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Monthly State Unemployment Rate for February Holds At 3 Percent

LINCOLN- The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) announced today that Nebraska’s preliminary unemployment rate for February 2016 is 3.0 percent, seasonally adjusted. The jobless rate is the same as January 2016 rate of 3.0 percent and up 0.2 percentage points from the February 2015 rate of 2.8 percent.

“We continue to see new entrants in the labor force as the number of persons employed continues to grow and the unemployment rate remains one of the lowest in the nation,” said Commissioner of Labor John H. Albin.

Private industries with the most growth month to month were education and health services (up 564), financial activities (up 206), and information (up 115).

The seasonally-adjusted national unemployment rate in February was 4.9 percent, unchanged from the January 2016 rate and down 0.6 percentage points from the February 2015 rate of 5.5 percent.

March 2016 data and all benchmarked data will be published Friday, April 15.

Labor Force Estimates - National, State, Omaha MSA, Lincoln MSA, Grand Island MSA

Labor Force Estimates - National (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	Jan-16	Feb-15
Unemployment Rate	4.9	4.9	5.5	0.0	0.2

Labor Force Estimates - Nebraska (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	Jan-16	Feb-15
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.0	2.8	0.0	0.2
Labor Force	1,018,155	1,017,866	1,009,747	289	8,408
<i>Unemployment</i>	30,528	30,645	28,679	-117	1,849
<i>Employment</i>	987,627	987,221	981,068	406	6,559

Labor Force Estimates - Omaha MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	Jan-16	Feb-15
Unemployment Rate	3.6	3.6	NA	0.0	NA
Labor Force	479,616	478,157	NA	1,459	NA
<i>Unemployment</i>	17,148	17,314	NA	-166	NA
<i>Employment</i>	462,468	460,843	NA	1,625	NA

Labor Force Estimates - Lincoln MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	Jan-16	Feb-15
Unemployment Rate	2.8	3.0	NA	-0.2	NA
Labor Force	178,983	177,180	NA	1,803	NA
<i>Unemployment</i>	5,089	5,277	NA	-188	NA
<i>Employment</i>	173,894	171,903	NA	1,991	NA

Labor Force Estimates – Grand Island MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Feb-16	Jan-16	Feb-15	Jan-16	Feb-15
Unemployment Rate	3.8	5.3	NA	-1.5	NA
Labor Force	43,736	44,209	NA	-473	NA
<i>Unemployment</i>	1,641	2,338	NA	-697	NA
<i>Employment</i>	42,095	41,871	NA	224	NA

Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MC)	Counties Included	Feb-16 (Preliminary)	Jan-16
Beatrice MC	Gage	3.8	3.9
Columbus MC	Platte	3.9	3.8
Fremont MC	Dodge	3.3	3.5
Hastings MC	Adams	3.4	3.8
Kearney MC	Buffalo, Kearney	2.4	2.5
Lexington MC	Dawson, Gosper	3.2	3.5
Norfolk MC	Madison, Pierce, Stanton	3.0	3.1
North Platte MC	Lincoln, Logan, McPherson	3.3	3.4
Scottsbluff MC	Scotts Bluff, Banner, Sioux	3.3	3.5
Red Willow SA (Small Labor Market Area)	Red Willow, Hitchcock	3.1	3.2

NOTE: Due to benchmarking, revised February 2015 data is not available at the time of this release. All 2015 benchmarked data will be published on April 15, 2016. Data is revised on a monthly basis. Data for previous years is benchmarked annually and is subject to change. MSAs represent Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Seasonally adjusted data for the Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island MSAs will be available about two weeks following this release. The seasonally adjusted data can be obtained at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrossa.htm> or <http://networks.nebraska.gov/analyzer>.