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Nebraska Workforce Development Board
 Meeting Minutes
 March 5, 2021, 9a – 12p
 Administrative Services Building
 Conference Room D, 4th Floor
 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Moravec called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (the Board) on March 5, 2021 at approximately 9a at Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, 4th floor, Conference Room D, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Nicole Goodwin called roll and advised Chair Moravec that quorum was established.

Members in attendance

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Senator Greg Adams | 10. Mark Moravec |
| 2. John Albin | 11. Don Nordell |
| 3. Elizabeth Babcock | 12. Terri Ridder |
| 4. Brian Deakin | 13. Bradley Schroeder |
| 5. Gary Dixon | 14. Jennifer Sedlacek |
| 6. Lindy Foley | 15. Senator Jim Smith |
| 7. Allen Hale | 16. Becky Stitt |
| 8. James Hanson, Jr. | 17. Paul Turman |
| 9. Susan Martin | |

Members absent

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Governor Pete Ricketts | 7. Anthony Goins |
| 2. Senator Joni Albrecht | 8. Tate Lauer |
| 3. Kyle Arganbright | 9. Kyle Nixon |
| 4. Phil Bakken | 10. Danette Smith |
| 5. Jason Feldhaus | 11. Carol Swigart |
| 6. Michael Geary | 12. Lisa Wilson |

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Board Support Staff

1. Deb Andersen, Reemployment Services Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Dawn Carrillo, Reemployment Services Program Analyst, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Nicole Goodwin, Administrative Assistant, Division of Reemployment Services

4. Shauna Smith, Reemployment Services Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
5. Erica Sousek, Reemployment Services Program Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
6. Katie Thurber, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel

Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

Nicole Goodwin announced that the Notice of Public Meeting was duly published in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Grand Island Independent, Lincoln Journal Star, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Nicole also announced that notice of the meeting was also posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar, and that the notices were published in accordance with the requirements of the Nebraska Open meetings Act.

Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

Chair Moravec called the Board's attention to the draft minutes from the last meeting of the Board held on September 10, 2020, which were included in the Board Members' meeting packets as Handout 1. The minutes were emailed to Members of the Board on March 3, 2021. Chair Moravec asked if Members Board had additions or corrections to the minutes. No additions or corrections were provided by Board Members. Deb Andersen recommended corrections to the September minutes. In sections 4 and 8 of the minutes, the links to the Board's webpage are no longer valid due to recent restructuring of the Nebraska Department of Labor website, on which the Board's webpage is housed.

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment on the draft minutes. No public comments were made. James Hanson, Jr. motioned to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2020 meeting of the Board, and Bradley Schroeder seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by voice vote. The vote carried unanimously.

Chair Moravec reminded the Board that agendas, minutes, and packets provided during meetings of the Board are available on Board's webpage, which is accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>.

Agenda item 5. Old business

a. Career Pathways Update – Facebook Career Connections – Digital Marketing

Chair Moravec introduced Bobbi Jo Howard, who gave an update on the Facebook Career Connections initiative. Bobbi Jo called the Board's attention to Handout 2 and provided the Board with an overview of its contents. Bobbi Jo advised the Board of the ongoing efforts at NDOL to convert employee work experience into a permanent placement through the Facebook Career Connections initiative.

Chair Moravec asked how many were being recruited. Bobbi Jo replied that they were recruiting 15 job seekers, and that the program begins on April 3rd.

b. JAG Nebraska Update

Chair Moravec explained to new Board members the history of the Board's involvement with the JAG Nebraska program. He then introduced Shauna Smith, who provided the Board with an update on the JAG Nebraska program. Shauna called the Board's attention to Handouts 3 and 4

and provided the Board with an overview of the program, NDOL's most recent participation and performance outcomes with JAG. She then opened the floor for questions.

Paul Turman referenced Handout 3 and asked the meaning of the asterisk by Monroe and Bryan Middle Schools. Shauna replied that it means Monroe and Bryan Middle Schools just started in January 2021, which means they are still in the development phase. They are getting students enrolled as well as lining up JAG specialists and teachers.

Paul also asked about comparing numbers for performance, and whether those standards the national standards for JAG programs. Also, going on to post-secondary or getting credentials, whether that is because the majority have gone into employment, meaning they are less likely to go on for a credential of some kind. Shauna replied that she would provide that information at a later time.

Don Nordell asked that the schools are doing versus what the students are doing to get involved. Shauna replied that United Way of the Midlands operated JAG Nebraska, and they partner with the schools. JAG helps schools establish the program and they recruit for the JAG specialists. They provide the classroom and integration of the teacher, as well as the school and the program. They also work with school counselors to identify students who could benefit from the program and who are willing to participate.

Lindy Foley asked if there is any demographic information for the students who are participating in JAG. Shauna replied that the information is available, and that she would retrieve that information to share with the Board.

c. Nebraska Department of Labor Update

Chair Moravec introduced Deb Andersen, who provided the Board with an update on recent NDOL activities. Deb called the Board's attention to Handouts 5 through 10 and gave an overview of State and local area performance negotiations for Title I programs, the recent Federal review of the State and the Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Area, and the newly established statewide planning region. Deb opened the floor for questions.

Paul Turman asked who negotiations are happening with and where they are taking place. Deb responded that negotiations occur between NDOL's State WIOA Team and local area Chief Elected Officials, local workforce development board representatives, and local area administrative entity staff.

d. Registered Apprenticeship Update

Chair Moravec introduced Elliott Cain, who provided the Board with an update on the Registered Apprenticeship Program. Elliott called the Board's attention to Handout 11 and 12, and gave an overview of the program's core components, NDOL's role and participation, and its benefits and metrics. Elliott opened the floor for questions.

Terri Ritter asked if the list of occupations were on the website. Elliott replied that yes, they were on the website.

Chair Moravec asked if a schedule is provided as to what workers need to be trained on. Elliott responded that NDOL has a schedule because they have worked in certain industries, but the work process comes from the US Department of Labor.

Allan Hale asked what kind of industry gets the most “bang for its buck.” Elliott responded that manufacturing is the leader in Nebraska.

Paul Turman asked about utilization of a rubric that's tied to knowledge-based elements, and whether that is hours-driven or is the mentor responsible for evaluating the rubric in relation not the apprentice. Elliott responded that it depends on the rubrics, the occupation and which one is selected. Paul had a second question, asking how workers transferring to a different state and whether there are inconsistencies because each state has different licensing standards. Elliott answered that it depends on the occupation.

Chair Moravec brought up the academic aspect of Registered Apprenticeship, and Allan Hale asked whether there were educational components inside of the programs. Elliott responded that it depends on the specific occupation and what is required for it. Local community colleges are usually approached because they tend to have what is needed for that employer.

Agenda item 6. New business

a. Subcommittee Appointments

Chair Moravec introduced the first item of new business, subcommittee appointments. He stated that the bylaws were emailed to the Board members on March 3, 2021 and will be posted on the Board's website. Amendment of the bylaws eliminated the Evaluation Review and Subcommittee and reassigned the responsibilities of that subcommittee to the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee and the Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee. The Board decided in March of 2020 to exclude members of the Board's Executive Committee from subcommittee service to ensure that subcommittee meetings comply with Sections 5.9 and 5.10 of the bylaws. After consulting with Vice Chair Bradley Schroeder and the NDOL State WIOA Team, Chair Moravec said he made the appointments to the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee and Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee. He then directed Board Members' attention to Handout 13, rosters for the Subcommittees, and opened the floor for questions. No questions were asked.

b. Subcommittee Reports

Chair Moravec introduced the next item of new business, subcommittee reports. James Hanson, Jr. provided the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee report. James stated that the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee is in the process of scheduling a meeting with State Plan Partners, during which implementation of goals and strategies outlined in the State Plan will be discussed, in addition to the mandatory two-year modification of the State Plan, which must be submitted to US Departments of Education and Labor by April 1, 2022. Chair Moravec opened the floor for questions; no questions were asked.

Chair Moravec presented the Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee report on behalf of Michael Geary. The Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee will be meeting during the next calendar quarter. The Subcommittee will discuss resumption of the project to compile a list of workforce focused groups and initiatives operating across Nebraska. There will also be a discussion on ways the subcommittee can work with the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee and support the State Plan Partners in their implementation of the goals and strategies outlined in the State Plan and the development of the two-year modification of the State Plan. Chair Moravec opened the floor for questions; no questions were asked.

Agenda item 7. Member Updates

Chair Moravec asked Members of the Board for updates on their respective industries or organizations and updates on local area activities from Board Members who also serve on local workforce development boards. Members of the Board provided updates as requested.

Agenda item 8. Public Comment

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were made.

Agenda item 9. Next Meeting – Date and Time

Chair Moravec reminded the Members of the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 11, 2021 from 9a to 12p with location pending. If the date or time of the meeting changes, Members of the Board would be notified by email.

Members of the public may confirm the dates and times of the meetings of the Board by checking the Upcoming Meetings section of the Board's webpage. The Board's webpage is accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>.

Agenda item 10. Adjournment

Chair Moravec asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Brian Deakin motioned that the meeting be adjourned, and Becky Stitt seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted by voice vote on the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:40a.

Nebraska Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
(non-quorum meeting)
June 11, 2021, 9a – 12p
Administrative Services Building
Conference Room D, 4th Floor
1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Moravec called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (the Board) on June 11, 2021 at approximately 9a at the Administrative Services Building, Conference Room D, 4th floor, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Nicole Goodwin called roll and advised Chair Moravec that quorum was *not* established.

Members in Attendance

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Senator Greg Adams | 6. Susan Martin | 11. Becky Stitt |
| 2. John Albin | 7. Mark Moravec | 12. Paul Turman |
| 3. Lindy Foley | 8. Don Nordell | 13. Lisa Wilson |
| 4. Allan Hale | 9. Bradley Schroeder | |
| 5. James Hanson, Jr. | 10. Senator Jim Smith | |

Members Absent

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Governor Pete Ricketts | 7. Gary Dixon, Jr. | 13. Terri Ridder |
| 2. Senator Joni Albrecht | 8. Jason Feldhaus | 14. Jennifer Sedlacek |
| 3. Kyle Arganbright | 9. Michael Geary | 15. Dannette Smith |
| 4. Elizabeth Babcock | 10. Anthony Goins | 16. Carol Swigart |
| 5. Phil Bakken | 11. Tate Lauer | |
| 6. Brain Deakin | 12. Kyle Nixon | |

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Board Support Staff

Brad Pierce, Reemployment Services Director
Katie Thurber, General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel
Shauna Smith, Reemployment Services Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
Dawn Carrillo, WIOA Program Analyst, Division of Reemployment Services
Todd Greene, State Monitoring Unit Program Coordinator, Division of Reemployment Services
Nicole Goodwin, Administrative Assistant II, Division of Reemployment Services

Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

Nicole Goodwin announced that the Notice of Public Meeting was duly published, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Grand Island Independent, Lincoln Journal Star, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Nicole announced that notice of the meeting was posted on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar.

Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

Chair Moravec explained that in the absence of quorum, approval of the minutes for the March 5, 2021 meeting of the Board will be deferred until the September 10, 2021 meeting. Chair Moravec reminded everyone that minutes, agendas, and meeting materials for the March 5, 2021 meeting are available on the Board's webpage, which is accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>.

Agenda item 5. Old Business – Nebraska Department of Labor Update

a. Local Area Adjusted Levels of Performance for PY19

Bradley Pierce updated the Board on the Local Area Adjusted Levels of Performance for Program Year 2019. Adjusted levels of performance are calculated by NDOL for local area Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs on an annual basis. The adjusted levels of performance reflect actual characteristics of participants that were served, as well as actual economic conditions experienced during the program year. Brad directed the Board's attention to Handout 2, which detailed NDOL's assessment of Program Year 2019 performance results for Greater Lincoln, Greater Nebraska, and Greater Omaha Title I programs, which are assessed based on each local area's negotiated levels of performance, actual levels of performance, actual participant characteristics, actual economic conditions, and coefficients provided by the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration in the State's adjusted levels of performance for Program Year 2019 at the state level for Nebraska's Title I adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs.

Local area performance based on adjusted levels of performance are based on three Federally defined performance thresholds:

- Individual local-area single indicator score
 - Failure to meet an adjusted level of performance for a single indicator occurs when the single indicator score falls below 50 percent of the area's adjusted level of performance for the single indicator, calculated by dividing the actual level of performance achieved by the adjusted level of performance
- Overall local-area single program score
 - Failure to meet overall adjusted levels of performance for the program occurs when the overall local-area single program score falls below 90 percent. The overall program score is the average of all individual single indicator scores for the program

- Overall local-area single indicator score
 - Failure to meet adjusted levels of performance by a local area for a single indicator occurs when the individual local-area single indicator score falls below 90 percent of the adjusted levels of performance for that indicator when compared to the overall local-area single indicator score. The overall local-area single indicator score is the average of scores for an individual local-area single indicator across all local area adult, dislocated worker, or youth programs.

Greater Lincoln failed to meet performance for its:

- adult program at the *individual local-area single indicator level* for employment during the second quarter after program exit, achieving 83.78 percent compared to the 90 percent success threshold;
- youth program at the *individual local-area single indicator level* for credential attainment after program exit, achieving 30.37 percent compared to the 50 percent success threshold; and
- youth program at the *overall program score level*, achieving 74.11 percent compared to the 90 percent success threshold.

Greater Nebraska failed to meet performance for its youth program at the *individual local-area single indicator level* for credential attainment after program exit, achieving 80.61 percent compared to the 90 percent success threshold.

Greater Omaha failed to meet performance for its:

- dislocated worker program at the *overall program score level*, achieving 87.55 percent compared to the 90 percent success threshold; and
- youth program at the *overall program score level*, achieving 85.67 percent compared to the 90 percent success threshold.

Lisa Wilson asked why local areas have fallen below 90% threshold for youth program over *all program score levels*. Brad explained that all areas utilize NEworks as a management information system and haven't been accurately recording program activities during the last two program years, but that proper case management will become a technical focus to resolve this issue.

Mark Moravec asked if there would be the same failure rate if the data had been entered correctly. Brad explained that it is difficult to make that determination, but that they local areas have most likely been successful regarding those performance indicators.

Bradley Schroeder asked what constitutes success on the credential attainment performance indicator. Brad Pierce explained that successful performance on the credential attainment performance indicator is based on participant attainment of a credential upon completion of an occupational skills training program and accurate documentation of credential attainment in NEworks.

b. Unemployment Insurance and COVID-19

Commissioner of Labor John Albin presented to the Board on the provision Unemployment Insurance benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic. A brief timeline was given of the various unemployment programs that were rolled out during COVID-19, including Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) and the effects it had on Nebraska's workforce and economic recovery. A total of 171,985 individuals received Unemployment Insurance benefits from the State of Nebraska during the pandemic,

totaling \$1,456,487,733. Unemployment fraud proved to be an issue for numerous states across the United States, including Nebraska. NDOL implemented the *Notice of Requirement to Report* process to verify individual's identity. Claimants were asked for documentation for this reason and to ensure efficient communication between adjudicators and claimants. As a result, NDOL was successful in their effort to adjudicate Unemployment Insurance claims and provide reemployment assistance throughout the pandemic, while simultaneously mitigating fraud.

Workers quitting jobs during the pandemic over concerns of exposure to the virus was an ongoing issue. NDOL implemented a *Work Refusal* email inbox, as well as a process to disincentivize people from quitting their jobs by denying Unemployment Insurance benefits (and future unemployment benefits) to those who chose to do so. The *Short-Time Compensation* program was implemented to help prevent layoffs by allowing employers to reduce affected employees' hours by 10 to 60 percent while permitting employees to receive a prorated Unemployment Insurance benefit. This averted a total of 9,851 layoffs.

Commissioner Albin advised the Board that the Nebraska Department of Labor received four years' worth of unemployment claims in a four-month span. NDOL responded by borrowing staff from other agencies to assist with adjudication, hiring 425 new employees, and accelerating Unemployment Adjudication training. Metropolitan Community College (Omaha) loaned facilities to NDOL to assist with claimant services and local offices stayed open and shifted to virtual meetings. Because of these efforts, 89,388 individuals were assisted virtually by job centers, and 55,868 individuals were assisted in person.

April's unemployment rate was tied for lowest in the nation at 2.8 percent, and there are currently approximately 39,000 job openings posted on NEworks.

James Hanson, Jr., asked how Nebraska's June 19 cut-off for extra benefits would get people back to work. Commissioner Albin explained that the unemployment rate drop-off would be gradual, as it will have a delayed effect over 30 to 60 days.

Lisa Wilson expressed gratitude to NDOL, particularly Deb Andersen, for assistance during the pandemic. Mark Moravec asked if there was anything that will incentivize people to go back to work. Commissioner Albin explained that this could happen by gradually phasing out unemployment benefits or offering reemployment bonuses using CARES Act funds.

Agenda item 6. New business

a. 2021 Workforce Development Excellence Award Presentation

Joan Modrell presented Jan Norlander-Jensen with the 2021 Workforce Development Excellence Award for her 44 years of work and dedication to providing Nebraskans with the opportunity to participate in employment and training programs offered by Greater Nebraska and Lincoln local areas.

b. Subcommittee Reports

James Hanson, Jr. provided the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee report. The Subcommittee has been collaborating with State Plan partners and has formed workgroups to ensure effective implementation of State Plan goals and strategies for career pathways development and implementation and alignment of Nebraska's workforce development system, as well as planning and development of the mandatory 2022 State Plan modification. Each workgroup will focus on the three modes of State Plan implementation and will be headed by the following individuals:

- Paul Turman – career pathways
- Stan Odenthal – system alignment
- Deb Andersen – 2022 State Plan modification

Work groups will meet separately and then report back monthly to the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee to provide updates on the progress of the implementation of State Plan goals and strategies, and activities relating to development of the 2022 State Plan modification. In addition, the Policy and Oversight Subcommittee, State Plan partners, and the Subcommittee's workgroups will coordinate with the Board's Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee in relation to the career pathways and system alignment goal and strategies. The Subcommittee will also coordinate with other workforce system partners to ensure effective implementation of the State Plan goals and strategies, as well as timely and coordinated development of the 2022 State Plan modification, which is due no later than April 1, 2022.

Senator Jim Smith provided the Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee report on behalf of Michael Geary. The Subcommittee has two projects in progress: developing an MOU with Nebraska's three homeless continuums of care and documentation of statewide workforce initiatives. Progress on these were stalled in March of 2020 due to COVID-19, but the Subcommittee will resume its work during its June 23, 2021 meeting.

Senator Smith provided a recap of the Subcommittee's past efforts. A meeting was held January 14, 2020 where a vote was held to recommend the establishment of an MOU between the Board and the Continuums; the Board voted to proceed with the establishment of an MOU. Efforts to finalize implementation of an MOU have been ongoing between NDOL Legal and representatives of the continuums, which will be a topic of discussion during the June 23, 2021 meeting. In addition, the Subcommittee previously began work on development of a database of existing workforce initiatives in Nebraska, which would support the Board's goal of alignment of workforce-focused groups and initiatives and support development of career pathways efforts. During the January and February meetings in 2020, approaches to identifying these initiatives were discussed. During the March 6, 2020 meeting of the Board, the Subcommittee recommended a low-tech, networking method and distribution of a form to collect information on existing initiative. Senator Smith directed the Board's attention to Handout 4, a preliminary draft of the form. The Subcommittee asked at that time for comment from the members of the Board on the form and its content, advising that the form could be completed by anyone who is aware of a workforce-focused group or initiative, or a representative of a group or initiative, and then distributed widely in digital and paper format.

Agenda item 7. Member Updates

Chair Moravec asked Members of the Board for updates on their respective industries or organizations and local workforce development area activities for the Members who also serve on local workforce development boards. Members of the Board provided updates as requested.

Agenda item 8. Public Comment

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were made.

Agenda item 9. Upcoming Meeting – Date and Time

Chair Moravec reminded the Members of the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for September 10, 2021 from 9a to 12p, with the location pending. If the date or time of the meeting changes, Members of the Board would be notified by email.

Members of the public may confirm the dates and times of the meetings of the Board by checking the Upcoming Meeting section of the Board's webpage. The Board's webpage is accessible at <https://dol.nebraska.gov/ReemploymentServices/Training/WIOA/NWDB>.

Agenda item 10. Adjournment

Because quorum was not established and motions to adjourn were not required, Chair Moravec adjourned the meeting at approximately 11a.

COVID-19 Pandemic and National Lockdown – Nebraska Housing

- ▶ 03/2020 – Nation goes into lockdowns, schools close, & social distancing
 - * Human services move to virtual platforms
 - * Shelters (congregate care facilities) have to design new living arrangements
 - * Street Homeless had no access to testing
 - 14-day quarantine – no rapid tests
 - Hotel/motel industry opened
 - * Domestic violence/child abuse < 50%
 - * Layoffs, furloughs, and unemployment raise = increased stress on renters and homeowners

CARES Funds: 03/2020 – 12/31/2020

\$2 Trillion federal, Neb received \$1.25B

Housing:

- DHHS CARES R & R (Response and Recovery) funds for Rental/Mortgage/Utility Assistance – Nebraska Children was tracking \$30,000,000.00 for direct assistance
 - \$10 million for Douglas County – these were funds outside of DHHS grants
 - \$2 million per agency to MACCH, United Way of the Midlands, MUD/OPPD and other grants
 - \$6,444,750.00 in housing grants to multiple communities across the state
 - Private funded match by Nebraska Children = \$3,273,250 (MACCH Omaha also used several Million in private funds)
- Increases were seen also in CDBG, ESG, and other funds:
 - CDBG-CV funds were granted to Omaha, Lincoln, and Grand Island (mortgage/shelter needs – PPE, testing, etc.)
 - ESG (HUD) – used for rapid rehousing and shelter construction

Cares Act Landlord Pilot Program:

A partnership
between NIFA,
Econ districts, and
Nebraska Children

- ▶ A program was designed to target the needs and lost revenue of landlords across Nebraska:
- ▶ * \$900,000.00 federal funds & \$400,000 of private funds
- ▶ * Landlords who have lost revenue due to COVID-19 can apply up to \$10,000
- ▶ - \$2,500 in direct cash assistance to off set insurance and property tax costs
- ▶ - \$7,500 for rehabilitation grants – HVAC, plumbing, roof, windows, etc.
- ▶ - All spent by 12/31/2020

Consolidated Appropriations Act:12/2020

Federally \$25 Billion – Nebraska received \$200 million for rental/utility assistance - \$158m rural, \$22m Omaha, & \$12m LNK

- Rental and utilities assistance available for US/Neb residents and 80% or under AMI

Current distribution totals:

Omaha (MACCH) – \$17.8m total = \$16.5m rental and \$1.2 utilities

State of Nebraska (NIFA/Deliotte) – 2573 applications for \$6,231,805

LNK (City of Lincoln/CCFL/Nebraska Children) – 1851 applications for \$8,799,841.72

* Total Hotel/motel vouchers have been approved since 03/2020 - \$278,387.00

Housing: Next Steps and long-term goals

- ▶ ERAP2 - \$21.55 billion nationally – Nebraska is currently looking at strategies
- ▶ NC Funds (Private) - **\$250,000** landlord incentive program through a contract with MACCH
- ▶ NC Funds (Private) - **\$1m NebraskaBest** landlord liaison positions statewide
- ▶ CDBG-CV grant from DED –Partnership with UNL-CCFL, Lutheran Family, and NC to expand Mortgage assistance – full grant is for \$6,400,000 – direct assistance
- ▶ Expand eviction supports through Legal Aid –
 - Omaha Housing assistance program- Private funded access to legal services at eviction court
 - Lincoln Housing Justice program – Legal Aid & City of Lincoln providing legal supports at eviction court
 - NC provided a grant \$650,000 in SSBG funds to expand eviction supports statewide
- ▶ Develop debt management and asset development program (**\$400,000**) to work with Credit Advisors Foundation and UBT Financial Case Manager

Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on LMI Data

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Connections.



What is LMI?

Labor Market Information

- It is any data or analysis that relates to the workforce
- In Nebraska we are made up two main sections:
 - The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) programs
 - Workforce Information Grant (ETA)
- All programs are federal/state cooperative programs

Data Produced by LMI

For Industries

- Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)
- Current Employment Statistics (CES)
- Short and Long-term Industry Projections

For Occupations

- Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)
- Short and Long-term Occupational Projections
- High Wage, Skill, and Demand Occupations (H3)

For Labor Force

- Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

How Do We Get Data?

Unemployment Insurance Tax Records

- QCEW and Industry Projections primarily use this data

Surveys

- CES, LAUS, OEWS, and Occupational Projections use data collected by surveys

Pandemic v. LMI

- Data Collection Impacts
 - Lower response rates to some surveys
 - Telework-no one checking mail, answering business phones
 - Understaffed and high turnover-no time to fill out surveys/reports or the previous person did not pass on knowledge to new employee on how to fill them out
 - More emphasis on online and phone reporting to avoid in person follow-ups

Pandemic v. LMI



U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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BLS COVID-19 Questions and Answers

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in coordination with agencies across the federal government, continues to monitor the impacts of COVID-19. BLS is committed to producing and distributing gold-standard data while also keeping the public, our employees, and our partners at the U.S. Census Bureau and state agencies safe.

This page will be updated regularly.

- [An Open Letter to Survey Respondents from Commissioner William Beach](#)
- [Statement of the Federal Economic Statistics Advisory Committee on COVID-19 Response](#)

Are there changes in operations at BLS in response to COVID-19?

The Office of Management and Budget has issued guidance encouraging maximum telework flexibilities for federal employees, so most BLS employees are working remotely, while maintaining the highest level of service.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

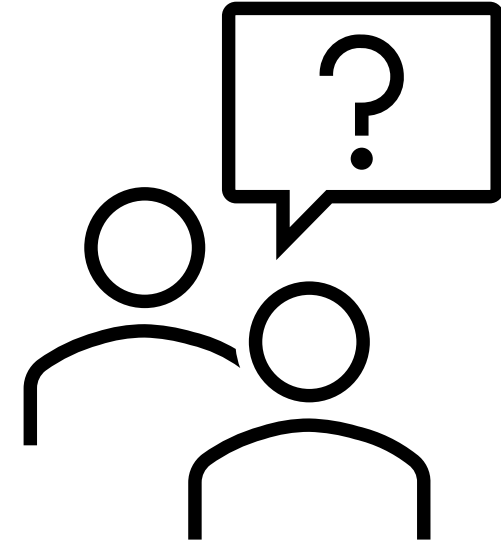
Existing communications channels (phone, email, internet) continue to operate as normal during this period.

Will data releases be delayed?

BLS intends to release all data on our normal schedule as announced on the [BLS release calendar](#).

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on BLS programs

- [COVID-19 economic research](#)
- [Dashboard of key economic indicators in the time of COVID-19](#)



Learn more:

<https://www.bls.gov/covid19/home.htm>

NEBRASKA

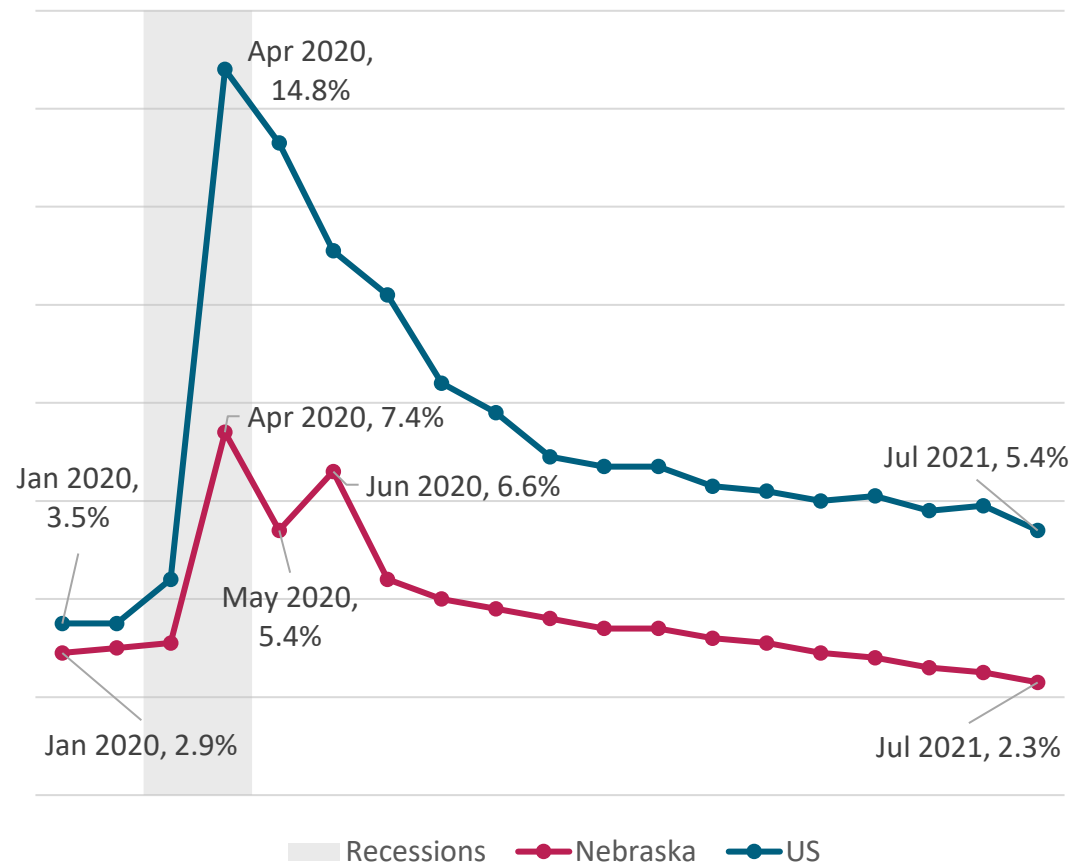
Good Life. Great Connections.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

- Because of the pandemic, BLS discovered that the LAUS model wasn't programmed to react to large and sudden changes
- So, in late-2020, BLS released a new version of the model that addressed these types of changes
- This new model was used during benchmark and is currently being used in the creation of 2021 monthly labor force data

Unemployment Rates

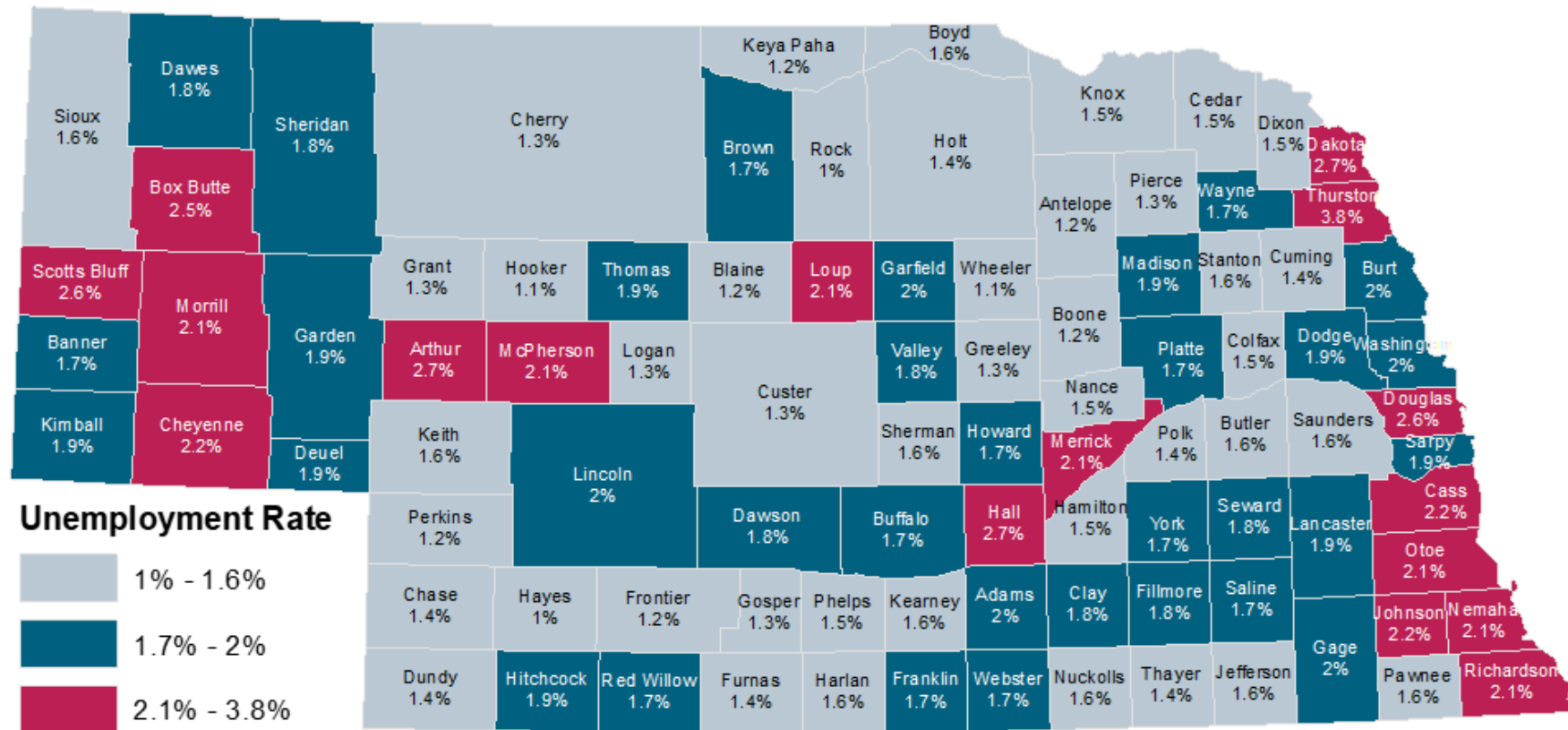
2019-July 2021 Unemployment Rates for Nebraska and the US-**Seasonally Adjusted**



- In March 2020 Nebraska's rate had grown to 3.1% then peaked at 7.4% in April (a month-to-month increase of 4.3 percentage points)
- The rate began a downward trend starting in July of 2020
- July of 2021:
 - The rate has reached a historical low of 2.3%, the lowest rate in the nation
 - The last time Nebraska's SA rate was at 2.3% was in the last three months of 1997 and first two months of 1998

Unemployment Rates

July 2021 Unemployment Rates by County-Not Seasonally Adjusted



Hayes & Rock
1.0%



Thurston
3.8%

2.1%

5.7%

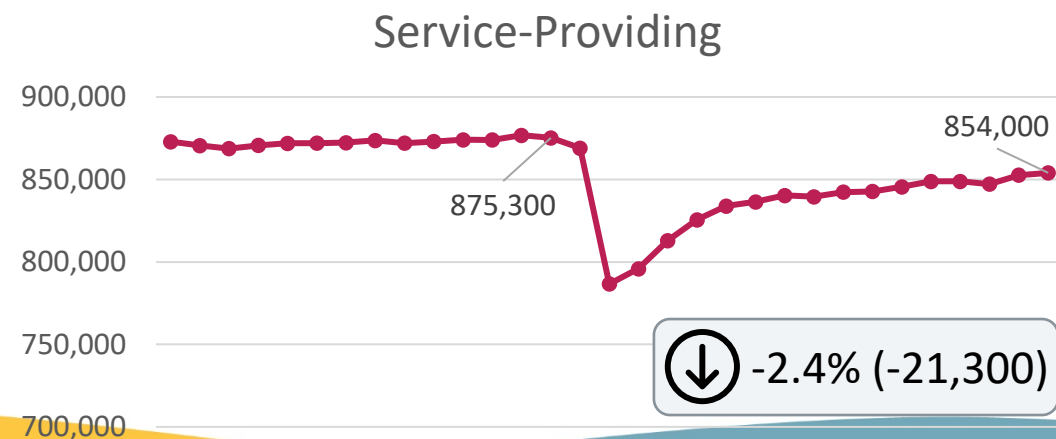
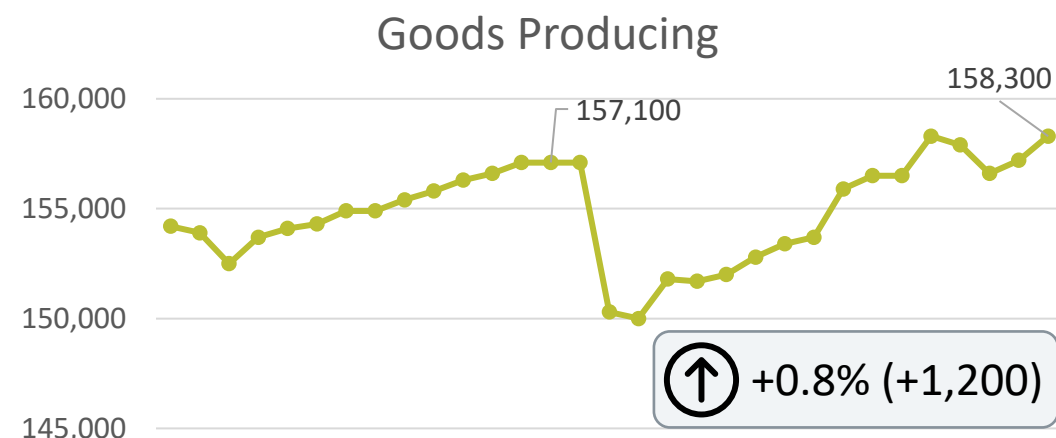
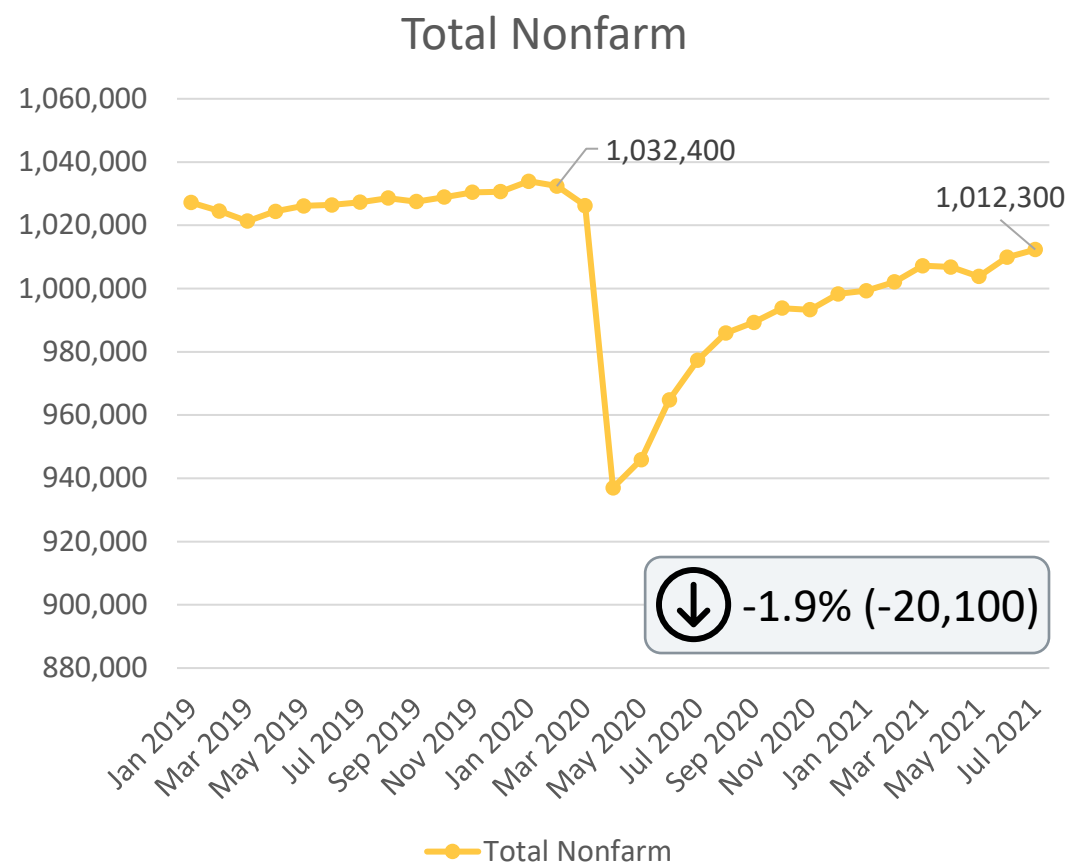
Current Employment Statistics (CES)

- BLS made some changes to the models to adjust for the pandemic
- The birth-death model was revised so businesses that were just temporarily shut down were not counted as business deaths or births once they reopened
- Changes to how seasonality is calculated to adjust for the abrupt shift due to COVID

Employment

2019-July 2021 Employment for Nebraska-Seasonally Adjusted

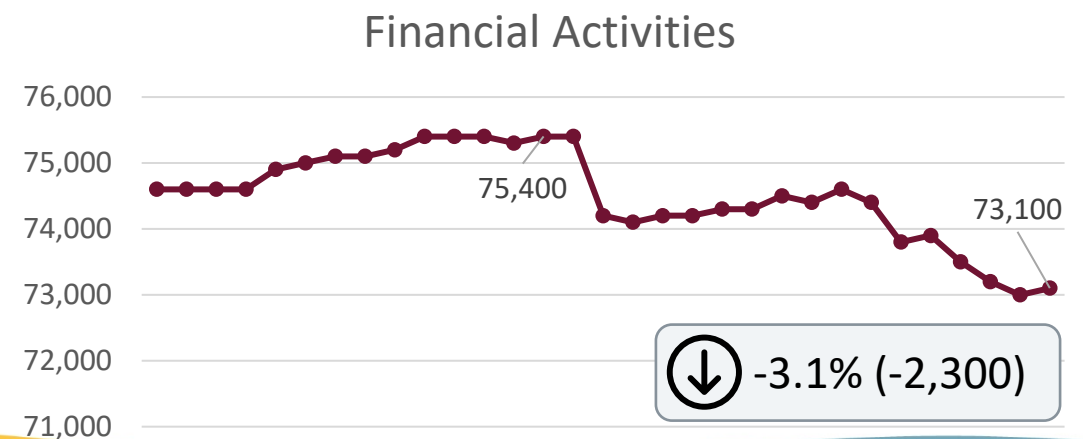
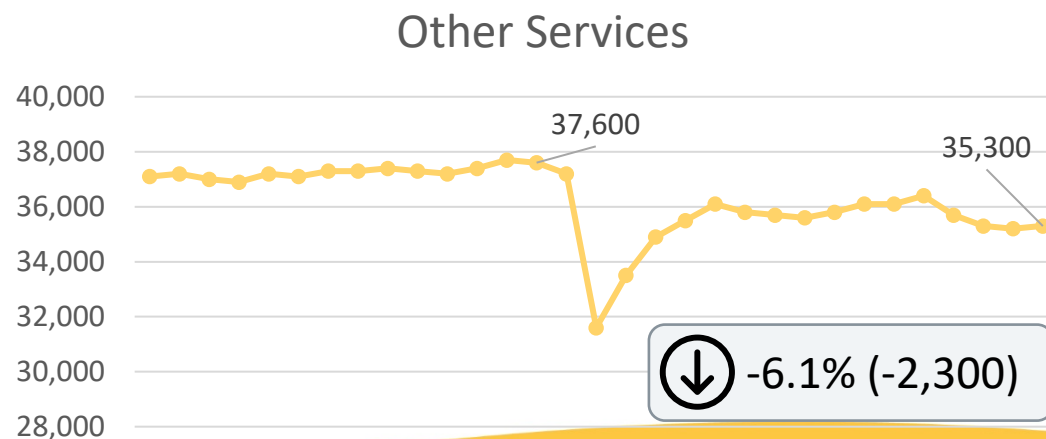
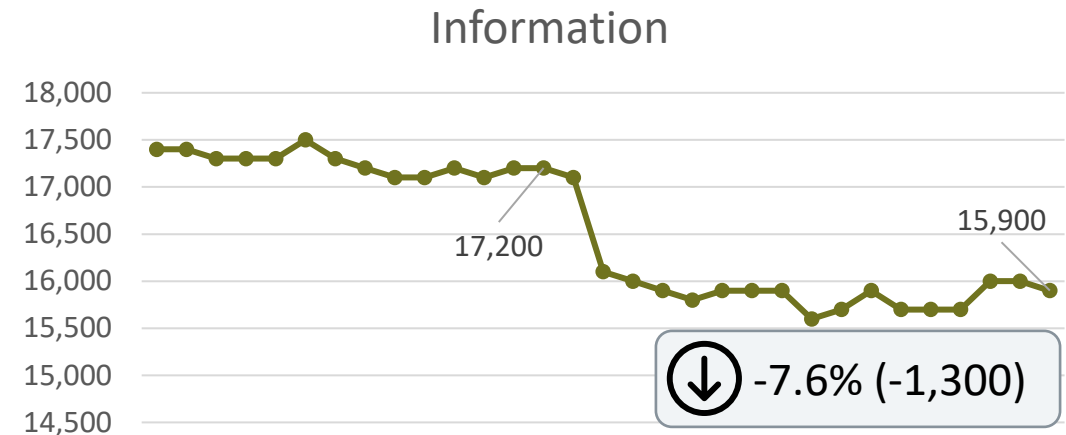
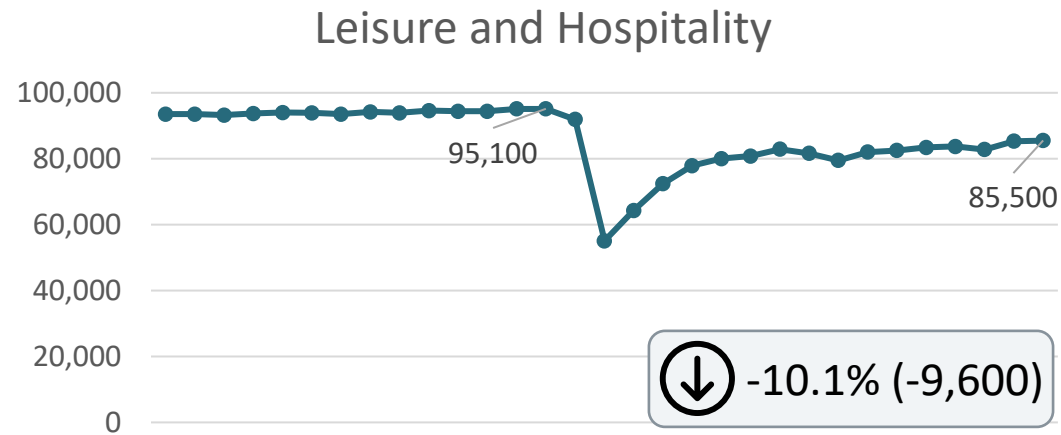
Labeled points and changes from February 2020 to July 2021



Not Back to February 2020 levels

2019-July 2021 Employment for Nebraska-Seasonally Adjusted

Labeled points and changes from February 2020 to July 2021

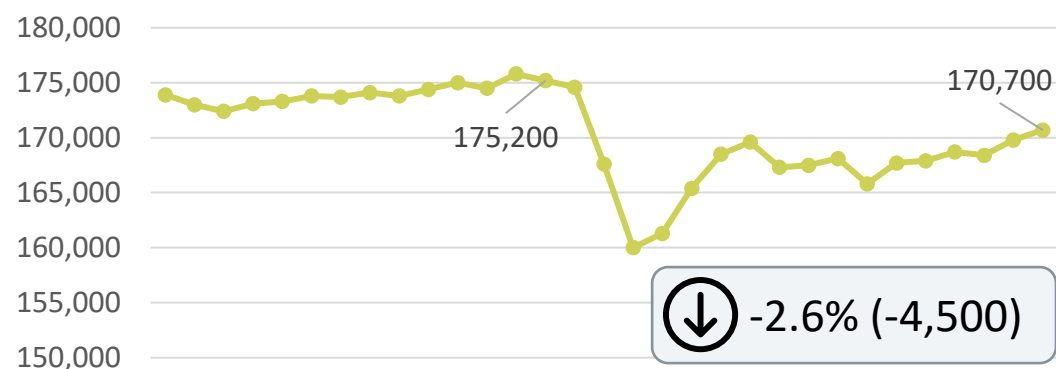


Not Back to February 2020 levels

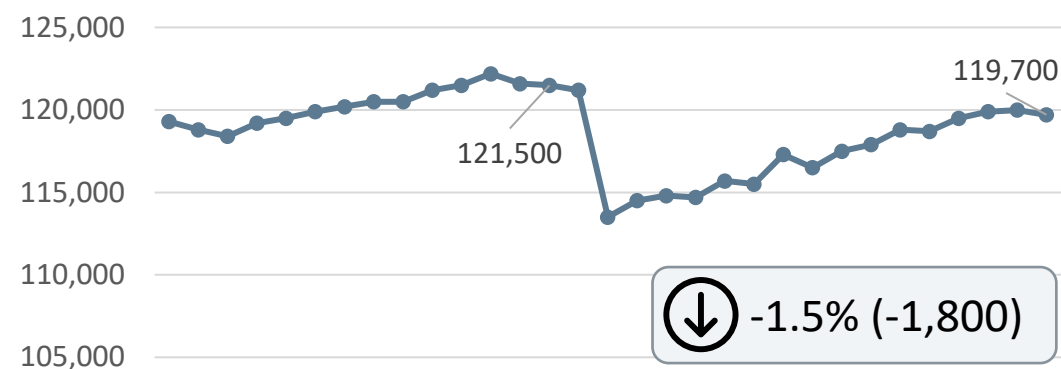
2019-July 2021 Employment for Nebraska-Seasonally Adjusted

Labeled points and changes from February 2020 to July 2021

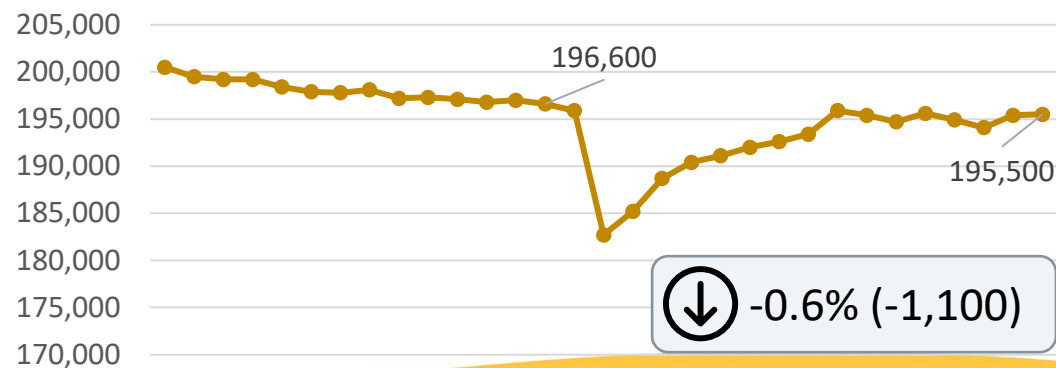
Government



Professional and Business Services



Trade, Transportation, and Utilities

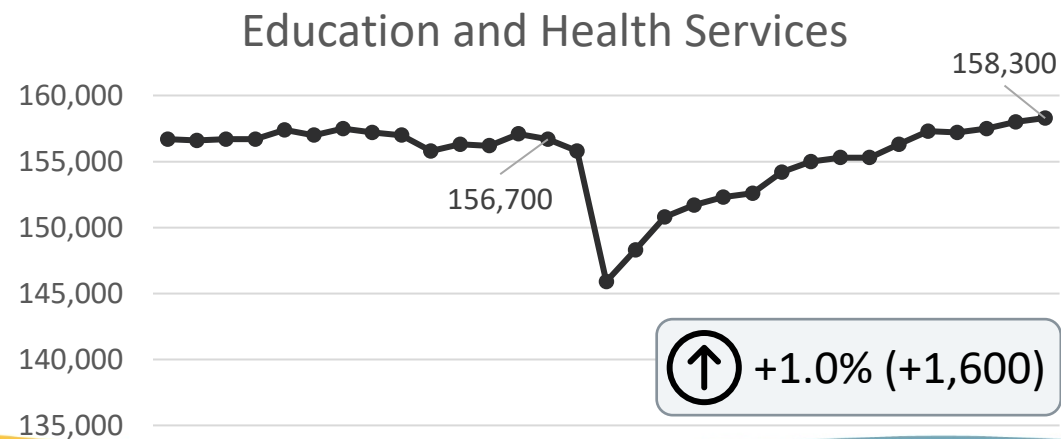
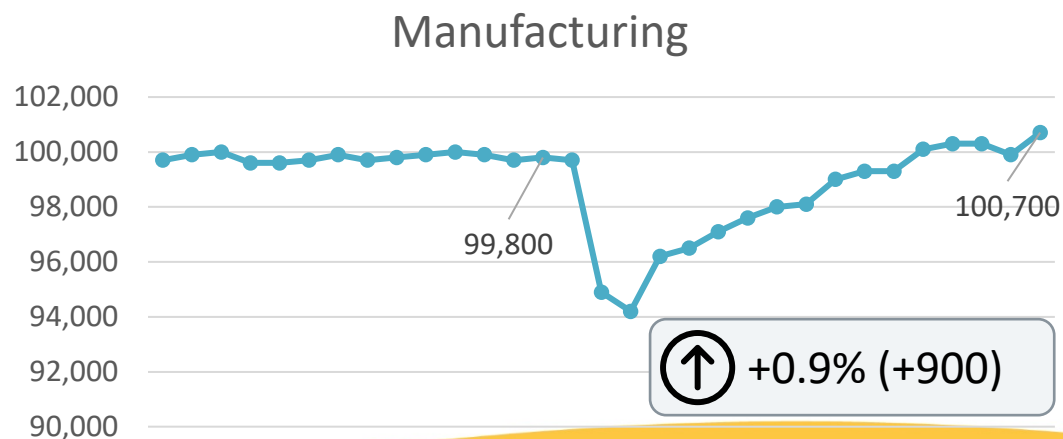
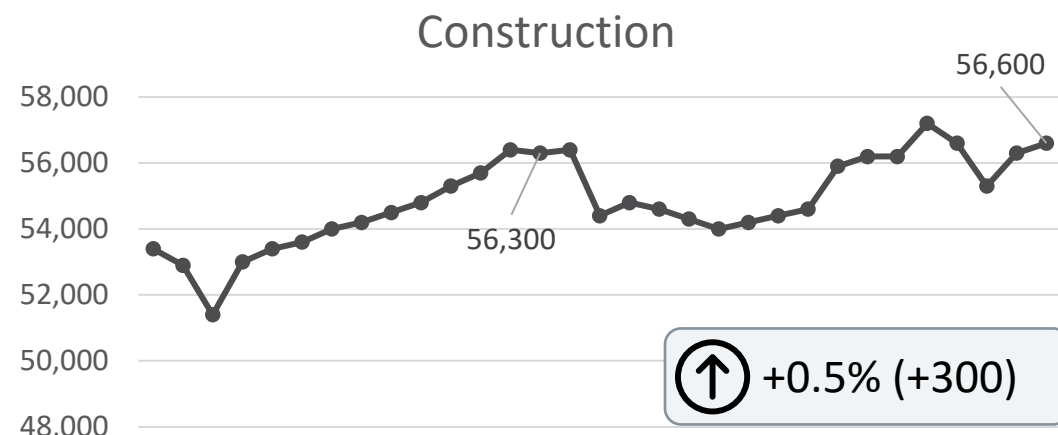
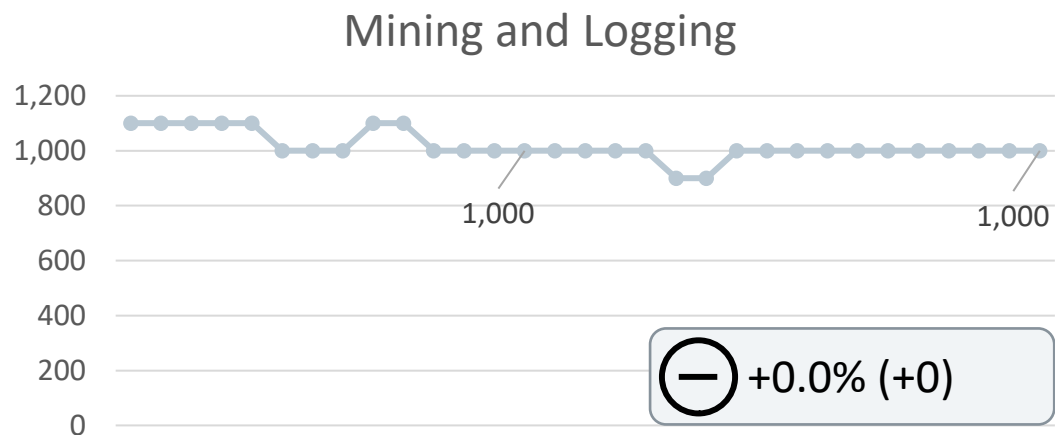


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Back to February 2020 levels

2019-July 2021 Employment for Nebraska-Seasonally Adjusted

Labeled points and changes from February 2020 to July 2021



Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

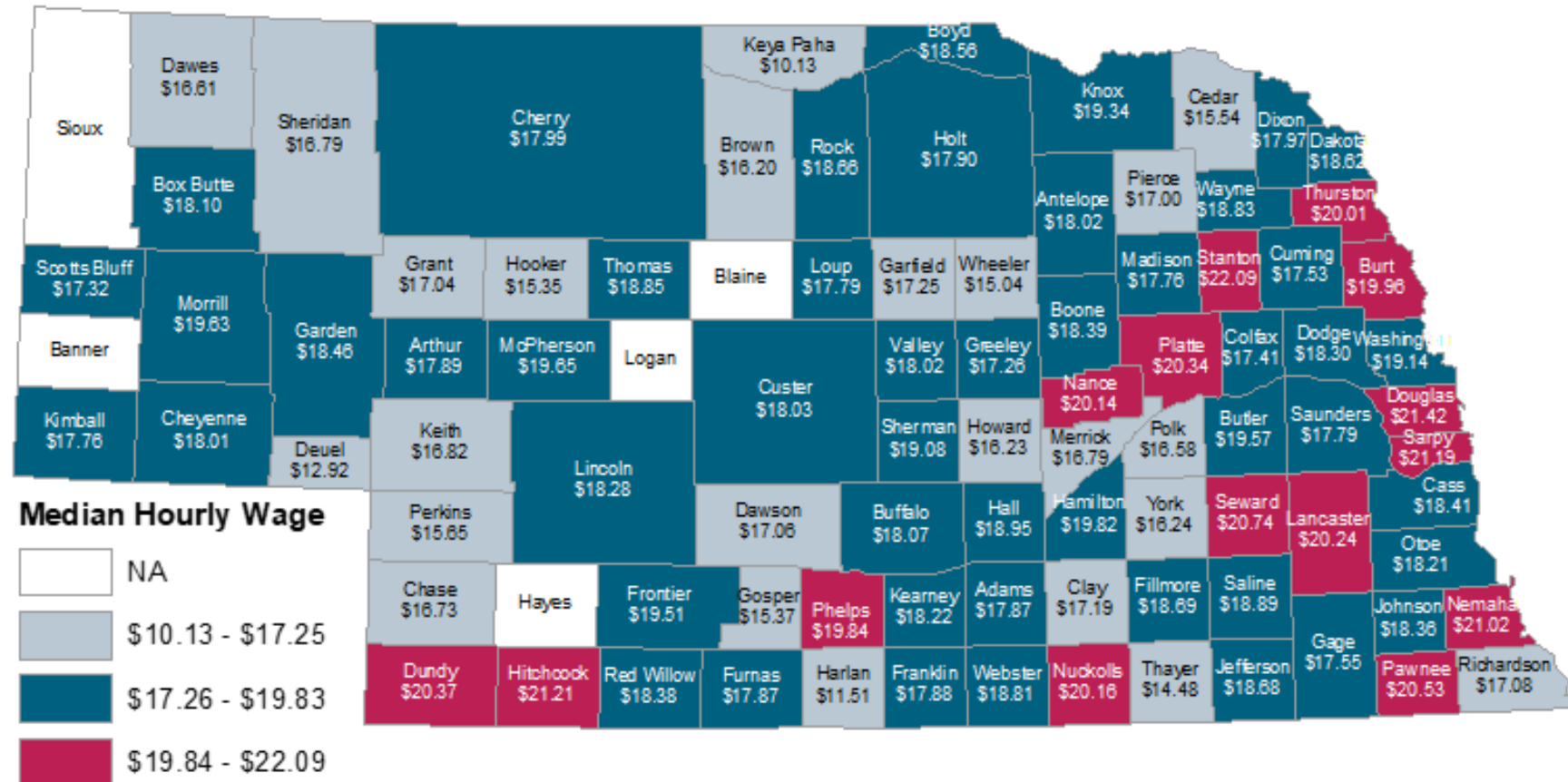
- This data set also provides data on industry employment
- This data comes from UI tax records and covers about 98% of U.S. jobs
- Due to the scope of data collection, there is a time lag and the most current data available is for 1st Quarter of 2021
- This data also shows the impact of COVID, but we will have to wait for more current data to see how we are doing now
- However, this data does have more geographic detail than CES and can be used to examine the impact of the pandemic down to the county level

Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS)

- Data collected from survey panels done twice a year and three years worth of data are used to produce estimates
- Only one of the 6 panels currently reflected in the data was collected during COVID
- Future data releases will include more data collected during the pandemic and we will know more about the impacts then

Median Hourly Wages by County

2nd Quarter 2021



↓ Keya Paha
\$10.13

Stanton
\$22.09

\$19.84

Projections

- Current long-term projections for 2018-2028 were produced in 2020 and not impacted by the pandemic
- The new projections coming out next year for 2020-2030 are expected to include projected recovery from the pandemic since 2020 employment was lower than normal which will lead to higher projected growth



Unemployment Insurance Claims

A review of unemployment insurance claims during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Details on Initial and continued claims from March 2020 to March 2021
- Includes:
 - Total UI numbers since the pandemic onset, payment totals, weeks paid, demographics by continued weeks claimed and a break down of claims by occupation and industry

COVID-19 Impact on Nebraska
Unemployment Insurance Claims

Benefits Report

Survey data collected in the Fall and Winter of 2020 from households and businesses across the state.

- Data set consists of:
 - Over 1,200 business establishments in 76 counties, covering 98.7% of the population
 - Over 1,400 individuals in 81 counties, covering 99.3% of the state's total population

Image by Chad Peltola from Unsplash



Report

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Labor Availability Studies

"Labor availability" describes how many people within a given area are available and willing to take on a new job.

- Research conducted by:
 - The Nebraska Departments of Economic Development and Labor and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research and Bureau of Sociological Research
- Available reports:
 - Labor Availability Report based on data received from individuals
 - Hiring and Training Needs report based on data received from employers
 - Skills Gap Report produced by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Bureau of Business Research



Statewide
Availability Report

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COVID Impacts Report

Designed to measure the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on businesses, labor availability and working from home/teleworking.

- Data collected in the fall and winter of 2020
- Research conducted by:
 - NDOL, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) and the Bureau of Sociological Research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (BOSR)
- Two surveys:
 - Coronavirus Pandemic Labor Availability Survey (LAS)
 - Statewide Survey of Hiring Needs and Pandemic Impacts

2021 COVID Impacts Report

Released: September 2021

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Career pathways workgroup activities and next steps

Activities

- In-demand industry sectors to be considered for career pathway development, 9 industry sectors are identified and are listed in Table 1.
- The top 5 represent those identified as priorities for all 3 of Nebraska's local workforce development areas.

Table 1. Priority in-demand industry sectors

Priority in-demand industry sectors	Greater Lincoln	Greater Omaha	Greater Nebraska
1. Healthcare/medical	X	X	X
2. Manufacturing	X	X	X
3. Accommodation and food services	X	X	X
4. Transportation, distribution, and logistics: Heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers and warehouse workers	X	X	X
5. Construction	X	X	X
6. Educational services (0, K12, and early childhood providers)			X
7. Agribusiness/natural resources			X
8. Technology	X	X	
9. Finance and insurance			X

- The remaining 4 industry sectors align more precisely with only 1 or 2 of the local areas.

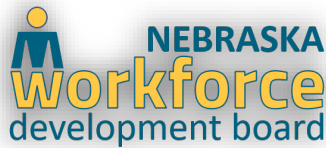
- The workgroup also identified 7 barriers that are perceived to be the most critical barriers for job seeker and worker participation in the selected career pathways.

Table 2. Barriers to job seeker and worker participation in career pathways

Barriers	Factors
1. Childcare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial burden for maintaining adequate childcare can impede continuous employment • Inability to find adequate childcare • Disruptions in childcare service that adversely impact single parents at a high rate
2. Criminal history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusionary policies and practices that create structural barriers for ex-offenders from re-entering the workforce
3. Low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited income that precludes individuals from obtaining necessary training or credentials to meet workforce needs or have transportation resources to fill vacancies in high need areas
4. Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perceptions of disability, including health issues, create unfavorable institutional barriers among some employers who perceive increased costs, lack of worker qualifications, or performance issues due to disabilities or health issues
5. Cultural/language barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural differences that impact norms, values, and beliefs that extend to language barriers for those individuals lacking English language proficiency
6. Literacy/credentials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lacking adequate literacy skills to perform essential employment functions or minimum job requirements (i.e., GED or high school diploma)
7. Aged out of foster care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharged youth lacking adequate housing, transportation, education, or training to enter the workforce effectively

Next steps

- The workgroup will continue work on the barriers effecting job seeker and worker participation, specifically determining:
 - which of the 7 identified barriers align with the selected priority industry sectors; and
 - methods for addressing the identified barriers.
- The workgroup will also begin work to identify barriers to employer participation in career pathways.
- Coordinating with the Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee regarding its work to establish a database of workforce and career pathways initiatives.



Proposed meeting dates and locations for 2021 – 2022:

- December 3, 2021, 9a – 12p
 - Administrative Services Building, Development Center, Lower Level, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
- March 11, 2022, 9a – 12p
 - Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, or
 - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facility (AKA Terry M. Carpenter Telecommunications Center), 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503
- June 10, 2022, 9a – 12p
 - Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, or
 - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facility (AKA Terry M. Carpenter Telecommunications Center), 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503
- September 16, 2022, 9a – 12p
 - Administrative Services Building, 1526 K Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508, or
 - Nebraska Educational Telecommunications (NET) facility (AKA Terry M. Carpenter Telecommunications Center), 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503

Note: Locations are subject to availability.