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Monthly State Unemployment Rate for January is 3 Percent

LINCOLN- The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) announced today that Nebraska’s preliminary unemployment rate for January 2016 is 3.0 percent, seasonally adjusted. The jobless rate is the same as the revised December 2015 rate of 3.0 percent and up 0.1 percentage points from the January 2015 rate of 2.9 percent.

“Workers entering and re-entering the labor market were a contributing factor to the slight year-over-year increase in the rate,” said Commissioner of Labor John H. Albin. “Total employment is up and the number of unemployment claims filed is down in 19 different industries compared to last year, including construction, manufacturing, and administration and support.”

Total nonfarm employment for January was 995,792, up by 14,917 over January of 2015. Private industries with the most growth year over year were professional and business services (up 3,794), education and health services (up 3,392), and leisure and hospitality (up 2,622). Month to month, the most growth was seen in manufacturing (up 383).

The seasonally-adjusted national unemployment rate in January was 4.9 percent, down 0.1 percentage points from the December rate and down 0.8 percentage points from the January 2015 rate of 5.7 percent.

February 2016 data will be published Friday, March 25. All benchmarked data is scheduled for release on April 15.

Labor Force Estimates - National, State, Omaha MSA, Lincoln MSA, Grand Island MSA

Labor Force Estimates - National (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Jan-16	Dec-15	Jan-15	Dec-15	Jan-15
Unemployment Rate	4.9	5.0	5.7	-0.1	-0.8

Labor Force Estimates - Nebraska (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Jan-16	Dec-15	Jan-15	Dec-15	Jan-15
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.0	2.9	0.0	0.1
Labor Force	1,017,585	1,016,800	1,009,921	785	7,664
<i>Unemployment</i>	30,658	30,846	28,931	-188	1,727
<i>Employment</i>	986,927	985,954	980,990	973	5,937

Labor Force Estimates - Omaha MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Jan-16	Dec-15	Jan-15	Dec-15	Jan-15
Unemployment Rate	3.6	NA	3.6	NA	0.0
Labor Force	477,567	NA	476,769	NA	798
<i>Unemployment</i>	17,385	NA	17,006	NA	379
<i>Employment</i>	460,182	NA	459,763	NA	419

Labor Force Estimates - Lincoln MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Jan-16	Dec-15	Jan-15	Dec-15	Jan-15
Unemployment Rate	3.0	NA	2.8	NA	0.2
Labor Force	177,206	NA	177,046	NA	160
<i>Unemployment</i>	5,240	NA	4,950	NA	290
<i>Employment</i>	171,966	NA	172,096	NA	-130

Labor Force Estimates – Grand Island MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Jan-16	Dec-15	Jan-15	Dec-15	Jan-15
Unemployment Rate	5.3	NA	4.6	NA	0.7
Labor Force	43,883	NA	45,577	NA	-1,694
<i>Unemployment</i>	2,320	NA	2,097	NA	223
<i>Employment</i>	41,563	NA	43,480	NA	-1,917

Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MC)	Counties Included	Jan-16	Jan-15
		(Preliminary)	(Preliminary)
Beatrice MC	Gage	3.9	4.5
Columbus MC	Platte	3.8	2.8
Fremont MC	Dodge	3.5	3.3
Hastings MC	Adams	3.8	3.7
Kearney MC	Buffalo, Kearney	2.5	2.8
Lexington MC	Dawson, Gosper	3.4	3.2
Norfolk MC	Madison, Pierce, Stanton	3.1	4.6
North Platte MC	Lincoln, Logan, McPherson	3.4	3.6
Scottsbluff MC	Scotts Bluff, Banner, Sioux	3.4	2.4
Red Willow SA (Small Labor Market Area)	Red Willow, Hitchcock	3.1	2.6

NOTE: Due to benchmarking, revised December 2015 data is not available at the time of this release. January 2015 MSA data is preliminary and subject to change. All 2015 benchmarked data will be published on April 15, 2016. Data is revised on a monthly basis. Data for previous years is benchmarked annually and is subject to change. MSAs represent Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Seasonally adjusted data for the Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island MSAs will be available about two weeks following this release. The seasonally adjusted data can be obtained at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/metrossa.htm> or <http://networks.nebraska.gov/analyzer>.

Prepared and distributed by Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)
The next scheduled release is February 2016 data on Friday, March 25, 2016.
NDOL press releases are accessible on the Internet at: dol.nebraska.gov.