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The Nebraska Department of Labor produces a wide array of labor market information, such as overall employment by industry, unemployment rates, and occupational information like wages, projections, and employment. One data source produced but not often discussed is staffing patterns. Staffing patterns are estimates of the distribution of employment for an occupation across industries, or the distribution of industry employment across occupations. This article begins a two-part series on occupational shifts across time.

**Staffing Patterns**

Staffing pattern data starts with OES (Occupational Employment Statistics) survey data. Businesses surveyed by OES report the different types of jobs held within their company and their pay. This survey data is compiled into estimates on how much a specific occupation pays and how many people are employed in an occupation in an area or industry.

Staffing patterns are used in part to create both short-term and long-term projections for the state and economic regions within the state. They provide an overall view of occupational employment across specific industries. Staffing patterns used for projections are more comprehensive than the regular occupational employment by industry data produced by OES because gaps in the data are filled in using national staffing patterns and change factors (how an industry is expected to change over the projections period at the national level). National staffing patterns are produced by the Bureau of Labor statistics and provided to projections analysts in each state. Even though some industry makeup and change factor information is provided at the national level, the majority of staffing patterns used in Nebraska projections utilize occupational-industry makeup specific to the state. Since these staffing patterns are produced...
from OES estimates from surveys, the exact occupational employment makeup of each industry is unknown; however, there is general confidence that these patterns do follow actual industry-occupational employment for the most part. They are the best comprehensive estimate currently produced for what jobs people were working in which specific industries in the state at a point in time. An example of this data at the national level for long-term 2016-2026 projections can be found here: https://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_109.htm. Selecting an industry and downloading the excel worksheet will display the occupations employed in the industry and their estimated percentage makeup of the industry. Not all of the Nebraska staffing patterns are publicly available, but select staffing patterns used for the 2014-2024 long-term projections can be accessed on NEworks in the Data Trends group>Employment and Wage data>Industry Data>Staffing Patterns.

About This Data

This article compares staffing patterns used for short-term projections at two different points in time. The staffing patterns used for 2011-2013 short-term projections are compared to those used for the 16-18 short-term projections. The 2011-2013 projections were calculated using industry-occupational makeup from the year 2011, while the 2016-2018 projections used data from the base year 2016.

There are difficulties that arise when comparing staffing pattern data across time. For instance, there are periodic changes to the codes used to classify industries and occupations at the national level. In this comparison of 2011 and 2016 base year data, there were no industry code changes. However, there were many occupational code changes as occupations continued to be updated from SOC (standard occupational classification) system 2000 to 2010. Even though the first year utilized 2011 data, many occupations were not yet switched over to the new system at that time.

These occupational codes were updated in different ways. In many cases, the newer SOC system contained more specific occupational detail. For instance, registered nurses in the 2011 base projections staffing patterns were broken out in to registered nurses, nurse anesthetists, nurse midwives, and nurse practitioners in the 2016 staffing patterns. In addition to some occupations gaining more detail, other occupations were combined into broader categories. An example of this is the previous two occupations of farmers and ranchers, and farm, ranch and other agricultural managers combined into the new occupation farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers. Finally, new occupations were added by taking a percentage of employment from several occupational codes. The new occupation solar photovoltaic installers drew employment from many different occupations including electricians, roofers, heating, air conditioning, and refrigeration mechanics and construction and related workers, other.¹

For the purposes of this article, an effort has been made to reconcile the occupational code changes that occurred across this time period. However, due to the nature of the data and these code changes, sector totals did not add up to the overall total employment for the base years. Once these code changes were reconciled, the totals were within two percent of their formal totals.

Manufacturing

Organizations in the manufacturing sector engage in the mechanical, chemical, or physical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. There are over 20 separate subsectors in the manufacturing sector.² In 2016, there were an estimated 95,622 employees working in manufacturing statewide. Approximately 9 percent of all employment statewide was in manufacturing in 2016.³

A chart displaying the estimated top 15 occupations in manufacturing by share of industry in 2016 is on the following page. These 15 occupations made up an estimated 50% of employment in the industry in the base year 2016. The top 15 occupations were distributed from 11,003 meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers to 1,438 sales representatives. The largest two occupations represented about 20% of the employment in the industry statewide.³
The table below displays the top 10 occupations in manufacturing with the greatest change in employment from 2011 to 2016. Only those occupations with at least 100 employees (or around one tenth of one percent of industry employment) in the base years are displayed.

All of the occupations with the greatest absolute percent change in this industry grew over this time frame. The fastest growing occupation in terms of employment was food cooking machine operators and tenders with an addition of 294

### Occupations with the Greatest Percent Change in Employment, Manufacturing Sector, 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>Percentage of Sector</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Percentage of Sector</th>
<th>Percent Change in Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Cooking Machine Operators &amp; Tenders</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>263%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, &amp; Tenders, Except Sawing</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>377</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>123%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabinetmakers &amp; Bench Carpenters</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>547</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>115%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpers--Production Workers</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>1543</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>101%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemical Equipment Operators &amp; Tenders</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemists</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>131</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinists</td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>2770</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production, Planning, &amp; Expediting Clerks</td>
<td>473</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>830</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Machinery Mechanics</td>
<td>1351</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2260</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Occupations with the Greatest Changes in Share, Manufacturing Sector, 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2011 Employment</th>
<th>2011 Percentage of Sector</th>
<th>2016 Employment</th>
<th>2016 Percentage of Sector</th>
<th>Change in Percent of Sector</th>
<th>Absolute Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Assemblers</td>
<td>5457</td>
<td>5.91%</td>
<td>8023</td>
<td>8.39%</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
<td>2.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meat, Poultry, &amp; Fish Cutters &amp; Trimmers</td>
<td>11852</td>
<td>12.83%</td>
<td>11003</td>
<td>11.51%</td>
<td>-1.33%</td>
<td>1.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machinists</td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>1.67%</td>
<td>2770</td>
<td>2.90%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
<td>1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial Machinery Mechanics</td>
<td>1351</td>
<td>1.46%</td>
<td>2260</td>
<td>2.36%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
<td>0.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging &amp; Filling Machine Operators</td>
<td>3613</td>
<td>3.91%</td>
<td>2972</td>
<td>3.11%</td>
<td>-0.80%</td>
<td>0.80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Workers</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>0.83%</td>
<td>1543</td>
<td>1.61%</td>
<td>0.78%</td>
<td>0.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packers &amp; Packagers, Hand</td>
<td>1477</td>
<td>1.60%</td>
<td>2260</td>
<td>2.36%</td>
<td>0.76%</td>
<td>0.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixing &amp; Blending Machine Setters</td>
<td>1656</td>
<td>1.79%</td>
<td>1058</td>
<td>1.11%</td>
<td>-0.69%</td>
<td>0.69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughterers &amp; Meat Packers</td>
<td>2882</td>
<td>3.12%</td>
<td>2346</td>
<td>2.45%</td>
<td>-0.67%</td>
<td>0.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical &amp; Electronic Equipment</td>
<td>1145</td>
<td>1.24%</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>0.65%</td>
<td>-0.59%</td>
<td>0.59%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

jobs, or a 263 percent change in employment. Other fast-growing occupations in manufacturing include woodworking machine operators, cabinetmakers, and helpers-production workers, with growth rates of over 100 percent.

It is also interesting to look at changes in the occupation's share of employment in the sector. The table above shows the occupations with the greatest changes in share of industry employment.

The occupations with the greatest changes in share of the industry include team assemblers, meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers, and machinists. Team assemblers had the greatest gain in share of industry employment, from 5.91 percent of the industry to 8.39 percent of the industry. Machinists had the second largest gain in employment for a total of 1.23 percent. Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers had the greatest lost in share of industry employment, going from 12.81 percent of all jobs in manufacturing to 11.51 percent of all manufacturing jobs in the state. Sometimes, changes in employment patterns can become more apparent when looking at a more specific industry subsector. Let's take a closer look at a specific industry code in manufacturing, food manufacturing.

### Food Manufacturing

Organizations in the food manufacturing subsector “transform livestock and agricultural products into products for intermediate or final consumption.”

Some of the industry groups included in this subsector include animal food manufacturing, dairy product manufacturing, and animal slaughtering and processing. Food manufacturing was the largest employing 3-digit subsector code in manufacturing in 2016 with 34,460 employees.
This subsector made up approximately three percent of all employment in the state for the year.

The charts below and on page 8 display the occupations with at least 35 employees (or one tenth of one percent of the subsector) with the greatest percent change in the subsector and the greatest change in share of the subsector. All of the occupations with the greatest percent change in employment in this subsector grew over this time frame. Like the manufacturing sector, team assemblers had the highest percentage change in employment at 477.2 percent.

Other fast growing occupations in this subsector included production, planning, and expediting clerks, food cooking machine operators and tenders, and helpers-production workers, with employment growth rates over 200 percent from 2011-2016.

### Occupations with the Greatest Percent Change in Employment, Food Manufacturing Subsector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Employment 2011</th>
<th>Percentage of Subsector 2011</th>
<th>Employment 2016</th>
<th>Percentage of Subsector 2016</th>
<th>Percent Change in Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Team Assemblers</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>1.91%</td>
<td>477.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production, Planning, &amp; Expediting Clerks</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0.24%</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>0.91%</td>
<td>286.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Cooking Machine Operators &amp; Tenders</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>1.18%</td>
<td>262.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpers--Production Workers</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>2.02%</td>
<td>238.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, &amp; Buffing</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>0.17%</td>
<td>185.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine Tool Setters, Operators, &amp; Tenders, Metal &amp; Plastic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bus &amp; Truck Mechanics &amp; Diesel Engine Specialists</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>0.20%</td>
<td>183.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First-Line Supervisors of Helpers, Laborers, &amp; Material Movers, Hand</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>0.16%</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>0.39%</td>
<td>155.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Salespersons</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>0.21%</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
<td>118.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packers &amp; Packagers, Hand</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>2.62%</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>5.42%</td>
<td>114.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Scientists and Technologists</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>0.10%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Occupations with the Greatest Changes in Share, Food Manufacturing Subsector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>2011 Employment</th>
<th>Percentage of Subsector</th>
<th>2016 Employment</th>
<th>Percentage of Subsector</th>
<th>Change in Percent of Subsector</th>
<th>Absolute Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers</td>
<td>11852</td>
<td>35.7%</td>
<td>11003</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packers &amp; Packagers, Hand</td>
<td>871</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1868</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slaughterers &amp; Meat Packers</td>
<td>2882</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
<td>2324</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>-1.9%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging &amp; Filling Machine Operators &amp; Tenders</td>
<td>2254</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td>1716</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team Assemblers</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
<td>1.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helpers--Production Workers</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>697</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Batchmakers</td>
<td>685</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1093</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Cooking Machine Operators &amp; Tenders</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Tobacco Roasting, Baking, &amp; Drying Machine Operators &amp; Tenders</td>
<td>395</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>-0.8%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance&amp;Repair Workers, General</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
<td>1060</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Meat, poultry, and fish cutters and trimmers had the greatest change in percent share of the subsector over this period. About 35 percent of all employment in the subsector was in this occupation in 2011, which dropped to about 32 percent of subsector employment five years later. It appears that everyone employed as meat, poultry, and fish cutters in the manufacturing sector worked in the food manufacturing subsector, so shifts in employment in the food manufacturing subsector clearly drove the decrease in employment share of this occupation in the overall manufacturing sector. Slaughterers and meat packers, packaging and filling machine operators and tenders, and food roasting, baking, and drying machine operators also lost employment share in the subsector. Packers and packagers, hand, and team assemblers had the biggest gains in employment share of the subsector, with about a three percent and 1.5 percent gain respectively.

For more information on staffing patterns, or to request a customized analysis for a specific sector or subsector, contact our office at LMI_NE@nebraska.gov.

Next month’s Trends will feature occupational shifts in health care.

### Sources:
New Year's Resolutions

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

Spending more time with family and friends is a common New Year’s resolution; you can do so at one of Nebraska’s 913 arts, entertainment, and recreation establishments.¹

If your goal is to learn something new try one of Nebraska’s 45 authorized postsecondary institutions.²

For those wanting to learn a new instrument, you can shop at one of the state’s 29 musical instrument and supplies stores³ There are 410 postsecondary art, drama, and music teachers willing to help you learn the new instrument.⁴

If you want to set a goal to travel more, one of the states 520 travel agents would be happy to help book your next trip.⁴

Planning on picking up a new hobby in the New Year? Nebraska has 86 hobby, toy, and game stores and 36 sewing, needlework, and piece goods stores where you can find supplies.³

If weight loss or improved fitness is your resolution, you can turn to one of the 160 athletic trainers, or one of the 1,710 fitness trainers and aerobics Instructors employed in the state.⁴ Or, visit one of Nebraska’s 152 sporting goods stores to pick up equipment to help you on a weight loss goal.³

If you have a resolution to eat healthier, one of Nebraska’s 550 dietitians and nutritionists can help you make a meal plan.⁴

One of the 1,080 personal financial advisors in the state may be able to help you with your resolution of managing debt or saving money.⁴

Sources
1. Nebraska Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, 2nd Quarter 2017 data, retrieved December 14th, 2017. neworks.nebraska.gov
Average Commuting Time in Nebraska

Dillon Cornett, Research Analyst

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released data from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) five-year estimates. The ACS provides information on over 40 social, economic, housing, and demographic topics, including one-way commuting time to work. Above is a map of Nebraska counties and the average commute time for workers in each county. In Nebraska, the workers that had the shortest average commute time resided in Box Butte County (11.1 minutes) while the workers in McPherson County had the longest one-way average commute (30.1 minutes).

The average commute time for Nebraskans as a whole was just over 18 minutes—less than the average for the U.S. as a whole (26.1 minutes).

Source:
# Openings & Expansions | November*

*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.

## Business Category

### Food & Entertainment
- Taco John’s (new management) - Norfolk

### Healthcare
- Hillcrest Health Service - Lincoln
- Honor Health and Wellness - Lincoln

### Retail/Sales
- Creative Patriot Machine Quilting - Beatrice
- Little Red Barn Store - Coleridge
- Fareway Stores - Lincoln
- Just Right Boutique - North Platte

### Finance & Insurance
- Charter Title & Escrow - Nebraska City

### Technology
- Allo - Lincoln
- Stealth Broadband - Norfolk (relocation)

### Other
- Silver Hawk Aviation - Lincoln
- The Art Studio (ribbon cutting) - Nebraska City
- Elite Door - Norfolk
- Westside Daycare - Norfolk
The Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Labor urge employers and individuals in the Lincoln, Beatrice, and York areas to participate in the Hiring and Training Needs and Labor Availability Surveys. The goal of the Lincoln Metro Survey of Hiring and Training Needs and Lincoln Metro Labor Availability Survey is to identify education, training, or skill gaps that may need to be addressed to ensure businesses have a workforce that is prepared to meet today’s challenges and requirements.

These studies are being conducted by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, the Nebraska Department of Labor, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Bureau of Business Research and Bureau of Sociological Research. Employers who participate in the survey and provide a contact email address will be among the first to receive a report detailing the outcomes of the study. The reports will provide valuable data and insights regarding the labor force and underscore the hiring and training needs of area businesses.

Surveys were mailed to businesses in early January and will be sent to households the week of January 15. The business survey contains questions about employment characteristics, hiring requirements, skill level of the current workforce, and IT talent needs. Owners, senior managers, human resource personnel, and first-line supervisors who are knowledgeable about the hiring and training needs of their company should complete the survey. The household survey contains questions addressing skills, education, and important factors concerning future employment. All results will be reported so that no individual organization or personnel can be identified.

Business surveys may be returned to the Nebraska Department of Labor by March 5 using the online portal at dol.nebraska.gov/survey/Lincoln, using the envelope included with the survey, by email to LMI_NE@nebraska.gov, or by fax to (402) 471-9867.

For more information or for questions or comments about the survey, please visit dol.nebraska.gov/las or contact the Nebraska Department of Labor by phone at (800) 876-1377 or by email at LMI_NE@nebraska.gov. Household surveys may be returned to the Bureau of Sociological Research at UNL. The results of these studies will be published at NEworks.nebraska.gov.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the employers and the individuals in the Columbus, Fremont, Norfolk, Omaha metro, and Council Bluffs areas who responded to the Survey of Hiring and Training Needs and the Labor Availability Survey. This data is an integral part of our mission of improving the labor market and business community in Nebraska. Results of these studies will be reported in the coming months.
Unemployment Data

Byron Lefler, Research Analyst

November Unemployment Rates by County

*Not seasonally adjusted

NEBRASKA
November Non-farm Total Employment: 1,038,603
Manufacturing: 98,728

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted)
November Unemployment Rate: 2.7%
Change (OTM): 0.0
Change (OTY): -0.6

Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted)
Central: 2.1%
Mid Plains: 2.4%
Northeast: 2.3%
Panhandle: 2.7%
Sandhills: 2.1%
Southeast: 2.4%

Sources:

OMAHA MSA (not seasonally adjusted)
November Unemployment Rate: 2.5%
November Total Non-Farm: 514,023
Manufacturing: 33,313
Largest OTM Increases:
Trade, Transportation & Utilities: 2,418 (2.5%)
Mining & Construction: 383 (1.3%)

LINCOLN MSA (not seasonally adjusted)
November Unemployment Rate: 2.1%
November Total Non-Farm: 194,143
Manufacturing: 13,277
Largest OTM Increases:
Trade, Transportation & Utilities: 279 (0.8%)
Leisure & Hospitality: 175 (0.9%)

GRAND ISLAND MSA (not seasonally adjusted)
November Unemployment Rate: 2.5%
November Total Non-Farm: 42,460
Change (OTM): -185 (-0.4%)
Change (OTY): -316 (-0.7%)
Economic Indicators

Institute for Supply Management (ISM)®
New Orders Index

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

ISM® New Orders Index


According to the Conference Board, “This index reflects the levels of new orders from customers. As a diffusion index, its value reflects the number of participants reporting increased orders during the previous month compared to the number reporting decreased orders, and this series tends to lead the business cycle. When the index has a reading of greater than 50 it is an indication that orders have increased during the past month. This index, therefore, tends to lead the business cycle. ISM new orders is based on a monthly survey conducted by Institution for Supply Management (formerly known as national Association of Purchasing Management). The Conference Board takes normalized value of this index as a measure of its contribution to LEI.”

Source:
### Change Over Last Quarter/Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Current Time Period</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Midwest Region</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>+/- 0.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-0.7*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial Unemployment Claims</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+36.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Manufacturers’ New Orders for Consumer Goods</td>
<td>October, 2017</td>
<td>+1.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISM Manufacturing: New Orders Index®</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>+0.9%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Manufacturers’ New Orders: Nondefense Capital Goods Excluding Aircraft</td>
<td>October, 2017</td>
<td>+0.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S&amp;P 500®</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>+1.4%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-Year Treasury Constant Maturity Minus Federal Funds Rate</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>+1.2%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Michigan, Consumer Sentiment Index</td>
<td>December, 2017</td>
<td>-1.7%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consumer Price Index, not seasonally adjusted</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>+/- 0.0%</td>
<td>+/- 0.0%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Cost Index</td>
<td>3rd Quarter, 2017</td>
<td>+0.7%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Producer Price Index: All Commodities</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>+0.5%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>-0.1%</td>
<td>+/- 0.0%*</td>
<td>-0.1%*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real GDP, billions of chained 2009 dollars</td>
<td>3rd Quarter, 2017</td>
<td>+3.3%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Taxable Sales</td>
<td>September, 2017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barrel of Crude Oil, WTI-Cushing, Spot Price</td>
<td>November, 2017</td>
<td>$5.06</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance on Current Account (millions of dollars)</td>
<td>3rd Quarter, 2017</td>
<td>-19.2%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Sources: