

A black and white photograph of the Nebraska State Capitol building, featuring a prominent central dome and classical architectural details. The building is set against a clear sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey band across the top of the image.

# NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

JANUARY 2022 ISSUE | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

## Inside this issue

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**Labor Market Data Rankings**

**Map Facts:**  
Labor Force Participation by State

**Spotlight on H3**

# Contents

4

Labor Market Data Rankings

3

Openings & Expansions

7

Map Facts: Labor Force Participation by State

8

Spotlight on H3

10

Economic Indicators

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## Helpful Links

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*Previous Issues*

*NEworks.nebraska.gov*

*Reader Feedback Survey*

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DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



# Openings & Expansions November

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

Business Category	Business Name	Location
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	Chill Axe (Opening)	Sidney
Education	Lakeview Community Schools (Opening)	Columbus
Food Services	Watecha Bowl (Opening)	Norfolk
Health Care & Social Assistance	Wisner Family and Implant Dentistry (Opening)	Wisner
Information	Action Communication (Expansion)	Scottsbluff
Wholesale & Retail Trade	Carolyn's Collection (Opening) Handties Floral Studio (Opening)	Laurel Norfolk

**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).

# Labor Market Data Rankings

Marc Bettis, Research Analyst & Grace Johnson, Public Information Officer

## Top 5 Lowest Unemployment Rates for **November 2021**, Seasonally Adjusted

### 1. Nebraska 1.8%

- |    |          |      |
|----|----------|------|
| 2. | Utah     | 2.1% |
| 3. | Oklahoma | 2.5% |
| 4. | Idaho    | 2.6% |
| 5. | Vermont  | 2.6% |

#### What is It:

The counts of employed and unemployed in the labor force are based on a survey conducted by the Census Bureau regarding employment status. Both individuals who are claiming unemployment benefits and those who are not claiming can be counted as unemployed based on their survey responses. Individuals who are not working and are not seeking work are not considered part of the labor force and are not included in the unemployment rate calculation. Unemployment data goes back to 1976, and Nebraska's November 2021 rate is the lowest on record for both Nebraska and the nation overall. (1)

#### Where to Find It:

[dol.nebraska.gov/INFOLink](https://dol.nebraska.gov/INFOLink): This is our one-stop site for monthly employment and unemployment statistics. From the INFOLink landing page, under 'Helpful Links' click on 'Unemployment State Rankings.'

The rankings can also be accessed directly from the Bureau of Labor Statistics at [bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm](https://bls.gov/web/laus/laumstrk.htm)

## Lowest County Unemployment Rates, **November 2021**, Not Seasonally Adjusted

### 1. Rock County 0.6%

- |    |                |      |
|----|----------------|------|
| 2. | Boone County   | 0.7% |
| 3. | Cuming County  | 0.7% |
| 4. | Hayes County   | 0.7% |
| 5. | Perkins County | 0.7% |

#### What is It:

**Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)** is federal-state cooperative effort program that publishes monthly and annual estimates on labor force, employment, and unemployment for all levels of geography from cities and MSAs to states. (2)

#### Where to Find It: [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://neworks.nebraska.gov)

Data can be found through [dol.nebraska.gov/INFOLink](https://dol.nebraska.gov/INFOLink), as well as the Labor Market Information home page on [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://neworks.nebraska.gov). From the NEworks home page, click on "Labor Market Analysis" under the Labor Market Information section. Click on the 'State & County Unemployment' button.

## Top 5 Nebraska Industry Sectors with Highest Average Weekly Wage, Q2 2021

<b>1.</b>	<b>Utilities</b>	<b>\$3,698</b>
<b>2.</b>	Management of Companies and Enterprises	<b>\$1,836</b>
<b>3.</b>	Finance and Insurance	<b>\$1,449</b>
<b>4.</b>	Professional and Technical Services	<b>\$1,400</b>
<b>5.</b>	Information	<b>\$1,369</b>

**What is It:**  
 The **Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)** program publishes a quarterly count of employment and wages reported by employers covering more than 95% of U.S. jobs available at the county, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), state and national levels by detailed industry.” (3)

**Where to Find It: [NWorks.nebraska.gov](https://nworks.nebraska.gov)**  
 Click “Labor Market Analysis” then click the ‘Industry Employment & Wages’ button.

## Top 5 Nebraska Occupation Groups With Highest Average Experienced Annual Wage, Q3 2021

<b>1.</b>	<b>Management</b>	<b>\$135,246</b>
<b>2.</b>	Legal	<b>\$112,244</b>
<b>3.</b>	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	<b>\$101,683</b>
<b>4.</b>	Computer and Mathematical	<b>\$100,419</b>
<b>5.</b>	Architecture and Engineering	<b>\$97,554</b>

**What is It:**  
 The **Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)** program produces employment and wage estimates annually for nearly 800 occupations. These estimates are available for the nation, for individual states, and for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas; national occupational estimates for specific industries are also available.” (4)

**Where to Find It: [NWorks.nebraska.gov](https://nworks.nebraska.gov)**  
 Click “Labor Market Analysis” then click the ‘Occupational Employment & Wages’ button.

## Top 5 Nebraska Industries with Greatest Over-the-Month Employment Change, November 2021

1.	<b>Trade, Transportation and Utilities</b>	<b>+4,121</b>
2.	Transportation Warehousing and Utilities	<b>+2,809</b>
3.	Retail Trade	<b>+1,933</b>
4.	Manufacturing	<b>+1,878</b>
5.	Professional and Business Services	<b>+1,694</b>

### What is It:

The **Current Employment Statistics (CES)** program is a monthly survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The survey provides employment, hours, and earnings estimates based on payroll records of business establishments.” (5)

### Where to Find It: [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://networks.nebraska.gov)

Click “Labor Market Analysis” then click the ‘Nonfarm Industry Employment’ button.

### Most Common Data Requests:

1.	<b>OES (Occupational Employment Statistics)</b>	<b>28.4%</b>
2.	LAUS (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)	<b>14.3%</b>
3.	Occupational Projections	<b>11.9%</b>
4.	H3 (High Wage, High Skill, High Demand)	<b>11.0%</b>
5.	Labor force and Workforce	<b>11.0%</b>

### Who Requested Data in 2021?

- Businesses
- Economic Developers
- Government agencies
- Non-profit organizations
- Reporters
- Schools and colleges

If you have a specific need that our published products don't meet, reach out and contact us at [ndol.LMI\\_NE@nebraska.gov](mailto:ndol.LMI_NE@nebraska.gov) or visit our **Labor Market Information homepage on NEworks**.

**Data Visualizations:** For interactive visualizations of Nebraska labor market data, NDOL publishes dashboards on **Tableau Public** for some of the above programs and their data, as well as other Trends features. More dashboards are being added from time to time, so don't forget check back continuously to see what's new!

### Sources:

1. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Overview. [Online] March 2020. [bls.gov/lau/lauov.htm](https://bls.gov/lau/lauov.htm).
2. Nebraska Department of Labor. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Labor Force Employment and Unemployment (LAUS). [Online] 2022. [networks.nebraska.gov/laus](https://networks.nebraska.gov/laus).
3. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. QCEW Overview. [Online] January 2021. [bls.gov/cew/overview.htm](https://bls.gov/cew/overview.htm).
4. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. [Online] 2022. [bls.gov/oes/](https://bls.gov/oes/).
5. Current Employment Statistics (CES). CES Overview. [Online] February 2021. [bls.gov/web/empsit/cesprog.htm](https://bls.gov/web/empsit/cesprog.htm).

# Map Facts

Rachel Eckloff,  
Research Analyst

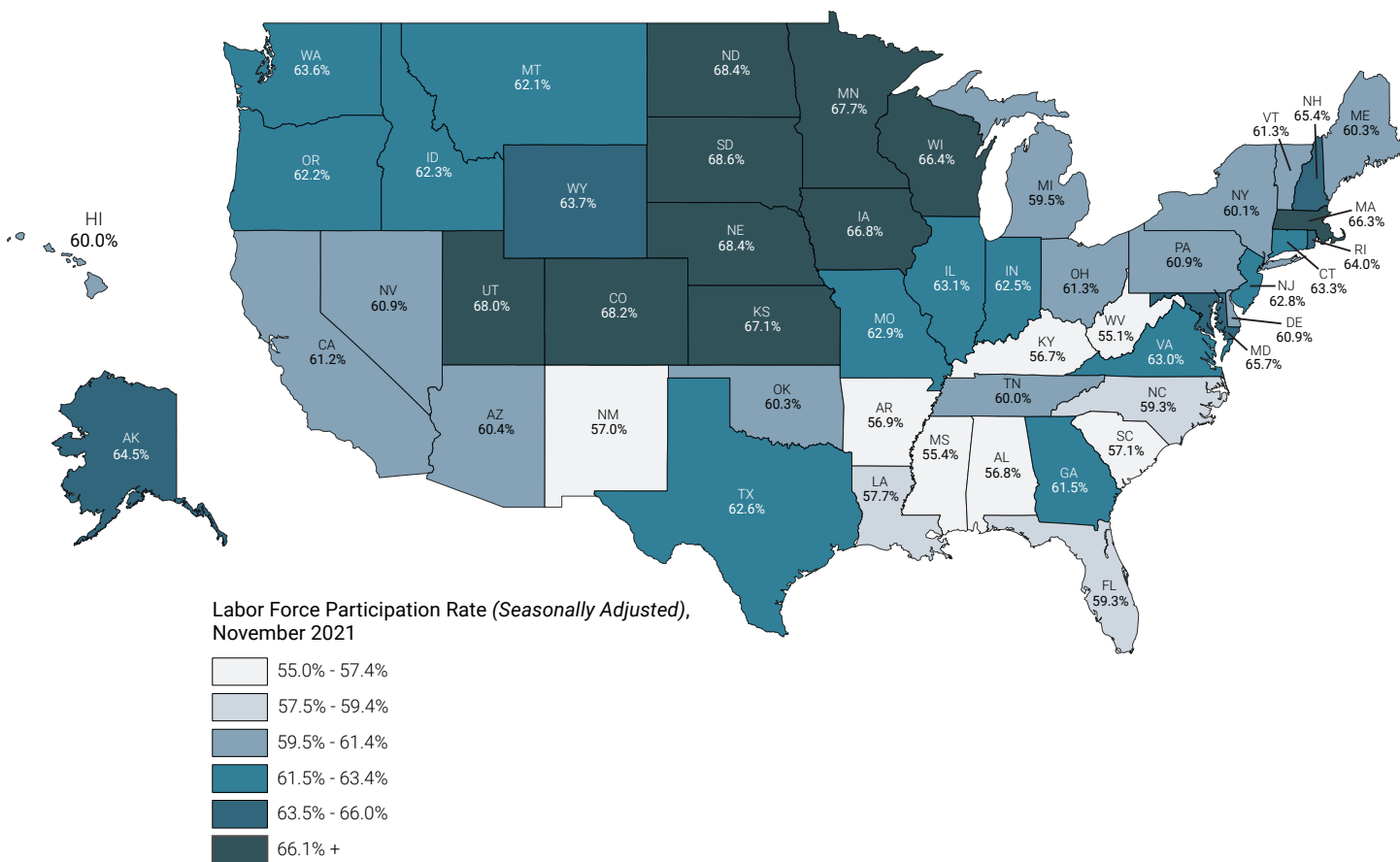
# Labor Force Participation by State

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian, noninstitutional population ages 16 and older who are employed, or unemployed but actively seeking employment. It excludes anyone who was both unemployed and not seeking work, such as fulltime students, retired people, and parents who stay at home with children. (1)

As of November 2021, Nebraska had the second-highest labor force participation rate of any U.S. state at 68.4%, just behind South Dakota at 68.6%. Many neighboring states also ranked towards the top of the list, including Colorado (68.2%), Kansas (67.1%), and Iowa (66.8%). (2)

The state with the lowest labor force participation rate was West Virginia at 55.1%. All of the states in the bottom five were found in the Southern portion of the country. (2)

## Labor Force Participation Rate by US State, November 2021 (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Region, Division, and State Labor Force Participation Rates with Confidence Intervals, November 2021, Seasonally Adjusted. Published December 2021. [bls.gov/lau/](https://bls.gov/lau/).

### Sources:

- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Concepts and Definitions. [Online] October 21, 2021. [bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm](https://bls.gov/cps/definitions.htm).
- Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Region, Division, and State Labor Force Participation Rates with Confidence Intervals, November 2021, Seasonally Adjusted. [Online] December 2021. [bls.gov/lau/](https://bls.gov/lau/).

# Spotlight on H3

Rachel Eckloff &  
Jodie Meyer,  
Research Analysts

## What Does 'H3' Mean?

'H3' refers to a group of occupations classified by the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) as high wage, high skill, and high demand. Various criteria, explained in detail below, are used to determine whether a given occupation can be considered high wage, high skill, and/or high demand. An occupation must meet all three sets of criteria in order to be designated H3.

## Top 10 H3 Occupations in Nebraska (Statewide), 2018 - 2028

H3 Rank	Occupation Title	Est. Employment (2018)	Projected Avg. Annual Openings (2018 - 2028)	Avg. Hourly Wage	Avg. Annual Wage
1	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	29,512	3,646	\$22.40	\$46,580
2	Registered Nurses	26,536	1,790	\$32.37	\$67,325
3	General and Operations Managers	17,326	1,692	\$48.29	\$100,454
4	Accountants and Auditors	9,906	1,037	\$34.18	\$71,087
5	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	11,273	917	n/a	\$61,014
6	Software Developers, Applications	4,864	502	\$44.11	\$91,757
7	Electricians	5,488	724	\$25.78	\$53,640
8	Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters	5,933	736	\$28.56	\$59,406
9	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education	8,782	682	n/a	\$61,127
10	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	5,879	544	\$21.59	\$44,906

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. High Wage, High Skill, High Demand (H3) Occupations. 2020. [networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=oduMpwMRTIQnt7W7W02/Ew==](https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=oduMpwMRTIQnt7W7W02/Ew==)

## How Does NDOL Determine Which Jobs Are H3?

### High Demand

High Demand ratings are based on NDOL's Long-Term Occupational Projections, which predict employment change within an occupation over a timespan of ten years into the future. The current projections data covers the period from 2018 to 2028.

**NDOL determines an occupation's demand ranking based on three factors:**

- number of annual openings
- net change in employment
- growth rate



We judge the most important factor in determining opportunity to be the number of actual job openings expected, so this variable gets the highest weight. Net change in employment represents the volume of new positions expected in the workforce, which we assign the second-highest weight. The occupation's growth rate is considered the least important factor, because, while the rate of growth or decline can affect the speed at which jobs may be eliminated or created, the rate itself does not change the total number of job opportunities available. Our model therefore gives growth rates the least weight of the three variables. These calculations are then used to assign a demand rank to each occupation.

Each occupation's demand ratings are calculated separately for the state and each sub-state region. Occupations are ranked against all other occupations within their region to determine their final rating. Because each area is ranked individually, occupations may have a higher rating in one region than in another.

## High Wage

**NDOL produces wage data for eight wage categories. These categories are:**

- average hourly wage
- entry wage
- experienced wage
- 10th percentile wage
- 25th percentile wage
- 50th percentile wage
- 75th percentile wage
- 90th percentile wage

When an occupation pays wages at or above the region's all-occupations, all-industries wage in any of these categories, it receives a point for that wage category. If an occupation gets a point in four or more of the categories, it is considered 'high wage.'

## High Skill

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provides information about occupational entry requirements, such as the educational requirements to obtain an entry-level position, the amount of work experience in a related occupation employers may expect, and typical on-the-job training.

Typical education needed for entry represents the level of education most workers need to have obtained in order to enter an occupation. There are eight possible rankings: no formal educational credential; high school diploma or equivalent; some college, no degree; postsecondary non-degree award; associate degree; bachelor's degree; master's degree; and doctoral or professional degree.

Work experience in a related occupation indicates whether work experience in a related occupation is commonly considered necessary by employers for entry into the occupation, or a commonly accepted substitute for formal types of training. There are three possible assignments: none; less than five years; and five years or more.

Typical on-the-job training indicates the level of on-the-job training usually needed to attain competency in core occupational skills. Occupations are classified into one of six categories: none; short-term on-the-job training (1 month or less); moderate-term on-the-job training (more than 1 month and up to 12 months); long-term on-the-job training (more than 12 months); apprenticeship; and internship/residency.

Any occupation designated as having an educational requirement of some college, no degree or higher is considered 'high skill.' Occupations with an education level of high school diploma or equivalent and a job training value of long-term on-the-job training, apprenticeship, or internship/residency are also are rated as 'high skill.'

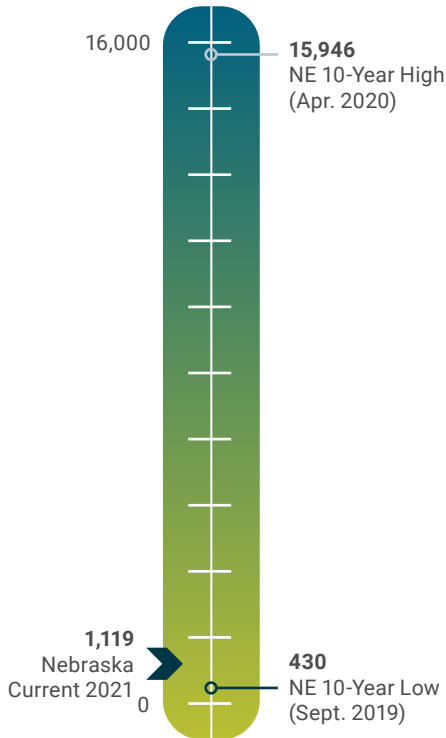
Additional H3 data and resources are available on the [H3 page on NWorks](#).

# Economic Indicators: November

Kermit Spade & Rachel Eckloff, Research Analysts

## Initial Unemployment Claims

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



**DOWN**  
-61.0%

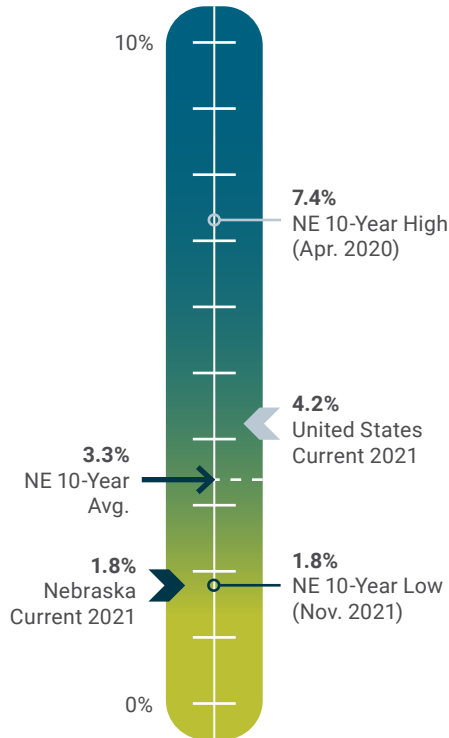
NE Vs. Last Year

**UP**  
24.6%

NE Vs. Last Month

## Unemployment Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



**DOWN**  
-47.1%

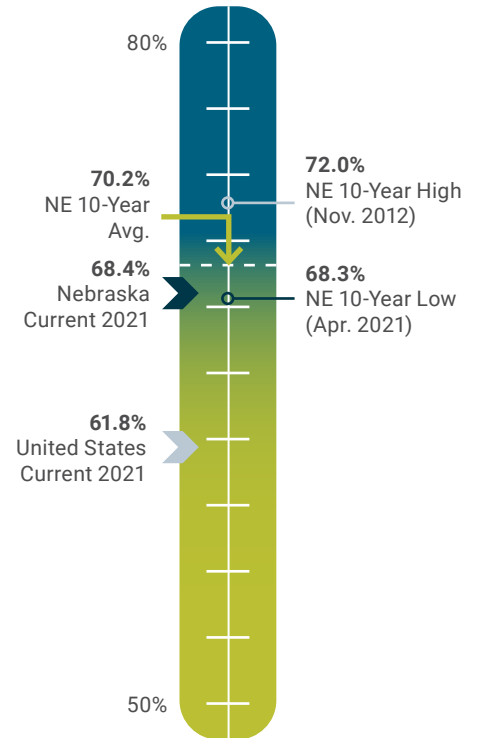
NE Vs. Last Year

**DOWN**  
-5.3%

NE Vs. Last Month

## Labor Force Participation Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



**DOWN**  
-0.6%

NE Vs. Last Year

**FLAT**  
0.0%

NE Vs. Last Month

**241,956 - 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 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.)<sup>2</sup>

**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 LNS14000000.

<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.<sup>3</sup>

**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.

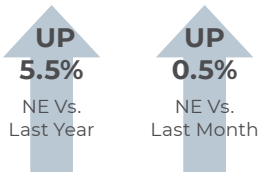
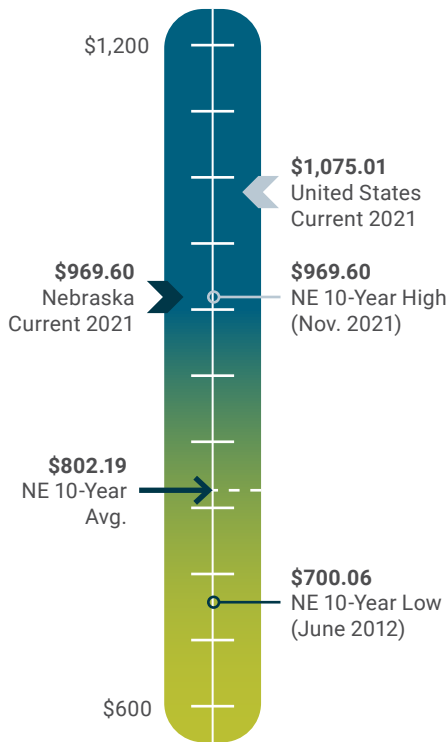
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CIVPART>.

# Economic Indicators: November

Kermit Spade & Rachel Eckloff, Research Analysts

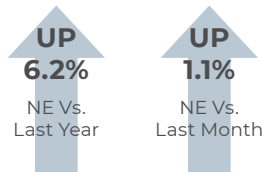
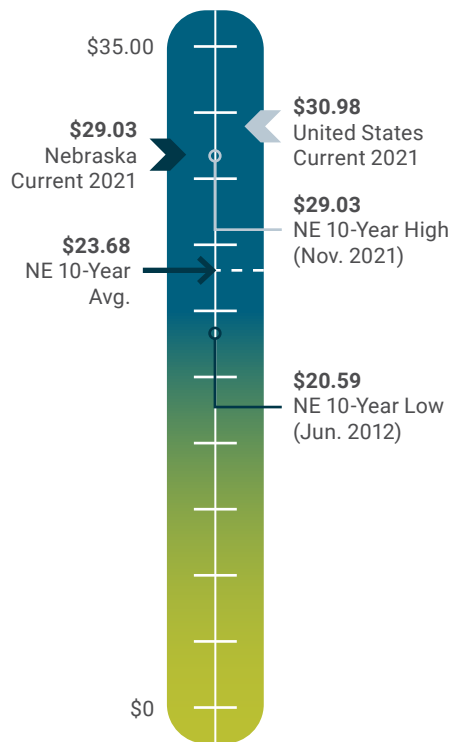
## Avg. Weekly Earnings

All Private Employees  
Not Seasonally Adjusted



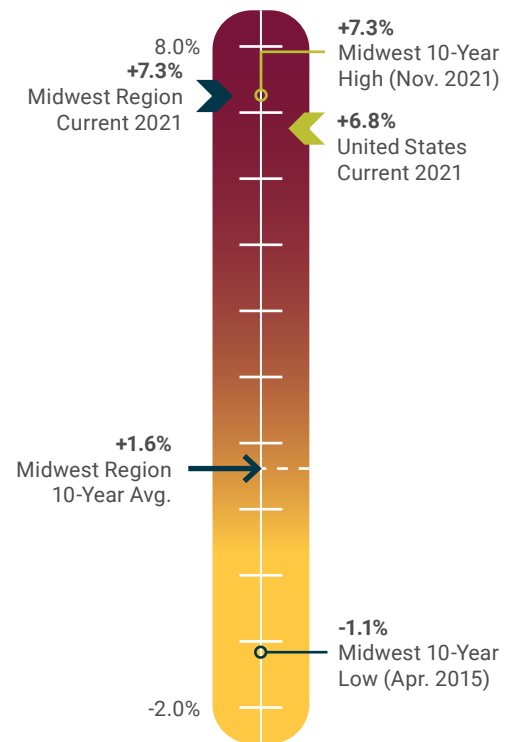
## Avg. Hourly Earnings

All Private Employees  
Not Seasonally Adjusted



## Consumer Price Index

12-Month % Change  
Not Seasonally Adjusted



All Urban Consumers:  
All Items Index 1982 1984 = 100

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

**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.<sup>5</sup>

**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.<sup>6</sup>

**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: November 2021

Kermit Spade & Rachel Eckloff, Research Analysts

# 1,029,895

Total Nonfarm Employment (filled jobs)

Not Seasonally Adjusted

for November 2021

Nonfarm employment, a count of filled jobs, was **1,029,895** in November, up **1,447** over the month and up **30,510** 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 year to year were leisure and hospitality (7,275), professional and business services (up 6,627), and trade, transportation, and utilities (5,176).

**Data Source:**

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Current Employment Statistics. [neworks.nebraska.gov/ces](http://neworks.nebraska.gov/ces).

# 50,300

Job count on NEworks as of

January 10, 2022

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# 87,682

Total job count on NEworks for the month of November 2021

This number reflects the number of job openings advertised online in Nebraska as of November 2021. It is de-duplicated for statistical analysis.

**Data Source:**

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Online advertised jobs data. [neworks.nebraska.gov](http://neworks.nebraska.gov).

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

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