

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Monthly State Unemployment Rate Declines to 3.2 Percent

**LINCOLN-** The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) announced today that Nebraska’s preliminary unemployment rate for February was 3.2 percent, seasonally adjusted. The rate declined 0.1 percentage point from the January 2017 rate of 3.3 percent and is unchanged from the February 2016 rate.

“Several industry sectors showed healthy employment gains over-the-month,” said Commissioner of Labor, John H. Albin. “Nebraska’s total nonfarm jobs had the largest January to February percentage increase in the country according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.”

Statewide nonfarm employment for February 2017 was 1,009,110. The private industries with the most growth over the month were education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and professional and business services. Over the year, nonfarm employment gained 13,013 jobs, an increase of 1.3 percent.

The national seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for February was 4.7 percent, down 0.1 percentage point from January and down 0.2 percentage points from the February 2016 rate of 4.9 percent.

March 2017 data and benchmarked labor force data will be published Friday, April 21. Benchmarking nonfarm employment data (Current Employment Statistics – CES) is now available on the NEworks website at <http://NEworks.nebraska.gov/CES>. Benchmarking is the annual process of aligning estimated data with known employment numbers from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). It is a necessary step in ensuring the data released by the NDOL is of the highest quality.

## LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

### NATIONAL

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Prelim Feb-17	Revised Jan-17	Feb-16	Changes Since Jan-17	Feb-16
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	4.7	4.8	4.9	-0.1	-0.2

### NEBRASKA

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Prelim Feb-17	Revised Jan-17	Feb-16	Changes Since Jan-17	Feb-16
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.2	3.3	3.2	-0.1	0.0
<b>Labor Force</b>	1,011,205	1,012,238	1,010,240	-1,033	965
<i>Unemployment</i>	32,512	33,223	32,074	-711	438
<i>Employment</i>	978,693	979,015	978,166	-322	527

## OMAHA MSA

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Prelim Feb-17	Revised Jan-17	Feb-16	Changes Since Jan-17	Feb-16
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.4	3.6	****	-0.2	****
<b>Labor Force</b>	477,989	474,256	****	3,733	****
<i>Unemployment</i>	16,428	17,216	****	-788	****
<i>Employment</i>	461,561	457,040	****	4,521	****

## LINCOLN MSA

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Prelim Feb-17	Revised Jan-17	Feb-16	Changes Since Jan-17	Feb-16
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	2.8	3.1	****	-0.3	****
<b>Labor Force</b>	178,399	176,965	****	1,434	****
<i>Unemployment</i>	5,019	5,565	****	-546	****
<i>Employment</i>	173,380	171,400	****	1,980	****

## GRAND ISLAND MSA

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Prelim Feb-17	Revised Jan-17	Feb-16	Changes Since Jan-17	Feb-16
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.7	5.9	****	-2.2	****
<b>Labor Force</b>	43,394	44,207	****	-813	****
<i>Unemployment</i>	1,597	2,606	****	-1,009	****
<i>Employment</i>	41,797	41,601	****	196	****

\*\*\*\* Data not available due to benchmarking. Benchmarked labor force data will be published April 21, 2017.

**NOTE:** Data is revised on a monthly basis. Data for previous years is benchmarked annually and is subject to change. MSAs represent Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Seasonally adjusted data for the Omaha MSA and the Lincoln MSA is available about two weeks following this release. The seasonally adjusted data can be obtained at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrossa.htm> or <http://NEworks.nebraska.gov/LAUS>.

## MICROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREAS (MC)

NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Counties included	Feb-17 (Preliminary)	Jan-17 (Revised)
Beatrice MC	Gage	3.8	4.1
Columbus MC	Platte	3.5	3.7
Fremont MC	Dodge	3.3	3.5
Hastings MC	Adams, Clay	3.6	4.1
Kearney MC	Buffalo, Kearney	2.4	3.1
Lexington MC	Dawson, Gosper	3.6	3.8
Norfolk MC	Madison, Pierce, Stanton	3.2	3.4
North Platte MC	Lincoln, Logan, McPherson	3.5	3.6
Red Willow SA (Small Labor Market Area)	Red Willow, Hitchcock	2.9	3.0
Scottsbluff MC	Scotts Bluff, Banner	4.1	4.2