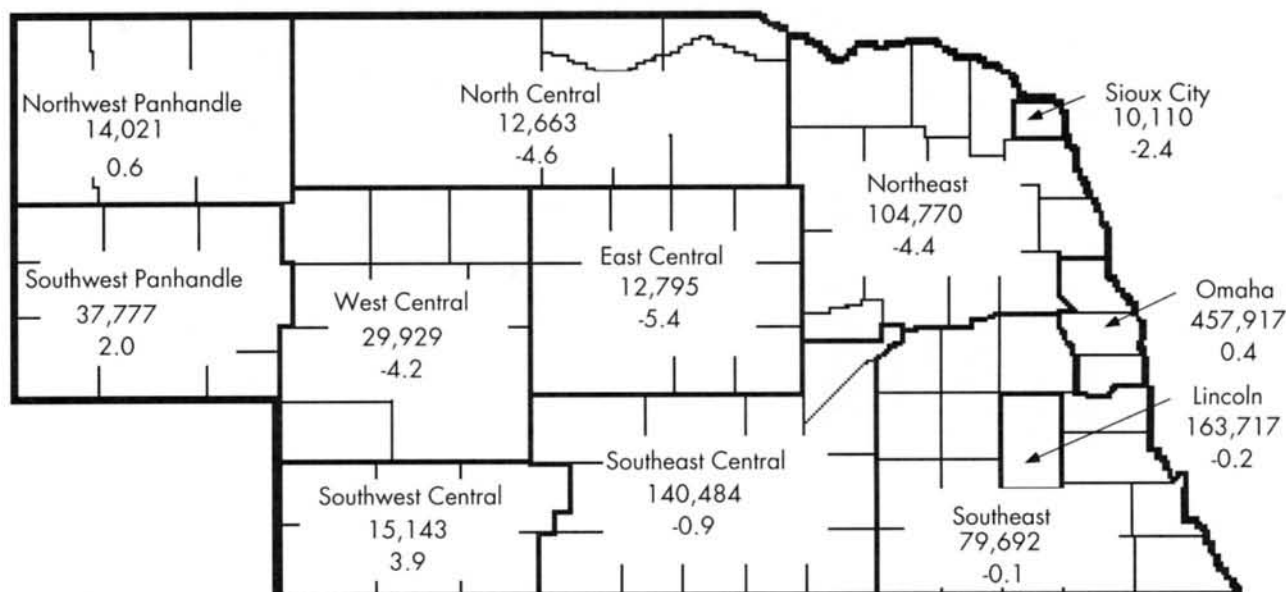
If the nation does slip into recession in 1995, the impact would not hit Nebraska until 1996. If the previous recession is any indication, the impact of a national recession on Nebraska would be limited to poor performance in durable goods and construction. The services sector would continue to expand but at a somewhat slower pace.

We are grateful for the help of the consensus group that served during the current round of forecasts. Group members are Ernie Goss, Department of Economics and Finance, Creighton University; Bruce Johnson, Department of Agricultural Economics, UN-L; Stu Miller, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Donis Petersen, Nebraska Public Power District; Tom Moloney, Nebraska Department of Labor; Franz Schwarz, Nebraska Department of Revenue; Charles Lamphear and John Austin, Bureau of Business Research, UN-L.

Figure 8
Growth Rates—Motor and Nonmotor Vehicle Sales
(percent)



April 1995 Regional Retail Sales and Percent Change from Year Ago
(\$000)



Price Indices

	June 1995	% Change vs Year Ago	YTD % Change vs Year Ago
Consumer Price Index - U* (1982-84 = 100)			
All Items	152.5	3.0	3.0
Commodities	136.6	2.3	2.4
Services	168.6	3.6	3.4

U* = All urban consumers

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Employment in Nebraska

	Revised April 1995	Preliminary May 1995	% Change vs Year Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	809,987	814,199	1.7
Manufacturing	111,210	11,110	3.2
Durables	53,803	53,841	4.1
Nondurables	57,407	57,269	2.4
Mining & Construction	32,970	33,898	-7.7
TCU*	50,093	50,333	5.2
Trade	202,174	203,321	2.8
Retail	149,160	150,041	2.2
Wholesale	53,014	53,280	4.7
FIRE**	52,069	51,926	1.0
Services	209,352	210,092	4.3
Government	152,119	153,519	-2.8
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	885,829	887,587	1.0
Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.4	

* Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

** Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

City Employment April 1995
Percent Change from Year Ago

	Employment (1)
The State and Its Trading Centers	
NEBRASKA	1.2
Alliance	0.9
Beatrice	-0.5
Bellevue	2.8
Blair	2.7
Broken Bow	0.0
Chadron	-0.8
Columbus	-0.3
Fairbury	0.0
Falls City	-0.2
Fremont	0.3
Grand Island	0.1
Hastings	0.0
Holdrege	0.1
Kearney	0.0
Lexington	0.2
Lincoln	1.0
McCook	0.2
Nebraska City	-0.1
Norfolk	0.1
North Platte	0.3
Ogallala	0.1
Omaha	2.7
Scottsbluff/Gering	-0.1
Seward	-0.1
Sidney	0.9
South Sioux City	1.6
York	0.5

(1) As a proxy for city employment, total employment (labor force basis) for the county in which a city is located is used.

Sources: Nebraska Department of Labor

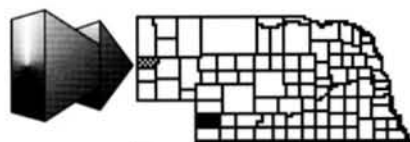
Nonmotor Vehicle Net Taxable Retail Sales in Nebraska Cities

	March 1995	% Change vs Yr Ago		April 1995	% Change vs Year Ago		March 1995	% Change vs Yr Ago		April 1995	% Change vs Yr Ago
Omaha, Douglas	394,640	0.2	Omaha, Douglas	366,395	0.5	Burwell, Garfield	692	-3.1	Arapahoe, Furnas	595	3.1
Lincoln, Lancaster	158,495	2.3	Lincoln, Lancaster	143,275	2.6	Alma, Harlan	679	0.6	Ravenna, Buffalo	588	-17.4
Grand Island, Hall	45,725	3.5	Grand Island, Hall	43,502	4.9	Fullerton, Nance	662	33.7	Red Cloud, Webster	587	-20.2
Norfolk, Madison	25,661	10.5	Kearney, Buffalo	24,737	0.0	Humphrey, Platte	661	-5.8	Pender, Thurston	576	-11.0
Kearney, Buffalo	25,105	-6.1	Norfolk, Madison	23,782	7.2	Madison, Madison	656	-24.4	Madison, Madison	574	-13.4
Fremont, Dodge	21,081	-1.6	North Platte, Lincoln	18,551	1.3	Arapahoe, Furnas	625	-8.5	Pierce, Pierce	558	2.0
Hastings, Adams	19,322	0.7	Hastings, Adams	18,314	-5.6	Henderson, York	619	19.3	Shelton, Buffalo	537	-25.5
North Platte, Lincoln	19,026	-2.5	Scottsbluff, Scotts B	18,042	10.4	Oakland, Burt	618	-5.5	Battle Creek, Madison	533	-16.5
Columbus, Platte	18,127	-3.0	Columbus, Platte	17,529	-4.0	Weeping Water, Cass	613	-4.2	Pierce, Pierce	532	-2.6
Scottsbluff, Scotts B	17,451	-1.3	Fremont, Dodge	17,167	-12.0	Pender, Thurston	606	3.1	Weeping Water, Cass	531	9.3
Bellevue, Sarpy	14,376	2.9	Bellevue, Sarpy	14,360	3.7	Cambridge, Furnas	597	7.2	Burwell, Garfield	529	-18.0
Beatrice, Gage	8,834	-5.0	McCook, Red Willow	9,173	12.0	Doniphan, Hall	596	60.6	Waverly, Lancaster	529	-1.5
McCook, Red Willow	8,408	1.3	Beatrice, Gage	8,779	-0.8	Battle Creek, Madison	594	-13.5	Oakland, Burt	527	-4.9
York, York	8,034	4.4	York, York	7,634	5.5	Rushville, Sheridan	572	0.7	Henderson, York	514	-2.5
S. Sioux City, Dak	7,413	2.6	S. Sioux City, Dak	7,270	7.3	Waverly, Lancaster	569	-7.2	Stanton, Stanton	512	-4.1
Lexington, Dawson	6,990	2.4	Lexington, Dawson	6,644	2.3	Wisner, Cuming	567	-11.8	Friend, Saline	504	10.0
La Vista, Sarpy	6,037	-0.6	La Vista, Sarpy	6,146	9.4	Bloomfield, Knox	565	-8.6	Rushville, Sheridan	477	-4.8
Blair, Washington	5,803	-5.6	Sidney, Cheyenne	5,780	12.8	Loup City, Sherman	553	-12.5	Wisner, Cuming	476	-19.3
Sidney, Cheyenne	5,352	-1.5	Alliance, Box Butte	5,602	12.5	Dakota City, Dakota	534	30.6	Bloomfield, Knox	473	-17.7
Alliance, Box Butte	4,975	-4.7	Blair, Washington	5,513	-3.8	North Bend, Dodge	516	7.5	Loup City, Sherman	462	-12.3
Nebraska City, Otoe	4,759	-9.5	Ogallala, Keith	4,486	-1.0	Franklin, Franklin	515	1.2	Humboldt, Richardson	438	-11.3
Seward, Seward	4,670	2.1	Broken Bow, Custer	4,320	11.0	Humboldt, Richardson	513	-5.5	Doniphan, Hall	436	-9.7
Ogallala, Keith	4,618	1.7	Holdrege, Phelps	4,314	-0.7	Stanton, Stanton	511	-11.0	Bayard, Morrill	431	0.7
Holdrege, Phelps	4,537	-5.4	Nebraska City, Otoe	4,267	0.7	Friend, Saline	508	5.2	Fullerton, Nance	430	-15.0
Broken Bow, Custer	3,873	5.3	Seward, Seward	4,208	-6.9	Chappell, Deuel	502	14.1	North Bend, Dodge	429	-0.2
O'Neill, Holt	3,771	-3.7	Crete, Saline	3,702	14.9	Osmond, Pierce	498	8.3	Franklin, Franklin	426	-11.4
Papillion, Sarpy	3,426	-0.4	O'Neill, Holt	3,548	-4.3	Benkelman, Dundy	495	-6.1	Oshkosh, Garden	424	4.2
Crete, Saline	3,289	-12.0	West Point, Cuming	3,240	12.8	Shelton, Buffalo	488	-18.3	Wilber, Saline	414	-3.0
Chadron, Dawes	3,241	1.6	Valentine, Cherry	3,138	14.4	Bayard, Morrill	484	9.5	Ponca, Dixon	408	-6.0
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,207	-8.1	Papillion, Sarpy	3,111	-6.1	Bassett, Rock	478	12.7	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	400	-6.5
Gretna, Sarpy	3,200	1.4	Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,012	-7.8	Oshkosh, Garden	467	4.7	Tilden, Madison	391	12.0
Valentine, Cherry	3,013	-8.2	Gretna, Sarpy	2,998	-2.7	Morrill, Scotts Bluff	463	9.7	Chappell, Deuel	378	3.6
Wayne, Wayne	2,971	-17.6	Chadron, Dawes	2,890	-1.3	Elgin, Antelope	456	-5.2	Clarkson, Colfax	375	-29.0
West Point, Cuming	2,951	-11.4	Fairbury, Jefferson	2,753	0.9	Ponca, Dixon	442	-4.3	Benkelman, Dundy	371	-18.1
Fairbury, Jefferson	2,919	-4.9	Plattsmouth, Cass	2,631	1.6	Crawford, Dawes	432	7.2	Scribner, Dodge	371	-13.5
Aurora, Hamilton	2,812	5.8	Wayne, Wayne	2,558	-19.4	Wilber, Saline	428	-15.4	Lyons, Burt	370	-19.4
Plattsmouth, Cass	2,809	-7.9	Aurora, Hamilton	2,489	6.1	Scribner, Dodge	425	-11.5	Newman Grove, Madison	369	37.7
Cozad, Dawson	2,771	2.9	Ralston, Douglas	2,425	-11.0	Wymore, Gage	424	-3.2	Bassett, Rock	367	-17.3
Auburn, Nemaha	2,659	-4.2	Cozad, Dawson	2,346	-7.7	Oxford, Furnas	403	46.0	Wood River, Hall	345	14.2
Falls City, Richardso	2,583	-7.4	Falls City, Richardso	2,312	1.4	Tilden, Madison	403	-13.9	Wymore, Gage	344	-3.6
Ralston, Douglas	2,579	1.4	Auburn, Nemaha	2,196	-8.3	Randolph, Cedar	394	-5.5	Blue Hill, Webster	327	-3.5
Wahoo, Saunders	2,369	-7.5	Wahoo, Saunders	2,128	-4.6	Clarkson, Colfax	392	15.0	Bennington, Douglas	326	-8.9
Gothenburg, Dawson	1,999	9.5	Gothenburg, Dawson	1,819	-1.6	Lyons, Burt	372	-12.9	Laurel, Cedar	321	-0.6
Schuyler, Colfax	1,901	-5.0	Geneva, Fillmore	1,762	5.9	Blue Hill, Webster	368	1.7	Louisville, Cass	319	-9.4
Ord, Valley	1,888	3.1	Ord, Valley	1,602	-13.5	Crofton, Knox	362	-5.7	Elgin, Antelope	317	-2.5
Hebron, Thayer	1,819	22.7	Hebron, Thayer	1,588	-4.1	Newman Grove, Madison	360	3.6	Wakefield, Dixon	314	-6.8
Geneva, Fillmore	1,782	2.4	Schuyler, Colfax	1,534	-16.4	Wood River, Hall	359	-7.7	Crofton, Knox	312	-8.5
Minden, Kearney	1,760	25.4	Ainsworth, Brown	1,490	-17.2	Laurel, Cedar	354	-18.2	Oxford, Furnas	312	-13.6
Ainsworth, Brown	1,737	-1.8	Albion, Boone	1,470	-4.2	Pawnee City, Pawnee	346	7.1	Pawnee City, Pawnee	310	5.8
Gordon, Sheridan	1,682	-10.1	Hartington, Cedar	1,443	-14.0	Elwood, Gosper	340	15.3	Elwood, Gosper	303	-12.7
Albion, Boone	1,650	16.2	Gordon, Sheridan	1,421	-7.8	Wakefield, Dixon	334	-31.3	Crawford, Dawes	302	-12.0
Central City, Merrick	1,637	-3.9	Minden, Kearney	1,415	-10.4	Louisville, Cass	325	-6.9	Randolph, Cedar	296	0.0
Kimball, Kimball	1,616	-0.7	Central City, Merrick	1,360	-8.0	Wauweta, Chase	316	0.0	Osmond, Pierce	295	-13.7
Imperial, Chase	1,614	12.6	Valley, Douglas	1,353	50.0	Emerson, Dakota	309	-12.2	Shelby, Polk	277	-2.1
Hartington, Cedar	1,610	10.8	Elkhorn, Douglas	1,348	-0.7	Hay Springs, Sheridan	300	-17.8	Hooper, Dodge	274	-5.8
Superior, Nuckolls	1,546	5.0	Imperial, Chase	1,316	-14.1	Shelby, Polk	299	-5.7	Emerson, Dakota	271	-11.4
David City, Butler	1,434	0.2	Superior, Nuckolls	1,316	-10.1	Curtis, Frontier	289	-11.9	Curtis, Frontier	267	7.2
Elkhorn, Douglas	1,408	0.2	Kimball, Kimball	1,314	-27.0	Dodge, Dodge	285	-5.0	Eagle, Cass	267	-2.2
Neligh, Antelope	1,307	8.6	David City, Butler	1,291	-5.5	Eagle, Cass	274	66.1	Hay Springs, Sheridan	265	-9.6
St. Paul, Howard	1,159	3.2	Neligh, Antelope	1,146	-13.4	Hooper, Dodge	265	-19.7	Wauweta, Chase	249	-2.7
Tecumseh, Johnson	1,065	-3.3	St. Paul, Howard	1,020	-21.4	Hickman, Lancaster	264	3.1	Arnold, Custer	242	-1.2
Bridgeport, Morrill	1,051	9.6	Syracuse, Otoe	995	0.8	Utica, Seward	260	22.1	Minatare, Scotts Bluf	219	-11.0
Syracuse, Otoe	1,047	0.1	Tecumseh, Johnson	976	-8.5	Arnold, Custer	259	-14.0	Sutherland, Lincoln	219	-22.6
Creighton, Knox	1,040	5.5	Sutton, Clay	943	-1.2	Genoa, Nance	250	-7.4	Clay Center, Clay	210	-13.2
Ceresco, Saunders	1,006	7.5	Ceresco, Saunders	926	2.8	Deshler, Thayer	242	1.3	Deshler, Thayer	209	10.0
Sutton, Clay	1,006	30.8	Bridgeport, Morrill	890	-5.0	Clay Center, Clay	238	-13.8	Genoa, Nance	201	-5.6
Tekamah, Burt	986	-4.9	Tekamah, Burt	868	-12.9	Minatare, Scotts Bluf	225	5.1	Utica, Seward	199	2.1
Grant, Perkins	939	1.5	Creighton, Knox	862	-2.9	Sutherland, Lincoln	224	-17.9	Dodge, Dodge	171	-21.2
Milford, Seward	933	-8.3	Ashland, Saunders	774	-8.2	Sargent, Custer	217	-10.7	Sargent, Custer	167	-5.6
Ashland, Saunders	922	-19.3	Cambridge, Furnas	770	47.8	Arlington, Washington	216	-8.5	Juniata, Adams	162	-3.0
Mitchell, Scotts Bluf	902	6.6	Grant, Perkins	713	-11.0	Bennington, Douglas	209	-15.0	Hickman, Lancaster	158	-9.2
Red Cloud, Webster	883	23.0	Osceola, Polk	707	-13.8	Juniata, Adams	197	-10.9	Cairo, Hall	157	-15.6
Atkinson, Holt	808	-8.1	Mitchell, Scotts Bluf	706	-15.4	Cairo, Hall	196	6.5	Elm Creek, Buffalo	148	-27.5
Ravenna, Buffalo	791	-1.1	Gibbon, Buffalo	666	-8.8	Elm Creek, Buffalo	196	-14.4	Springfield, Sarpy	147	-5.8
Valley, Douglas	770	-1.7	Stromsburg, Polk	647	-29.8	Fairmont, Fillmore	182	19.7	Arlington, Washington	138	-20.2
Gibbon, Buffalo	751	-7.6	Alma, Harlan	633	12.6	Springfield, Sarpy	180	0.0	Beaver City, Furnas	113	-6.6
Pierce, Pierce	737	4.1	Atkinson, Holt	616	-3.6	Bertrand, Phelps	155	23.0	Fairmont, Fillmore	99	-30.3
Stromsburg, Polk	726	-13.1	Milford, Seward	610	-12.0	Beaver City, Furnas	143	-19.7	Kenesaw, Adams	95	21.8
Plainview, Pierce	712	24.3	Plainview, Pierce	604	-4.1	Kenesaw, Adams	92	-24.6	Bertrand, Phelps	89	-34.6
Osceola, Polk	697	-14.0	Humphrey, Platte	598	-14.8	Axtell, Kearney	87	-17.9	Axtell, Kearney	73	-19.8

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Chase

Imperial—County Seat



Next County of Month

License plate prefix number: 72**Size of county:** 893 square miles, ranks 21st in the state**Population:** 4,381 in 1990, a change of -7.9 percent from 1980**Median age:** 39.7 years in Chase County, 33.0 years in Nebraska in 1990**Per capita personal income:** \$21,253 in 1993, ranks 8th in the state**Net taxable retail sales (\$000):** \$28,650 in 1994, a change 3.0 of percent from 1993; \$9,136 during January-April 1995, a change of 1.5 percent from the same period one year ago**Number of business and service establishments:** 137 in 1992, 59.9 percent had less than five employees**Unemployment rate:** 2.3 percent in Chase County, 2.9 percent in Nebraska for 1994**Nonfarm employment (1994):**

	State	Chase County
Wage and salary workers	795,486	1,389
	(percent of total)	
Manufacturing	13.7%	3.2%
Construction and Mining	4.4	1.7
TCU	6.1	1.4
Retail Trade	18.5	23.5
Wholesale Trade	6.5	16.7
FIRE	6.5	6.5
Services	25.4	10.5
Government	<u>19.0</u>	<u>36.6</u>
Total	100.0%	100.0%

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 368 in 1992, 468 in 1987

Average farm size: 1.417 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$77.2 million in 1992 (\$209,869 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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JULY/AUGUST 1995, VOLUME 50 No. 602

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