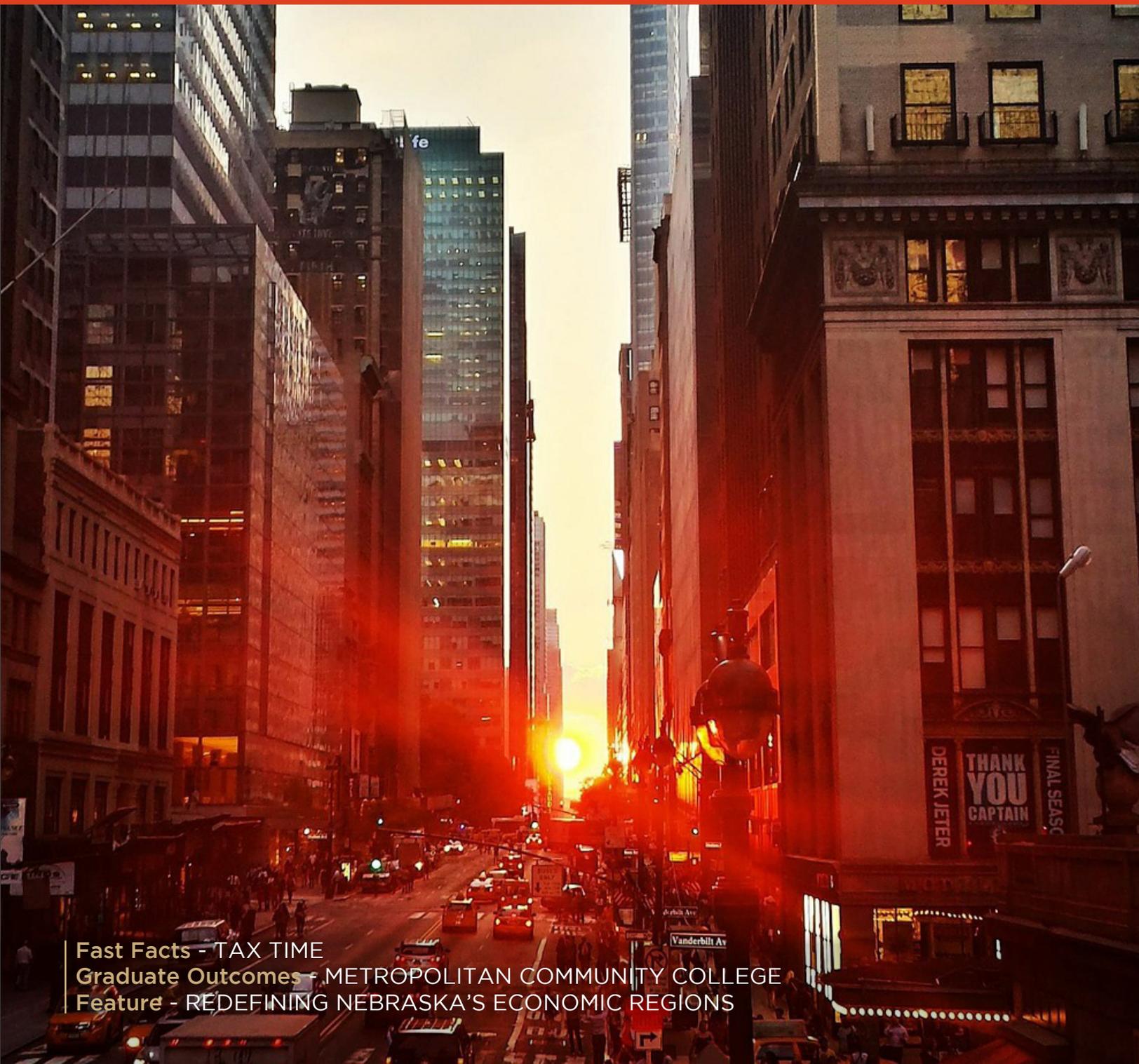


NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

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NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

APRIL 2015



Fast Facts - TAX TIME
Graduate Outcomes - METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Feature - REDEFINING NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC REGIONS

CREDITS

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[Monthly Unemployment Rate](#)

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FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT DATA

Byron Lefler, Research Analyst

LINCOLN MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

February Unemployment Rate: 2.4%

January Total Non-farm: 184,931

Manufacturing: 14,196

Largest OTM Increases:

Leisure & Hospitality: 1,187 (7.1%)

Education & Health Services: 339 (1.2%)

OMAHA MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

February Unemployment Rate: 3.2%

February Total Non-farm: 481,925

Manufacturing: 32,212

Largest OTM Increases:

Mining & Construction: 580 (2.6%)

Professional & Business Services: 380 (0.5%)

NEBRASKA (not seasonally adjusted)

February Total Non-farm: 986,570

Manufacturing: 96,445

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted)

February Unemployment Rate: 2.7%

Change (OTM): -0.2%

Change (OTY): -0.7%

Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted)

Central: 2.5%

Mid Plains: 3.7%

Northeast: 3.0%

Panhandle: 2.8%

Sandhills: 2.5%

Southeast: 3.3%

GRAND ISLAND MSA

(not seasonally adjusted)

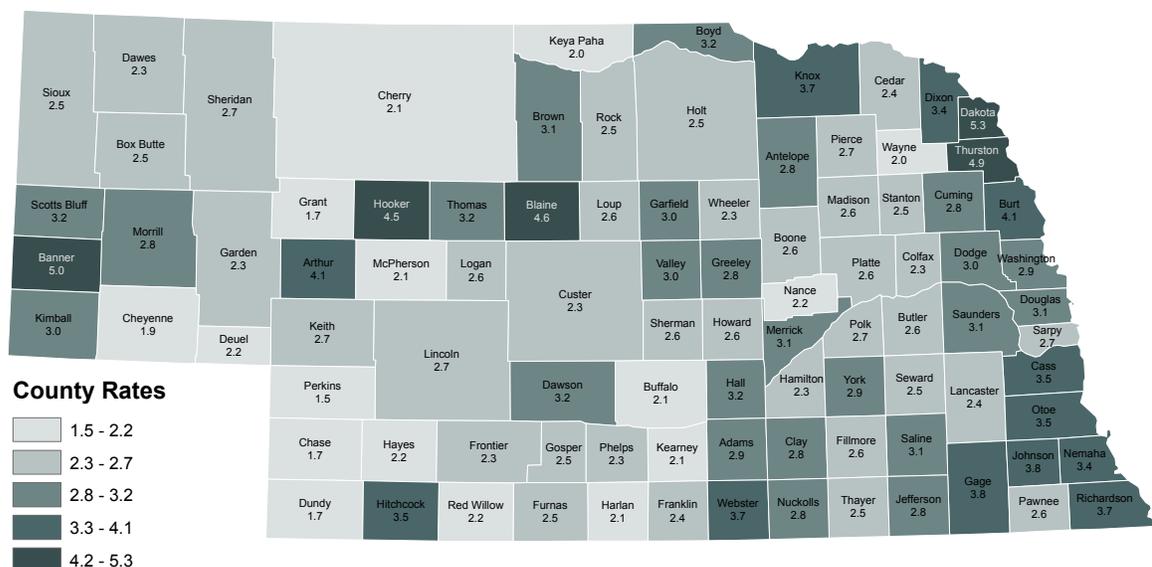
February Unemployment Rate: 3.0%

February Total Non-farm: 42,707

Change (OTM): 162 (0.4%)

Change (OTY): 677 (1.6%)

FEBRUARY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY COUNTY

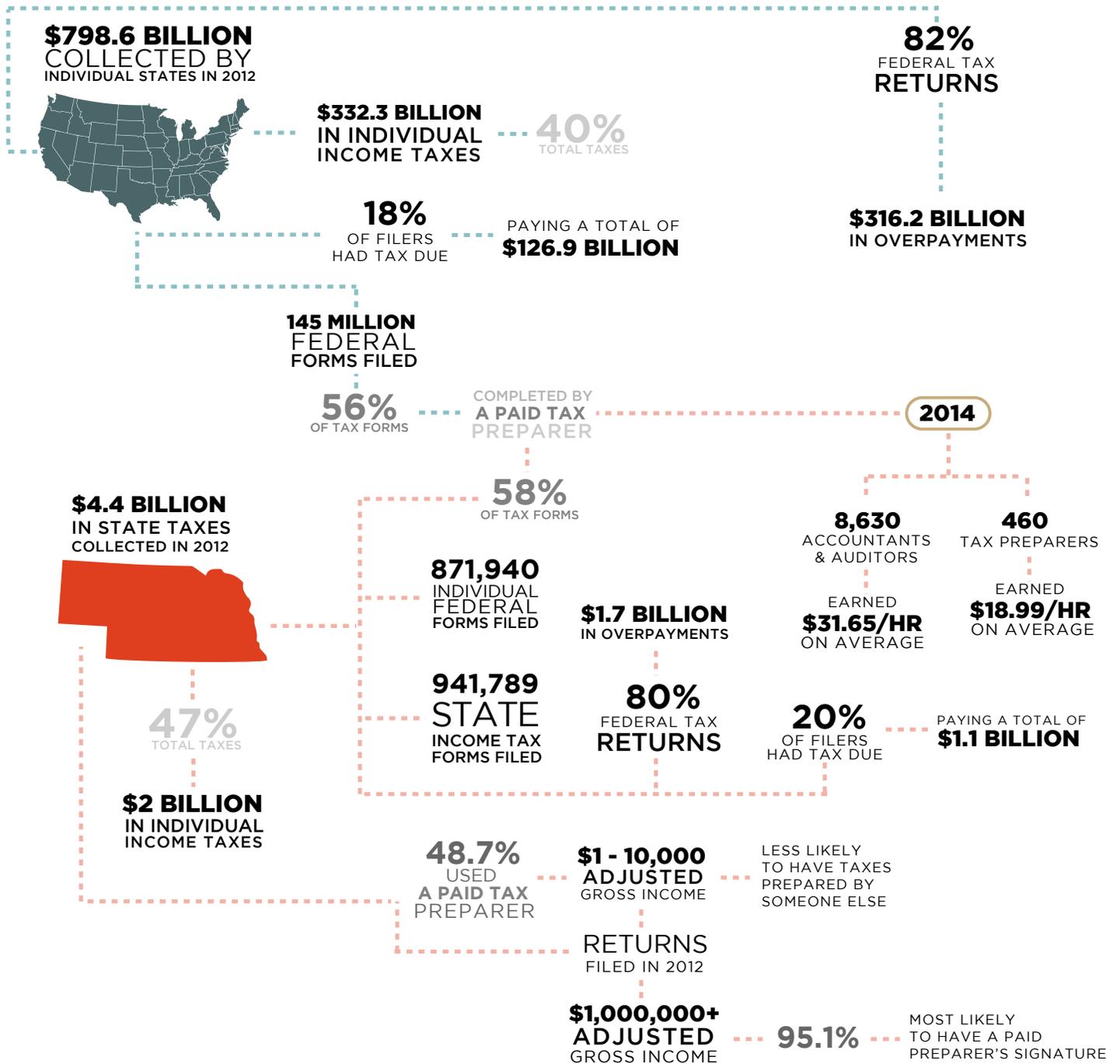


Sources:

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics Program (CES)
2. Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

FAST FACTS: TAX TIME

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst



SOURCES:

1. Nebraska Department of Revenue. Individual Income Tax Statistics. Individual Income Statistics by County. [Online] 2012. http://www.revenue.nebraska.gov/research/indinc_tax_data.html.
2. U.S. Census Bureau. 2012 Census of Governments: Finance - Survey of State Government Tax Collections. STC002-Geography-United States: State Government Tax Collections by Category: 2012 - United States - States. [Online] 2012. <http://www.census.gov/govs/statetax/>.
3. IRS. Statistics of Income Division, Individual Master File System. Table 2: Individual Income and Tax Data, by State And Size of Adjusted Gross Income, Tax Year 2012. [Online] December 2013. <http://www.irs.gov/uac/SOI-Tax-Stats-Historic-Table-2>.
4. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Statistics. May 2014. <http://www.bls.gov/oes/home.htm>.
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GRADUATE OUTCOMES: METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Mary Findlay, Research Analyst

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATE OUTCOMES

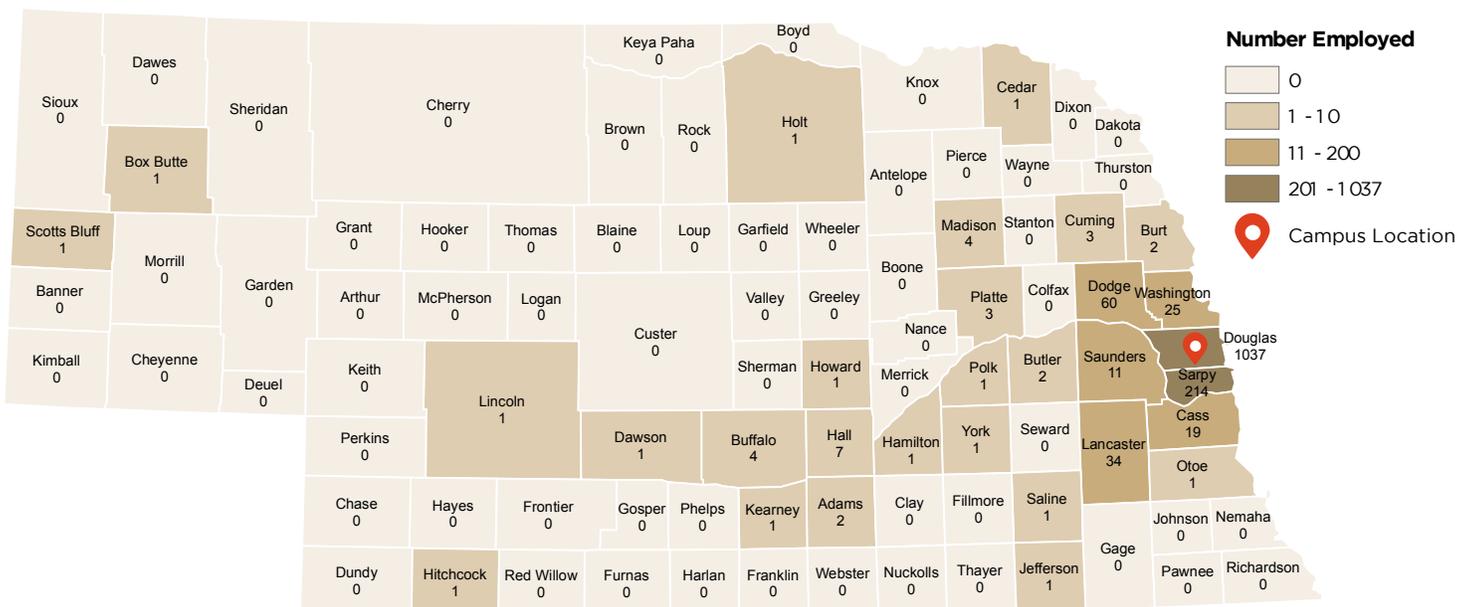
There were 3,269 Metropolitan Community College graduates between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012. Of these graduates, 2,379 (73 percent) were working in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2013, the same percentage as the previous year. Nearly two-thirds of the graduates (63 percent) were female. Female graduates (74 percent) were more likely to work in Nebraska than male graduates (71%). Minority graduates were slightly less likely to be working in the state (70 percent) than white, non-Hispanic graduates (74 percent).

There was at least one graduate employed in 30 of the state's 93 counties. Seventy-two percent of graduates worked in Douglas County followed by 15% in Sarpy County.



Photo courtesy of Metropolitan Community College

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE GRADUATES BY COUNTY



INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

The health care industry had the highest number (704) of graduates working in the state in the first quarter of 2013, followed by the retail trade industry with 281. These two industries comprised 41 percent of the graduates working in Nebraska and included graduates from all fields of study.

The 15 graduates employed in the utilities industry had the highest discloseable estimated average annual wage of \$47,346, followed by the 58 graduates employed in the wholesale trade industry with \$34,840.

FIELDS OF STUDY, EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES

There were 26 degrees/fields of study that had 80 percent or more of the graduates working in the state. A total of 329 students graduated from these programs, with 284 working in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2013. Overall, the highest number (1,071) of graduates working in the state came from the emergency medical technology field of study, graduating with a less than one year award industry certificate. The second highest number of graduates (316) working in Nebraska were from the associate degree liberal arts and sciences field of study. Graduates from this field of study generally transfer to a four-year college or university. Associate degree business administration and management had the third highest number of graduates working in the state with 149.

There were 29 fields of study with a total of 525 graduates working in the state with estimated annual average wages above \$30,000 per year. Seventeen of the 29 fields of study producing the highest wages were technical fields, three were in medical fields of study.

For more graduate outcomes information, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor's Office of Labor Market Information at 402-471-2600 or Imi_ne@nebraska.gov.

TOP 4 DISCLOSABLE WAGES BY FIELD OF STUDY

FIELD OF STUDY	DEGREE LEVEL	GRADUATES WORKING IN NE	DISCLOSABLE ANNUAL WAGE
 FIRE SCIENCE/ FIREFIGHTING	Associate	5	\$64,559
 MEDICAL RECORDS ADMINISTRATION/ HEALTH INFORMATION	Less than 1 year award	18	\$61,935
 WELDING TECHNOLOGY	Associate	9	\$50,355
WELDING TECHNOLOGY	Less than 1 year award	4	\$42,592

MAP FACTS: LOCATION QUOTIENT OF MANUFACTURING & GOVERNMENT

Jennifer Gildersleeve, Research Analyst

A Location Quotient (LQ) measures an area's relative concentration in something in a given location compared to a larger base. Typically, location quotients are used to compare employment by industry, although this type of calculation can be performed on many different types of data. Location quotients are especially helpful in identifying potential sources of competitive advantage or areas of regional specialization. For example, the LQ of industry employment is calculated by dividing the proportion of a region's employment in an industry by the proportion of a larger area's employment in that same industry. Location quotients of this type assist with understanding how the makeup of a local area's employment levels compare to a larger area.

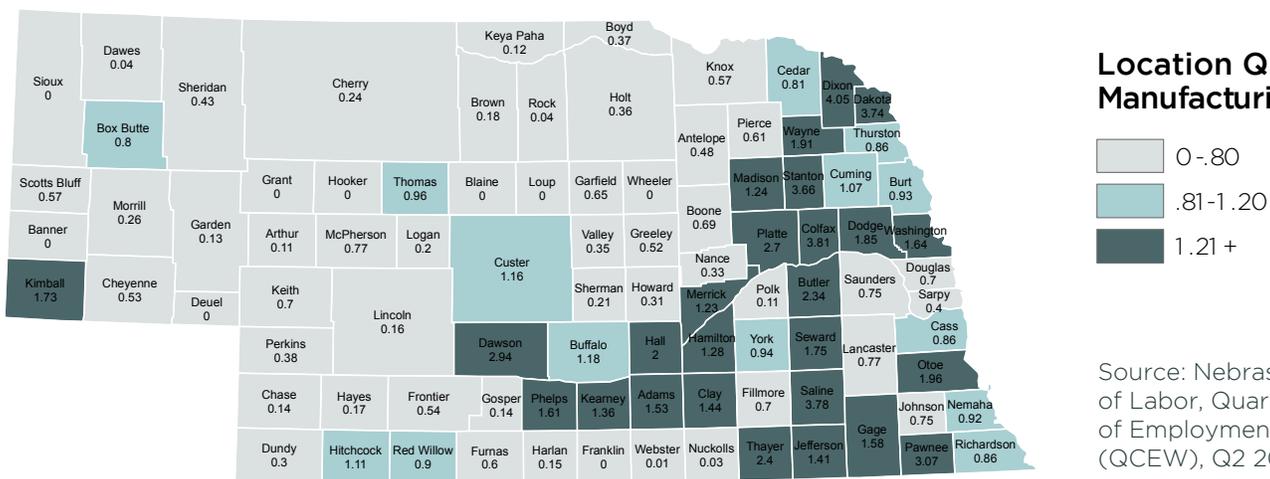
Typically, an LQ of less than .8 shows that a local area has proportionally lower levels in a particular industry than would be expected compared to the larger area, while a location quotient between .8 and 1.2 indicates normal distribution of an industry within a region.

An LQ higher than 1.2 typically means that the area displays some degree of specialization, although specific amounts that would indicate specialization or deficiencies are somewhat debatable. If all of a local area's location quotients are near or at 1.0, the local region would resemble the larger area.

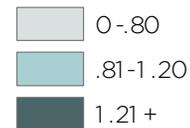
For this analysis, a county's proportion of employment by industry was divided by the proportion of workers employed in that industry for Nebraska statewide using the Office of Labor Market Information's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages data from the second quarter of 2014.

The location quotient by county compared to Nebraska statewide in the manufacturing sector is shown below. It is important to keep in mind that this is not a map of employment in manufacturing; rather it displays the relative concentration of employment in manufacturing by county compared to Nebraska as a whole.

MANUFACTURING LOCATION QUOTIENT BY COUNTY



Location Quotient - Manufacturing



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW), Q2 2014.



FEBRUARY

Kermit Spade
Research Analyst

**TOTAL OMAHA
JOBS ADDED**

202

OMAHA AREA OPENINGS

TYPE OF BUSINESS

NAME, JOBS ADDED



**FOOD &
ENTERTAINMENT**

Pickleman's Gourment Club	25
Dunkin Donuts	7
Noll's Pizza	10
Golden Bowl-Bellevue	5
The Oven	5
Voodoo Taco	7

59



RETAIL/SALES

Lush	5
The Buckle	10
Pulp	2
Game Shoppe (144th & W Maple)	5
A Couple Things	10

32



**HEALTH
& EDUCATION**

Momentum Foot & Ankle	4
MDVIP	4

8

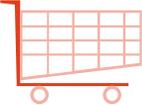


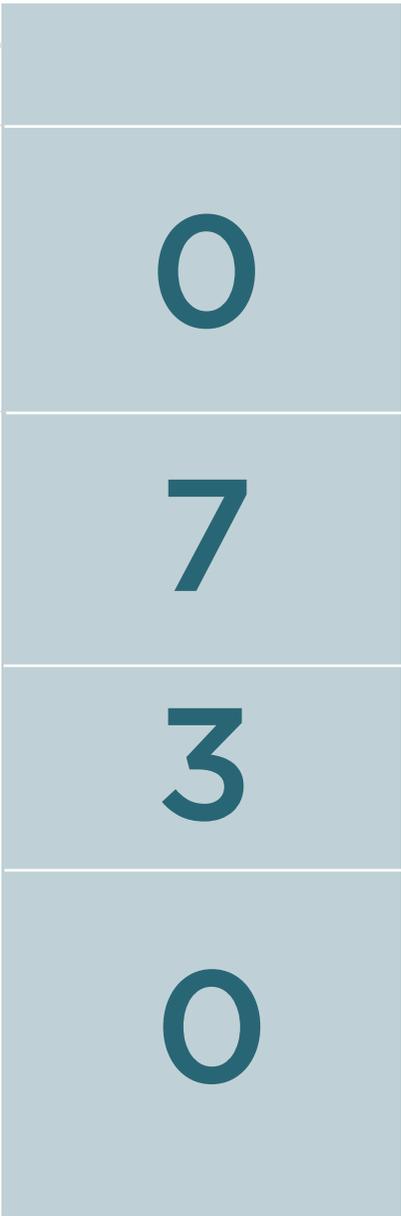
OTHER

Heritage at Sterling Ridge	25
S4 - Bellevue	60
C41 Photography	3
Complete Comfort	5

93

OMAHA EXPANSIONS

TYPE OF BUSINESS	NAME, JOBS ADDED
 HEALTH & EDUCATION	Midwest Medical Transport 0 Children's Hospital - Heart Center 0 UNO Resident Hall 0
 FINANCE & INSURANCE	Financial Transmission Network 7
 RETAIL/SALES	Hutch 3 Infiniti of Omaha 0
 OTHER	Deeb Realty 0 Heartland Hope Mission 0 International Nutrition 0 City of Omaha 0 Rebuilding Together Omaha 0 United Way 0 Eppley Airfield 0



STATEWIDE OPENINGS & EXPANSIONS

NORTHEAST

HARTINGTON

TrailManor

NORFOLK

Red High Heels

SOUTHEAST

BEATRICE

Dawg's Hut - expansion
 Beatrice Ford - expansion

NEBRASKA CITY

Union Orchard - expansion

PANHANDLE

SCOTTSBLUFF

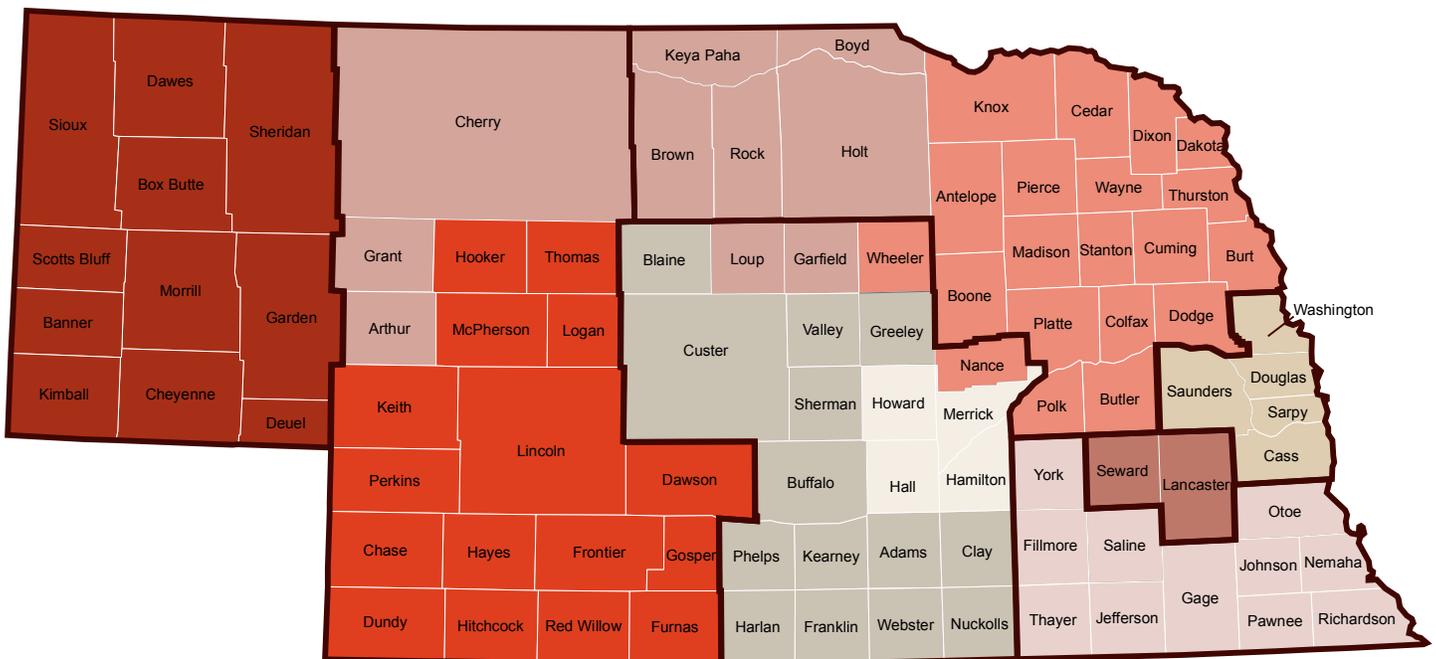
Pink Nail and Spa Salon

Sources:
 Omaha World Herald
 Omaha Chamber of Commerce

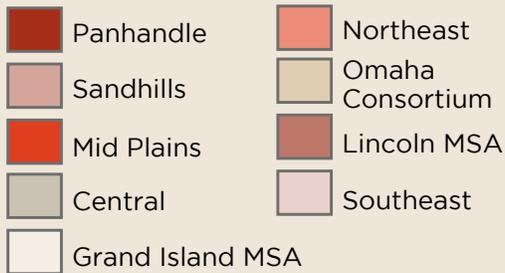
REDEFINING NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC REGIONS

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC REGIONS WITH CHANGES NOTED



New Economic Regions



Previous Region Outlines

PANHANDLE - No change.

MID PLAINS

- Lost Cherry, Grant, & Arthur to new Sandhills Region.

SANDHILLS

- Created using Cherry, Grant, Arthur, Loup, Garfield, Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, & Holt counties.

CENTRAL

- Lost Howard, Hall, Hamilton, & Merrick to Grand Island MSA;
- Lost Nance & Wheeler to Northeast;
- Lost Loup & Garfield to new Sandhills Region.

SOUTHEAST - No change.

LINCOLN MSA - No change.

OMAHA CONSORTIUM

- No change.

NORTHEAST

- Lost Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, and Holt to new Sandhills Region.
- Gained Wheeler & Nance.

The Nebraska Department of Labor’s (NDOL) Office of Labor Market Information (LMI) recently updated the definitions for their economic regions. These regions are utilized to collect and analyze LMI data. Regions are used for some data sets because not all data is available or feasible to produce at the county level. The use of economic regions allows LMI to analyze and provide some data for smaller portions of the state that might otherwise be unavailable.

The LMI office was prompted to reexamine the existing regions after the state gained a third Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), Grand Island. Removing the new MSA from the existing Central Region potentially removed the main counties tying the region together and had the potential to alter the region’s continuity.

The LMI office went through a detailed process to determine which counties should be included in each region. Staff started by utilizing the definitions set forth by the Federal Office of Management and Budget for the Lincoln, Grand Island, and Omaha MSA regions. The Nebraska counties of the Omaha MSA were used to determine the Omaha Consortium since many programs do not typically use cross state data to calculate figures for the true Omaha MSA.

Research was conducted on how other agencies and economic development groups in Nebraska divided the state for their programs. Some of the agency boundaries examined included the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Community College regions, and the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

Analysts gathered and mapped several other pieces of information including locations of college campuses and hospitals, NDOL office locations, and the locations of large cities and towns throughout the state. Staff utilized data from the Census on population and LMI data on labor force, workforce, and employment by industry by county.

Analysts also utilized data from the US Census Bureau’s Local Employment Dynamics (LED) program, specifically data from the

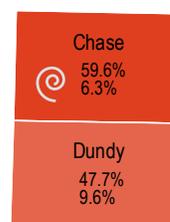
OnTheMap program. The LED program is a partnership between state LMI offices and the Census. Employment data is provided by states and the Census combines this data with demographic data from a variety of sources. The result is a robust dataset that gives researchers much information, including commuting patterns.

There are a variety of reports that can be produced using the OnTheMap program. This project utilized the Destination Analysis report. This report tells the user where people who live in a specific area work.

Since the economic regions are built by grouping counties together, reports were produced on each of Nebraska’s 93 counties to determine the work locations of each county’s residents. The data from OnTheMap used in this project was released in 2013 and represented commuting patterns for the year 2011.

This data was used to create a series of maps that displayed the commuting patterns of each county. Once all the commuting patterns were diagrammed, the counties could be linked visually and then analyzed more specifically to redraw the regional boundaries. The counties most connected by commuting patterns were grouped into regions.

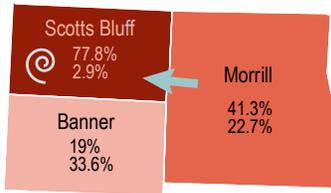
The mapping step of the project started out with a base thematic map color coded by the percentage of workers living and working in the same county. Symbols and arrows were then added to the map based on three main patterns that emerged in the data.



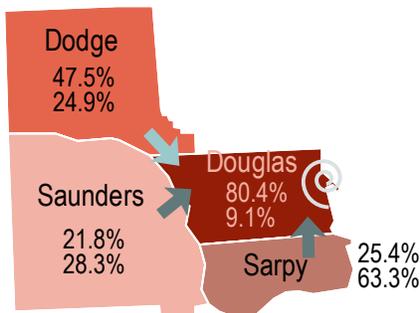
In several counties, the majority of workers both lived and worked in the same county. These counties were marked with a spiral symbol. These counties were thought of as “self-contained” due to the fact that most people living in the county stayed in the same county for work. This category represented 26 out of Nebraska’s 93 counties.

The top three counties with the most workers living and working in the same county were Lancaster (84.3 percent), Douglas (80.4 percent), and Scotts Bluff (77.8 percent).

In the majority of Nebraska counties, less than 50 percent of working residents stayed in that county for work. However, the home county was still where the largest percentage of residents were working. For example, in Morrill County, 41.3 percent of workers lived and worked in the same county, with the next highest county being Scotts Bluff. Several ties to surrounding counties started to emerge when analyzing this category. To illustrate this, the counties in this group were marked with a light blue arrow pointing to the second highest work county.



The final group that emerged during analysis was the counties with the highest amount of residents working outside of the county. This group of 17 counties demonstrated very strong ties to surrounding counties. These counties are marked with a teal arrow pointing to the county where most workers traveled for work. Sarpy County displayed this pattern the strongest, where 25.4 percent of workers lived and worked in the same county but 63.3 percent of workers traveled to Douglas County for work. This pattern was also strongly displayed in Stanton County, where 12.5 percent of workers lived and worked in the same county but 48.5 percent of workers traveled to Madison County for work.



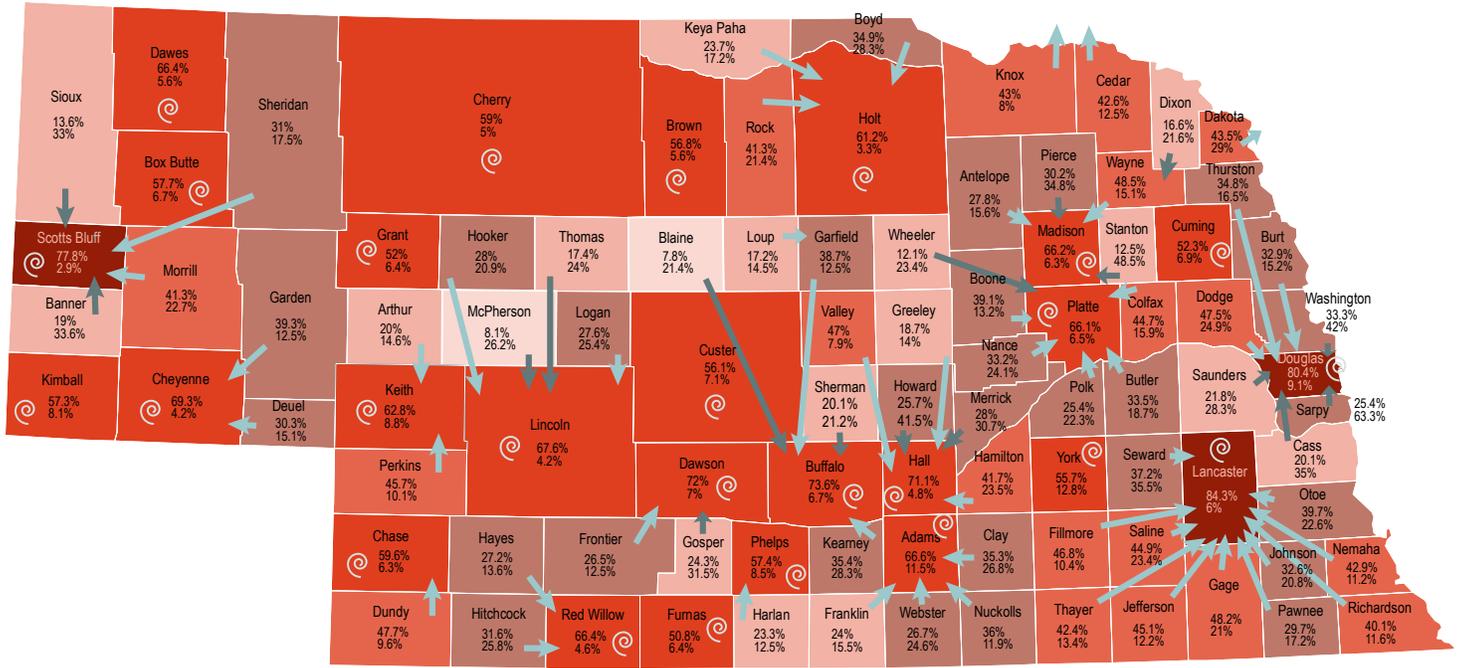
When looking at the commuting patterns displayed on the map, there were some counties that particularly stood out as potentially needing to be grouped into a different region. Nance County was previously part of the Central region, however, after analyzing the commuting data it was discovered that 24.1 percent of workers from Nance County commuted to Platte County, part of the Northeast region.

Wheeler County, previously part of the Central region, had 23.4 percent of workers commuting into Platte County, part of the Northeast region. More workers headed to Platte County for work than lived and worked in Wheeler County: just 12.1 percent of working residents of Wheeler County stayed in Wheeler County for work.

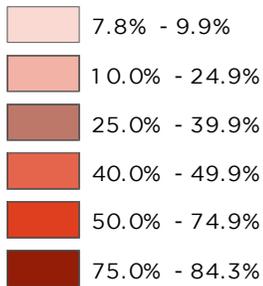
A trend was also noted in the counties in the Northern part of the state that were previously part of the Northeast and Mid Plains regions. In several of these counties, the majority of workers lived and worked in the same county. The counties surrounding these “self-contained” counties displayed more ties to these “self-contained” counties than to the rest of the Northeast or Mid Plains regions.

All of these observations were noted and resulted in some changes to the existing economic regions and the creation of a new Sandhills region. The Mid Plains region lost Cherry, Grant, and Arthur Counties to the new Sandhills region. The Northeast lost Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, and Holt Counties to the new Sandhills region and gained Wheeler and Nance Counties, both moving from the Central region. The Central Region had the biggest changes, losing Wheeler and Nance to the Northeast, Loup and Garfield Counties to the new Sandhills region, and losing Howard, Hall, Merrick, and Hamilton to the newly formed Grand Island MSA. No changes were made to the Panhandle, Southeast, Omaha Consortium, and Lincoln MSA regions.

NEBRASKA COMMUTING PATTERNS BY COUNTY



% living and working in same county



- Highest work county is not the home county
- Less than 50% living and working in home county, home county is highest work county
- 50% or greater living and working in home county

First %: % living and working in home county
Second %: % working elsewhere, highest county % shown
 For example: 13.6% live and work in Sioux County, 33% work in Scotts Bluff County

SOURCES:

1. U.S. Census Bureau. OnTheMap Application. Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program. [Online] 2013. <http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/>.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

In each issue of Trends, the economic indicators section will feature a chart or graph focused on one of the economic indicators listed on the next page. This month, we'll be focusing on the Consumer Price Index.

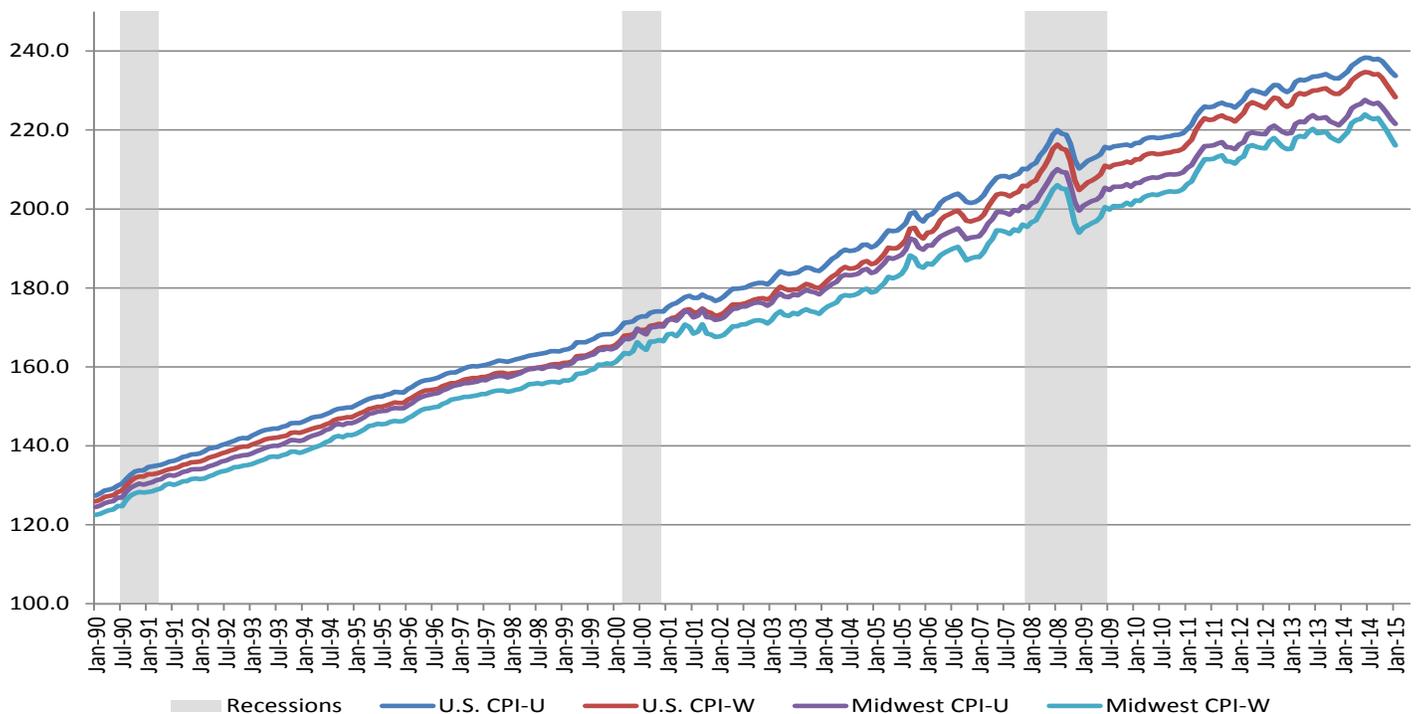
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services.

The CPI is the most widely-used measure of inflation and is sometimes viewed as an indicator of the effectiveness of government economic policy. It provides information about price changes in the nation's economy to government, business, labor, and private citizens and is used by them as a guide to making economic decisions. In addition, the President, Congress, and the Federal Reserve Board use trends in the CPI to aid in formulating fiscal and monetary policies.

The CPI is often used to adjust consumers' income payments (for example, Social Security) to adjust income eligibility levels for government assistance, and to automatically provide cost-of-living wage adjustments to millions of American workers. As a result of statutory action the CPI affects the income of millions of Americans. Over 50 million Social Security beneficiaries, and military and Federal Civil Service retirees, have cost-of-living adjustments tied to the CPI. In addition, eligibility criteria for millions of food stamp recipients, and children who eat lunch at school, are affected by changes in the CPI. Many collective bargaining agreements also tie wage increases to the CPI."

To learn more, visit:
<http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpifaq.htm>

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX



METRIC	CURRENT TIME	UNITED STATES	MIDWEST REGION	NEBRASKA
Real GDP, billions of chained 2009 dollars	4rd Quarter, 2014	+2.2%		
Effective Federal Funds Rate	February, 2015	0.0%		
Balance on the US Current Account, in	4th Quarter, 2014	+14.7%		
Barrel of Crude Oil, WTI-Cushing, Spot Price	February, 2015	+\$3.36		
Employment Cost Index	4th Quarter, 2014	+0.6%		
Producer Price Index: All Commodities	February, 2015	-0.5%		
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	February, 2015	-0.1		-0.4*
House Price Index	4th Quarter, 2014	+0.8%	+0.4%	+0.8%
Consumer Price Index, not seasonally	January, 2015	-0.5%	-0.7%	
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	February, 2015	-0.2%	-0.1%*	-0.2%*
New Private Housing Units Authorized by	February, 2015	+3.0%	6.1%	-22.0%*
Net Taxable Sales	December, 2014			+19.0%
Money Stock, M2	February, 2015	+1.0%		
University of Michigan, Consumer	February, 2015	-2.8%		

* Data is lagged one month

Sources:

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7. U.S. Department of Commerce: Bureau of Economic Analysis. Consumer Price Index. [bea.gov](http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpifaq.htm). <http://www.bls.gov/cpi/cpifaq.htm>.

NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

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Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.
Auxiliary aids and services are available
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TDD: 1.800.833.7352

