

# NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

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 NEBRASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

.....  
May 2014



FEATURE STORY  
TEEN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION  
FEATURE STORY  
METRO VS. NON-METRO COUNTIES  
GRADUATE OUTCOMES  
MID-PLAINS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>3</b>	COUNTY RATES
<b>4</b>	FAST FACTS
<b>6</b>	GRADUATE OUTCOMES
<b>8</b>	ECONOMIC INDICATORS
<b>10</b>	OPENINGS & EXPANSIONS
<b>12</b>	TEEN LABOR FORCE
<b>16</b>	MAP FACTS
<b>18</b>	BENCHMARK CHANGES
<b>22</b>	METRO VS. NON-METRO

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## HELPFUL LINKS

UNEMPLOYMENT IN BRIEF  
MONTHLY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
PREVIOUS ISSUES  
NETWORKS  
GLOSSARY

# MARCH UNEEMPLOYMENT DATA

Byron Lefler, Research Analyst

## LINCOLN MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

March Unemployment rate: 3.5%

March Total Non-farm: 182,849

Manufacturing: 13,780

Largest OTM Increase:

Government: 356 (0.9%)

Mining & Construction: 338 (4.9%)

## OMAHA MSA (not seasonally adjusted)

March Unemployment rate: 4.5%

March Total Non-farm: 475,085

Manufacturing: 32,829

Largest OTM Increase:

Leisure and Hospitality: 643 (1.7%)

Education & Health Services: 606 (0.8%)

## NEBRASKA

March Total Non-farm: 974,011

Manufacturing: 96,310

Nebraska (smoothed seasonally adjusted)

March Unemployment rate: 3.7%

Change (OTM): 0.1%

Change (OTY): -0.2%

Economic Regions (not seasonally adjusted)

Central: 3.6%

Grand Island: 6.7%

Mid Plains: 3.7%

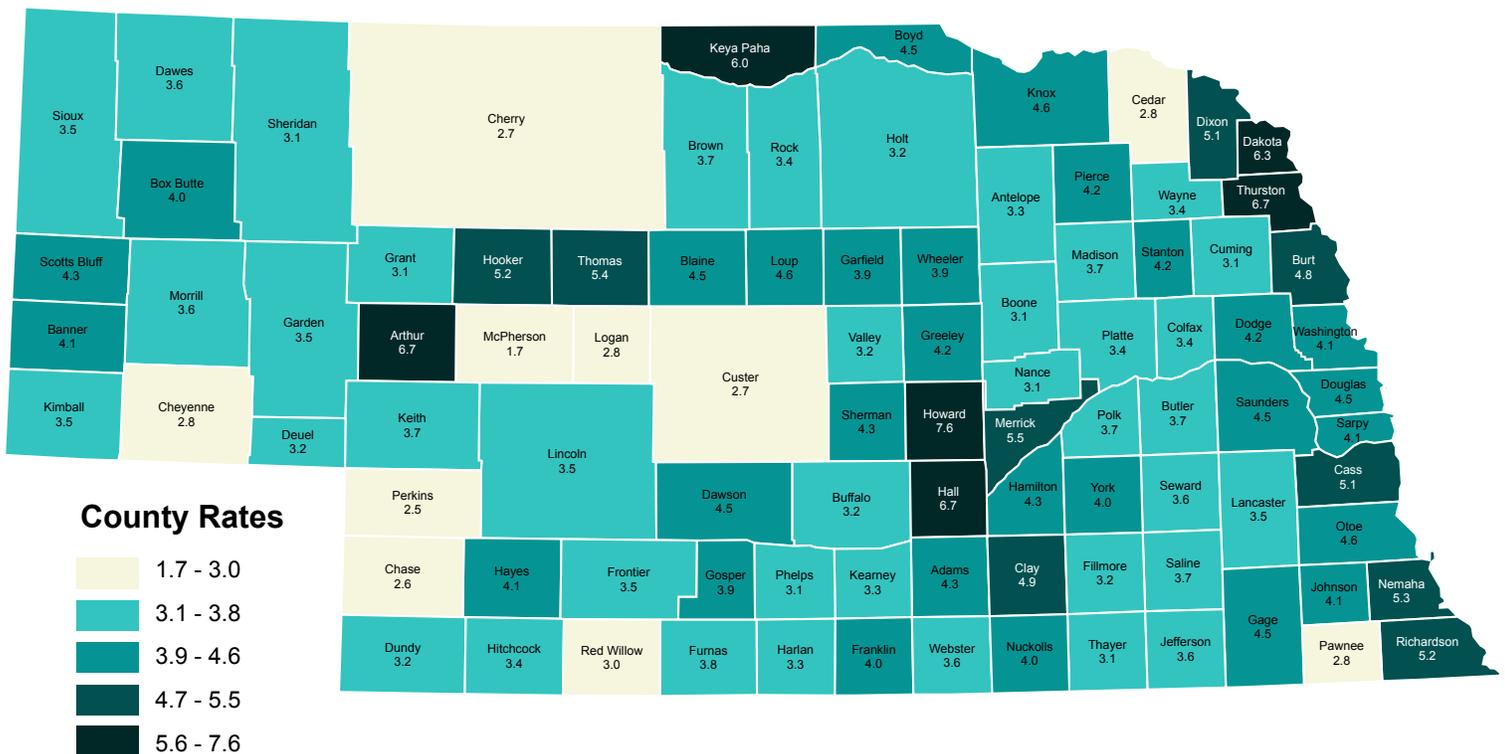
Northeast: 4.0%

Panhandle: 3.8%

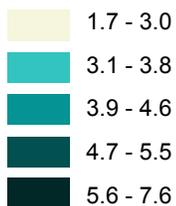
Sandhills: 3.5%

Southeast: 4.2%

## March County Unemployment Rates



### County Rates



### Sources:

1. Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Statistics Program (CES)
2. Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

# Fast Facts: Holidays Around the World

*Ed Jaros, Research Analyst*

Each September, the United States and Canada set aside the first Monday of September as Labor Day (1). According to the United States Department of Labor, Labor Day is “dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country (2).”

Many countries celebrate these same things on International Workers Day, generally celebrated on May 1 (3). For this month’s Fast Facts, Trends will examine the holidays enjoyed by workers in various countries around the world.

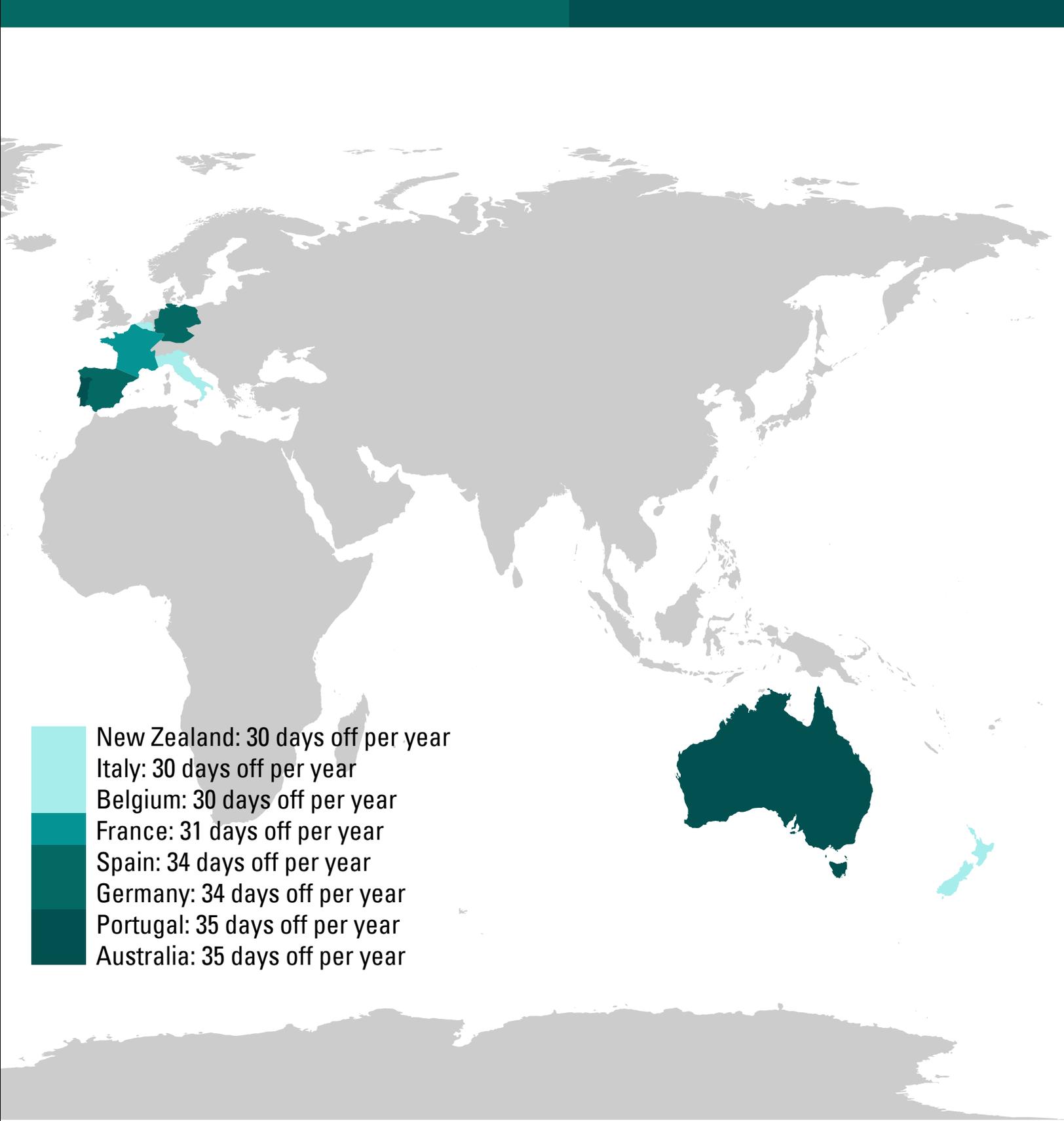
In late April and early May ‘Golden Week’ in Japan sees four national holidays fall within a seven-day span. Some employers are closed for the intervening days and many Japanese use paid time off to form a large block of time off work. This is a time during which many Japanese travel (4).

China also celebrates a ‘Golden Week’, but in October, to commemorate the founding of the People’s Republic of China. This national holiday ensures workers seven contiguous days off, and as with Japan’s Golden Week, many use this time to travel (5).

While observances differ among member nations, the European Union sets aside three notable multi-day blocks of holidays, all of which surround Christian religious observances. The first took place on April 17-21 this year and encompassed the days between Holy Thursday and Easter Monday. The second happens on the 29th and 30th of this month for Ascension. The third block will take place from December 24-31, celebrating Christmas and the end of the year (6).

The United States prides itself on being a melting pot, but we are by no means the only country which can lay claim to marrying wildly varied cultures. India is also a nation of vast diversity, and this diversity is reflected in the dozens of regional and religious holidays observed by its peoples and provinces (7).

In June last year, USA Today and 24/7 Wall St. ran an article ranking countries by total days off per year, which included both holidays and government mandated paid vacation. Their top 8 ran as follows (the US did not make the cut) (8):

- 
- A world map where countries are shaded in various shades of green and teal to represent the number of vacation days per year. The shading is darkest for Australia and Portugal (35 days), followed by Spain and Germany (34 days), France (31 days), Belgium and Italy (30 days), and New Zealand (30 days). Other countries are shown in a light grey color.
- New Zealand: 30 days off per year
  - Italy: 30 days off per year
  - Belgium: 30 days off per year
  - France: 31 days off per year
  - Spain: 34 days off per year
  - Germany: 34 days off per year
  - Portugal: 35 days off per year
  - Australia: 35 days off per year

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5. TravelChinaGuide.com, National Day, <http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/festival/national.htm>
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8. USA Today, On holiday: Countries with the most vacation days, June 8, 2013 <http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/business/2013/06/08/countries-most-vacation-days/2400193/>
9. World map blank without borders. Image by wikipedia user Phirosiberia. Used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported License.

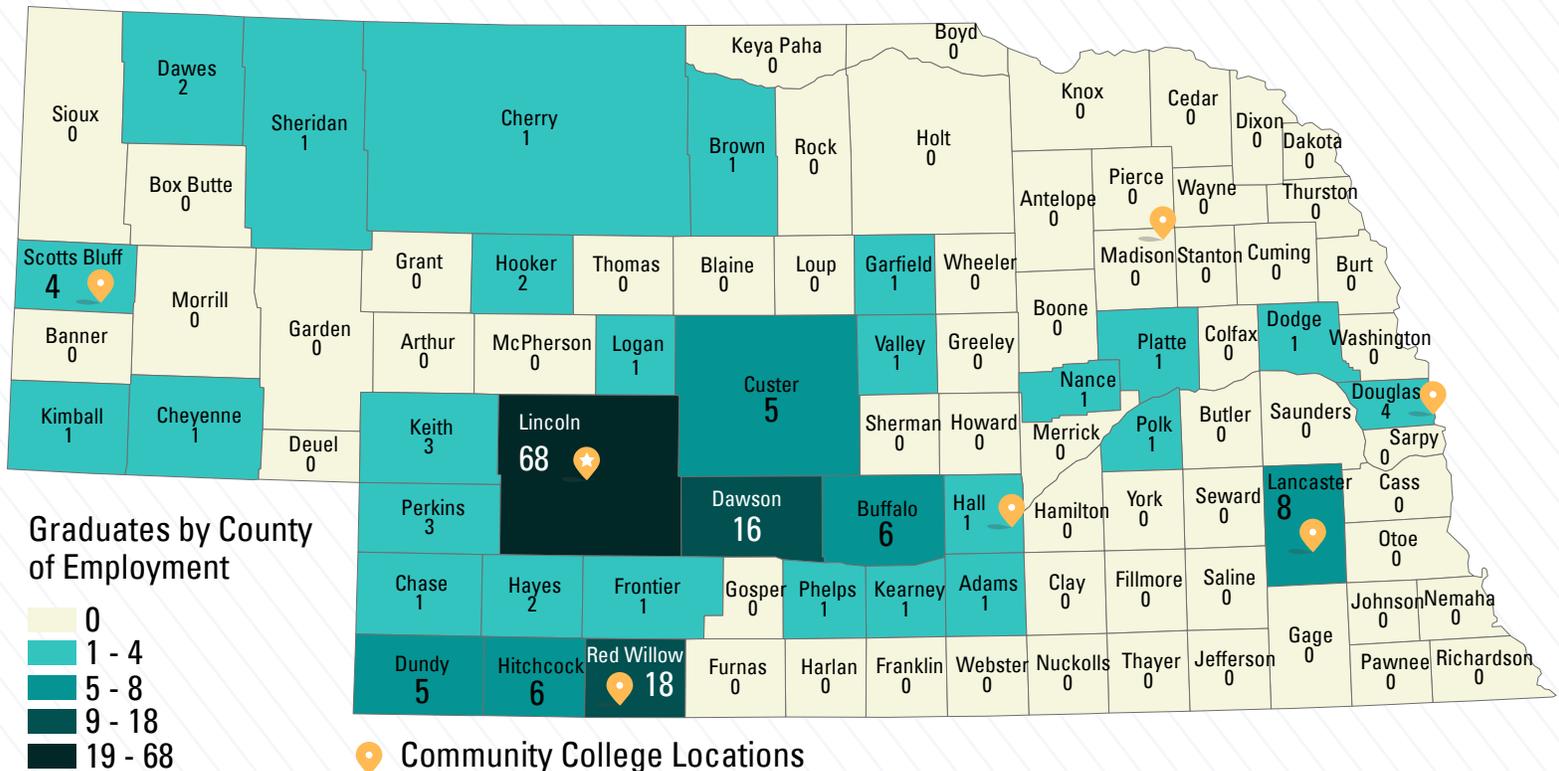
# Graduate Outcomes: Mid-Plains Community College

..... Mary Findlay, Research Analyst .....



There were 448 Mid-Plains Community College graduates between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011. Of these graduates, 294 (66 percent) were working in Nebraska in the first quarter of 2012. This figure is up 3 percent from the previous year. Slightly more than half (53 percent) of the graduates were female. Female graduates (68 percent) were slightly more likely to be working in the state than male graduates (63 percent).

There was at least one graduate employed in 33 of the state's 93 counties. About half (51 percent) of the graduates worked in Lincoln or Red Willow counties, with 40 percent of the graduates being employed in Lincoln County.



## Industry Employment

The retail trade industry had the highest number (65) of graduates working in the state in the first quarter of 2012, followed by the health care industry with 64. These two industries comprised 44 percent of the graduates working in Nebraska and included graduates from all fields of study who were employed in these two industries.

## Industry Wages

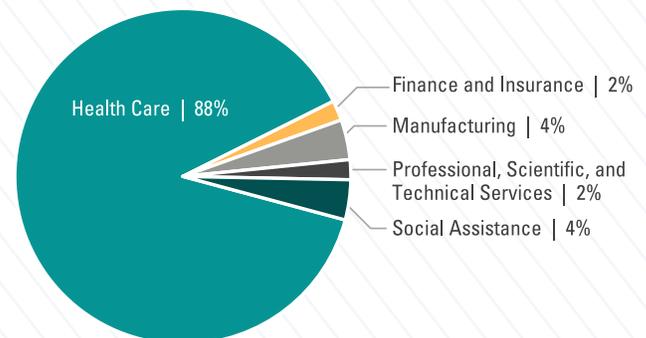
The 64 graduates employed in the health care industry had the highest discloseable estimated average annual wages of \$31,209, followed by the 19 graduates employed in manufacturing with \$31,126.

## Fields of Study & Employment

There were 117 graduates in 15 degrees/fields of study that had 85 percent or more of the graduates working in the state. Overall, the highest number (94) of graduates working in the state was in the associate degree liberal arts field of study. A large percentage of liberal arts graduates transfer to four-year colleges and universities, so it is not surprising that only 51 percent of these graduates were employed in the state within a few months of obtaining their degrees. The second highest number of graduates (30) working in Nebraska were in the less than one year award diesel mechanics technology field of study.

There were 52 graduates in health care fields of study working in Nebraska from the registered nursing, licensed practical nursing, medical laboratory technician, dental assisting and emergency medical technician fields of study. While it is not possible to identify the occupation of these graduates, 88 percent were employed in the health care industry.

### Industry Employment of Health Care Graduates



Working in another industry does not mean that a graduate isn't employed in an occupation related to their field of study. Many manufacturing plants employ a nurse on site, for example.

## Field of Study & Wages

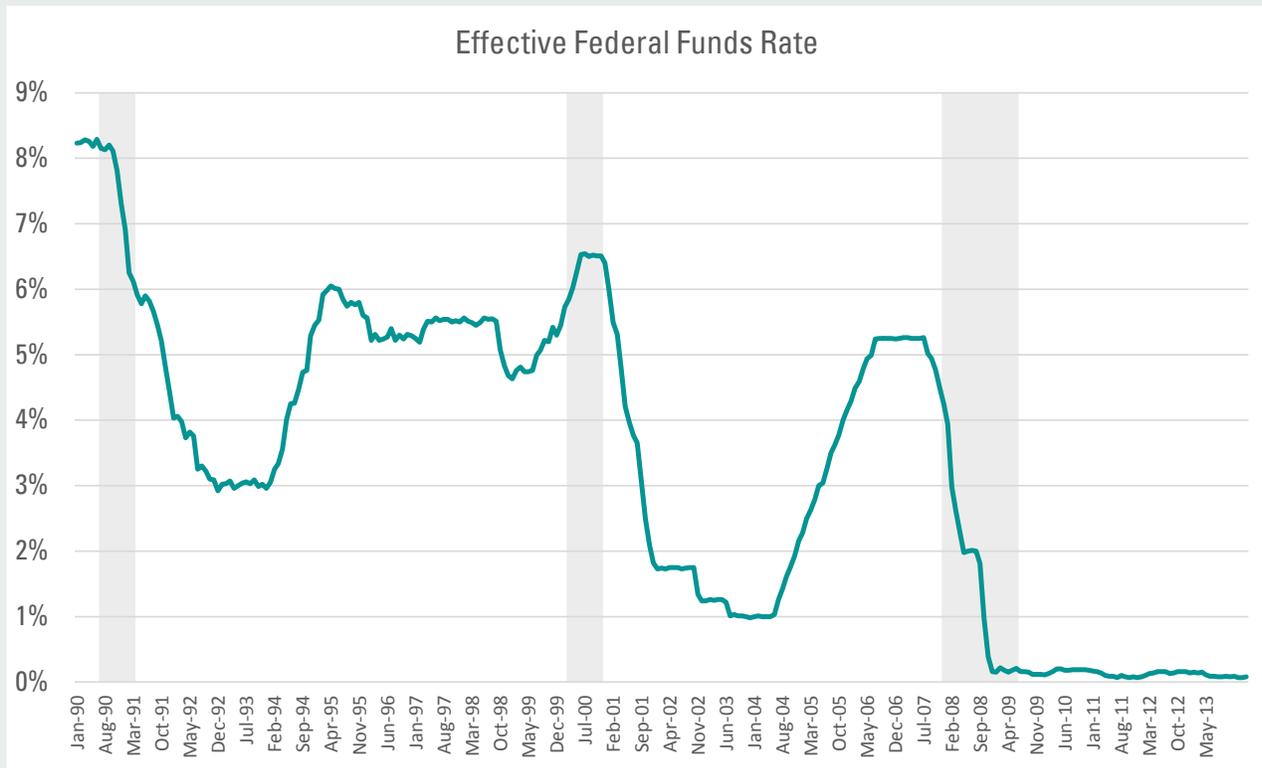
There were seven fields of study and a total of 41 graduates working in the state with estimated annual average wages above \$30,000 per year. Majors in technical and medical fields of study produced graduates with the highest wages, although four of the top seven highest wages were nondiscloseable due to small numbers of graduates in those fields of study. The highest discloseable wages were earned by the 25 associate degree graduates in registered nursing, who averaged \$43,284 per year.

For more graduate outcomes information, contact the Nebraska Department of Labor's Office of Labor Market Information or view the annual report at:

[https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Graduate%20Outcomes\\_Mid-Plains.pdf](https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/Graduate%20Outcomes_Mid-Plains.pdf)

# ECONOMIC INDICATORS EFFECTIVE FEDERAL FUNDS RATE

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst



In each new issue of Trends, the economic indicators section will feature a chart or graph focused on one of the economic indicators listed on page 9. This month, we'll be focusing on the Effective Federal Funds Rate.

The federal funds rate is the rate charged by one depository institution on an overnight sale of immediately available funds (balances at the Federal Reserve) to another depository institution.

The target federal funds rate is set by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC). According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, by setting a target federal funds rate and using the tools of monetary policy-- open market operations, discount window lending, and reserve requirements--to achieve that target rate, the Federal Reserve and the FOMC seek "to promote effectively the goals of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates," as required by the Federal Reserve Act.

To learn more visit: <http://www.newyorkfed.org/aboutthefed/faq.html>

## Change Over Last Quarter/Month

Metric	Current Time Period	United States	Midwest Region	NE
Real GDP, billions of chained 2009 dollars	4th Quarter, 2013	+2.6%	-	-
Effective Federal Funds Rate	March, 2014	0.01%	-	-
Balance on the US Current Account, in billions of dollars	4th Quarter, 2013	-14.5%	-	-
Barrel of Crude Oil, WTI-Cushing, Spot Price	February, 2014	+\$6.20	-	-
Employment Cost Index	4th Quarter, 2013	+0.5%	-	-
Producer Price Index: All Commodities	March, 2014	+0.5%	-	-
Average Weekly Manufacturing Hours	March, 2014	+0.4	-	0.0
House Price Index	4th Quarter, 2013	+0.9%	+0.2%	+1.0%
Consumer Price Index, not seasonally adjusted	March, 2014	+0.6%	+0.9%	-
Unemployment Rate, seasonally adjusted	March, 2014	0.0%	-0.2%*	+0.1%
New Private Housing Units Authorized by Building Permits	March, 2014	-2.4%	+26.0%	+4.0%*
Net Taxable Sales	January, 2014	-	-	-28.6%
Money Stock, M2	March, 2014	+0.3%	-	-
University of Michigan, Consumer Sentiment Index	February, 2014	-2.0%	-	-

\* Data is lagged one month.

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17. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York. <http://www.newyorkfed.org/aboutthefed/faq.html>.



Kermit Spade  
Research Analyst

**527** Jobs created in the Omaha area

**OMAHA**

<b>OPENINGS</b>	<b>TYPE OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>JOB #</b>	<b>SOURCE OF INFO</b>
Justice & Brothers Outlet	Children's clothing	10	Omaha World Herald (OWH)
Famous Footwear	Shoes	8	OWH
Old Market Gourmet Coffee	Coffee vendor	5	OWH
Signature Soup Shoppe	Restaurant	3	OWH
I'm Home Furnishings	Furniture	2	OWH
Aldi (Council Bluffs)	Retail grocery store	7	OWH
<b>EXPANSIONS</b>			
Sergeant's Pet Care Products	Pet care	60	OWH
Fidelity Investment	Investments	N/A	OWH
West Dodge Pointe - Office Park	Various	N/A	OWH
88 Tactical	Athletics	N/A	OWH
Gordman's (corp. HQ)	Retail - Dept. Store	240	OWH
Strategic Health Solutions LLC	Healthcare	165	OWH

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## Southeast

### **Beatrice**

- Nebraska Mental Health
- Que 5

### **Tecumseh**

- Taco Chevaz

### **Hebron**

- Mollie's Country Cuts
- Hair Barn
- Merle's Fishing Tackle & More

### **Seward**

- 5th St. Grooming & Pet Supply

## Northeast

### **Norfolk**

- Boss Hog Bikes
- Domino's Pizza

## Mid-Plains

### **Lexington**

- Hibbet Sports

### **North Platte**

- Log Cabin

## Panhandle

### **Gering**

- Elite Physical Therapy

## Central

### **Grand Island**

- PETCO
  - Quaker Steak & Lube
-

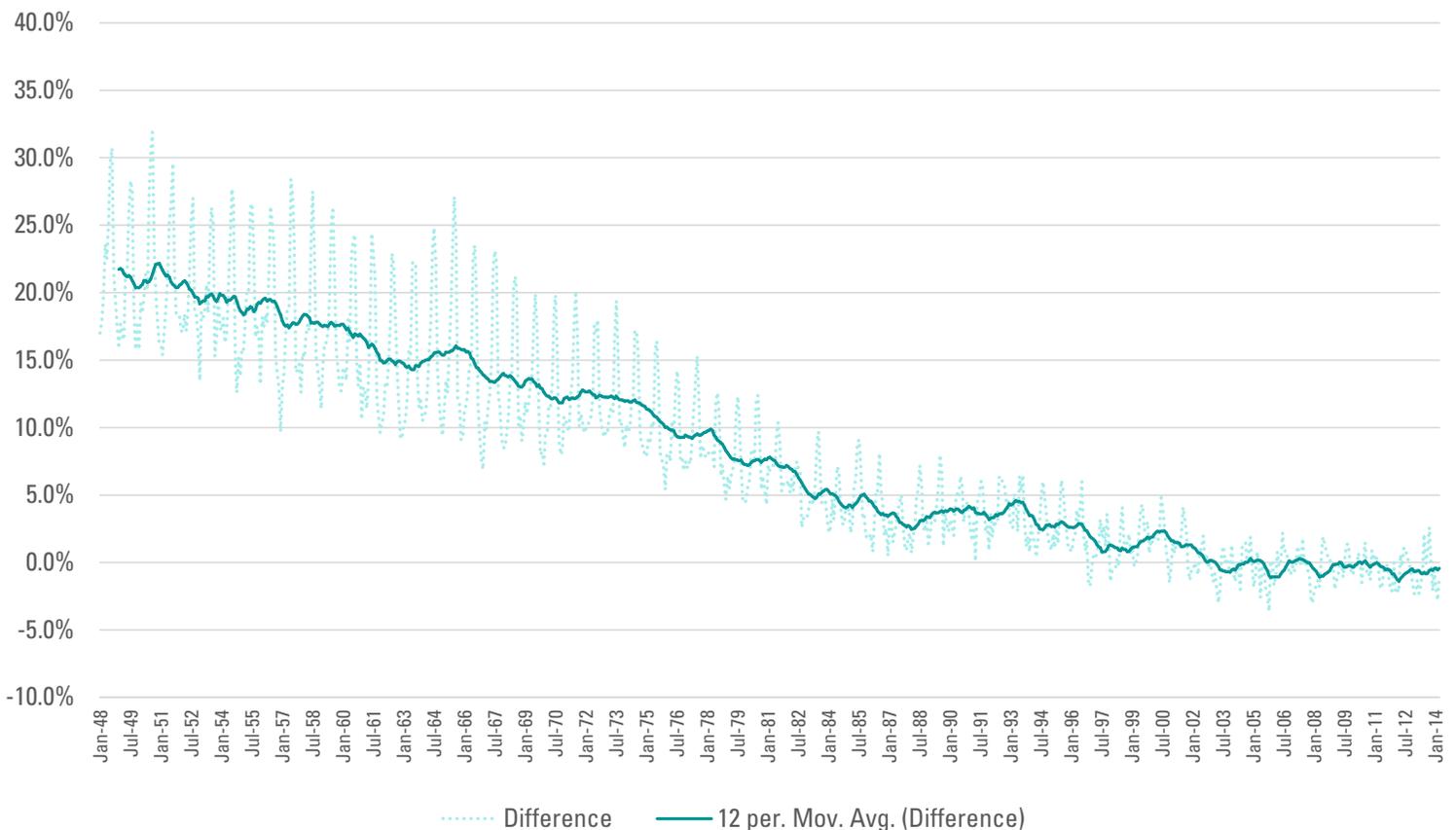
# TEEN LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION

Ed Jaros, Research Analyst

In February 2014, only 30 percent of Americans aged 16 to 19 participated in the labor force, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). This means that 70 percent of this group (those who are not in the military, prison or an institution) was neither working nor looking for work. This is the lowest rate of labor force participation for American teens on record. BLS anticipates that the labor force participation rate for teens of both sexes will fall to 27.3 percent by 2022.

The BLS Current Population Survey has been tracking this statistic since 1948. From the late 1940s to the 1960s, teenage labor force participation rates were much different than they are today. Both males and females were more likely to participate in the labor force than they are now. The labor force participation rate for males varied more with the seasons than it does now. During those decades, labor force participation for males varied by between 20 and 25 percentage points within a year.

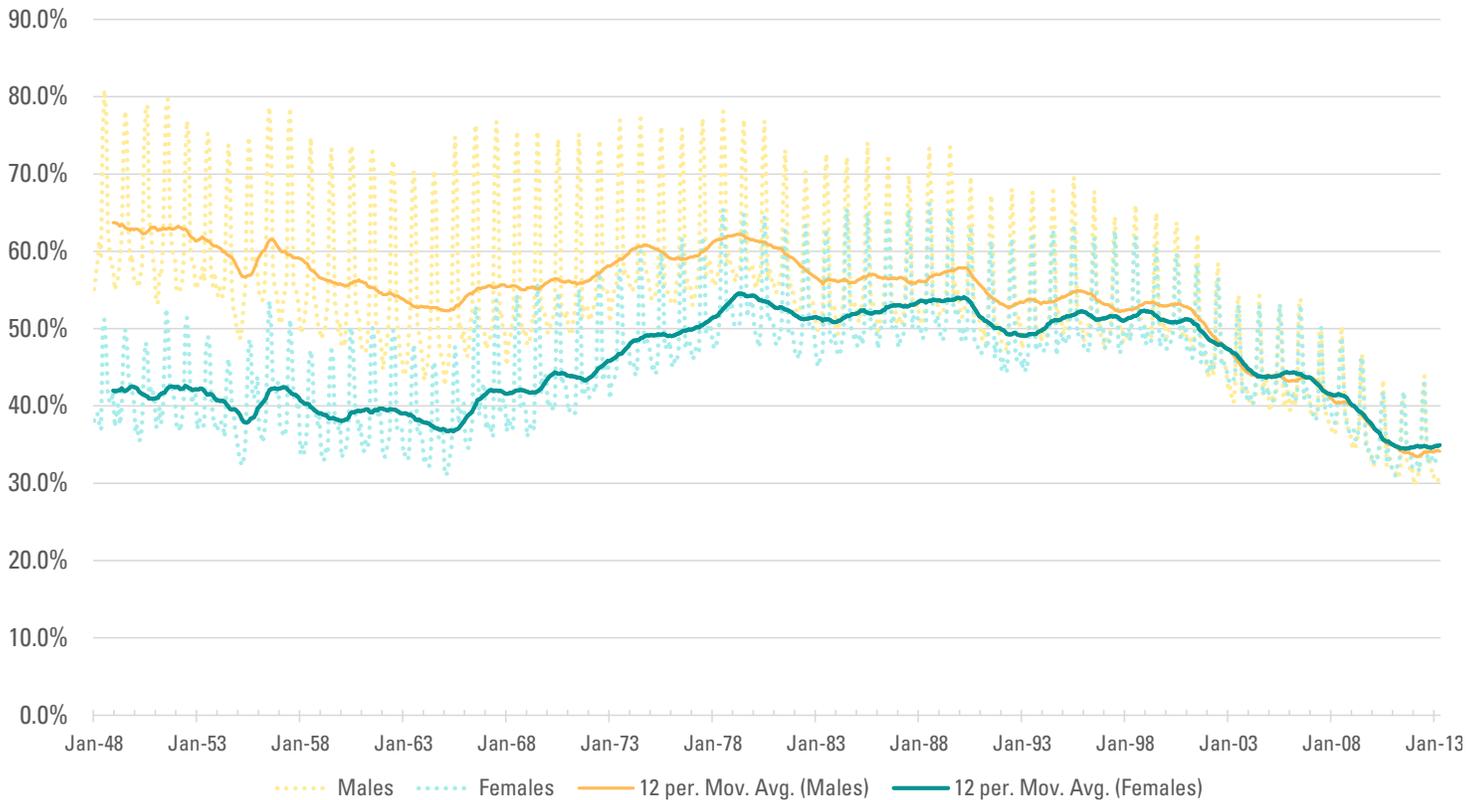
Difference In Labor Force participation rate (males - females) for Americans aged 16-19



The past 10 years have only seen this figure vary between 10 and 15 percentage points. This means that in the past, a larger portion of teenage males who did not work during the school year did work during the summer months. The variation of female teenage labor force participation was smaller than that of males for every year except 2011.

In July of 1978, 71.8 percent of Americans aged 16 to 19 were labor force participants. Teenage labor force participation is always highest in summer, but the rate for February 1979 was still 53.3 percent. Labor force participation among teens has been falling for the past three decades, and has fallen most precipitously since the year 2000.

**Labor Force Participation Rate for Americans aged 16-19**

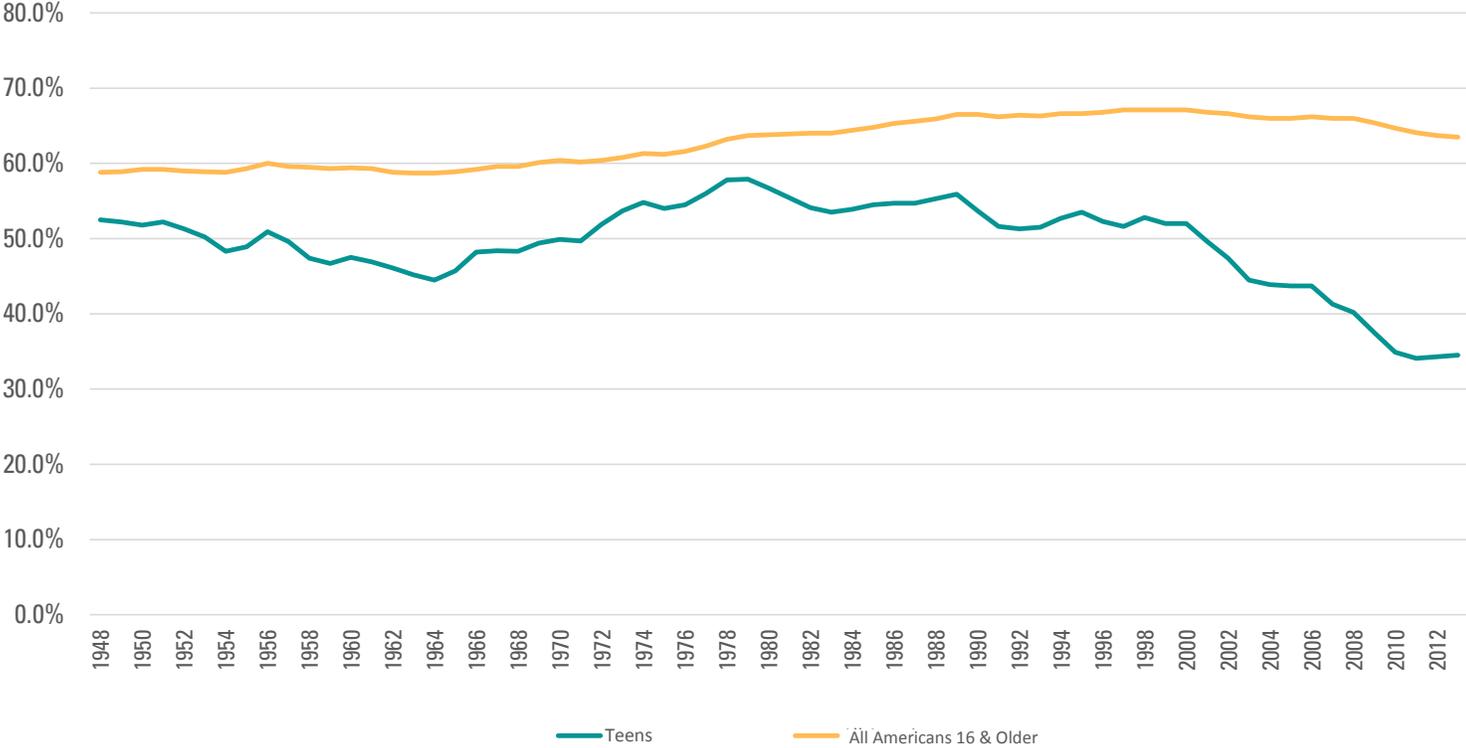


In general, the clear differences in teenage labor force participation of males and females which appeared 60 years ago has disappeared. In 1948, the percentage point difference in labor force participation among American teens varied between 17 and 30.7, with males always participating more than females. By 2003, the maximum monthly difference was 3 percentage points, still in favor of males, but females participated at higher rates than males in two of the 12 months. In the past 10 years, female teens have participated in the labor force at higher rates than male teens in 44 of the 120 months.

The labor force participation rate for all age demographics combined has been shrinking for the past 20 years. Teen labor force participation rates have shrunk the fastest. Only participation rates for Americans 55 and older are growing. BLS economists state that decreasing participation rates for the 'prime age' working population, those between 24 and 55, are cause for concern. However, the decreased participation among teens is less worrisome. A 2007 paper by the Chicago Fed explained why a decreasing teen labor force participation rate may be reflective of a good thing:

“It seems likely that the most important factor behind the long-term decline in teen labor force participation is the significant increase in the returns to education that began shortly before teen participation peaked. The wage premium associated with a college education is now nearly twice as high as in the late 1970s, and teens appear to have responded to this development by spending more time in school. Indeed, school enrollments have increased by roughly 25 percent since 1985, with much of the recent increase being the result of a major increase in summer school enrollments.

Labor Force Participation Rate



AGE	1992	2002	2012	PROJECTED 2022	VISUALIZED
Total, 16 years and over	66.4	66.6	63.7	61.6	
16 to 19 years	51.3	47.4	34.3	27.3	
20 to 24 years	77.1	76.4	70.9	67.3	
25 to 54 years	83.6	83.3	81.4	81	
55 to 64 years	56.2	61.9	64.5	67.5	
65 to 74 years	16.3	20.4	26.8	31.9	
75 years and over	4.5	5.1	7.6	10.5	

The fact that teens are absent from the labor force during their youth primarily to invest in learning is promising.

“Teens in school are much less likely to participate in the labor force. Indeed, the simple shift in the share of teens enrolled in school can account for about two-thirds of the decline in participation through the mid-1990s. An additional portion of the decline is attributable to lower rates of participation among those enrolled in school, which, to some extent, may be due to an increase in the intensity with which enrollees pursue their studies. Relatively little of the decline is attributable to lower rates of participation by those who are not enrolled in school.”

The fact that teens are absent from the labor force during their youth primarily to invest in learning is promising, especially when considering BLS projections for labor force participation in the coming years.

*Sources:*

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# MAP FACTS: U-6 RATES

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

Much attention is given to the unemployment rate every month, but many are unaware that the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) produces six different rates for every state. These rates are known as alternative measures of labor underutilization and are labeled U-1 through U-6. Each of these measures focuses on different sections of the labor market and helps to give us a better picture of employment and unemployment.

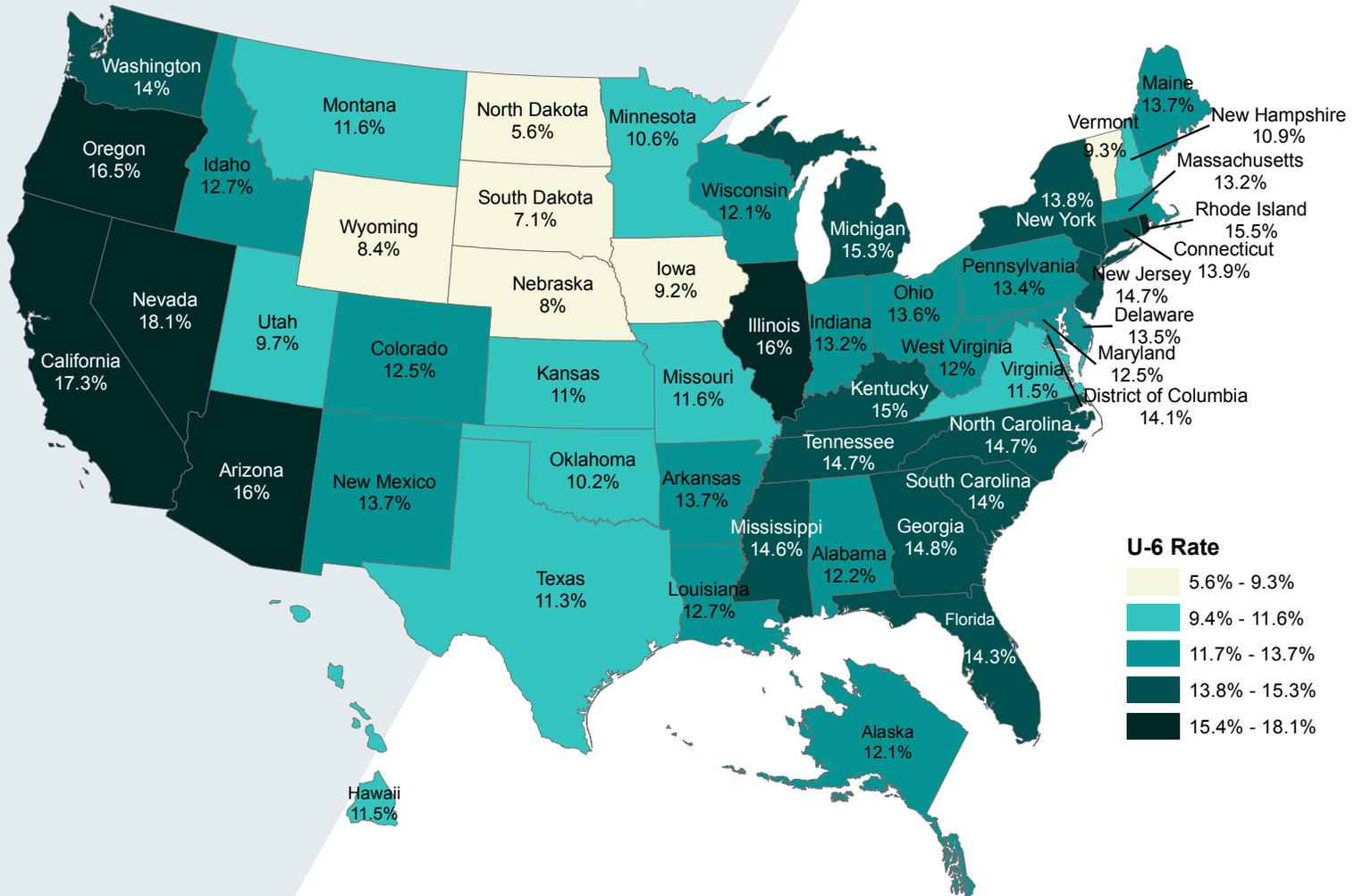
The map focuses on the U-6 rate by state. The U-6 rate includes the total unemployed, plus all marginally-attached workers, plus total employed part time for economic reasons.

Total unemployed is defined as all jobless persons available and seeking work in the past four weeks. Marginally attached workers include discouraged workers. Discouraged workers are persons not in the labor force, but are available for work and have looked for a job in the prior 12 months. They are not counted as unemployed because they did not look for work in the last four weeks, for the specific reason that they believed no jobs were available. The marginally attached definition expands on this with any reason being allowed for not looking for a job in the prior four weeks. Persons employed part time for economic reasons are working less than 35 hours per week but are available to and want to work full time. They gave an economic reason, such as having their hours cut back or being unable to find a full time job, for working part time.

The U-6 rate in Nebraska in 2013 was 8.0 percent, down from 8.8 percent in 2012. Nationally the U-6 rate was 13.8 percent. The Nebraska U-6 rate is the third lowest in the nation behind North Dakota (5.6 percent) and South Dakota (7.1 percent). Nevada has the highest U-6 rate at 18.1 percent.

The U-6 rate is typically the highest of the six rates because it is the broadest measure of labor underutilization. Comparing the Nebraska U-6 rate to the different U measures for other states highlights how low the Nebraska rates are. For example, 10 states have U-3 rates that are higher than Nebraska's U-6 rate. The U-3 rate is defined the same way as the official definition of the unemployment rate and represents the total number of unemployed as a percent of the civilian labor force.

## U-6 RATES BY STATE, 2013 ANNUAL AVERAGES



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Midwest Information Office. Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization, Nebraska. April 2, 2014. <http://www.bls.gov/ro5/altne.htm>

# Current Employment Statistics Benchmark Changes for 2013: Positive and Negative

*Janet Oenbring, Research Analyst*



You might see it in the newspaper or hear it on the news ... “employment in Nebraska went up (or down) by 10,000 since last month.” The Current Employment Statistics (CES) program, also known as the “payroll survey”, is a federal and state cooperative program that provides, on a timely basis, estimates of payroll employment, hours, and earnings for states and areas by sampling the population of employers. It is the headline employment estimate that Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and state agencies release monthly. However, due to its quick turnaround, it can contain sampling and non-sampling errors common to all surveys – measurement response, and processing errors.

Every year the BLS does its annual revision of national, state, and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) estimates of employment, hours, and earnings from the CES voluntary monthly survey of nonfarm establishments. The CES survey realigns its sample-based estimates to actual employment counts. Comprehensive counts of employment, or benchmarks, are derived primarily from unemployment insurance (UI) tax reports that nearly all employers are required to file with state workforce agencies and are reviewed by the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) program.

<b>Nebraska</b>	Mar-13	Mar-13	Differences	
CES Industry Title	Benchmark	Estimate	Amount	Percent
Total Nonfarm	953,350	965,884	12,534	1.31%
Mining & Construction	40,633	40,898	265	0.65%
Manufacturing	96,139	95,774	-365	-0.38%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	196,266	197,366	1,100	0.56%
Information	16,955	17,199	244	1.44%
Financial Activities	71,214	71,260	46	0.06%
Professional & Business Services	104,113	107,369	3,256	3.13%
Education & Health Services	141,618	147,210	5,592	3.95%
Leisure & Hospitality	79,667	82,219	2,552	3.20%
Other Services	37,541	36,971	-570	-1.52%
Government	169,204	169,618	414	0.24%

<b>National</b> (in thousands)	Mar-13	Mar-13	Differences	
CES Industry Title	Benchmark	Estimate	Amount	Percent
Total Nonfarm	134,570	134,917	347	0.26%
Mining & Construction	6,344	6,348	4	0.06%
Manufacturing	11,912	11,935	23	0.19%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	25,497	25,366	-131	-0.51%
Information	2,699	2,694	-5	-0.19%
Financial Activities	7,823	7,813	-10	-0.13%
Professional & Business Services	18,169	18,173	4	0.02%
Education & Health Services	20,748	21,153	405	1.95%
Leisure & Hospitality	13,668	13,740	72	0.53%
Other Services	5,444	5,422	-22	-0.40%
Government	22,266	22,273	7	0.03%

Business changes happen at different times of the year, which account for some of the benchmark revisions. Some businesses may have been misclassified in an industry category or changed their primary activity since the first time they filed their unemployment insurance tax record. In QCEW, the corrected industry classifications are implemented in the first quarter of every year. In CES, the changes are incorporated into the number over several months or years depending on the size. The difference between the benchmark level and previously published estimates is distributed across 11 months of estimates, ending with the previous April estimates. Nebraska uses the replacement methodology through September 2013 and then re-estimates employment for the rest of 2013 using sample data.

<b>Lincoln MSA</b>	Mar-13	Mar-13	Differences	
CES Industry Title	Benchmark	Estimate	Amount	Percent
Total Nonfarm	176,984	178,745	1,761	1.00%
Mining & Construction	6,793	6,800	7	0.10%
Manufacturing	13,469	13,656	187	1.39%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	33,139	33,154	15	0.05%
Information	2,074	2,564	490	23.63%
Financial Activities	14,267	14,169	-98	-0.69%
Professional & Business Services	18,364	18,184	-180	-0.98%
Education & Health Services	26,824	27,864	1,040	3.88%
Leisure & Hospitality	15,597	16,010	413	2.65%
Other Services	7,080	6,990	-90	-1.27%
Government	39,377	39,354	-23	-0.06%

<b>Omaha MSA</b>	Mar-13	Mar-13	Differences	
CES Industry Title	Benchmark	Estimate	Amount	Percent
Total Nonfarm	462,757	467,932	5,175	1.12%
Mining & Construction	21,103	20,812	-291	-1.38%
Manufacturing	31,288	31,628	340	1.09%
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	91,309	92,797	1,488	1.63%
Information	11,345	10,997	-348	-3.07%
Financial Activities	41,802	41,885	83	0.20%
Professional & Business Services	65,859	67,528	1,669	2.53%
Education & Health Services	74,108	75,105	997	1.35%
Leisure & Hospitality	43,422	44,784	1,362	3.14%
Other Services	17,501	17,285	-216	-1.23%
Government	65,020	65,111	91	0.14%

Last year, the national QCEW program determined that unemployment insurance (UI) tax records from a number of state programs that provide funding for services for the elderly and disabled were incorrectly classified as being in private households. With the first quarter of 2013, QCEW began classifying this employment correctly. This change moved the employment from a previously out-of-scope industry to in-scope for the CES program, prompting a historical reconstruction to account for the employment in these state-administered programs. The most effected states were California, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, Texas and Washington. Working with QCEW microdata (data on worker location and wages), employer establishment data, and information from the individual states, a historical time series of employment associated with the six state programs was developed and added to the original published data to create a consistent time series.

In looking at the difference between the March 2013 BLS estimates data that came out last year and the new March 2013 benchmark data, the revision percentage difference more accurately represents the change than the numerical difference. The smaller the employment in an industry, the larger the effect a change has during benchmarking. These changes can be seen in the charts for the supersectors on the previous pages.

The majority of Nebraska's benchmark revisions to the supersectors were positive upward growth statewide and in the MSAs. During the five prior benchmark years of 2008 to 2012, the percentage revision for total nonfarm employment in Nebraska ranged from -0.8 to 1.5 percent. The average absolute percentage revision for the period was 0.6 percent. This year the 2013 benchmark revision including the adjustments for reclassification was 1.3 percent; however, had reclassification changes stayed out-of-scope, the adjustment would have only been 0.7 percent.

BLS has published Nebraska historical unrounded reconstructed data back to 1990 on the national website, <http://www.bls.gov/ces/>. Nebraska CES estimates are unusual, in that we publish unrounded data, since employment shifts, no matter how small, can be measured. You can find unrounded reconstructed data for the current month and back to 2009 on the Nebraska website, <https://networks.nebraska.gov/analyzer/default.asp>. Some rounded reconstructed data from 2008 back to 2003 is also available on the Nebraska website.

\*Nebraska CES replaces estimates with reported QCEW data which represents a census of employers. These figures are used for January through September of 2013 and then serve as new baseline figures for re-estimating the last 3 months of the year.

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*Sources:*

1. U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, 2014, <http://www.bls.gov/ces/>
2. U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, National Benchmark Article, 2014, [www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.htm](http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cesbmart.htm).
3. U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Revisions in State Establishment-based Employment Estimates Effective January 2014, <http://www.bls.gov/sae/benchmark2014.pdf>
4. Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information, Current Employment Statistics program, 2014, <https://networks.nebraska.gov/analyzer/default.asp>
5. Image by Gary Dee used under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Generic license.

# NEBRASKA'S METRO AND NON-METRO COUNTIES

*Kermit Spade, Research Analyst*

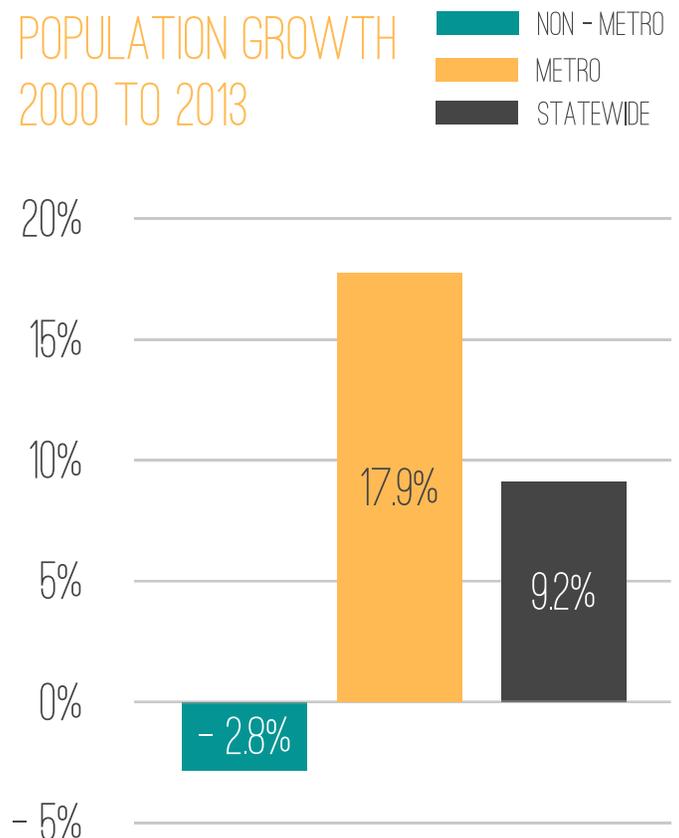
Eleven of Nebraska's 93 counties are classified as metro. Nebraska counties that are part of the Lincoln MSA, Grand Island MSA, or Omaha Consortium are defined as metro counties. The metro counties in Nebraska are: Cass, Douglas, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Lancaster, Merrick, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The balance of the counties in the state are considered non-metro counties. The charts below begin a Trends series comparing metro and non-metro counties in the areas of demographics and employment.

## POPULATION

According to the U.S. Census's official 2013 population count, the 11 metro counties in Nebraska accounted for 63% of the state's population, with 1,171,210 people. The remaining 82 non-metro counties contained 697,306 people, or 37% of the state's population (1).

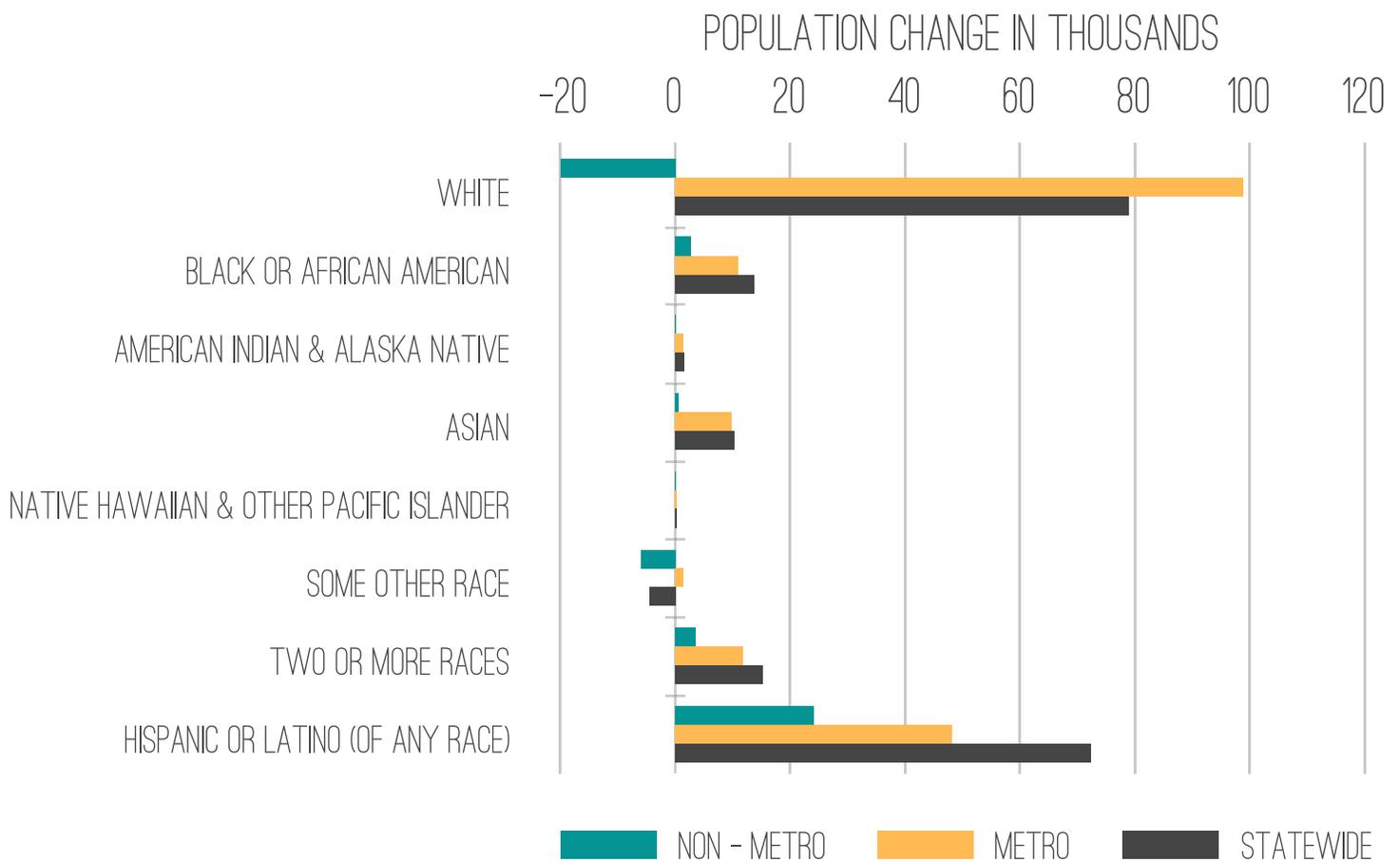
Since the 2000 census, Nebraska's metro counties have grown by 17.9%, while the non-metro counties have shrunk in population by 2.8% (1).

## POPULATION GROWTH 2000 TO 2013



Overall, 22 counties experienced population growth from 2000 to 2013, while 71 counties experienced a population decline. Johnson County had the largest growth rate of the non-metro counties, with 14.6% population growth, ranking it 4th overall in the state. Among the metro counties, Merrick County had the largest decline, losing 4.9% of its population (1).

## POPULATION CHANGE 2000 TO 2012 BY RACE/ETHNICITY

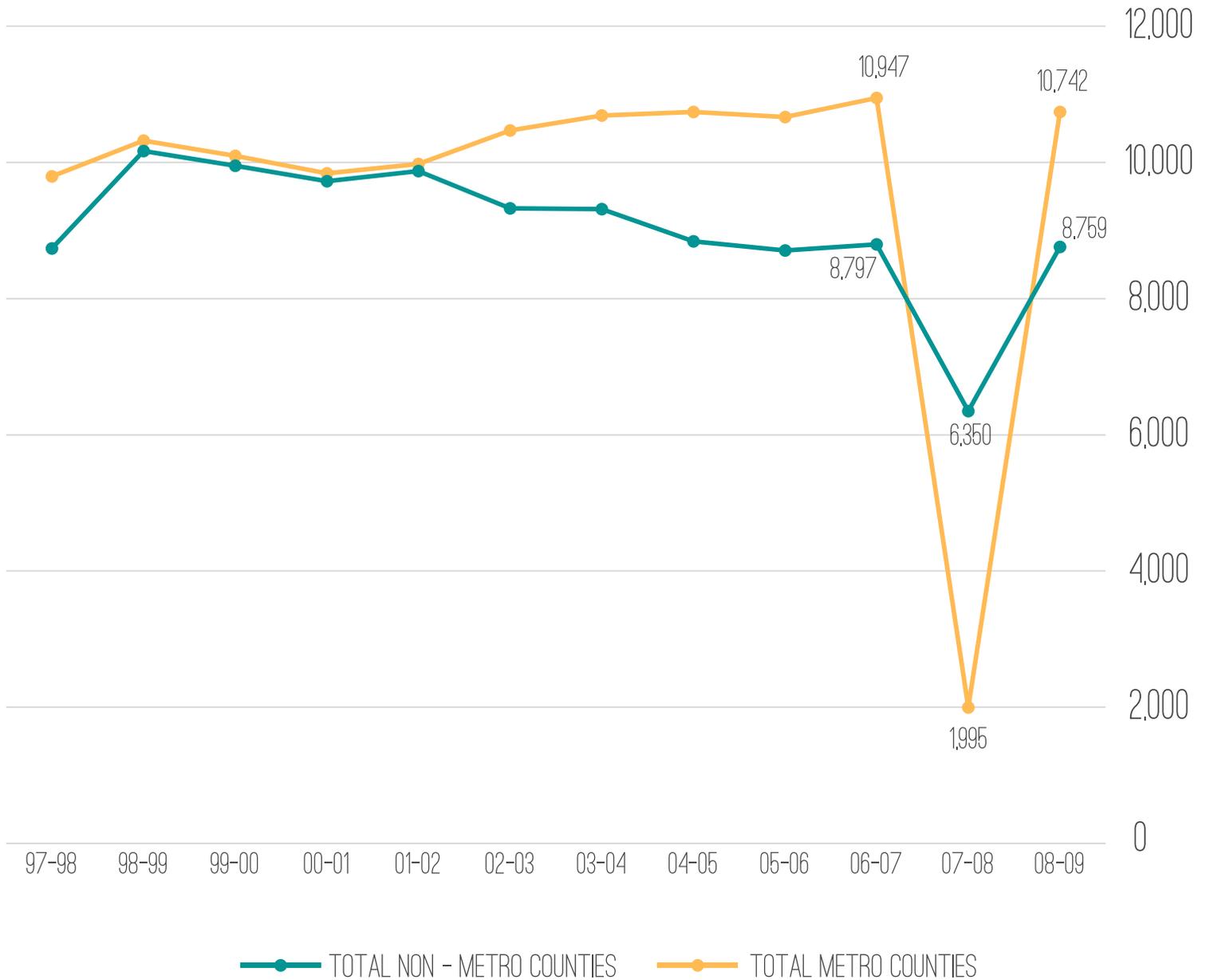


The largest growth of minority populations occurred with Hispanics in metro and non-metro counties. The largest decline of all population groups occurred with Whites in non-metro counties (2).

# EDUCATION

The number of high school graduates in metro counties increased 9.6% from the 97-98 academic year to the 08-09 academic year. In non-metro counties, the increase was 0.3%. sixteen counties, including Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster submitted data that did not meet NCES data quality standards in the 2007-08 academic year, and are therefore not included in the chart (3).

## HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES



**Sources:**

1. U.S. Census Bureau. Official Population Counts. [Online] 2000, 2013. <http://www.census.gov/>.
2. —. 2000 Census and 2012 American Community Survey. <http://www.census.gov/>. [Online] 2000 and 2012.
3. U.S. Department of Education. ELSi. National Center for Education Statistics. [Online] <http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/elsi/>.



NEBRASKA WORKFORCE  
**TRENDS**