

Legislature's Planning Committee 2015 Report

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Senator Tanya Cook, Chair

Senator Paul Schumacher, Vice-Chair

Senator Galen Hadley, Speaker of the Legislature

Senator Bob Krist, Chair, Executive Board

Senator Heath Mello, Chair, Appropriations Committee

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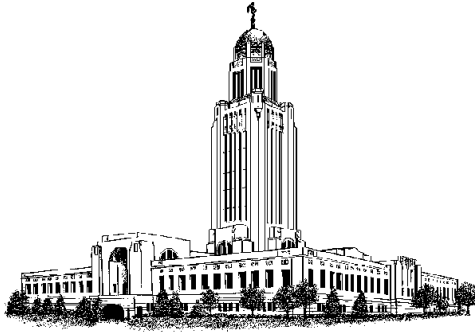
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A message from Senator Tanya Cook, Chair of the Legislature's Planning Committee 2015-2016

The Legislature's Planning Committee serves a vital role in the Nebraska Unicameral. In an era of term limits, the Planning Committee provides future-focused, data-driven research for senators to use in crafting smart, effective policies.

The 2015 Database Update continues to highlight nine key benchmarks – Economy, Agriculture, Natural Resources, State and Local Government, Education, Health and Human Services, Public Safety, Transportation, and Telecommunications – that give a well-rounded picture of the state's strengths, struggles, and opportunities.

The Planning Committee owes a debt of gratitude to Dr. John Bartle and Jerry Deichert, who have worked tirelessly since the Committee's founding to ensure the best, most accurate data is provided to Nebraska's policymakers. Thanks are also in order for the staffers and students at the University of Nebraska-Omaha's College of Public Affairs and Community Service, as well as the other professors and researchers who have worked with the Committee over the years.

I hope the data in this update will inform and inspire ever better policy decisions and discussions in Nebraska. The Planning Committee's collection of studies and data resources will only continue to grow, and I trust that Nebraska's policymakers will continue to utilize the information wisely.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tanya D. Cook".

Senator Tanya Cook
Legislative District 13

Legislature's Planning Committee
2015 Report
Introduction

The Legislature's Planning Committee was created in 2009, pursuant to LB 653, introduced by Senator John Harms, of Scottsbluff. The 2015-16 Committee is:

Senator Tanya Cook, Chair
Senator Paul Schumacher, Vice-Chair
Senator Galen Hadley, Speaker of the Legislature
Senator Bob Krist, Chair, Executive Board
Senator Heath Mello, Chair, Appropriations Committee
Senator Kathy Campbell
Senator Mike Gloor
Senator Merv Riepe
Senator Ken Schilz

When the Committee was formed in 2009, it was decided that, in order to achieve their goals, they would be assisted by the Legislative Research Office and the College of Public Affairs at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Committee also formed three sub-committees: 1) Mission Statement and Goals; 2) Research Data Base; and 3) Special Funding. The Mission Statement was adopted and it was decided that there would be nine categories for data collection: Agriculture, Economy, Education, Health & Human Services, Natural Resources, Public Safety, State & Local Government, Telecommunications, and Transportation. The Goals for each category were adopted and it was decided that the Economy section would be completed first. The Research Data Base sub-committee chose benchmarks for the Economy category and Jerry Deichert and John Bartle, with the assistance of grad student Skiarn Issarachaiyos, began collecting data for each benchmark.

The Mission Statement and Goals committee, having completed their task, then became a second research benchmarking committee. The remaining eight categories were divided up between the two sub-committees and benchmarks were picked for each category. Jerry, John, and Skairn then collected data for each category. They also prepared summaries of data and made note of policy considerations for each category. This report consists of the data, summaries, and policy considerations for each of the nine categories.

The Planning Committee also is in charge of updating the data and policy considerations each year for all benchmarks in each category. We are hopeful that this will be of great assistance to Legislators and staff as they craft and debate legislation each Session.

This Report is the 2015 Update to the initial report. These reports and executive summaries and other reports are available on the Legislature's website at <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/reports/lpc.php>.

Other reports have been added since 2011, and include the following:

- Nebraska Legislative District Quick Facts from the American Community Survey
- Selected Characteristics for Nebraska Legislative Districts from the American Community Survey
- Selected Characteristics for Nebraska Counties from the American Community Survey
- Selected Characteristics for Census Tracts in Douglas, Sarpy, Lancaster, and Hall Counties, Nebraska, from the American Community Survey
- Own Children with All Parents in the Labor Force for the State of Nebraska and Legislative Districts and Counties from the American Community Survey
- Ratio of Income to Poverty Level for Children under 18 Years as a Percentage of the Population for Whom Poverty Is Determined for Nebraska Legislative Districts from the American Community Survey

State Planning Committee Mission Statement

The planning committee of the Legislature is charged with establishing and maintaining a future focus on the priorities of the State. Its responsibility is to assure continuity of policy to achieve long term goals. The committee will do so by collecting and analyzing data, identifying priorities, setting long term goals and establishing benchmarks.

State Planning Committee Goals

Economy

Goal: Lead the nation in the preservation and enhancement of our economy.

Agriculture

Goal: Insure the growth and long-term vitality of agriculture in Nebraska.

Education

Goal: To ensure a well-educated citizenry qualified for successful employment, lifelong learning and effective participation in a democratic society.

Health and Human Services

Goal: Design individual health and human service programs that allow Nebraskans to thrive.

Natural Resources

Goal: Preserve and manage the natural resources in our state for future generations.

Public Safety

Goal: Foster an environment of safety and security throughout Nebraska.

State and local Government

Goal: Promote efficient and effective governmental operations, develop shared priorities and focus on the future of Nebraskans through a disciplined planning process.

Transportation and Telecommunications

Goal: Ensure Nebraska's effective connectivity via transportation and telecommunications.

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Overview of Key Indicators

Introduction

The Nebraska Legislature's Planning Committee was created in 2009 with the passage of LB 653, in order to help establish a process of long-term state planning with the Nebraska Legislature. The committee was created to assist state government in identifying emerging trends, assets, and challenges of the state and the long-term implications of the decisions made by the Nebraska Legislature.

The goals and benchmarks in the database were developed and approved by the Legislature's Planning Committee to present a common-sense and data-driven assessment of key areas important to Nebraskans' quality of life. This database is a joint initiative with the Nebraska Legislature's Planning Committee and the University of Nebraska at Omaha College of Public Affairs and Community Service.

Following is an overview highlighting some of the key indicators from the nine primary benchmarks contained in the Nebraska Legislative Planning Database.

Agriculture

Depending upon the measure, rural Nebraskans generally fared better economically than the typical rural resident nationally. Per capita incomes were higher, and poverty and unemployment rates were considerably lower. Nebraska's rural per capita income for 2014 was \$28,914, which was 7.5% above the national average and has been growing faster than the nation. The number of persons working on farms (including farm proprietors) was nearly 54,000 in 2014. Since 1980, the number of people working on farms fell 40.5%. Surprisingly, between 2007 and 2012, Nebraska farms got smaller in size and increased in numbers.

In 2014, farm marketings brought \$15.7 billion into the state. With the exception of 2009, 2011, and 2012, over the past 30 years, cash receipts from livestock and livestock products have exceeded those from crops. Net farm income resulting from these marketings dropped to \$5.2 billion in 2014. Even though their impact was smaller, government farm payments continued to be an important source of income for Nebraska farmers, as the estimated farm payments to Nebraska farmers amounted to \$698 million, representing about 13% of the total net farm income.

Economy

An analysis of Nebraska's economy shows that the state continued to lag the nation in per capita and average income, average wages and salaries, and in employment growth (with the exception of the some of the past few years). On the other hand, comparative costs generally have been lower in Nebraska than the nation. The business climate in Nebraska is good, but entrepreneurship and technology and innovation rank below most states.

Measures of Nebraska's income recorded a mixed performance when compared to the nation. The state fared better than the nation in terms of poverty. In 2014, Nebraska had the 16th lowest poverty rate in the nation (12.4%). In addition, Nebraska had less income inequality than the nation. However, in 2014, the median household income was \$52,686 in Nebraska compared to \$53,657 for the nation.

In contrast to median household income, Nebraska's per capita personal income in 2014 was 3.3% above the national average. Beginning in 1990, Nebraska's per capita personal income began to increase in relation to the national value. As a result of this growth, Nebraska's 2014 per capita personal income was above the national average for the fourth consecutive year. These last four years were the only

years since 1975 that Nebraska's per capita personal income exceeded the national average. Much of the strength in per capital personal income likely was due to the relatively high commodity prices. With the decline of commodity prices and likely drop in farm income, per capita personal income may again drop below the national average after 2014.

Nebraska's employment grew slightly in 2014 (1.3%) but rose less than the national average. Historically, Nebraska has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, and 2014 was no exception. In 2014, Nebraska's unemployment rate was 3.3% and ranked as the second lowest nationally. Even accounting for underemployment and workers who left the labor force, Nebraska's adjusted unemployment rate in 2014 rose to 7.0%.

A quality workforce is one that can adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing economy. Nebraska needs skilled workers to enhance its economic vitality and to compete in the global marketplace. Using the workforce quality measures in the database, Nebraska generally ranked in the middle one-third of the states. Nebraska continued to rank high on the percentage of high school graduates but low on persons with advanced degrees and science and engineering occupations.

Education

Higher education is important to be successful in today's economy not only for the individual but also for the state. Nebraska has a comparatively high percentage of its high school graduates attending a degree granting institution, most of whom attended a college in Nebraska, and over one-half of the bachelor's students graduated within six years. Nebraska also ranked favorably for public high school graduation and dropout rates.

Early childhood education can have an important role in the long-term development of a child. Less than half (40.0%) of Nebraska children aged three and four were enrolled in an education program. This was below the national percentage. However, nearly all of the Nebraska's children aged 5 to 17 were enrolled in an education program. Private schools were more important in Nebraska than in the nation, as Nebraska recorded a smaller percentage of children aged 5 to 17 who attended public schools (88.5% for Nebraska compared to 89.3% for the nation).

One of the concerns for high school dropouts is their future employment opportunities. The Census Bureau looks at the status of persons aged 16 to 19 years of age who were not enrolled in school and not a high school graduate. In 2014, 2.5% of all persons in the age group met those criteria, and nearly 40% of this group was not in the labor force; that is, they were not working or looking for work.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the highest labor force participation rates in the nation. As a result, a large portion of Nebraska's children have working parents. In 2014, 73.7% of Nebraska's children under 6 years old had all their parents in the labor force.

Nebraska compared favorably in the cost of higher education. In the 2012-13 academic year, the average cost for a full-time equivalent student in a public 4-year institution in Nebraska was \$15,291, ranking 35th nationally. This was below the national average of \$17,474. For 2-year public institutions, Nebraska's costs of \$2,594 were lower than the nation's of \$2,792. One of the reasons that tuition is relatively low in Nebraska is that state and local appropriations for higher education per FTE student in Nebraska were above the national average. Even though tuition may be relatively low in Nebraska, tuition costs are not the only indicator of college affordability. Nebraska's per pupil spending for public elementary and secondary education, in 2011-2012, totaled \$13,142 and was higher than the national per pupil expenditure of \$12,010.

Looking at reading and mathematics scores for Nebraska’s fourth and eighth graders, it appears that Nebraska generally ranked in the middle one-third of the states but ranked toward the bottom of its peer states in 2013. In reading, Nebraska ranked slightly above the national median, and the relative rank increased from fourth to eighth grade. For mathematics, Nebraska ranked above the national median in most categories, and the relative rankings have increased in recent years.

Health and Human Services

Health access is an issue facing many Nebraskans. Even though the state’s rate of uninsurance is lower than the nation’s; still, 9.7% of all Nebraskans, 5.3% of children under 18 years, and 13.6% of those aged 18 to 64 years were uninsured in 2014. In addition, there are many areas of the state (particularly more rural areas) that have shortages of health care professionals. The Nebraska Office of Rural Health looks at professional shortage areas. In 2015, it showed that many of the counties in the western one-third of the state experienced shortages in primary care.

There are several measures of health status reviewed in the database. Compared to the nation, Nebraska had a higher percentage of adult tobacco users, although this percentage has been decreasing since 2000. On the other hand, heavy drinking, adult obesity, and child obesity have been increasing recently. The health of mothers and children is a key component in an overall healthy population. In 2014, 70.0% of Nebraska mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester. The infant mortality rate in 2014 was 5.1 per 1,000 live births. This was down from 2013 and the lowest rate in the past ten years. In 2014, there were 1,411 teen births, which was the lowest number for the 2005-2014 period. Overall, teen births represented 5.3% of all births.

Poverty imposes far-reaching hardships on poor children. Similar to the overall poverty rate discussed in the Economy section, the poverty rate for Nebraska’s children dropped slightly in 2014, with a rate of 16.2%. However, this was among the lowest in the nation, ranking 36th. In 2015, the average number of monthly recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nebraska was 10,374 persons—1,457 adults and 8,917 children. That number was down by more than 8,000 recipients since the peak in 2010.

On a per capita basis, Nebraska’s expenditures on public welfare ranked low nationally and were toward the middle of the states in the region. Looking at Medicaid and CHIP average monthly expenditures per eligible person in FY 2014, the highest expenditures were for the blind and disabled at \$1,850 per eligible person and were \$1,744 per eligible person for the aged. Expenditures for children were the lowest on an eligible person basis (\$275). With the exception of ADC adult, the other categories of expenditures per eligible person were higher in FY 2014 than in most of the previous eight years. Expenditures for the aged population should be viewed with caution because the impact of the aging baby boom will not be felt for a few more years.

Natural Resources

Nebraska’s air quality was high, as indicated by relatively low total air pollution emissions (15th in the nation), toxic air emissions (31st) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion (14th).

Nebraska had 15 hazardous waste sites on the national priority list in 2016; the 25th fewest in the United States. For toxic chemical releases Nebraska ranked 32nd, but for toxic surface water discharges Nebraska ranked 1st in the region. Almost all of the toxic surface water discharges were nitrate compounds. For 2011 Nebraska’s community water systems were among the top 3 states in the region to have reported health-based violations. The majority of these issues are due to total coliform bacteria

violations or nitrate concentrations. The density of irrigation wells is highest in the Platte River Valley, and low in the Panhandle, southwestern Nebraska and parts of eastern Nebraska. Ground water level changes between 2014 and 2015 show more areas of increase than decline.

Electricity in Nebraska costs less than the national average, although the price is rising faster. Nebraska is a relatively high consumer of energy. Nebraska ranks low in the percentage of electricity generated through renewable resources, but that is increasing. Nebraska's percentage of electricity generated by renewable resources increased from 5.4% to 9.0% but is still near the bottom of the region.

Public Safety

In public safety, Nebraska has lower crime rates and spends less than the national average; however, there are some troubling trends. Nebraska's rate of 2.9 murders per 100,000 is less than the national rate of 4.5, ranking 33rd in the nation. This rate has been volatile in recent years; it rose from 2.2 in 2009 to 3.0 in 2010, 3.6 in 2011, then down to 2.9 in 2014. The violent crime rate in Nebraska rose from 262.1 crimes per 100,000 persons to 280.4 in 2014. Nebraska ranked 33rd in the nation for violent crime in 2014. Nebraska's property crime rate was down slightly and has been relatively stable recently. Nebraska ranked 26th in the nation in property crime. Nebraska reported 11,965 arrests for drug abuse violations in 2014, ranking 27th nationally.

Nebraska's crime trends for juveniles are problematic in some areas. In 2014, Nebraska had the second highest rate in the nation for juvenile arrests for property crime. The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime in Nebraska was below the United States average. Nebraska ranks 21st in the nation in juvenile arrests for violent crime. Nebraska's juvenile arrest rate for violent crime increased since 2012 but still is well below its peak in 2009. With the exception of 2014, Nebraska's weapons arrest rate had been lower than the national average since 2005, but this rate has been volatile.

Nebraska's expenditures for public safety are below national levels at both the state and local level. More is spent at the local level on this function than at the state level. Nebraska's per capita local expenditures ranked 39th and state spending ranked 27th nationally.

Recent trends in recidivism at the Kearney and youth rehabilitation and treatment centers are down, but there are sizeable year-to-year fluctuations at the Geneva Center.

Since June 2005, the state has experienced 30 federally declared disasters, 14 of these since 2010. The flooding in the summer of 2011 cost \$106.6 million in public damages, the largest disaster since winter storms in January 2007. Spring storms in November June 2015 caused nearly \$14 million in public damages.

As of August 2012, the entire state is covered by Phase II wireless 911 status which provides the geographic location of the call to the answering point.

State and Local Government

Nebraska's low population density, strong support for public education, and the presence of public power are three important factors that affect government. The low density is part of the reason why Nebraska is high in the number of local governments and in local government employees per capita. Nebraska employs 34% more elementary and secondary school teachers per 10,000 population than the national average and spends more on this function. Public electric utilities are another distinctive feature of Nebraska that causes local government employment to be high. However, state and local government employee pay is lower than the national average in all categories except for local utilities.

State government employment per 10,000 population decreased in 2013, although Nebraska remains above average in this measure.

State and local government general spending in Nebraska is below the national average. Two functions that have been consistently above average over time in Nebraska are education and transportation, reflecting in part the high number of teachers and the low population density, respectively. Nebraska was lower than the national average in local spending for all functions with the exception of education, transportation, and utilities. The support for these three functions of government reflects the state's preferences, demographics and history.

State general revenue per capita was below the national average and was relatively stable since last year. Local general revenue ranked 8th nationally and was 10.4% above the national average. Total state tax revenue is below the national average in all categories other than state individual income tax and the miscellaneous category. The local property tax is 13.3% above average, local motor vehicle license taxes are over eight times the national average, and "other taxes," are also significantly above the national average. Local tax collections are low for general and selective sales taxes, and zero for local income taxes. Nebraska is particularly low in state debt outstanding per capita and high in local debt outstanding. Nebraska's state pensions are generally healthier than most states. The ratio of assets to liabilities is 80.0%, 14th in the nation. For unfunded pension liabilities, Nebraska is 42nd nationally (a lower ranking indicates a lower unfunded liability).

Telecommunications

Almost all Nebraska households have telephone service (land line or cell phone), and the vast majority of Nebraskans have a cell phone. As of December 2013, there were 1.74 million cell phone subscribers in Nebraska.

The ability to receive and transmit digital content or services at high speeds is a fundamental component of the telecommunications industry. In 2014, 16% of Nebraska households did not have access to advanced telecommunications (6% of the households in urban areas and 51% of the households in rural areas).

One way to make sure advanced telecommunication services such as broadband are available to all Nebraskans is through the Universal Service Fund. There was a total of \$37.3 million spent from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund in 2013.

Transportation

Nebraska's transportation is generally good, in part because of strong financial support. Nebraska is 42% above the national average in highway spending at the local level and 33% higher than the national average at the state level. As a result, interstate highways were rated 99% smooth, and other state roads were 91% smooth. In overall highway performance, the state highway system was ranked 2nd in the nation. However, almost one-quarter of the state's bridges were rated as deficient.

Transportation safety shows a mixed profile. Traffic fatalities were slightly higher than the national average. The number of railroad accidents and incidents in Nebraska was high and ranked 18th nationally (a lower ranking indicates higher accident rate) but decreased by 54% since 2008.

The most notable difference in commuting patterns is that only 0.7% of Nebraskans used public transit, in 2014, compared to 5.1% nationally. Nebraska was higher in the percentage that drove to work alone,

and this was slightly higher than 2013. Average commuting time in Nebraska continues to be an asset for Nebraska. In 2014 the average commute was 18.2 minutes, the 3rd lowest in the nation.

Airline passenger boardings increased by 2.3% in 2014. The vast majority (about 91%) were from Eppley Airfield in Omaha. Boardings increased significantly at Grand Island but dropped in Kearney.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Agriculture

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska's economy by reviewing four broad areas: farm income; farm receipts; agricultural diversity; and farm operations. When available, data are presented for the period 1980 to 2014. At other times, the period is 2002 to 2012, the most current available data at the time the data files were put together are used. For the Census of Agriculture this is 2012 since it is conducted every five years, with 2012 being the most recent year with available data.

Farm Income

Historically, measures of Nebraska's rural income have been slightly below the national average. However, 2010 began a series of good years for rural Nebraska. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that Nebraska's rural per capita income for 2014 was \$28,914, which was 7.5% above the national average of \$26,902. Rural Nebraska's income ranked 21st nationally and was in the middle of the region. Although there have been year-to-year fluctuations, since 2007, Nebraska's rural per capita income has been growing faster than the nation's. Between 2007 and 2014, Nebraska's growth was 3.4% compared to 6.2% loss for the United States.

The U.S. Census Bureau measured the poverty rate for persons living in rural Nebraska in 2014. Using this measure, rural Nebraskans also fared better than the nation with a poverty rate of 9.5% compared to 13.3% for the nation. Regionally, Nebraska had the 5th lowest rural poverty rate. Since 2007, rural Nebraska's poverty rate has fluctuated from year to year, but there has been a slow and steady increase in the poverty rate.

Nebraska ranked 22nd nationally and 5th regionally in the number of persons working on farms (this includes farm proprietors). Since 1980, the number of people working on farms fell 40.5%. Even though farm employment increased by nearly 2,800 persons between 2007 and 2014, the 2014 employment level was slightly below the most recent peak in 2011. Despite the fact that rural employment has been declining, Nebraska's rural unemployment rate was 2.6% in 2014 and was the lowest in the nation.

Farm Receipts

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported cash receipts from livestock and livestock products in 2014 at \$15.7 billion. This ranked 3rd nationally and only behind Iowa in the region. Cash receipts from crops totaled \$9.0 billion in 2014. Nebraska ranked 5th nationally but was lower than Iowa and Minnesota in the region. Historically, cash receipts from livestock and livestock products have exceeded those from crops, but in 2012, 2011, and 2009, crop receipts actually exceeded those from livestock and livestock products. These were the only three years in more than 30 years where crop receipts exceeded those from livestock.

Although still an important source of income for Nebraska farmers, government farm payments were a relatively smaller share of farm income. In 2014, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated farm payments to Nebraska farmers were \$698 million. This was the 3rd highest nationally and 1st in the region. 2014's payments represented the highest payouts since 2006.

Even though declining since its peak in 2011, net farm income for Nebraska was \$5.2 billion in 2014. This was 2nd nationally and highest in the region. Compared to 2006, Nebraska's net farm income is more than \$3 billion higher.

Agricultural Diversity

Agricultural diversity looks at the commodities produced in Nebraska and exported from Nebraska. In 2014, the top five agricultural commodities produced in Nebraska were cattle and calves; corn; soybeans; hogs; and wheat. The five most important agricultural exports were soybeans; corn; beef and veal; feeds and other food grains; and soybean meal. Nationally, Nebraska ranked 5th in the value of exports.

Farm Operations

Every five years, in years ending in 2 and 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts a Census of Agriculture.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, Nebraska had 45.3 million acres in farmland (including ranches). This was a decrease of 1.2% since 2002. Between 2007 and 2012, the average Nebraska farm size decreased from 953 acres to 907 acres (-4.8%). Regionally, three states experienced a decrease in the average farm size. Nationally, the average farm size increased from 418 acres to 434 acres. Approximately, 43% of Nebraska farms and ranches had sales of \$100 thousand or more, and only 9% had sales of \$1 million or more.

Nebraska farm operators were less likely to be full owners than farm operators nationally and in the region. Overall, in 2012, 49.8% of Nebraska farm operators were full owners (compared to part owners and renters). For the nation, the comparable figure was 69.4%.

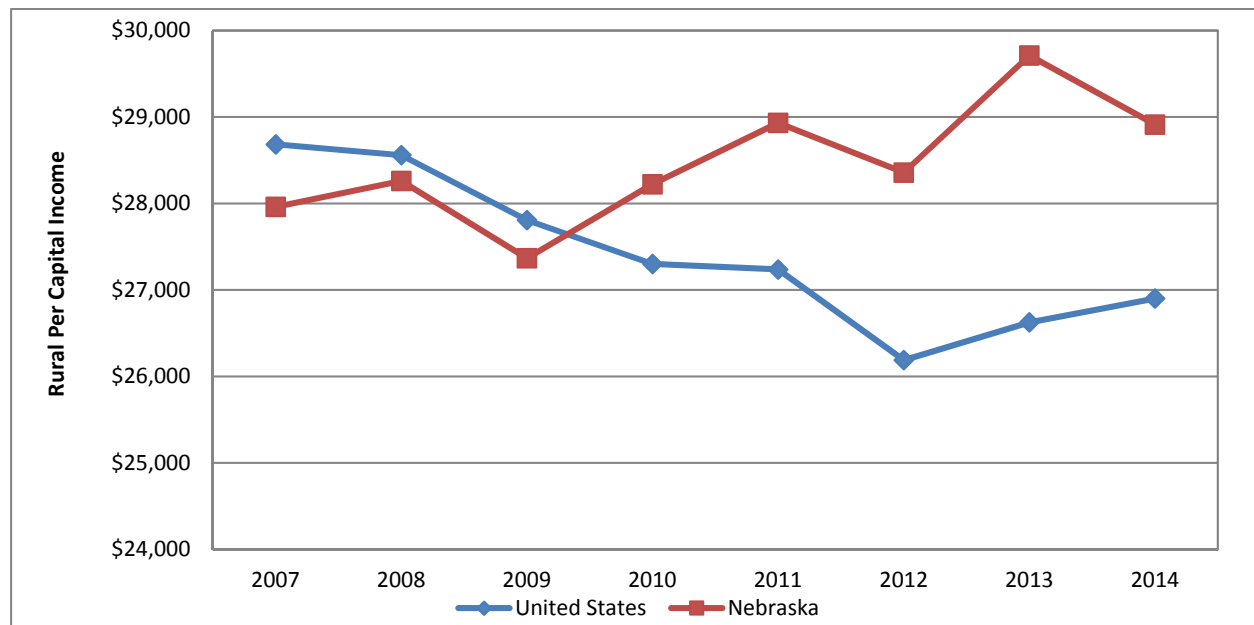
Farm Income

Rural Per Capita Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Per Capita Income | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$26,902 | |
| North Dakota | \$34,650 | 7 |
| Colorado | \$34,544 | 8 |
| Wyoming | \$32,614 | 9 |
| Minnesota | \$31,107 | 12 |
| Iowa | \$29,320 | 18 |
| Nebraska | \$28,914 | 21 |
| South Dakota | \$27,818 | 27 |
| Kansas | \$27,756 | 28 |
| Missouri | \$23,946 | 39 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Rural Per Capita Income (Inflation-adjusted dollars*), Nebraska and the United States: 2007-2014



* 2014 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars

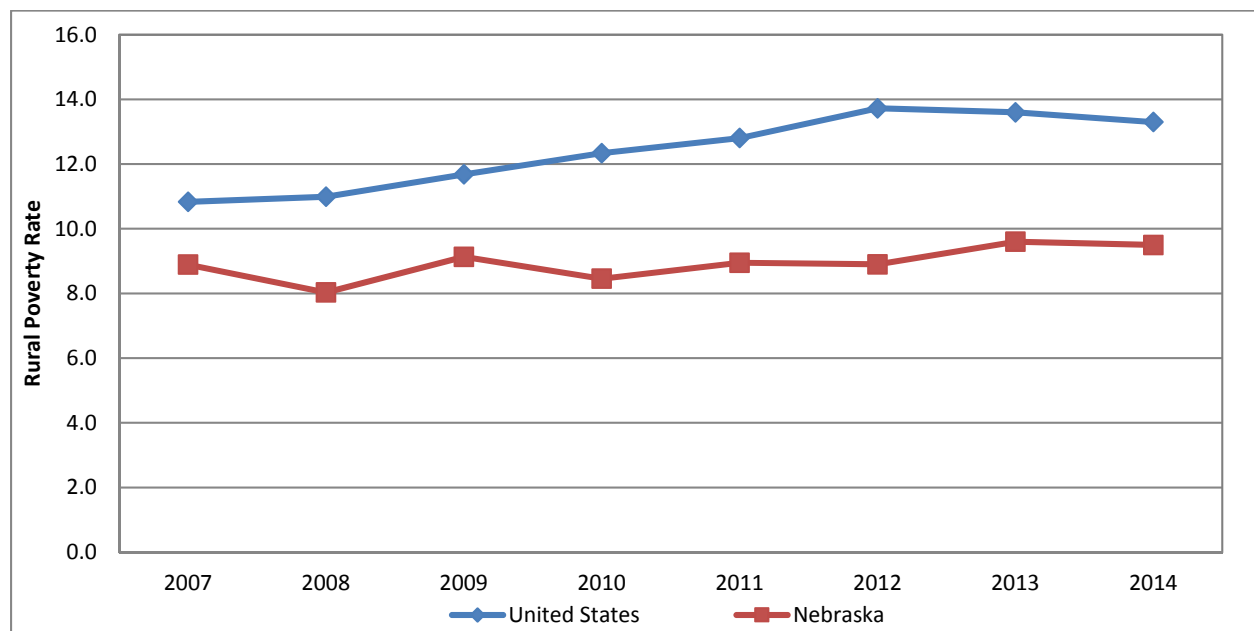
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Rural Poverty Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Rural Poverty Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| United States | 13.3% | |
| Missouri | 14.5% | 18 |
| South Dakota | 14.5% | 18 |
| Kansas | 10.3% | 33 |
| North Dakota | 9.9% | 35 |
| Nebraska | 9.5% | 38 |
| Iowa | 9.0% | 40 |
| Colorado | 8.8% | 42 |
| Minnesota | 8.5% | 43 |
| Wyoming | 8.0% | 44 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Rural Poverty Rate, Nebraska and the United States: 2007-2014



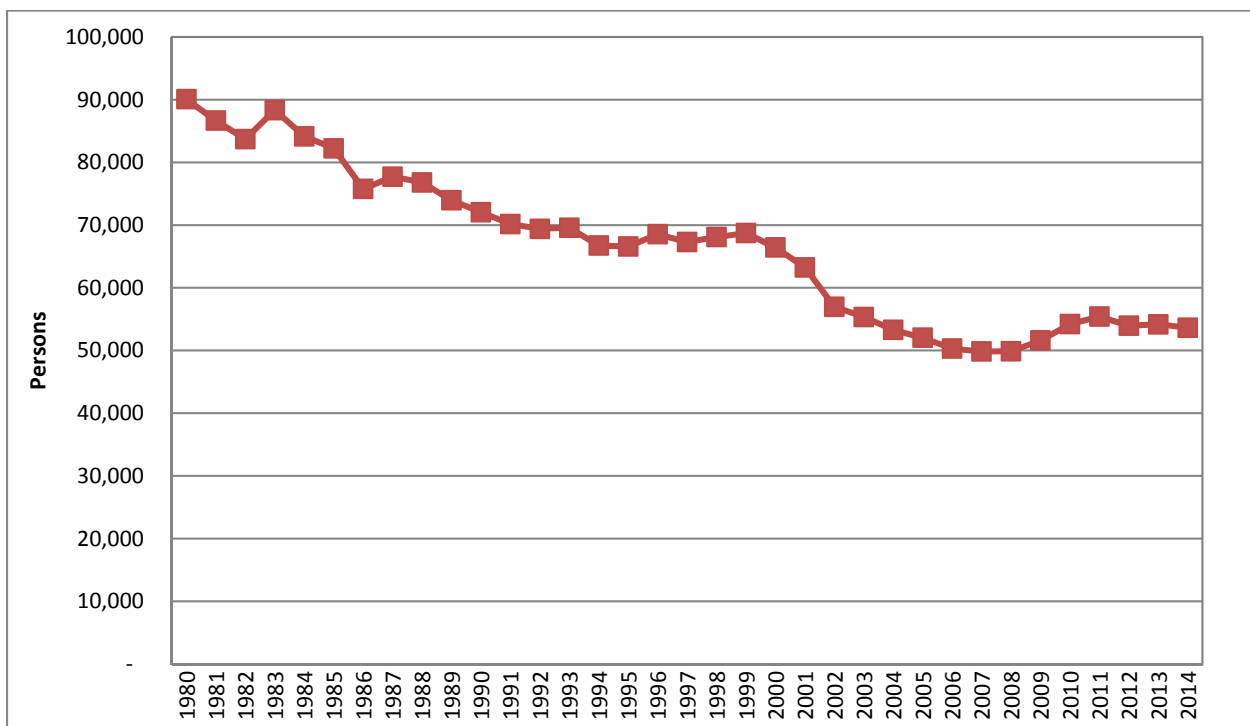
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Farm Employment, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Persons Employed | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| United States | 2,643,000 | |
| Missouri | 96,803 | 3 |
| Iowa | 87,080 | 6 |
| Minnesota | 78,724 | 11 |
| Kansas | 64,636 | 17 |
| Nebraska | 53,634 | 22 |
| Colorado | 43,488 | 27 |
| South Dakota | 33,923 | 29 |
| North Dakota | 33,814 | 30 |
| Wyoming | 13,928 | 40 |

Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Farm Employment, Nebraska: 1980-2014



Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Rural Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Unemployment Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 6.5% | |
| Missouri | 6.5% | 22 |
| Colorado | 5.0% | 38 |
| Minnesota | 4.3% | 44 |
| South Dakota | 4.2% | 45 |
| Kansas | 4.1% | 46 |
| Iowa | 3.9% | 47 |
| Wyoming | 3.3% | 48 |
| North Dakota | 2.7% | 49 |
| Nebraska | 2.6% | 50 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Farm Receipts

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Cash Receipts (\$1,000) | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$233,586,810 | |
| Iowa | \$18,481,647 | 2 |
| Nebraska | \$15,658,780 | 3 |
| Kansas | \$13,323,223 | 5 |
| Minnesota | \$9,575,431 | 8 |
| Missouri | \$6,296,770 | 11 |
| Colorado | \$5,801,104 | 14 |
| South Dakota | \$5,083,923 | 17 |
| North Dakota | \$1,797,482 | 34 |
| Wyoming | \$1,389,870 | 37 |

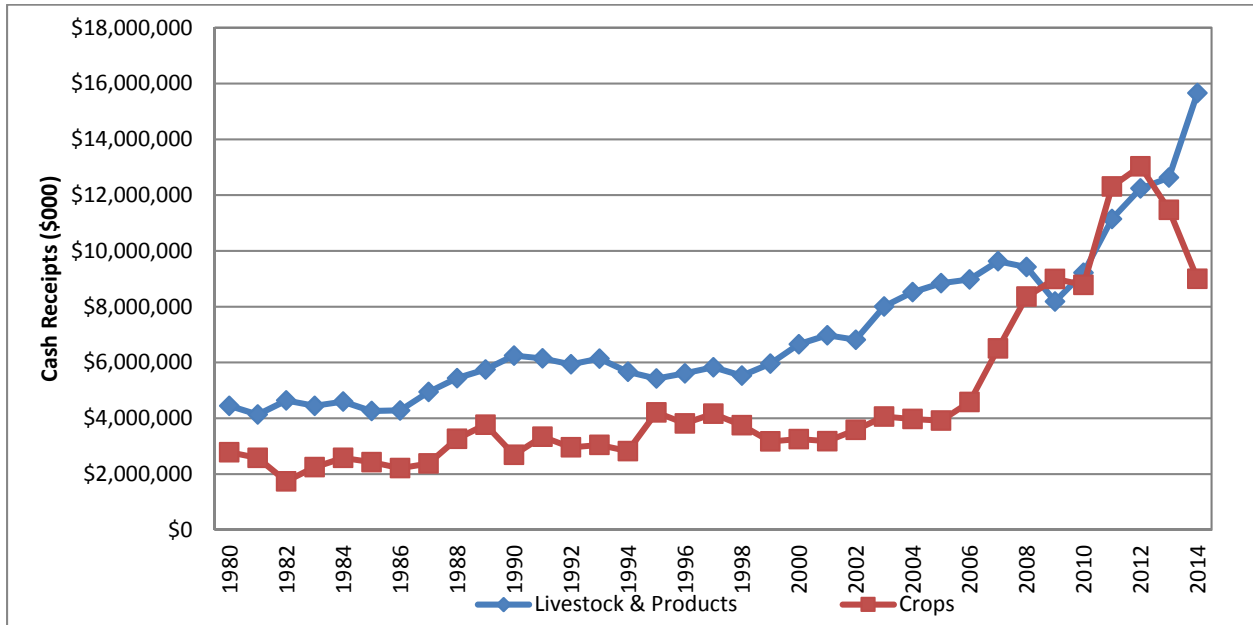
Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Cash Receipts from Crops, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Cash Receipts (\$000) | National Rank |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$194,876,666 | |
| Iowa | \$13,150,015 | 3 |
| Minnesota | \$9,535,487 | 4 |
| Nebraska | \$9,001,116 | 5 |
| North Dakota | \$6,250,723 | 9 |
| South Dakota | \$5,550,894 | 11 |
| Missouri | \$4,896,501 | 13 |
| Kansas | \$4,815,266 | 14 |
| Colorado | \$1,976,973 | 29 |
| Wyoming | \$341,928 | 41 |

Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products and Crops, Nebraska: 1980-2014



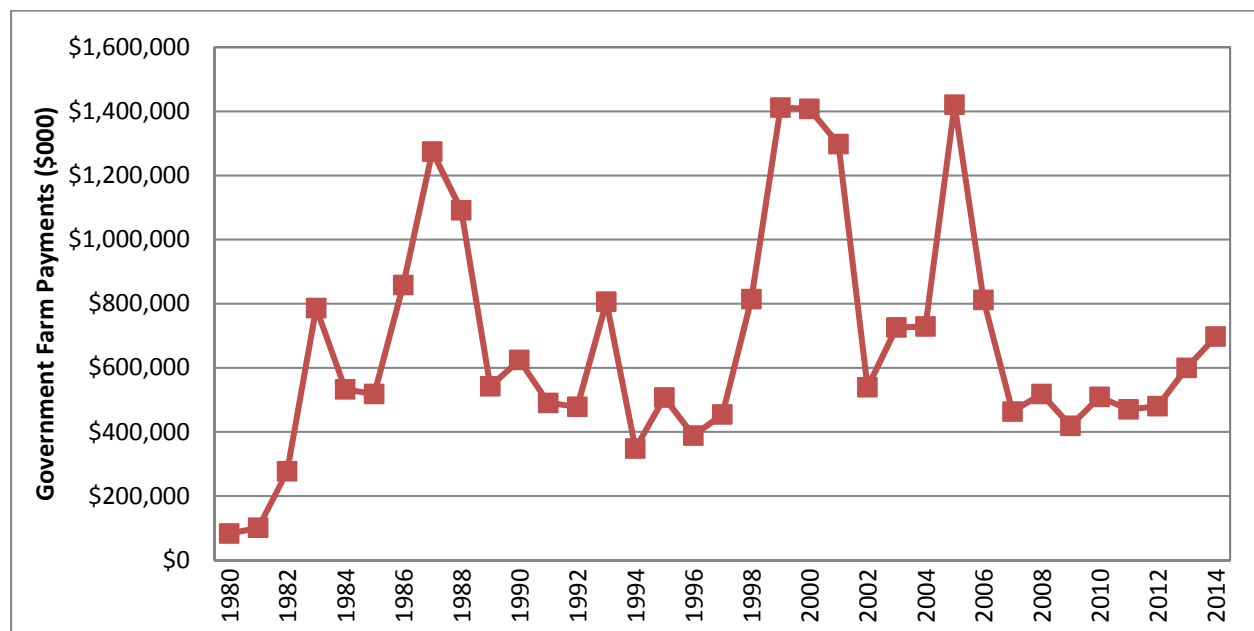
Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Government Farm Payments, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Payments (\$000) | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$9,766,850 | |
| Nebraska | \$697,637 | 3 |
| Kansas | \$665,466 | 4 |
| Missouri | \$510,195 | 5 |
| South Dakota | \$458,833 | 6 |
| Iowa | \$450,438 | 7 |
| Colorado | \$285,927 | 10 |
| Minnesota | \$261,397 | 12 |
| North Dakota | \$217,242 | 16 |
| Wyoming | \$156,277 | 20 |

Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Government Farm Payments, Nebraska: 1980-2014



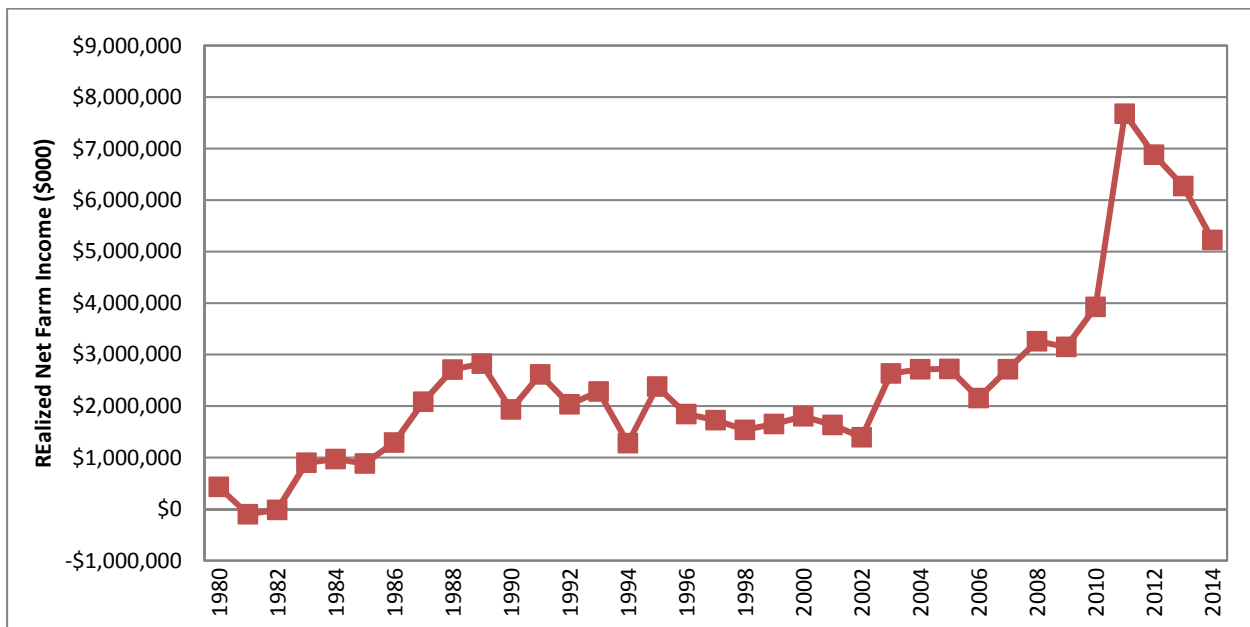
Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Realized Net Farm Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Income (\$000) | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$78,739,184 | |
| Nebraska | \$5,225,599 | 2 |
| Iowa | \$4,736,540 | 3 |
| Minnesota | \$3,532,307 | 5 |
| Missouri | \$2,162,490 | 12 |
| South Dakota | \$1,709,105 | 18 |
| Kansas | \$1,572,686 | 21 |
| Colorado | \$506,257 | 32 |
| North Dakota | \$312,454 | 36 |
| Wyoming | \$117,973 | 41 |

Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Realized Net Farm Income, Nebraska: 1980-2014



Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Agricultural Diversity

Top 5 Agriculture Commodities, Nebraska: 2014

| Commodities | Value of receipts (\$000) | Percent of Nebraska total farm receipts | Percent of United States total farm receipts |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| 1. Cattle and calves | \$12,854,372 | 52.0% | 15.8% |
| 2. Corn | \$6,146,169 | 24.9% | 11.4% |
| 3. Soybeans | \$2,960,352 | 12.0% | 7.2% |
| 4. Hogs | \$1,031,039 | 4.2% | 3.9% |
| 5. Wheat | \$370,136 | 1.5% | 3.1% |
| All commodities | \$24,717,649 | | 5.9% |

Source: State Fact Sheets, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Top 5 Agriculture Exports, Estimates, Nebraska: FY 2014

| | Value (\$ Million) | National Rank |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| 1. Soybeans | \$1,728.60 | 5 |
| 2. Corn | \$1,212.40 | 3 |
| 3. Beef and veal | \$1,128.70 | 1 |
| 4. Feeds and other feed grains | \$1,007.70 | 3 |
| 5. Soybean meal | \$397.60 | 5 |
| Total exports | \$7,262.20 | 5 |

Source: State Fact Sheets, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Farm Operations

Total Farmland and Percentage Change in Total Farmland, Regional Comparison: 2002, 2007, and 2012

| | Millions of Acres | | | 2012 Regional Rank | 2002-2012 Percentage Change |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 | | |
| United States | 938.3 | 922.1 | 914.5 | NA | -2.5% |
| Colorado | 31.1 | 31.6 | 31.9 | 5 | 2.6% |
| Iowa | 31.7 | 30.7 | 30.6 | 6 | -3.5% |
| Kansas | 47.2 | 46.3 | 46.1 | 1 | -2.3% |
| Minnesota | 27.5 | 26.9 | 26.0 | 9 | -5.4% |
| Missouri | 29.9 | 29.0 | 28.3 | 8 | -5.6% |
| Nebraska | 45.9 | 45.5 | 45.3 | 2 | -1.2% |
| North Dakota | 39.3 | 39.7 | 39.3 | 4 | -0.1% |
| South Dakota | 43.8 | 43.7 | 43.3 | 3 | -1.2% |
| Wyoming | 34.4 | 30.2 | 30.4 | 7 | -11.7% |

Source: 2002 and 2007 Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Number of Farms, Regional Comparison: 2002, 2007, and 2012

| | Number of Farms | | | 2012 Regional Rank |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 | |
| United States | 2,128,982 | 2,204,792 | 2,109,303 | |
| Missouri | 106,797 | 107,825 | 99,171 | 1 |
| Iowa | 90,655 | 92,856 | 88,637 | 2 |
| Minnesota | 80,839 | 80,992 | 74,542 | 3 |
| Kansas | 64,414 | 65,531 | 61,773 | 4 |
| Nebraska | 49,355 | 47,712 | 49,969 | 5 |
| Colorado | 31,369 | 37,054 | 36,180 | 6 |
| South Dakota | 31,736 | 31,169 | 31,989 | 7 |
| North Dakota | 30,619 | 31,970 | 30,961 | 8 |
| Wyoming | 9,422 | 11,069 | 11,736 | 9 |

Source: State Fact Sheets, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Percentage Change in Number of Farms, Regional Comparison: 2007-2012

| | Percentage Change | Regional Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| United States | -4.3% | |
| Wyoming | 6.0% | 1 |
| Nebraska | 4.7% | 2 |
| South Dakota | 2.6% | 3 |
| Colorado | -2.4% | 4 |
| North Dakota | -3.2% | 5 |
| Iowa | -4.5% | 6 |
| Kansas | -5.7% | 7 |
| Minnesota | -8.0% | 8 |
| Missouri | -8.0% | 9 |

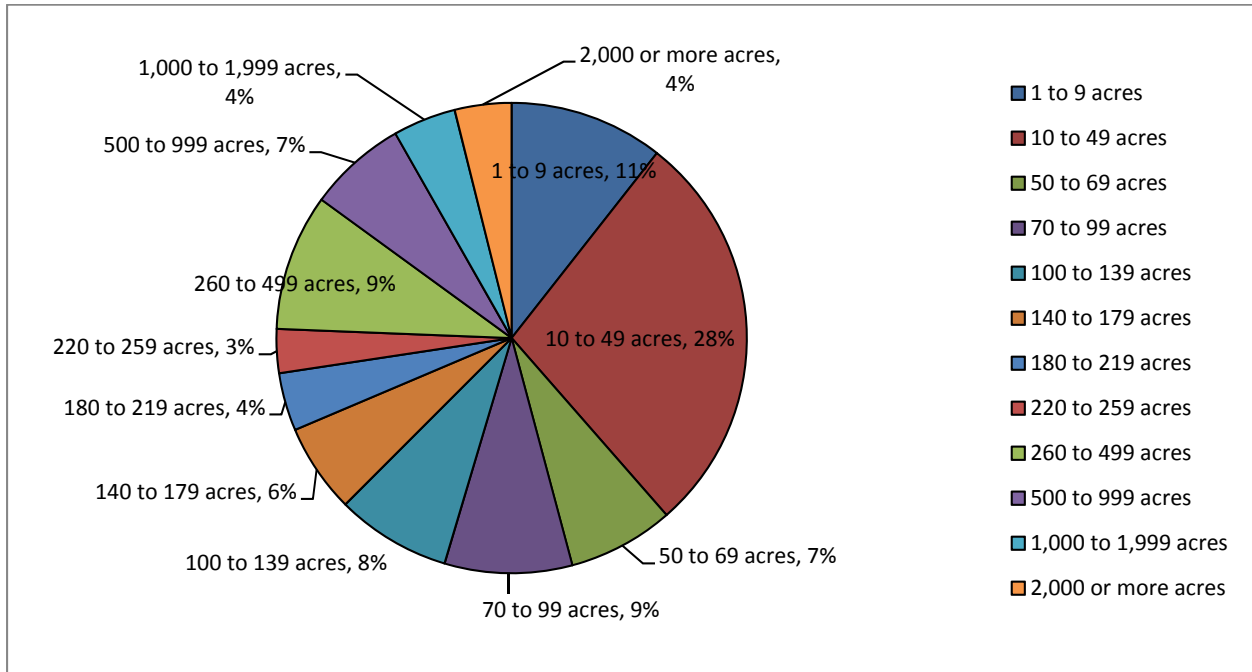
Sources: 2002, 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture and State Fact Sheets, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Average Farm Size and Percentage Change in Average Farm Size, Regional Comparison: 2002, 2007, and 2012

| | Average Size of Farm (Acres) | | | 2012 Regional Rank | 2007-2012 Percentage Change |
|-----------------|------------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 2002 | 2007 | 2012 | | |
| United States | 441 | 418 | 434 | | 3.8% |
| Wyoming | 3,651 | 2,726 | 2,587 | 1 | -5.1% |
| South Dakota | 1,380 | 1,410 | 1,352 | 2 | -3.5% |
| North Dakota | 1,283 | 1,241 | 1,268 | 3 | 2.2% |
| Nebraska | 930 | 953 | 907 | 4 | -4.8% |
| Colorado | 991 | 853 | 881 | 5 | 3.3% |
| Kansas | 733 | 707 | 747 | 6 | 5.7% |
| Minnesota | 340 | 332 | 349 | 7 | 5.1% |
| Iowa | 350 | 331 | 345 | 8 | 4.2% |
| Missouri | 280 | 269 | 285 | 9 | 5.9% |

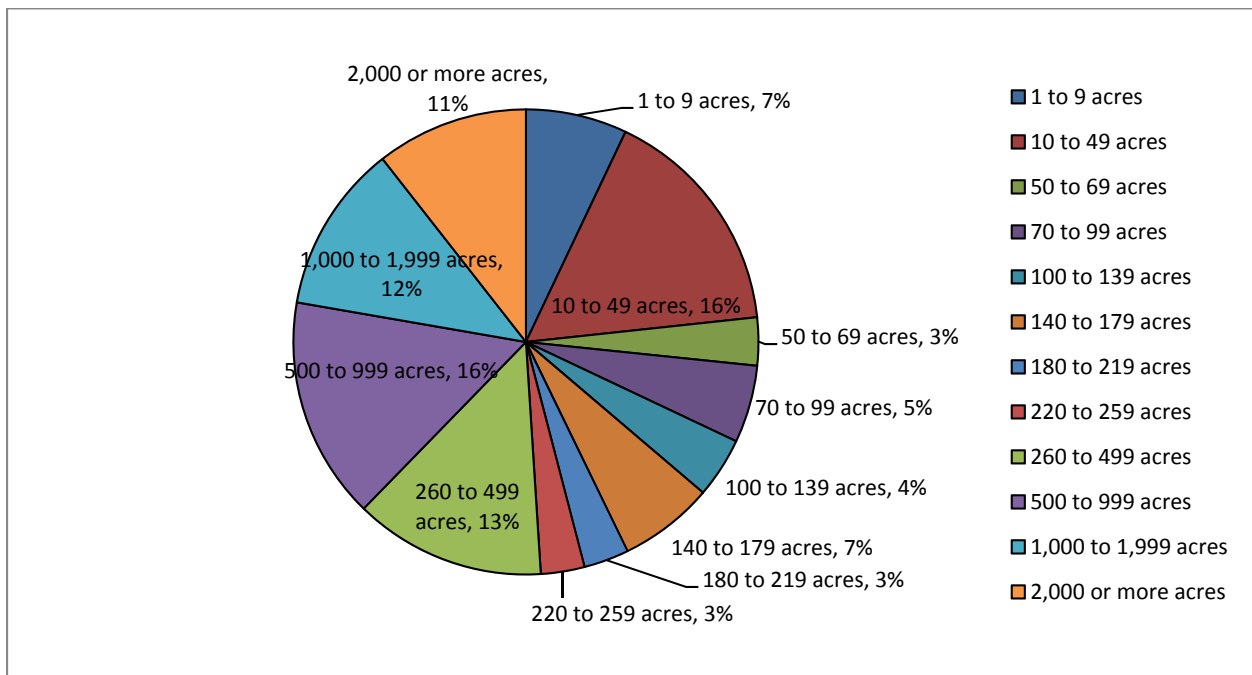
Source: 2002, 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture and State Fact Sheets, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Size, United States: 2012



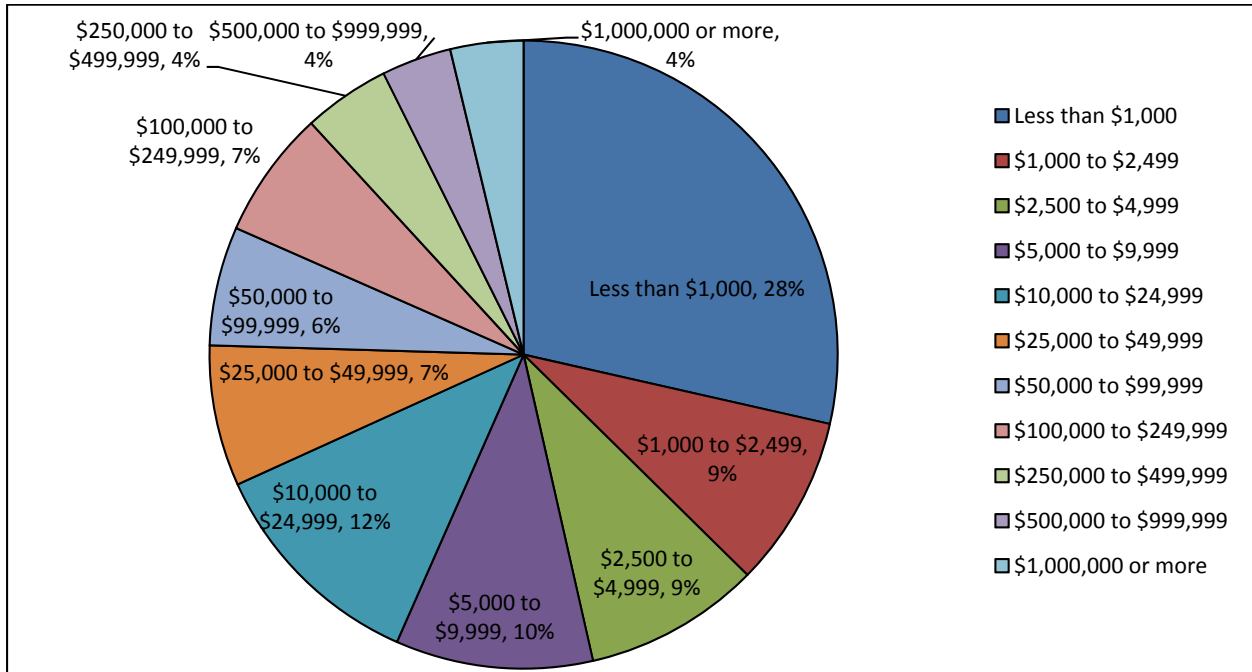
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Size, Nebraska: 2012



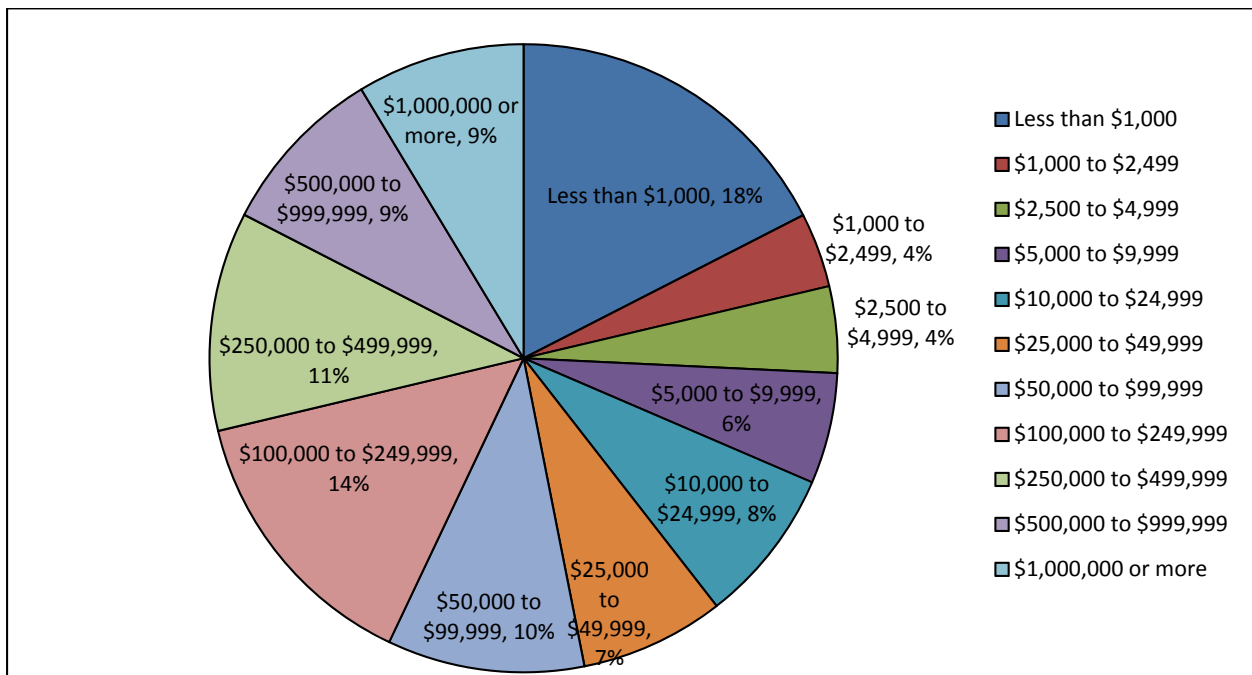
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Value of Sales, United States: 2012



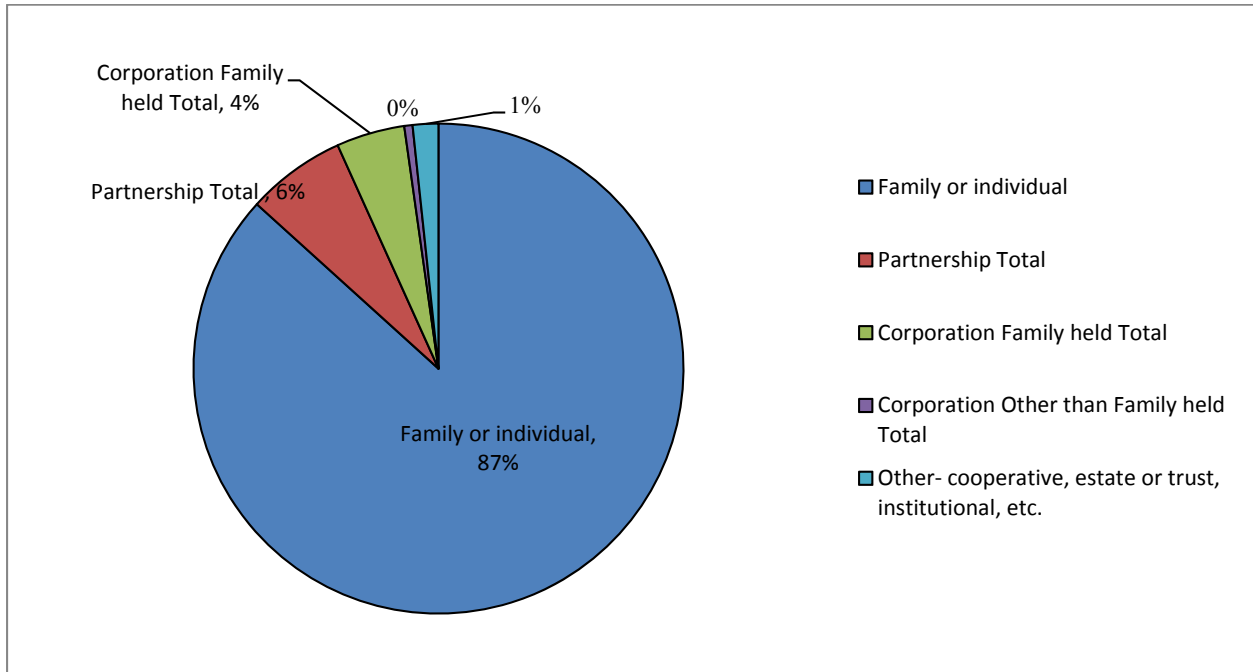
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Value of Sales, Nebraska: 2012



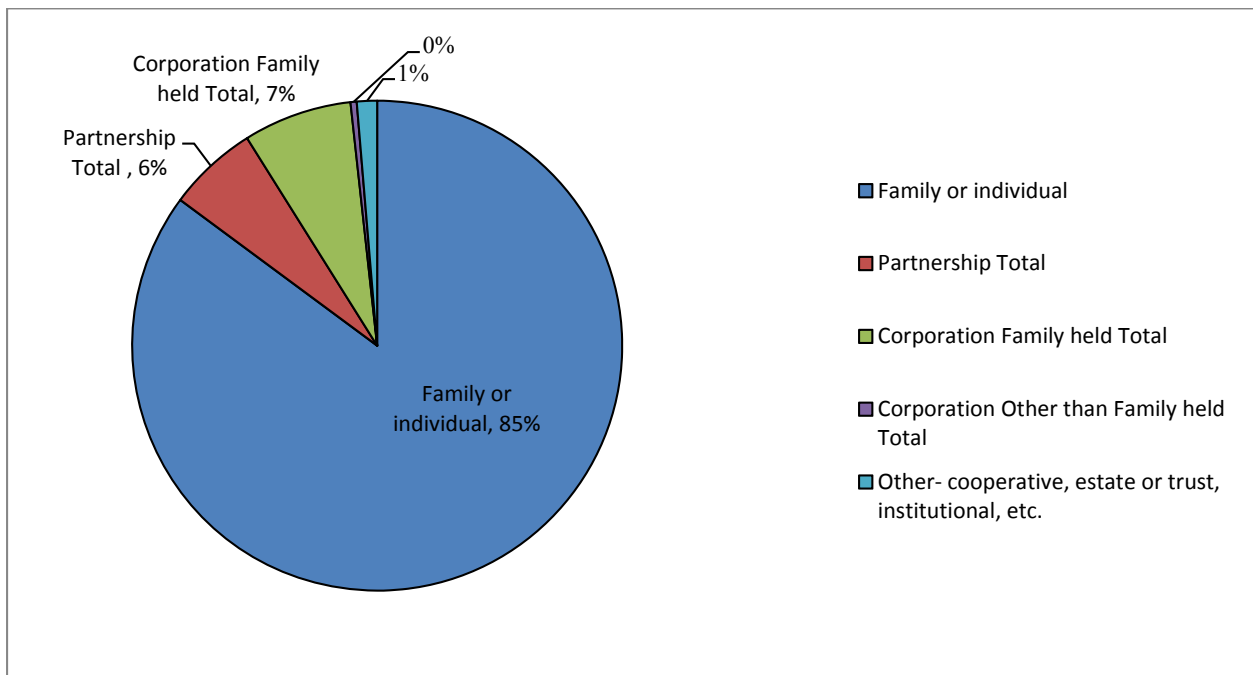
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farm Organization (Percentage of Total), United States: 2012



Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farm Organization (Percentage of Total), Nebraska: 2012



Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Tenure of Farmers and Number of Farm Operators, Regional Comparison: 2012

| | Percent of Farms with Full Owners | Percent of Farms with One Operator |
|-----------------|--|---|
| United States | 69.4% | 57.3% |
| Colorado | 72.2% | 47.2% |
| Iowa | 55.9% | 18.3% |
| Kansas | 57.4% | 48.3% |
| Minnesota | 59.6% | 29.4% |
| Missouri | 71.0% | 25.5% |
| Nebraska | 49.8% | 77.8% |
| North Dakota | 51.6% | 58.5% |
| South Dakota | 51.3% | 29.8% |
| Wyoming | 66.4% | 93.9% |

Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska's economy by reviewing four broad areas: income, poverty, and comparative costs; employment; business climate and business start-ups; and workforce quality, technology, and innovation. When available, data are presented for the period 1980 to 2014. At other times, the period is 2000 to 2014. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. For most indicators this is 2014.

Income, Poverty and Comparative Costs

Generally, measures of Nebraska's income are slightly below the national average, while the state fares better than the nation in terms of poverty. In 2014, Nebraska had the 16th lowest poverty rate in the nation. During 2014, 12.4% of Nebraskans fell below the federal poverty level. Among Nebraska's peers in 2014, Wyoming had the lowest rate of 11.2%. The national average was 15.5%.

Since 1980, Nebraska consistently has had a poverty rate significantly below the national rate. During the 1990s the United States' rate increased, while Nebraska's rate declined. Since 2000, Nebraska has experienced a sizeable increase in the poverty rate, although there was a slight decline in the most recent year. Overall, the increase was comparable to the national increase, while the gap between the United States and Nebraska has been widening since 2000.

The Gini Index is a summary measure of income inequality. The Gini Index varies from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating perfect equality where there is a proportional distribution of income. A 1 indicates perfect inequality where one household has all the income and others do not have any. In 2014, using this measure, Nebraska had less income inequality than the nation and ranked 5th. Only Wyoming recorded less income inequality than Nebraska.

Personal income and its components are used to measure and track economic well-being over time and to make comparisons across states. Personal income is prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and is defined as the income earned by, or on behalf of, all the residents of an area (nation, state, or county) from all sources.

In 2014, Nebraska had the 19th highest per capita personal income in the nation. During 2014, Nebraska's per capita personal income was \$47,557 and was 3.3% above the national value. Among Nebraska's peers in 2014, North Dakota had the highest value at \$55,802, followed by Wyoming at \$54,584. South Dakota, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri all had per capita incomes below that of Nebraska. The national average was \$46,049.

Nebraska's per capita income in 2014 was above the national average for the fourth consecutive year but only the eighth time since the data series began in 1929. Improvement in Nebraska's per capita personal income began in 1990.

The percentage change in Nebraska's total personal income (3.5%) between 2013 and 2014 ranked 40th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers during this period, Colorado, had the highest growth rate in the nation, with an increase in total personal income of 6.2%. Wyoming, North Dakota, Minnesota, and Missouri also recorded higher increases in personal incomes than Nebraska. South Dakota and Kansas reported the lowest growth rates in the nation.

In 2014, Nebraska's net farm income was 7.0% of Nebraska's total personal income and ranked as the highest percentage nationally. Only Colorado in the region was below the national average. Nationally, 0.8% of total personal income came from net farm income.

Generally, states in the region are among the lowest in the proportion of personal income received from transfer payments. Only Missouri (19.5%) exceeded the national value of 17.2% of personal income received from transfers. In 2014, Nebraska received 14.3% of its personal income from transfers. This ranked 42nd among the 50 states and District of Columbia. North Dakota and Wyoming recorded the smallest percentage (12.2%) of income from transfer receipts in the nation.

In 2014, the median household income was \$52,686 in Nebraska. This value ranked 25th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers, Minnesota (\$61,481), Colorado (\$61,303), North Dakota (\$59,029), Wyoming (\$57,055), and Iowa (\$53,712) exceeded the national average.

Since 2000, Nebraska's median household income has exhibited a growth rate about the same rate as the national rate, although there have been year-to-year fluctuations. In 2000, Nebraska's median household income of \$39,250 was 93.5% of the national value of \$41,994. By 2014, the comparable percentage rose to 98.2% of the national average. After adjustment for price changes, household incomes in both Nebraska and the United States have declined significantly since 2000. Nebraska's 2014 median household income is 2.4% lower in real terms than it was in the 2000 Census, while the national median household income was down 7.1%.

Comparative costs generally are lower in Nebraska than the nation. In this section, we look at two measures of costs: annual wage and salary disbursements per job and ratio of median housing value to median household income. In 2014, the average wage and salary disbursements per job were \$42,747 in Nebraska and \$51,552 for the United States. Nationally, Nebraska ranked 39th and above Iowa and South Dakota in the region. Lower wages and salaries may mean lower costs of business, but they also may explain the somewhat lower incomes for Nebraskans.

The relative cost of housing is the other indicator in this section. The states in Nebraska's region are among the most affordable when looking at the value of housing compared to income. In 2014 Nebraska recorded the 48th lowest for ratio of median housing cost to median household income (2.60). Kansas reported the 49th lowest and Iowa reported the 50th lowest ratio in the country. With the exception of Colorado and Wyoming, Nebraska's peers had ratios below the national average of 3.38.

Since 2000, Nebraska's ratio of median housing value to median household income has increased slightly, but has remained relatively stable since 2004. The gap between the nation and Nebraska has narrowed since 2008.

Employment

Employment is used to measure and track economic well-being over time and to make comparisons across states. Employment in this section is prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and measures the number of jobs, both full and part-time, in an area.

The percentage change in Nebraska's employment (1.3%) between 2013 and 2014 ranked 33rd nationally. Among Nebraska's peers during this period, North Dakota led the nation with a growth rate of 3.3%. Colorado was the only other state in the region to exceed the national employment growth rate of 1.9%. Regionally, only Missouri and Iowa recorded a lower employment growth rate than Nebraska.

With the exception of four years (including 2009 and 2010), employment in Nebraska has increased every year since 1995. Between 2008 and 2009, employment in Nebraska fell 1.8% but was much less than the 3.0% drop nationally.

In 2014, Nebraska had a total of 20.4% of its employment as nonfarm and farm proprietors, which ranked 35th nationally and toward the bottom of its peer states. Colorado (24.8%), Wyoming (24.4%), and South Dakota (23.8%) were among the top ten states in the nation. Nationally, proprietors accounted for 22.0% of all jobs.

Despite the fact that Nebraska ranked relatively low in the percentage of proprietors, this percentage has been steadily increasing since 2003 when it was below 19.0%.

Unemployment is another important indicator of an area's economic well-being. In 2014, Nebraska's unemployment rate was 3.3% and ranked as the 2nd lowest nationally. Nebraska and its peer states recorded the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota had the three lowest unemployment rates. None of Nebraska's peer states had a rate higher than the national value of 6.2%.

Since 1980, Nebraska's unemployment rate has shown a pattern similar to the national rate, but consistently has fallen below it. The exception to this trend occurred in the 1990s when the national rate rose between 1989 and 1992 and then fell steadily until 2000. In contrast, Nebraska's rate was relatively steady until 2000 and then began to increase. Notice that between 2008 and 2010, Nebraska's unemployment rate increased much slower than the unemployment rate for the United States.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation even accounting for underemployment and workers who left the labor force. Nebraska's adjusted unemployment rate in 2014 was 7.0% and ranked 3rd lowest in the nation behind North Dakota and South Dakota. The comparable national rate was 12.0%.

Business Climate and Business Start-ups

The term business climate means different things to different people, and the results of business climate studies may vary widely. It is important to remember measures of business climate are subjective and reflect the bias of the organization preparing the measure.

In 2015, Nebraska ranked 3rd in overall business climate as measured by Forbes. North Dakota (4th), Colorado (5th), and South Dakota (9th) were in the top ten nationally. Generally, the business climates (as measured by Forbes) of Nebraska's peer states rank in the upper one-half of all states.

According to CNBC's rankings, Nebraska ranked as the 7th top state for business in 2015. Nebraska ranked toward the top of its peer states. Only Minnesota, Colorado, and North Dakota ranked higher. According to CNBC, Nebraska and its peer states comprise one-half of the top ten states for business climate.

On the other hand, Nebraska ranked relatively low in business start-ups. New businesses are one indicator of economic growth and reflect the overall strength of an area's economy. In 2013, Nebraska ranked 38th in the percentage change in new establishments (business startups) as 8.7% of the change in Nebraska establishments was due to business births. For the most part, Nebraska and its peers ranked relatively low regarding business startups. The weakest states were Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. The strongest state was Colorado with a ranking of 4th. For the United States, 10.2% of the change in establishments was due to business births.

Workforce Quality, Technology, and Innovation

A quality workforce is one that can adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing economy. Nebraska needs skilled workers to enhance its economic vitality and to compete in the global marketplace. Using the workforce quality measures in this section, Nebraska generally ranks in the middle one-third of the states.

In 2014, Nebraska's share of the workforce in science and engineering occupations was 4.4%. This was below the national average of 5.5%. Colorado led the region with a percentage of 7.1% and ranked 6th nationally. Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri also ranked higher than Nebraska, while North Dakota, Wyoming, and South Dakota ranked below Nebraska.

Most of Nebraska's peer states had productivity levels below the nation's output per worker of \$93,199. Nebraska ranked 22nd nationally, with an output per worker of \$87,878. Wyoming was the highest state in the area with output per worker of \$109,717 and ranked 6th in the nation. Other neighboring states ranking ahead of Nebraska were North Dakota, Colorado, and Minnesota. Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, and Kansas had lower output per worker than Nebraska.

In 2014, Nebraska and all of its peers exceeded the national high school graduation rate of 86.9%. Wyoming and Minnesota were 3rd and 4th in the nation with rates of 92.6%. Nebraska ranked 17th in the nation, as 90.3% of its population 25 years or older completed high school. Since 2000, Nebraska's percentage of high school graduates has been slowly increasing.

With the exception of Kansas and Missouri, Nebraska and its peers exceeded the national percentage of persons whose highest level of education was an associate degree in 2014. Some of the people with a bachelor's degree or advanced degrees also may have had an associate's degree, but they are not included in this table. Nationally, 8.2% of the persons 25 or older reported having an associate's degree as their highest level of education. North Dakota lead the nation with a rate of 13.5%. It was followed by Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Wyoming. Nebraska's rate of 10.4% ranked 7th in 2014. The region accounted for 6 of the top 7 states in the nation. Since 2000, Nebraska's rate of persons with an associate's degree has been consistently higher than the national rate.

In 2014, 29.6% of the persons 25 years or older in Nebraska had completed a bachelor's degree. This ranked 21st nationally but was slightly below the national average of 30.1%. Of Nebraska's peer states, Colorado had the highest rate of bachelor's degrees (38.3%). Minnesota and Kansas also exceeded Nebraska's rate. South Dakota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, and Wyoming ranked below Nebraska.

Since 2000, the percentage of persons with a bachelor's degree has increased steadily for both Nebraska and the United States. Nebraska's rate generally has been within one percentage point of the nation's rate.

When looking at advanced degrees, Nebraska's ranking has been picking up but still lags the nation. In 2014, 9.4% of Nebraskans 25 years and older had an advanced degree. This compares to 11.4% for the nation and ranks 36th. Nebraska was still ahead of Iowa, Wyoming, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

Since 2000, however, Nebraska has steadily narrowed the gap with the United States with the percentage of Nebraskans 25 years or older who have an advanced degree increasing from 7.3% to 9.4%.

Succeeding in the new economy—or any economy—takes innovation. Top states for business prize innovation, nurture new ideas, and have the infrastructure to support them. It is important to

remember measures of innovation are subjective and reflect the bias of the organization preparing the measure.

According to CNBC's rankings, Nebraska ranked as the 32nd state for technology and innovation in 2015. Nebraska ranked below most of its peer states. Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas ranked higher, while South Dakota, North Dakota, and Wyoming ranked lower. Nebraska and its peer states generally fell in the bottom portion of the states for technology and innovation. Wyoming had the second lowest ranking nationally.

In 2014, Nebraska ranked 35th on the State New Economy Index. Even with its relatively low ranking, Nebraska still ranked higher than North Dakota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Most of Nebraska's peer states ranked in the bottom one-third of all states.

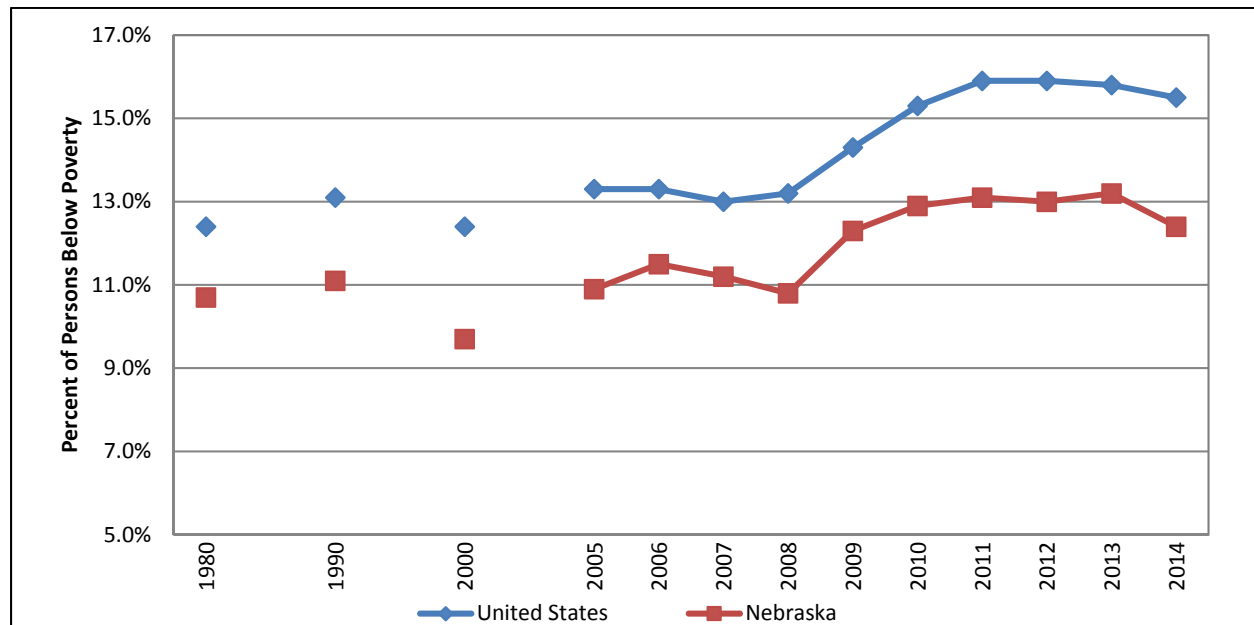
Poverty

Poverty Rate for Persons, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Poverty Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| United States | 15.5 | |
| Wyoming | 11.2 | 5 |
| Minnesota | 11.5 | 8 |
| North Dakota | 11.5 | 8 |
| Colorado | 12.0 | 13 |
| Iowa | 12.2 | 14 |
| Nebraska | 12.4 | 16 |
| Kansas | 13.6 | 20 |
| South Dakota | 14.2 | 23 |
| Missouri | 15.5 | 30 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Poverty Rate for Persons, Nebraska and the United States: 1980-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

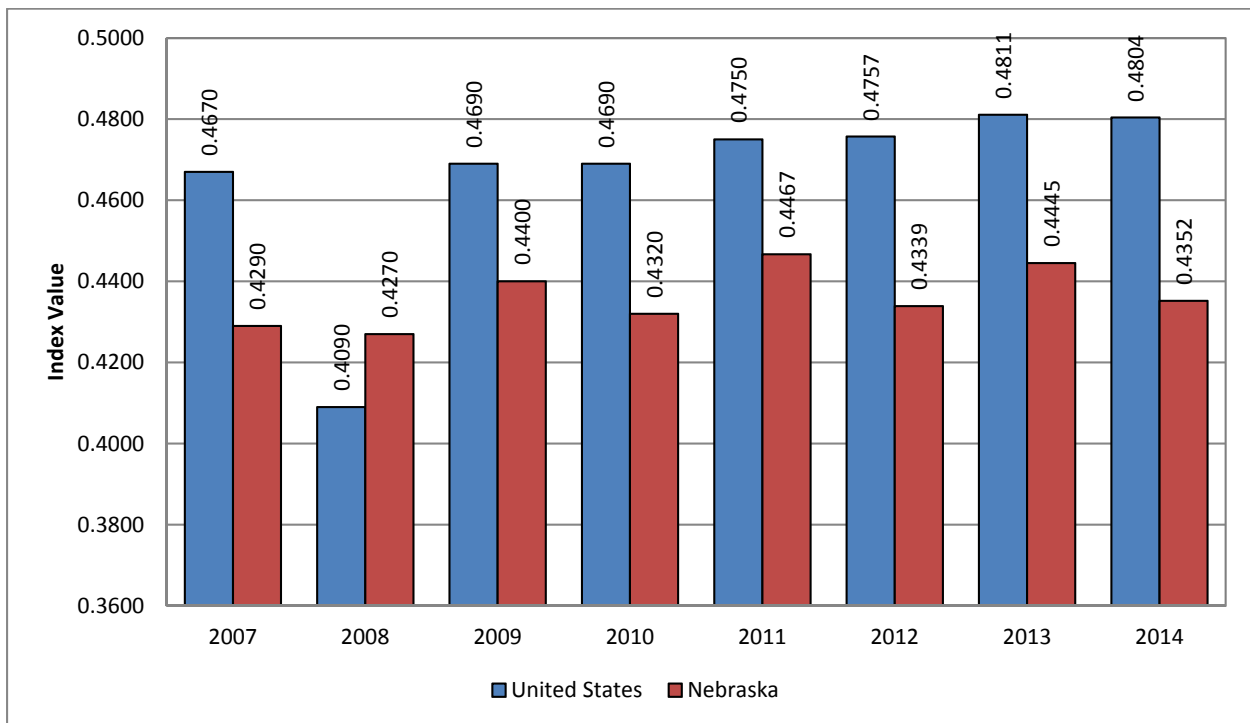
Gini Index of Income Inequality, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Index Value | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| United States | 0.4804 | |
| Wyoming | 0.4270 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 0.4352 | 5 |
| Iowa | 0.4433 | 10 |
| South Dakota | 0.4468 | 12 |
| Minnesota | 0.4539 | 15 |
| Colorado | 0.4584 | 20 |
| Kansas | 0.4597 | 22 |
| Missouri | 0.4628 | 25 |
| North Dakota | 0.4664 | 29 |

*Note: The Gini Index is a summary measure of income inequality. The Gini Index varies from 0 to 1, 0 indicating perfect equality where there is a proportional distribution of income. A 1 indicates perfect inequality where one household has all the income and others do not have any.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Gini Index of Income Inequality, Nebraska and the United States: 2006-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2014; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

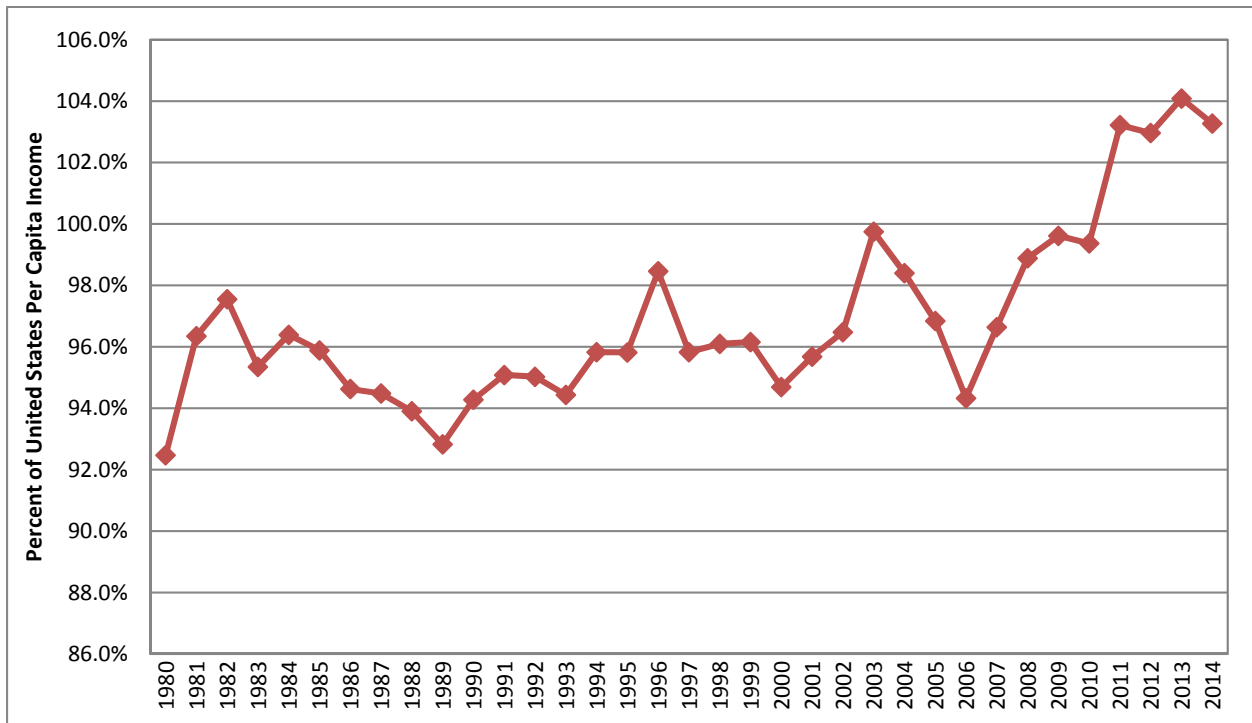
Personal Income

Per Capita Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Per Capita Personal Income | National Rank |
|-----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$46,049 | |
| North Dakota | \$55,802 | 5 |
| Wyoming | \$54,584 | 7 |
| Minnesota | \$48,998 | 14 |
| Colorado | \$48,869 | 15 |
| Nebraska | \$47,557 | 19 |
| South Dakota | \$45,279 | 24 |
| Iowa | \$44,937 | 25 |
| Kansas | \$44,891 | 26 |
| Missouri | \$41,639 | 32 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Nebraska Per Capita Personal Income as a Percentage of United States Per Capita Personal Income: 1980-2014



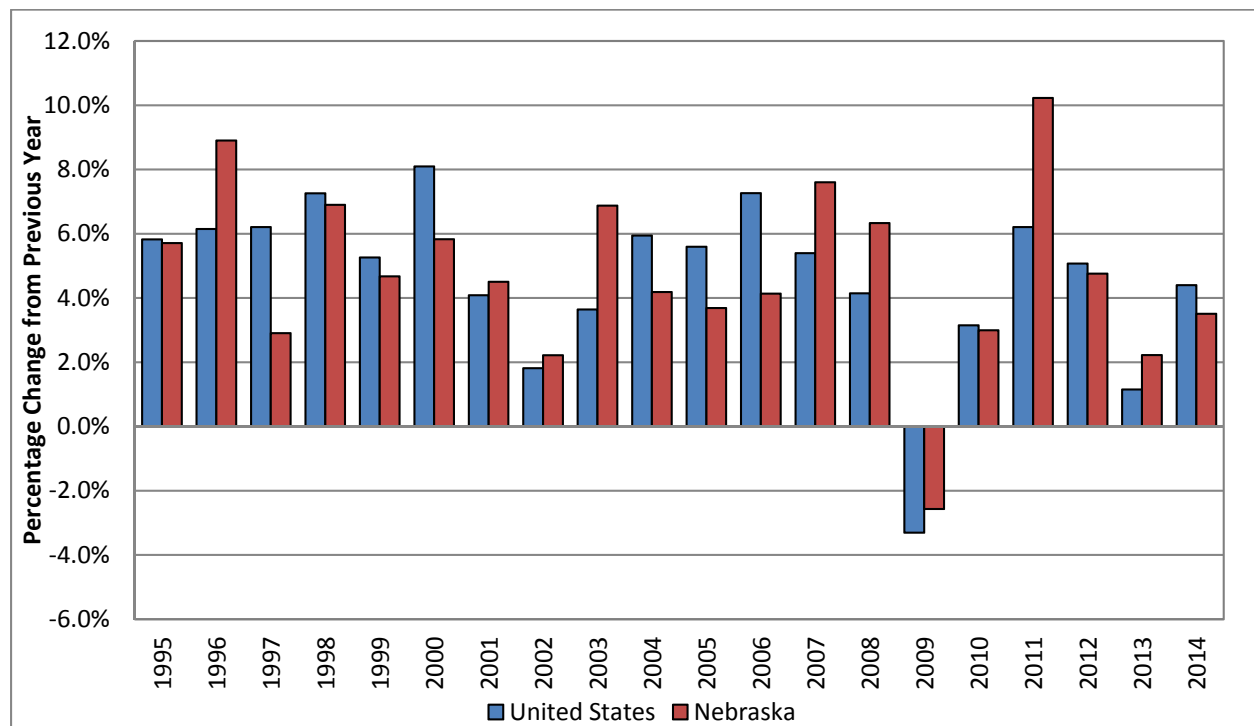
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage Change in Total Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2013-2014

| | Percentage Change | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| United States | 4.4% | |
| Colorado | 6.2% | 1 |
| Wyoming | 5.6% | 6 |
| North Dakota | 4.8% | 12 |
| Minnesota | 4.0% | 29 |
| Missouri | 3.6% | 37 |
| Nebraska | 3.5% | 40 |
| Iowa | 3.2% | 45 |
| South Dakota | 2.0% | 50 |
| Kansas | 1.6% | 51 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Annual Percentage Change in Total Personal Income, Nebraska and the United States: 1995-2014



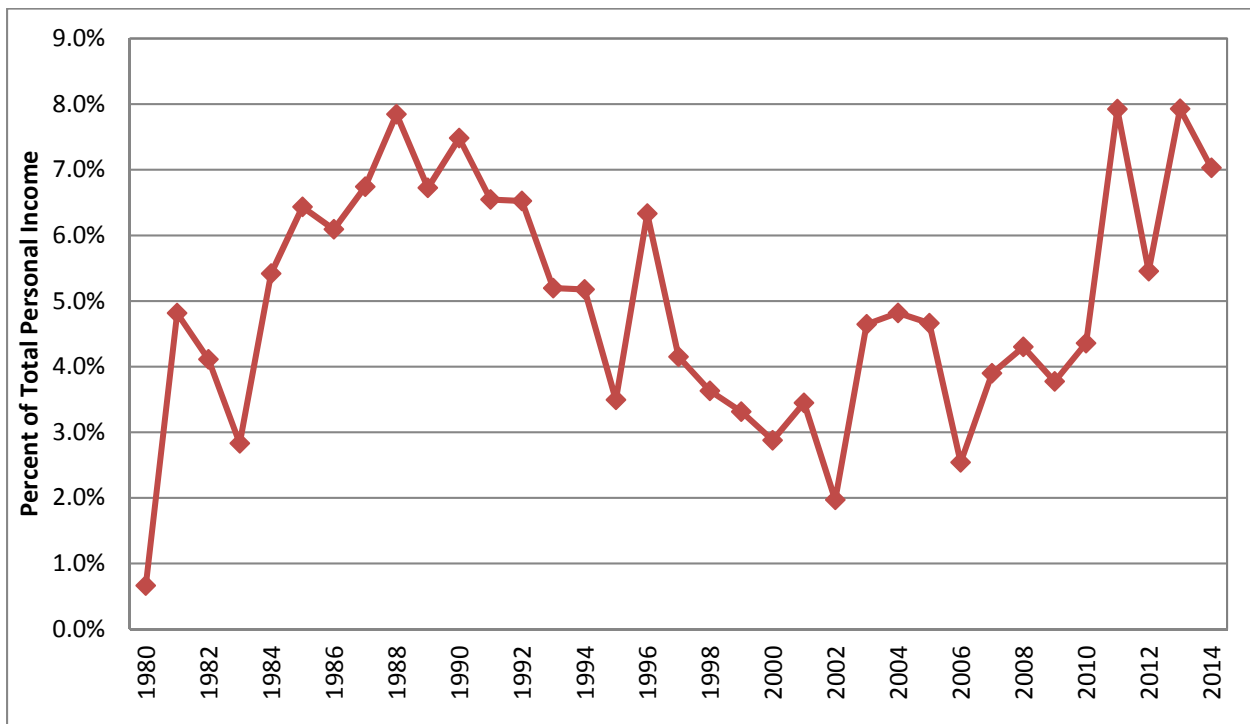
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Net Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent Net Farm Income | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 0.8% | |
| Nebraska | 7.0% | 1 |
| South Dakota | 6.9% | 2 |
| Iowa | 5.3% | 3 |
| North Dakota | 3.2% | 5 |
| Kansas | 2.3% | 7 |
| Minnesota | 1.6% | 11 |
| Missouri | 1.5% | 12 |
| Wyoming | 1.0% | 18 |
| Colorado | 0.5% | 29 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Nebraska: 1980-2014



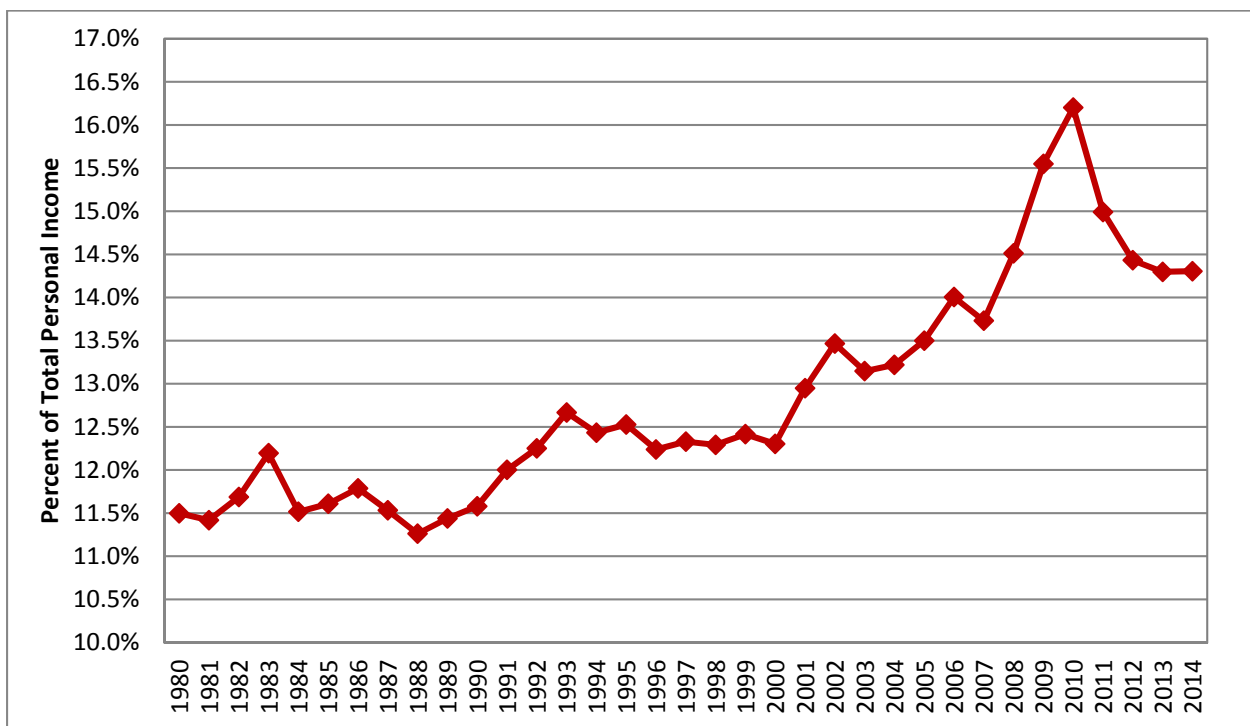
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Transfer Receipts as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent Transfer Receipts | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 17.2% | |
| Missouri | 19.5% | 19 |
| Iowa | 16.7% | 29 |
| Minnesota | 16.0% | 33 |
| Kansas | 15.6% | 35 |
| South Carolina | 15.1% | 38 |
| Nebraska | 14.3% | 42 |
| Colorado | 13.0% | 48 |
| North Dakota | 12.2% | 50 |
| Wyoming | 12.2% | 51 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Transfer Receipts as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Nebraska: 1980-2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

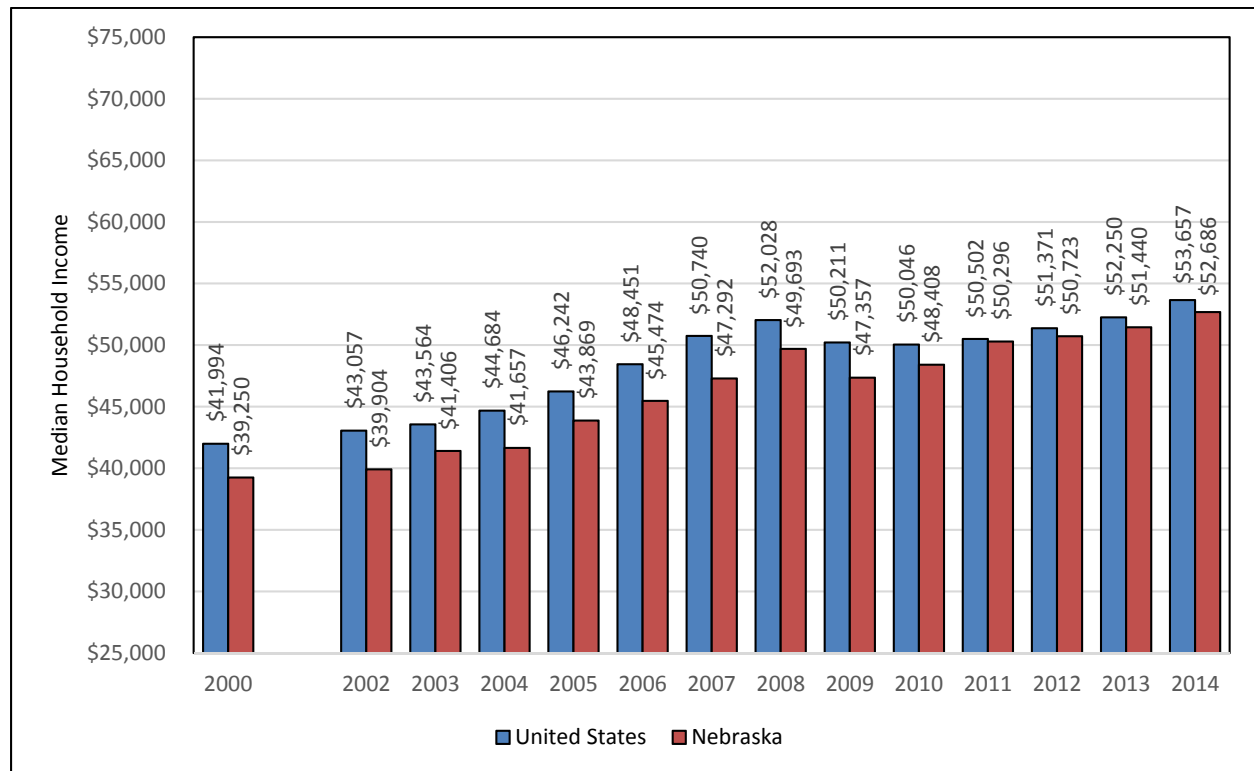
Median Household Income

Median Household Income (Inflation-adjusted dollars), Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Median Household Income | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$53,657 | |
| Minnesota | \$61,481 | 11 |
| Colorado | \$61,303 | 13 |
| North Dakota | \$59,029 | 16 |
| Wyoming | \$57,055 | 19 |
| Iowa | \$53,712 | 22 |
| Nebraska | \$52,686 | 25 |
| Kansas | \$52,504 | 27 |
| South Dakota | \$50,979 | 30 |
| Missouri | \$48,363 | 37 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey (Table R1901); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

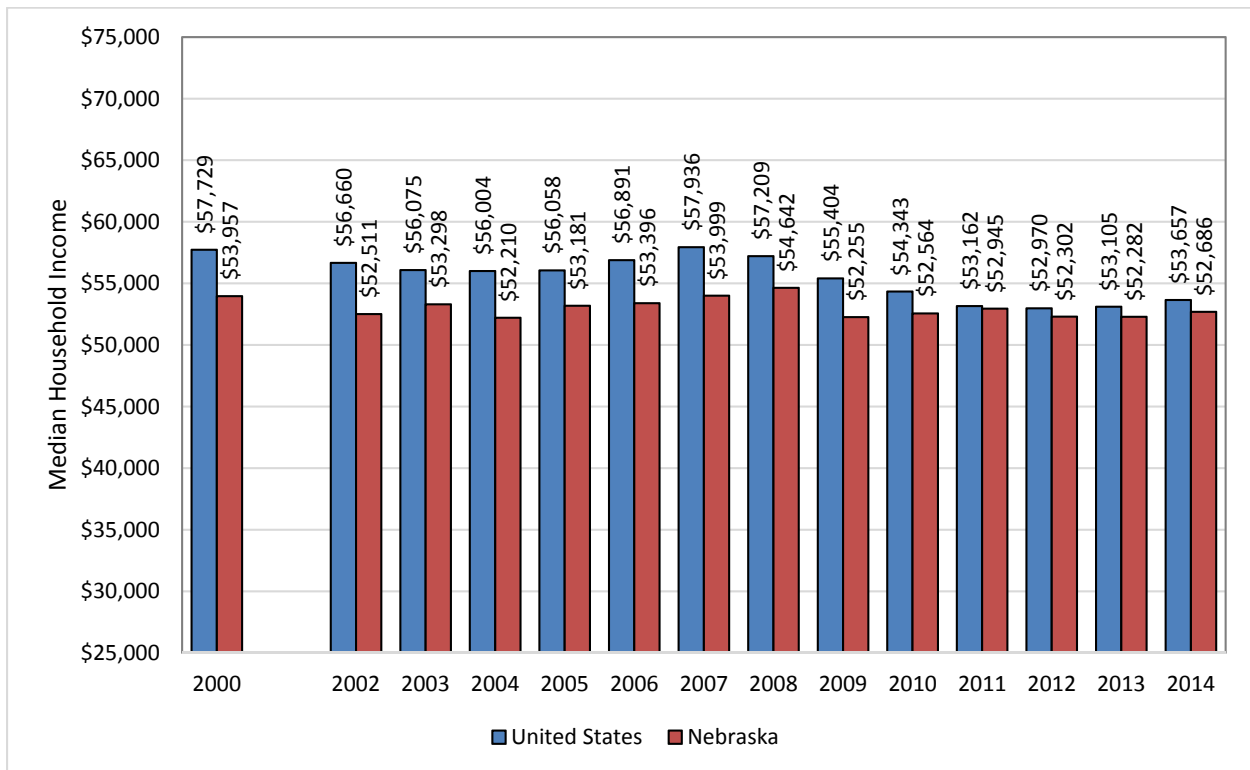
Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Real* Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



*2014 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars

Note: the incomes reported in the 2000 Census were for incomes received in 1999.

Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

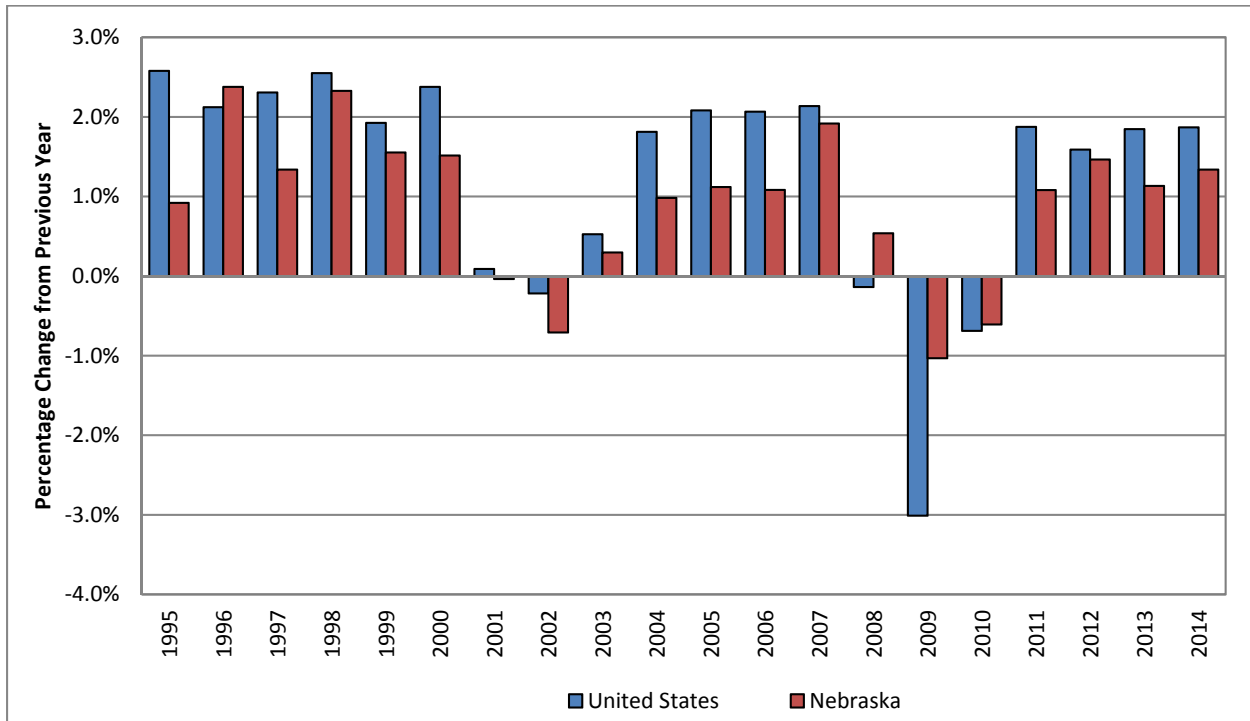
Employment

Percentage Change in Employment, Regional Comparison: 2013-2014

| | Percentage Change in Employment | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 1.9% | |
| North Dakota | 3.3% | 1 |
| Colorado | 2.9% | 3 |
| Wyoming | 1.6% | 20 |
| Kansas | 1.6% | 21 |
| Minnesota | 1.4% | 27 |
| South Dakota | 1.4% | 31 |
| Nebraska | 1.3% | 33 |
| Missouri | 1.1% | 41 |
| Iowa | 1.0% | 46 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage Change in Employment, Nebraska and the United States: 1991-2014



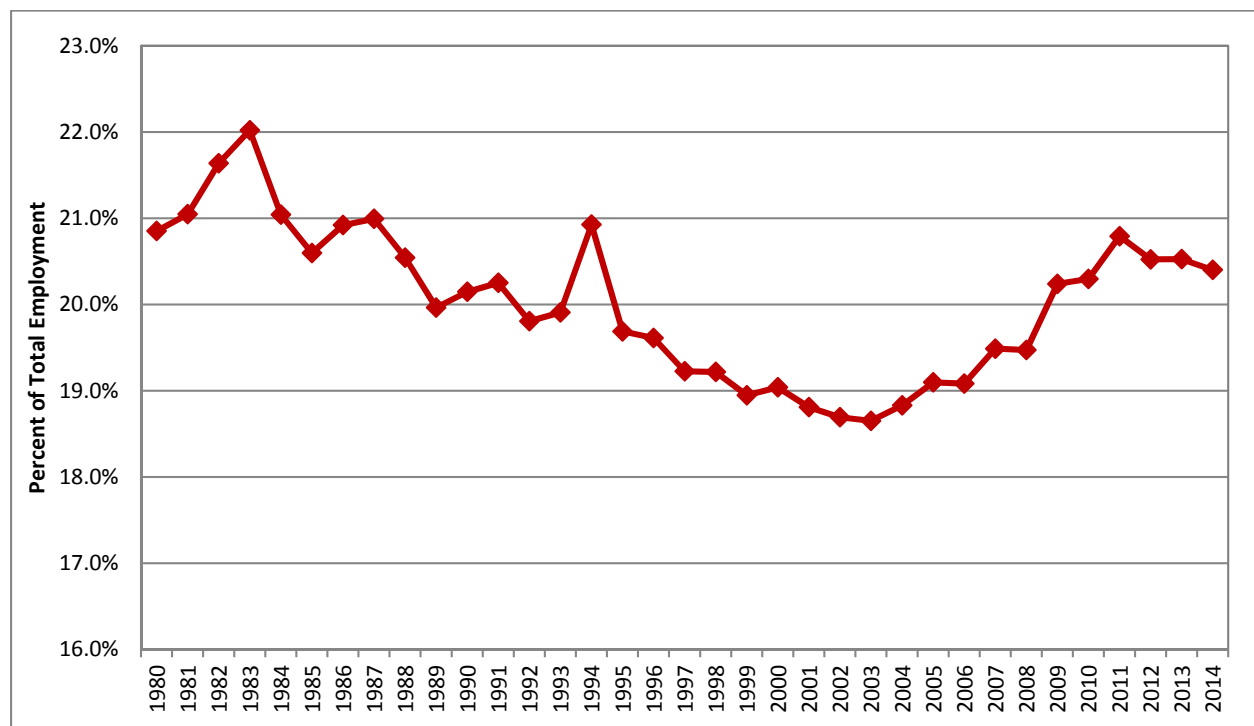
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Proprietors as a Percentage of Total Employment, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent of Total Employment | National Rank |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 22.0% | |
| Colorado | 24.8% | 5 |
| Wyoming | 24.4% | 8 |
| South Dakota | 23.8% | 10 |
| Kansas | 22.4% | 22 |
| Missouri | 21.1% | 29 |
| Iowa | 20.8% | 34 |
| Nebraska | 20.4% | 35 |
| Minnesota | 19.9% | 40 |
| North Dakota | 19.6% | 41 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Proprietors as a Percentage of Total Employment, Nebraska: 1980-2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

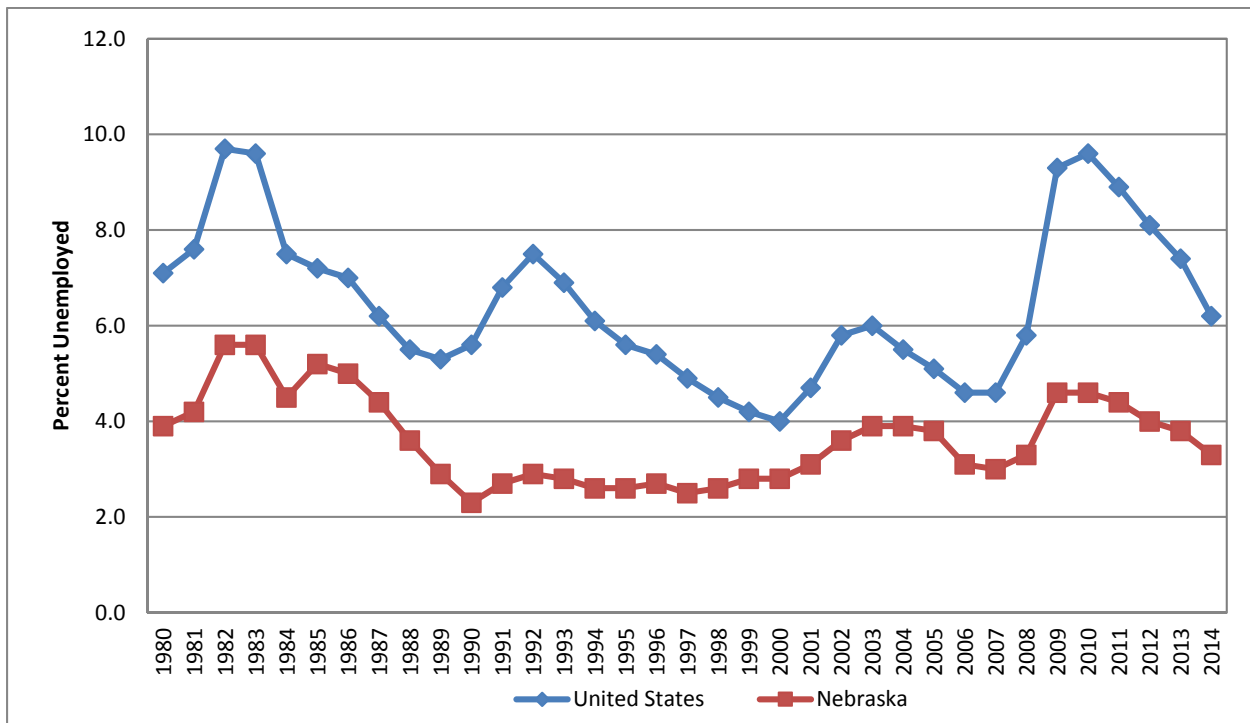
Unemployment

Annual Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Unemployment Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| United States | 6.2 | |
| North Dakota | 2.8 | 1 |
| Nebraska | 3.3 | 2 |
| South Dakota | 3.4 | 3 |
| Minnesota | 4.1 | 5 |
| Wyoming | 4.3 | 7 |
| Iowa | 4.4 | 9 |
| Kansas | 4.5 | 11 |
| Colorado | 5.0 | 15 |
| Missouri | 6.1 | 26 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Annual Unemployment Rate, Nebraska and the United States: 1980-2014



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Alternative Annual Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Unemployment Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 12.0 | |
| North Dakota | 5.4 | 1 |
| South Dakota | 6.4 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 7.0 | 3 |
| Wyoming | 7.5 | 4 |
| Minnesota | 8.7 | 7 |
| Iowa | 8.8 | 8 |
| Kansas | 9.1 | 10 |
| Colorado | 9.4 | 11 |
| Missouri | 11.8 | 29 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

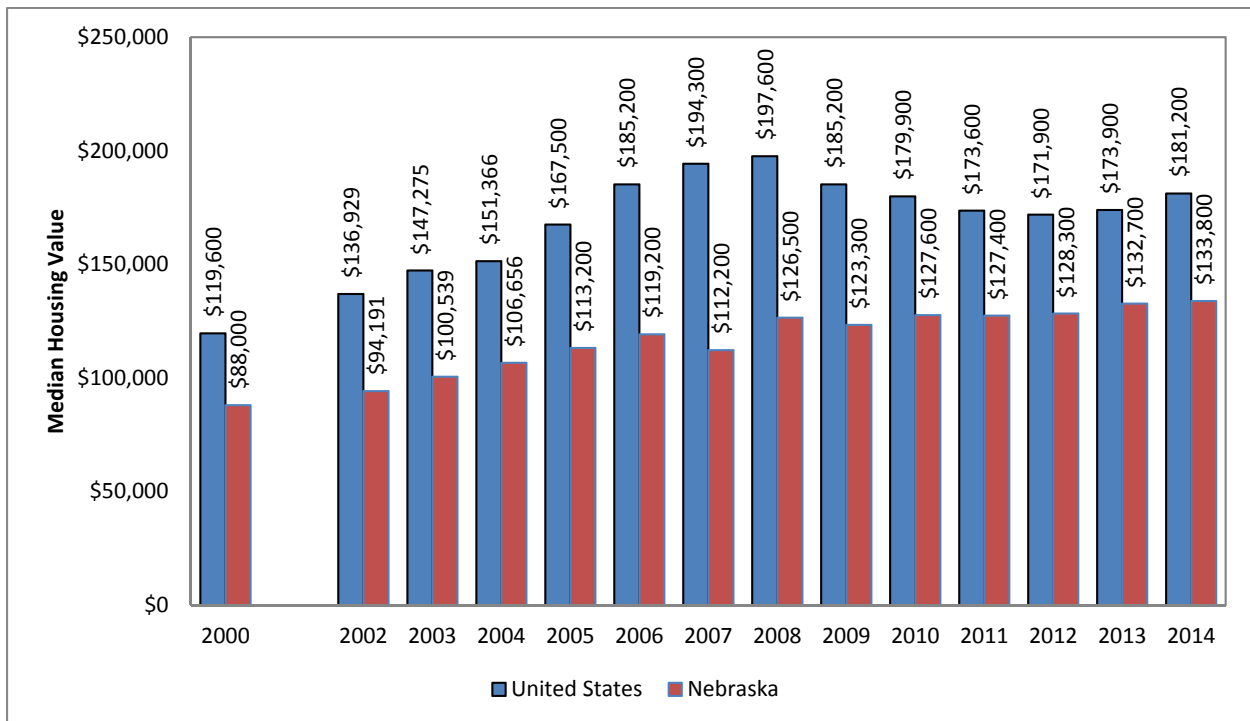
Median Housing Value

Median Housing Value, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Median Housing Value | National Rank |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$181,200 | |
| Colorado | \$255,200 | 10 |
| Wyoming | \$201,000 | 19 |
| Minnesota | \$188,300 | 22 |
| North Dakota | \$161,800 | 34 |
| South Dakota | \$142,300 | 36 |
| Missouri | \$138,500 | 39 |
| Nebraska | \$133,800 | 40 |
| Iowa | \$133,100 | 41 |
| Kansas | \$132,100 | 42 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Median Housing Value, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

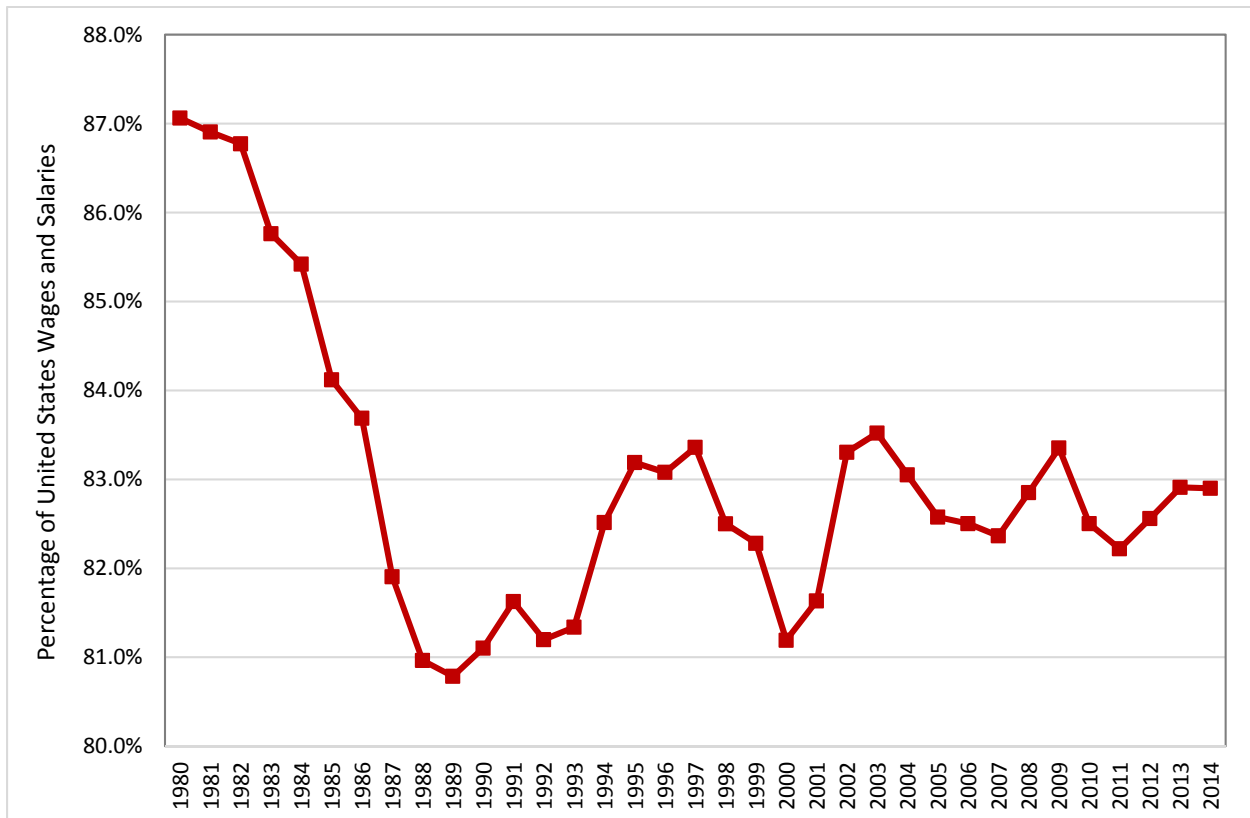
Comparative Costs

Average Annual Wage and Salary Disbursements per Job, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Average Annual Wage | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$51,552 | |
| Colorado | \$53,401 | 12 |
| Minnesota | \$50,711 | 15 |
| North Dakota | \$49,741 | 18 |
| Wyoming | \$47,361 | 23 |
| Missouri | \$45,325 | 31 |
| Kansas | \$43,801 | 36 |
| Nebraska | \$42,747 | 39 |
| Iowa | \$41,750 | 44 |
| South Dakota | \$38,246 | 50 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Nebraska Wages and Salaries per Job as a Percentage of United States Wages and Salaries per Job: 1980-2014



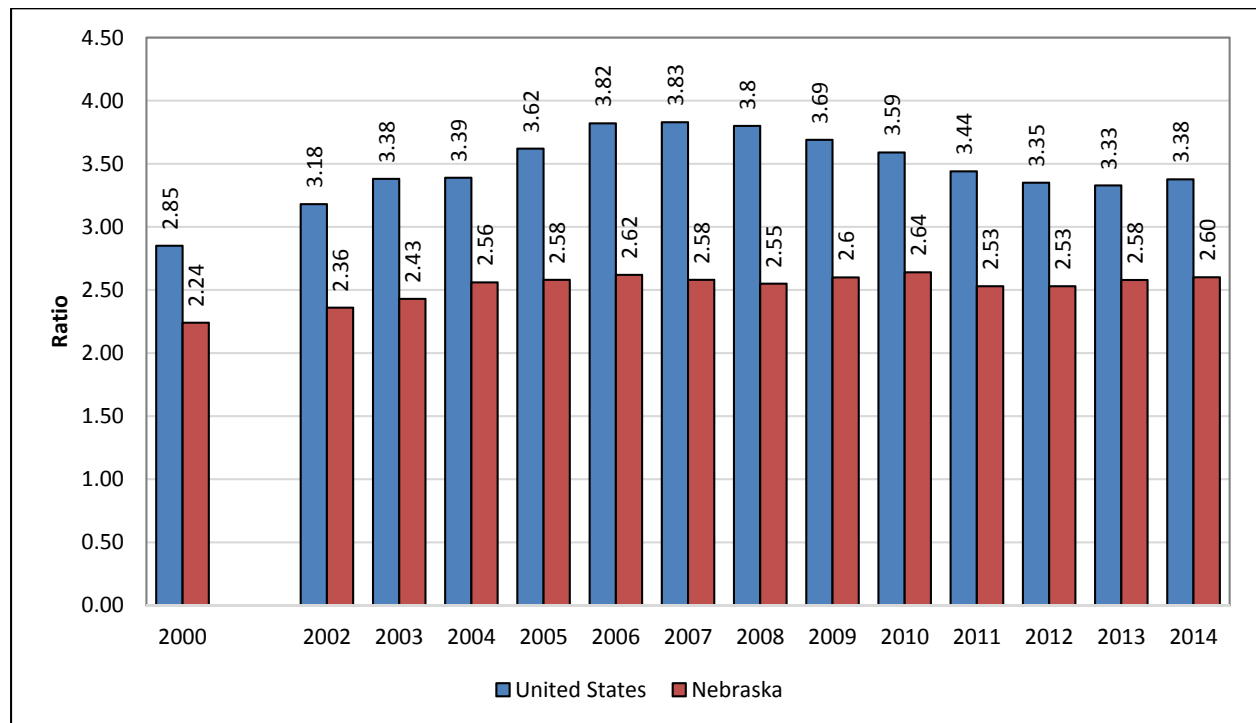
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Median Housing Value | Median Household Income | Ratio | National Rank |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|
| United States | \$181,200 | \$53,657 | 3.38 | |
| Colorado | \$255,200 | \$58,823 | 4.34 | 9 |
| Wyoming | \$201,000 | \$58,752 | 3.42 | 26 |
| Minnesota | \$188,300 | \$60,702 | 3.10 | 33 |
| Missouri | \$138,500 | \$46,931 | 2.95 | 36 |
| South Dakota | \$142,300 | \$48,947 | 2.91 | 38 |
| North Dakota | \$161,800 | \$55,759 | 2.90 | 39 |
| Nebraska | \$133,800 | \$51,440 | 2.60 | 48 |
| Kansas | \$132,100 | \$50,972 | 2.59 | 49 |
| Iowa | \$133,100 | \$52,229 | 2.55 | 50 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2013 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Business Climate

Forbes Magazine Best States for Business, Regional Comparison: 2013-2015

| State | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Nebraska | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| North Dakota | 4 | 10 | 2 |
| Colorado | 5 | 8 | 5 |
| South Dakota | 9 | 11 | 11 |
| Minnesota | 13 | 6 | 8 |
| Iowa | 14 | 12 | 12 |
| Kansas | 21 | 15 | 17 |
| Missouri | 26 | 23 | 30 |
| Wyoming | 27 | 21 | 23 |

Source: Forbes.com; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

America's Top States for Business Overall Ranking, Regional Comparison: 2013-2015

| | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Minnesota | 1 | 6 | 15 |
| Colorado | 4 | 8 | 7 |
| North Dakota | 6 | 10 | 3 |
| Nebraska | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| Iowa | 10 | 12 | 11 |
| South Dakota | 11 | 11 | 1 |
| Wyoming | 18 | 21 | 9 |
| Kansas | 24 | 15 | 14 |
| Missouri | 26 | 23 | 26 |

Source: CNBC.com; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Business Startups

Business Startups, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | 2013 Establishment Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 10.2 | |
| Colorado | 11.9 | 4 |
| North Dakota | 11.4 | 5 |
| Missouri | 10.5 | 14 |
| Wyoming | 10.2 | 19 |
| South Dakota | 9.2 | 28 |
| Minnesota | 9.0 | 32 |
| Nebraska | 8.7 | 38 |
| Kansas | 8.6 | 41 |
| Iowa | 7.9 | 49 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies; Business Dynamics Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Workforce Quality

Civilian Employed Population 16 Years or Older in Computer, Engineering, and Science Occupations, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Share of Workforce | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| United States | 5.5% | |
| Colorado | 7.1% | 6 |
| Minnesota | 6.4% | 9 |
| Kansas | 5.1% | 24 |
| Iowa | 4.8% | 29 |
| Missouri | 4.6% | 33 |
| Nebraska | 4.4% | 38 |
| Wyoming | 4.2% | 39 |
| North Dakota | 4.0% | 42 |
| South Dakota | 3.6% | 47 |

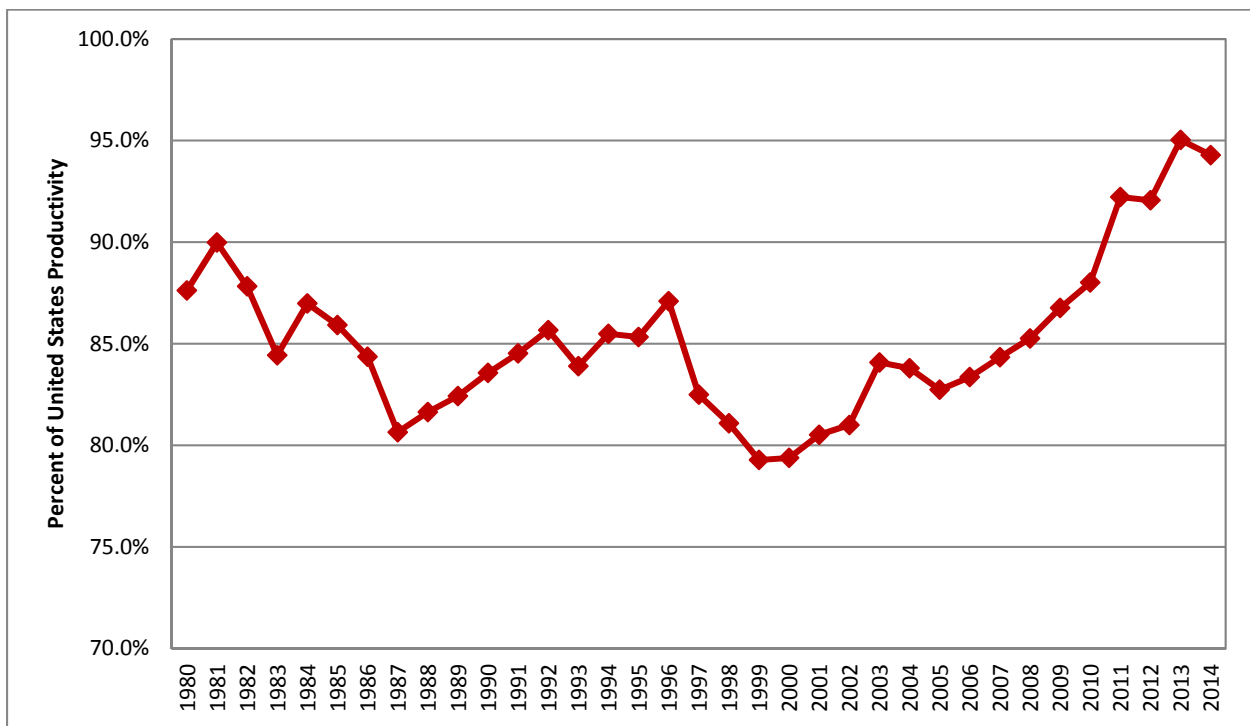
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Worker Productivity (Gross State Product per Full-time Job), Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Output per Worker | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$93,199 | |
| Wyoming | \$109,717 | 6 |
| North Dakota | \$91,752 | 17 |
| Colorado | \$88,828 | 20 |
| Minnesota | \$88,046 | 21 |
| Nebraska | \$87,878 | 22 |
| Iowa | \$83,979 | 30 |
| Missouri | \$78,972 | 39 |
| South Dakota | \$78,485 | 40 |
| Kansas | \$77,540 | 42 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Nebraska Worker Productivity (Gross State Product per Full-time Job) as a Percentage of United States Productivity: 1980-2014



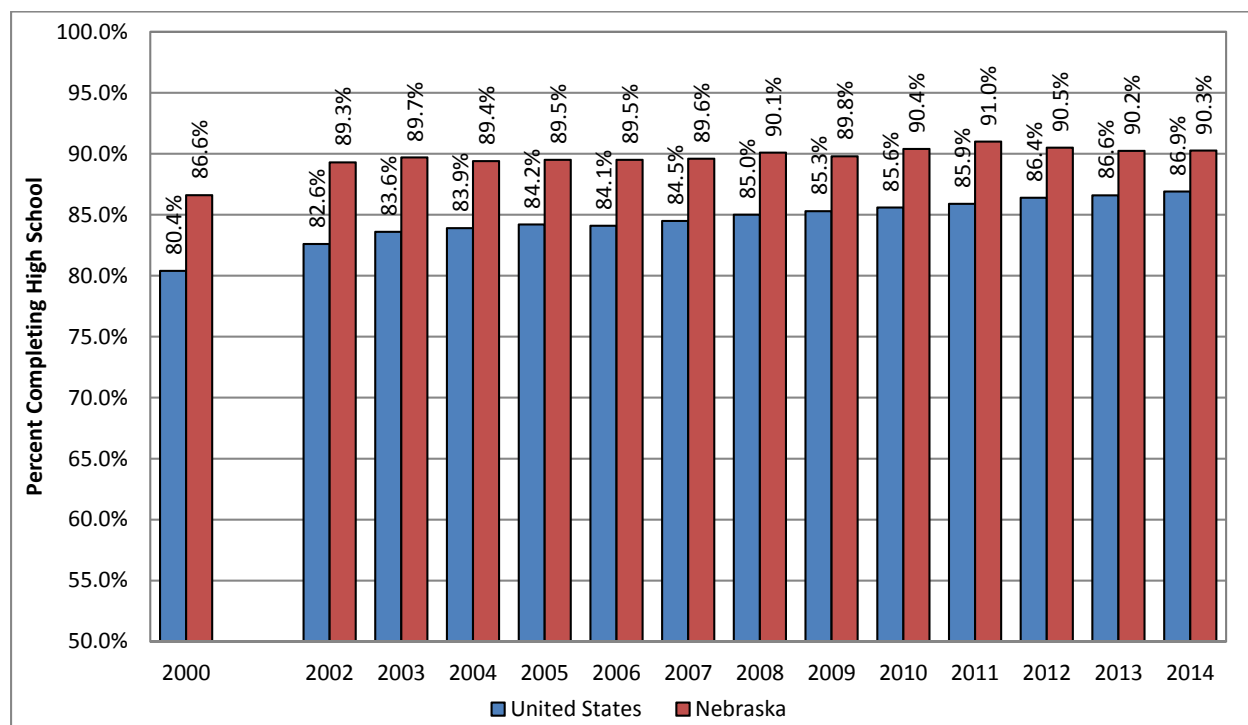
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Gross Domestic Product by State and Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Who Have Completed High School (Includes Equivalency), Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent Completing High School | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 86.9% | |
| Wyoming | 92.6% | 3 |
| Minnesota | 92.6% | 4 |
| North Dakota | 92.2% | 5 |
| Iowa | 92.1% | 7 |
| South Dakota | 91.7% | 11 |
| Colorado | 90.5% | 14 |
| Kansas | 90.3% | 16 |
| Nebraska | 90.3% | 17 |
| Missouri | 88.9% | 29 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Who Have Completed High School (Includes Equivalency), Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

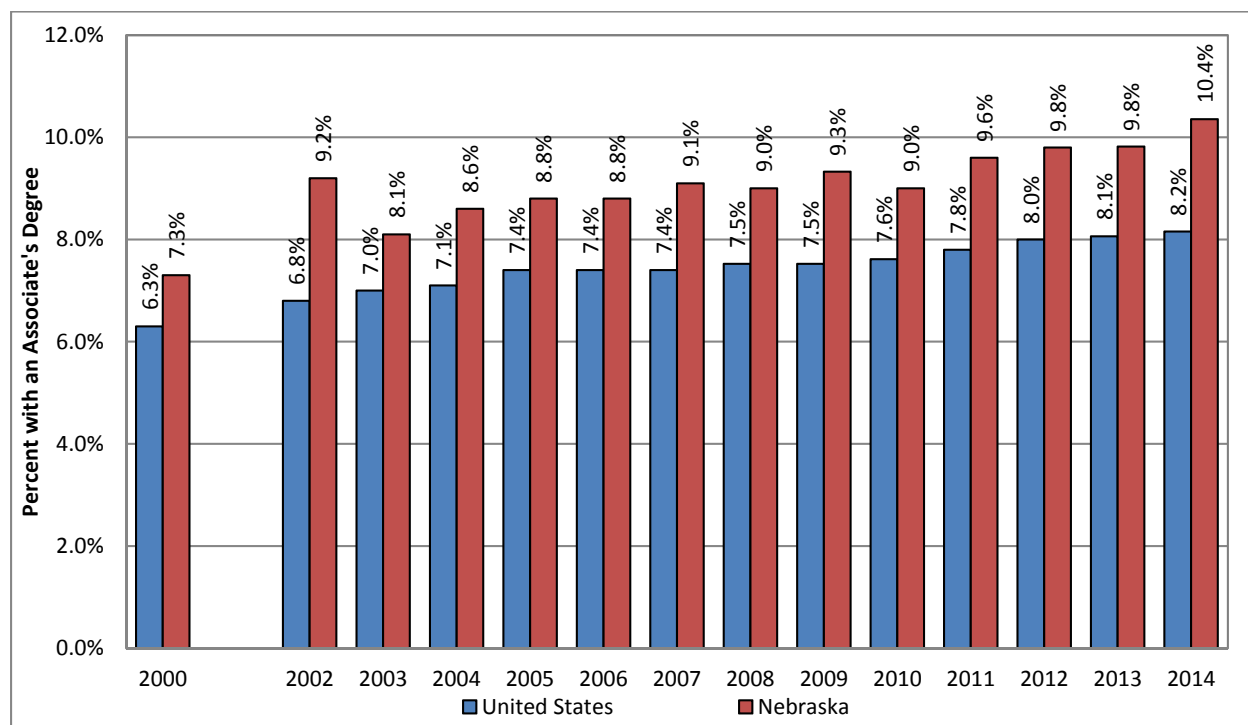
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Whose Highest Level of Education is an Associate’s Degree, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent with an Associate’s Degree | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 8.2% | |
| North Dakota | 13.5% | 1 |
| Iowa | 11.3% | 2 |
| South Dakota | 11.3% | 3 |
| Minnesota | 11.0% | 4 |
| Wyoming | 10.7% | 5 |
| Nebraska | 10.4% | 7 |
| Colorado | 8.2% | 26 |
| Kansas | 8.1% | 28 |
| Missouri | 7.5% | 40 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Whose Highest Level of Education is an Associate’s Degree, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note. 2001 data is unavailable.

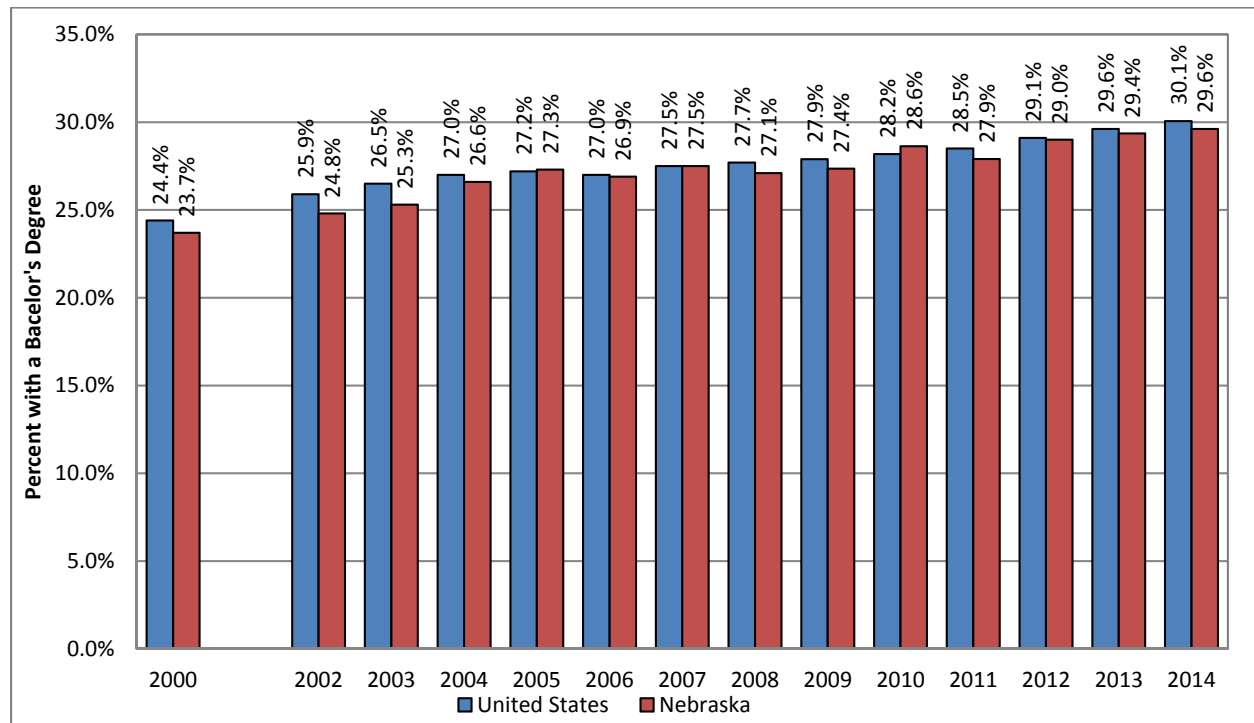
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent with a Bachelor's Degree | National Rank |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 30.1% | |
| Colorado | 38.3% | 3 |
| Minnesota | 34.2% | 11 |
| Kansas | 31.6% | 15 |
| Nebraska | 29.6% | 21 |
| South Dakota | 27.7% | 29 |
| Iowa | 27.7% | 30 |
| Missouri | 27.5% | 33 |
| North Dakota | 27.2% | 36 |
| Wyoming | 26.9% | 37 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

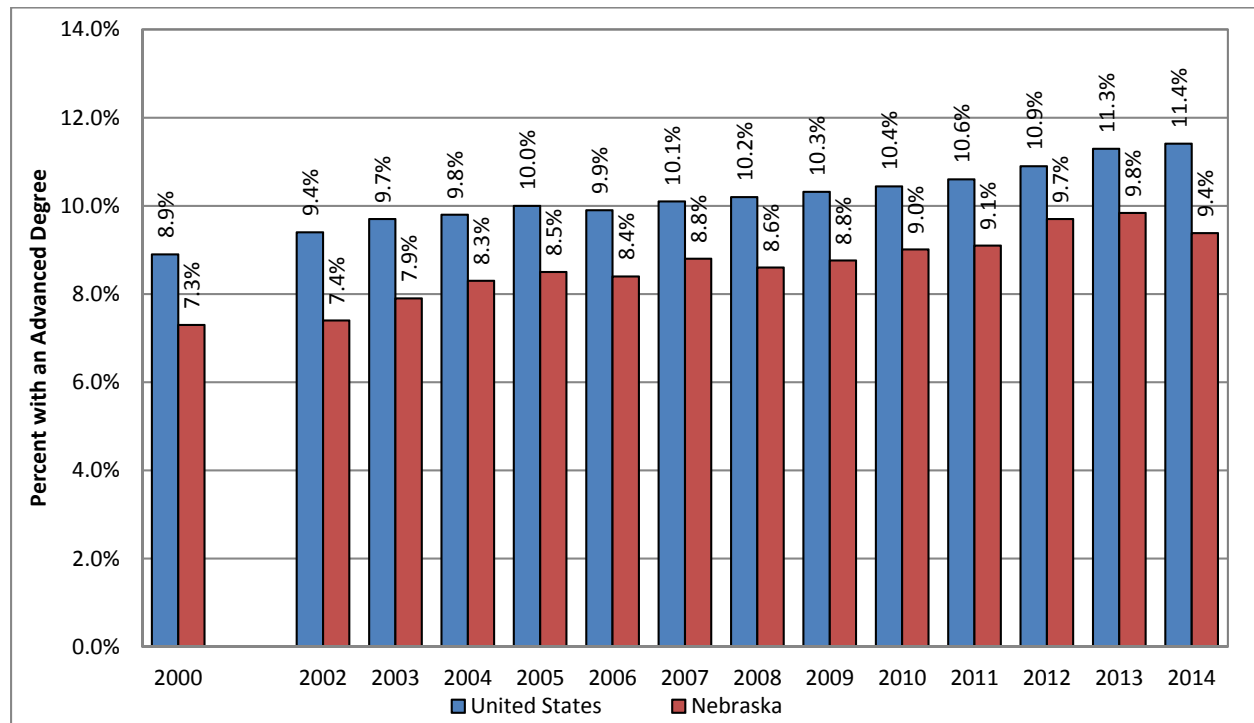
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent with an Advanced Degree | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 11.4% | |
| Colorado | 14.2% | 7 |
| Minnesota | 11.4% | 17 |
| Kansas | 11.3% | 19 |
| Missouri | 10.4% | 25 |
| Nebraska | 9.4% | 36 |
| Iowa | 9.1% | 39 |
| Wyoming | 9.0% | 40 |
| South Dakota | 7.7% | 48 |
| North Dakota | 7.4% | 50 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Older Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

Technology and Innovation

America’s Top States for Business, Technology, and Innovation, Regional Comparison: 2010-2015

| | 2015 National Rank | 2014 National Rank | 2013 National Rank | 2012 National Rank | 2011 National Rank | 2010 National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Colorado | 5 | 9 | 8 | 23 | 14 | 12 |
| Minnesota | 6 | 11 | 18 | 2 | 16 | 16 |
| Missouri | 23 | 24 | 21 | 20 | 23 | 24 |
| Iowa | 24 | 27 | 28 | 31 | 28 | 29 |
| Kansas | 30 | 29 | 30 | 6 | 30 | 31 |
| Nebraska | 32 | 40 | 34 | 19 | 35 | 37 |
| South Dakota | 41 | 46 | 46 | 27 | 49 | 49 |
| North Dakota | 44 | 49 | 47 | 15 | 48 | 47 |
| Wyoming | 49 | 50 | 48 | 26 | 50 | 50 |

Source: CNBC.com; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2015

State New Economy Index, Regional Comparison: 2010, 2012, and 2014

| | 2014 Rank | 2012 Rank | 2010 Rank | Change from 2010 to 2014 | Change from 2012 to 2014 |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Colorado | 6 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
| Minnesota | 13 | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 |
| Kansas | 31 | 29 | 26 | -5 | -2 |
| Missouri | 33 | 33 | 33 | 0 | 0 |
| Nebraska | 35 | 35 | 34 | -1 | 0 |
| North Dakota | 36 | 34 | 36 | 0 | -2 |
| Iowa | 37 | 38 | 38 | 1 | 1 |
| South Dakota | 42 | 43 | 45 | 3 | 1 |
| Wyoming | 45 | 41 | 46 | 1 | -4 |

Source: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Academic Science and Engineering Research and Development per \$1,000 of State GDP, Regional Comparison: 2012

| | Academic Research and Development (\$)/\$1,000 GDP | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 3.99 | |
| North Dakota | 4.64 | 11 |
| Colorado | 4.56 | 13 |
| Iowa | 4.56 | 13 |
| Nebraska | 4.21 | 20 |
| Missouri | 4.09 | 22 |
| Kansas | 3.45 | 31 |
| South Dakota | 2.91 | 37 |
| Minnesota | 2.85 | 39 |
| Wyoming | 1.66 | 50 |

Source: Science and Engineering Indicators, National Science Foundation Board; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Business-performed Research and Development as a Percentage of Private-industry Output, Regional Comparison: 2011

| | Business-performed Research and Development/Private-industry Output | National Rank* |
|-----------------|--|-----------------------|
| United States | 2.25 | |
| Minnesota | 2.45 | 10 |
| Colorado | 1.87 | 17 |
| Iowa | 1.79 | 20 |
| Kansas | 1.32 | 25 |
| Nebraska | 0.76 | 34 |
| North Dakota | 0.75 | 35 |
| South Dakota | 0.37 | 46 |
| Wyoming | 0.14 | 50 |
| Missouri | n.a. | n.a. |

*Data were unavailable for 2 states, and they were not included in the rankings.

Source: Science and Engineering Indicators, National Science Foundation Board; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

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Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Education

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska’s education by reviewing four broad areas: P-16 initiative goals; access; assessment; and funding sustainability. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used.

P-16 Initiative Goals

Nebraska has a comparatively large percentage of its high school graduates attending a 4-year degree granting institution and most of them attend a college in Nebraska. In the Fall 2014, 10,353 Nebraska’s high school graduates attended college, and 80% attended a college in Nebraska. This was the 16th highest percentage in the nation and highest in the region. Nebraska was a net importer of college students as 3,237 students came to Nebraska and 2,112 left Nebraska to attend college.

In 2014, 56.2% of Nebraska’s bachelor’s students graduated within six years. This was similar to the national rate of 57.6% and ranked 23rd. Nebraska also ranked toward the top of its peer states. Iowa had the highest six-year graduation rate at 68.4% (4th nationally) and was followed by Minnesota at 58.6%. North Dakota reported the lowest six-year graduation rate (50.3%).

Nebraska ranked favorably for public high school graduation and dropout rates. In 2013-2014, Nebraska recorded a high school graduation rate of 89.7%, ranking 2nd nationally and behind Iowa in the region. All but three of the states in Nebraska’s region reported high school graduation rates exceeding the national average of 82.3%. Nebraska’s dropout rate of 2.2% was the 38th lowest in the nation and 7th in the region, higher only than Kansas and Minnesota.

One of the concerns for high school dropouts is their future employment opportunities. The Census Bureau looks at the status of persons 16 to 19 years of age who were not enrolled in school and not a high school graduate. In 2014, 2.5% of all persons in the age group met those criteria. This ranked 46th lowest in the nation and was less than the national rate of 4.0%. Nearly 40% of this group was not in the labor force; that is, they were not working or looking for work.

Access

Compared to the nation, Nebraska lags in the percentage of children aged three and four who are enrolled in an education program. According to the 2014 American Community Survey, 40.0% of Nebraska’s children aged three and four were enrolled. This was below the national level of 47.1% and ranked 42nd. Regionally, Wyoming and North Dakota had lower percentages of children enrolled in school. Of those Nebraska children enrolled, 59.5% were enrolled in a public school. This ranked 26th nationally.

Compared to the nation in 2014, Nebraska recorded a smaller percentage of children aged 5 to 17 who attended public schools (88.5%). For the United States, the value was 89.3%. Nebraska ranked 33rd in the percentage of children aged 5 to 17 attending public school and was near the lowest in the region.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the highest labor force participation rates in the nation. As a result, a large portion of Nebraska’s children have working parents. In 2014, 73.7% of Nebraska’s children under six years old had all their parents in the labor force. This ranked 6th in the nation and compared to the national average of 64.6%. Moreover, the percentage of children with all their parents in the

labor force generally has been increasing during the past decade. In 2000, the comparable value was 69.8%.

Seven out of ten (70.5%) of Nebraska's students in higher education attended public institutions in 2014. This was the same as the national percentage. Nebraska ranked 30th. Interestingly the highest percentage nationally was in Wyoming, where 96.5% of the students attended a public institution. Iowa, Minnesota, and Missouri had lower percentages than Nebraska.

Average costs per full-time equivalent student in public colleges and universities in Nebraska ranked relatively low in the nation. In the 2012-2013 academic year, the average cost for a 4-year public institution in Nebraska was \$15,291; for a 2-year public institution the average cost was \$2,594. Nebraska's costs ranked 35th and 41st respectively and were well below the national average.

In 2013, state and local appropriations for higher education in Nebraska totaled \$2.0 billion, at a per capita cost of \$1,078. This ranked 9th nationally.

Assessment

Looking at reading and mathematics scores for Nebraska's fourth and eighth graders, it appears that Nebraska generally ranked in the middle one-third of the states but ranked toward the bottom of its peer states in 2013.

In reading, Nebraska ranked slightly above the national median, and the relative rank increased from fourth to eighth grade. For fourth graders, Nebraska's average reading score ranked 23rd, and for eighth graders it ranked 16th.

For mathematics, Nebraska ranked above the national median in most categories, but the relative rankings have increased in recent years. Nebraska's average mathematics score ranked 23rd for fourth graders and 25th for eighth graders.

Funding Stability

Nebraska's per pupil spending for public elementary and secondary education in 2011-2012 totaled \$13,142 and ranked 17th nationally. This was the 2nd highest in the region, below Wyoming, but was higher than the national per pupil expenditure of \$12,010.

Based on information from the 2008-2013 American Community Surveys, it appears that Nebraska had been attracting 22 to 64 year olds until 2013. Moreover, in 2013, Nebraska lost people with post-secondary degrees, especially those persons with advanced degrees. This was offset by persons with no high school diploma, persons with some college but no degree, and persons with associate degrees.

P-16 Initiative Goals

Rate and Migration of All First-time Degree/Certificate-seeking Undergraduates in 4-year Degree-granting Postsecondary Institutions Who Graduated from High School in the Previous 12 Months, Regional Comparisons: Fall 2014

| | State Residents Enrolled in Institutions | | | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------|---------------|---|-----------|
| | Total first-time enrollment in institutions located in the state | In any state | In home state | Home state residents as a percent of all instate enrollment | Rank |
| United States | 1,545,535 | 1,497,499 | 1,105,035 | 74% | |
| Nebraska | 11,478 | 10,353 | 8,241 | 80% | 16 |
| North Dakota | 6,502 | 3,919 | 3,105 | 79% | 18 |
| Iowa | 20,223 | 13,527 | 10,570 | 78% | 19 |
| Kansas | 15,577 | 13,726 | 10,654 | 78% | 19 |
| Missouri | 30,048 | 26,308 | 19,719 | 75% | 28 |
| South Dakota | 5,850 | 4,629 | 3,366 | 73% | 31 |
| Colorado | 24,081 | 25,037 | 16,744 | 67% | 35 |
| Minnesota | 25,208 | 30,495 | 17,905 | 59% | 38 |
| Wyoming | 1,488 | 1,428 | 777 | 54% | 42 |
| | | | | | |
| | Migration of Students | | | | |
| | Out of state | Into state | Net | | |
| United States | 392,464 | 440,500 | 48,036 | | |
| Nebraska | 2,112 | 3,237 | 1,125 | | |
| North Dakota | 814 | 3,397 | 2,583 | | |
| Iowa | 2,957 | 9,653 | 6,696 | | |
| Kansas | 3,072 | 4,923 | 1,851 | | |
| Missouri | 6,589 | 10,329 | 3,740 | | |
| South Dakota | 1,263 | 2,484 | 1,221 | | |
| Colorado | 8,293 | 7,337 | -956 | | |
| Minnesota | 12,590 | 7,303 | -5,287 | | |
| Wyoming | 651 | 711 | 60 | | |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Six-Year Graduation Rates for Four-Year Public Colleges, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Graduation Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 57.6% | |
| Iowa | 68.4% | 4 |
| Minnesota | 58.6% | 19 |
| Nebraska | 56.2% | 23 |
| Missouri | 55.2% | 26 |
| Kansas | 54.6% | 27 |
| Wyoming | 54.1% | 30 |
| Colorado | 53.6% | 31 |
| South Dakota | 50.5% | 34 |
| North Dakota | 50.3% | 35 |

Source: The Chronicle of Higher Education; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Public High School Graduation Rates, Nebraska and the United States: 1995-2014

| | Public High School Graduation Rate | |
|-----------|---|-----------------|
| | United States | Nebraska |
| 1995-1996 | 71.0% | 85.6% |
| 1996-1997 | 71.3% | 84.8% |
| 1997-1998 | 71.3% | 85.6% |
| 1998-1999 | 71.1% | 87.3% |
| 1999-2000 | 71.7% | 85.7% |
| 2000-2001 | 71.7% | 83.8% |
| 2001-2002 | 72.6% | 83.9% |
| 2002-2003 | 73.9% | 85.2% |
| 2003-2004 | 74.3% | 87.6% |
| 2004-2005 | 74.7% | 87.8% |
| 2005-2006 | 73.4% | 87.0% |
| 2006-2007 | 73.9% | 86.3% |
| 2007-2008 | 74.7% | 83.8% |
| 2008-2009 | 75.5% | 82.9% |
| 2009-2010 | 78.2% | 83.8% |
| 2010-2011 | 79.6% | 89.8% |
| 2011-2012 | 80.8% | 92.7% |
| 2012-2013 | 81.9% | 93.3% |
| 2013-2014 | 82.3% | 89.7% |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Public High School Graduation Rates, Regional Comparison: 2013-2014

| | Graduation Rate | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 82.3% | |
| Iowa | 90.5% | 1 |
| Nebraska | 89.7% | 2 |
| Missouri | 87.3% | 10 |
| North Dakota | 87.2% | 11 |
| Kansas | 85.7% | 21 |
| South Dakota | 82.7% | 29 |
| Minnesota | 81.2% | 32 |
| Wyoming | 78.6% | 37 |
| Colorado | 77.3% | 41 |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Public High School Dropout Rates, Regional Comparison: 2011-2012

| | Dropout Rate | National Rank |
|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 3.3 | |
| Colorado | 4.9 | 6 |
| Wyoming | 4.3 | 9 |
| Iowa | 3.2 | 22 |
| South Dakota | 3.1 | 26 |
| North Dakota | 3.0 | 27 |
| Missouri | 2.9 | 28 |
| Nebraska | 2.2 | 38 |
| Kansas | 2.1 | 42 |
| Minnesota | 1.9 | 44 |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

School Enrollment by Educational Attainment for the Population 16 to 19 Years, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Population 16 to 19 Years of Age | Not in School and Not a High School Graduate | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| | | Number | Percent | Rank | Percent Not in Labor Force |
| United States | 17,165,294 | 690,275 | 4.0% | | 50.8% |
| Colorado | 269,002 | 12,933 | 4.8% | 12 | 46.3% |
| Missouri | 319,919 | 13,717 | 4.3% | 19 | 46.4% |
| South Dakota | 48,631 | 2,061 | 4.2% | 20 | 41.2% |
| North Dakota | 42,111 | 1,777 | 4.2% | 21 | 33.8% |
| Kansas | 164,720 | 5,986 | 3.6% | 35 | 54.4% |
| Iowa | 178,132 | 5,897 | 3.3% | 38 | 46.7% |
| Minnesota | 285,864 | 8,191 | 2.9% | 42 | 34.6% |
| Nebraska | 103,876 | 2,647 | 2.5% | 46 | 39.6% |
| Wyoming | 30,304 | 743 | 2.5% | 48 | 61.6% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Access

Public and Private School Fall Enrollment for Children 3 to 4 Years of Age and 5 to 17 Years of Age, Regional Comparison: 2014

Children 3 to 4 years of age

| | Total Enrollment (000) | Percent Enrolled* | National Rank of Total Enrollment | Percent Enrolled in Public School** | National Rank of Public School Enrollment |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| United States | 3,854,938 | 47.1% | | 58.1% | |
| Colorado | 71,129 | 53.5% | 8 | 61.8% | 20 |
| Iowa | 39,039 | 49.7% | 15 | 71.5% | 6 |
| South Dakota | 11,116 | 44.8% | 27 | 71.8% | 5 |
| Kansas | 35,929 | 44.5% | 28 | 59.9% | 24 |
| Minnesota | 62,433 | 43.6% | 30 | 64.3% | 15 |
| Missouri | 65,729 | 43.1% | 32 | 51.9% | 41 |
| Nebraska | 20,883 | 40.0% | 42 | 59.5% | 26 |
| Wyoming | 6,094 | 37.9% | 46 | 55.8% | 33 |
| North Dakota | 6,560 | 32.5% | 50 | 69.9% | 8 |

Children 5 to 17 years of age

| | Total Enrollment (000) | Percent Enrolled in Public School** | National Rank of Public School Enrollment |
|-----------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| United States | 52,207,434 | 89.3% | |
| North Dakota | 112,194 | 92.6% | 4 |
| Wyoming | 95,514 | 92.2% | 7 |
| Colorado | 888,216 | 91.4% | 11 |
| South Dakota | 145,189 | 90.5% | 15 |
| Iowa | 517,514 | 90.0% | 20 |
| Minnesota | 908,258 | 89.0% | 27 |
| Nebraska | 326,716 | 88.5% | 33 |
| Kansas | 505,352 | 88.4% | 36 |
| Missouri | 988,351 | 86.7% | 41 |

* As a percentage of all 3 and 4 year olds, includes those not enrolled

** As a percentage of those enrolled

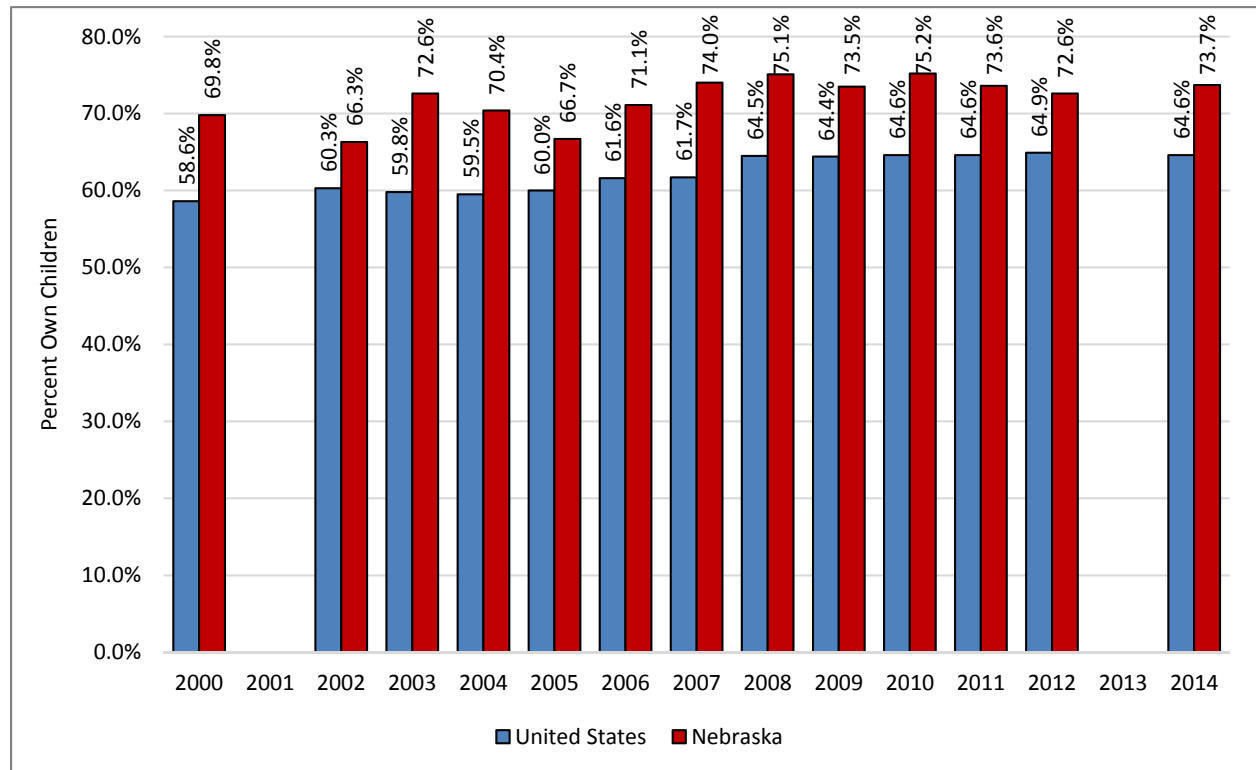
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Percentage of Own Children under 6 Years of Age with All Parents in the Labor Force, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent of Children under 6 Years of Age | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| United States | 64.6% | |
| Iowa | 75.9% | 1 |
| South Dakota | 74.6% | 2 |
| Minnesota | 74.0% | 3 |
| Nebraska | 73.7% | 6 |
| North Dakota | 68.9% | 13 |
| Missouri | 67.8% | 19 |
| Kansas | 66.3% | 25 |
| Colorado | 63.9% | 36 |
| Wyoming | 62.0% | 40 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Percentage of Own Children under 6 Years of Age with All Parents in the Labor Force, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2002-2014 American Community Survey and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Costs per Full-time-equivalent Student in Public Colleges and Universities, Regional Comparison: 2011-2012 and 2012-2013

Public 4-year Institutions

| | 2012-2013 | 2011 - 2012 | National Rank 2012 - 2013 |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| United States | \$17,474 | \$16,805 | |
| Colorado | \$18,052 | \$17,161 | 21 |
| Minnesota | \$17,998 | \$17,354 | 22 |
| Iowa | \$16,358 | \$15,663 | 27 |
| Missouri | \$16,236 | \$15,665 | 28 |
| Nebraska | \$15,291 | \$14,577 | 35 |
| Kansas | \$13,901 | \$13,432 | 41 |
| South Dakota | \$13,858 | \$13,327 | 42 |
| North Dakota | \$13,210 | \$12,846 | 47 |
| Wyoming | \$12,479 | \$12,022 | 49 |

Public 2-year Institutions

| | 2012 - 2013 | 2011 - 2012 | National Rank 2012 - 2013 |
|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| United States | \$2,792 | \$2,652 | |
| Minnesota | \$5,362 | \$5,195 | 3 |
| South Dakota | \$5,066 | \$4,802 | 4 |
| Iowa | \$4,099 | \$3,998 | 8 |
| North Dakota | \$4,048 | \$3,994 | 11 |
| Colorado | \$3,004 | \$3,484 | 31 |
| Missouri | \$2,716 | \$2,600 | 36 |
| Kansas | \$2,621 | \$2,601 | 40 |
| Nebraska | \$2,594 | \$2,470 | 41 |
| Wyoming | \$2,420 | \$2,305 | 44 |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Enrollment in Institutions of Higher Education, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Total Fall Enrollment | Percent in Public Institutions | Rank |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| United States | 18,797,191 | 70.5% | |
| Wyoming | 32,765 | 96.5% | 1 |
| North Dakota | 47,587 | 87.9% | 7 |
| South Dakota | 48,154 | 79.6% | 16 |
| Kansas | 204,705 | 78.9% | 19 |
| Colorado | 318,422 | 73.1% | 27 |
| Nebraska | 121,927 | 70.5% | 30 |
| Iowa | 267,538 | 57.9% | 39 |
| Minnesota | 409,674 | 57.5% | 41 |
| Missouri | 391,084 | 57.3% | 42 |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Educational Appropriations for Institutions of Higher Education, Regional Comparisons: 2013

| | Total Appropriations (\$ thousands) | Cost Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | \$261,153,244 | \$826.10 | -- |
| North Dakota | \$980,924 | \$1,356.00 | 1 |
| Wyoming | \$733,222 | \$1,258.41 | 4 |
| Iowa | \$3,554,648 | \$1,150.22 | 7 |
| Nebraska | \$2,014,872 | \$1,078.33 | 9 |
| Kansas | \$3,053,623 | \$1,055.17 | 11 |
| Colorado | \$4,662,517 | \$885.00 | 24 |
| Minnesota | \$4,648,241 | \$857.55 | 29 |
| South Dakota | \$652,450 | \$772.24 | 34 |
| Missouri | \$3,989,691 | \$660.09 | 42 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Governments Division, 2013 State and Local Government Finances; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Degrees Conferred by Degree-granting Institutions, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | Degrees Conferred | Bachelor's Degrees Conferred |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| United States | 3,773,914 | 1,840,164 |
| Colorado | 65,750 | 32,446 |
| Iowa | 75,372 | 41,447 |
| Kansas | 38,368 | 19,622 |
| Minnesota | 85,005 | 36,326 |
| Missouri | 86,043 | 40,963 |
| Nebraska | 26,583 | 14,119 |
| North Dakota | 10,510 | 5,983 |
| South Dakota | 10,098 | 5,641 |
| Wyoming | 5,867 | 2,057 |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Assessment

Average Reading Scale Score and Percentage of 4th and 8th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Reading Achievement Levels, Regional Comparison: 2013

4th Graders

| | Average Scale Score* | | Percent Attaining Reading Achievement Levels** | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|--|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Score | National Rank | At or Above Basic | National Rank | At or Above Proficient | National Rank | At Advanced | National Rank |
| United States | 221 | | 67.2% | | 34.0% | | 8.0% | |
| Colorado | 227 | 10 | 74.1% | 10 | 40.6% | 9 | 10.3% | 9 |
| Iowa | 224 | 20 | 71.7% | 17 | 38.0% | 14 | 8.9% | 15 |
| Kansas | 223 | 22 | 71.3% | 19 | 37.6% | 16 | 8.0% | 27 |
| Minnesota | 227 | 9 | 74.0% | 11 | 41.5% | 8 | 10.4% | 8 |
| Missouri | 222 | 27 | 69.7% | 27 | 35.1% | 26 | 7.4% | 30 |
| Nebraska | 223 | 23 | 71.0% | 21 | 37.1% | 19 | 8.3% | 22 |
| North Dakota | 224 | 18 | 73.1% | 14 | 34.0% | 29 | 5.6% | 44 |
| South Dakota | 218 | 37 | 65.8% | 34 | 32.0% | 35 | 6.1% | 40 |
| Wyoming | 226 | 12 | 74.7% | 8 | 37.1% | 20 | 7.1% | 32 |

8th Graders

| | Average Scale Score* | | Percent Attaining Reading Achievement Levels** | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|--|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Score | National Rank | At or Above Basic | National Rank | At or Above Proficient | National Rank | At Advanced | National Rank |
| United States | 266 | | 76.6% | | 34.3% | | n.a. | n.a. |
| Colorado | 271 | 11 | 81.3% | 12 | 39.8% | 11 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Iowa | 269 | 19 | 81.2% | 13 | 36.7% | 19 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Kansas | 267 | 28 | 78.2% | 25 | 35.8% | 25 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Minnesota | 271 | 10 | 81.7% | 9 | 40.5% | 9 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Missouri | 267 | 26 | 78.4% | 24 | 35.8% | 26 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Nebraska | 269 | 16 | 80.9% | 15 | 36.7% | 20 | n.a. | n.a. |
| North Dakota | 268 | 22 | 80.9% | 16 | 34.2% | 30 | n.a. | n.a. |
| South Dakota | 268 | 21 | 80.8% | 18 | 35.5% | 27 | n.a. | n.a. |
| Wyoming | 271 | 12 | 84.4% | 2 | 37.6% | 17 | n.a. | n.a. |

Notes: *Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

**Basic Level denotes partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at the grade level. Proficient Level represents solid academic performance for grade level. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter. Advanced Level signifies superior performance. Advanced level for 8th graders was not reported in 2013.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Average Mathematics Scale Score and Percentage of 4th and 8th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels, Regional Comparison: 2013

4th Graders

| | Average Scale Score* | | Percent Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels** | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|--|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Score | National Rank | At or Above Basic | National Rank | At or Above Proficient | National Rank | At Advanced | National Rank |
| United States | 241 | | 82.2% | | 41.3% | | 7.6% | |
| Colorado | 247 | 6 | 87.0% | 12 | 49.9% | 6 | 10.6% | 6 |
| Iowa | 246 | 14 | 86.6% | 14 | 47.7% | 12 | 9.4% | 11 |
| Kansas | 246 | 11 | 89.0% | 7 | 47.6% | 13 | 7.7% | 22 |
| Minnesota | 253 | 1 | 90.1% | 4 | 59.4% | 1 | 15.8% | 1 |
| Missouri | 240 | 38 | 82.7% | 33 | 38.7% | 39 | 5.3% | 41 |
| Nebraska | 243 | 23 | 84.4% | 22 | 44.7% | 22 | 8.0% | 21 |
| North Dakota | 246 | 9 | 89.2% | 6 | 48.0% | 9 | 7.4% | 24 |
| South Dakota | 241 | 30 | 84.2% | 23 | 40.4% | 30 | 5.3% | 42 |
| Wyoming | 247 | 8 | 90.2% | 2 | 47.8% | 11 | 6.6% | 33 |

8th Graders

| | Average Scale Score* | | Percent Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels** | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|--|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Score | National Rank | At or Above Basic | National Rank | At or Above Proficient | National Rank | At Advanced | National Rank |
| United States | 284 | | 73.1% | | 34.4% | | 8.3% | |
| Colorado | 290 | 8 | 77.0% | 20 | 41.9% | 6 | 12.1% | 5 |
| Iowa | 285 | 24 | 75.8% | 22 | 35.8% | 27 | 7.2% | 23 |
| Kansas | 290 | 11 | 79.2% | 10 | 40.5% | 10 | 9.9% | 18 |
| Minnesota | 295 | 5 | 82.5% | 4 | 47.2% | 3 | 14.5% | 3 |
| Missouri | 283 | 30 | 74.1% | 26 | 32.6% | 32 | 6.6% | 32 |
| Nebraska | 285 | 25 | 76.2% | 21 | 35.6% | 28 | 7.0% | 35 |
| North Dakota | 291 | 6 | 82.0% | 6 | 40.6% | 9 | 8.4% | 21 |
| South Dakota | 287 | 19 | 78.7% | 13 | 38.4% | 15 | 7.4% | 19 |
| Wyoming | 288 | 17 | 80.7% | 7 | 37.8% | 19 | 6.6% | 29 |

Notes: *Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

**Basic Level denotes partial mastery of the knowledge and skills that are fundamental for proficient work at the grade level. Proficient Level represents solid academic performance for grade level. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter. Advanced Level signifies superior performance.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Funding Sustainability

Total Expenditures per Pupil in Fall Enrollment in Public Elementary and Secondary Education, Regional Comparison: 2011-2012

| | Total Expenditures per Pupil | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$12,010 | |
| Wyoming | \$18,382 | 5 |
| Nebraska | \$13,142 | 17 |
| North Dakota | \$13,026 | 19 |
| Minnesota | \$12,515 | 20 |
| Iowa | \$12,078 | 21 |
| Kansas | \$11,840 | 26 |
| Missouri | \$10,876 | 31 |
| South Dakota | \$10,155 | 39 |
| Colorado | \$9,928 | 41 |

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Estimated Net Migration of Persons 22 to 64 Years of Age, Nebraska: 2008-2013

| Level of Education | Estimated Net-Migration | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Less than high school diploma | 2,797 | 6,210 | 2,442 | 1,829 | -3,828 | 1,376 |
| High school graduate | 1,376 | 3,473 | 1,555 | 989 | 1,336 | -153 |
| Subtotal | 4,173 | 9,683 | 3,997 | 2,818 | -2,492 | 1,223 |
| Some college but no degree | 1,537 | 2,729 | 380 | 1,342 | 729 | 746 |
| Associate degree | -346 | -67 | 1,562 | -1,429 | 729 | 746 |
| Bachelor's degree | 2,266 | -258 | 3,651 | -986 | 945 | -963 |
| Graduate or Professional Degree | 876 | -782 | -465 | -1,709 | 3,037 | -3,717 |
| Subtotal | 2,796 | -1,107 | 4,748 | -4,124 | -1,298 | 1,484 |
| Total | 8,506 | 11,305 | 9,125 | 36 | 2,684 | -3,196 |

Source: 2015 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database – Health and Human Services

Introduction

This benchmark examines health and human services in Nebraska by reviewing five broad areas: health access; health status; family welfare; and health costs. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used.

Health Access

The Commonwealth Fund’s Commission on a High Performance Health System ranked the overall performance of the states’ health systems. The latest year for this ranking was 2015. Nebraska ranked 13th nationally, Minnesota ranked as the best state in the nation, while Missouri was in the bottom one-third nationally.

The Commonwealth Fund also looked at the long-term services and support system and the child health system. Nebraska also ranks among the top 20 states in these measures, with respective rankings of 20th and 16th. Minnesota ranked 1st in the nation for long-term services and support, and Iowa ranked 1st in the nation for child health.

The Nebraska Office of Rural Health looks at professional shortage areas. In 2015, many of the counties in the western one-third of the state experienced shortages in primary care. The map included in this section is just one of many prepared by this office.

In 2014, Nebraska ranked better than the United States in the rate of uninsurance, as 9.7% of the total population—5.3% of children under 18 years, and 13.6% of those aged 18 to 64 years—were uninsured. The respective national rankings were: 31st, 25th, and 31st (A lower ranking indicates a lower uninsurance rate). In general, Nebraska ranked better than its peer states, even though North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota had lower rates. For children under 18 years, only Minnesota and Iowa had lower rates than Nebraska. For the 18 to 64 year old population, North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota had lower rates.

Health Status

In 2014, 18.1% of adult Nebraskans were tobacco users. This compares to 17.3% for the United States. Although the percentage of tobacco users is higher than 2009’s low, there has been a general decreasing trend in tobacco use since the early 2000s. Heavy drinking (defined as two drinks per day for men and 1 drink per day for women) has increased since 2006. The value for 2013, at 6.8%, was higher than many of the previous years but down since 2011.

Nebraska’s adult obesity rate has been increasing and is consistently higher than the national rate between 2005 and 2013. The obesity rate in 2013 was 29.6%, which was higher than the national rate of 29.4%. Child obesity, on the other hand, has been lower in Nebraska than in the nation (12.7% compared to 13.7% in 2013); both Nebraska’s trend and the nation’s trend are up.

In 2014, 70.0% of Nebraska mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester. The infant mortality rate in 2014 was 5.1 per 1,000 live births. This was down from 2013, the lowest rate in the past 10 years. In 2014, there were 1,411 teen births, which was the lowest number for the 2005-2014 period. Overall, teen births represented 5.3% of all births. This also was lowest in the 2005-2014 time period.

Family Welfare

The poverty rate for Nebraska's children in 2014 was 16.2% and was among the lowest in the nation, ranking 36th. However, in the region, only Missouri, South Dakota, and Kansas recorded higher child poverty rates. Nationally, the child poverty rate was 21.7%. Although recording a drop since 2012, the percentage of children in poverty for Nebraska is still higher than the 2005-2009 period.

Looking at the poverty rate for families with a female householder with no spouse present, Nebraska was below the national rate in 2014, 37.7% in Nebraska compared to 40.6% for the United States. During this period, Nebraska ranked 37th, with only Minnesota and Colorado recording lower poverty rates than Nebraska. During the past five years, the poverty rate for families with a female householder with no spouse present has fluctuated from year to year but has exhibited a generally increasing trend.

In 2015, the average number of monthly recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nebraska was 10,374 persons—1,457 adults and 8,917 children. That number was down by about 8,000 recipients since the peak in 2010. This pattern was the same for the nation and all of the states in the region, with the exception of Colorado.

Health Costs

In 2012-2013, Nebraska spent \$1,324 per capita at the state level and \$60 per capita at the local level on public welfare. Per capita state expenditures ranked 32nd and per capita local expenditures ranked 17th.

In FY 2014, Medicaid and CHIP expenditures totaled more than \$1.8 billion, the majority of which (44.9%) was for the blind and disabled. The next highest category was for children (27.7%); followed by aged (20.8%) and ADC adult (6.6%). Since FY 2005, the largest increases by category were for the blind and disabled and for children. Expenditures for the aged rose the slowest. This relatively slower increase in expenditures for the aged population should be viewed with caution because the impact of the aging baby boom will not be felt for a few more years.

Looking at expenditures per eligible person in FY 2014, a different pattern emerges. The highest expenditures were still highest for the blind and disabled at \$1,850 per eligible person, but expenditures for the aged at \$1,744 per eligible person became the second highest level of spending per person. Although total expenditures for children were relatively high, they were the lowest on an eligible person basis (\$275). With the exception of ADC adult, the other categories of expenditures per eligible person were higher in FY 2014 than in most of the previous nine years.

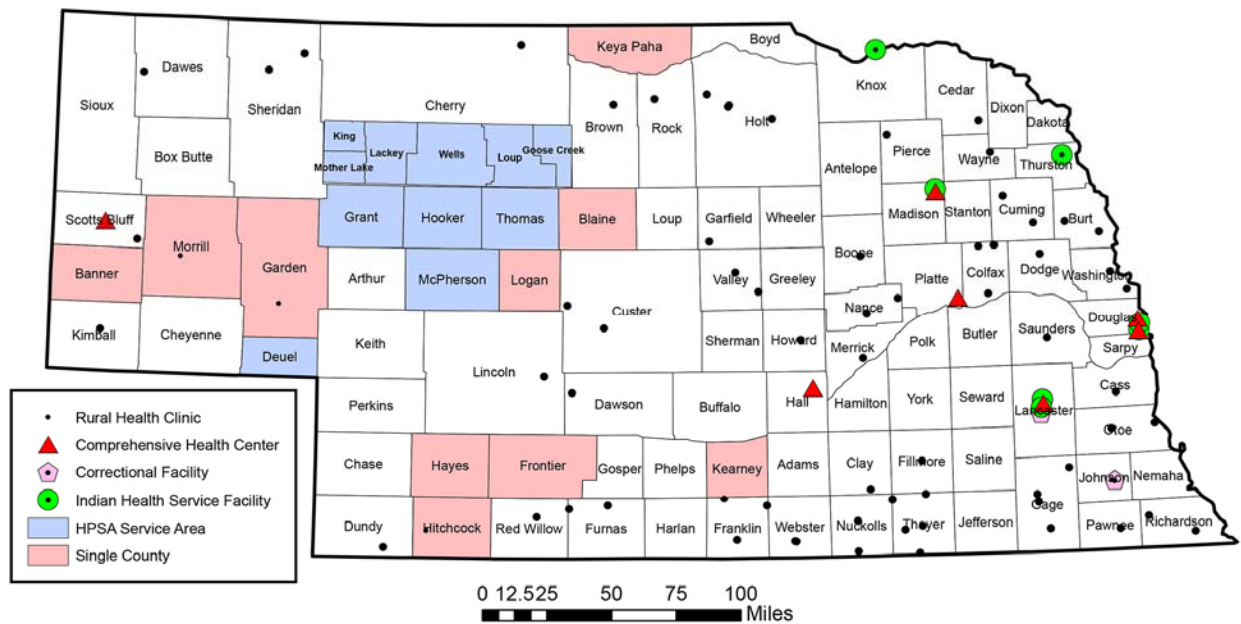
Health Access

Overall, Long-Term Services, and Child Health State Rankings on Health System Performance, Regional Comparison: 2011, 2014, and 2015

| | National Rank | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | 2015 | 2014 | 2011 |
| | Overall Health System | Long-Term Services and Support System | Child Health System |
| Minnesota | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Colorado | 8 | 4 | 20 |
| Iowa | 9 | 13 | 1 |
| Nebraska | 13 | 20 | 16 |
| South Dakota | 15 | 24 | 27 |
| North Dakota | 26 | 33 | 10 |
| Kansas | 28 | 17 | 13 |
| Wyoming | 28 | 16 | 35 |
| Missouri | 36 | 35 | 21 |

Source: The Commonwealth Fund, U.S. Health System Scorecards; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2015

Health Professional Shortage Areas Primary Care, Nebraska: 2015



Source: HRSA Division of Policy and Shortage Designation; cartography by Nebraska DHHS Office of Community and Rural Health, January 2015

Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population that is Uninsured, Regional Comparison: 2014

Total Population

| | Percent Uninsured | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 11.7% | |
| Wyoming | 12.0% | 19 |
| Missouri | 11.7% | 22 |
| Colorado | 10.3% | 25 |
| Kansas | 10.2% | 26 |
| South Dakota | 9.8% | 28 |
| Nebraska | 9.7% | 31 |
| North Dakota | 7.9% | 41 |
| Iowa | 6.2% | 46 |
| Minnesota | 5.9% | 47 |

Under 18 years

| | Percent Uninsured | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 6.0% | |
| Missouri | 7.2% | 12 |
| North Dakota | 6.9% | 14 |
| Wyoming | 5.9% | 16 |
| South Dakota | 5.7% | 19 |
| Colorado | 5.6% | 20 |
| Kansas | 5.5% | 22 |
| Nebraska | 5.3% | 25 |
| Minnesota | 3.8% | 39 |
| Iowa | 3.2% | 45 |

18 to 64 years

| | Percent Uninsured | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 16.3% | |
| Wyoming | 16.7% | 19 |
| Missouri | 16.1% | 22 |
| Kansas | 14.5% | 25 |
| Colorado | 13.9% | 29 |
| South Dakota | 13.8% | 30 |
| Nebraska | 13.6% | 31 |
| North Dakota | 9.8% | 44 |
| Iowa | 8.8% | 46 |
| Minnesota | 7.9% | 47 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Rural Response Hotline Summary, Nebraska: 1999-2012

| | Calls | Vouchers |
|------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1999 | 2,983 | 737 |
| 2000 | 3,319 | 1,053 |
| 2001 | 3,567 | 2,014 |
| 2002 | 4,366 | 3,878 |
| 2003 | 4,052 | 1,573 |
| 2004 | 5,522 | 1,743 |
| 2005 | 4,405 | 1,542 |
| 2006 | 6,102 | 3,524 |
| 2007 | 4,943 | 2,394 |
| 2008 | 4,245 | 2,719 |
| 2009 | 4,703 | 3,089 |
| 2010 | 4,715 | 2,582 |
| 2011 | 4,331 | 2,617 |
| 2012 | 4,530 | 2,625 |

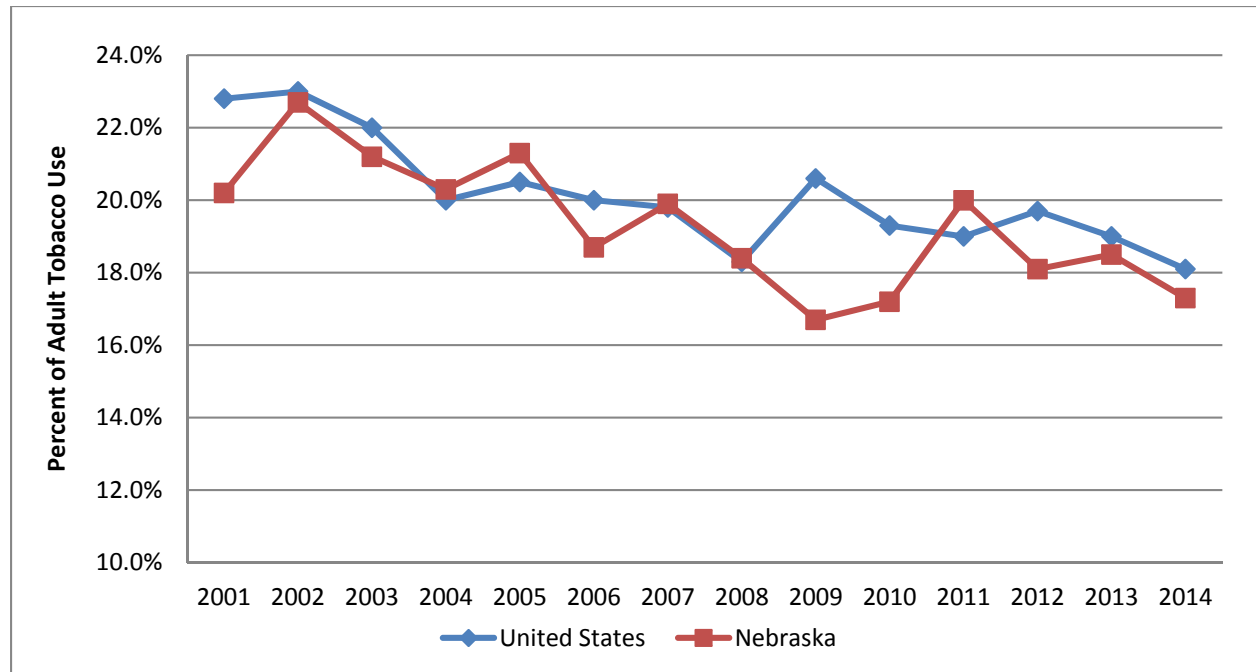
Health Status

Percentage of Adult Tobacco Use, Nebraska and the United States: 2001-2014

| | Nebraska | United States |
|------|----------|---------------|
| 2001 | 20.2% | 22.8% |
| 2002 | 22.7% | 23.0% |
| 2003 | 21.2% | 22.0% |
| 2004 | 20.3% | 20.0% |
| 2005 | 21.3% | 20.5% |
| 2006 | 18.7% | 20.0% |
| 2007 | 19.9% | 19.8% |
| 2008 | 18.4% | 18.3% |
| 2009 | 16.7% | 20.6% |
| 2010 | 17.2% | 19.3% |
| 2011 | 19.0% | 20.0% |
| 2012 | 18.1% | 19.7% |
| 2013 | 19.0% | 18.5% |
| 2014 | 18.1% | 17.3% |

Source: State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2015

Percentage of Adult Tobacco Use, Nebraska and the United States: 2001-2014



Source: State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2015

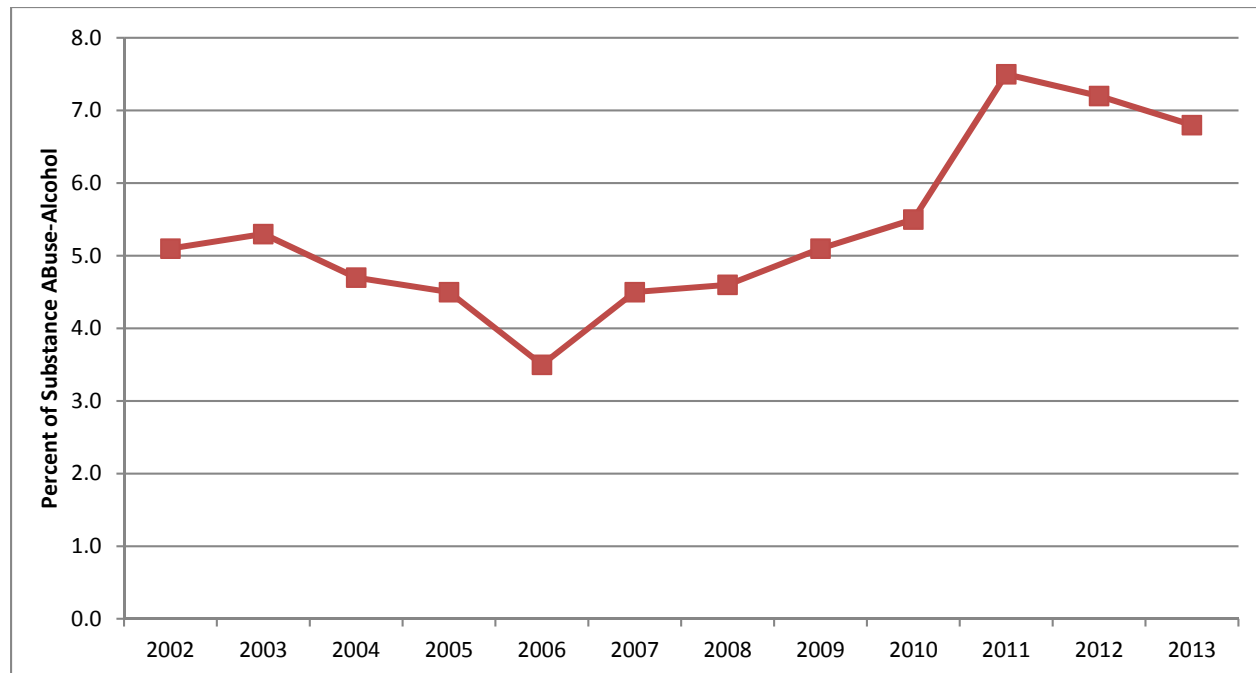
Percentage of Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking), Nebraska: 2002-2013

| | Percent (Weighted) |
|------|--------------------|
| 2002 | 5.1% |
| 2003 | 5.3% |
| 2004 | 4.7% |
| 2005 | 4.5% |
| 2006 | 3.5% |
| 2007 | 4.5% |
| 2008 | 4.6% |
| 2009 | 5.1% |
| 2010 | 5.5% |
| 2011 | 7.5% |
| 2012 | 7.2% |
| 2013 | 6.8% |

Note: Heavy drinking is defined as two drinks per day for men and one drink per day for women.

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Percentage of Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking), Nebraska: 2002-2013



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Adult Obesity, Nebraska and the United States: 2005-2013

| | Nebraska | United States |
|------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 2005 | 26.0% | 24.4% |
| 2006 | 26.9% | 25.1% |
| 2007 | 26.5% | 26.3% |
| 2008 | 27.2% | 26.7% |
| 2009 | 28.0% | 26.9% |
| 2010 | 27.5% | 27.5% |
| 2011 | 28.4% | 27.8% |
| 2012 | 28.6% | 27.6% |
| 2013 | 29.6% | 29.4% |

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Child Obesity*, Nebraska and the United States: 2011 and 2013

| | Nebraska | United States |
|------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 2011 | 11.6% | 13.0% |
| 2013 | 12.7% | 13.7% |

Note: Percentage of high school students who were obese.

Source: Youth Risk Factor Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Resident Births and Percentage of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester, Nebraska: 2005-2014

| | Total Resident Births | Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester | |
|------|------------------------------|---|----------------|
| | | Number | Percent |
| 2005 | 26,142 | 18,627 | 71.3% |
| 2006 | 26,723 | 19,096 | 71.5% |
| 2007 | 26,935 | 19,721 | 73.2% |
| 2008 | 26,992 | 19,464 | 72.1% |
| 2009 | 26,931 | 19,382 | 72.0% |
| 2010 | 25,916 | 18,979 | 73.2% |
| 2011 | 25,722 | 19,054 | 74.1% |
| 2012 | 25,939 | 19,131 | 73.8% |
| 2013 | 26,094 | 19,541 | 74.9% |
| 2014 | 26,794 | 18,728 | 70.0% |

Source: Vital Statistics Reports (2005-2014), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Infant Mortality Rate, Nebraska: 2005-2014

| | Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births) |
|------|--|
| 2005 | 5.6 |
| 2006 | 5.5 |
| 2007 | 6.8 |
| 2008 | 5.4 |
| 2009 | 5.4 |
| 2010 | 5.2 |
| 2011 | 6.1 |
| 2012 | 5.4 |
| 2013 | 5.3 |
| 2014 | 5.1 |

Source: Vital Statistics Report (2014), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; American’s Health Rankings (2013), United Health Foundation; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Number of Teen Births, Nebraska: 2005-2014

| | Total Births | Teen Births | |
|------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Number | Number | Percent of Total Births |
| 2005 | 26,142 | 2,175 | 8.3% |
| 2006 | 26,723 | 2,143 | 8.0% |
| 2007 | 26,935 | 2,303 | 8.6% |
| 2008 | 26,992 | 2,311 | 8.6% |
| 2009 | 26,931 | 2,236 | 8.3% |
| 2010 | 25,916 | 1,975 | 7.6% |
| 2011 | 25,722 | 1,745 | 6.8% |
| 2012 | 25,939 | 1,688 | 6.5% |
| 2013 | 26,904 | 1,564 | 6.0% |
| 2014 | 26,794 | 1,411 | 5.3% |

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Annual Vital Statistics Reports; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

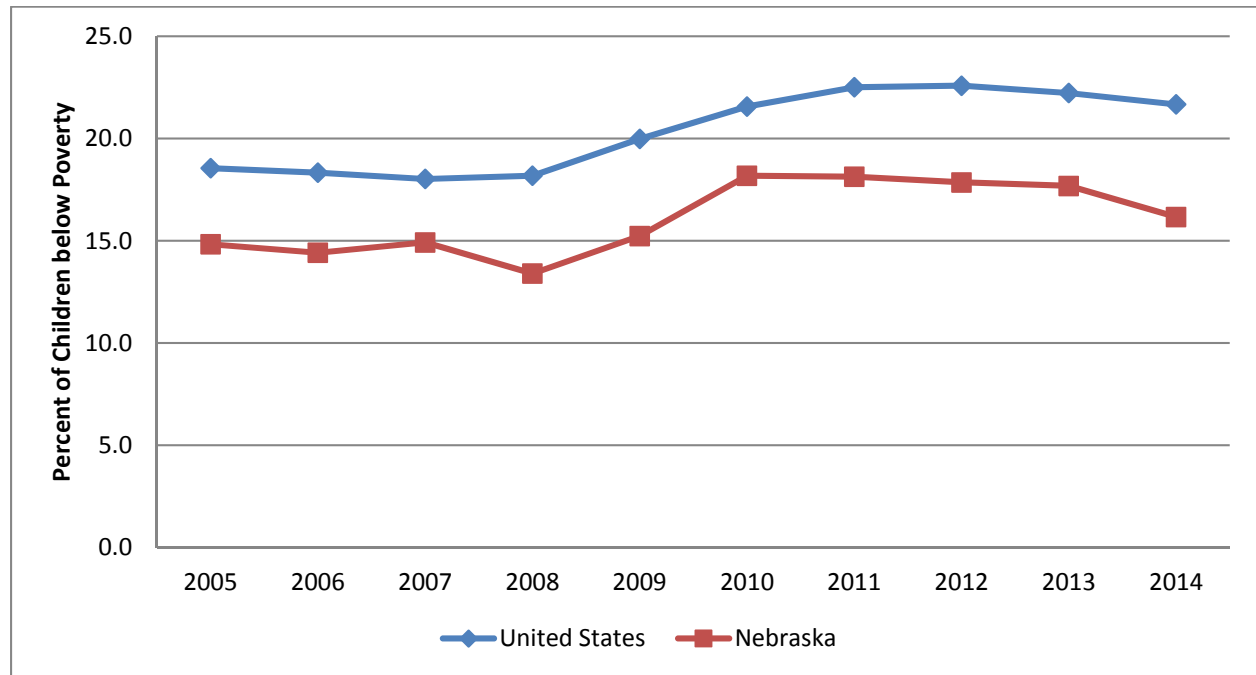
Family Welfare

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent Living in Poverty | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 21.7% | |
| Missouri | 21.1% | 24 |
| South Dakota | 18.0% | 32 |
| Kansas | 17.7% | 33 |
| Nebraska | 16.2% | 36 |
| Colorado | 15.4% | 41 |
| Iowa | 15.3% | 42 |
| Minnesota | 14.9% | 44 |
| North Dakota | 14.8% | 46 |
| Wyoming | 12.8% | 51 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, Nebraska and the United States: 2005-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

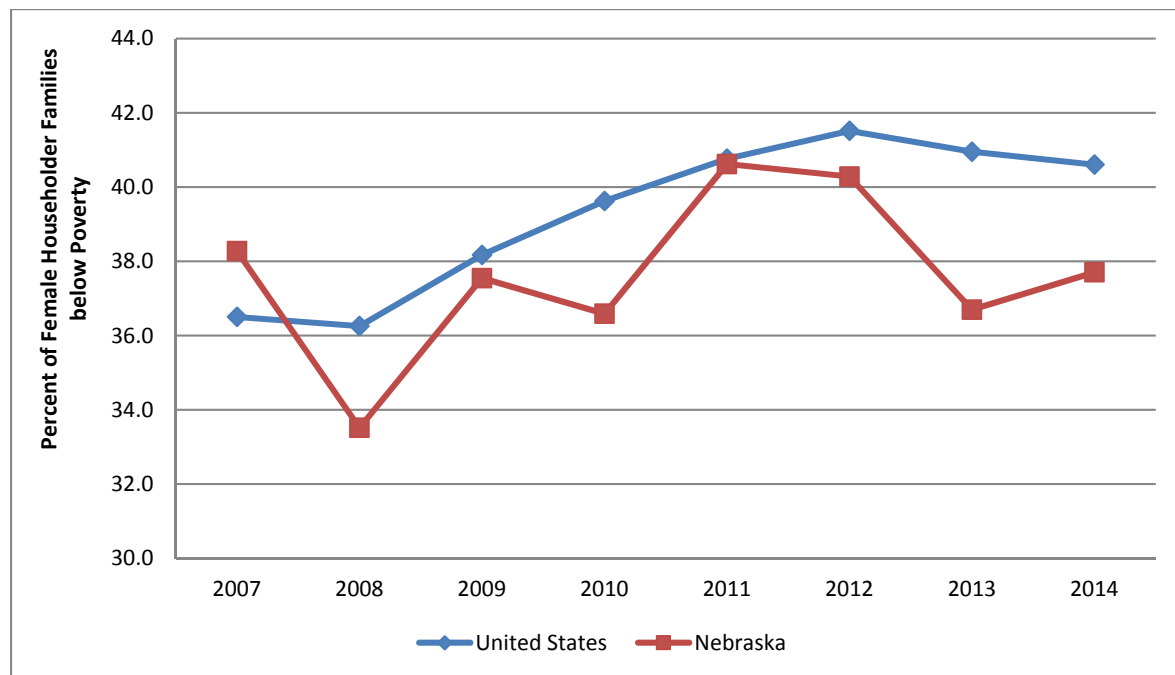
Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent Living in Poverty | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 40.6% | |
| Missouri | 41.8% | 19 |
| North Dakota | 41.5% | 22 |
| South Dakota | 39.3% | 30 |
| Kansas | 39.2% | 32 |
| Wyoming | 39.0% | 33 |
| Iowa | 38.7% | 34 |
| Nebraska | 37.7% | 37 |
| Minnesota | 36.1% | 41 |
| Colorado | 31.7% | 46 |

Note: Female head of family is a female householder with related children under 18 years old.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty, Nebraska and the United States, 2005-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2014 American Community Survey (Table C17010); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Number of State Wards, Nebraska: 2001-2015

| | Total Wards |
|-----------|--------------------|
| July 2001 | 7,078 |
| July 2002 | 6,980 |
| July 2003 | 6,660 |
| July 2004 | 6,936 |
| July 2005 | 7,502 |
| July 2006 | 7,603 |
| July 2007 | 7,084 |
| July 2008 | 6,704 |
| July 2009 | 6,419 |
| July 2010 | 6,361 |
| July 2011 | 6,237 |
| July 2012 | 6,051 |
| July 2013 | 5,284 |
| July 2014 | 4,195 |
| July 2015 | 4,134 |

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Number of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Recipients, Regional Comparison, 2012-2015

| | Average Monthly Number of Recipients | | | | | |
|-----------------|---|---------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2015 | | | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| | Total | Adults | Children | Total | Total | Total |
| United States | 3,030,871 | 718,252 | 2,312,619 | 3,406,751 | 3,712,912 | 4,016,608 |
| Colorado | 44,597 | 13,235 | 31,362 | 45,307 | 41,413 | 37,039 |
| Iowa | 27,925 | 7,450 | 20,475 | 31,605 | 36,653 | 40,321 |
| Kansas | 13,998 | 3,502 | 10,496 | 16,248 | 19,324 | 25,702 |
| Minnesota | 43,573 | 9,177 | 34,396 | 42,961 | 45,851 | 47,974 |
| Missouri | 58,105 | 17,200 | 40,905 | 64,045 | 74,314 | 81,997 |
| Nebraska | 10,374 | 1,457 | 8,917 | 11,158 | 12,543 | 13,191 |
| North Dakota | 2,871 | 525 | 2,346 | 3,163 | 3,529 | 4,060 |
| South Dakota | 5,899 | 629 | 5,270 | 6,135 | 6,340 | 6,685 |
| Wyoming | 676 | 126 | 550 | 711 | 759 | 623 |

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Health Costs

Per Capita State Public Welfare Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | State Expenditures Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$1,466.5 | |
| Minnesota | \$1,999.2 | 8 |
| Iowa | \$1,664.9 | 15 |
| Wyoming | \$1,343.8 | 31 |
| Nebraska | \$1,324.1 | 32 |
| Missouri | \$1,321.3 | 33 |
| North Dakota | \$1,280.3 | 35 |
| Kansas | \$1,169.7 | 40 |
| South Dakota | \$1,140.7 | 45 |
| Colorado | \$950.2 | 49 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Per Capita Local Public Welfare Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Local Expenditures Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$166.9 | |
| Minnesota | \$286.3 | 4 |
| Colorado | \$184.2 | 7 |
| North Dakota | \$96.1 | 14 |
| Nebraska | \$59.7 | 17 |
| Wyoming | \$38.5 | 22 |
| Missouri | \$29.0 | 24 |
| Iowa | \$26.8 | 28 |
| South Dakota | \$21.6 | 34 |
| Kansas | \$11.0 | 40 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Medicaid and CHIP Vendor Expenditures*, Nebraska: FYs 2005-2014

| | Aged | Blind and Disabled | ADC Adult | Children (includes CHIP) | Total |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| | (millions) | | | | |
| FY 2005 | \$365.0 | \$566.6 | \$104.1 | \$360.9 | \$1,396.6 |
| FY 2006 | \$356.2 | \$580.6 | \$102.0 | \$392.1 | \$1,430.9 |
| FY 2007 | \$333.4 | \$586.0 | \$105.2 | \$414.2 | \$1,438.8 |
| FY 2008 | \$341.1 | \$610.6 | \$105.5 | \$439.5 | \$1,496.8 |
| FY 2009 | \$345.6 | \$639.8 | \$108.7 | \$444.4 | \$1,538.4 |
| FY 2010 | \$347.3 | \$655.3 | \$129.7 | \$439.7 | \$1,572.0 |
| FY 2011 | \$337.7 | \$664.5 | \$175.2 | \$398.4 | \$1,575.8 |
| FY 2012 | \$341.7 | \$711.0 | \$170.7 | \$378.9 | \$1,602.3 |
| FY 2013 | \$373.0 | \$803.7 | \$134.7 | \$488.1 | \$1,799.5 |
| FY 2014 | \$381.2 | \$821.7 | \$120.5 | \$506.5 | \$1,829.9 |

*Medicaid & CHIP expenditures include expenditures for developmentally disabled waiver services and behavioral health services.

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Medicaid and CHIP Average Monthly Cost per Eligible*, Nebraska: FYs 2005-2014

| | Aged | Blind and Disabled | ADC Adult | Children (includes CHIP) |
|---------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| FY 2005 | \$1,663 | \$1,644 | \$367 | \$235 |
| FY 2006 | \$1,616 | \$1,630 | \$361 | \$253 |
| FY 2007 | \$1,526 | \$1,621 | \$387 | \$265 |
| FY 2008 | \$1,588 | \$1,664 | \$423 | \$276 |
| FY 2009 | \$1,628 | \$1,695 | \$419 | \$272 |
| FY 2010 | \$1,633 | \$1,655 | \$413 | \$248 |
| FY 2011 | \$1,583 | \$1,595 | \$460 | \$220 |
| FY 2012 | \$1,602 | \$1,658 | \$448 | \$207 |
| FY 2013 | \$1,727 | \$1,821 | \$353 | \$264 |
| FY 2014 | \$1,744 | \$1,850 | \$374 | \$275 |

*Medicaid & CHIP expenditures include expenditures for developmentally disabled waiver services and behavioral health services.

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Medicaid Annual Report; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database – Natural Resources

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska’s natural resources by reviewing four broad areas: air quality; land quality and waste; water quality; and energy. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Department of Natural Resources (<http://www.dnr.state.ne.us/>), the Department of Environmental Quality (<http://www.deq.state.ne.us/>) and the Nebraska Energy Office (<http://www.neo.ne.gov/>).

Air Quality

As measured by total air pollution emissions, Nebraska’s air quality was high. In 2015, Nebraska recorded 7.8 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, an improvement from 2014. This was the 15th in the nation and 5th in the region. Toxic air emissions in Nebraska in 2014 were 6th in the region, 31st in the nation. Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota all had lower levels of both air pollution emissions and toxic air emissions. Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and North Dakota were all higher for both measures.

Another form of air pollution and greenhouse gases is the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fossil fuel combustion. In 2013, Nebraska was 2nd lowest in the region behind South Dakota and 14th nationally. Total emissions in Nebraska have increased since 2000. Almost one-half of these emissions are produced through the generation of electricity; more than one-fourth are produced by transportation.

Land Quality and Waste

Nebraska recorded 15 hazardous waste sites on the national priority list in 2016. This is an increase from 2013 and it ranks 25th in the number of sites in the United States. For toxic chemical releases in 2014, Nebraska was 6th in the region and ranked 32nd nationally. The total on- and off-site releases reduced by about 9% for Nebraska as compared with a substantial increase (about 17%) for the country as a whole.

For toxic surface water discharges Nebraska ranked 1st regionally in 2014. Compared to 2005, the amount of toxic releases is down from 21.0 to 11.6 million pounds, a drop of 45%. Nebraska is substantially higher than other states in the region; toxic releases are over three times that of Iowa, the 6th placed state in the region. Nitrate compounds constitute 99.4% of the total toxic releases in Nebraska. The principle sources of nitrate discharge are Cargill Meat in Schuyler (42.2% of total nitrate discharges), Tyson Fresh in Dakota City (37.5%), Tyson Fresh in Lexington (13.0%), and Smithfield Farmland Corp. in Crete (4.2%).

Water Quality

By far the majority of public drinking water systems in Nebraska obtain water from ground water sources, though many of these supplies are under the direct influence of surface water and may require disinfection. Most community water systems are small, serving communities and non-community supplies of less than 1,000 individuals. The frequency in total health-based drinking water violations for community water supplies declined steadily from 31% in 2002 to 11% in 2011, primarily from total coliform rule or nitrate maximum contaminant level violations.

Two maps are included. The first shows the density of irrigation wells as of December 2015. Generally, it indicates that this density is highest in the Platte River Valley, and low in the Panhandle, southwestern Nebraska and parts of eastern Nebraska. The second map shows changes in ground water levels from the spring of 2014 to the spring of 2015.

Energy

Electricity in Nebraska costs less than in the United States, although the price is rising faster in Nebraska than in the United States. In 2014, the average price per kilowatt hour was 8.74 cents in Nebraska, a 0.6% increase from 2013. This compared to 10.07 cents nationally, and a 6.8% decrease. Nebraska's cost was 86.8% of the national cost, up from 67.6% of the national cost in 2008. Nebraska's electricity cost ranked 38th nationally. In the region, North Dakota, Iowa, and Wyoming had lower electricity costs. The average residential retail price of electricity in Nebraska was 10.40 cents per kilowatt hour, 8th in the region and 41st in the nation.

Nebraska is a relatively high user of energy. In 2014, Nebraska's energy consumption was 466 million BTUs per person. This ranked 7th in the nation and 4th in the region. The other states outside of the region that are particularly high are coal and oil producing states of Alaska, Louisiana and Texas. In 2014, Nebraska spent \$10,294 million in total, or \$5,508 per person on energy, up 1.2% since 2012. Nebraska's per capita spending ranked 9th nationally and 5th in the region.

Nebraska ranked low in the region the percentage of electricity generated through renewable resources. Nationally, 6.7% of the electricity generated in December 2014 came from renewable resources. For Nebraska, the portion of electricity generated from renewable sources was 9.0%.

Air Quality

Air Pollution Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2015

| | Micrograms of Fine Particles per Cubic Meter | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| United States | 9.5 | |
| Wyoming | 5.0 | 1 |
| North Dakota | 5.2 | 2 |
| South Dakota | 6.3 | 6 |
| Colorado | 7.0 | 9 |
| Nebraska | 7.8 | 15 |
| Minnesota | 8.0 | 17 |
| Kansas | 8.6 | 21 |
| Iowa | 9.3 | 32 |
| Missouri | 9.7 | 37 |

Note: The average exposure of the general public to particulate matter of 2.5 microns or less in size (PM2.5). Health studies have shown a significant association from heart or lung disease. Fine particles can aggravate heart and lung diseases and have been linked to effects such as: cardiovascular symptoms; cardiac arrhythmias; heart attacks; respiratory symptoms; asthma attacks; and bronchitis.

Source: America’s Health Rankings 2015, United Health Foundation; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Toxic Releases: Total Air Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Fugitive Air Emissions (Pounds) | Point Source Air Emissions (Pounds) | Total Air Emissions | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------|
| United States | 152,631,911 | 583,355,134 | 735,987,045 | - |
| Iowa | 5,877,104 | 16,856,772 | 22,733,876 | 16 |
| Kansas | 2,397,371 | 7,917,320 | 10,314,691 | 22 |
| Minnesota | 2,546,136 | 7,426,037 | 9,972,174 | 23 |
| Missouri | 1,810,513 | 8,027,662 | 9,838,175 | 24 |
| North Dakota | 4,071,814 | 4,974,866 | 9,046,680 | 26 |
| Nebraska | 731,073 | 4,898,630 | 5,629,703 | 31 |
| Colorado | 560,678 | 1,662,664 | 2,223,343 | 36 |
| Wyoming | 565,358 | 1,472,358 | 2,037,715 | 38 |
| South Dakota | 481,374 | 737,823 | 1,219,198 | 42 |

* Assuming United States total is the sum of toxic released of all states and D.C.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Information Management, 2014 Toxics Release Inventory; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | CO₂ Emissions (Million Metric Tons CO₂) | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|--------------------------|
| South Dakota | 15.58 | 5 |
| Nebraska | 53.55 | 14 |
| North Dakota | 58.91 | 16 |
| Wyoming | 68.33 | 20 |
| Kansas | 71.86 | 24 |
| Iowa | 83.27 | 26 |
| Minnesota | 91.24 | 27 |
| Colorado | 92.17 | 28 |
| Missouri | 133.48 | 38 |

Source: State Energy CO₂ Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Type, Nebraska: 2002-2013

| Type | CO₂ Emissions (Million Metric Tons CO₂) | | | | | |
|----------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
| Commercial | 1.64 | 1.72 | 1.82 | 1.62 | 1.68 | 1.79 |
| Industrial | 5.76 | 5.72 | 5.95 | 5.86 | 6.54 | 7.35 |
| Residential | 2.89 | 2.76 | 2.52 | 2.51 | 2.34 | 2.54 |
| Transportation | 11.79 | 12.11 | 12.28 | 12.29 | 12.47 | 12.63 |
| Electric Power | 19.88 | 20.78 | 20.39 | 21.08 | 20.91 | 20.12 |
| Total | 41.96 | 43.09 | 42.94 | 43.37 | 43.95 | 44.42 |
| | | | | | | |
| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
| Commercial | 2.08 | 1.87 | 1.86 | 1.87 | 1.58 | 1.98 |
| Industrial | 7.57 | 7.22 | 7.81 | 8.45 | 9.04 | 9.09 |
| Residential | 2.87 | 2.68 | 2.67 | 2.64 | 2.062 | 2.72 |
| Transportation | 12.38 | 12.53 | 14.67 | 14.16 | 13.76 | 13.99 |
| Electric Power | 21.61 | 22.84 | 22.83 | 25.14 | 24.14 | 25.77 |
| Total | 46.51 | 47.14 | 49.83 | 52.26 | 50.58 | 53.55 |

Source: State Energy CO₂ Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Land Quality and Waste

Number of Hazardous Waste Sites on the National Priority List, Regional Comparison: 2004, 2008, 2011, 2013, and 2016

| | Total Sites | | | | | 2016 National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|
| | 2004 | 2008 | 2011 | 2013 | 2016 | |
| United States | 1,286 | 1,301 | 1,320 | 1,305 | 1,303 | -- |
| Missouri | 26 | 29 | 33 | 33 | 33 | 14 |
| Minnesota | 24 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 | 17 |
| Colorado | 18 | 20 | 18 | 18 | 19 | 21 |
| Nebraska | 12 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 25 |
| Kansas | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 34 |
| Iowa | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 11 | 37 |
| South Dakota | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 47 |
| Wyoming | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 58 |
| North Dakota | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund, National Priority List Sites, as of March 1, 2016; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Toxic Releases: Total On- and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases, Regional Comparison: 2014

| State and Outlying Areas | Total On- and Off-site Releases (Million Pounds) | National Rank |
|--------------------------|--|---------------|
| United States | 3,894.9 | |
| Missouri | 69.7 | 14 |
| Iowa | 39.1 | 23 |
| North Dakota | 32.8 | 28 |
| Colorado | 29.5 | 29 |
| Minnesota | 28.7 | 30 |
| Nebraska | 26.3 | 32 |
| Kansas | 21.9 | 34 |
| Wyoming | 18.4 | 37 |
| South Dakota | 6.28 | 43 |

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program, 2014 TRI Public Data Release; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Total Releases of Nitrate Compounds to Surface Waters, Nebraska: 2001-2014

| | Total Releases (Pounds) | Nitrate Compounds (Pounds) | Nitrate Compounds as a Percent of Total Releases to Surface Water |
|------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2001 | 9,601,101 | 9,339,094 | 97.3% |
| 2002 | 13,108,748 | 12,941,403 | 98.7% |
| 2003 | 18,177,388 | 18,092,191 | 99.5% |
| 2004 | 20,145,099 | 20,097,339 | 99.8% |
| 2005 | 21,082,285 | 21,048,000 | 99.8% |
| 2006 | 18,842,321 | 18,797,576 | 99.8% |
| 2007 | 17,409,779 | 17,358,782 | 99.7% |
| 2008 | 16,979,499 | 16,931,956 | 99.7% |
| 2009 | 15,174,931 | 15,132,738 | 99.7% |
| 2010 | 14,727,942 | 14,671,446 | 99.6% |
| 2011 | 11,268,159 | 11,217,172 | 99.6% |
| 2012 | 10,523,944 | 10,453,460 | 99.3% |
| 2013 | 11,858,514 | 11,785,649 | 99.4% |
| 2014 | 11,626,514 | 11,560,329 | 99.4% |

Source: 2001-2011 data: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Information Management, 2011 Toxics Release Inventory. Compiled by Bartelt-Hunt, S. L. (2012). Analysis of Toxic Releases to Surface Water in the State of Nebraska. Unpublished paper; 2012-2014 data: Environmental Protection Agency Toxic Release Inventory 2012-2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Nitrogen Released to Surface Waters by the Top Eight Nitrogen Dischargers, Nebraska: 2014

| Discharger | Location | Nitrate Compounds (Pounds) | Percent of Total Nitrate Compounds Released in the State |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| Cargill Meat Solutions, Corp. | Schuyler | 4,977,468 | 42.2% |
| Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc | Dakota City | 4,424,530 | 37.5% |
| Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc. | Lexington | 1,529,869 | 13.0% |
| Smithfield Farmland Corp. | Crete | 492,820 | 4.2% |
| West Point Dairy Products, LLC | West Point | 41,669 | 0.4% |
| MG Waldbaum Co. | Wakefield | 32,982 | 0.3% |
| Nestle Purina Petcare Co. | Crete | 31,572 | 0.3% |
| Cargill Corn Milling NA | Blair | 28,929 | 0.3% |

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014 Toxic Release Inventory; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Total Toxic Releases to Surface Water, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Toxic Releases (Pounds) | National Rank |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| United States | 215,550,257.05 | |
| Nebraska | 11,626,513.42 | 6 |
| Iowa | 3,589,599.80 | 19 |
| South Dakota | 2,829,537.21 | 25 |
| Missouri | 2,253,728.08 | 28 |
| Minnesota | 1,608,868.66 | 32 |
| Colorado | 1,494,986.19 | 33 |
| Kansas | 1,253,829.53 | 34 |
| North Dakota | 202,149.56 | 40 |
| Wyoming | 12,160.45 | 46 |

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2014 Toxic Release Inventory; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Miles of Rivers and Streams that Fail to Meet One or More Beneficial Uses, Nebraska: 2002-2014

| Date | Miles Assessed | Percent of miles impaired |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2002 | 7,581 | 57.3% |
| 2004 | 7,156 | 45.9% |
| 2006 | 7,320 | 53.0% |
| 2008 | 7,825 | 57.4% |
| 2010 | 8,672 | 61.1% |
| 2012 | 9,261 | 60.0% |
| 2014 | 9,630 | 58.3% |

Notes: Miles as compared with miles assessed. Under the Federal Clean Water Act beneficial uses are assigned to all designated surface waters on the basis of judgments by Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. These are formally defined as: primary contact recreation; aquatic life; water supply for public drinking water, agriculture and industry; aesthetics. Water bodies are defined as impaired when one or more pollutants fail to meet designated standards. Data are reported to USEPA every two years.

All expressed as miles impaired as a percent of miles assessed not total miles in the state. The miles assessed may not be representative of the total.

What was monitored: pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity, total solids, ammonia, nitrogen, phosphates, pesticides, arsenic, selenium, bacteria.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Watershed Assessment, Tracking and Environmental Results; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Water Quality

Water System Data, Regional Comparison: 2011

| | Community Water System (CWS) | Non-Transient Non-Community Water System | Transient Non-Community Water System | Total | Ground | Surface | CWSs with reported health-based violations | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|--|---------|
| | | | | | | | Number | Percent |

| Colorado | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|----|
| Number of Systems | 877 | 178 | 998 | 2,053 | 1,509 | 544 | 74 | 4% |
| Population Served | 5,386,406 | 76,286 | 247,953 | 5,710,645 | 713,710 | 4,996,935 | 381,948 | 7% |

| Iowa | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----|
| Number of Systems | 1,127 | 135 | 655 | 1,917 | 1,766 | 151 | 60 | 3% |
| Population Served | 2742242 | 48,095 | 76,655 | 2,866,992 | 1,549,191 | 1,317,801 | 178,689 | 6% |

| Kansas | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|-----|
| Number of Systems | 887 | 45 | 90 | 1,022 | 650 | 372 | 109 | 11% |
| Population Served | 2,676,572 | 21,296 | 4,266 | 2,702,134 | 762,026 | 1,940,108 | 280,898 | 10% |

| Minnesota | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----|
| Number of Systems | 961 | 502 | 5,655 | 7,118 | 6,998 | 120 | 51 | 1% |
| Population Served | 4,262,862 | 76,460 | 535,380 | 4,874,702 | 3,460,120 | 1,414,582 | 162,314 | 3% |

| Missouri | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----|
| Number of Systems | 1,475 | 224 | 1,084 | 2,783 | 2,549 | 234 | 187 | 7% |
| Population Served | 5,171,609 | 71,769 | 115,984 | 5,359,362 | 2,045,596 | 3,313,766 | 347,553 | 6% |

| Nebraska | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------|--------|--------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| Number of Systems | 589 | 160 | 574 | 1,323 | 1,247 | 76 | 144 | 11% |
| Population Served | 1,479,705 | 49,711 | 52,220 | 1,581,636 | 751,818 | 829,818 | 160,528 | 10% |

| | Community Water System (CWS) | Non-Transient Non-Community Water System | Transient Non-Community Water System | Total | Ground | Surface | CWSs with reported health-based violations | |
|--|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------|--------|---------|--|---------|
| | | | | | | | Number | Percent |

| North Dakota | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|----|
| Number of Systems | 332 | 28 | 182 | 542 | 411 | 131 | 14 | 3% |
| Population Served | 581,311 | 4,153 | 19,936 | 605,400 | 276,106 | 329,294 | 16,528 | 3% |

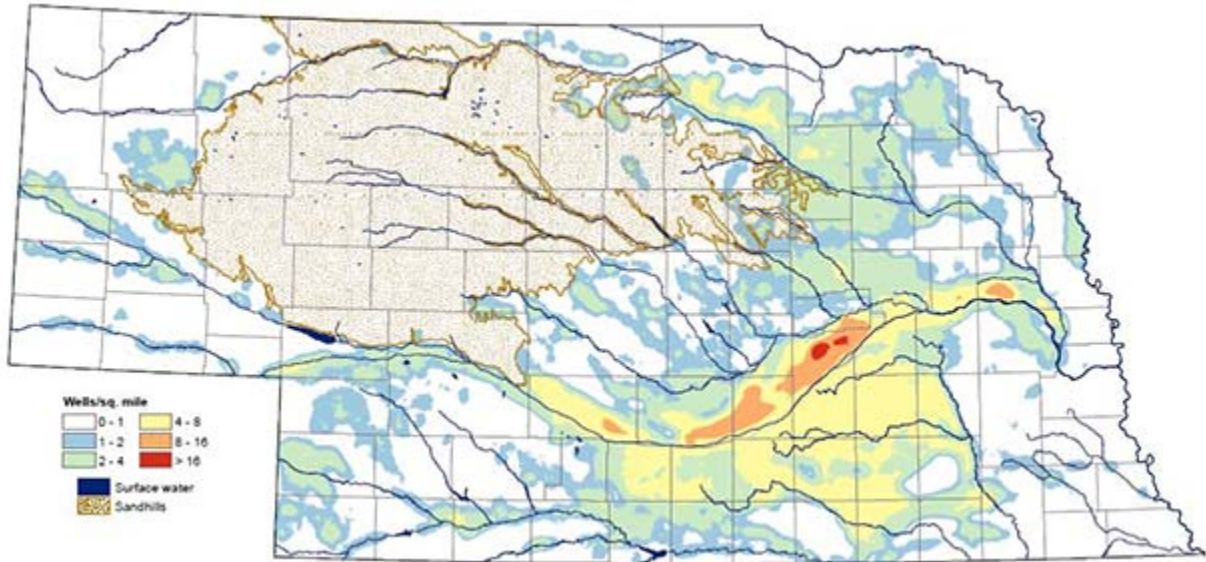
| South Dakota | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|-----|
| Number of Systems | 456 | 24 | 164 | 644 | 500 | 144 | 82 | 13% |
| Population Served | 719,433 | 8,468 | 23,103 | 751,004 | 316,491 | 434,513 | 45,639 | 6% |

| Wyoming | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---------|--------|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|----|
| Number of Systems | 313 | 90 | 392 | 795 | 653 | 142 | 25 | 3% |
| Population Served | 449,992 | 22,662 | 74,623 | 547,277 | 198,125 | 349,152 | 15,896 | 3% |

Notes: CWS = Community Water System: A public water system that supplies water to the same population year-round. NTNCWS = Non-Transient Non-Community Water System: A public water system that regularly supplies water to at least 25 of the same people at least six months per year, but not year-round. Some examples are schools, factories, office buildings, and hospitals which have their own water systems. TNCWS = Transient Non-Community Water System: A public water system that provides water in a place such as a gas station or campground where people do not remain for long periods of time and is open at least 60 days/year.

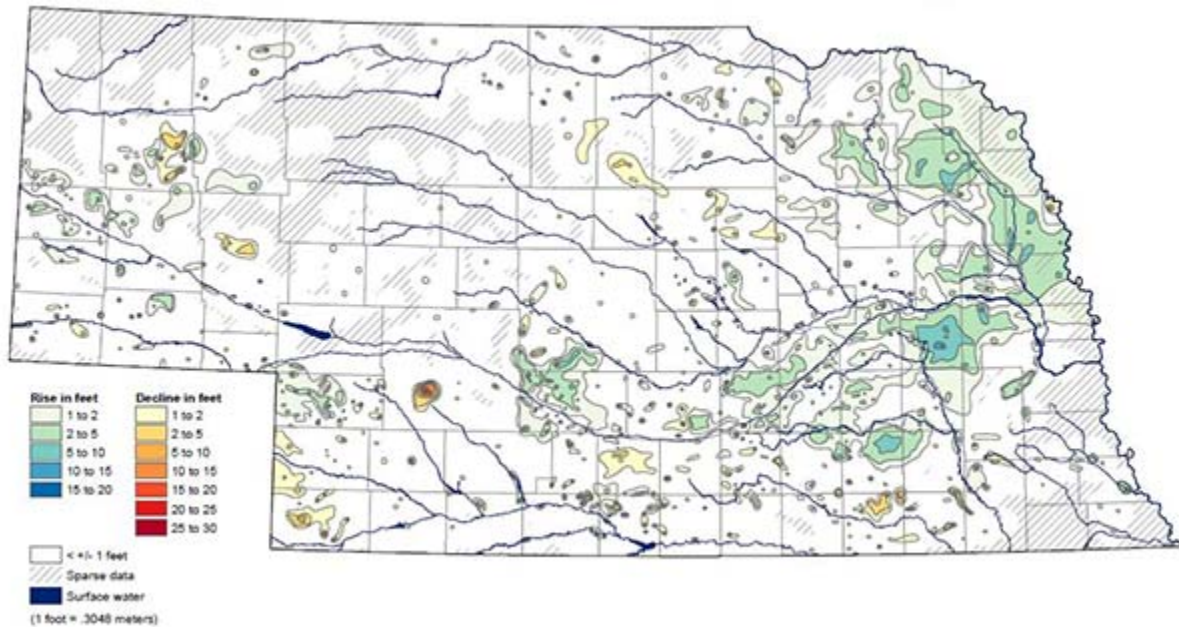
Source: FACTOIDS: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for FY2011, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Density of Active Registered Irrigation Wells, Nebraska: December 2015



Source: *Nebraska Statewide Groundwater-Level Monitoring Report 2015*, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resource, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, January 2016

Ground Water Level Changes, Nebraska: Spring 2014 to Spring 2015



Source: *Nebraska Statewide Groundwater-Level Monitoring Report 2015*, Conservation and Survey Division, School of Natural Resource, Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, January 2016

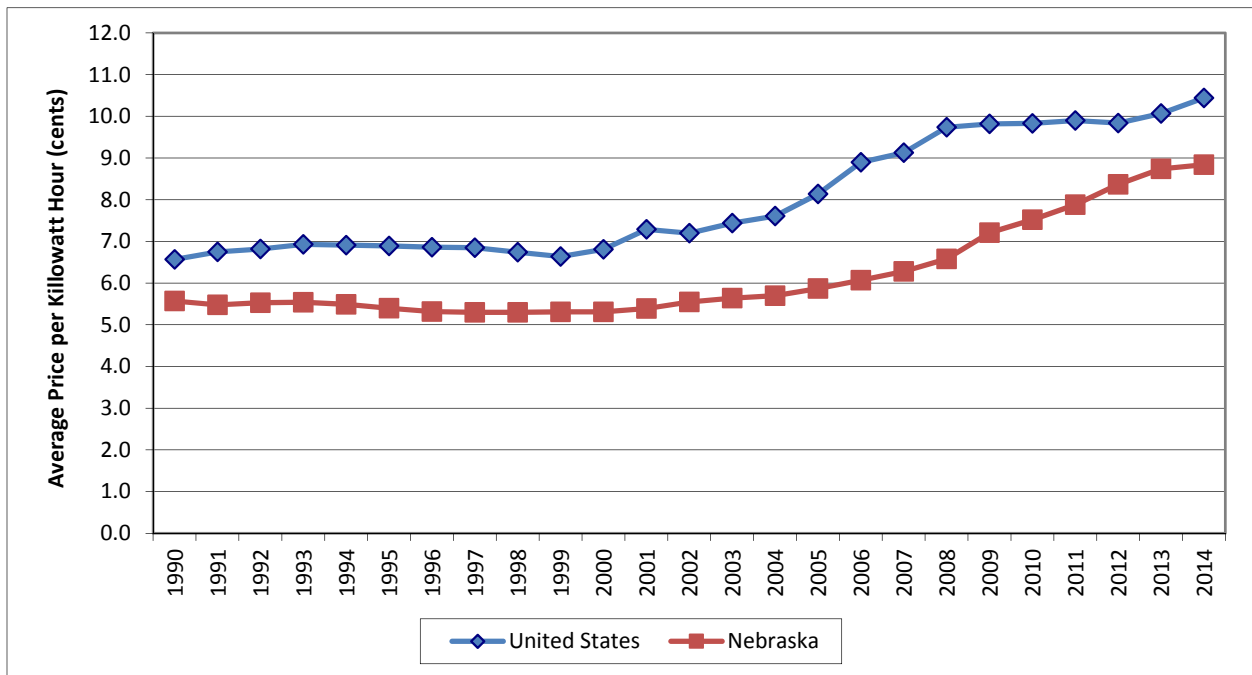
Energy

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour (all classes combined), Nebraska and the United States: 1990-2014

| | Average Price by Provider (Cents per kilowatt hour) | | Nebraska as a Percent of the United States |
|------|--|----------|---|
| | United States | Nebraska | |
| 1990 | 6.57 | 5.57 | 84.8% |
| 1991 | 6.75 | 5.48 | 81.2% |
| 1992 | 6.82 | 5.53 | 81.1% |
| 1993 | 6.93 | 5.54 | 79.9% |
| 1994 | 6.91 | 5.49 | 79.5% |
| 1995 | 6.89 | 5.40 | 78.4% |
| 1996 | 6.86 | 5.32 | 77.6% |
| 1997 | 6.85 | 5.30 | 77.4% |
| 1998 | 6.74 | 5.30 | 78.6% |
| 1999 | 6.64 | 5.31 | 80.0% |
| 2000 | 6.81 | 5.31 | 78.0% |
| 2001 | 7.29 | 5.39 | 73.9% |
| 2002 | 7.20 | 5.55 | 77.1% |
| 2003 | 7.44 | 5.64 | 75.8% |
| 2004 | 7.61 | 5.70 | 74.9% |
| 2005 | 8.14 | 5.87 | 72.1% |
| 2006 | 8.90 | 6.07 | 68.2% |
| 2007 | 9.13 | 6.28 | 68.8% |
| 2008 | 9.74 | 6.58 | 67.6% |
| 2009 | 9.82 | 7.21 | 73.4% |
| 2010 | 9.83 | 7.52 | 76.5% |
| 2011 | 9.90 | 7.88 | 79.6% |
| 2012 | 9.84 | 8.37 | 85.1% |
| 2013 | 10.80 | 8.69 | 80.5% |
| 2014 | 10.07 | 8.74 | 86.8% |

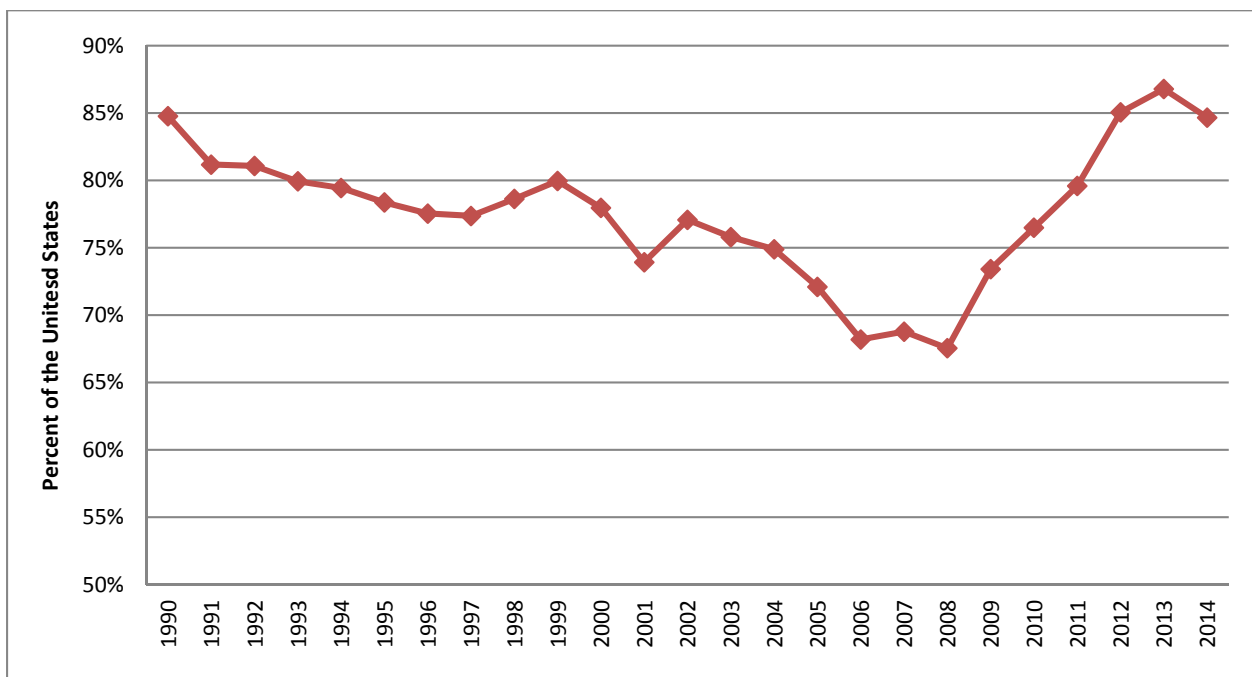
Source: Electric Power Annual (2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Nebraska and the United States: 1990-2014



Source: Electric Power Annual (2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Nebraska as a Percentage of the United States: 1990-2014



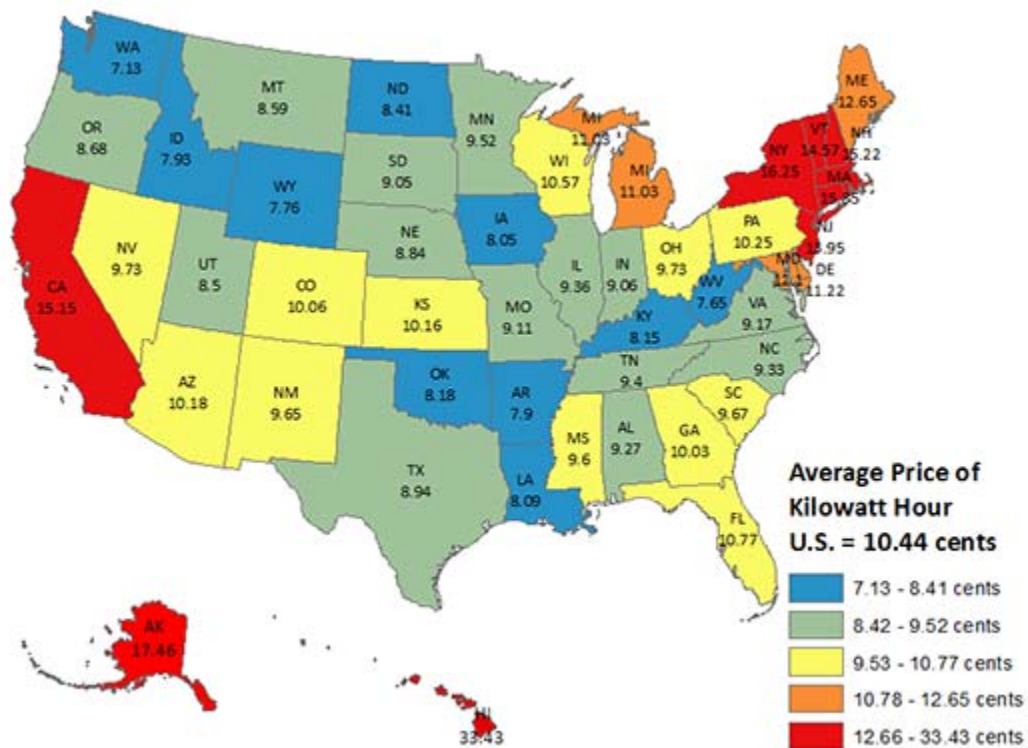
Source: Electric Power Annual (1990-2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Average Price (Cents per kilowatt hour) | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| United States | 10.07 | |
| Kansas | 9.72 | 20 |
| Colorado | 9.88 | 21 |
| Minnesota | 9.41 | 28 |
| Missouri | 9.04 | 34 |
| South Dakota | 8.86 | 36 |
| Nebraska | 8.74 | 38 |
| North Dakota | 8.20 | 41 |
| Iowa | 8.07 | 44 |
| Wyoming | 7.55 | 49 |

Source: Electric Power Annual (2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, All States: 2014



Source: Average Price by State by Provider: 1990-2014, Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Retail Price of Electricity to Residential Sector, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Average Retail Price (Cents per kilowatt hour) | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 12.52 | |
| Colorado | 12.18 | 22 |
| Kansas | 12.17 | 23 |
| Minnesota | 12.01 | 24 |
| Iowa | 11.16 | 33 |
| Missouri | 10.64 | 37 |
| Wyoming | 10.50 | 38 |
| South Dakota | 10.47 | 39 |
| Nebraska | 10.40 | 41 |
| North Dakota | 9.15 | 50 |

Source: Electric Power Annual (2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Energy Consumption per Person, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Consumption per Person (Million BTU) | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 307 | |
| Wyoming | 918 | 1 |
| North Dakota | 813 | 4 |
| Iowa | 490 | 5 |
| Nebraska | 466 | 7 |
| South Dakota | 462 | 8 |
| Kansas | 402 | 12 |
| Minnesota | 343 | 18 |
| Missouri | 307 | 26 |
| Colorado | 279 | 35 |

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System: State Total Energy Rankings, 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Energy Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Expenditures (\$ Million) | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | \$1,375,306 | |
| Missouri | \$26,722 | 17 |
| Minnesota | \$24,689 | 20 |
| Colorado | \$19,701 | 26 |
| Iowa | \$17,265 | 28 |
| Kansas | \$15,253 | 31 |
| Nebraska | \$10,294 | 35 |
| North Dakota | \$7,629 | 39 |
| Wyoming | \$5,458 | 46 |
| South Dakota | \$4,709 | 47 |

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System (SEDS): State Total Energy Rankings, 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Energy Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Expenditures Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | \$4,345 | |
| North Dakota | \$10,540 | 1 |
| Wyoming | \$9,358 | 3 |
| Iowa | \$5,583 | 7 |
| South Dakota | \$5,569 | 8 |
| Nebraska | \$5,508 | 9 |
| Kansas | \$5,267 | 13 |
| Minnesota | \$4,554 | 22 |
| Missouri | \$4,421 | 25 |
| Colorado | \$3,737 | 44 |

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System (SEDS): State Total Energy Rankings, 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

**Percentage of Electricity Generated through Renewable Sources (excluding hydroelectric),
Regional Comparison: December 2013 and December 2014**

| | Percent of Electricity Generated Through Renewable Sources | |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| | December 2014 | December 2013 |
| United States | 6.7% | 6.1% |
| South Dakota | 27.1% | 27.0% |
| Iowa | 26.5% | 25.5% |
| Kansas | 21.0% | 16.9% |
| Minnesota | 17.4% | 16.8% |
| Colorado | 14.7% | 15.0% |
| North Dakota | 14.5% | 17.5% |
| Wyoming | 10.0% | 12.7% |
| Nebraska | 9.0% | 5.4% |
| Missouri | 1.2% | 1.2% |

Source: Electric Power Monthly (February 2015), U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Public Safety

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska’s public safety by reviewing five broad areas: crime; youth rehabilitation and treatment centers; juvenile intakes; public sector funding; and emergency preparedness. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services’ website (<http://www.corrections.nebraska.gov/>).

Crime

Nebraska’s rate of 2.9 murders per 100,000 persons is less than the national rate of 4.5, is 3rd in the region, and 33rd in the nation. This rate has been volatile in recent years; it rose from 2.2 in 2009 to 3.0 in 2010, 3.6 in 2011, then down to 2.9 in 2014. The violent crime rate in Nebraska rose from 262.1 crimes per 100,000 persons in 2013 to 280.4 in 2014, an increase of 7.0%. Nebraska ranked 33rd in the nation and 5th in the region for violent crime in 2014. Nebraska’s property crime rate was down slightly and has been relatively stable recently. Nebraska ranked 26th in the nation and 4th in the region in property crime. Nebraska reported 11,965 arrests for drug abuse violations in 2014, ranking 4th in the region and 27th nationally. This is up significantly since 2013. The national numbers were lower.

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

From FY 2010 to FY 2015, the twelve-month recidivism rate at the Kearney youth rehabilitation and treatment center has decreased. The rate at the Kearney facility (for males) peaked in FY 2010 at 29% and dropped to 16% in FY 2015. At the Geneva facility (for females), the recidivism rate has fluctuated substantially, but the FY 2015 rate is above the average of the previous five years.

Juvenile Intakes

In 2014, Nebraska had the 2nd highest rate in the nation for juvenile arrests for property crime. The Nebraska rate has dropped steady since 2000, but the national average dropped more rapidly since 2000, increasing Nebraska’s relative ranking in contrast. The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime in Nebraska is less than the national average. Nebraska ranks 21st in the nation and 4th in the region in juvenile arrests for violent crime. Nebraska’s juvenile arrest rate for violent crime fluctuates from year to year, but is the highest since 2009. Nebraska’s weapons arrest rate has been lower than the national average since 2000, but this rate has been volatile.

Public Safety Funding

Nebraska’s expenditures for public safety are below national levels at both the state and local level. More is spent at the local level on this function than at the state level. Nebraska’s per capita local expenditures ranked 39th and 6th in the region. Local spending on public safety in Nebraska increased very slightly in 2012-2013. State spending ranked 27th nationally and 5th in the region. State spending decreased slightly compared to an increase nationally.

In FY 2010, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services spent \$178 million providing services. The most expensive facility was the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility at \$184.24 per day or \$67,247 per year per inmate. Total programs without parole cost an average of \$93.47 per day or \$34,115 per year per inmate.

Emergency Preparedness

Since June 2005, the state has experienced 30 federally declared disasters, 14 of these since 2010. The flooding in the summer of 2011 cost \$106.6 million in public damages, the largest disaster since winter storms in January 2007. Spring storms in June 2015 caused nearly \$14 million in public damages.

As indicated on the first map, as of August 13, 2012, the entire state has Phase II wireless 911 status. Basic 911 service simply transmits the call from a cell phone to the public safety answering point (PSAP). Enhanced 911 service (E911) automatically associates a physical address with the calling party's telephone number. E911 Phase I provides the cell phone call-back number and cell phone tower of origination, while Phase II provides the geographic location of the call. The funding of PSAP is either by county or by consolidated or combined areas, as indicated by the second map.

Crime

Murder Rate per 100,000 Population, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter Rate (per 100,000 Population) | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 4.5 | |
| Missouri | 6.6 | 3 |
| Kansas | 3.1 | 30 |
| North Dakota | 3.0 | 32 |
| Nebraska | 2.9 | 33 |
| Colorado | 2.8 | 35 |
| Wyoming | 2.7 | 36 |
| South Dakota | 2.3 | 40 |
| Iowa | 1.9 | 45 |
| Minnesota | 1.6 | 48 |

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000 Population) | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| United States | 375.7 | |
| Missouri | 442.9 | 11 |
| Kansas | 348.6 | 23 |
| South Dakota | 326.5 | 25 |
| Colorado | 309.1 | 28 |
| Nebraska | 280.4 | 33 |
| Iowa | 273.5 | 35 |
| North Dakota | 265.1 | 36 |
| Minnesota | 229.1 | 41 |
| Wyoming | 195.5 | 48 |

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Property Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Property Crime Rate (per 100,000 Population) | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 2,596.1 | |
| Missouri | 2,906.5 | 16 |
| Kansas | 2,735.2 | 22 |
| Colorado | 2,530.1 | 25 |
| Nebraska | 2,523.5 | 26 |
| Minnesota | 2,297.5 | 30 |
| North Dakota | 2,110.3 | 33 |
| Iowa | 2,093.8 | 34 |
| Wyoming | 1,964.7 | 40 |
| South Dakota | 1,863.9 | 45 |

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Arrests for Drug Abuse Violation, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Number of Arrests | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | 1,345,695 | |
| Missouri | 33,496 | 14 |
| Minnesota | 19,148 | 20 |
| Colorado | 13,381 | 25 |
| Nebraska | 11,965 | 27 |
| Iowa | 9,115 | 33 |
| Kansas | 7,677 | 35 |
| South Dakota | 5,406 | 42 |
| North Dakota | 4,004 | 43 |
| Wyoming | 3,459 | 44 |

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

Admissions, Releases, and Recidivism Rates for Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Kearney, Nebraska: FYs 2010-2015

| Fiscal Year | Admissions | Releases | Recidivism |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2010-2011 | 449 | 427 | 29% |
| 2011-2012 | 425 | 474 | 27% |
| 2012-2013 | 350 | 355 | 22% |
| 2013-2014 | 203 | 245 | 17% |
| 2014-2015 | 161 | 153 | 16% |

Source: Annual Reports for Kearney and Geneva Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Admissions, Releases, and Recidivism Rates for Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Geneva, Nebraska: FYs 2010-2015

| Fiscal Year | Admissions | Releases | Recidivism |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2010-2011 | 140 | 143 | 10% |
| 2011-2012 | 140 | 145 | 9% |
| 2012-2013 | 110 | 121 | 23% |
| 2013-2014 | 89 | 99 | 6% |
| 2014-2015 | 65 | 97 | 22% |

Source: Annual Reports for Kearney and Geneva Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Juvenile Intakes

Juvenile Arrests, Regional Comparison: 2014

| State | Violent crime index** | National Rank | Property crime index*** | National Rank |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 127 | | 556 | |
| Missouri | 161 | 10 | 846 | 14 |
| Minnesota | 159 | 12 | 952 | 12 |
| Iowa | 138 | 14 | 1,116 | 3 |
| Nebraska | 119 | 21 | 1,569 | 2 |
| Colorado | 98 | 31 | 1,071 | 5 |
| South Dakota | 81 | 34 | 994 | 9 |
| Kansas | 71 | 39 | 349 | 43 |
| North Dakota | 69 | 40 | 961 | 11 |
| Wyoming | 58 | 43 | 1,014 | 8 |

Notes: Arrest rate (index) is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10-17.

**Violent crime includes murder or nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

***Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2014, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Juvenile Arrests, Nebraska and the United States: 2000, 2005-2012, and 2014

| United States | Juvenile arrest rate* | | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | Reporting Coverage | Violent crime index** | Property crime index *** | Drug abuse violations index | Weapons index |
| 2014 | NA | 127 | 556 | 265 | 49 |
| 2012 | 77% | 184 | 888 | 421 | 74 |
| 2011 | 77% | 204 | 1,001 | 445 | 84 |
| 2010 | 84% | 225 | 1,084 | 508 | 92 |
| 2009 | 84% | 274 | 1,336 | 505 | 103 |
| 2008 | 82% | 306 | 1,398 | 560 | 121 |
| 2007 | 81% | 301 | 1,293 | 590 | 128 |
| 2006 | 78% | 315 | 1,256 | 600 | 141 |
| 2005 | 79% | 296 | 1,289 | 581 | 134 |
| 2000 | 72% | 330 | 1,686 | 649 | 116 |

| Nebraska | Juvenile arrest rate* | | | | |
|----------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| | Reporting Coverage | Violent crime index** | Property crime index*** | Drug abuse violations index | Weapons index |
| 2014 | NA | 119 | 1,569 | 779 | 69 |
| 2012 | 93% | 106 | 1,572 | 663 | 52 |
| 2011 | 94% | 98 | 1,731 | 668 | 59 |
| 2010 | 90% | 109 | 1,920 | 695 | 86 |
| 2009 | 89% | 159 | 2,153 | 594 | 78 |
| 2008 | 92% | 139 | 2,013 | 657 | 112 |
| 2007 | 85% | 138 | 1,823 | 644 | 109 |
| 2006 | 87% | 106 | 1,892 | 638 | 91 |
| 2005 | 90% | 105 | 1,935 | 656 | 95 |
| 2000 | 91% | 118 | 2,483 | 719 | 106 |

Notes: *Arrest rate (index) is defined as the number of arrests of persons under age 18 for every 100,000 persons ages 10-17.

**Violent crime includes murder or nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

***Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson.

Source: 2000-2012 data - Puzzanchera, C. and Kang, W. (2014). "Easy Access to FBI Arrest Statistics 1994-2012" Online. Available: <http://www.ojjdp.gov/ojstatbb/ezaucr/>; 2014 data - Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2014, and U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Public Safety Funding

Per Capita Local Government Public Safety Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Per Capita Expenditures | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$520.3 | |
| Wyoming | \$583.3 | 8 |
| Colorado | \$517.1 | 15 |
| Missouri | \$434.8 | 22 |
| Minnesota | \$433.2 | 23 |
| Kansas | \$429.2 | 24 |
| Nebraska | \$346.5 | 39 |
| Iowa | \$324.2 | 42 |
| North Dakota | \$312.4 | 44 |
| South Dakota | \$294.6 | 46 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 State and Local Government Finances, and 2013 Population Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Per Capita State Government Public Safety Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Per Capita Expenditures | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$221.3 | |
| Wyoming | \$385.8 | 4 |
| North Dakota | \$230.3 | 20 |
| Colorado | \$214.6 | 24 |
| South Dakota | \$211.9 | 26 |
| Nebraska | \$202.9 | 27 |
| Iowa | \$174.9 | 36 |
| Minnesota | \$164.3 | 41 |
| Missouri | \$162.4 | 42 |
| Kansas | \$156.6 | 44 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 State and Local Government Finances, and 2013 Population Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Annual Cost Report: FY 2010

| | Total | Cost per Day per Inmate | Cost per Year per Inmate |
|--|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility | \$6,111,434 | \$184.24 | \$67,247 |
| Tecumseh Correctional Center | \$34,841,615 | \$103.18 | \$37,660 |
| Community Correctional Center-Lincoln | \$6,643,941 | \$48.98 | \$17,876 |
| Community Correctional Center-Omaha | \$3,353,841 | \$58.88 | \$21,491 |
| Nebraska State Penitentiary | \$38,985,914 | \$96.39 | \$35,182 |
| Nebraska Correctional Center for Women | \$10,467,919 | \$108.14 | \$39,472 |
| Diagnosis & Evaluation Center | \$11,952,084 | \$91.50 | \$33,397 |
| Lincoln Correctional Center | \$19,494,667 | \$109.94 | \$40,129 |
| Omaha Correctional Center | \$17,469,419 | \$72.94 | \$26,625 |
| Work Ethic Camp* | \$5,637,193 | \$51.35 | \$18,741 |
| Adult Parole** | \$3,426,519 | \$9.75 | \$3,560 |
| Total Programs | \$158,384,546 | \$78.83 | \$28,773 |
| Total without parole | \$154,958,027 | \$93.47 | \$34,115 |
| Federal Surplus Property | \$779,920 | | |
| Central Warehouse | \$1,933,022 | | |
| Correctional Industries | \$12,060,057 | | |
| Subtotal | \$14,772,999 | | |
| Community Based Services | \$111,847 | | |
| Building Depreciation | \$45,085 | | |
| County Jail Reimburse | \$3,812,250 | | |
| Construction Programs | \$1,254,002 | | |
| Subtotal | \$5,223,184 | | |
| Total | \$178,380,729 | | |

Notes:

The cost per inmate represents an average cost per inmate of all general, cash and federal expenditures excluding General Fund Aid & Depreciation and Capital Construction expenditures.

* Cost per inmate at Work Ethic Camp calculated based on average number of probationers and inmates times the average length of program, which is five months. Before 2009, counts were based only on admissions, due to the varied lengths of stay.

**LSO numbers are not included in the total parolee numbers. These averages cannot be used to calculate reductions in inmate populations and corresponding reductions in expenditures. E.g. if you reduced a facility's population by 100, you could not use that facility's average cost per inmate per year times 100 to calculate the estimated reduction in expenditures.

Source: Nebraska Department of Corrections; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Emergency Preparedness

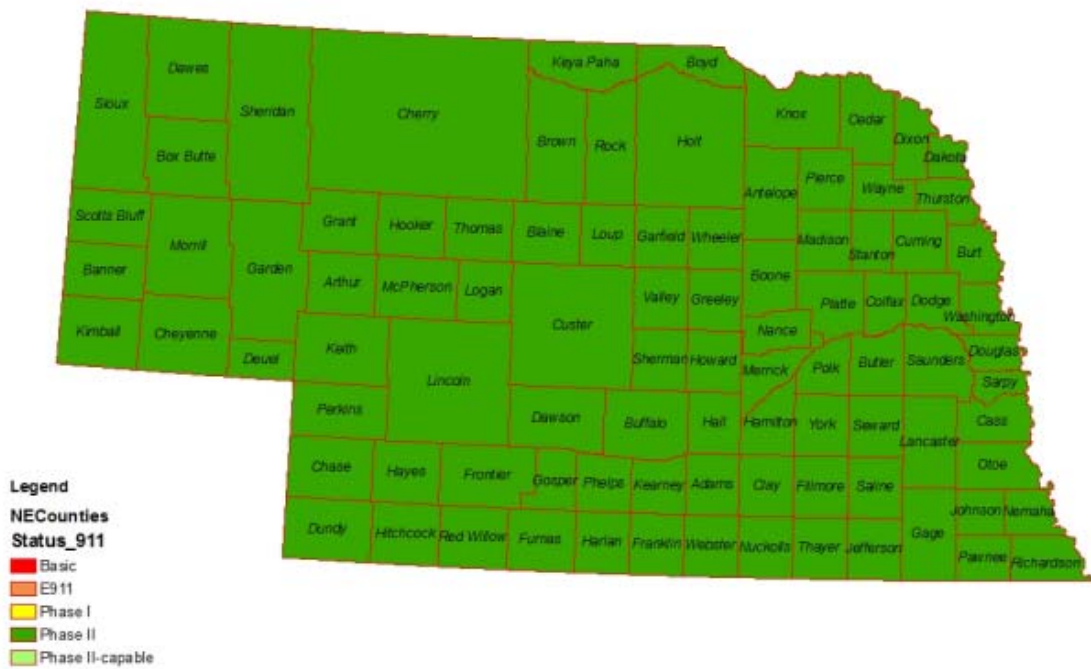
Disasters Declared by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: June 2005 – June 2015

| Date Declared | Type of Disaster | Number of Counties Declared | Est. Public Damages |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 6/25/2015 | Severe Storms | 12 | \$13,752,020 |
| 7/28/2014 | Severe Storms | 12 | \$4,020,170 |
| 7/24/2014 | Severe Storms | 12 | \$13,190,691 |
| 6/17/2014 | Severe Storms | 6 | \$21,593,086 |
| 11/26/2013 | Winter Storm | 9 | \$3,000,000+ |
| 8/30/2012 | Emergency Declaration/Fire | 3 | \$5,661,715 |
| 8/2/2011 | Flood | 12 | \$4,645,117 |
| 8/12/2011 | Flood | 14 | \$106,615,663 |
| 6/18/2011 | Emergency Declaration/Flood | 18 | \$0 |
| 4/22/2011 | Fire | 1 | \$0 |
| 10/21/2010 | Storms/Flood | 7 | \$2,896,659 |
| 6/1/2010 | Flooding | 53 | \$16,366,211 |
| 4/21/2010 | Flooding | 35 | \$10,785,830 |
| 2/25/2010 | Winter Storm | 48 | \$6,010,888 |
| 12/16/2009 | Winter Storm | 7 | \$3,638,100 |
| 7/31/2009 | Tornado/flood | 13 | \$4,388,370 |
| 7/18/2008 | Spring Storms | 4 | \$12,746,400 |
| 6/20/2008 | Storm/Tornado | 61 | \$35,559,665 |
| 5/30/2008 | Storm/tornado | 5 | \$2,296,100 |
| 1/11/2008 | Winter Storm | 8 | \$8,040,984 |
| 8/29/2007 | Storm/flood | 6 | \$1,297,060 |
| 7/24/2007 | Storms/flood | 15 | \$2,937,801 |
| 6/6/2007 | Storms/flood | 19 | \$7,303,416 |
| 1/7/2007 | Winter Storm | 69 | \$160,749,169 |
| 7/29/2006 | Sioux Co. Fire | 1 | \$2,385,620 |
| 7/28/2006 | Dawes Co. Fire | 3 | \$1,964,127 |
| 7/17/2006 | Valentine Fire | 1 | \$464,323 |
| 1/26/2006 | Winter Storm | 29 | \$7,131,762 |
| 6/13/2005 | Katrina Assist | Statewide | \$485,249 |
| 6/23/2005 | Storm/flood | 11 | \$3,195,092 |

Note: The Federal Government has been keeping disaster records since 1960.

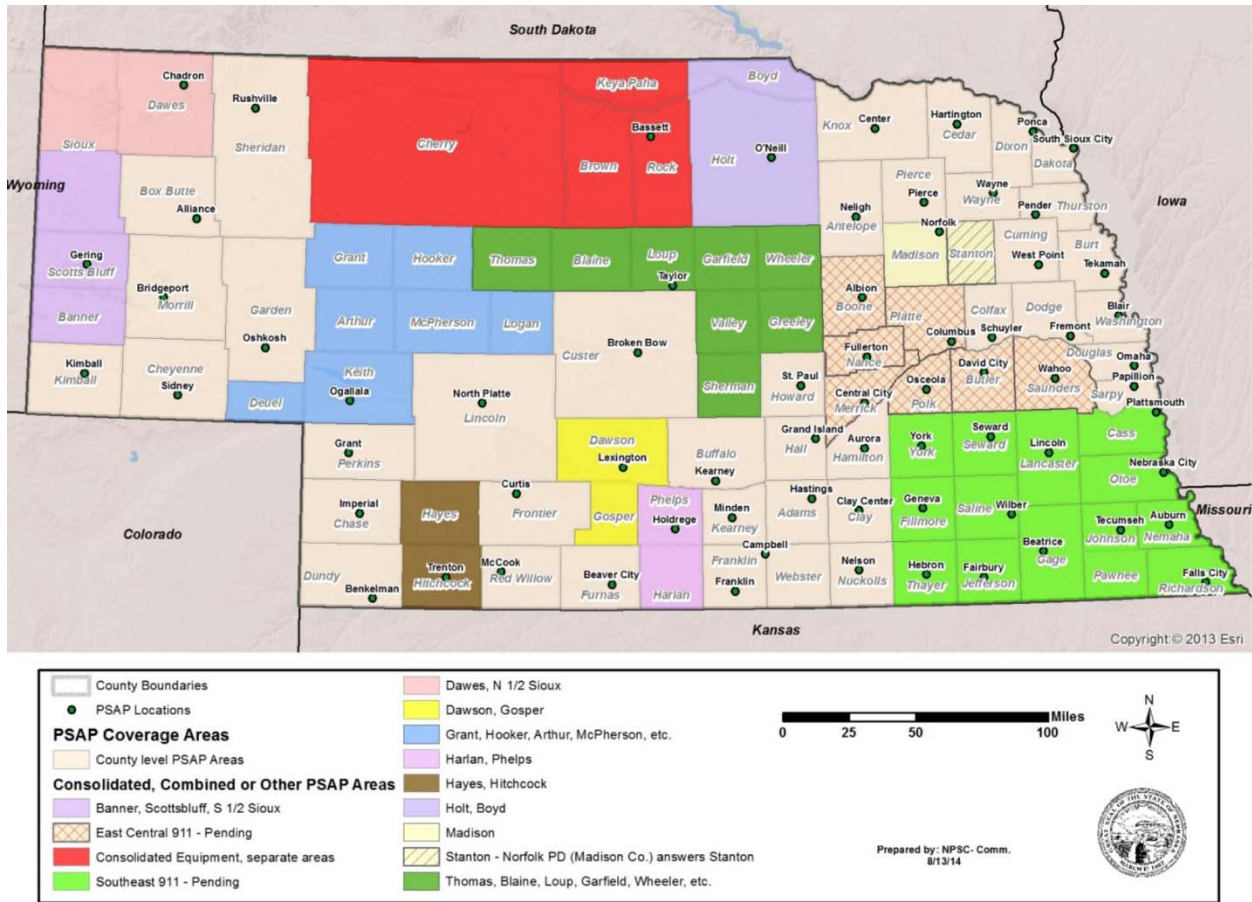
Source: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Wireless 911 Status with PSAP Locations, Nebraska: August 13, 2012



Source: Nebraska Public Service Commission, 2012 Annual Report on Telecommunications
http://www.psc.state.ne.us/telecom/pdf/leg_report/AnnualReport2012.pdf

PSAPs* Funded by Wireless Fund, Nebraska: 2014



*public safety answering point (PSAP)

Source: Nebraska Public Service Commission, 2014 Annual Report on Telecommunications

http://www.psc.state.ne.us/telecom/pdf/leg_report/AnnualReport2014.pdf

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - State and Local Government

Introduction

Units of Government

In 2012, Nebraska ranked 15th in the nation in the number of local governments in the state. For all types of local governments, Nebraska was above the median. It ranked 8th in the number of special districts and 10th in the number of counties. Since 2007, there were 16 fewer school districts, 27 fewer special districts, and 35 fewer towns and townships as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Nebraska was ranked 3rd in the nation in the number of governments per 100,000 population behind North Dakota, and South Dakota. All of the states in this region were above the median in this measure, in part due to their low population density. Nebraska was substantially above the national average for all types of local governments. For total local governments per 100,000 population, Nebraska had almost five times more governments than the national average (139.10 compared to 28.34). This ratio was lowest for school districts and highest for special districts.

Employment and Payroll

In 2013, state government employment per 10,000 population in Nebraska was above the median and the national average. Nebraska ranked 4th in the region and 19th in the nation. Nebraska was higher than the national average in all functional categories except the government administration and utilities category, and was more than twice the national average in the public works, planning and recreation category. At the same time, Nebraska paid its state employees substantially less than the average, and less than all states in the region except for Missouri. Nebraska was lower than the national average for all functions of state government.

At the local level, government employment in Nebraska was 4th highest in the nation, substantially above the national average and higher than all states in the region with the exception of Wyoming and Kansas. Nebraska local government employment was above the national average in government administration; public welfare and health services; transportation; leisure and planning; education; and utilities. Most of the difference from the national average for education can be explained by a higher level of instructional employees. The difference in the utilities category is due to the presence of public electric power in Nebraska. Nebraska was below the average for public safety (including both police officers and firefighters); and public works. Pay for Nebraska local government employees was less than average in the nation and 4th in the region. This pattern held for all functions of government with the exception of utilities.

Federal Government Expenditures

In FY 2013, for per capita federal government contract and assistance awards, Nebraska ranked 48th in the nation and last in the region. Nebraska was particularly low in contracts and loans; and below average in total prime awards grants, and other financial assistance.

Expenditures, Revenues and Debt

In 2012-2013, state government direct general spending per capita in Nebraska was 0.6% below the national average. Nebraska ranked 31st in the nation and 6th in the region. By this measure, state spending increased by nearly 10%, and Nebraska rose six spots in the national ranking over the last two years. For the functions of education; environment and housing; and transportation, state spending was higher than the national average. Nebraska spending was lower than the average for public safety; social services and income maintenance; and government administration.

Local government direct general spending per capita in Nebraska was 2.1% below the national average. Nebraska ranked 6th in the region and 15th in the nation. Nebraska was lower than the national average for all functions with the exception of education, transportation, and utilities.

State general revenue per capita was 3.4% below the national average and ranked 31st in the nation and 6th in the region. This was relatively stable since the previous year. Local general revenue ranked 8th nationally, 3rd in the region, and was 10.4% above the national average. Total state tax revenue was below the national average in all categories other than state individual income tax and the miscellaneous categories. The local property tax was 13.3% above average; local motor vehicle license taxes were over eight times the national average; and other taxes were significantly above the national average. Local tax collections were low for general and selective sales taxes, and zero for local income taxes. Local charges were 5.9% higher than average and local utility revenues were more than four times the national average.

Nebraska was very low in state debt outstanding per capita (49th in the nation and the lowest in the region). Nebraska's state debt was about one-fourth of the national average. Local government debt outstanding was 22.2% above the national average, 5th in the nation and highest in the region. Nebraska's state pensions were generally healthier than most states. The ratio of assets to liabilities was 80.0%, 14th in the nation and 3rd in the region. For unfunded pension liabilities, Nebraska was 42nd nationally and 8th regionally (a lower ranking indicates a lower unfunded liability).

Units of Government

Number of Local Government Units by Type, Nebraska: 2007 and 2012

| | 2007 | | 2012 | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | Number of Units | National Ranking | Number of Units | National Ranking |
| Total | 2,659 | 14 | 2,581 | 15 |
| County | 93 | 10 | 93 | 10 |
| Municipal | 530 | 16 | 530 | 16 |
| Town or township | 454 | 13 | 419 | 13 |
| Special districts | 1,294 | 8 | 1,267 | 8 |
| School districts | 288 | 19 | 272 | 19 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 and 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2015

Number of Local Government Units, Regional Comparison: 2012

| | Number of Units per 100,000 Population | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| United States | 28.34 | |
| North Dakota | 379.93 | 1 |
| South Dakota | 237.15 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 139.10 | 3 |
| Wyoming | 137.81 | 4 |
| Kansas | 131.88 | 5 |
| Minnesota | 67.52 | 9 |
| Iowa | 63.04 | 11 |
| Missouri | 62.27 | 12 |
| Colorado | 54.28 | 14 |

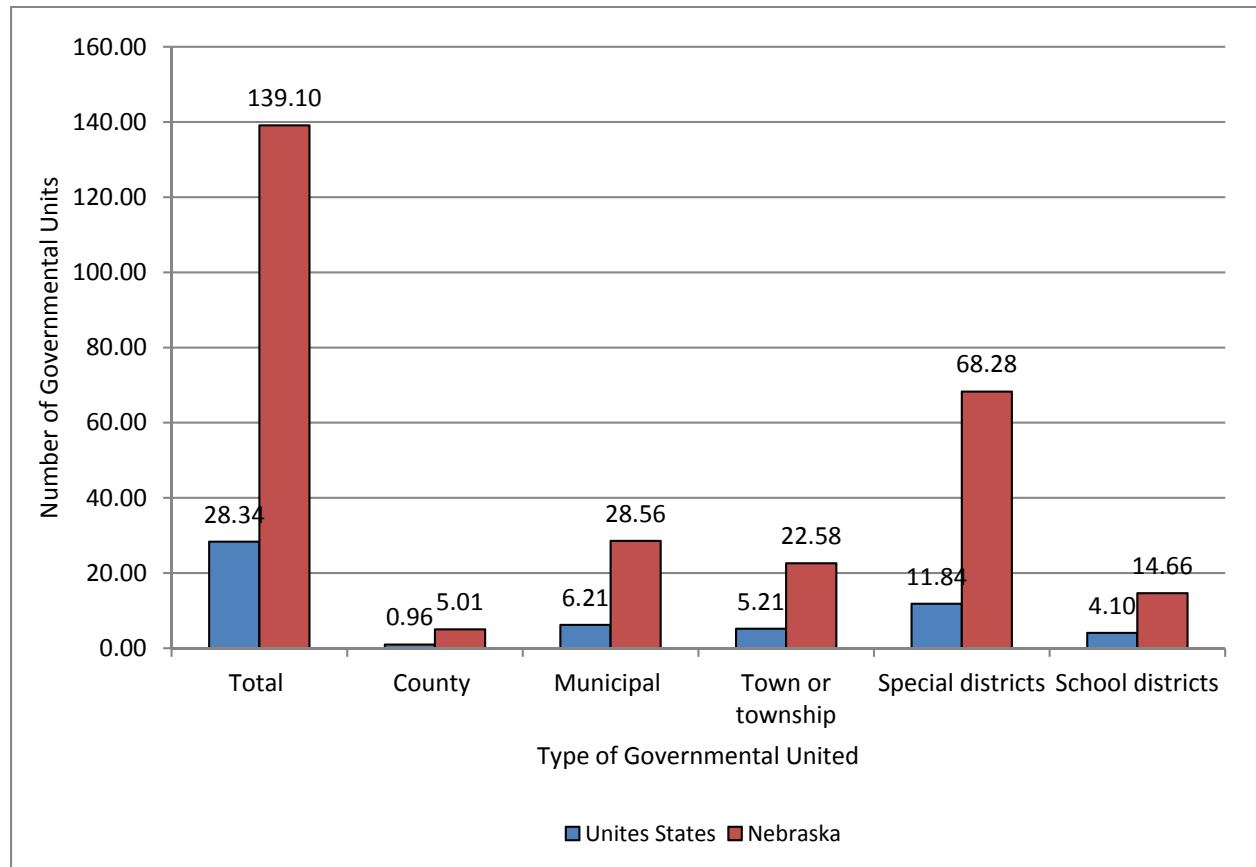
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government and population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2015

Number of Local Government Units by Type, Nebraska and the United States: 2012

| Type of Government Unit | Number of Units per 100,000 Population | |
|-------------------------|--|----------|
| | United States | Nebraska |
| Total | 28.34 | 139.10 |
| County | 0.96 | 5.01 |
| Municipal | 6.21 | 28.56 |
| Town or township | 5.21 | 22.58 |
| Special districts | 11.84 | 68.28 |
| School districts | 4.10 | 14.66 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government and population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2015

Number of Local Government Units per 100,000 Population by Type, Nebraska and the United States: 2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government and population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2015

Employment and Payroll

State Government Employment, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Employment FTE per 10,000 Population | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| United States | 136.04 | |
| North Dakota | 265.78 | 4 |
| Wyoming | 228.73 | 5 |
| Kansas | 171.42 | 18 |
| Nebraska | 171.08 | 19 |
| South Dakota | 170.81 | 20 |
| Iowa | 157.01 | 26 |
| Minnesota | 148.80 | 29 |
| Colorado | 147.23 | 31 |
| Missouri | 142.79 | 35 |

Note: Note that the data released in this table do not meet all of the criteria outlined in the Census Bureau Standard: Quality Requirements for Releasing Data Products. Some of the key Total Quantity Response Rates fall below the Census Bureau's 70 percent standard.

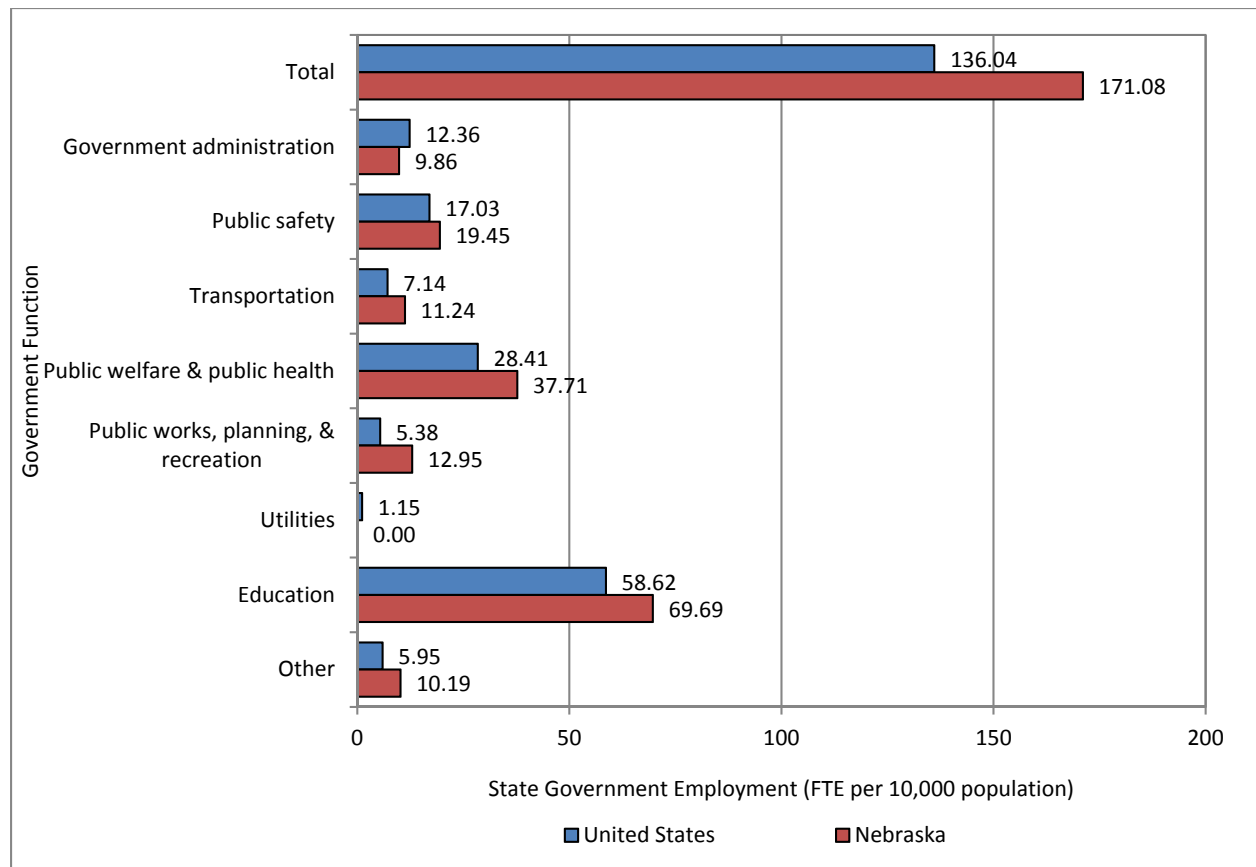
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2013

| Government Function | Employment FTE per 10,000 Population | |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------|
| | United States | Nebraska |
| Total | 136.04 | 171.08 |
| Government administration | 12.36 | 9.86 |
| Public safety | 17.03 | 19.45 |
| Transportation | 7.14 | 11.24 |
| Public welfare & public health | 28.41 | 37.71 |
| Public works, planning, & recreation | 5.38 | 12.95 |
| Utilities | 1.15 | 0.00 |
| Education | 58.62 | 69.69 |
| Other | 5.95 | 10.19 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Payroll, Regional Comparison: March 2013

| | Monthly Payroll per FTE | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| United States | \$4,761.51 | |
| Iowa | \$5,480.06 | 5 |
| Minnesota | \$5,151.94 | 10 |
| Colorado | \$4,832.34 | 15 |
| Kansas | \$4,333.55 | 26 |
| Wyoming | \$4,239.18 | 31 |
| North Dakota | \$4,081.54 | 37 |
| South Dakota | \$4,035.00 | 39 |
| Nebraska | \$3,828.26 | 45 |
| Missouri | \$3,506.05 | 50 |

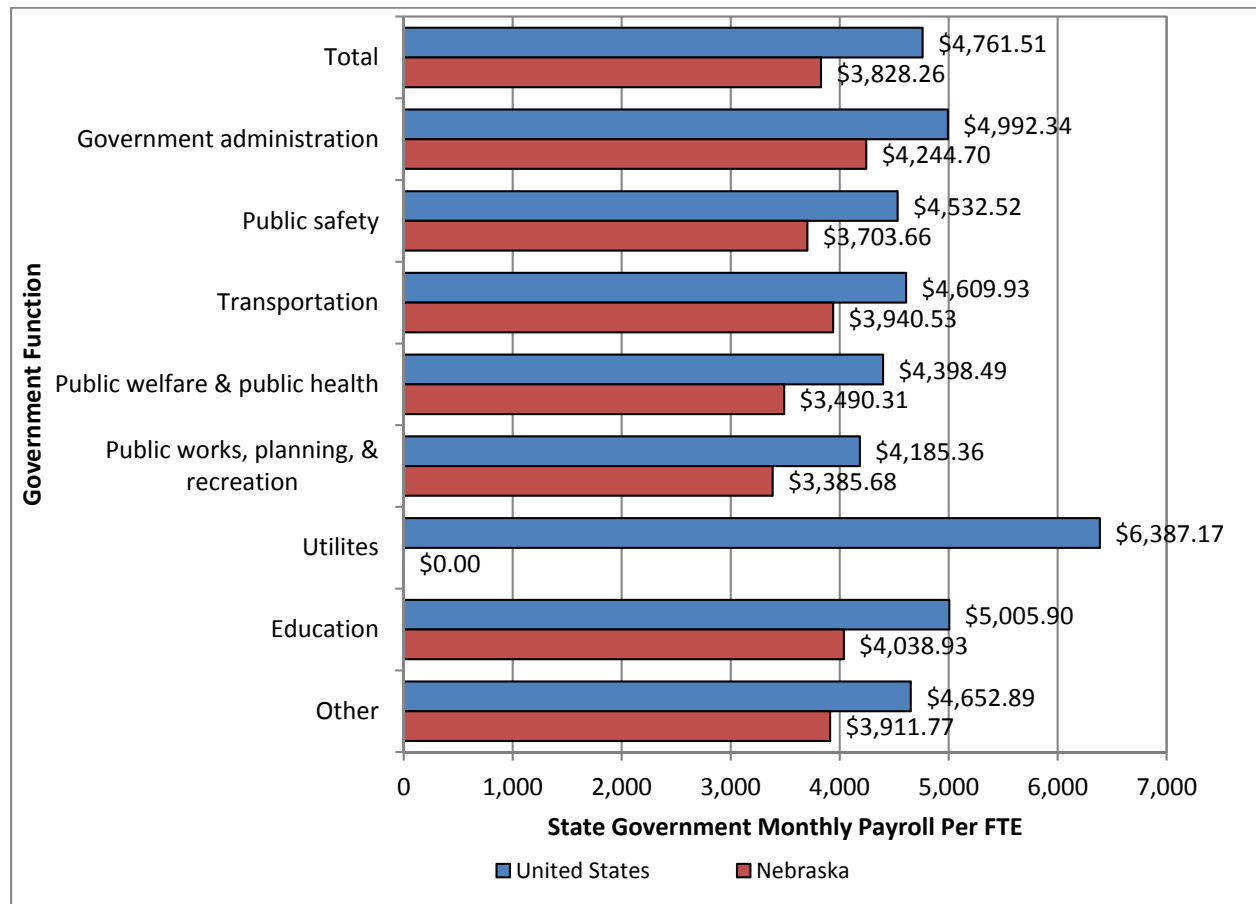
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2013

| Government Function | Monthly Payroll Per FTE | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | United States | Nebraska |
| Total | \$4,761.51 | \$3,828.26 |
| Government administration | \$4,992.34 | \$4,244.70 |
| Public safety | \$4,532.52 | \$3,703.66 |
| Transportation | \$4,609.93 | \$3,940.53 |
| Public welfare & public health | \$4,398.49 | \$3,490.31 |
| Public works, planning, & recreation | \$4,185.36 | \$3,385.68 |
| Utilities | \$6,387.17 | \$0.00 |
| Education | \$5,005.90 | \$4,038.93 |
| Other | \$4,652.89 | \$3,911.77 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Employment, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Employment FTE per 10,000 Population | National Rank |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 371.45 | |
| Wyoming | 635.93 | 1 |
| Kansas | 523.50 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 468.65 | 4 |
| Iowa | 395.04 | 11 |
| Missouri | 382.16 | 16 |
| South Dakota | 377.06 | 22 |
| Colorado | 376.80 | 23 |
| Minnesota | 360.72 | 27 |
| North Dakota | 358.95 | 28 |

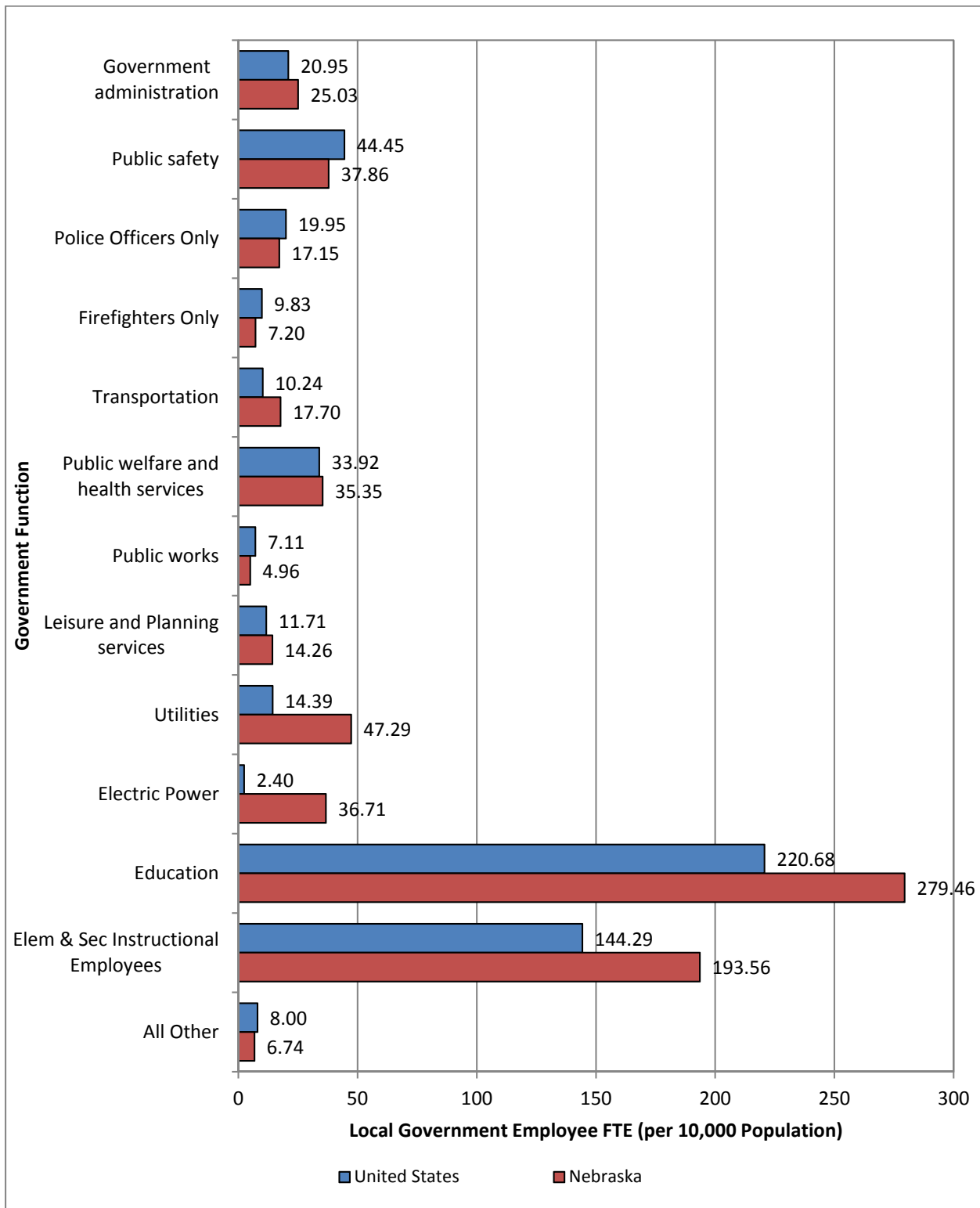
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and United States: March 2013

| Government Function | Employment FTE per 10,000 Population | |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| | United States | Nebraska |
| Government administration | 20.95 | 25.03 |
| Public safety | 44.45 | 37.86 |
| Police Officers Only | 19.95 | 17.15 |
| Firefighters Only | 9.83 | 7.20 |
| Transportation | 10.24 | 17.70 |
| Public welfare and health services | 33.92 | 35.35 |
| Public works | 7.11 | 4.96 |
| Leisure and Planning services | 11.71 | 14.26 |
| Utilities | 14.39 | 47.29 |
| Electric Power | 2.40 | 36.71 |
| Education | 220.68 | 279.46 |
| Elem & Sec Instructional Employees | 144.29 | 193.56 |
| All Other | 8.00 | --- |
| Total | 371.45 | 468.65 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Payroll, Regional Comparison: March 2013

| | Monthly Payroll per FTE | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$4,332.59 | |
| Minnesota | \$4,428.21 | 15 |
| Colorado | \$4,226.19 | 19 |
| Wyoming | \$4,077.55 | 20 |
| Nebraska | \$3,979.04 | 24 |
| Iowa | \$3,917.07 | 25 |
| North Dakota | \$3,629.90 | 31 |
| Missouri | \$3,499.81 | 37 |
| Kansas | \$3,419.15 | 39 |
| South Dakota | \$3,137.58 | 49 |

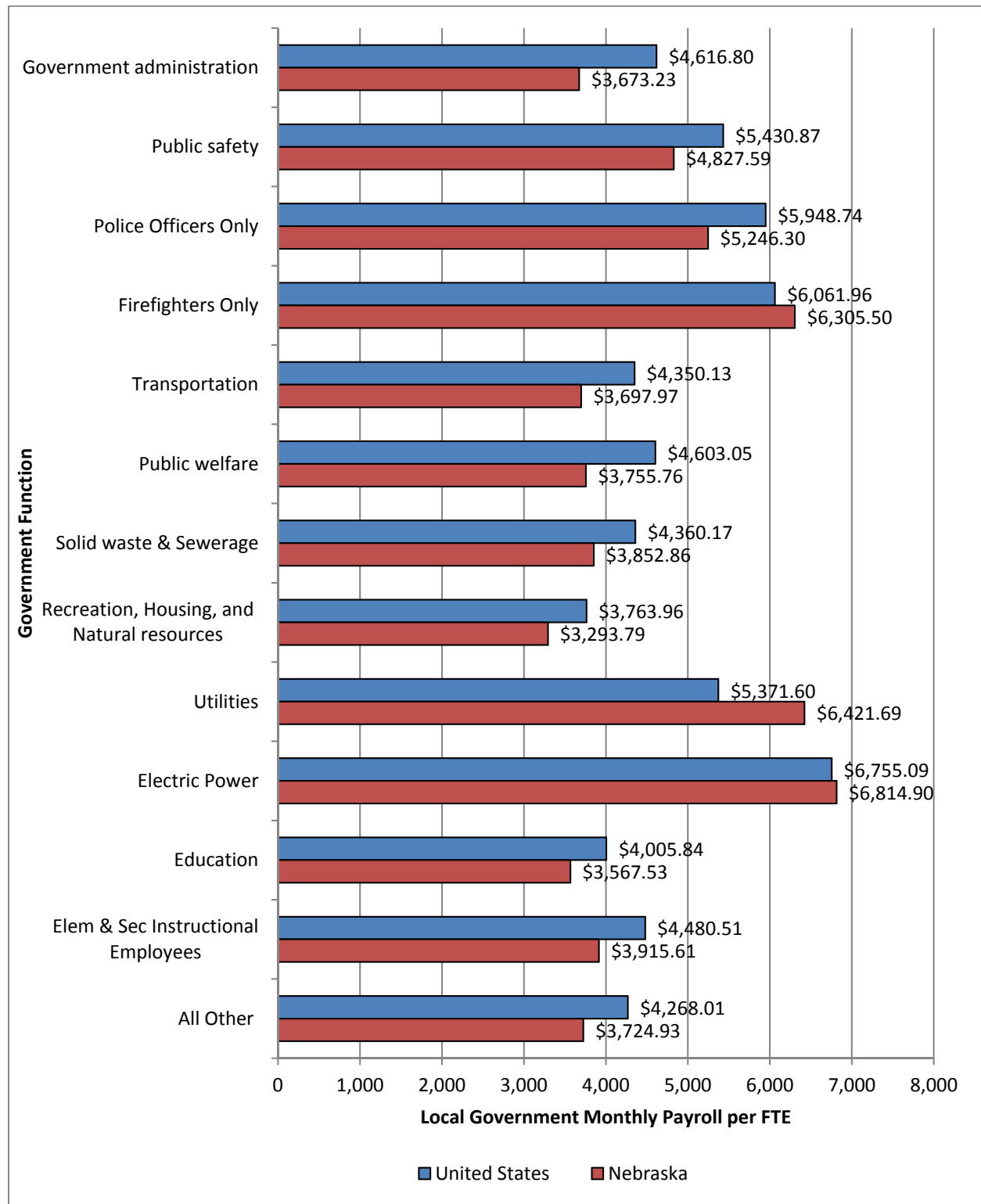
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2013

| Government Function | Monthly Payroll Per FTE | |
|--|-------------------------|------------|
| | United States | Nebraska |
| Total | \$4,332.59 | \$3,979.04 |
| Government administration | \$4,616.80 | \$3,673.23 |
| Public safety | \$5,430.87 | \$4,827.59 |
| Police Officers Only | \$5,948.74 | \$5,246.30 |
| Firefighters Only | \$6,061.96 | \$6,305.50 |
| Transportation | \$4,350.13 | \$3,697.97 |
| Public welfare | \$4,603.05 | \$3,755.76 |
| Solid waste & Sewerage | \$4,360.17 | \$3,852.86 |
| Recreation, Housing, and Natural resources | \$3,763.96 | \$3,293.79 |
| Utilities | \$5,371.60 | \$6,421.69 |
| Electric Power | \$6,755.09 | \$6,814.90 |
| Education | \$4,005.84 | \$3,567.53 |
| Elem & Sec Instructional Employees | \$4,480.51 | \$3,915.61 |
| All Other | \$4,268.01 | \$3,724.93 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Federal Government Expenditures

Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita, Regional Comparison: FY 2015

| | Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita | Rank |
|----------------------|---|-----------|
| United States | \$8,549.31 | |
| North Dakota* | \$79,003.34 | 1 |
| Minnesota | \$12,041.45 | 10 |
| Missouri | \$7,607.64 | 24 |
| Iowa | \$6,655.41 | 35 |
| South Dakota | \$6,582.48 | 37 |
| Colorado | \$6,557.54 | 38 |
| Wyoming | \$6,185.33 | 43 |
| Kansas | \$5,948.73 | 45 |
| Nebraska | \$5,755.78 | 48 |

* The values for North Dakota appear unreasonable but have been verified as the published values.

Sources: USAspending.gov Trend Data and U.S. Bureau, 2014 Population Estimates (1-year); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita, Nebraska and the United States: FY 2015

| Type of Expenditure | Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------|--|
| | United States | Nebraska | Nebraska as a Percent of the United States |
| Total Prime Awards | \$8,549.31 | \$5,755.78 | 67.3 |
| Contract | \$1,319.94 | \$584.56 | 44.3 |
| Grant | \$1,854.70 | \$1,473.62 | 79.5 |
| Loans | \$15.14 | \$4.48 | 29.6 |
| Other Financial Assistance | \$5,359.52 | \$3,693.11 | 68.9 |

* Other Financial Assistance– Includes direct payments to individuals (such as Medicare and food stamps), insurance payments (such as, unemployment benefits, flood insurance), and other types of assistance payments (such as, reimbursements for prescriptions for veterans).

Note: Total prime awards in this table are for the 50 states and District of Columbia. However, the individual categories included awards for the U.S. Island areas, no state code and international that could not be isolated. Since the total prime awards for the 50 states and the District of Columbia amounted to 97% of all awards, the individual type of awards for the United States in this table are higher than they would be if we only included the 50 states and District of Columbia.

Sources: USAspending.gov Trend Data and U.S. Bureau, 2014 Population Estimates (1-year); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Expenditures, Revenues and Debt

State Government Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | State Expenditures Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$3,773.76 | |
| Wyoming | \$5,753.56 | 5 |
| North Dakota | \$5,738.82 | 6 |
| Iowa | \$4,251.76 | 20 |
| Minnesota | \$4,072.82 | 24 |
| South Dakota | \$3,868.65 | 29 |
| Nebraska | \$3,752.78 | 31 |
| Kansas | \$3,611.56 | 36 |
| Missouri | \$3,352.77 | 41 |
| Colorado | \$3,205.12 | 44 |

Note: Direct general expenditure only

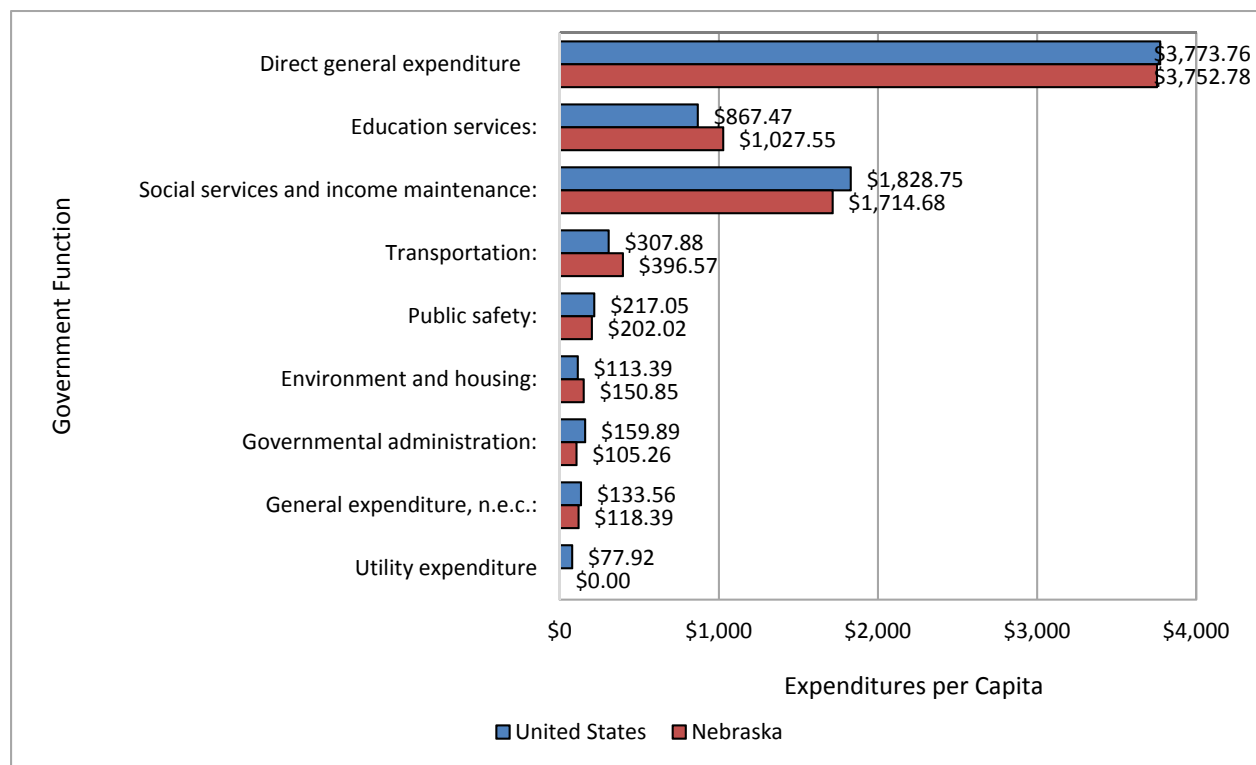
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2012-2013

| Government Function | State Expenditures Per Capita | | |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| | United States | Nebraska | Nebraska as a Percent of United States |
| Direct general expenditure | \$3,773.76 | \$3,752.78 | 99.4 |
| Education services: | \$867.47 | \$1,027.55 | 118.5 |
| Social services and income maintenance: | \$1,828.75 | \$1,714.68 | 93.8 |
| Transportation: | \$307.88 | \$396.57 | 128.8 |
| Public safety: | \$217.05 | \$202.02 | 93.1 |
| Environment and housing: | \$113.39 | \$150.85 | 133.0 |
| Governmental administration: | \$159.89 | \$105.26 | 65.8 |
| General expenditure, n.e.c.: | \$133.56 | \$118.39 | 88.6 |
| Utility expenditure | \$77.92 | --- | --- |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2012-2013



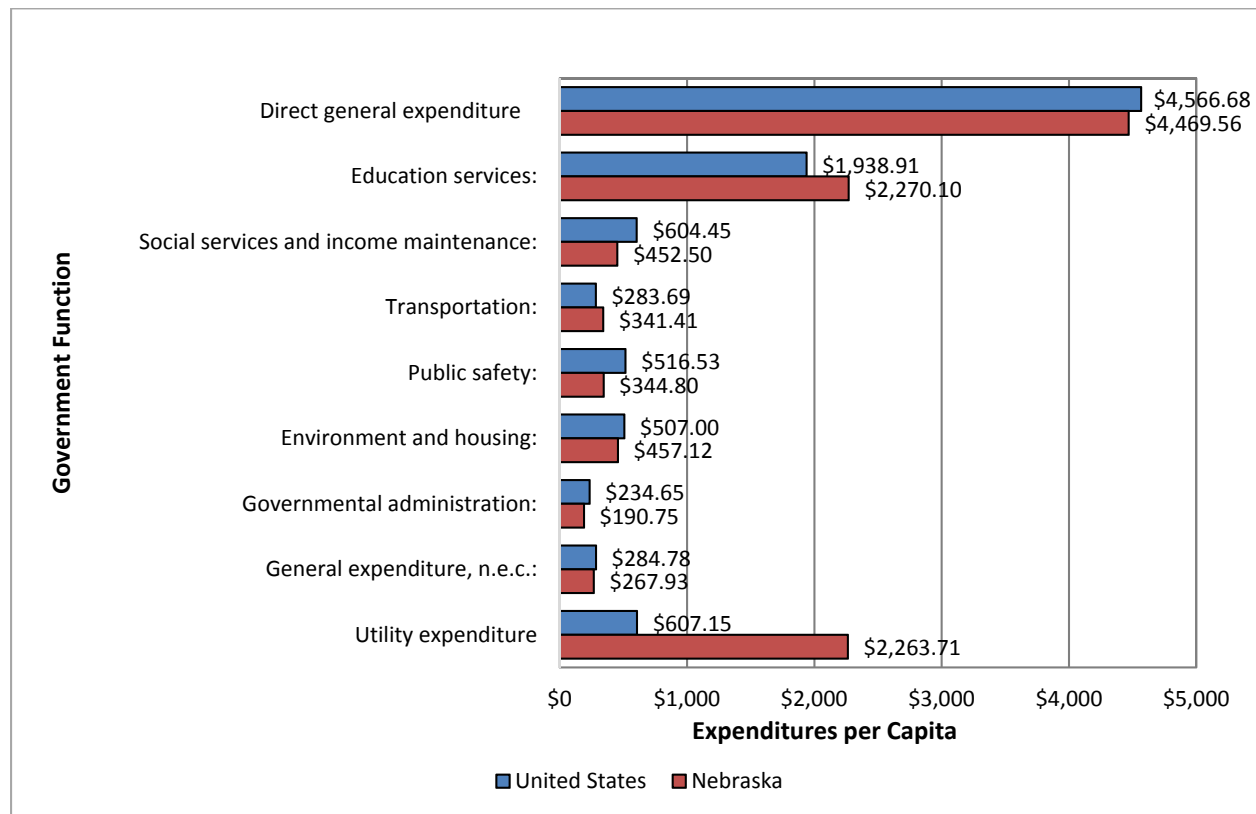
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2012-2013

| Government Function | United States | Nebraska | Nebraska as a Percentage of United States |
|--|---------------|------------|---|
| Direct general expenditure | \$4,566.68 | \$4,469.56 | 97.9 |
| Education services | \$1,938.91 | \$2,270.10 | 117.1 |
| Social services and income maintenance | \$604.45 | \$452.50 | 74.9 |
| Transportation | \$283.69 | \$341.41 | 120.3 |
| Public safety | \$516.53 | \$344.80 | 66.8 |
| Environment and housing | \$507.00 | \$457.12 | 90.2 |
| Governmental administration | \$234.65 | \$190.75 | 81.3 |
| Other general expenditure, n.e.c. | \$284.78 | \$267.93 | 94.1 |
| Utility expenditure | \$607.15 | \$2,263.71 | 372.8 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2012-2013



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | Local Expenditures Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$4,566.68 | |
| Wyoming | \$7,556.64 | 3 |
| Minnesota | \$5,008.24 | 7 |
| Iowa | \$4,785.15 | 9 |
| Colorado | \$4,639.65 | 10 |
| North Dakota | \$4,564.25 | 12 |
| Nebraska | \$4,469.56 | 15 |
| Kansas | \$4,421.81 | 17 |
| Missouri | \$3,863.89 | 31 |
| South Dakota | \$3,482.95 | 38 |

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State and Local Revenues Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2012-2013

| Revenue Source | State Government Revenues Per Capita | | | Local Government Revenues Per Capita | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------|--|--------------------------------------|------------|--|
| | United States | Nebraska | Nebraska as a Percent of United States | United States | Nebraska | Nebraska as a Percent of United States |
| General revenue from own sources | \$3,406.15 | \$3,250.17 | 95.4% | \$2,906.08 | \$3,071.03 | 105.7% |
| Taxes | \$2,439.95 | \$2,254.39 | 92.4% | \$1,855.58 | \$1,979.90 | 106.7% |
| Property | \$45.49 | \$0.06 | 0.1% | \$1,377.10 | \$1,560.21 | 113.3% |
| Sales/gross receipts | \$1,180.23 | \$1,103.44 | 93.5% | \$298.72 | \$203.62 | 68.2% |
| General sales | \$757.22 | \$752.00 | 99.3% | \$209.99 | \$165.72 | 78.9% |
| Selective sales | \$423.02 | \$351.44 | 83.1% | \$88.73 | \$37.90 | 42.7% |
| Individual income | \$832.22 | \$934.49 | 112.3% | \$82.25 | --- | --- |
| Corporate income | \$132.81 | \$84.11 | 63.3% | \$22.99 | --- | --- |
| Motor vehicle lic. | \$69.14 | \$47.58 | 68.8% | \$5.34 | \$45.39 | 850.78% |
| Other taxes | \$180.06 | \$84.71 | 47.0% | \$69.19 | \$170.68 | 246.7% |
| Current charges | \$581.22 | \$563.10 | 96.9% | \$795.12 | \$841.68 | 105.9% |
| Misc. general rev. | \$384.98 | \$432.68 | 112.4% | \$255.37 | \$249.45 | 97.7% |
| Utility revenue | \$46.67 | --- | --- | \$432.22 | \$2,054.19 | 475.3% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State General Revenues Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | State General Revenues Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| United States | \$3,660.94 | |
| North Dakota | \$8,962.34 | 2 |
| Wyoming | \$6,190.04 | 4 |
| Minnesota | \$4,849.86 | 8 |
| Iowa | \$4,055.92 | 17 |
| Kansas | \$3,937.05 | 19 |
| Nebraska | \$3,535.12 | 31 |
| Colorado | \$3,152.52 | 39 |
| South Dakota | \$2,874.17 | 44 |
| Missouri | \$2,674.08 | 47 |

Note: General Revenue from Own Sources

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local General Revenues Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | Local General Revenues Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| United States | \$2,992.43 | |
| Wyoming | \$4,516.46 | 3 |
| Colorado | \$3,621.71 | 6 |
| Nebraska | \$3,302.68 | 8 |
| Kansas | \$3,048.81 | 13 |
| Iowa | \$3,010.74 | 14 |
| Minnesota | \$2,791.38 | 22 |
| North Dakota | \$2,638.06 | 27 |
| Missouri | \$2,629.01 | 28 |
| South Dakota | \$2,414.81 | 33 |

Note: General Revenue from Own Sources

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

State Debt Outstanding Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | State Debt Outstanding Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| United States | \$3,593.67 | |
| South Dakota | \$4,051.31 | 14 |
| Missouri | \$3,194.05 | 27 |
| Colorado | \$3,093.50 | 28 |
| North Dakota | \$2,534.09 | 32 |
| Minnesota | \$2,503.25 | 33 |
| Kansas | \$2,356.96 | 37 |
| Iowa | \$2,157.84 | 39 |
| Wyoming | \$1,749.84 | 44 |
| Nebraska | \$988.02 | 49 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Local Debt Outstanding Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2012-2013

| | Local Debt Outstanding Per Capita | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|
| United States | \$5,742.01 | |
| Nebraska | \$7,021.34 | 5 |
| Colorado | \$6,997.02 | 6 |
| Kansas | \$6,564.77 | 10 |
| Minnesota | \$6,357.14 | 12 |
| Missouri | \$4,345.19 | 25 |
| North Dakota | \$3,902.24 | 32 |
| Iowa | \$3,823.88 | 34 |
| South Dakota | \$2,900.76 | 39 |
| Wyoming | \$1,669.97 | 50 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Liabilities and Unfunded Ratios of State Pension Plans, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Assets as a Percent of Liabilities | | Unfunded Liability | |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| | Percent | Rank | Per Capita | Rank |
| United States | 71.8 | | \$3,060 | |
| South Dakota | 99.9 | 1 | \$9 | 50 |
| Iowa | 80.7 | 11 | \$1,946 | 37 |
| Nebraska | 80.0 | 14 | \$1,285 | 42 |
| Wyoming | 78.7 | 17 | \$3,337 | 22 |
| Missouri | 76.6 | 18 | \$2,292 | 33 |
| Minnesota | 74.7 | 19 | \$2,998 | 26 |
| Colorado | 61.5 | 37 | \$4,893 | 9 |
| North Dakota | 61.0 | 39 | \$3,151 | 24 |
| Kansas | 59.9 | 42 | \$3,372 | 21 |

Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, Public Sector Retirement Systems Funding and Payment Information; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Telecommunications

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska’s telecommunications by reviewing three broad areas: telephone/cell phone penetration; internet access; and sustainability of statewide services. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used.

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Almost all of the nation’s households have access to telephone service (land line or cell phone) and the differences among states are relatively small. In 2014, Nebraska ranked 22nd nationally and 5th among its neighbors in telephone service. In 2014, 97.7% of Nebraska households had telephone service. This was slightly above the national rate of 97.5%.

The majority of Nebraskans have a cell phone. As of December 2013, there were 1.74 million cell phone subscribers in Nebraska. This was a 3.8% increase since December of 2013 and the 9th largest increase in the United States.

Internet Access

In 2014, 16% of Nebraska households did not have access to advanced telecommunications, and Nebraska is the 16th highest in the nation. Only Wyoming and Missouri had higher percentages of households without access. There was considerable difference between the urban and rural parts of the state, as 6% of urban Nebraska lacked access while 51% of rural Nebraska lacked access.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that in 2014, 74.8% of Nebraska households had a broadband internet subscription. This is slightly lower than the national average of 75.1% and ranked 26th nationally and 4th in the region. Colorado at 81.2% was the highest in the region.

Sustainability of Statewide Services

There was a total of \$37.3 million spent from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund in 2013.

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Telephone Penetration, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent of Households with Telephone Service | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| United States | 97.5% | |
| Minnesota | 98.0% | 7 |
| North Dakota | 97.9% | 12 |
| Wyoming | 97.8% | 13 |
| Colorado | 97.7% | 20 |
| Nebraska | 97.7% | 22 |
| Iowa | 97.5% | 27 |
| South Dakota | 97.4% | 31 |
| Kansas | 97.4% | 32 |
| Missouri | 97.2% | 37 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimate; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Cell Phone Penetration, Regional Comparison: December 2012 – December 2013

| | Subscribers | | Percentage Change | National Rank of Percentage Change |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| | December 2012 | December 2013 | | |
| United States | 304,838,124 | 310,698,427 | 1.9 | |
| Kansas | 2,696,345 | 2,840,453 | 5.3 | 2 |
| Nebraska | 1,674,509 | 1,737,810 | 3.8 | 9 |
| Colorado | 4,878,245 | 5,062,317 | 3.8 | 10 |
| North Dakota | 682,729 | 701,707 | 2.8 | 19 |
| Minnesota | 5,154,137 | 5,286,442 | 2.6 | 21 |
| Missouri | 5,667,940 | 5,747,959 | 1.4 | 30 |
| Wyoming | 544,594 | 550,970 | 1.2 | 31 |
| South Dakota | 749,568 | 755,903 | 0.9 | 33 |
| Iowa | 2,776,901 | 2,782,421 | 0.2 | 37 |

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, Local Telephone Competition Data; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Internet Access

Presence of a Computer in the Household, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent of Households with Computer | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| United States | 85.1% | |
| Colorado | 90.6% | 3 |
| Wyoming | 88.4% | 9 |
| Minnesota | 87.5% | 10 |
| North Dakota | 85.7% | 20 |
| Kansas | 85.0% | 25 |
| Nebraska | 84.9% | 29 |
| Iowa | 84.4% | 33 |
| Missouri | 83.1% | 39 |
| South Dakota | 82.7% | 42 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimate; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Percent of Households with a Broadband Internet Subscription, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent of Households With Broadband Internet | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|------------------|
| United States | 75.1% | |
| Colorado | 81.2% | 5 |
| Minnesota | 78.3% | 13 |
| Wyoming | 76.1% | 19 |
| Nebraska | 74.8% | 26 |
| North Dakota | 74.7% | 27 |
| Kansas | 74.5% | 28 |
| Iowa | 74.2% | 29 |
| Missouri | 71.6% | 39 |
| South Dakota | 71.6% | 39 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey 1-year estimate; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Percentage of Population without Access to Advanced Telecommunications*, Regional Comparison: January 2016

| | Percent of Total Population without Access | Rank | Percent of Urban Population without Access | Percent of Rural Population without Access |
|-----------------|---|-------------|---|---|
| United States | 10% | | 4% | 39% |
| Wyoming | 23% | 7 | 3% | 63% |
| Missouri | 20% | 8 | 5% | 61% |
| Nebraska | 16% | 16 | 6% | 51% |
| Iowa | 15% | 18 | 4% | 37% |
| Kansas | 15% | 18 | 5% | 49% |
| North Dakota | 14% | 20 | 2% | 37% |
| Minnesota | 12% | 24 | 1% | 43% |
| South Dakota | 11% | 27 | 2% | 26% |
| Colorado | 10% | 30 | 4% | 53% |

*The Federal Communications Commission determines that advanced telecommunications requires access to both fixed and mobile broadband services because more Americans use mobile services and devices to access the Internet for activities like navigation, communicating with family and friends and on social media, and receiving timely news updates away from home. The Commission also retains the existing speed benchmark of 25 Mbps download/3 Mbps upload (25 Mbps/3 Mbps) for fixed services, but finds that the current record is insufficient to set an appropriate speed benchmark for mobile service.

Source: Federal Communications Commission, 2016 Broadband Progress Report, January 2016; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Sustainability of Statewide Services

Nebraska Universal Service Fund Expenditures: 2011, 2012, and 2013

| | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Arapahoe | \$794,142 | \$635,413 | \$544,646 |
| Benkelman | \$443,552 | \$362,843 | \$312,000 |
| Cambridge | \$323,500 | \$258,520 | \$221,324 |
| CenturyLink | \$1,111,083 | \$1,374,962 | \$2,174,395 |
| Citizens | \$1,726,089 | \$3,804,576 | \$3,264,146 |
| Clarks | \$257,099 | \$205,547 | \$176,039 |
| Cons Telco | NA | \$104,366 | NA |
| Cons Tele | \$510,227 | \$216,128 | NA |
| Cons Telecom | \$550,500 | \$1,912 | \$187,346 |
| Cozad | \$196,620 | \$155,457 | \$131,895 |
| Curtis | \$342,688 | \$264,110 | \$139,462 |
| Dalton | NA | NA | NA |
| Diller | \$338,107 | \$277,545 | \$238,655 |
| Elsie | NA | NA | NA |
| Glenwood | \$938,453 | \$801,830 | \$686,445 |
| Great Plains | \$10,978,849 | \$8,797,756 | \$7,549,258 |
| Hamilton | NA | \$461,224 | \$391,786 |
| Hartington | \$152,143 | \$120,329 | \$102,118 |
| Hartman | \$123,012 | \$96,405 | \$199,735 |
| Hemingford | \$577,297 | \$471,764 | \$379,840 |
| Hershey | \$133,181 | \$105,151 | \$90,389 |
| Hooper | \$55,569 | \$82,217 | \$105,976 |
| Huntel | \$134,079 | \$799,220 | NA |
| K&M | \$282,780 | \$304,123 | \$222,135 |
| Keystone | \$140,230 | \$100,877 | \$286,023 |
| Mainstay | \$179,263 | \$150,847 | \$113,173 |
| Neb Central | \$2,328,251 | \$1,989,187 | \$1,958,764 |
| Northeast | \$2,054,800 | \$1,640,499 | \$1,404,035 |
| Pierce | \$169,416 | \$242,535 | \$207,387 |
| Plainview | \$231,898 | \$186,294 | \$160,190 |
| Qwest | \$13,575,012 | \$11,117,328 | \$9,523,013 |
| Sodtown | NA | NA | NA |
| Southeast | \$476,384 | \$378,559 | \$322,563 |
| Stanton | \$194,785 | \$154,893 | \$132,058 |
| Three River | \$792,617 | \$634,288 | \$543,773 |
| Waneta | \$263,374 | \$215,456 | \$185,266 |
| Windstream | NA | \$5,427,839 | \$5,319,358 |
| Total | \$40,375,000 | \$41,940,000 | \$37,273,191 |

Source: Nebraska Public Service Commission, NUSF-50 Model; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

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Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Transportation

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska’s transportation by reviewing four broad areas: transportation infrastructure; accidents; transportation access; and transportation funding. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. Additional information can be found from the Nebraska Department of Roads’ website (<http://www.dor.state.ne.us>) and the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles’ web site (<http://www.dms.state.ne.us>).

Transportation Infrastructure

One aspect of the transportation infrastructure is the smoothness of its highways. Using a national standard, 99% of Nebraska’s Interstate highways were rated smooth, as were 91% of its non-interstate system state roads in 2014. The smoothness of interstate highways has held steady at 99% since 2008. Non-interstate roads rated as smooth fluctuated between 89% and 91% since 2006.

Another aspect of the transportation infrastructure is the condition of the pavement. In 2014, 88% of the interstate system in Nebraska was in good or very good condition. This is a continued decrease in condition from 94% in 2012 and 91% in 2013. Only 74% of pavement of non-interstate system roads was rated good or very good in 2014. This percentage has held fairly steady since 2010. Overall, 75% of pavement in Nebraska was rated as good or very good in 2014, a percentage that has held fairly steady since 2010.

A third aspect of the transportation infrastructure is highway performance. In 2012, Nebraska ranked 2nd in overall highway performance. Only Wyoming was ranked higher in the nation and the region.

The Federal Highway Administration reported that of the more than 15,000 bridges in Nebraska, 22.5% were rated as deficient in 2015, essentially equal to the national average. The state ranked 4th highest in the region and 27th in the nation.

Accidents

The number of railroad accidents in Nebraska is high but continues to decrease. Nebraska had 202 railroad accidents and incidents in 2013. This ranked 18th nationally, and 7th in the region (a lower ranking indicates higher accident rate). This was down from 311 in 2008, a 54% drop.

In 2014, Nebraska recorded 1.15 traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, slightly up from 1.09 in 2009. This was above the national average of 1.08 traffic fatalities and was 5th lowest in the region, behind Minnesota, Colorado, Iowa and Missouri.

Transportation Access

Very few residents of Nebraska or its neighboring states took public transportation to work. In 2014, this amounted to 0.7% of all commuters and ranked 40th nationally. Kansas, North Dakota and South Dakota recorded lower rates than Nebraska. All others in the region also are below the national average.

In Nebraska, 81.2% drove to work alone in 2014, slightly more than in 2013. Also, 9.6% carpooled, 2.8% walked, 1.3% travelled by other means (such as taxi, motorcycle or bicycle) and 4.4% worked at home. The percentage break-down of the ways in which people commute to work has remained virtually the

same since at least 2009. Average commuting time in Nebraska in 2014 is 18.2 minutes, slightly more than 2013 and the 3rd lowest in the nation behind North Dakota and South Dakota.

Another measure of transportation access is airline passenger boarding. In 2014, there were 2.25 million passenger boardings in Nebraska, an increase of 2.3%. The vast majority (90.0%) was from Eppley Airfield (the 60th busiest airport in the United States), and 7% was from Lincoln Airport (206th busiest in the United States). Traffic at Omaha and Lincoln was up. Traffic in Grand Island has increased from 7,961 enplanements in 2008 to 61,400 in 2014 and it is now the 3rd busiest airport in Nebraska and 264th in the United States. Kearney has seen rapid growth but has dropped off recently. It is now the 4th busiest airport in the state, followed by Scottsbluff and North Platte.

Transportation Funding

Nebraska spent relatively more for highways than the rest of the nation. In 2013, local highway spending was \$292 per capita, ranking at 8th in the nation. Nebraska is 42% above the national average in local highway spending; all other states in the region, except Missouri, also are above the national average.

At the state level, Nebraska spent \$395 per capita. Compared to the nation, state highway spending in Nebraska is 32.9% above the national average and 12th in the nation.

Transportation Infrastructure

Road Smoothness, Nebraska: 2002-2014

| | Percentage of Miles Meeting or Exceeding Acceptable Ride Quality IRIs | | |
|-------|---|--|--|
| | Interstate System (462 miles) | Non-interstate System (9,401 miles) | Total Highway System* (9,863 miles) |
| 2002 | 94% | 84% | 84% |
| 2003 | 92% | 84% | 84% |
| 2004 | 92% | 85% | 85% |
| 2005 | 95% | 86% | 87% |
| 2006 | 96% | 90% | 91% |
| 2007 | 97% | 90% | 91% |
| 2008* | 99% | 91% | 92% |
| 2009 | 99% | 91% | 91% |
| 2010 | 99% | 90% | 91% |
| 2011 | 99% | 90% | 90% |
| 2012 | 99% | 89% | 90% |
| 2013 | 96% | 90% | 91% |
| 2014 | 99% | 91% | 91% |

Note: International Roughness Index (IRI) is a measure of the smoothness of roads. It measures pavement roughness in terms of the number of inches per mile, of millimeters per meter.

*Formulas used to track condition were refined in 2008.

Source: State of Nebraska Department of Roads Annual Report 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Pavement Condition Rating, Nebraska: 2014

| | Interstate System | Non-Interstate System | Total State Highway System |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Very Good Miles | 306 | 3,437 | 3,743 |
| Good Miles | 119 | 3,536 | 3,665 |
| Fair Miles | 57 | 2,177 | 2,234 |
| Poor Miles | 0 | 247 | 247 |
| Very Poor Miles | 0 | 23 | 23 |
| Total | 482 | 9,420 | 9,902 |

Source: State of Nebraska Department of Roads Annual Report 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Pavement Condition Rating Percentage of Miles Good or Very Good, Nebraska: 2004-2014

| | Interstate System | Non-Interstate System | Total State Highway System |
|------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2004 | 96% | 83% | 84% |
| 2005 | 96% | 84% | 85% |
| 2006 | 94% | 79% | 80% |
| 2007 | 96% | 78% | 79% |
| 2008 | 96% | 81% | 82% |
| 2009 | 94% | 78% | 79% |
| 2010 | 93% | 74% | 75% |
| 2011 | 89% | 73% | 74% |
| 2012 | 94% | 73% | 74% |
| 2013 | 91% | 73% | 74% |
| 2014 | 88% | 74% | 75% |

Source: State of Nebraska Department of Roads Annual Report 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Overall Highway Performance Ratings , Regional Comparison: 2011-2012

| | 2012 National Rank | 2011 National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wyoming | 1 | 4 |
| Nebraska | 2 | 2 |
| South Dakota | 3 | 1 |
| Kansas | 5 | 3 |
| North Dakota | 6 | 7 |
| Missouri | 12 | 13 |
| Iowa | 18 | 12 |
| Minnesota | 28 | 31 |
| Colorado | 33 | 29 |

Source: 21st Annual Highway Report on the Performance of State Highway Systems 1984-2012; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Deficient Bridges, Regional Comparison: 2015

| | Total Bridges | Deficient Bridges (Percent of Total) | National Rank |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| United States | 611,845 | 23.4% | |
| Missouri | 24,398 | 25.7% | 20 |
| Iowa | 24,242 | 25.1% | 22 |
| South Dakota | 5,866 | 23.7% | 23 |
| Nebraska | 15,341 | 22.5% | 27 |
| Wyoming | 3,085 | 21.0% | 30 |
| North Dakota | 4,401 | 20.9% | 32 |
| Kansas | 25,047 | 16.3% | 41 |
| Colorado | 8,624 | 15.9% | 43 |
| Minnesota | 13,301 | 8.9% | 50 |

Source: Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Highway Bridges by State and Highway System 2015; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Accidents

Railroad Accidents and Incidents, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Number of Accidents | Percent of United States | National Rank |
|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| United States | 11,598 | -- | -- |
| South Dakota | 37 | 0.3 | 45 |
| Wyoming | 54 | 0.5 | 42 |
| North Dakota | 110 | 0.9 | 33 |
| Colorado | 113 | 1.0 | 31 |
| Iowa | 163 | 1.4 | 25 |
| Kansas | 197 | 1.7 | 20 |
| Nebraska | 202 | 1.7 | 18 |
| Missouri | 221 | 1.9 | 13 |
| Minnesota | 237 | 2.0 | 12 |

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, State Transportation Statistics 2015; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Traffic Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled | National Rank |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| United States | 1.08 | |
| Minnesota | 0.63 | 3 |
| Colorado | 1.00 | 21 |
| Iowa | 1.02 | 22 |
| Missouri | 1.08 | 25 |
| Nebraska | 1.15 | 27 |
| Kansas | 1.25 | 34 |
| North Dakota | 1.28 | 36 |
| South Dakota | 1.47 | 43 |
| Wyoming | 1.59 | 49 |

Source: Highway Statistics 2014, Federal Highway Administration, United States Department of Transportation; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Highway Traffic Fatality Rates, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Fatality Rate per 100,000 population | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|--------------------------|
| United States | 11.4 | |
| Minnesota | 7.1 | 7 |
| Colorado | 9.1 | 17 |
| Iowa | 10.3 | 23 |
| Nebraska | 11.3 | 27 |
| Kansas | 12.1 | 30 |
| Missouri | 12.5 | 32 |
| Wyoming | 14.9 | 39 |
| South Dakota | 16.0 | 42 |
| North Dakota | 20.4 | 48 |

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation, State Transportation Statistics 2014; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Transportation Access

Percentage of Commuters Traveled to Work by Public Transportation, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Percent Traveled by Public Transportation | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|---------------|
| United States | 5.1% | |
| Minnesota | 3.5% | 14 |
| Colorado | 3.2% | 15 |
| Wyoming | 1.6% | 23 |
| Missouri | 1.5% | 27 |
| Iowa | 1.1% | 31 |
| Nebraska | 0.7% | 40 |
| Kansas | 0.5% | 44 |
| North Dakota | 0.5% | 45 |
| South Dakota | 0.5% | 46 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Commuting to Work, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Car, truck, or van-drove alone | Car, truck, or van-carpooled | Public transportation (excluding taxicab) | Walked | Bicycle | Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means | Worked at home |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| United States | 76.4% | 9.6% | 5.1% | 2.8% | 0.6% | 1.2% | 4.4% |
| Colorado | 75.0% | 9.8% | 3.2% | 3.0% | 1.3% | 1.1% | 6.5% |
| Iowa | 80.3% | 9.0% | 1.1% | 3.5% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 4.6% |
| Kansas | 82.1% | 9.5% | 0.5% | 2.4% | 0.3% | 1.0% | 4.2% |
| Minnesota | 78.1% | 8.8% | 3.5% | 2.8% | 0.8% | 0.9% | 5.2% |
| Missouri | 81.6% | 9.4% | 1.5% | 2.0% | 0.3% | 1.0% | 4.3% |
| Nebraska | 81.2% | 9.6% | 0.7% | 2.8% | 0.5% | 0.8% | 4.4% |
| North Dakota | 79.9% | 9.2% | 0.5% | 3.9% | 0.5% | 0.8% | 5.1% |
| South Dakota | 78.8% | 9.5% | 0.5% | 4.1% | 0.5% | 1.0% | 5.5% |
| Wyoming | 76.6% | 11.2% | 1.6% | 3.8% | 0.9% | 1.3% | 4.7% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Travel Time to Work, Regional Comparison: 2014

| | Mean travel time to work (Minutes) | National Rank |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|
| United States | 25.7 | |
| Colorado | 24.6 | 20 |
| Missouri | 23.1 | 31 |
| Minnesota | 23.0 | 33 |
| Kansas | 19.1 | 43 |
| Iowa | 18.9 | 45 |
| Wyoming | 18.3 | 47 |
| Nebraska | 18.2 | 48 |
| North Dakota | 17.1 | 49 |
| South Dakota | 16.9 | 50 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010-2014 American Community Survey 5-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Passenger Boardings (Enplanements), Nebraska: 2013 and 2014

| Rank | City | Airport Name | 2014 Boardings | 2013 Boardings | Percentage Change |
|------|--------------|--|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 60 | Omaha | Eppley Airfield | 2,020,354 | 1,975,339 | 2.3% |
| 206 | Lincoln | Lincoln | 142,205 | 138,787 | 2.5% |
| 264 | Grand Island | Central Nebraska Regional | 61,400 | 57,165 | 7.4% |
| 411 | Kearney | Kearney Regional | 8,384 | 13,096 | -36.0% |
| 447 | Scottsbluff | Western Nebraska Regional/William B Heilig Field | 5,594 | 10,172 | -45.0% |
| 462 | North Platte | North Platte Regional Airport Lee Bird Field | 5,016 | 10,421 | -51.9% |
| 649 | Omaha | Offutt AFB | 1,095 | 955 | 14.7% |
| 687 | Chadron | Chadron Municipal | 777 | 2,244 | -65.4% |
| 724 | Alliance | Alliance Municipal | 472 | 1,426 | -66.9% |
| 741 | McCook | McCook Ben Nelson Regional | 401 | 1,978 | -79.7% |
| 903 | Holdrege | Brewster Field | 72 | 7 | 928.6% |
| 935 | Valentine | Miller Field | 50 | 1 | 4900.0% |
| 975 | Columbus | Columbus Municipal | 36 | 4 | 800.0% |
| 1108 | Springfield | J&J | 13 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 1352 | Fremont | Fremont Municipal | 4 | 14 | -71.4% |
| 1431 | Kimball | Kimball Municipal/Robert E Arraj Field | 3 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 1507 | Grant | Grant Municipal | 2 | 0 | 0.0% |
| 1581 | Ainsworth | Ainsworth Regional | 1 | 121 | -99.2% |
| 1589 | Broken Bow | Broken Bow Municipal/Keith Glaze Field | 1 | 5 | -80.0% |
| 1635 | Norfolk | Norfolk Regional/Karl Stefan Memorial Field | 1 | 18 | -94.4% |
| 60 | Omaha | Eppley Airfield | 2,020,354 | 1,975,339 | 2.3% |
| 206 | Lincoln | Lincoln | 142,205 | 138,787 | 2.5% |
| 264 | Grand Island | Central Nebraska Regional | 61,400 | 57,165 | 7.4% |
| 411 | Kearney | Kearney Regional | 8,384 | 13,096 | -36.0% |

Source: Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Passenger Boarding (Enplanement) and All-Cargo Data for U.S. Airports; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Transportation Funding

Local Highway Spending Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Per Capita Highway Spending | National Rank |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$204.76 | |
| North Dakota | \$807.65 | 1 |
| Minnesota | \$421.01 | 3 |
| South Dakota | \$400.77 | 4 |
| Iowa | \$314.42 | 6 |
| Nebraska | \$291.57 | 8 |
| Wyoming | \$291.14 | 9 |
| Colorado | \$284.66 | 10 |
| Kansas | \$265.33 | 12 |
| Missouri | \$199.74 | 25 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 State and Local Government Finances, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

State Highway Spending Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2013

| | Per Capita Highway Spending | National Rank |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| United States | \$297.40 | |
| North Dakota | \$1,064.89 | 2 |
| Wyoming | \$902.39 | 3 |
| South Dakota | \$712.61 | 5 |
| Nebraska | \$395.30 | 12 |
| Iowa | \$389.55 | 14 |
| Kansas | \$338.02 | 24 |
| Minnesota | \$273.23 | 35 |
| Missouri | \$241.97 | 41 |
| Colorado | \$202.77 | 46 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 State and Local Government Finances, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

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