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As the heat of August slowly dissipates into the fall months, students and professors put their thinking caps back on and get their pencils and red pens ready for the start of a new semester. Professors, whether teaching a general introduction class or a highly advanced course in their field of study, are one of the groups society counts on to bring the next generation of competent professionals into the workforce. Postsecondary teachers are an interesting and important occupation group that can sometimes be left out of discussions about the economy. So, where do postsecondary teachers fit in Nebraska?

**Employment**

Nebraska has 51 public and private colleges and universities, employing an estimated 9,940 professors at a median wage of $71,521 per year across all fields of study. This is close to $4,500 less than the occupation group’s national median wage of $76,000, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) data. However, this gap more than closes when considering that the 2017 cost of living in Nebraska was calculated to be about 7.1 percent (depending on city of residence) lower than the national average. Adjusting for cost of living, Nebraska’s $71,521 median wage for postsecondary teachers would be worth the equivalent of about $77,000 in national terms, or $1,000 more than the national median.

**National and State Wages for Postsecondary Teachers**

The BLS Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program categorizes postsecondary teachers into 30 different occupation titles based upon the primary subject area in which they teach. The top five specific postsecondary teaching occupations with the most employment in Nebraska are Health Specialties Teachers; Business Teachers; Nursing Instructors and Teachers; Art, Drama and Music Teachers; and Biological Science Teachers.

**Top Five Postsecondary Teaching Subjects in Nebraska by Percent of Total Employment**

![Chart showing the percent of total postsecondary teachers by subject area.]


Nebraska has an additional 2,550 estimated postsecondary teachers grouped into the category ‘Postsecondary Teachers, All Other,’ which includes all professors whose work cannot be neatly sorted into any of the other 29 postsecondary teaching occupation titles. There are also another 620 estimated postsecondary teachers in Nebraska listed in the Vocational Education category, which was omitted from the top five list here because it is a broad category that includes teachers of basic adult education courses, and therefore is not directly comparable to occupational categories that only include instructors at degree-granting postsecondary educational institutions.

**Projected Occupational Growth in Nebraska 2016-2026**

Between 2016 and 2026, total employment of postsecondary teachers in Nebraska is expected to increase by 6.3 percent, lagging slightly behind the 8.9 percent growth projected for all occupations overall.4

The occupation titles with the lowest employment rates within Nebraska’s postsecondary teaching workforce are All Other Social Sciences Teachers, Foreign Language and Literature Teachers, Geography Teachers, Architecture Teachers and Home Economics Teachers. These combined make up only 2 percent of Nebraska’s total estimated postsecondary employment.

Nationally, according to the BLS, there were 1.3 million postsecondary teachers in the United States in 2016. The top occupation titles were Health Specialties Teachers; Art, Drama, and Music Teachers; Business Teachers; English Teachers; and Education Teachers.

Nebraska’s employment numbers for postsecondary teachers closely resemble those seen at the national level, with the differences being that, in Nebraska, nursing instructors and biological science teachers replace English and education teachers in the top five.

Top Five Postsecondary Teaching Subjects Nationwide by Percent of Total Employment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Taught</th>
<th>Percent of Total Postsecondary Teachers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Specialties</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art, Drama and Music</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How the Wages Stack Up

As depicted in the charts to the left, the postsecondary teaching occupations with the highest median wages in Nebraska were in the fields of economics, agricultural sciences, engineering, architecture and health specialties. Professors of social work; criminal justice and law enforcement; recreation and fitness studies; foreign language and literature; and art, drama and music brought in Nebraska’s lowest median wages among postsecondary educators.

However, compensation for postsecondary teachers can range considerably, especially when considering not just median wages, but also the highest and lowest ends of the occupation’s earnings distribution. Among Nebraska’s postsecondary educators, the overall highest pay went to professors of engineering. In the occupation’s 90th percentile of earners, engineering professors could bring in an annual salary of nearly $170,000. On the low end of the overall postsecondary teaching pay range, a recreation and fitness professor with a salary in Nebraska’s bottom 10th percentile for that occupation would make an expected $24,410 annually, almost seven times less than postsecondary education’s top earners.
Some of this wide range between the highest and lowest earners may be explained by level of experience. As in many occupations, postsecondary teachers typically earn higher wages as they gain experience in their field.

Of all postsecondary teaching occupations in Nebraska, health specialties professors have the largest percentage change between their average entry wage and average experienced wage. The average entry wage for health specialties professors is $45,336, while the average experienced wage is $112,864. That is a difference of $67,528, or a 149 percent change.

Postsecondary social work teachers have the smallest percentage difference between their wages at the entry level versus with experience. In Nebraska, their average entry wage is $36,103, and their experienced wage is $66,403. This is a difference of $30,300— an 84 percent change.

Postsecondary teachers are an important component of the workforce in Nebraska and the country as a whole. Nebraska's employment numbers for this occupation group closely resemble nationwide patterns, with three of Nebraska's top five occupational titles for postsecondary teachers also appearing in the national top five. Median wages for postsecondary teachers in Nebraska are lower than the national median by about $4,500. However, there is a large pay range within this occupation group, with many seeing significant wage growth as they gain increased experience. Although they make up a relatively small portion of the overall workforce, postsecondary teachers are the educators for many of the workers of tomorrow.

If you would like more information on postsecondary teachers and their job duties, work environment, expected wages and required qualifications, check out these resources:

**BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook**

**NEworks**

**Sources:**

Fast Facts

Women's Equality Day

Dawn Carrillo, Research Analyst

August 26, 1971

Date the United States Congress officially recognized the first Women’s Equality Day, commemorating the day that the Nineteenth Amendment was adopted into the Constitution, giving women the right to vote.

63.3%

Percentage of women nationwide who reported voting in 2016. An even larger percentage, 72%, reported being registered to vote.

161.8 million

Women in the United States. They account for 50.8% of the overall population. Men make up the other 49.2% (156.8 million).

50.2%

Female percentage of Nebraska’s population.

129,916

Number of Nebraska women age 25 and over (20.8%) who had earned a bachelor’s degree as of 2016. There were 115,372 men age 25 and over (19.3%) who could say the same.

10%

Percentage of Nebraska women age 25 and over who possessed a graduate or professional degree in 2016 (62,730 individuals), compared 9.8% (58,765 individuals) of men in the same age group.
1,598,013
Female veterans in the United States as of 2016. Nebraska is home to 10,021 of them.

89.3%
Percentage of women making up the nation’s healthcare support workforce, which is the occupation group with the highest concentration of women age 16 and over. Health technologists and technicians claimed the number 2 spot, at 83.6% women, and personal care and service was number 3 with 82.7%.

64.6%
Percentage of Nebraska women 16 and over who participated in the labor force in 2016 (484,777 women). This is compared to a national women’s workforce participation rate of 58.1%, or 76.8 million American women.

$39,923
National median annual salary for women 16 and over with full-time, year-round employment. The median annual salary for men in the same demographic was $50,135.

9.9 million
Number of small businesses owned by women nationwide, according to the 2012 Survey of Business Owners. Together, they employ 8.4 million people and generate $1.4 trillion in revenue.

Sources:
Map Facts

Migration Patterns of First-Time College Freshmen

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

States of College Attendance for Nebraska First-Time College Freshmen in 2016

The map above shows the states where Nebraska's first-time freshmen chose to attend college in 2016. “First-time freshmen” are defined as students who enrolled in postsecondary institutions for the first time and graduated from high school less than 12 months ago.
Most Nebraska first-time freshmen chose to remain in Nebraska, but 17% chose to attend college out of state. This is known as “out-migration.” Of those who left Nebraska, most went to Iowa (4.0%), Kansas (2.8%), or Missouri (2.5%).

Attracting out-of-state students is one way to help Nebraska’s workforce and economy grow. This is known as “in-migration.” Nebraska has 53 postsecondary educational institutions throughout the state. Out of all incoming first-time college freshmen who started school in the fall of 2016, 24.9% were from outside Nebraska. The state that sent the most students to Nebraska schools was Colorado (537), followed by Iowa (479) and Minnesota (336). As part of “in-migration,” Nebraska drew first-time freshmen from every state in the nation except Vermont.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln drew the most out-of-state, first-time freshmen (1,317), followed by Creighton University (846) and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (214). Rounding out the top five were Concordia University in Seward (188) and Chadron State College (169).

All totaled, 2,478 Nebraska students left the state for college, while 4,023 out-of-state college students came to Nebraska, for a net positive in-migration of 1,545 students.

Source:
1. U.S. Department of Education. Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System. [Online] [Cited: July 6, 2018.]
Openings & Expansions | **June***

*Kermit Spade, Research Analyst*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Category</th>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Entertainment</td>
<td>Gus's Bar</td>
<td>Hemingford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Little Caesar's</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Buffalo Wild Wings</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Three Little Birds Health &amp; Healing House</td>
<td>Hemingford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christensen Hearing Analytics</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Juniper Spa &amp; Yoga Studio</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foot &amp; Ankle Doctors, PC</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail/Sales</td>
<td>Harbor Freight Tools</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rags to Riches (expansion)</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Advertising</td>
<td>308 Ag, LLC</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lee Enterprises (expansion)</td>
<td>Beatrice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Red Thread Creative (new location)</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NexTech Advertising</td>
<td>McCook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; Insurance</td>
<td>Auburn State Bank</td>
<td>Auburn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bottom Line Bookkeeping &amp; Payroll</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER</td>
<td>Nebraska Safety Center</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Martinez Auto Detailing</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Little Sparks Daycare</td>
<td>Wisner</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:**
1. Lincoln Chamber of Commerce
2. Nebraska Department of Labor

*Openings and expansions listed are a sampling of activity reported for that month. Some activity may have occurred outside the month. If you have an opening or expansion to report, contact us at LMI_NE@nebraska.gov.
Unemployment Data | June

Byron Lefler, Research Analyst

June Unemployment Rates by County
*Not seasonally adjusted

NEBRASKA
June Non-farm Total Employment: 1,041,142
Manufacturing: 102,142

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted)
June Unemployment Rate: 2.9%
Change (OTM): 0.1
Change (OTY): 0.0

Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted)
Central: 2.9%
Mid Plains: 3.0%
Northeast: 3.0%
Panhandle: 3.2%
Sandhills: 2.7%
Southeast: 3.2%

OMAHA MSA (not seasonally adjusted)
June Unemployment Rate: 3.1%
June Total Non-Farm: 510,632
Manufacturing: 35,131

Largest OTM Increases (Private)
Mining and Construction: 1,460 (4.9%)
Professional & Business Services: 682 (1.0%)

LINCOLN MSA (not seasonally adjusted)
June Unemployment Rate: 2.8%
June Total Non-Farm: 189,734
Manufacturing: 13,399

Largest OTM Increases (Private)
Mining & Construction: 355 (3.5%)
Education and Health Services: 159 (0.6%)

GRAND ISLAND MSA (not seasonally adjusted)
June Unemployment Rate: 3.1%
June Total Non-Farm: 43,019
Change (OTM): 41 (0.1%)
Change (OTY): -53 (-0.1%)

Sources:
In each new issue of Trends, the Economic Indicators section features a chart or graph focused on one of the economic indicators listed in the table on the next page. This month, we are focusing on the S&P 500.

According to the Conference Board, a business membership and research association, "The Standard & Poor’s 500 stock index reflects the price movements of a broad selection of common stocks traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Increases of the stock index can reflect both the general sentiments of investors and the movements of interest rates, which is usually another good indicator for future economic activity."

Source:

   https://www.conference-board.org/data/bci/index.cfm?id=2160#BCI129.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Current Time Period</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Midwest Region</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>+/-0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+/-0.0*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Unemployment Claims</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>+2.6%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Manufacturers' New Orders for Consumer Goods</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM Manufacturing: New Orders Index©</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Manufacturers' New Orders: Nondefense Capital Goods Excluding Aircraft</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>+0.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500®</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>+2.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Minus Federal Funds Rate</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan, Consumer Sentiment Index</td>
<td>July 2018</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Price Index, not seasonally adjusted</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>+0.2%</td>
<td>+0.2%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Cost Index</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2018</td>
<td>+0.8%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer Price Index: All Commodities</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted</td>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>+0.2%</td>
<td>-0.1%*</td>
<td>+/-0.0%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real GDP, billions of chained 2009 dollars</td>
<td>1st Quarter 2018</td>
<td>+2.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Taxable Sales</td>
<td>April 2018</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrel of Crude Oil, WTI-Cushing, Spot Price</td>
<td>June 2018</td>
<td>-$2.11</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Account Balance (millions of dollars)</td>
<td>4th Quarter 2017</td>
<td>+6.1%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: