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Labor Market Publications
Previous Issues
NEworks.nebraska.gov
Reader Feedback Survey
### Openings & Expansions November

**Kermit Spade, Research Analyst**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Category</th>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Entertainment, &amp; Recreation</td>
<td>Chill Axe (Opening)</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Lakeview Community Schools (Opening)</td>
<td>Columbus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Services</td>
<td>Watecha Bowl (Opening)</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; Social Assistance</td>
<td>Wisner Family and Implant Dentistry (Opening)</td>
<td>Wisner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information</td>
<td>Action Communication (Expansion)</td>
<td>Scottsbluff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale &amp; Retail Trade</td>
<td>Carolyn's Collection (Opening)</td>
<td>Laurel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Handties Floral Studio (Opening)</td>
<td>Norfolk</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.
## Labor Market Data Rankings

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Nebraska</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Vermont</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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: 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Rock County</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Boone County</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Cuming County</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Hayes County</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Perkins County</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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
Data can be found through dol.nebraska.gov/INFOlink, as well as the Labor Market Information home page on 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

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

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: NEworks.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

1. Management $135,246
2. Legal $112,244
   Healthcare $101,683
3. Practitioners and Technical $100,419
4. Computer and Mathematical $97,554

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: NEworks.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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Trade, Transportation and Utilities</td>
<td>+4,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Transportation Warehousing and Utilities</td>
<td>+2,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>+1,933</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>+1,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Professional and Business Services</td>
<td>+1,694</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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
Click "Labor Market Analysis" then click the 'Nonfarm Industry Employment' button.

Most Common Data Requests:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Data Request</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>OES (Occupational Employment Statistics)</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>LAUS (Local Area Unemployment Statistics)</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Occupational Projections</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>H3 (High Wage, High Skill, High Demand)</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Labor force and Workforce</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 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:
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)


Sources:
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers</td>
<td>29,512</td>
<td>3,646</td>
<td>$22.40</td>
<td>$46,580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>26,536</td>
<td>1,790</td>
<td>$32.37</td>
<td>$67,325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>General and Operations Managers</td>
<td>17,326</td>
<td>1,692</td>
<td>$48.29</td>
<td>$100,454</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Accountants and Auditors</td>
<td>9,906</td>
<td>1,037</td>
<td>$34.18</td>
<td>$71,087</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education</td>
<td>11,273</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$61,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Software Developers, Applications</td>
<td>4,864</td>
<td>502</td>
<td>$44.11</td>
<td>$91,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Electricians</td>
<td>5,488</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>$25.78</td>
<td>$53,640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters</td>
<td>5,933</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>$28.56</td>
<td>$59,406</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical Education</td>
<td>8,782</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>$61,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>5,879</td>
<td>544</td>
<td>$21.59</td>
<td>$44,906</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. High Wage, High Skill, High Demand (H3) Occupations. 2020. neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gspub/documentView.aspx?enc=odUMpwM6TiQm77W7WQ2z/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 NEworks.
Economic Indicators: November
Kermit Spade & Rachel Eckloff, Research Analysts

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

16,000
15,946 NE 10-Year High (Apr. 2020)
1,119 Nebraska Current 2021
430 NE 10-Year Low (Sept. 2019)

DOWN -61.0% NE Vs. Last Year
UP 24.6% NE Vs. Last Month

Unemployment Rate
Seasonally Adjusted

10%
7.4% NE 10-Year High (Apr. 2020)
3.3% NE 10-YearAvg.
1.8% Nebraska Current 2021
1.8% NE 10-Year Low (Nov. 2021)

DOWN -47.1% NE Vs. Last Year
DOWN -5.3% NE Vs. Last Month

Labor Force Participation Rate
Seasonally Adjusted

80%
70.2% NE 10-Year Avg.
68.4% Nebraska Current 2021
61.8% United States Current 2021
50%
72.0% NE 10-Year High (Nov. 2012)
68.3% NE 10-Year Low (Apr. 2021)

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.1

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.)2

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.3

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]
Economic Indicators: November  
Kermit Spade & Rachel Eckloff, Research Analysts

### Avg. Weekly Earnings
**All Private Employees**
Not Seasonally Adjusted

- **United States Current 2021**: $1,200
- **Nebraska Current 2021**: $1,075.01
- **Nebraska NE 10-Year High (Nov. 2021)**: $969.60
- **Nebraska NE 10-Year Low (June 2012)**: $600

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

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

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

- **Midwest 10-Year High (Nov. 2021)**: +7.3%
- **United States Current 2021**: +8.0%
- **Midwest Region Current 2021**: +6.8%
- **Midwest Region 10-Year Avg.**: +1.6%
- **Midwest 10-Year Low (Apr. 2015)**: -2.0%
- **United States Current 2021**: +1.6%
- **Midwest Region 10-Year Avg.**: -1.1%

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.]

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

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]


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.5

Data Sources: [Retrieved: January 2022.]


Economic Indicators: November 2021
Kermit Spade & Rachel Ecklof, Research Analysts

1,029,895
Total Nonfarm Employment (filled jobs)
Not Seasonally Adjusted
for November 2021

50,300
Job count on NEworks as of
January 10, 2022

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.

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:

Data Source:
NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Online advertised jobs data. NEworks. neworks.nebraska.gov.

Labor market information is updated continuously. 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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