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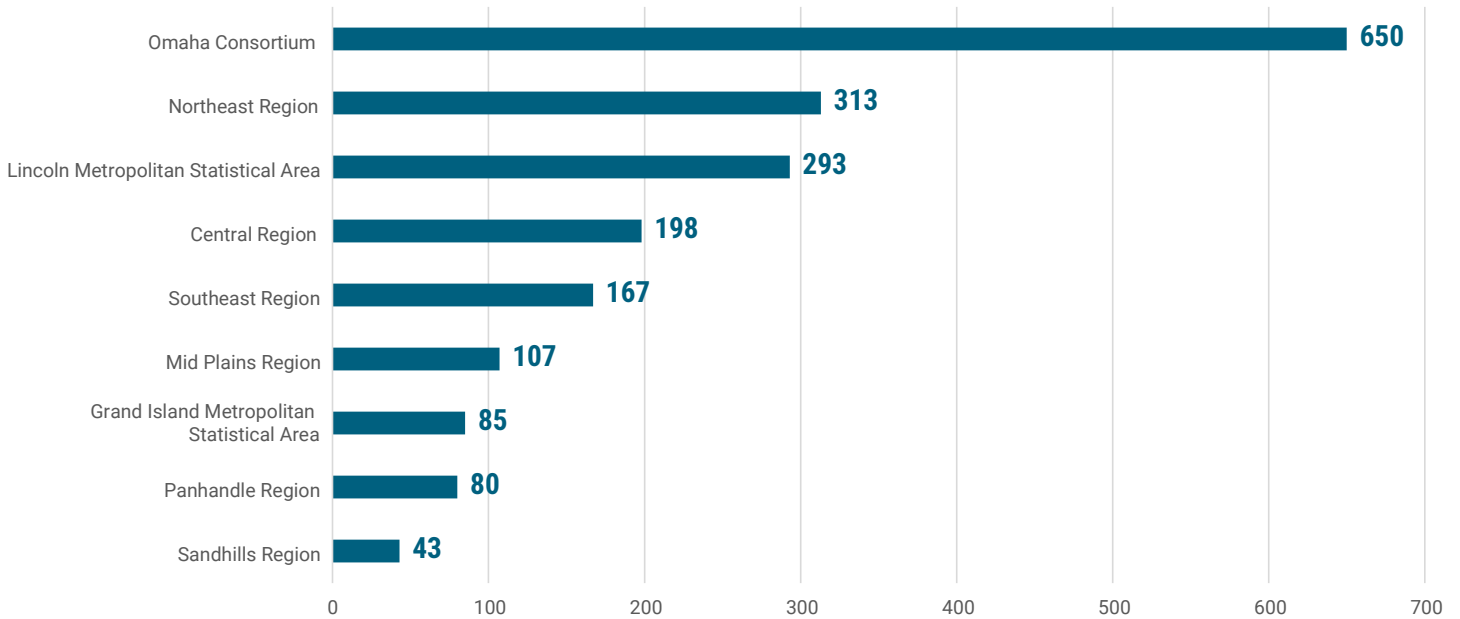






The geographic distribution of employers in the manufacturing sector as of August 2024 is shown in the chart below. The Omaha Consortium (composed of all areas of the Omaha metropolitan statistical area located within Nebraska but excluding those located in Iowa) had the highest number of employers in manufacturing, while the Sandhills region had the least. (3)

### Nebraska Manufacturing Establishments by Economic Region, 1st Quarter 2024



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 1st Quarter 2024.

The average hourly wage for workers in Nebraska’s manufacturing sector was \$31.58 in the first quarter of 2024. The average hourly wage for workers employed in primary metal manufacturing—the manufacturing industry with the highest average hourly wage— was almost 50% higher (\$57.33 per hour) during the same time period. Assuming a 40-hour work week, this translates into about \$65,000 per year for all manufacturing workers, and over \$119,000 per year for those employed in primary metal manufacturing. The table below shows the average earnings for the specific manufacturing industries with the top five highest average wages. (2)

### Nebraska Manufacturing Industries by Highest Average Hourly Wages, Q4 2021

Industry	Average Hourly Wage	Average Weekly Wage	Average Annual Wage*
Primary Metal Manufacturing	\$57.33	\$2,293	\$119,236
Chemical Manufacturing	\$44.20	\$1,768	\$91,936
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg	\$37.10	\$1,484	\$77,168
Electrical Equipment and Appliances	\$35.53	\$1,421	\$73,892
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	\$35.25	\$1,410	\$73,320

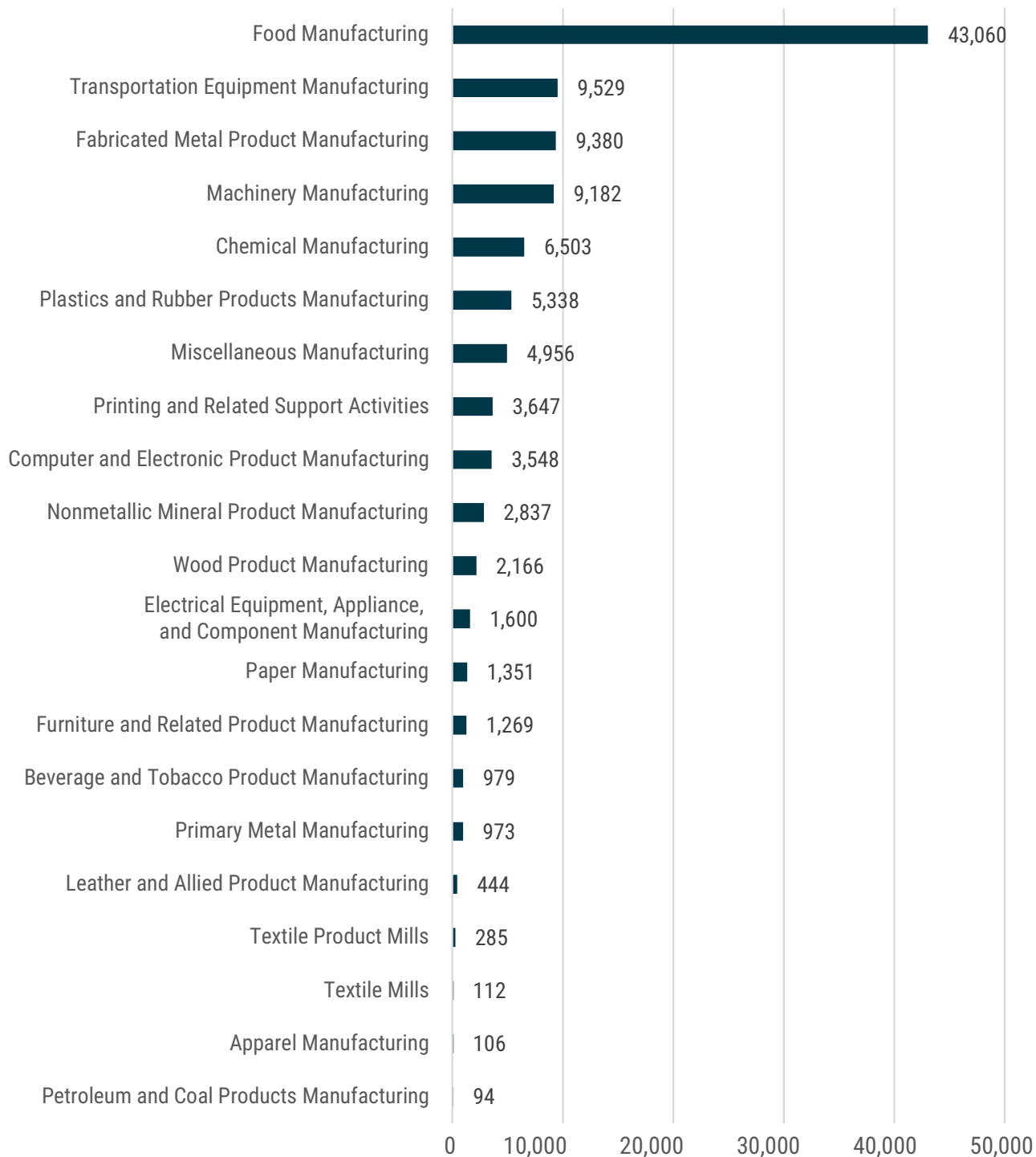
\* Assumes a 40-hour week worked the year round.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2023. [networks.nebraska.gov](https://networks.nebraska.gov)





## Nebraska Manufacturing Employment by Industry



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 1st Quarter 2024





# Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) New 2024 Area Definitions

Brandon Jones, Research Supervisor

Starting with the 1st quarter 2024 preliminary publication, the Nebraska's Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) has updated its definitions of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MC) and state Regional Areas. QCEW's procedure is to switch to new area definitions, which are usually published a few years after the decennial census is completed and recommendations come from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

This article is designed to help data users know the differences in the area definitions as well as how to extract industry employment and wage data correctly for a specific year or quarter. The latter is especially important dealing with data that crosses the new and old area definitions time frames. First, here is a brief overview of the QCEW program.

## QCEW Data Overview

QCEW is a cooperative program of the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL). QCEW produces employment and wage information for workers covered by state Unemployment Insurance (UI) laws and federal workers covered by the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) program. Data from this program includes the number of establishments, monthly and average employment, and quarterly wages for counties, metro areas, and other multi-county regions in the entire United States. (1)

Data from the QCEW program serve as an input to other Federal and State programs. The Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) of the Department of Commerce uses QCEW data as the base for developing the wage and salary component of personal income. The Employment and Training Administration (ETA) of the Department of Labor and the State workforce agencies use QCEW data to administer the employment security program. The QCEW data accurately reflects the extent of coverage of the State UI laws and are used to measure UI revenues; national, state, and local area employment; and total and UI taxable wage trends. (1)

QCEW data is not designed to be compared over time, meaning it is not a time series product. Switching to new versions of MSA definitions creates series breaks in the QCEW area data. These series breaks should be recognized when comparing different timeframes for areas that change.

Click here for more information regarding the [QCEW program](#).

## What Changed? 2023 versus 2013 Area Definitions

Most areas across the nation did not change in composition, but among those that did, some area definitions and titles changed. Some areas changed status, moving up to an MSA or down to a Micropolitan Statistical Area (MC). Some MSAs were removed altogether.

1. Nationwide, 135 MSAs had boundary changes in terms of counties being added or dropped but kept their MSA status.





# Final Word

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same or not if comparing data before and after the 2024 series break. One way will match the areas but could have less releasable data. The other way could provide you unmatched areas but more releasable data.

If you would like to know more information about this program or any of our labor market information data, please email us at [NDOL.LMI\\_NE@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDOL.LMI_NE@nebraska.gov).

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### Sources

1. Statistics, U.S. Bureau of Labor. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW Overview). bls.gov. [Online] September 24, 2024. <https://www.bls.gov/cew/overview.htm>.
2. (QCEW), Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). [Online] September 09, 2024. [Cited: October 09, 2024.] [https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/analyzer/resultsNew.aspx?enc=WxhnJpW73xdC2UsP5jKg2SI1N0fn70zfxOCqKBMEMGo=&YKIXYMI34SJKI4VIWMHRX4SJ1EREKIQR1&&YPPIMR2S31&&YPPIMRTH?3RPMRIA.YP\]?MKG3FIV A](https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/analyzer/resultsNew.aspx?enc=WxhnJpW73xdC2UsP5jKg2SI1N0fn70zfxOCqKBMEMGo=&YKIXYMI34SJKI4VIWMHRX4SJ1EREKIQR1&&YPPIMR2S31&&YPPIMRTH?3RPMRIA.YP]?MKG3FIV A)
3. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/OMB-Bulletin-23-01.pdf>.



# 1,085,139

Total Nonfarm Employment (filled jobs)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

**for October 2024**

Nonfarm employment was up 7,298 over the month and up 22,738 over the year. Private education and health services reached a record high of 172,155 and increased 8,321 from October 2023. Other private industries with the most over-the-year growth were manufacturing (up 3,846 jobs); and trade, transportation, and utilities (up 2,543 jobs). Private industries with the most growth month to month were private education and health services (up 2,217 jobs); trade, transportation, and utilities (up 1,587 jobs); and mining and construction (up 556 jobs).

**Data Source:**

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Current Employment Statistics. NWorks. [neworks.nebraska.gov/ces](http://neworks.nebraska.gov/ces).

# 34,662

Job count on NWorks as of

**November 18, 2024**

# 54,297

Total job count on NWorks for the  
month of **October 2024**

This number reflects the number of job openings advertised on NWorks in Nebraska in October 2024.

**Data Source:**

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Online advertised jobs data. NWorks. [neworks.nebraska.gov](http://neworks.nebraska.gov).

### Helpful Links

[Labor Market Publications](#)

[Previous Issues](#)

[NWorks.nebraska.gov](http://NWorks.nebraska.gov)

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at 800-876-1377 or email [NDOL.Imi\\_ne@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDOL.Imi_ne@nebraska.gov).



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