

NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

FEBRUARY 2022 ISSUE | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



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Inside this issue

Industry Profile:
Construction in Nebraska

Map Facts:
New Housing Construction

**Spotlight on
Electricians**

Contents

3	Industry Profile: Construction in Nebraska
7	Map Facts: New Housing Construction
9	Spotlight on Electricians
11	Economic Indicators

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Openings & Expansions **December**

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

Business Category	Business Name	Location
Food Service	Quirky Candies (Opening) Wahlburgers (Opening) Beto's Restaurant (Opening) Beatrice Bakery (Opening)	Plattsmouth Plattsmouth Beatrice Beatrice
Health Care & Social Assistance	Feidler Eye Clinic (Expansion) Boone Beginnings Early Childhood Development Center (Opening)	Norfolk Albion
Other Services	Countryside Event Center (Opening)	Beatrice
Wholesale & Retail Trade	The Pink Lotus (Opening) Bosselman Pump and Pantry (Opening) Cricket Wireless (Opening) Brandt Performance (Opening)	Beatrice Falls City Scottsbluff Sidney

Source: 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.

Industry Profile: Construction in Nebraska

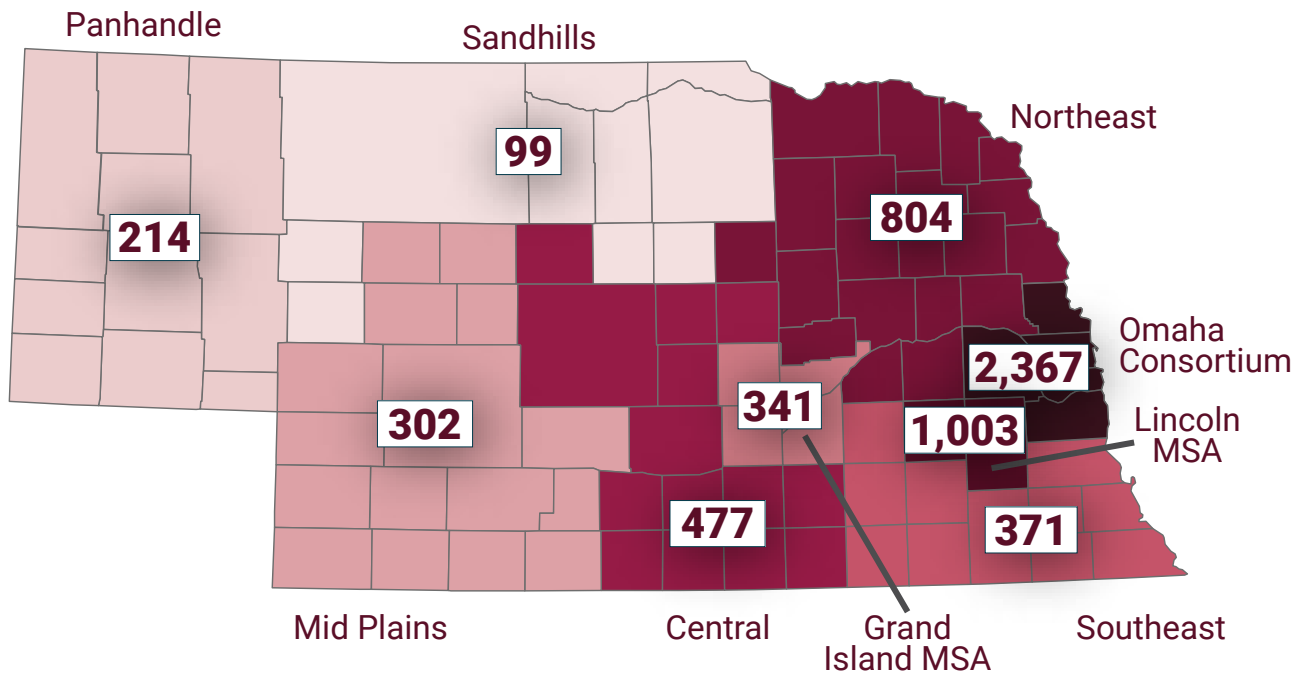
Andrew Bouwens and Rachel Eckloff, Research Analysts

2021 was an interesting year, one that the construction industry will never forget. The national and local news outlets covered this all year, including extreme material pricing ups and downs, material shortages, labor shortages, increasing wages, and projected job growth. The housing and commercial markets were still booming, even throughout the pandemic. In Nebraska, it was no different. Around the state, you can see cranes dotting the skylines, buildings shooting up in downtown areas and suburbs, and housing developments spreading from the edges of communities.

Construction Establishments

In the first quarter of 2021, there were nearly 6,000 establishments in Nebraska’s construction sector. About 56% were based in the Omaha and Lincoln metropolitan areas, with the Omaha Consortium having 2,367 establishments and the Lincoln MSA having just over 1,000 establishments. (1)

Regional Distribution of Construction Establishments, December 2021



Source: Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). [Online] Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.

Wages by Industry and Occupation

Average wages for workers in Nebraska’s construction industries are listed in the table below. Employees in the heavy and civil engineering construction industry, which employs a larger concentration of engineers and others with a bachelor’s degree or higher, earned the highest wage with an average of \$29.03 per hour. (2)

Average Wages in Nebraska Construction Industries, Q2 2021

Industry	Avg. Hourly Wage	Avg. Weekly Wage	Avg. Annual Wage
Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction	\$29.03	\$1,161.00	\$60,372.00
Construction of Buildings	\$27.88	\$1,115.00	\$57,980.00
Specialty Trade Contractors	\$25.78	\$1,031.00	\$53,612.00

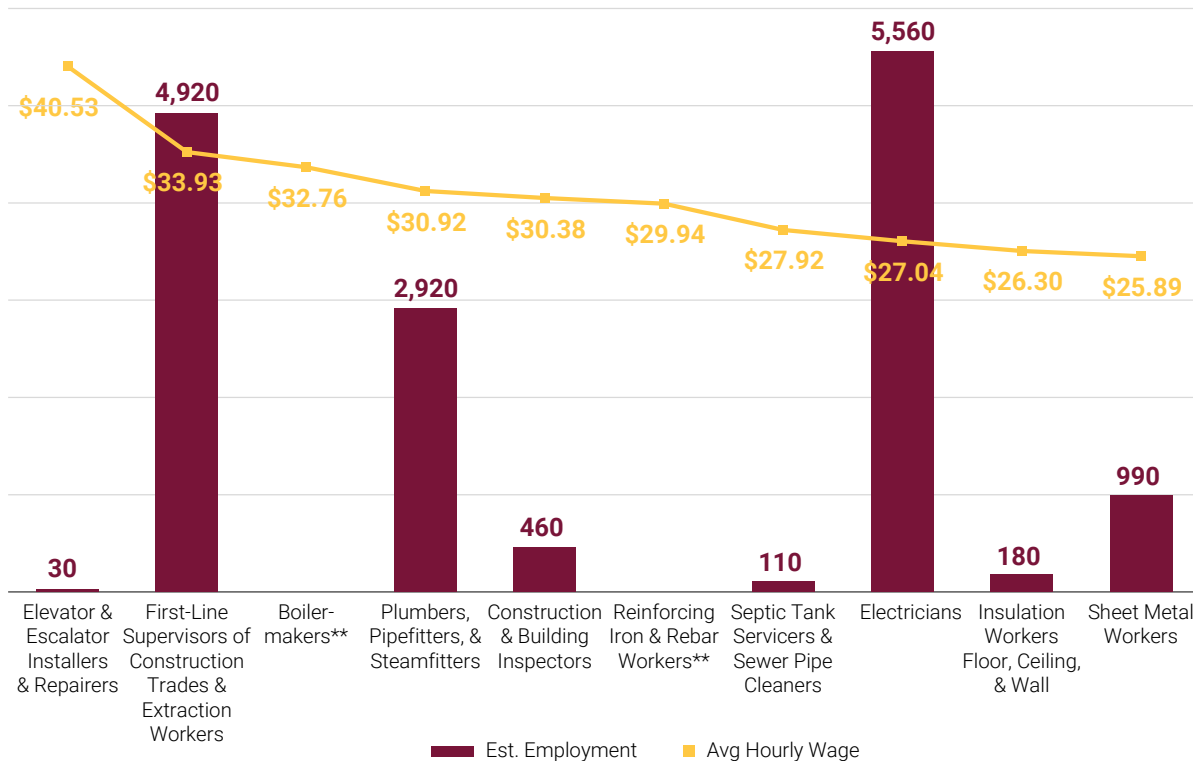
In May of 2020, there were an estimated 47,000 workers employed in construction and extraction occupations in Nebraska, 36,600 of whom worked for construction-industry employers (those whose industry was categorized as heavy and civil engineering construction, construction of buildings, or specialty trade contractors). (3)



Nebraska’s largest construction and extraction occupations were carpenters, with an estimated 7,470 employed across all industries statewide, followed by electricians (5,560). About 43.6% of Nebraska’s carpenters worked in the construction of buildings industry, and 38.7% were employed by specialty trade contractors. A large majority (86.0%) of electricians worked in the specialty trade contractors industry. (3)

The most common construction and extraction occupation within the heavy and civil engineering construction industry was construction laborers, which employed 37.6% of the 4,420 total workers who held that occupation across all industries. (3)

Top Nebraska Construction Trades Occupations by Average Hourly Wage, Q3 2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wages (OEWS). Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.
 ** Employment data not available for these occupations.

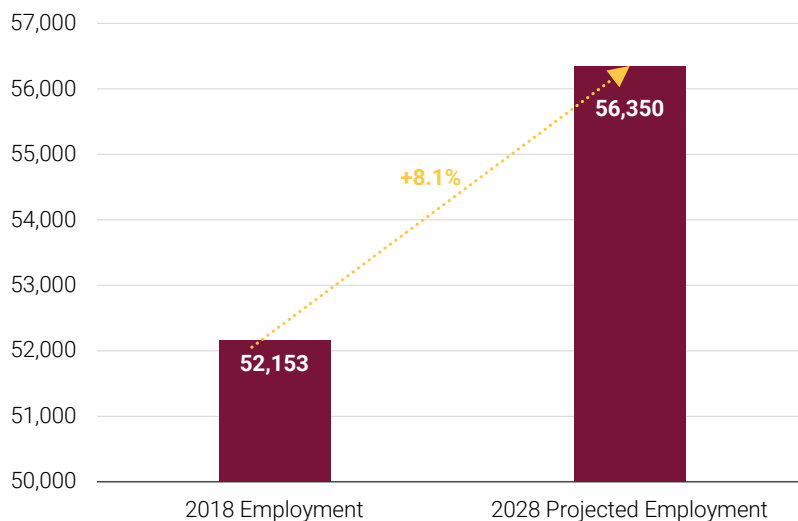


Projected Employment Growth

The Nebraska Department of Labor projects that over the ten-year period from 2018 to 2028, the state's construction sector will grow by 4,197 jobs, an 8.1% gain. That is faster than the 5.5% overall rate of employment growth projected for Nebraska, and the fourth largest increase of any industry sector. (4)

Specialty trade contractors are the specific construction industry that is projected to see the most employment growth from 2018 to 2028, measured both in terms of percent change (+9.0%) and numeric increase (+3,149 new jobs). Employment in the construction of buildings industry is projected to grow by 6.5% (+681 jobs), while heavy and civil engineering construction employment is projected to rise by 5.4% (+367 jobs). (4)

Projected Employment Growth in Nebraska's Construction Sector, 2018 – 2028

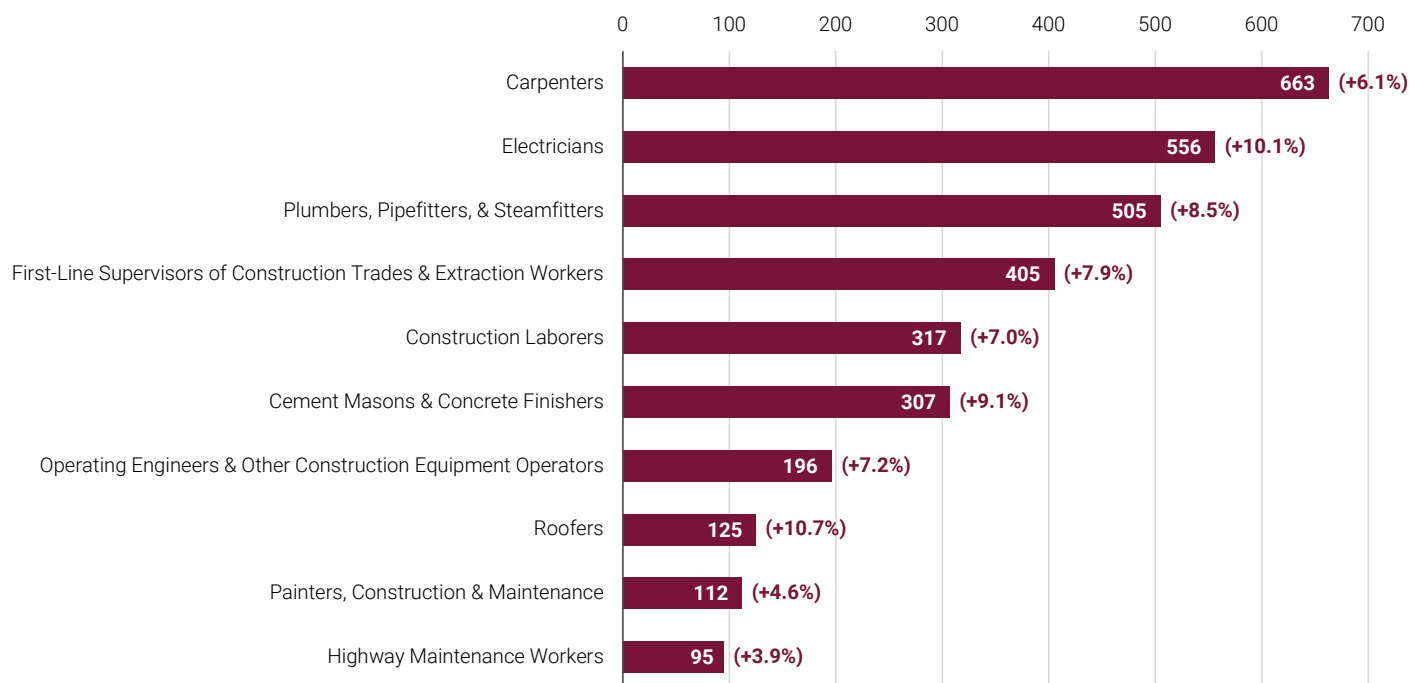


Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-Term Industry Employment Projections. 2020. networks.nebraska.gov.

At the occupational level, employment of all construction trades workers is projected to increase by 7.6% (+3,240 jobs) between 2018 and 2028. Carpenters are projected to see the largest numeric increase, with 3,981 new jobs added from 2018 to 2028 (a +7.5% rise in employment). The fastest-growing occupation by percent increase within the construction trades occupational group is projected to be septic tank servicers and sewer pipe cleaners at +16.0%, or 52 new jobs over the 10-year projections period. (5)

Just two construction trades occupations are projected to see declining employment between 2018 and 2028: drywall and ceiling tile installers (-4 jobs) and carpet installers (-6 jobs). (5)

Projected Employment Growth in Selected Construction Trades Occupations, 2018 – 2028



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-Term Occupational Employment Projections. 2020. networks.nebraska.gov.

The Final Word

The importance of construction industries to the overall economy is obvious: each new building that goes up typically means that new businesses are opening or workers are moving into the community. For Nebraskans employed in construction, the impact is even greater. As Nebraska’s cities and towns continue to grow, the Nebraska Department of Labor will continue to monitor employment and wage trends for the state’s construction industry and the vital workers they employ.

Sources:

1. Nebraska Department of Labor. Industry Profile. NEworks. [Online] 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.
2. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW). [Online] Q2 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.
3. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). [Online] Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.
4. Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-Term Industry Employment Projections. [Online] 2020. networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ=.
5. Long-Term Occupational Employment Projections. [Online] 2020. networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=EV+mnVfK6qRWnoXwN+RfXg==.

Map Facts: New Housing Construction

Rachel Eckloff, Research Analyst

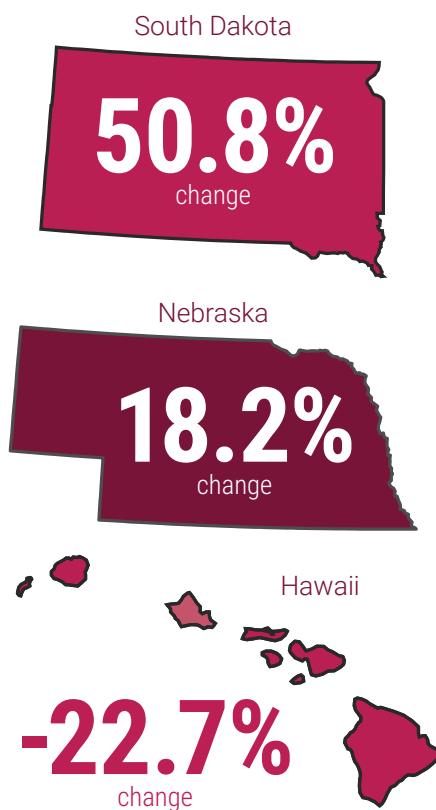
This month's Map Facts show the change in the number of permits issued for new, privately-owned housing units authorized in each county from 2019 to 2020. The data covers all geographies where building permits are issued for privately-owned residential structures, which encompasses over 98% of all residential buildings constructed in the U.S. (1)

In addition to predicting new construction activity, the rate of permit issuance is considered an indicator of overall economic conditions within an area, and can be used by government agencies, financial institutions, businesses, and consumers for market planning, investment analysis, and evaluation of public programs. (1)

Statewide, issuance of building permits increased by 18.2% in Nebraska between 2019 and 2020, which was faster growth than observed in 40 other states. North and South Dakota led the nation in terms of change in building permits during this time period, with 40.0% and 50.8% increases respectively. New York (-17.4%) and Hawaii (-22.7%) had the largest declines. (2)

States with Highest Percent Change in New Privately-Owned Housing Units

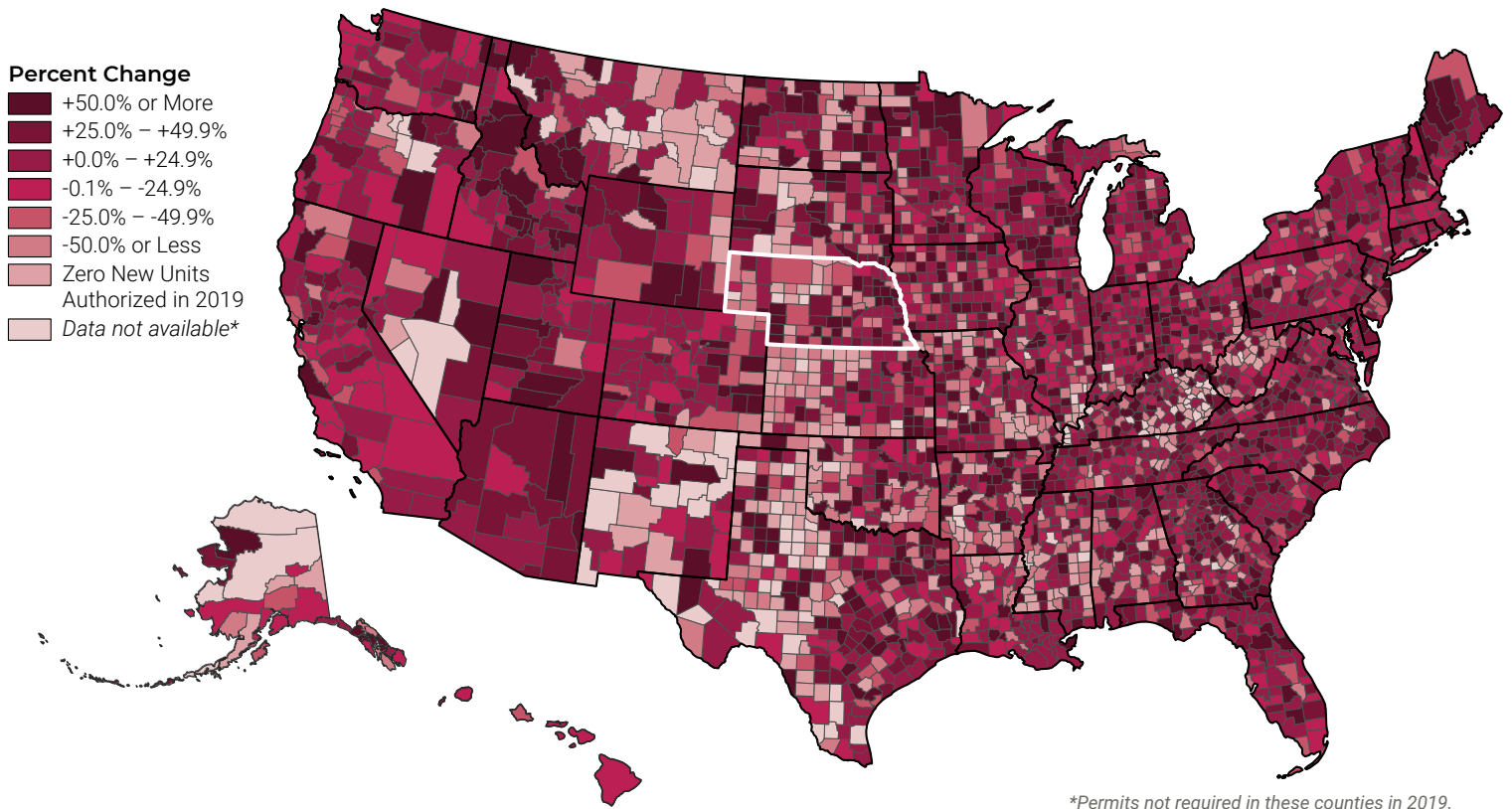
Rank	State	2020	2019	19-20 change
1	South Dakota	6,660	4,415	50.8%
2	North Dakota	3,493	2,495	40.0%
3	Arizona	60,342	46,580	29.5%
4	Delaware	8,455	6,539	29.3%
5	Ohio	29,686	23,047	28.8%
6	Montana	5,980	4,776	25.2%
7	Wyoming	2,128	1,708	24.6%
8	District of Columbia	7,370	5,945	24.0%
9	Wisconsin	21,226	17,480	21.4%
10	Tennessee	49,719	41,361	20.2%
11	Nebraska	9,483	8,025	18.2%
12	South Carolina	42,340	36,034	17.5%
13	Vermont	2,077	1,801	15.3%
14	Missouri	19,839	17,460	13.6%
15	Oklahoma	13,733	12,152	13.0%
16	North Carolina	80,474	71,307	12.9%
17	Alabama	19,982	17,748	12.6%
18	Mississippi	7,810	6,952	12.3%
19	Indiana	24,919	22,309	11.7%
20	Maine	5,304	4,760	11.4%
21	Utah	31,775	28,779	10.4%
22	Texas	230,503	209,895	9.8%
23	Louisiana	17,283	15,793	9.4%
24	Pennsylvania	25,706	23,539	9.2%
25	Idaho	19,130	17,716	8.0%



States with Greatest Decline in New Privately-Owned Housing Units

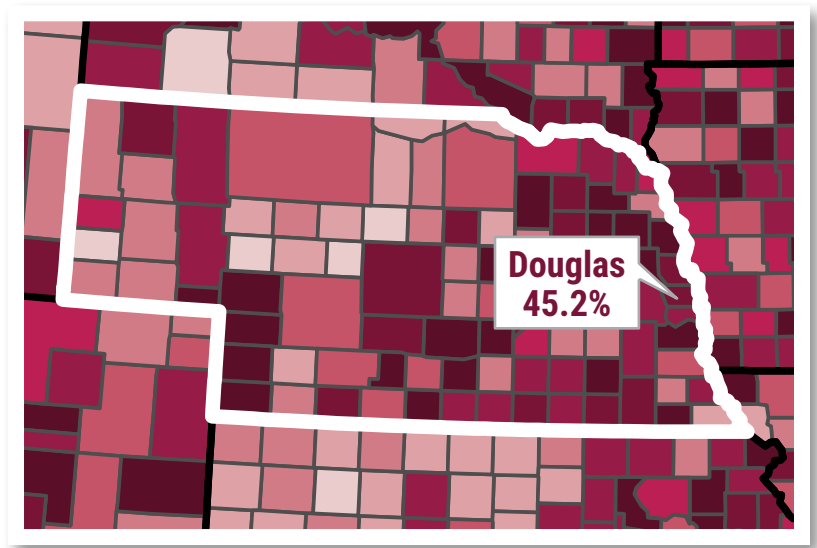
Rank	State	2019-20 change
1	Hawaii	-22.7%
2	New York	-17.4%
3	Alaska	-15.5%
4	Oregon	-15.3%
5	Illinois	-12.0%

Percent Change in New Privately-Owned Housing Units Authorized by County, 2019 - 2020



*Permits not required in these counties in 2019.

Within Nebraska, the county with the largest percent increase was Dundy (from 1 in 2019 to 4 in 2020, or +300.0%), while Douglas County had the most numeric growth (from 1,249 in 2019 to 1,813 in 2020, or +45.2%). Nationally, the county with the largest percent increase was Carroll County, Virginia (from 2 in 2019 to 63 in 2020, or +3,050.0%). Maricopa County, Arizona led the nation in terms of numeric growth, going from 20,075 in 2019 to 25,526 in 2020 (+27.2%). There were 81 counties nationwide that had one or more permits issued in 2019 but zero in 2020 (-100.0%). Of these, 7 were in Nebraska: Box Butte, Cheyenne, Hitchcock, Johnson, Morrill, Rock, and Sioux. (2)



Sources:

1. U.S. Census Bureau. Building Permits Survey. About the Survey. [Online] June 28, 2012. [census.gov/construction/bps/about_the_surveys/](https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/about_the_surveys/).
2. U.S. Census Bureau. Building Permits Survey. [Online] 2022. [census.gov/construction/bps/](https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/).

Spotlight on

Electricians

Rachel Eckloff, Research Analyst

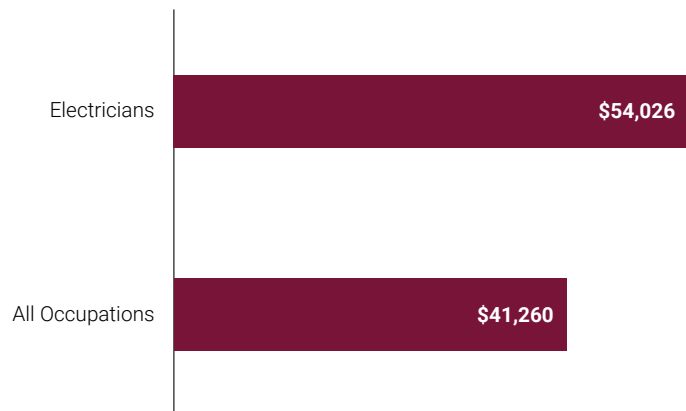
Description:

Electricians “install, maintain, and repair electrical wiring, equipment, and fixtures” and “ensure that work is in accordance with relevant codes.” (1)

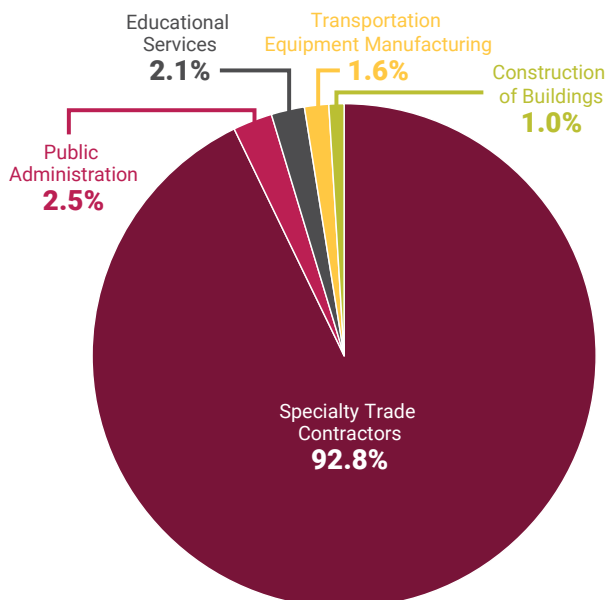
Nebraska Wages:

The median annual wage for electricians in Nebraska was **\$54,026** as of the third quarter of 2021. This was higher than the median wage for all occupations, which was **\$41,260**. (3)

Nebraska Wages for Electricians, Q3 2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.



Industry of Employment:

The top industry of employment for Nebraska’s electricians as of third-quarter 2021 data was specialty trade contractors (92.8%) . Public administration (2.5%) and educational services (2.1%) were the next largest employers of workers in this occupation.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Wages by Top Industries of Employment for Electricians, Q3 2021

Industry	Number of people employed	Wages
Specialty Trade Contractors	4,780	\$52,936
Public Administration	130	\$67,636
Educational Services	110	\$64,287
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	80	*
Construction of Buildings	50	\$42,434

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.

*Wage data not available.

Duties:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), typical duties for electricians include (2):

- reading blueprints and technical diagrams;
- installing and maintaining wiring, control, and lighting systems;
- inspecting electrical components, such as transformers and circuit breakers;
- identifying electrical problems using a variety of testing devices;
- repairing or replacing wiring, equipment, or fixtures using hand tools and power tools;
- following state and local building regulations;
- directing and training other workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring or equipment.

Sources:

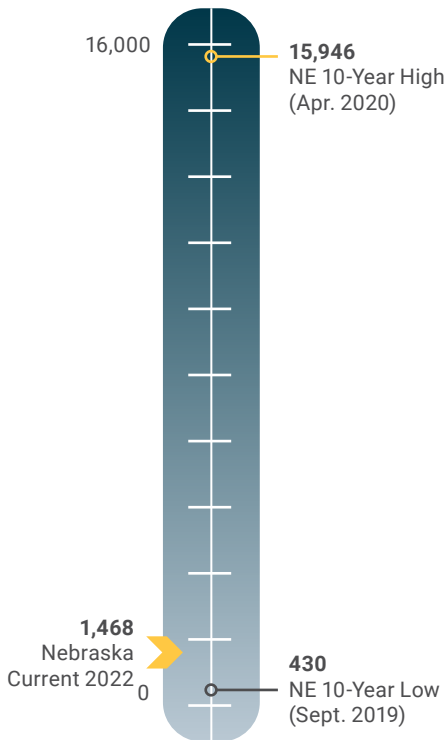
1. U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Occupational Information Network (O*NET). 47-2111.00 - Electricians. [Online] 2021. ononline.org/link/summary/47-2111.00.
2. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook. Electricians. [Online] 2021. bls.gov/ooh/construction-and-extraction/electricians.htm.
3. Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. [Online] Q3 2021. networks.nebraska.gov.

Economic Indicators: December

Rachel Eckloff, Research Analyst

Initial Unemployment Claims

Monthly Avg. Number of Claims per Week (Regular State Benefits)



DOWN
-58.5%

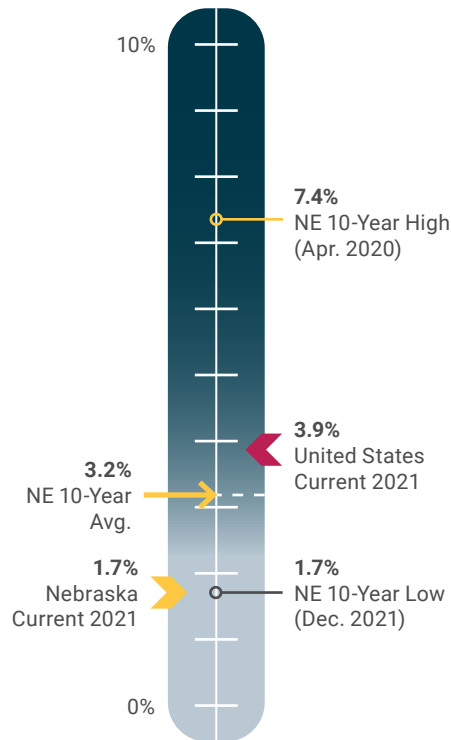
NE Vs. Last Year

UP
31.2%

NE Vs. Last Month

Unemployment Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



DOWN
-50.0%

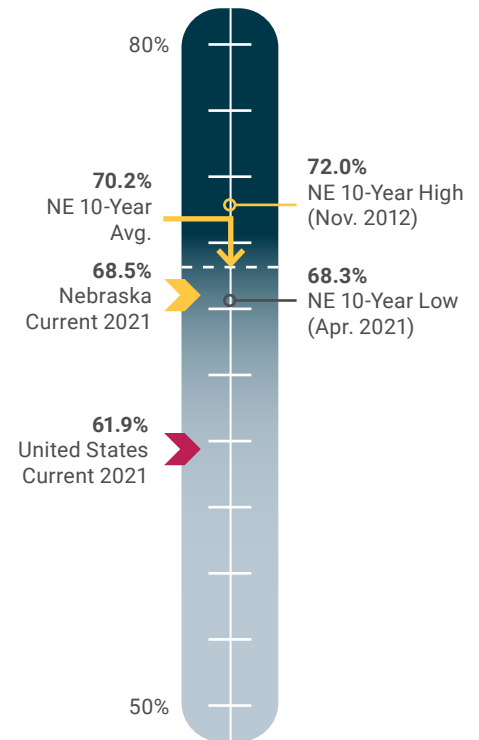
NE Vs. Last Year

DOWN
-5.6%

NE Vs. Last Month

Labor Force Participation Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



DOWN
-0.3%

NE Vs. Last Year

UP
0.1%

NE Vs. Last Month

336,347 - United States Current 2022

An initial claim is a request for determination of UI program eligibility filed by an unemployed individual following a separation from an employer. It can serve as an indicator of emerging labor market conditions in the area.¹

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

NE- U.S. Employment & Training Administration. *Initial Claims in Nebraska (NEICLAIMS)*. Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NEICLAIMS>.

U.S.- U.S. Employment & Training Administration. *Initial Claims (ICNSA)*. Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ICNSA>.

The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons as a share of the labor force. Unemployed persons are those ages 16 years and older who had no work during the reference period, but who were available for and actively seeking work.

(For more on defining 'labor force,' see Labor Force Participation Rate.)²

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. *Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)*. *Unemployment Rate (%)*. NEworks. <https://neworks.nebraska.gov>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey (Seas) Unemployment Rate*. Series ID LNS1400000.

<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/ce>

The labor force is comprised of all persons age 16 and over in the civilian, noninstitutional population who are either employed or unemployed but available for work and actively seeking employment. It excludes people doing unpaid homemaking or volunteer work, retired people, and people who are not employed and not actively seeking work. The labor force participation rate measures the labor force as a percentage of the total civilian, noninstitutional population, age 16 and over.³

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Labor Force Participation Rate for Nebraska (LBSSA31)*. Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LBSSA31>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate (CIVPART)*. Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

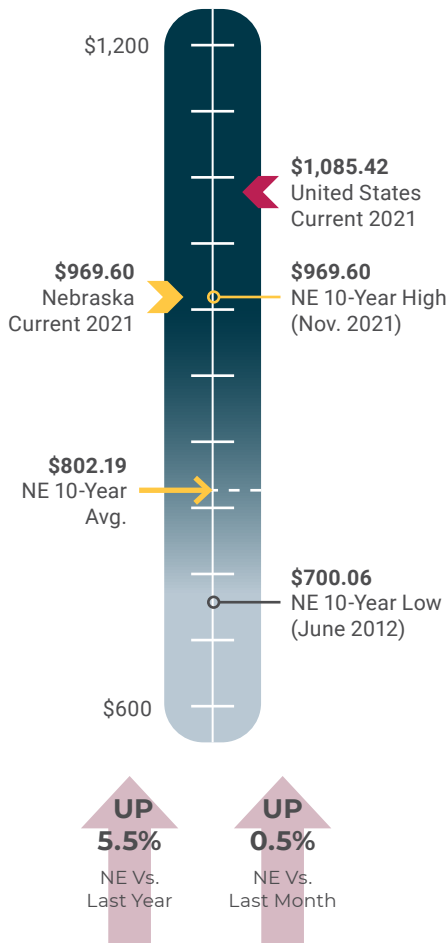
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CIVPART>.

Economic Indicators: December

Rachel Eckloff, Research Analyst

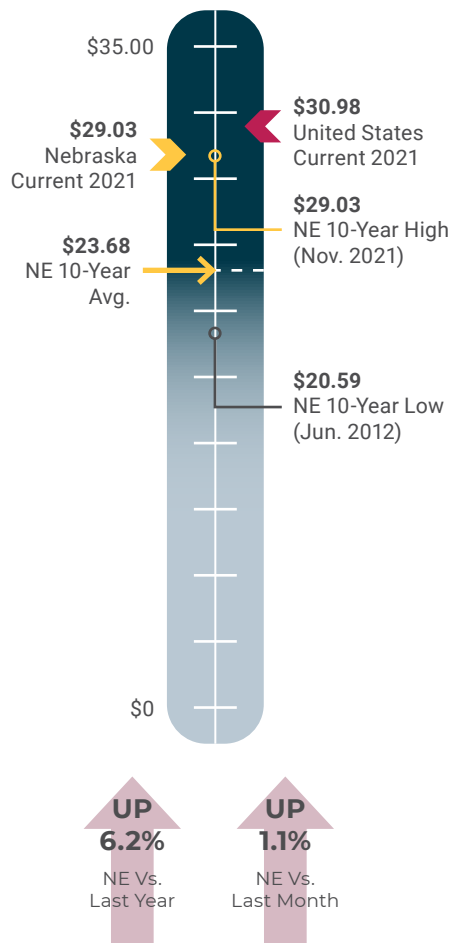
Avg. Weekly Earnings

All Private Employees
Not Seasonally Adjusted



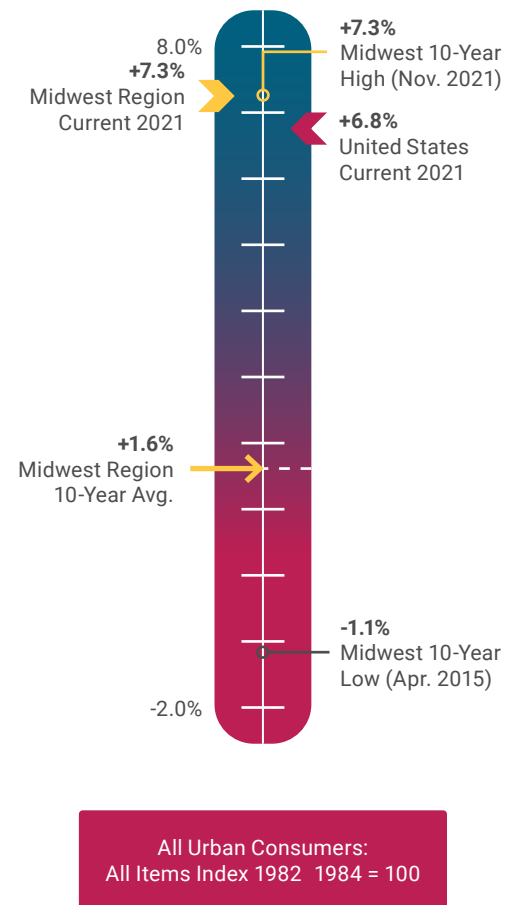
Avg. Hourly Earnings

All Private Employees
Not Seasonally Adjusted



Consumer Price Index

12-Month % Change
Not Seasonally Adjusted



Average weekly earnings represents the mean pay received by workers for services performed over the course of one week.⁴

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *State and Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings. Average Weekly Earnings of All Employees, In Dollars. Nebraska (Statewide): Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted.* Series ID SMU31000000500000011.
<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/sm>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Employment, Hours, & Earnings from the Current Employment Statistics Survey (National). Average Weekly Earnings of All Employees: Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted.* Series ID CES0500000011.
<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/ce>.

Average hourly earnings represents the mean pay received by workers for services performed during one hour of work.⁵

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *State and Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings. Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees, In Dollars. Nebraska (Statewide): Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted.* Series ID SMU31000000500000003.
<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/sm>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Employment, Hours, & Earnings from the Current Employment Statistics Survey (National). Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees: Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted.* Series ID CEU0500000003.
<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/ce>

The consumer price index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for goods and services. It is used to determine the real purchasing power of consumers' dollars, and as a measure of inflation.⁶

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in Midwest (CUUR0200SA0).* Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUUR0200SA0#0>.
U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items (CPIAUCNS).* Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CPIAUCNS>.

Economic Indicators: December

Rachel Eckloff, Research Analyst

1,025,771

Total Nonfarm Employment (filled jobs)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

for December 2021

Nonfarm employment, a count of filled jobs, was **1,025,771** in December, down **4,003** over the month and up **22,627** over the year. Private industries with the most growth month to month were trade, transportation, and utilities (up 4,121); manufacturing (up 867) and professional and business services (794). Private industries with the most growth month to month were trade, transportation, and utilities (up 1,573); manufacturing (up 465); and other services (283). Private industries with the most growth year to year were leisure and hospitality (8,441); education and health (up 4,201); and trade, transportation, and utilities (3,347).

Data Source:

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Current Employment Statistics. NEworks. networks.nebraska.gov/ces.

51,589

Job count on NEworks as of

February 7, 2022

93,278

Total job count on NEworks for the month of January 2022

This number reflects the number of job openings advertised online in Nebraska as of January 2022. It is de-duplicated for statistical analysis.

Data Source:

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Online advertised jobs data. NEworks. networks.nebraska.gov.

Labor market information is updated continuously.

For the latest data, visit networks.nebraska.gov or contact us at 800-876-1377 or email Imi_ne@nebraska.gov.

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