

LABOR AREA SUMMARIES

February 2026

NEBRASKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA¹ (MSA)

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-26	Jan-26
	Omaha MSA ¹		Lincoln MSA ¹		Grand Island MSA ¹	
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.5	3.2	3.1	3.7	5.1
Labor Force	543,652	540,468	201,057	198,370	43,995	44,177
Unemployment	19,020	18,941	6,486	6,129	1,622	2,251
Employment	524,632	521,527	194,571	192,241	42,373	41,926

LABOR FORCE DATA²

GRAND ISLAND

	Preliminary	Revised	Changes			% Change
	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25 ³	OTM ⁴	OTY ⁴	OTM
Unemployment Rate	3.7	5.1	***	-1.4	***	—
Labor Force	43,995	44,177	***	-182	***	-0.4
Unemployment	1,622	2,251	***	-629	***	-27.9
Employment	42,373	41,926	***	447	***	1.1

LINCOLN

	Preliminary	Revised	Changes			% Change
	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25 ³	OTM ⁴	OTY ⁴	OTM
Unemployment Rate	3.2	3.1	***	0.1	***	—
Labor Force	201,057	198,370	***	2,687	***	1.4
Unemployment	6,486	6,129	***	357	***	5.8
Employment	194,571	192,241	***	2,330	***	1.2

OMAHA

	Preliminary	Revised	Changes			% Change
	Feb-26	Jan-26	Feb-25 ³	OTM ⁴	OTY ⁴	OTM
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.5	***	0.0	***	—
Labor Force	543,652	540,468	***	3,184	***	0.6
Unemployment	19,020	18,941	***	79	***	0.4
Employment	524,632	521,527	***	3,105	***	0.6

NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT⁵

BY PLACE OF WORK

GRAND ISLAND

February Total Non-Farm	40,117
OTM Change	228 (0.6%)
OTY Change	300 (0.8%)

LINCOLN

February Total Non-Farm	195,925	Manufacturing	14,504
OTM Change	970 (0.5%)	OTM Change	-37 (-0.3%)
OTY Change	687 (0.4%)	OTY Change	-413 (-2.8%)
Largest OTM Increase (private)		Largest OTY Increase (private)	
Mining & Construction	168 (1.6%)	Private Education & Health Services	819 (2.4%)
Leisure & Hospitality Services	103 (0.6%)	Mining & Construction	656 (6.5%)

OMAHA

February Total Non-Farm	510,926	Manufacturing	35,232
OTM Change	-585 (-0.1%)	OTM Change	-134 (-0.4%)
OTY Change	123 (0.0%)	OTY Change	-404 (-1.1%)
Largest OTM Increase (private)		Largest OTY Increase (private)	
Mining & Construction	520 (1.6%)	Mining & Construction	2,693 (8.6%)
Private Education & Health Services	424 (0.5%)	Private Education & Health Services	1,781 (1.9%)

¹ Grand Island MSA includes Hall, Howard & Merrick Counties in Nebraska.

Lincoln MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) includes Lancaster and Seward Counties in Nebraska.

Omaha MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) includes Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie, Mills and Harrison counties in Iowa

² Sources: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), Nebraska Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor

³*** 2025 data not available due to benchmarking. 2025 data will be available May 22, 2026

⁴ OTM: over the month OTY: Over the year Labor Force comparisons not available due to benchmarking. OTY Comparisons will be available May 22, 2026