

# LABOR AREA SUMMARIES

March 2026

**NEBRASKA**  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

# METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA<sup>1</sup> (MSA)

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-26	Feb-26
	Omaha MSA <sup>1</sup>		Lincoln MSA <sup>1</sup>		Grand Island MSA <sup>1</sup>	
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.5	2.7	3.2	3.3	3.7
Labor Force	545,471	543,651	201,291	201,053	43,920	43,994
Unemployment	16,419	19,017	5,463	6,481	1,428	1,621
Employment	529,052	524,634	195,828	194,572	42,492	42,373

## LABOR FORCE DATA<sup>2</sup>

### GRAND ISLAND

	Preliminary	Revised	Changes			% Change
	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25 <sup>3</sup>	OTM <sup>4</sup>	OTY <sup>4</sup>	OTM
Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.7	***	-0.4	***	—
Labor Force	43,920	43,994	***	-74	***	-0.2
Unemployment	1,428	1,621	***	-193	***	-11.9
Employment	42,492	42,373	***	119	***	0.3

### LINCOLN

	Preliminary	Revised	Changes			% Change
	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25 <sup>3</sup>	OTM <sup>4</sup>	OTY <sup>4</sup>	OTM
Unemployment Rate	2.7	3.2	***	-0.5	***	—
Labor Force	201,291	201,053	***	238	***	0.1
Unemployment	5,463	6,481	***	-1,018	***	-15.7
Employment	195,828	194,572	***	1,256	***	0.6

### OMAHA

	Preliminary	Revised	Changes			% Change
	Mar-26	Feb-26	Mar-25 <sup>3</sup>	OTM <sup>4</sup>	OTY <sup>4</sup>	OTM
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.5	***	-0.5	***	—
Labor Force	545,471	543,651	***	1,820	***	0.3
Unemployment	16,419	19,017	***	-2,598	***	-13.7
Employment	529,052	524,634	***	4,418	***	0.8

# NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT<sup>5</sup>

## BY PLACE OF WORK

### GRAND ISLAND

<b>March Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>40,187</b>
OTM Change	70 (0.2%)
OTY Change	74 (0.2%)

### LINCOLN

<b>March Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>197,128</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>14,421</b>
OTM Change	1,203 (0.6%)	OTM Change	-83 (-0.6%)
OTY Change	972 (0.5%)	OTY Change	-450 (-3.0%)
<b>Largest OTM Increase (private)</b>		<b>Largest OTY Increase (private)</b>	
Leisure & Hospitality Services	601 (3.2%)	Private Education & Health Services	868 (2.6%)
Mining & Construction	279 (2.6%)	Mining & Construction	579 (5.5%)

### OMAHA

<b>March Total Non-Farm</b>	<b>515,281</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>35,060</b>
OTM Change	4,355 (0.9%)	OTM Change	-172 (-0.5%)
OTY Change	2,650 (0.5%)	OTY Change	-662 (-1.9%)
<b>Largest OTM Increase (private)</b>		<b>Largest OTY Increase (private)</b>	
Leisure & Hospitality Services	1,524 (2.9%)	Mining & Construction	2,949 (9.1%)
Mining & Construction	1,319 (3.9%)	Private Education & Health Services	2,235 (2.4%)

<sup>1</sup> Grand Island MSA includes Hall, Howard & Merrick Counties in Nebraska.

Lincoln MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) includes Lancaster and Seward Counties in Nebraska.

Omaha MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) includes Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders and Washington counties in Nebraska and Pottawattamie, Mills and Harrison counties in Iowa

<sup>2</sup> Sources: Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), Nebraska Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor

<sup>3</sup>\*\*\* 2025 data not available due to benchmarking. 2025 data will be available May 22, 2026

<sup>4</sup> OTM: over the month OTY: Over the year Labor Force comparisons not available due to benchmarking. OTY Comparisons will be available May 22, 2026