

# NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

FEBRUARY 2021 ISSUE | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Photo by visivastudio from Shutterstock*

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Spotlight: **Senior Care Occupations**

**Fast Facts:** Healthcare Support Occupations





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# Openings & Expansions **December**

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

Business Category	Business Name	Location
Administrative & Support Services	Industrial Maid (Expansion) LSI Staffing (Opening)	Cortland Crete
Education	ESU 13 (Expansion)	Sidney
Food Services	Big Apple Bagels (Opening) Scooter's (Opening) The Committee Chophouse (Opening)	Columbus Crete Omaha
Health Care & Social Assistance	Avidor Senior Living (Opening)	Omaha
Other Services	Art City Barbershop (Opening)	Crete
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	Burke Brown Law (Opening)	Columbus
Wholesale & Retail Trade	BDFloral (Opening) Buff City Soap (Opening)	Beaver Lake Bellevue

**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](mailto:LMI_NE@nebraska.gov).

# Fast Facts

Rachel Stevens  
Research Analyst

# Healthcare Support Occupations

**30,365**

Nebraska workers employed in healthcare support occupations statewide in 2019. (1)

**86.8%**

Women's share of total healthcare support occupations employment in Nebraska as of 2019. (1)

**+12.7%**

Employment growth projected for healthcare support occupations in Nebraska from 2018 to 2028. (2)

**+40.5%**

Rate of employment growth projected for occupational therapy assistants in Nebraska between 2018 and 2028, making it the fastest-growing job by percent increase within this occupational group. (2)

**1**

Number of healthcare support occupations projected to see a decrease in total employment in Nebraska from 2018 to 2028. Pharmacy aides are the only occupation expected to shrink during this decade, with a projected decline of 5.9%. (2)

**+1,056**

Number of new positions for nursing assistants expected to be created throughout Nebraska from 2018 to 2028. This is the largest numeric increase projected for any healthcare support occupation during this time period. (2)

**3,532**

Total employment in Nebraska's home health care services industry in 2020. (3)

**\$57,358**

Median annual wage for the highest-paid occupation within the healthcare support occupational group, massage therapists, working in Nebraska during the third quarter of 2020. (4)

**4**

Number of healthcare support occupations classified by the Nebraska Department of Labor as H3—high wage, high skill, high demand—in 2020. These were physical therapist assistants, massage therapists, medical transcriptionists, and occupational therapy assistants. (5)

## Sources:

1. U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2019 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables. Table S2401. [Online] data.census.gov.
2. Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-Term Occupation Employment Projections (Statewide). [Online] July 2020. networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=440.
3. U.S. Census Bureau. QWI Explorer Application. [Online] qwiexplorer.ces.census.gov/static/explore.html.
4. Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). [Online] Q3 2020. networks.nebraska.gov.
5. High Wage, High Skill, and High Demand (H3) Occupations. [Online] July 2020. networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=1165.

# Spotlight: Nebraska Senior Care Occupations

Nancy Arroyo-Petri, Research Analyst

Occupations involved in caring for senior citizens in Nebraska and nationwide include registered nurses, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) and licensed vocational nurses, medical assistants, nursing assistants and orderlies, social and human service assistants, and many more.

One of the most common occupations within the senior care industry is home health aides and personal care aides, who may work in assisted living facilities or “in a variety of settings, including clients’ homes, group homes, and day services programs.” (1)

## According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), typical duties for personal care aides include:

- assisting clients in their daily personal tasks, such as bathing or dressing;
- housekeeping, such as laundry, washing dishes, and vacuuming;
- helping to organize a client’s schedule and plan appointments;
- arranging transportation to doctors’ offices or other outings;
- shopping for groceries and preparing meals to meet a client’s dietary specifications;
- keeping clients engaged in their social networks and communities;
- checking in with clients to ensure that services are provided appropriately;
- helping to determine what type of aid their clients need;
- assessing patients’ conditions;
- recording patients’ medical histories and symptoms;
- observing patients and recording the observations;
- operating and monitoring medical equipment. (1)



Photo by Georg Arthur Pflueger on Unsplash

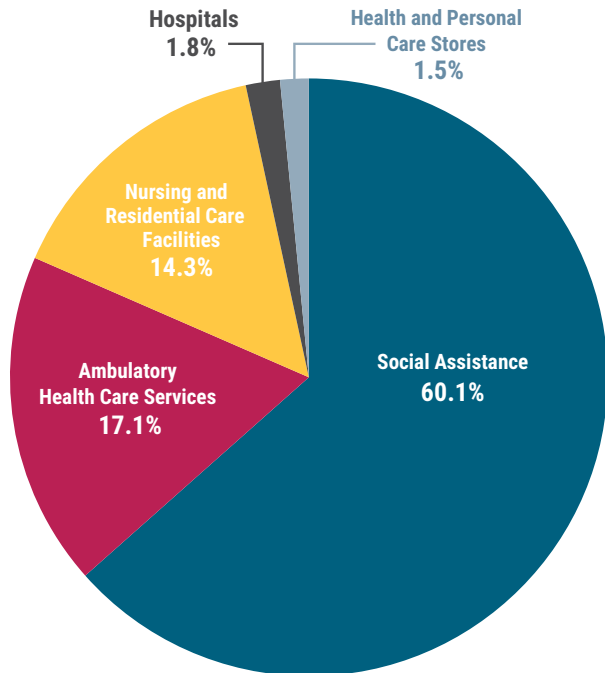
## Nebraska Wages for Home Health and Personal Care Aides, Q3 2020



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. Q3 2020.

The median annual wage for home health and personal care aides in Nebraska was \$26,731 as of the third quarter of 2020. This was slightly less than the median wage for all occupations, which was \$39,512. (2)

## Nebraska Industry of Employment Home Health Aides, 2018



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Projections. July 2020.

The top industry of employment for Nebraska’s home health aides as of 2018 data was social assistance (60.1%). Ambulatory health care services (17.1%) and nursing and residential care facilities (14.3%) were also major employers of workers in this occupation. (3)

### Wages by Top Industries of Employment for Home Health Aides Nationwide, May 2018

Nursing care facilities (skilled nursing facilities)	\$25,110
Continuing care retirement communities and assisted living facilities for the elderly	\$24,600
Residential intellectual and developmental disability facilities	\$24,230
Services for the elderly and persons with disabilities	\$24,160
Home healthcare services	\$23,980

Nurses, including registered nurses and licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses, are also important workers within the senior care industry.

### Duties for licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses typically include:

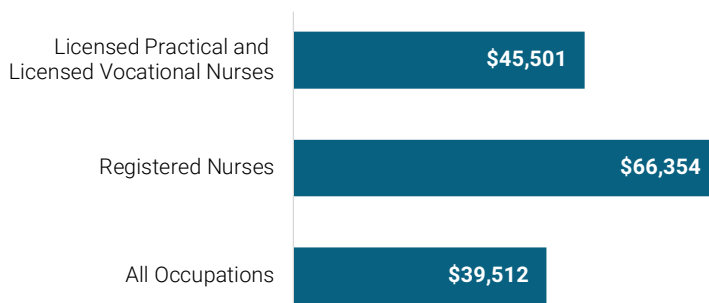
- monitoring patients’ health—for example, by checking their blood pressure;
- administering basic patient care, including changing bandages and inserting catheters;
- providing for the basic comfort of patients, such as helping them bathe or dress;
- discussing the care they are providing with patients and listening to their concerns;
- reporting patients’ status and concerns to registered nurses and doctors;
- keeping records on patients’ health. (1)

### For registered nurses, major job duties include:

- assessing patients’ conditions;
- recording patients’ medical histories and symptoms;
- observing patients and recording the observations;
- administering patients’ medicines and treatments;
- setting up plans for patients’ care or contributing information to existing plans;
- consulting and collaborating with doctors and other healthcare professionals;
- operating and monitoring medical equipment;
- helping perform diagnostic tests and analyzing the results;
- teaching patients and their families how to manage illnesses or injuries;
- explaining what to do at home after treatment. (1)

In the third quarter of 2020, Nebraska’s licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses earned a median annual wage of \$45,501, while registered nurses earned \$66,354. Both occupations brought home a higher median paycheck than the all-occupations median of \$39,512 during that quarter. (2)

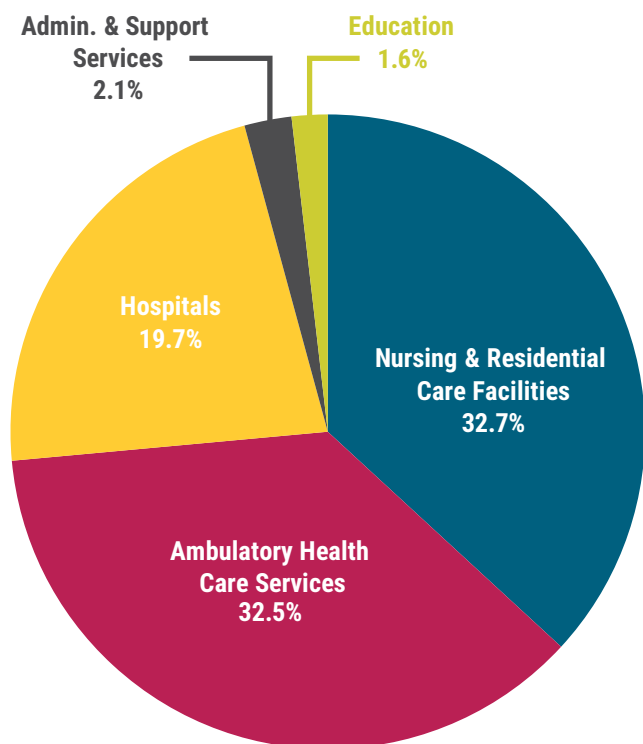
### Nebraska Wages for Nurses, Q3 2020



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. Q3 2020.

According to 2018 data, licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses in Nebraska most often tended to be employed within nursing and residential care facilities (32.7%), followed by ambulatory health care services (32.5%). Hospitals (19.7%) were also major employers of these workers. (3)

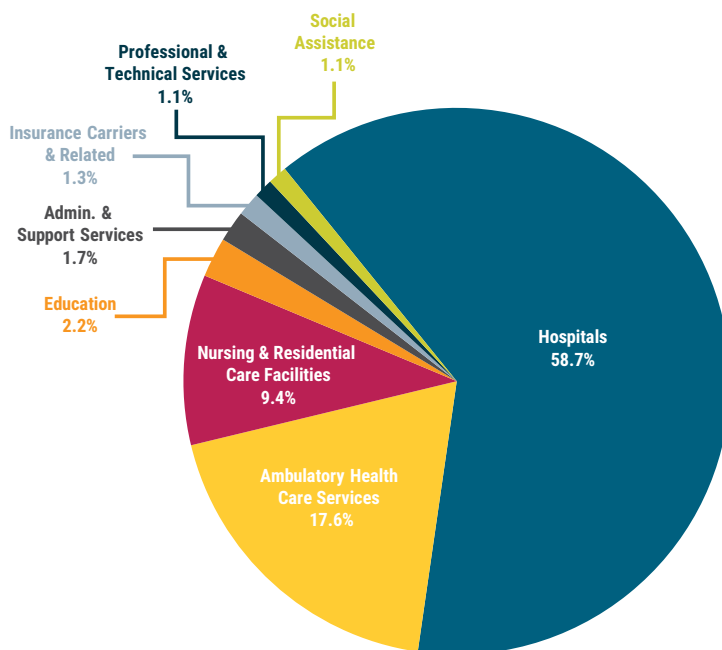
### Nebraska Industry of Employment Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses, 2018



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Projections. July 2020.

Registered nurses in Nebraska were most likely to be employed in hospitals (58.7%), ambulatory health care services (17.6%), or nursing and residential care facilities (9.4%) as of 2018. (3)

### Nebraska Industry of Employment Registered Nurses, 2018



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Projections. July 2020.

### Wages by Top Industries of Employment for Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses Nationwide, 2018

Nursing and residential care facilities	\$48,840
Government	\$48,400
Home healthcare services	\$48,130
Hospitals (state, local, and private)	\$45,550
Offices of physicians	\$43,620

### Wages by Top Industries of Employment for Registered Nurses Nationwide, May 2018

Government	\$78,390
Hospitals; state, local, and private	\$73,650
Ambulatory healthcare services	\$68,320
Nursing and residential care facilities	\$63,990
Educational services; state, local, and private	\$61,850

Social and human services assistants also play an important role in the senior care industry. According to the BLS, “these workers help clients stay in their own homes and live under their own care whenever possible. Social and human service assistants may coordinate meal deliveries or find personal care aides to help with the clients’ day-to-day needs, such as running errands and bathing. In some cases, human service assistants help look for residential care facilities, such as nursing homes.” (1)

**Typical job duties for social and human services assistants include:**

- helping determine what type of aid their clients need;
- working with clients and other professionals, such as social workers, to develop a treatment plan;
- helping clients find assistance with daily activities, such as eating and bathing;
- researching services, such as food stamps and medicaid, that are available to clients;
- coordinating services provided to clients;
- helping clients complete paperwork to apply for assistance programs;
- checking in with clients to ensure that services are provided appropriately. (1)

The median annual wage for social and human service assistants working in Nebraska was \$ 32,795 in third-quarter 2020. This was slightly lower than the state’s all-occupations median for the quarter. (2)

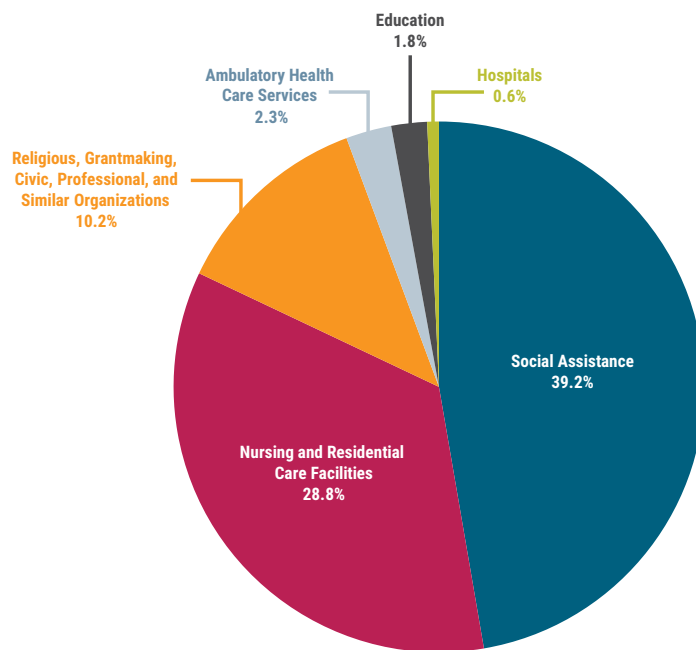
**Nebraska Wages for Social and Human Service Assistants, Q3 2020**



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program. Q3 2020.

The top industry of employment for Nebraska’s social and human service assistants as of 2018 was social assistance (39.2%). Nursing and residential care facilities (28.8%) was also a major employer for this occupation. (3)

**Nebraska Industry of Employment Social and Human Service Assistants, 2018**



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Projections. July 2020.

**Wages by Top Industries of Employment for Social and Human Service Assistants Nationwide, May 2018**

Local government, excluding education and hospitals	\$39,770
State government, excluding education and hospitals	\$37,490
Individual and family services	\$33,160
Community and vocational rehabilitation services	\$30,300
Nursing and residential care facilities	\$29,790

**Sources:**

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook. [Online] 2020. [bls.gov/ooh/home.htm](https://bls.gov/ooh/home.htm).
2. Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment Statistics (OES). [Online] Q3 2020. [networks.nebraska.gov](https://networks.nebraska.gov).
3. Long-Term Occupation Employment Projections (Statewide). [Online] July 2020. [networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=440](https://networks.nebraska.gov/gsipub/index.asp?docid=440).

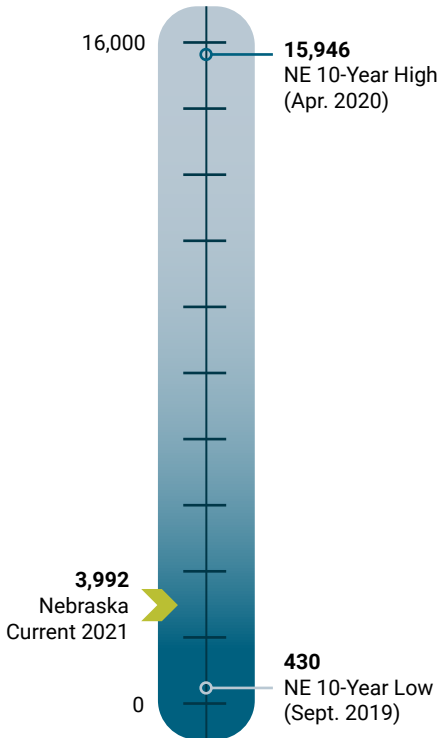


# Economic Indicators: January

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

## Initial Unemployment Claims

Monthly Avg. Number of Claims per Week (Excludes CARES Act)

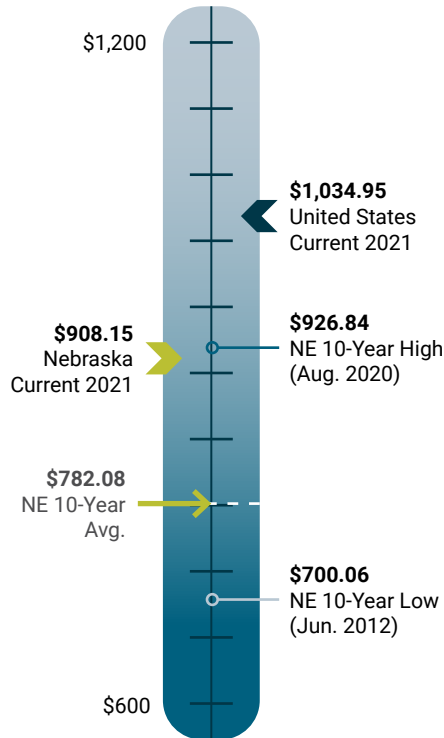


**UP**  
**+278.4%**  
NE Vs. Last Year

**UP**  
**+39.0%**  
NE Vs. Last Month

## Avg. Weekly Earnings

All Private Employees Not Seasonally Adjusted

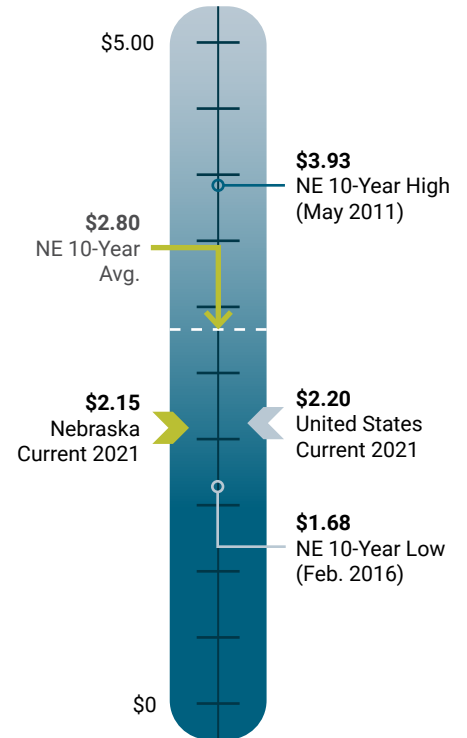


**UP**  
**+1.8%**  
NE Vs. Last Year

**DOWN**  
**-0.9%**  
NE Vs. Last Month

## Gas Prices

Avg. Retail Price per Gallon (Regular-Grade Unleaded Gasoline)



**DOWN**  
**-11.2%**  
NE Vs. Last Year

**UP**  
**+4.4%**  
NE Vs. Last Month

**997,440 - United States Current 2021**

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.<sup>1</sup>

**Data Sources:** [Retrieved: January 2021.]  
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>.

Average weekly earnings represents the mean pay received by workers for services performed over the course of one week.<sup>2</sup>

**Data Sources:** [Retrieved: January 2021.]  
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>.

This figure represents the average price consumers paid at the pump for a gallon of regular-grade, unleaded gasoline during the specified timeframe. The main components affecting the retail price of gasoline are crude oil prices; costs and profits associated with refining, distribution, and marketing; fluctuations in supply and demand; and federal, state, and local taxes.<sup>3</sup>

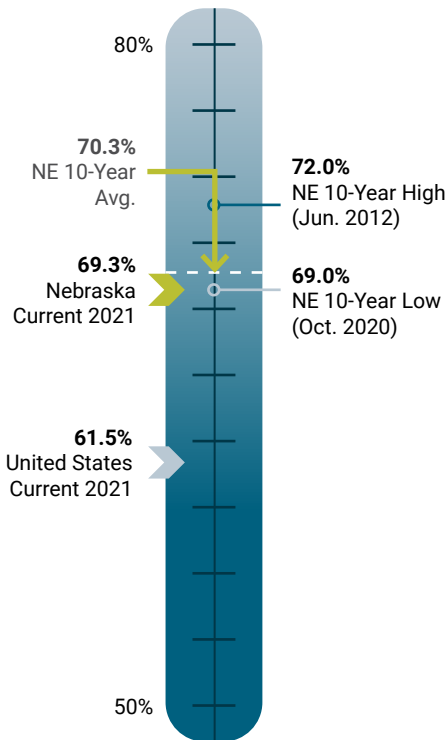
**Data Sources:** [Retrieved: January 2021.]  
NE- Nebraska Energy Office. *Average Monthly Retail Motor Gasoline Prices in Nebraska. Regular Unleaded*. [http://www.neo.ne.gov/statshtml/97.htm#regular\\_unleaded](http://www.neo.ne.gov/statshtml/97.htm#regular_unleaded).  
U.S.- U.S. Energy Information Administration. *U.S. Regular All Formulations Retail Gasoline Prices*. [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/PET\\_PRI\\_GND\\_A\\_EPMR\\_PTE\\_DPGAL\\_M.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/PET_PRI_GND_A_EPMR_PTE_DPGAL_M.htm).

# Economic Indicators: January

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

## Labor Force Participation Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



**DOWN**

**-0.9%**

NE Vs. Last Year

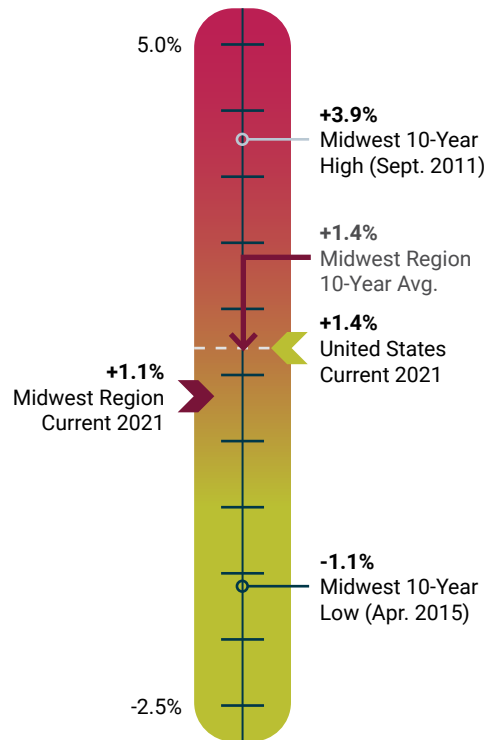
**UP**

**+0.3%**

NE Vs. Last Month

## Consumer Price Index

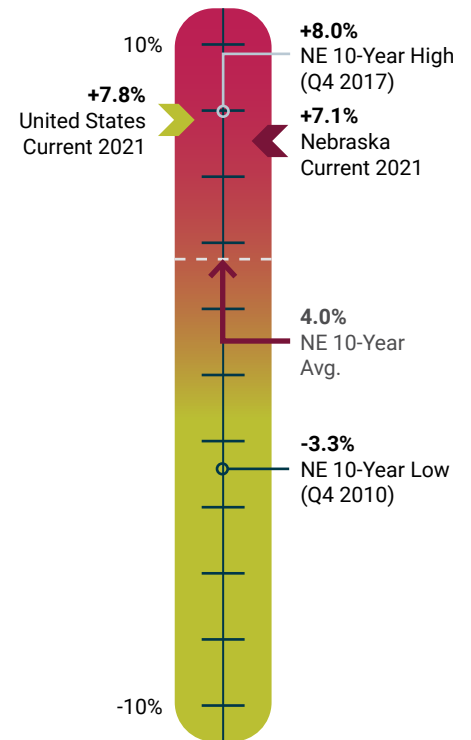
12-Month % Change  
Not Seasonally Adjusted



All Urban Consumers:  
All Items Index 1982-1984 = 100

## Housing Prices

4-Quarter % Change  
Seasonally Adjusted



FHFA Purchase-Only  
Housing Price Index

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.<sup>1</sup>

**Data Sources:** [Retrieved: January 2021.]

**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>.

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.<sup>6</sup>

**Data Sources:** [Retrieved: January 2021.]

**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.

**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>.

The housing price index (HPI) measures the movement of single-family house prices, based on purchases involving conventional mortgages purchased or securitized by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. "Four-quarter" change is relative to the same quarter one year earlier. HPI data are often considered useful for estimating housing affordability and projecting future changes in mortgage default rates.<sup>5</sup>

**Data Source:** [Retrieved: January 2021.]

Federal Housing Finance Agency. *Housing Price Index Datasets. Quarterly Data: Purchase-Only Indexes*. <https://www.fhfa.gov/DataTools/Downloads/Pages/House-Price-Index-Datasets.aspx#qpo>

# NEBRASKA

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**Nebraska Department of Labor**

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*Labor market information is updated continuously. For the latest data, contact us at 800-876-1377 or email [lmi\\_ne@nebraska.gov](mailto:lmi_ne@nebraska.gov).*



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