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Nebraska Unemployment Rate for March is 3 Percent

LINCOLN- The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) announced today that Nebraska’s preliminary unemployment rate for March was 3.0 percent, seasonally adjusted. The jobless rate is the same as the February rate and up 0.2 percentage points from the March 2015 rate of 2.8 percent.

“Employment in a number of industries grew both over the month and over the year,” said Commissioner of Labor John H. Albin. “Employment in education and health services reached a new high in March.”

Private industries with the most growth year over year were education and health services (up 4,376), professional and business services (up 3,783) and leisure and hospitality (up 3,214). Month to month, the largest gains were seen in trade, transportation and utilities (up 2,057), professional and business services (up 1,612), and mining and construction (up 1,925).

The seasonally-adjusted national unemployment rate in March was 5.0 percent, up 0.1 percentage points from the February rate and down .5 percentage points from the March 2015 rate of 5.5 percent.

April 2016 data will be published Friday, May 20.

With this release Nebraska has completed the 2015 benchmarking process. Benchmarking is the annual process of updating previous estimates to incorporate revised employment data, population data and unemployment data. The state and substate data are then re-estimated to incorporate these changes into the labor force and workforce estimates.

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

Labor Force Estimates - National (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Mar-15	Feb-15	Mar-14	Feb-15	Mar-14
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.9	5.5	0.1	-0.5

Labor Force Estimates - Nebraska (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-15
Unemployment Rate	3.0	3.0	2.8	0.0	0.2
Labor Force	1,019,185	1,018,160	1,009,795	1,025	9,390
<i>Unemployment</i>	30,503	30,501	28,648	2	1,855
<i>Employment</i>	988,682	987,659	981,147	1,023	7,535

Labor Force Estimates - Omaha MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-15
Unemployment Rate	3.5	3.6	3.4	-0.1	0.1
Labor Force	481,695	479,774	474,297	1,921	7,398
<i>Unemployment</i>	16,706	17,108	15,983	-402	723
<i>Employment</i>	464,989	462,666	458,314	2,323	6,675

Labor Force Estimates - Lincoln MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-15
Unemployment Rate	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.0	0.1
Labor Force	179,762	179,044	176,388	718	3,374
<i>Unemployment</i>	5,068	5,077	4,728	-9	340
<i>Employment</i>	174,694	173,967	171,660	727	3,034

Labor Force Estimates - Grand Island MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Mar-16	Feb-16	Mar-15	Feb-16	Mar-15
Unemployment Rate	4.9	3.7	3.4	1.2	1.5
Labor Force	44,745	43,694	43,591	1,051	1,154
<i>Unemployment</i>	2,197	1,628	1,476	569	721
<i>Employment</i>	42,548	42,066	42,115	482	433

NOTE: 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 MSA and the Lincoln MSA is 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>.

Micropolitan Statistical Areas (MC)	Counties included	Mar-16	Feb-16
		(Preliminary)	(Revised)
Beatrice MC	Gage	3.5	3.7
Columbus MC	Platte	3.7	3.9
Fremont MC	Dodge	3.3	3.3
Hastings MC	Adams, Clay	3.5	3.4
Kearney MC	Buffalo, Kearney	2.5	2.3
Lexington MC	Dawson, Gosper	3.1	3.2
Norfolk MC	Madison, Pierce, Stanton	2.8	2.9
North Platte MC	Lincoln, Logan, McPherson	3.3	3.3
Red Willow SA (Small Labor Market Area)	Red Willow, Hitchcock	3.4	3.4
Scottsbluff MC	Scotts Bluff, Banner	3.1	3.2

Prepared and distributed by Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)
The next scheduled release is April 2016 data on Friday, May 20, 2016.
NDOL press releases are accessible on the Internet at: dol.nebraska.gov.