

2010 Nebraska Tax Burden Study

November 1, 2013

Executive Summary

The Nebraska Department of Revenue (Department) has completed the 2010 Nebraska Tax Burden Study (study). While the study was performed in 2013, it utilizes economic data from 2010. Consequently, 2010 is used to define the study's year. The study is composed of two separate parts. The first analysis examines a \$100 million reduction in sales and use tax. The second analysis examines a \$100 million reduction in individual income tax. The study examines the economic impact of these tax changes, and the shift of "tax incidence" between income groups. Tax incidence is defined as which group of taxpayers ultimately bears the burden of, or has to pay, the tax.

Sales and Use Tax Reduction. The study estimates that a hypothetical \$100 million reduction in sales and use tax would result in a \$79 million decline in state revenue, due to an expected increase in economic activity. The simulation also estimates increases in personal disposable income of \$181 million, private investment of \$123 million, and 2,615 new jobs. Because most retail transactions are subject to sales tax, the retail industry would see most of the impact from the decrease in sales and use tax (58.9%). The burden index (the share of the tax reduction divided by the share of income) remained relatively constant across income groups as a result of the \$100 million reduction in sales and use tax.

Individual Income Tax Reduction. Similarly, the study estimates that a hypothetical \$100 million reduction in individual income tax would result in a \$94 million decline in state revenue, with an expected increase in economic activity offsetting \$6 million of the initial \$100 million decrease. The simulation also estimates increases in personal disposable income of \$122 million, private investment of \$65 million, and 1,788 new jobs. In comparison to the sales and use tax decrease, which results in the retail industry absorbing much of the positive impact, the income tax reduction results in a more even distribution of the impact across all industries. The individual income tax reduction results in tax burden index values ranging from 0.15 for the lowest income group to 1.70 for the second-highest income group.

I. Introduction

Pursuant to [Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 77-3,115](#) and [77-3,116](#), the Nebraska Department of Revenue (Department) has completed the *2010 Nebraska Tax Burden Study*. The Legislature directed the Department to gather, prepare, and study material that could be used as a basis for developing tax policy. The intentions of the Legislature are to study the impact of taxes on different economic sectors and to determine the impact of those sectors on the Nebraska economy.

This study provides an insight into the economic welfare effects of tax policies in Nebraska. Economic theory tells us that the impact of taxes on economic welfare often extends beyond the businesses or individuals who are legally required to remit the tax. The tax burden may be shifted from businesses to households in the form of lower wages to workers or higher prices to consumers. Conversely, taxes on individuals may be shifted to businesses in the form of a reduced level of demand for goods and services and reduced profits. The study uses a computable general equilibrium (CGE) model to determine the true economic incidence of taxes in Nebraska. The genesis of this custom-built model was LB 1373, passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 1996. The resulting model is referred to as the TRAIN (Tax and Revenue Analysis in Nebraska) model and is currently used by Department economists for the analysis in this study. The key determinants in assessing tax burden are the sensitivities of individuals and businesses to changes in prices, wages, and income (i.e., elasticity).

In a state-wide economy, there are many interactions and elasticities between business sectors and individuals which must be accounted for and examined in order to determine where the tax burden falls. To deal with this complexity, the study utilizes the TRAIN model which uses state-wide data and economic theory to simultaneously simulate the effects of changes in tax policy. Thus, the study gives policy makers an understanding of how changes in tax policy would affect the economic welfare of businesses and individuals in the current Nebraska economy.

The study is presented in three major sections:

- Section I develops the economic concepts of tax incidence and general equilibrium analysis on which the TRAIN model is built, then discusses the model in more detail.
- Section II discusses the 2010 tax burden case studies and explores the changes in tax incidence from two separate, hypothetical reductions in sales tax and individual income tax.
- In Section III, the report presents a historical analysis of income share, effective tax rate, and income tax burden paid by income group decile from 1995 through 2010.

The Department thanks the Legislative Fiscal Office for its assistance in providing state expenditure data necessary for this analysis.

i. Tax Incidence and General Equilibrium Analysis

State statutes specify who must pay taxes, file tax returns, and remit money to the Department. However, the individuals or businesses that bear the statutory incidence may not bear the whole tax burden, which is the economic incidence of a tax. For example, when the government introduces a new tax that firms are required to remit, the firms may pass that tax along to their customers in the form of higher prices, to their employees in the form of lower wages or reduced hours, to their suppliers in the form of reduced purchases, and to their shareholders through reduced dividends and profits. Tax laws, in some cases, specify who should pay the tax with an eye toward making the tax collection process less costly for government agencies, which is a determination of the statutory incidence of a tax law.¹

Consequently, a distinction exists between statutory incidence and economic incidence of a tax. Since a true measure of tax incidence would determine who really bears the tax burden, this study is interested in the economic incidence of taxation. Economic incidence of tax is concerned with how the tax burden is distributed among economic sectors as determined by market forces, not by law. A true analysis of tax incidence must measure the final share of costs imposed on the economy beyond the legal liability.

Many tax incidence analyses examine comparative statics before and after a tax change is directly imposed on a single market.² However, this simple analysis, which is called a partial equilibrium analysis, may ignore feedback into other markets. Consequently, partial equilibrium analyses often lead to an incomplete analysis of tax incidence and may not reveal all economic consequences.

For reviewing a current tax system and providing a dependable tax policy guideline, measurement of true economic incidence is important. By simultaneously analyzing the interrelationships between various markets, general equilibrium theory seeks to provide measurement of true economic incidence.³

ii. Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Model

Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model analysis, based on general equilibrium theory, seeks to comprehensively describe the economic interactions in and between different markets. Using actual economic data, CGE models estimate how an economy will react to an external shock, such as a change in the tax code. The advantage of CGE models is that, in principle, they can be applied to any combination of demand and supply-side shocks.⁴ Therefore, CGE models are a standard tool of empirical analysis and are widely used to analyze the welfare and

¹ Anderson, John E. 2003. *Public Finance*: Houghton Mifflin Company.

² Rosen, Harvey S. 1995. *Public Finance 4th edition*: Irwin McGraw-Hill.

³ Rosen, Harvey S. 1995. *Public Finance 4th edition*: Irwin McGraw-Hill.

⁴ McGregor, Peter G., Mark D. Partridge, and Dan S. Rickman. 2010. Innovations in Regional Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Modelling. *Regional Studies* 44 : 1307-10.

distributional impacts of policies, whose effects may be transferred through multiple markets or contain menus of different tax, subsidy, quota, or transfer instruments.⁵

A CGE model is able to account for structural changes in the economy because it is sensitive to a wide range and scale of policies and projects. Using a numerical solution algorithm, the CGE model solves for new levels of supply, demand, and price, which result in a new and unique equilibrium solution across all the economic sectors in the model. Equilibrium is an economic principle which states that under certain conditions, market-clearing combinations of prices and quantities exist, which result in all available goods and services being sold. At these prices and quantities, individuals and firms maximize their utility and profits, respectively. These conditions result in all markets clearing.

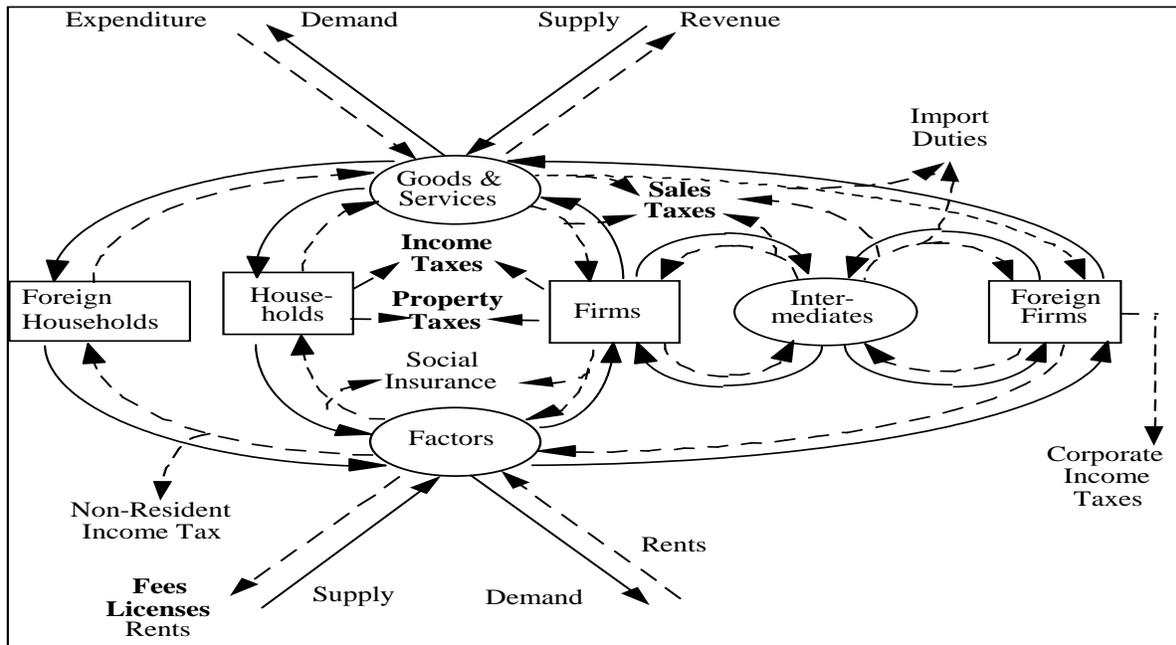
A CGE model considers, implicitly or explicitly, all sectors of the economy simultaneously. From the initial equilibrium, the economy is “shocked” by external changes. Then, the model finds a new equilibrium. The shock occurs outside the model and may be in the form of a new or reduced tax, a change in monetary policy, a change in technology, or an increase or decrease in quantities of some good due to outside influences such as a natural disaster. Measuring the changes in prices and quantities of goods and services between the initial equilibrium and the new equilibrium provides information on how the shock affected economic welfare in each sector of the economy.

Figure 1 illustrates a typical CGE model for economic impact analysis. It describes the flow of money and resources between the two major types of economic agents: firms and households. Firms are represented in the model as sectors, and each sector is treated as a representative firm. The model assumes perfect competition in the economy, which allows firms to treat the prices for its inputs and products as fixed. Also, the model assumes each firm chooses input and output levels that maximize profits. The firm’s inputs are labor, capital, and intermediate goods. Similarly, the model assumes that the other type of economic agent, the household, will maximize its utility by deciding how many goods and services to buy and how much labor and capital services to provide to firms. Like firms, households face fixed prices and wages.

Figure 1 also depicts how households and firms interact through two types of markets: factor markets and goods-and-services markets. Firms sell goods and services to households in the goods-and-services markets, while households sell labor and capital services to firms in the factor markets. These markets—along with the intermediates market, which sell intermediate goods to other firms—are depicted as ovals, while the rectangles identify the economic agents. The solid arrows depict the flows of goods and services and factors through the economy, while the dashed lines depict the flows of money through the economy. Equilibrium in the factor markets for labor and capital and equilibrium in the good-and-services markets for goods and services define a typical general equilibrium system.

⁵ Wing, Ian Sue. 2004. *Computable General Equilibrium Models and Their Use in Economy-Wide Policy Analysis. MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, Technical Note Number 6.*

Figure 1: Circular Flow Diagram



The economy also interacts with two additional types of agents: foreign households and foreign firms. In today's world, most economies are open--economic agents within an economy trade goods, services, labor, and capital readily with agents in neighboring states and countries. Figure 1 demonstrates that foreign firms sell goods to both domestic households and firms. Foreign households buy domestic goods and services in the goods-and-services markets. Furthermore, both foreign households and foreign firms can supply capital and labor to the domestic economy.

Finally, the government sector is considered. Combining the taxing and spending effects of the three levels of government (federal, state, and local) completes the circular-flow diagram in Figure 1. Beginning at the top, the figure demonstrates how the government buys goods and services with expenditure payments. The government then supplies goods and services to the economy, although it may or may not receive revenue. Additionally, the government supplies factors of production, such as roads and education, while not necessarily receiving revenues. While the government also makes monetary transfers to households, the diagram does not show these transactions because consumers, who receive income transfers from the government, use the funds to purchase final goods and services as household consumption, and is distinct from government consumption of goods and services. The middle section of the diagram demonstrates the myriad of ways in which the government raises revenue through taxation.

iii. TRAIN Model

The TRAIN model, a CGE model for the Nebraska economy, can be used to estimate the economic impact of changes in tax policies in Nebraska.⁶ The TRAIN model is comprehensive because it describes all major economic activities performed by consumers, firms, governments, and trades occurring in Nebraska.

The TRAIN model, like all economic models, relies on assumptions about the economy. While the assumptions about functional forms and equations are described below, the most important assumption of the TRAIN model, and all CGE models, is that the economy is in equilibrium. For the assumption of equilibrium to hold, all markets in the economy must clear (i.e., supply equals demand) and this must occur while consumers and firms maximize utility and profits, respectively. This assumption does not hold in real economic markets, where excess supply and excess demand both occur. However, if excess supply in inventory occurred regularly, one would expect firms to eventually close due to the poor management. On the other hand, if excess demand occurred regularly, one would expect firms to enter the market to alleviate shortages. Consequently, this assumption does not seem unreasonable to impose on an economy in the long-run.

With the TRAIN model starting at a point of economic equilibrium, the economy is then “shocked” with a change in policy, technology, or quantity of goods due to an exogenous source. The TRAIN model then finds a new equilibrium. While the TRAIN model measures the true economic incidence for all sectors over time, it solves for these equations simultaneously. Constructed with over 1,300 mathematical equations and identities, the TRAIN model is implemented using the General Algebraic Modeling System (GAMS) programming language.

As mentioned, the TRAIN model uses mathematical equations for specifying the economic behavior of agents. Consumers maximize utility subject to a budget constraint. The model is nonlinear and uses Cobb-Douglas technology to describe consumer behavior. Household savings are treated as a residual of after-tax income less consumption. Consequently, investment in the TRAIN model, unlike a national model,⁷ is independent from savings formation. Moreover, investment is determined by the differences between rates of return in Nebraska and the rest of the world.

Similar to the economic behavior of consumers, the TRAIN model assumes that firms maximize profits by producing outputs from the most economical combination of labor and capital inputs. The functional form adopted by the TRAIN model for production is constant elasticity of substitution (CES) for primary factors of production and fixed-shares for intermediate inputs. Foreign trade is modeled using Armington’s CES formulation. Implicit in this assumption is the notion that products from different geographic locations that compete in the same market are imperfect substitutes.

⁶ [A full detailed description of the TRAIN model is available here.](#)

⁷ In many national-level CGE models, the volume of total savings in the national economy determines total investment. Investment in these models is said to be “savings-driven.”

Finally, the population of each household group is a function of existing population in Nebraska. Therefore, changes in population are limited to the natural rate of population growth and net migration. The working population in the TRAIN model is a function of after-tax returns to labor — the higher the after-tax income, the greater the workforce.

Like all other empirical economic models, the TRAIN model uses aggregates rather than individual agents. A correct aggregation or sectoring is a critical element in the development of any CGE model because the aggregation determines the flows that the model will be able to trace explicitly. In the TRAIN model, the Nebraska economy has been divided into 74 distinct sectors: 28 industrial sectors; two factor sectors (labor and capital); nine household sectors; one investment sector; 33 government sectors; and one sector that represents the rest of the world. Table 1 briefly describes each sector.

Most importantly, the TRAIN model uses the equations to describe the economic behavior of each of the economic sectors. Another crucial element is the construction and collection of the data, because the data provides the TRAIN model with the initial equilibrium conditions of the economy. The data sets for this study consist of a social accounting matrix (SAM), a capital coefficient matrix (CCM), and a miscellaneous data set. As the primary data set, the SAM is constructed to satisfy the general equilibrium of the model in the base year. The CCM and other miscellaneous data provide important parameters to solve the model.

Constructing a SAM for Nebraska requires data from various sources. The data for the industrial and household sectors are from IMPLAN,⁸ which is a commercial economic impact model and database program. IMPLAN provides the transaction matrix of goods and services among industries, gross output, and final demand. IMPLAN also provides the transaction matrix for final payments by sectors, imports, and factor incomes. These transaction matrices are required for constructing the SAM. Factor incomes are updated by data obtained from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The Internal Revenue Service provided the federal government revenue data, and federal government expenditure data was obtained from the BEA. Finally, the Department and the Nebraska Legislative Fiscal Office provided revenue and expenditure data for state and local governments. All of these data sources are utilized in the construction of a SAM for Nebraska.

A CCM for Nebraska is aggregated and updated from a national CCM provided by the BEA. Furthermore, capital stocks and depreciation rates for Nebraska are estimated from data on fixed reproducible tangible wealth of the U.S. also provided by the BEA.

⁸ implan.com/V4/Index.php.

Table 1: Economic Sectors in TRAIN

Sector	Description	Sector	Description	Sector	Description
Industrial		Federal Government		Local Government	
AGCRO	Crops	FTSOC	Social Security Tax	LTPRP	Property Tax
AGLIV	Livestock	FTPIT	Personal Income Tax	L TSAU	Local Sales and Use Tax
OTHPR	Primary Resources	FTPRO	Corporate Income Tax	LTMSC	Miscellaneous Taxes
UTILI	Utility	FTDUT	Import Duty Tax	LSTRA	Local Transportation Expenditure
CONST	Construction	FTMSC	Miscellaneous Taxes	LSCOR	Local Corrections Expenditure
FOODS	Food Manufacturing	FSDNO	Federal Non-Defense Spending	LSK12	K-12 Education Expenditure
MEATS	Meat Processing	FSDDE	Federal Defense Spending	LSHAW	Local Health and Welfare Expenditure
MFRCO	Manufacturing - Construction Oriented			LSOTH	Other Expenditure
CHEMS	Basic Chemical Manufacturing	State Government		Household	
METAL	Metals and Machinery	NTINS	Insurance Tax	1	\$0–\$10,000
FARMM	Farm Machinery	NTMVS	Motor Vehicle Tax	2	\$10,000–\$15,000
ELECT	Electronic Technology	NTGAS	Gasoline Tax	3	\$15,000–\$25,000
TRANM	Transportation Equipment	NTSAU	Sales and Use Tax	4	\$25,000–\$35,000
OTHMA	Other Manufacturing	NTPRO	Corporation Tax	5	\$35,000–\$50,000
WHOLE	Wholesale Trade	NTLAB	Unemployment Insurance Tax	6	\$50,000–\$75,000
RETAI	Retail Trade	NTPIT	Personal Income Tax	7	\$75,000–\$100,000
TRAST	Transportation	NTUNI	University Fees	8	\$100,000–150,000
INFOR	Information	NTINH	Inheritance Tax	9	Above \$150,000
BANKS	Banking	NTSIN	Alcohol, Tobacco, and Horse Racing Tax	Factor	
INSUR	Insurance Carriers	NTMSC	Miscellaneous Taxes	LABOR	Labor
REALE	Real Estate	NGENF	General Revenue Fund	CAPIT	Capital
PSERV	Professional Services	NSTRA	Transportation Expenditures	Other Sectors	
BSERV	Business Services	NSCOR	Corrections Expenditure	ROW	Other States and Foreign Countries
ESERV	Educational Services	NSK12	Educational Expenditure		
OSERV	Other Services	NSUNI	Higher Educational Expenditure		
HEALT	Health Services	NSHAW	Health and Welfare Expenditure		
ENTER	Entertainment	NSOTH	Other Expenditures		
AFSER	Accommodation				

For this study, the TRAIN model uses 2010 as the base year. Table 2 summarizes the 2010 Nebraska economy. The estimated 2010 total population in Nebraska was 1,826,341 with 1,223,295 employed and an unemployment rate of 4.7%. The GDP for Nebraska in 2010 was \$90.91 billion with a per capita personal income of \$39,445.

Table 3 presents the number of households and total household incomes for each income group. Table 4 presents industrial output, employment in 2010, NAICS (North American Industrial Classification System) codes, and a full description for each sector in the model.

Table 2: 2010 Nebraska Economy

Population	1,826,341
Households Units	739,035
Total Employment	1,223,295
Unemployment Rate	4.70 %
GDP	\$90,910.00 M
Personal Income	\$72,189.71 M
Personal Taxes	\$6,228.54 M
Per Capita Personal Income	\$39,445.00
Net State Tax Revenue	\$3,249.55 M
Income Tax	\$1,552.92 M
Sales and Use Tax	\$1,316.80 M
Corporate Income Tax	\$140.43 M

Table 3: Characteristics of Households in TRAIN

Household sector	Income Group	Number of Households	Percent of Households	Total Household Income (\$ Million)	Percent of Income in Sector
1	\$0 - 10,000	61,381	8%	\$2,103.74	2.96%
2	\$10,000 - 15,000	48,682	7%	\$1,832.30	2.58%
3	\$15,000 - 25,000	109,182	15%	\$4,942.70	6.97%
4	\$25,000 - 35,000	108,313	15%	\$6,230.88	8.78%
5	\$35,000 - 50,000	135,709	18%	\$10,215.67	14.40%
6	\$50,000 - 75,000	150,871	20%	\$15,990.15	22.53%
7	\$75,000 - 100,000	64,805	9%	\$9,171.28	12.92%
8	\$100,000 - 150,000	40,682	6%	\$8,620.95	12.15%
9	Over \$150,000	19,410	3%	\$11,850.06	16.70%

Table 4: Industrial Sectors and Base Industrial Output and Employment

TRAIN Sector	Description	NAICS	Industrial Output* (\$ Million)	Employment (Persons)
AGCRO	Crop Production	111	\$9,349.00	37,184
AGLIV	Animal Production	112	8,433.49	19,896
OTHPR	Forestry and Logging; Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping; Supporting Activities for Agriculture and Forestry; Mining	113, 114, 115, 21	1,065.33	12,049
UTILI	Utility	22	2,757.87	1,838
CONST	Construction	23	7,766.30	64,365
FOODS	Food Manufacturing	3111-3115, 3117-3121	7,469.12	8,991
MEATS	Meat Processing	3116	11,135.44	24,958
MFRCO	Wood and Paper Manufacturing; Nonmetallic Mineral Production; Furniture and Related Production	321-322, 327, 337	1,824.93	8,072
CHEMS	Petroleum and Coal Production; Chemical Manufacturing; Plastics and Rubber Production	324, 325, 326	6,128.33	9,823
METAL	Primary Metal Manufacturing; Fabricated Metal Production; Machinery Manufacturing	331, 332, 33312-33399	3,134.98	11,948
FARMM	Agriculture Implement Manufacturing	333111	2,602.55	5,348
ELECT	Computer and Electronic Production; Electrical Equipment, Appliance and Component Manufacturing	334,335	1,734.17	5,703
TRANM	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	336	2,629.84	7,253
OTHMA	Tobacco, Textile Mills and Production; Apparel, Leather, and Allied Production; Printing and Related Support Activities; Miscellaneous Manufacturing	3122-3169, 323,339	1,903.97	10,216
WHOLE	Wholesale Trade	42	6,219.34	42,102
RETAI	Retail Trade	44-45	7,007.95	128,045
TRAST	Transportation and Warehousing Except Postal Services	48-49	8,854.74	58,047
INFOR	Information	51	4,530.68	18,776
BANKS	Finance and Related Activities	521, 522, 523, 525	9,908.91	57,073
INSUR	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	524	6,369.55	31,967
REALE	Real Estate	531	2,843.82	32,586
PSERV	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	54	6,549.49	63,290
BSERV	Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	55	5,912.31	72,022
ESERV	Educational Services	61	1,497.22	19,898
OSERV	Other Services	532, 533, 81	5,331.67	69,436
HEALT	Health Care and Social Assistance	62	10,619.90	129,068
ENTER	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	71	771.63	20,462
ACCOM	Accommodation and Food Services	72	3,554.90	74,747

*Source: IMPLAN 2010 database

II. Burden Impact Analysis of a Tax Reduction

This section analyzes the impact of a hypothetical reduction in the sales and use tax and the individual income tax. These two taxes represent the major sources of state revenue in Nebraska. The case studies simulate a revenue reduction of \$100 million in each of these taxes, independently of each other. Net sales and use tax receipts in calendar year 2010 were \$1.316 billion, and net individual income tax paid by Nebraskan resident taxpayers was \$1.552 billion. Therefore, the hypothetical reduction is approximately 6.4% of net individual income tax receipts and 7.6% of net sales and use tax receipts.

It is assumed that the hypothetical tax reduction was achieved by means of across-the-board reductions in tax rates. This assumption does not allow the policy change to directly affect the relationships between taxed goods in the case of the sales tax, or between households in the case of the income tax. However, the simulation results demonstrate that an interaction exists between sectors by indirect and induced effects. It is also assumed that state government keeps a balanced budget, which means that the state reduces \$100 million in its spending to offset the tax cut. Again, the TRAIN model is run separately for each case study.

Imposing or reducing taxes alters the relationship between prices of alternative goods and services throughout the economy. A tax reduction has the effect of cutting prices and costs, resulting in increased economic activity. An increase in economic activity partially offsets the tax reduction by creating additional income and taxable sales. In the case of a reduction in the sales and use tax rate, a tax cut reduces the price of taxable goods and services and allows households and businesses to purchase more of these goods and services. Consequently, additional purchases of taxable goods and services result in additional tax collections. In the case of the individual income tax, a tax cut allows businesses to sell more goods, pay employees or other suppliers more, pay larger dividends, or some combination of all these options. Any of these choices would result in more income taxes being paid by employees, owners, or suppliers.

i. Analysis of a \$100 Million Sales and Use Tax Reduction

A change in the sales and use tax rate immediately impacts the relative prices of all goods and services in the economy. This impact affects consumers' purchasing patterns, which in turn affects the entire economy.

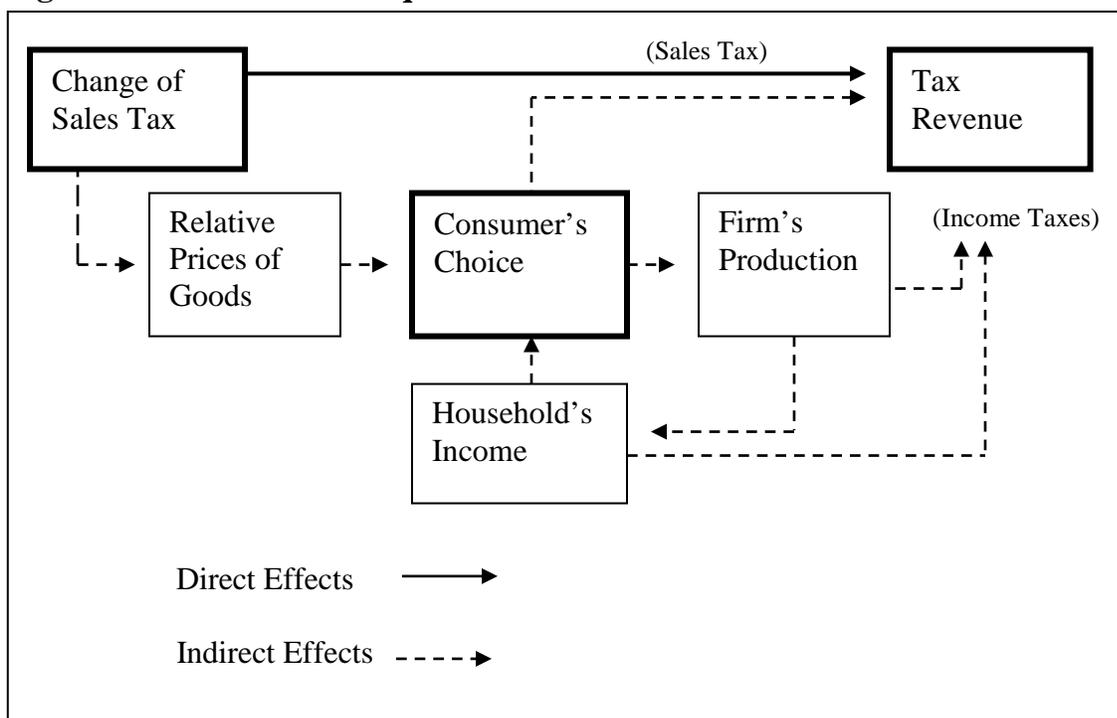
When a tax rate is reduced on a specified set of goods and services, the prices of the untaxed goods raise relative to the prices of taxed goods and services. For example, a sales tax rate decrease may induce consumers to purchase taxed manufactured goods instead of untaxed food. As a result, the demand for food decreases and demand for manufactured goods increases, which leads to a decrease in the production of food and an increase in the production of manufactured goods. As the production of manufactured goods rises, some of the capital and labor formerly employed in the food industry are forced to find employment in the manufacturing sector. For the manufacturing industry to be willing to absorb the newly unemployed capital and labor from food production following the sequence of economic impacts, the relative prices of capital and labor have to change, assuming that capital-labor ratios differ between the two sectors. Assuming that the manufacturing sector is the capital-intensive sector, relatively larger amounts of capital

must be absorbed in the manufacturing production sector. The only way for the capital to move into the manufacturing sector, and for the markets to reach a new equilibrium, is for the relative price of capital to increase. At the new equilibrium position, all capital is relatively better off, not just capital in the manufacturing sector.

In general, a tax cut on the output of a particular sector results in an increase in the relative price of the inputs used intensively in that sector. A tax cut on manufactured goods tends to benefit households who receive a proportionately larger share of their income from capital. In addition, households that consume a proportionately larger amount of manufactured goods tend to bear a relatively smaller share of the tax burden. The total incidence of the tax on manufactured goods depends on the characteristics of both the household and the firm sides of Figure 1. For example, a household that supplies capital and consumes a relatively large amount of manufactured goods is better off due to both its household preferences and the relative price increase of capital. Following the same rationale, a household supplying labor to firms and consuming relatively smaller amounts of manufactured goods is worse off.

Figure 2 depicts the economic consequences of a sales tax rate reduction. The solid line at the top represents the tax reduction. The change in the sales tax rate results in a change in the relative price of taxed and untaxed goods and services. This change in the relative prices affects consumers' choices. The tax rate cut has two effects on consumers. First, taxed goods become relatively less expensive; and second, consumers have more disposable income because the tax is reduced. Furthermore, consumers' purchasing decisions affect the production decisions of firms. Changes in firms' production decisions affect both household income and the income taxes paid by firms. Due to the changes in production decisions, household income decisions change, resulting in more income tax collected from households. Additionally, increased household income affects consumers' choices, which, in this case, results in more relative price changes and increased disposable income. These effects lead to tax revenue increases in future years, which further impact firms' production decisions.

Figure 2: Economic Consequences of a Sales and Use Tax Rate Reduction



Tables 5 through 8 present the simulation results of a hypothetical \$100 million reduction in sales and use tax. Table 5 presents the revenue impact and economic consequences of the \$100 million tax cut in sales and use tax. With a hypothetical tax cut of \$100 million, the simulation results in a \$79.451 million decline in state revenues. As mentioned above, this hypothetical tax cut results in increased economic activity, which offsets \$20.549 million of the tax cut. Additionally, the simulation estimates that personal disposable income, private investment, and the number of new jobs would increase by \$181.201 million, \$123.34 million, and 2,615 respectively.

Table 5: The Impact of a \$100 Million in Sales and Use Tax Reduction

Economic Impact	
Personal Income	\$181.20 M
Investment	\$123.34 M
Persons Employed	2,615
State Revenue Impact	
Initial Reduction	(\$100.00 M)
Revenue Offset by Economic Impact	\$20.55 M
Net Revenue Impact	(\$79.45 M)

Table 6 presents the impact of the hypothetical tax reduction on each household sector. The third column in Table 6, “Percentage of Income Share,” is a duplication of the last column of Table 3, the share of total income earned by each income group. The sixth column presents the sales tax reduction that accrues to each sector. The seventh column, “Share of Sales and Use Tax Reduction,” presents the share of the total sales tax reduction to households received by each sector. Finally, the last column of Table 6, “Burden Index Share/Income,” is the share of the sales tax reduction for each income group divided by the percentage of total household income for the same group.

The burden index for each income group is centered around an average value of 1.04 and does not exhibit the progressive or regressive nature associated with the income increase. However, it does indicate that for all income groups, the shares of the sales tax reduction are almost exactly equal to their shares of income for each income group. Therefore, it may imply that a sales and use tax reduction in Nebraska may not favor any specific income group.

In the sixth column, the total reduction in sales taxes paid by households is \$104.63 million. Note that the final revenue impact in Table 5 is only \$79.45 million. Table 5 presents the final amount of reduction in state revenue after all the economic impacts of the sales and use tax reduction have been included in the model. This implies that the ultimate tax savings by households is more than the amount of revenue foregone by the state. This difference is the result of the extra economic activities generated by the tax reduction.

Table 6: Effect of a Sales and Use Tax Reduction by Household Group

Household Sector	Household Characteristics		Economic Impact		Tax Reduction and Burden		
	Income Level	Percentage of Income Share	Real Income Change	Nominal Income Change	Sales and Use Tax Reduction	Share of Sales and Use Tax Reduction	Burden Index
1	\$0 - 10,000	2.96%	1.82	-0.41	-3.63	3.47%	1.17
2	\$10,000 - 15,000	2.58%	1.48	-0.40	-2.55	2.44%	0.95
3	\$15,000 - 25,000	6.97%	8.14	1.14	-7.59	7.25%	1.04
4	\$25,000 - 35,000	8.78%	9.51	1.28	-8.35	7.98%	0.91
5	\$35,000 - 50,000	14.40%	23.62	6.83	-16.25	15.53%	1.08
6	\$50,000 - 75,000	22.53%	37.08	10.10	-23.74	22.69%	1.01
7	\$75,000 - 100,000	12.92%	27.98	9.35	-15.49	14.80%	1.15
8	\$100,000 - 150,000	12.15%	31.26	12.50	-13.33	12.74%	1.05
9	Over \$150,000	16.70%	40.30	11.72	-13.69	13.08%	0.78

The fourth column in Table 6, “Real Income Change,” presents the real economic benefits for each income group by tax reduction; and the fifth column, “Nominal Income Change,” demonstrates the amount of cash each income group would receive from a tax reduction. Note that the first two income groups experience a decline in cash income even though their real economic benefits are positive. While the first two income groups would receive a reduced cash transfer from the government, they would receive more economic benefits from the reduced price of taxed commodities.

Table 7 presents the share of a \$100 million sales and use tax reduction by industrial sector, and Table 8 presents the economic consequences of a sales and use tax reduction. Because most retail transactions are subject to tax, it is not surprising that most (58.9%) of the impact of a sales and use tax reduction falls on the retail sector. Note that the total employment in Table 8 differs from “Persons Employed” in Table 5 because the figure in Table 8 only presents changes in private sectors while “Persons Employed” in Table 5 presents changes in total employment including new employment in government sectors.

Table 7: Sales and Use Tax Reduction by Industrial Sector

Sector	Description	Sales Tax (\$ Million)	Share of Cut (Percent Share)
AGCRO	Crop Production	-\$0.03	0.03%
AGLIV	Animal Production	0.00	0.00%
OTHPR	Forestry and Logging; Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping; Supporting Activities for Agriculture and Forestry; Mining	0.00	0.00%
UTILI	Utility	-6.51	6.22%
CONST	Construction	0.00	0.00%
FOODS	Food Manufacturing	-0.06	0.05%
MEATS	Meat Processing	-0.06	0.06%
MFRCO	Wood and Paper Manufacturing; Nonmetallic Mineral Production; Furniture and Related Production	-0.45	0.43%
CHEMS	Petroleum and Coal Production; Chemical Manufacturing; Plastics and Rubber Production	-1.33	1.27%
METAL	Primary Metal Manufacturing; Fabricated Metal Production; Machinery Manufacturing	-0.13	0.12%
FARMM	Agriculture Implement Manufacturing	0.00	0.00%
ELECT	Computer and Electronic Production; Electrical Equipment, Appliance and Component Manufacturing	-0.67	0.64%
TRANM	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	-0.51	0.49%
OTHMA	Tobacco, Textile Mills and Production; Apparel, Leather, and Allied Production; Printing and Related Support Activities; Miscellaneous Manufacturing	-0.98	0.94%
WHOLE	Wholesale Trade	-4.82	4.60%
RETAI	Retail Trade	-62.45	59.69%
TRAST	Transportation and Warehousing Except Postal Services	-0.29	0.27%
INFOR	Information	-3.05	2.91%
BANKS	Finance and Related Activities	-0.27	0.26%
INSUR	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	-0.17	0.16%
REALE	Real Estate	-0.94	0.90%
PSERV	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	-0.23	0.22%
BSERV	Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	-0.18	0.17%
ESERV	Educational Services	-0.60	0.57%
OSERV	Other Services	-3.72	3.56%
HEALT	Health Care and Social Assistance	-1.25	1.20%
ENTER	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	-2.03	1.94%
ACCOM	Accommodation and Food Services	-13.90	13.28%
Total		-\$104.60	100.00%

**Table 8: Economic Effect of a \$100 Million in Sales and Use
Tax Reduction by Industrial Sector**

Sector	Description	Output (\$ Million)	Employment (Persons)
AGCRO	Crop Production	-\$0.2	-4.0
AGLIV	Animal Production	0.1	-1.9
OTHPR	Forestry and Logging; Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping; Supporting Activities for Agriculture and Forestry; Mining	0.8	6.3
UTILI	Utility	10.1	4.1
CONST	Construction	-0.4	-5.4
FOODS	Food Manufacturing	0.2	-0.3
MEATS	Meat Processing	0.4	0.4
MFRCO	Wood and Paper Manufacturing; Nonmetallic Mineral Production; Furniture and Related Production	-0.7	-3.6
CHEMS	Petroleum and Coal Production; Chemical Manufacturing; Plastics and Rubber Production	5.2	6.1
METAL	Primary Metal Manufacturing; Fabricated Metal Production; Machinery Manufacturing	-1.2	-3.2
FARMM	Agriculture Implement Manufacturing	-0.2	-1.9
ELECT	Computer and Electronic Production; Electrical Equipment, Appliance and Component Manufacturing	1.3	2.7
TRANM	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	-0.3	-0.7
OTHMA	Tobacco, Textile Mills and Production; Apparel, Leather, and Allied Production; Printing and Related Support Activities; Miscellaneous Manufacturing	3.4	15.2
WHOLE	Wholesale Trade	10.8	71.5
RETAI	Retail Trade	63.8	1,272.2
TRAST	Transportation and Warehousing Except Postal Services	6.3	33.8
INFOR	Information	5.5	18.0
BANKS	Finance and Related Activities	9.0	50.3
INSUR	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	5.3	24.3
REALE	Real Estate	6.6	58.2
PSERV	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8.5	72.0
BSERV	Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	5.2	44.9
ESERV	Educational Services	2.4	156.2
OSERV	Other Services	10.2	45.2
HEALT	Health Care and Social Assistance	20.6	258.9
ENTER	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3.9	70.9
ACCOM	Accommodation and Food Services	16.3	347.7
Total		\$192.9	2,537.9

ii. Analysis of a \$100 Million Individual Income Tax Reduction

The analysis of an individual income tax reduction is more straightforward than that of a sales and use tax reduction. In the simulation, an income tax is a tax on labor and capital in all sectors. As a result, an income tax reduction creates no incentive to change labor or capital usage between industrial sectors in the model. Reducing income tax increases disposable income, hence individuals spend their additional income on activities that stimulate the Nebraska economy.

Nevertheless, an extra portion of savings may not directly relate with investment in Nebraska since individuals seek investment opportunities, not only within the state, but also in other states and other countries. Since the TRAIN model assumes perfect mobility of capital, the rate of return is the only factor influencing investment.

Table 9 presents the revenue impact and economic consequences of a \$100 million reduction in individual income tax. The simulation results in a \$93.58 million decline in the state revenue balance. Once again, a hypothetical tax cut would stimulate economic activity and result in the state collecting \$6.42 million in additional taxes. The simulation also estimates that personal disposable income, private investment, and the number of new jobs would increase by \$121.61 million, \$64.82 million, and 1,788 respectively.

Table 9. Impact of a \$100 Million in Individual Income Tax Reduction

Economic Impact	
Personal Income	\$121.61 M
Investment	\$64.82 M
Persons Employed	1,788
State Revenue Impact	
Initial Reduction	-\$100.00 M
Revenue Offset by Economic Impact	\$6.42 M
Net Revenue Impact	-\$93.58 M

Table 10 demonstrates the impact of an income tax reduction on each household group. The third column in Table 10, “Percentage of Income Share,” is a duplication of the last column of Table 3, the share of total income earned by each income group. The sixth column presents an income tax reduction that accrues to each income group. The seventh column, “Share of Income Tax Reduction,” presents the share of the total income tax reduction to households received by each income group. Finally, the last column of Table 10, “Burden Index Share/Income,” is the share of the income tax reduction for each group divided by the percentage of total household income for the same group.

Table 10: Effect of an Individual Income Tax Reduction by Household Group

Household Sector	Household Characteristics		Economic Impact		Tax Reduction and Burden		
	Income Level	Percentage of Income Share	Real Income Change	Nominal Income Change	Income Tax Reduction	Share of Income Tax Reduction	Burden Index
1	\$0 - 10,000	2.96%	0.22	-0.03	-0.44	0.44%	0.15
2	\$10,000 - 15,000	2.58%	0.12	-0.14	-0.74	0.75%	0.29
3	\$15,000 - 25,000	6.97%	2.82	1.92	-3.37	3.44%	0.49
4	\$25,000 - 35,000	8.78%	3.06	1.91	-5.38	5.48%	0.62
5	\$35,000 - 50,000	14.40%	10.57	8.56	-9.25	9.42%	0.65
6	\$50,000 - 75,000	22.53%	20.05	16.75	-17.38	17.71%	0.79
7	\$75,000 - 100,000	12.92%	24.85	22.89	-14.54	14.81%	1.15
8	\$100,000 - 150,000	12.15%	26.23	24.32	-20.30	20.68%	1.70
9	Over \$150,000	16.70%	33.70	30.53	-26.77	27.27%	1.63

Note that the burden index, the share of income tax reduction divided by percentage of income share for each income group, gradually increases from 0.15 for the lowest income group, to 1.63 for the highest income group and exhibits the progressive nature associated with the income increase. It may imply that a tax policy which reduces the income tax rate would have more economic benefit for higher income groups. When considering the progressive nature of the Nebraska income tax system, this finding seems to align with the anticipated results of the simulation. In the sixth column of Table 10, the total reduction in income tax paid by households is \$98.17 million. Note that the final revenue impact as shown in Table 9 is \$93.81 million because Table 9 presents the net reduction in state revenue after all the economic impacts of an individual income tax reduction have been accounted for by the model. Additionally, the result indicates that the ultimate tax savings by households is more than the amount of revenue foregone by the state. This difference is the result of the extra economic activity generated by the income tax reduction.

Resulting from an individual income tax reduction, the fourth column in Table 10, “Real Income Change,” presents the real economic benefits for each income group, and the fifth column, “Nominal Income Change,” demonstrates the amount of cash each income group would receive. Note that the first two income groups experience a decline in cash income even though their real economic benefits are positive. While the first two income groups would receive a reduced cash transfer from the government, they would receive more economic benefits from the extra economic activities occurring in Nebraska.

Table 11 presents the economic consequences of an income tax reduction. The economic impact of an income tax reduction is smaller than the impact of a sales tax reduction; however, total economic benefits are spread more evenly among all industries under the income tax reduction simulation. Note that the total employment in Table 11 differs from “Persons Employed” in Table 9 because the figure in Table 11 only presents changes in private sectors while “Persons

Employed” in Table 9 presents changes in total employment including new employment in government sectors.

Table 11: The Effect of a \$100 Million in Individual Income Tax Reduction

Sector	Description	Output (\$ Million)	Employment (Persons)
AGCRO	Crop Production	\$2.63	30
AGLIV	Animal Production	5.21	30
OTHPR	Forestry and Logging; Fishing, Hunting, and Trapping; Supporting Activities for Agriculture and Forestry; Mining	1.44	18
UTILI	Utility	3.93	3
CONST	Construction	1.41	27
FOODS	Food Manufacturing	5.78	11
MEATS	Meat Processing	7.98	21
MFRCO	Wood and Paper Manufacturing; Nonmetallic Mineral Production; Furniture and Related Production	4.08	21
CHEMS	Petroleum and Coal Production; Chemical Manufacturing; Plastics and Rubber Production	10.59	17
METAL	Primary Metal Manufacturing; Fabricated Metal Production; Machinery Manufacturing	6.56	17
FARMM	Agriculture Implement Manufacturing	0.91	10
ELECT	Computer and Electronic Production; Electrical Equipment, Appliance and Component Manufacturing	4.32	10
TRANM	Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	4.69	9
OTHMA	Tobacco, Textile Mills and Production; Apparel, Leather, and Allied Production; Printing and Related Support Activities; Miscellaneous Manufacturing	4.44	22
WHOLE	Wholesale Trade	7.64	63
RETAI	Retail Trade	12.20	274
TRAST	Transportation and Warehousing Except Postal Services	6.52	58
INFOR	Information	5.10	25
BANKS	Finance and Related Activities	9.16	66
INSUR	Insurance Carriers and Related Activities	8.26	50
REALE	Real Estate	3.71	49
PSERV	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	10.65	113
BSERV	Management of Companies and Enterprises; Administrative and Support; Waste Management and Remediation Services	8.91	92
ESERV	Educational Services	1.76	122
OSERV	Other Services	7.00	36
HEALT	Health Care and Social Assistance	16.77	231
ENTER	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	2.00	42
ACCOM	Accommodation and Food Services	5.07	125
Total		\$168.72	1,594

III. Historical Analysis of Nebraska Income Tax by Decile, 1995-2010

Table 12, “Analysis by Deciles of Nebraska Income Tax Burden Ranked by Federal AGI, Resident Returns,” presents Nebraska income tax records by decile from 1995 through 2010. This table was created by sorting all Nebraska Individual Income Tax Returns, Form 1040N, by federal adjusted gross income (AGI), dividing the sorted returns into ten groups, and summing each group. For convenience, the first seven deciles, or 70% of the returns, are treated as a single group.

Table 12 includes the number of resident returns by tax year and presents the total amounts of AGI and Nebraska individual income tax liability in four blocks. The blocks on the bottom half of Table 12 presents the percentage share of total AGI for each decile report and each decile’s share of tax liability. Thus, the tenth decile in 2010 represents the 80,334 returns reporting the top 10% of federal AGI. This group reported \$18.11 billion in AGI and \$829.4 million in Nebraska individual income tax liability, net of nonrefundable credits. In 2010, taxpayers in this decile reported 40.82% of the income and 56.33% of the tax liability. Reading down the columns provides a history of AGI and liability for returns in that decile. For example, AGI reported from the bottom 70% of returns increased from \$6.781 billion in 1995 to \$13.633 billion in 2010; and at the same time, Nebraska tax liability increased from \$129.8 million to \$221.5 million.

The last column in each decile group is labeled “Top 500 Returns.” This represents a portion of the tenth decile and contains the 500 returns with the highest AGI. The top 500 returns are presented separately because the characteristics of the returns at the extremes are very different from other returns in the same decile and from returns in the different deciles. Relatively large proportions of returns in the first and tenth deciles report business income for sole proprietors and “pass-through” business entities such as S corporations, partnerships, or limited liability companies. The tax code operates differently for these taxpayers than it does for those returns where the primary source of income is wages. For example, many of the returns in the first decile report negative AGI due to business losses, which is nearly impossible for taxpayers who have only wage and salary income. At the tenth decile, a relatively large share of the returns report business income whose tax liability is offset by tax incentive credits. This has an effect on effective tax rates and on the measure of tax progressivity.

Note that income and tax liability totals for the top decile include the values for the top 500 returns. For example, in 2010 the top decile begins at an AGI of \$105,937 compared to the top 500, which begins at an AGI of \$1,727,897. This column in Table 12 indicates that in 2010, the top 500 returns reported \$3.097 billion of the \$18.11 billion of the total AGI, reported by the top decile. The top 500 returns, in terms of federal AGI, paid \$100.9 million of the \$829.4 million paid by the top decile. Another way to look at this is to say that the top 500 returns represent approximately 0.6% of the returns in the top decile, reported 17.1% of the federal AGI of the top decile, and pay 12.2% of the taxes paid by the top decile.

Table 12: Analysis by Deciles of Nebraska Income Tax Burden Ranked by Federal AGI (Resident Returns Only)

Tax Year	Number of Returns	Federal AGI					Nebraska Liability Net of Non-Refundable Credits				
		First 7 Deciles \$ Million	8th Decile \$ Million	9th Decile \$ Million	10th Decile \$ Million	Top 500 Returns \$ Million	First 7 Deciles \$ Million	8th Decile \$ Million	9th Decile \$ Million	10th Decile \$ Million	Top 500 Returns \$ Million
2010	803,335	13,633.10	5,408.30	7,212.00	18,110.20	3,097.40	221.5	161.3	260.1	829.4	100.9
2009	797,975	13,072.00	5,207.30	6,955.40	16,335.20	2,288.50	202.7	150.5	243.8	756.5	85.9
2008	808,051	13,233.70	5,275.50	7,021.30	17,615.00	2,879.30	220.9	153.9	246.9	814.8	104.1
2007	809,583	12,920.20	5,188.00	6,912.00	19,034.70	3,887.70	215.8	150.6	242.9	863.9	125.0
2006	775,856	12,024.00	4,764.00	6,331.00	17,488.20	3,869.90	210.6	145.3	230.4	799.3	135.8
2005	762,519	11,042.90	4,482.50	5,948.10	15,114.60	2,582.10	214.2	137.5	219.4	722.8	91.7
2004	754,702	10,485.60	4,274.70	5,675.80	13,926.70	2,276.30	201.1	129.1	206.6	667.4	84.2
2003	751,000	9,968.10	4,063.90	5,387.40	12,459.80	1,784.30	190.5	119.3	190.6	588.5	62.8
2002	752,974	9,495.10	3,958.00	5,228.70	11,989.60	1,641.20	176.3	110.6	175.6	536.7	54.2
2001	757,159	9,476.00	3,965.10	5,224.20	12,205.10	1,717.40	182.6	112.1	177.4	553.4	59.2
2000	763,282	9,472.50	3,964.30	5,243.10	13,607.80	2,529.40	184.1	113.8	180.5	607.0	71.9
1999	757,222	9,001.70	3,779.80	4,995.60	12,666.50	2,113.20	167.8	106.6	168.6	576.7	69.7
1998	748,163	8,505.60	3,572.10	4,724.80	12,042.10	2,221.40	153.9	97.2	154.3	521.6	59.4
1997	739,103	7,976.30	3,372.40	4,448.80	10,586.50	1,564.10	135.2	84.9	132.8	427.8	48.8
1996	729,023	7,143.20	3,141.00	4,148.70	9,529.30	1,281.80	140.6	86.9	135.6	445.6	49.8
1995	716,195	6,781.40	2,945.40	3,886.90	8,903.50	1,392.10	129.8	79.5	123.6	393.4	39.6
		Federal AGI as Percent of Total (AGI Share Index)					Nebraska Liability Net of Non-Refundable Credits as Percent of Total (Net-Liability Share Index)				
Tax Year		First 7 Deciles	8th Decile	9th Decile	10th Decile	Top 500 Returns	First 7 Deciles	8th Decile	9th Decile	10th Decile	Top 500 Returns
2010		30.73	12.19	16.26	40.82	6.98	15.04	10.96	17.67	56.33	6.85
2009		31.45	12.53	16.73	39.30	5.51	14.98	11.12	18.01	55.89	6.35
2008		30.67	12.23	16.27	40.83	6.67	15.38	10.71	17.19	56.72	7.25
2007		29.33	11.78	15.69	43.21	8.82	14.65	10.22	16.49	58.64	8.48
2006		29.61	11.73	15.59	43.07	9.53	15.20	10.49	16.63	57.69	9.80
2005		30.18	12.25	16.26	41.31	7.06	16.55	10.63	16.96	55.86	7.09
2004		30.51	12.44	16.52	40.53	6.62	16.70	10.72	17.16	55.42	6.99
2003		31.27	12.75	16.90	39.08	5.60	17.49	10.96	17.50	54.05	5.77
2002		30.96	12.90	17.05	39.09	5.35	17.65	11.07	17.58	53.72	5.42
2001		30.70	12.84	16.92	39.54	5.56	17.81	10.93	17.30	53.96	5.77
2000		29.34	12.28	16.24	42.15	7.83	16.96	10.48	16.63	55.92	6.62
1999		29.57	12.42	16.41	41.61	6.94	16.45	10.45	16.53	56.55	6.83
1998		29.49	12.38	16.38	41.75	7.70	16.60	10.49	16.65	56.27	6.41
1997		30.23	12.78	16.86	40.12	5.93	17.32	10.88	17.01	54.81	6.25
1996		29.81	13.11	17.31	39.77	5.35	17.39	10.75	16.77	55.10	6.16
1995		30.12	13.08	17.26	39.54	6.18	17.87	10.94	17.02	54.16	5.45

Table 13, “Effective Tax Rate and Burden Index by Deciles (Resident Returns),” presents the information from Table 12 in two different formats. The first block, “Effective Tax Rate,” is calculated as a percentage of the Nebraska income tax paid by the decile class divided by the AGI total for that class. This effective tax rate reflected the rate at which all the AGI in the decile was taxed. The effective tax rate increase across all deciles in 2003 was due to the individual income tax rate increase. In 2006, the effective tax rate decrease across all deciles was due to the expansion of the bracket (LB 968), which resulted in lower tax liability for most taxpayers. Similarly, in 2007, the effective tax rate decrease across all deciles compared to 2006 was due to the elimination of the marriage penalty (LB 367).

**Table 13: Effective Income Tax Rate
and Burden Index by Deciles (Resident Returns Only)**

Tax Year	Effective Tax Rate ⁹					Nebraska Tax Burden Index ¹⁰				
	First 7 Deciles	8th Decile	9th Decile	10th Decile	Top 500 Returns	First 7 Deciles	8th Decile	9th Decile	10th Decile	Top 500 Returns
2010	1.62	2.98	3.61	4.58	3.26	0.49	0.90	1.09	1.38	0.98
2009	1.55	2.89	3.51	4.63	3.75	0.48	0.89	1.08	1.42	1.15
2008	1.67	2.92	3.52	4.63	3.62	0.50	0.88	1.06	1.39	1.09
2007	1.67	2.90	3.51	4.54	3.22	0.50	0.87	1.05	1.36	0.96
2006	1.75	3.05	3.64	4.57	3.51	0.51	0.89	1.07	1.34	1.03
2005	1.94	3.07	3.69	4.78	3.55	0.55	0.87	1.04	1.35	1.00
2004	1.92	3.02	3.64	4.79	3.70	0.55	0.86	1.04	1.37	1.06
2003	1.91	2.94	3.54	4.72	3.52	0.56	0.86	1.04	1.38	1.03
2002	1.86	2.79	3.36	4.48	3.30	0.57	0.86	1.03	1.37	1.01
2001	1.93	2.83	3.40	4.53	3.45	0.58	0.85	1.02	1.36	1.04
2000	1.94	2.87	3.44	4.46	2.84	0.58	0.85	1.02	1.33	0.85
1999	1.86	2.82	3.37	4.55	3.30	0.56	0.84	1.01	1.36	0.98
1998	1.81	2.72	3.27	4.33	2.67	0.56	0.85	1.02	1.35	0.83
1997	1.70	2.52	2.99	4.04	3.12	0.57	0.85	1.01	1.37	1.05
1996	1.97	2.77	3.27	4.68	3.89	0.58	0.82	0.97	1.39	1.15
1995	1.91	2.70	3.18	4.42	2.84	0.59	0.84	0.99	1.37	0.88

⁹ Effective rate is defined as Nebraska individual income tax liability net of non-refundable credit as percent of federal AGI.

¹⁰ Tax burden index is defined as the net-liability share index weighted by the AGI share index:
 Index < 1 indicates that income share is greater than net liability share; and
 Index > 1 indicates that income share is less than net liability share

The second block of Table 13, “Tax Burden Index,” is calculated by dividing the numbers in the lower right block of Table 12, “Nebraska Liability after Non-Refundable Credits as a Percent of Total,” by the numbers in the lower left block of Table 12, “Federal AGI as a Percent of Total.” The result is a share index that relates the percent share of income in each decile to the percent share of tax paid by the same decile group.

A hypothetical decile group with a tax burden index of 1.00 reporting 20% of the AGI would have paid 20% of the tax. Similarly, if this decile paid less than 20% of the tax, the tax burden index would be less than 1.00. This index provides a measure of the tax burden imposed on Nebraska residents as income rises. Reading across the table, the index increases from 0.49 for the bottom 70% to 1.38 for the top 10%. This also indicates that the Nebraska individual income tax is progressive, as tax liability increases faster than income.

Reading down the columns of the Nebraska burden index, we can see that the index has generally decreased for the bottom seven deciles since 1995. A possible explanation for the decrease in the burden index is because AGI for the higher income group grew more rapidly compared to the lower AGI group. Note that the index for the top 500 returns is lower than the index for the top decile as a whole. The same is true for the effective tax rate on the left side of Table 13. A possible explanation for this apparent exception to the general progressivity of Nebraska’s income tax code was mentioned above. The top 500 resident returns are much more likely to report pass-through income from business investment. Therefore, taxpayers are also much more likely to report large amounts of capital gains from the sale of businesses or business assets. In addition, these taxpayers are also more likely to have benefited from Nebraska’s economic development programs – including the Employment and Investment Growth Act (LB 775) and the Nebraska Advantage Act (LB 312) – reducing tax liability for individuals.

Finally, Table 14 presents the starting points for the relevant deciles by AGI for selected years. The starting point for the eighth decile, which is also the ending point for the seventh decile, decreased from \$56,281 to \$55,859 between 2003 and 2007; however, it increased to \$58,613 in 2010. The starting point for the ninth and tenth deciles increased in every year of the study. The starting point for the top 500 returns increased from 1996 to 1999, decreased in 2003, increased dramatically in 2007, and then slightly decreased in 2010. The decline in 2010 is likely due to the negative impact on business incomes and capital gains during the Great Recession of 2008.

Table 14: Beginning AGI Level (Dollars)

Tax Year	8th Decile	9th Decile	10th Decile	Top 500
2010	58,613	77,022	105,937	1,856,509
2007	55,859	73,140	100,759	2,055,360
2003	56,381	61,698	84,175	1,121,786
1999	43,611	56,781	77,690	1,345,486
1996	37,687	48,098	66,701	907,097