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Nebraska Monthly Unemployment Rate for October Stable at 2.9 Percent

LINCOLN- The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) announced today that Nebraska’s preliminary unemployment rate for October is 2.9 percent, seasonally adjusted. The jobless rate is the same as the September rate and down 0.2 percentage points from the October 2014 rate of 3.1 percent.

“October was another month of strong job growth for our state,” said Commissioner of Labor John H. Albin. “The increase in total non-farm employment is above the average increase for the last five years.”

Nonfarm employment in October was 1,017,301, up by 12,116 compared to last October. Private industries with the most growth year over year were education and health services (up 5,655), financial activities (up 2,156), and other services (up 1,852). Month to month, the largest gains were seen in trade, transportation and utilities (up 3,603), professional and business services (up 2,634) and education and health services (up 2,464).

The seasonally-adjusted national unemployment rate for October is 5.0 percent, down 0.1 percentage points from the September rate and down 0.7 percentage points from the October 2014 rate of 5.7 percent.

November 2015 data will be published Friday, December 18.

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

Labor Force Estimates - National (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Oct-15	Sep-15	Oct-14	Sep-15	Oct-14
Unemployment Rate	5.0	5.1	5.7	-0.1	-0.7

Labor Force Estimates - Nebraska (Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Oct-15	Sep-15	Oct-14	Sep-15	Oct-14
Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.9	3.1	0.0	-0.2
Labor Force	1,009,732	1,007,490	1,021,500	2,242	-11,768
<i>Unemployment</i>	29,463	29,051	31,935	412	-2,472
<i>Employment</i>	980,269	978,439	989,565	1,830	-9,296

Labor Force Estimates - Omaha MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Oct-15	Sep-15	Oct-14	Sep-15	Oct-14
Unemployment Rate	2.9	3.0	3.1	-0.1	-0.2
Labor Force	479,066	472,309	480,234	6,757	-1,168
<i>Unemployment</i>	13,770	13,973	14,983	-203	-1,213
<i>Employment</i>	465,296	458,336	465,251	6,960	45

Labor Force Estimates - Lincoln MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Oct-15	Sep-15	Oct-14	Sep-15	Oct-14
Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.2	2.4	0.1	-0.1
Labor Force	181,054	177,598	180,488	3,456	566
<i>Unemployment</i>	4,082	3,938	4,357	144	-257
<i>Employment</i>	176,972	173,660	176,131	3,312	841

Labor Force Estimates - Grand Island MSA (Not Seasonally Adjusted)					
	Prelim	Revised		Changes Since	
	Oct-15	Sep-15	Oct-14	Sep-15	Oct-14
Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.8	3.0	0.1	-0.1
Labor Force	43,176	43,757	45,119	-581	-1,943
<i>Unemployment</i>	1,232	1,225	1,376	7	-144
<i>Employment</i>	41,944	42,532	43,743	-588	-1,799

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	Oct-15	Sep-15
		(Preliminary)	(Revised)
Beatrice MC	Gage	3.1	3.0
Columbus MC	Platte	3.1	2.5
Fremont MC	Dodge	2.9	3.0
Hastings MC*	Adams	2.5	2.5
Kearney MC	Buffalo, Kearney	2.1	2.1
Lexington MC	Dawson, Gosper	2.8	2.6
Norfolk MC	Madison, Pierce, Stanton	2.3	2.3
North Platte MC	Lincoln, Logan, McPherson	2.5	2.4
Scottsbluff MC	Scotts Bluff, Banner, Sioux	3.0	3.0
Red Willow SA (Small Labor Market Area)	Red Willow, Hitchcock	2.5	2.4

*Hastings MC is a single county MC in 2015 (Clay County was dropped).

Prepared and distributed by Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)
The next scheduled release is November 2015 data on Friday, December 18, 2015.
NDOL press releases are accessible on the Internet at: dol.nebraska.gov.