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Construction in Nebraska

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New Housing Construction

Spotlight on Electricians
## Openings & Expansions December
Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

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

**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.
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)

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)
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


** 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)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2028</th>
<th>Growth Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>663</td>
<td>+10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>556</td>
<td>+8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbers, Pipefitters, &amp; Steamfitters</td>
<td>405</td>
<td>477</td>
<td>+7.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades &amp; Extraction Workers</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>+7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofers</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>+10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Painters, Construction &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>+4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highway Maintenance Workers</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>+3.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


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:
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

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

### States with Greatest Decline in New Privately-Owned Housing Units

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>2019-20 change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>-22.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>-17.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>-15.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>-15.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Illinois</td>
<td>-12.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:

*Permits not required in these counties in 2019.
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)

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.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Number of people employed</th>
<th>Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialty Trade Contractors</td>
<td>4,780</td>
<td>$52,936</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>$67,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>$64,287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation Equipment Manufacturing</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction of Buildings</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>$42,434</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


*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:

Initial Unemployment Claims

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

- 16,000
- 15,946 NE 10-Year High (Apr. 2020)
- 1,468 Nebraska Current 2022
- 430 NE 10-Year Low (Sept. 2019)

Down -58.5% NE vs. Last Year
Up 31.2% NE vs. Last Month

Unemployment Rate
Seasonally Adjusted

- 10%
- 7.4% NE 10-Year High (Apr. 2020)
- 3.2% NE 10-Year Avg.
- 1.7% Nebraska Current 2021
- 1.7% NE 10-Year Low (Dec. 2021)

Down -50.0% NE vs. Last Year
Down -5.6% NE vs. Last Month

Labor Force Participation Rate
Seasonally Adjusted

- 80%
- 72.0% NE 10-Year High (Nov. 2012)
- 68.5% Nebraska Current 2021
- 61.9% United States Current 2021
- 50%

Down -0.3% NE vs. Last Year
Up 0.1% NE vs. Last Month

336,347 - United States Current 2022

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.)

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

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.

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]
**Avg. Weekly Earnings**

*All Private Employees*  
Not Seasonally Adjusted

- **$1,200** United States Current 2021
- **$1,085.42** Nebraska Current 2021
- **$969.60** Nebraska Current 2021
- **$802.19** NE 10-Year Avg.
- **$700.06** NE 10-Year Low (June 2012)
- **$600** NE 10-Year Low (June 2012)

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

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]


**Avg. Hourly Earnings**

*All Private Employees*  
Not Seasonally Adjusted

- **$35.00** United States Current 2021
- **$29.03** Nebraska Current 2021
- **$23.68** NE 10-Year Avg.
- **$20.59** NE 10-Year Low (Jun. 2012)
- **$0** NE 10-Year Low (Jun. 2012)

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

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]


**Consumer Price Index**

12-Month % Change  
Not Seasonally Adjusted

- **+7.3%** Midwest 10-Year High (Nov. 2021)
- **+6.8%** United States Current 2021
- **+1.6%** Midwest Region 10-Year Avg.
- **-2.0%** Midwest 10-Year Low (Apr. 2015)

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.  

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUUR0200SA0.

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

51,589
Job count on NEworks as of February 7, 2022

93,278
Total job count on NEworks for the month of January 2022

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:

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

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