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## Business in Nebraska #283 - April 1968

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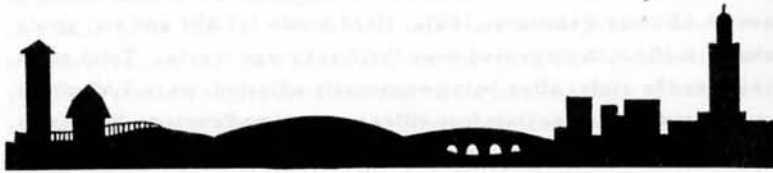
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# Business in Nebraska

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## NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES

In terms of expenditure, education is by far the leading function of state and local government. In terms of socio-economic progress in the modern world, attainment of high educational standards is obligatory. Educational expenditures in Nebraska in comparison to other states, therefore, become a matter of extreme urgency as we attempt to build a climate conducive to economic and business growth.

Although educational standards are measured properly by other criteria than those expressed in dollars only, it is reasonable to generalize that with respect to educational as well as other expenditures, a state gets both qualitatively and quantitatively precisely what it is willing to pay for. It is significant, therefore, that despite continuing efforts to improve educational standards in Nebraska, the state has dropped in the past year from 38th to 39th among the 50 states in expenditure per public school pupil in average daily attendance.

Nebraska's outlay per pupil in the current school year is estimated at \$492, which is only 79.5% as much as the United States average, \$619. These figures compare to \$463, 80.8%, and \$573, respectively, last year. The expenditure gap between this state and the national average thus increased \$17, from \$110 to \$127 per pupil. Both this year and last, the state had the unenviable low-ranking spot among seven states which include Nebraska and its neighbors - South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa.

Nebraska's subnormal level of expenditures on education is reflected in the salaries paid its teachers. Despite increases during the past decade substantially above the national average, the state's average salary level ranks 43rd for elementary teachers, 34th for secondary teachers, 40th for all public school teachers, 41st for the total public school instructional staff, and 35th in the percent of public school classroom teachers paid \$7,500 or more (12.2% as compared with a national average of 36.7%). In all these categories Nebraska is sixth among the seven states of the region. Elementary teachers in the state earn an average salary of \$5,643, as compared with the national average of \$7,077; secondary teachers, \$6,553, compared with \$7,569.

The figures cited above are derived from a study prepared from official sources by the Research Division of the National Education Association. According to this study and a similar one done by the Nebraska State Education Association, both of which were released last month, it appears that one reason for these unfavorable comparisons with national figures has been the almost complete absence of state support for public education. With less than 4% as contrasted with a national average of more than 40%, Nebraska is at the bottom of the 50 states in percent of revenue receipts from

state government for public elementary and secondary schools. With 8.5% of such receipts from the Federal government, however, the state is above the national average in this respect and in fact ranks 25th among the states, in contrast to 1966-67 when it was in 27th place.

This leaves 87.5% of revenue for public elementary and secondary schools to be derived from local government. Local public-school revenue as a percent of the state and local total is 95.7%, an increase of 1.7 percentage points over the proportion in the previous year (94.0%). These percentages place Nebraska in top position among the 50 states in both categories. The state is 39.4 percentage points above the national average (56.3%) in local public-school revenue as a percent of the state and local total.

### ABILITY TO PAY

Nebraska's low ranking in educational expenditures, teachers' salaries, and state support for education cannot be attributed to any lack of ability to provide such support. By any method of measurement of such ability the state is close to the national average. In 1966 it ranked 22nd in per capita personal income and 20th in personal income per child of school age, but 38th in expenditures per pupil on public elementary and secondary education. Its per capita personal income was 98% of the national average, but these expenditures per pupil were only 80% of the national average. From 1956 to 1966 Nebraska led the nation with a 78.4% increase in per capita personal income, but ranked 11th in the percentage increase of current educational expenditures per pupil from 1956-57 to 1966-67. For the decade 1957-58 to 1967-68 it dropped to 39th place among the states in this percentage increase. In total current expenditures for public elementary and secondary schools as a percent of 1966 personal income, Nebraska was 6th among the seven states of the region and 44th in the nation for the 1966-67 school year.

In 1966, Nebraska was in 20th place in personal income per child of school age (5 to 17) with \$11,179, compared to the national average, \$11,419. The state was in 18th place in personal income per child in average daily class membership with \$13,086, compared to the national average, \$13,658. In each category the state had risen one place in rank from the previous year.

Other measures of financial ability and resources quoted in the NEA study are provided by figures on net effective buying income, retail sales, and the pattern of household income distribution. In net effective buying income per household - that is, personal income minus direct taxes and certain nontax payments to governments - Nebraska ranked 22nd in 1966 with \$8,181 compared to the U. S. average of \$8,532. The disparity between the state and the national average, which was \$624

(Continued on page 4)

**Business Summary**

January's dollar volume of business in Nebraska (Table I) rose 10.5% from January, 1967. Nebraska's physical volume for the same period rose 6.3%. This indicates a significant rise in prices during this period. The U.S. dollar volume increased 8.8% and the physical volume increased 5.2%. Nebraska's December, 1967, to January, 1968, changes in dollar volume and physical volume were +4.7% and +0.9%. January, 1967, to January, 1968, changes in the individual business indicators ranged from +1.0% for construction activity to +11.2% for life insurance sales and electricity

produced.

Retail sales for Nebraska (Tables III, IV, V) in February rose 6.6% over February, 1967. Hard goods (+7.6%) and soft goods (+6.2%) both increased over their year-ago levels. Total sales for the state, after being seasonally adjusted, were 7.6% above January's sales. Only four cities were below February, 1967 sales levels and of the 18 cities showing increases 8 had increases of 10% or more. The year-ago changes ranged from -7.5% for York to +29.6% for Beatrice. Year-ago changes in the individual sales categories ranged from -11.9% for farm equipment to +22.2% for building material sales.

All figures on this page are adjusted for seasonal changes, which means that the month-to-month ratios are relative to the normal or expected changes. Figures in Table I (except the first line) are adjusted where appropriate for price changes. Gasoline sales for Nebraska are for road use only; for the United States they are production in the previous month. E. L. BURGESS

I. NEBRASKA and the UNITED STATES

II. PHYSICAL VOLUME OF BUSINESS  
Percentage of 1948 Average

JAN Business Indicators	Percent of 1948 Average		Percent of Same Month a Year Ago		Percent of Preceding Month		Month	Nebraska 1967-68	U.S. 1967-68
	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.	Nebraska	U.S.			
Dollar Volume of Business	292.5	350.5	110.5	108.8	104.7	104.1	January	189.1	213.4
Physical Volume of Business	201.0	224.4	106.3	105.2	100.9	102.7	February	206.7	214.6
Bank debits (checks, etc.)	231.3	346.5	110.1	111.1	108.2	103.4	March	198.6	216.3
Construction activity	239.8	165.0	101.0	98.1	101.7	92.4	April	191.6	217.6
Retail sales	154.4	183.4	105.8	103.4	103.8	102.5	May	195.7	216.2
Life insurance sales	388.6	514.8	111.2	112.2	109.5	113.2	June	198.7	219.5
Cash farm marketings	142.2	144.1	101.3	102.9	74.8	94.5	July	196.9	217.6
Electricity produced	342.6	449.3	111.2	111.2	105.4	102.6	August	203.2	219.5
Newspaper advertising	173.2	146.4	107.6	95.9	112.5	101.9	September	202.8	216.5
Manufacturing employment	164.4	127.3	102.1	101.4	98.9	100.2	October	203.0	216.8
Other employment	143.3	164.0	102.9	105.7	99.9	100.0	November	190.8	219.1
Gasoline sales	215.5	216.9	103.0	100.2	80.1	101.7	December	199.3	218.6
							January	201.0	224.4

III. RETAIL SALES for Selected Cities. Total, Hard Goods, and Soft Goods Stores. Hard Goods include automobile, building material, furniture, hardware, equipment. Soft Goods include food, gasoline, department, clothing, and miscellaneous stores.

FEB City	No. of Reports*	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			Percent of Preceding Month Total	FEB City	No. of Reports*	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			Percent of Preceding Month Total
		Total	Hard Goods	Soft Goods				Total	Hard Goods	Soft Goods	
THE STATE	828	106.6	107.6	106.2	107.6	Fremont	29	106.2	107.5	105.0	98.6
Omaha	85	119.8	126.4	114.5	108.1	Fairbury	26	109.5	121.6	99.5	121.9
Lincoln	74	114.0	119.3	109.6	111.7	Norfolk	32	107.8	109.7	106.1	112.7
Grand Island	33	99.3	89.1	108.4	102.2	Scottsbluff	35	100.1	101.7	98.8	113.7
Hastings	28	117.1	131.4	104.3	103.8	Columbus	28	109.5	111.5	107.7	106.4
North Platte	20	103.8	101.3	106.1	110.7	McCook	20	94.4	95.7	93.0	108.9
						York	28	92.5	84.8	97.3	96.8

IV. RETAIL SALES, Other Cities and Rural Counties

V. RETAIL SALES, by Subgroups, for the State and Major Divisions

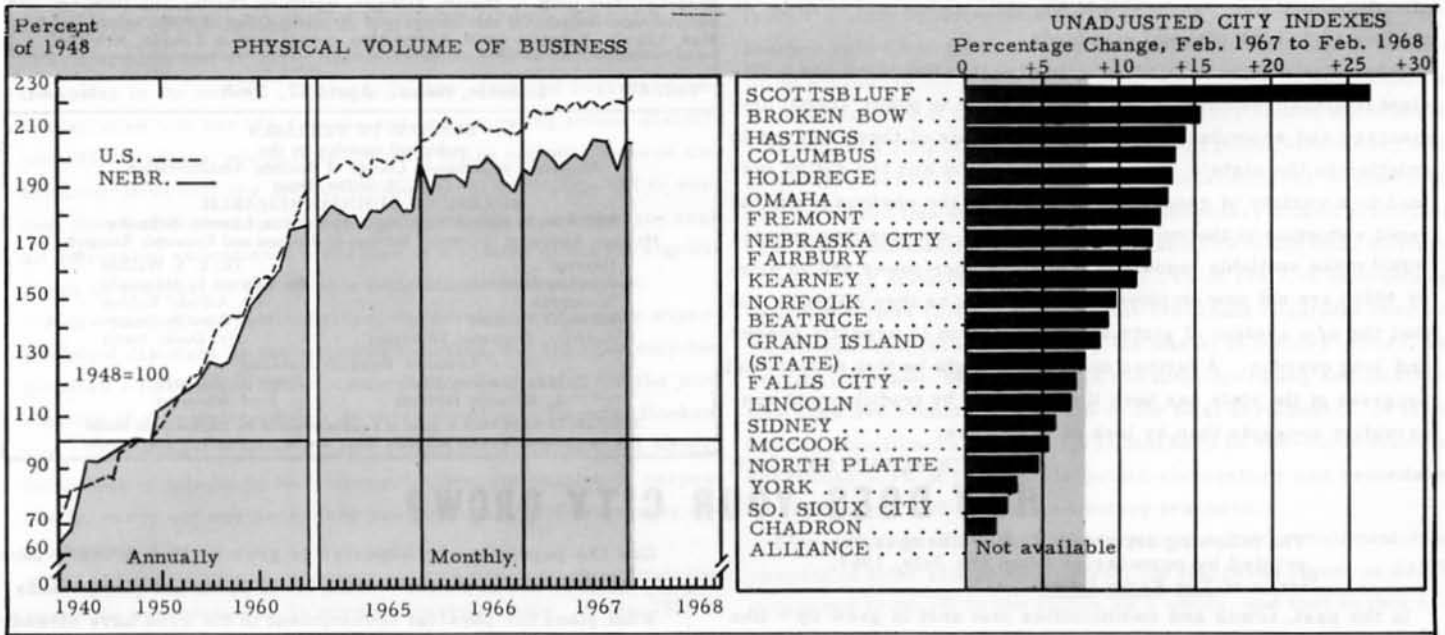
FEB Locality	No. of Reports*	Percent of Same Month A Year Ago	Percent of Preceding Month
Kearney	19	105.8	105.9
Alliance	31	117.1	99.2
Nebraska City	21	113.4	104.2
Broken Bow	16	106.1	98.5
Falls City	17	95.5	110.8
Holdrege	20	107.6	113.8
Chadron	24	102.7	106.7
Beatrice	20	129.6	119.6
Sidney	23	121.1	100.6
So. Sioux City	14	113.4	98.7
Antelope	9	104.1	95.4
Cass	23	112.8	97.5
Cuming	11	98.1	97.6
Sand Hills**	24	113.7	101.0
Dodge***	10	90.9	77.4
Franklin	10	106.0	97.7
Holt	15	104.8	109.3
Saunders	16	101.1	105.8
Thayer	9	94.3	101.7
Misc. Counties	58	102.6	96.7

FEB Type of Store	Percent of Same Month a Year Ago			
	Nebraska	Omaha and Lincoln	Other Cities	Rural Counties
ALL STORES****	106.6	112.7	107.0	99.8
Selected Services	108.0	92.9	112.7	118.3
Food stores	108.0	113.8	105.9	104.2
Groceries and meats	108.5	113.0	109.6	103.0
Eating and drinking pl.	106.3	116.3	98.7	103.9
Dairies and other foods	109.5	110.9	105.4	112.2
Equipment	108.9	126.1	106.5	94.1
Building material	122.2	154.8	115.0	96.9
Hardware dealers	115.1	127.3	115.5	102.6
Farm equipment	88.1	94.7	89.2	80.3
Home equipment	112.0	112.5	102.1	121.5
Automotive stores	106.9	106.6	108.4	105.7
Automotive dealers	106.0	106.3	109.4	102.2
Service stations	107.2	107.7	104.7	109.2
Miscellaneous stores	105.4	110.4	107.5	98.2
General merchandise	99.4	105.9	99.6	92.6
Variety stores	103.1	103.1	101.0	105.1
Apparel stores	109.4	116.0	106.3	106.0
Luxury goods stores	109.9	117.5	115.8	96.5
Drug stores	103.1	103.7	101.4	104.2
Other stores	115.3	119.6	138.4	87.9

\*\*Hooker, Grant, Dawes, Cherry, and Sheridan Counties  
\*\*\*Outside Principal City

\*\*\*\*Not including Selected Services

M E A S U R I N G N E B R A S K A B U S I N E S S



Figures on this page are not adjusted for seasonal changes nor for price changes. Building activity includes the effects of past as well as present building permits, on the theory that not all building is completed in the month the permit is issued. E. L. B.

VI. CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

Percent of Same Month a Year Ago

State or City	City Index	Bank Debits	Building Activity	Retail Sales	Electricity Consumed	Gas Consumed	Water Pumped	Postal Receipts	Newspaper Advertising
The State	107.7	96.8	158.7	106.6	106.0	120.0	109.3	108.8	104.0
Beatrice	109.3	109.4	101.0	129.6	99.4	104.2	NA	122.7	99.9
Omaha	113.2	82.5	183.5	119.8	109.0	115.5	108.6	133.8	100.0
Lincoln	106.8	85.4	112.8	114.0	111.0	113.3	111.9	88.4	91.6
Grand Island	108.7	116.9	162.6	99.2	110.0	92.5	102.8	120.0	- -
Hastings	114.3	112.0	181.9	117.1	NA	108.7	121.6	119.3	76.9
Fremont	112.8	116.5	161.3	106.2	111.0	NA	102.4	117.3	NA
North Platte	104.8	99.6	133.0	103.8	101.9	104.9	92.3	135.5	108.4
Kearney	111.2	116.8	172.1	105.8	111.4	102.9	103.4	116.4	NA
Scottsbluff	126.4	99.2	203.1	100.1	109.1	109.6	135.6	151.2	160.1
Norfolk	109.9	108.6	152.5	107.8	116.7	106.4	102.4	139.5	89.4
Columbus	113.8	110.5	259.6	109.5	118.7	104.6	103.2	130.6	116.7
McCook	105.4	107.4	178.0	94.4	102.7	98.2	NA	106.2	110.0
Sidney	105.9	121.8	83.9	121.1	108.2	88.4	87.6	152.0	NA
Alliance	NA	NA	NA	117.1	NA	107.6	NA	NA	95.3
Nebraska City	112.2	110.4	150.3	113.4	112.8	93.6	107.0	127.0	NA
So. Sioux City	102.7	116.2	21.6	113.4	94.9	95.9	NA	106.5	NA
York	103.3	113.1	59.2	92.5	104.1	102.3	96.0	138.0	- -
Falls City	107.2	107.9	27.9	95.5	112.7	105.8	102.3	123.5	118.0
Fairbury	112.1	111.3	369.2	109.5	101.6	NA	113.1	113.5	111.9
Holdrege	113.5	121.9	50.3	107.6	113.6	97.6	125.0	137.7	110.8
Chadron	101.9	101.7	30.6	102.7	122.8	101.3	95.5	122.1	NA
Broken Bow	115.3	135.1	73.7	106.1	112.9	94.6	107.1	140.5	137.8

Percent of Preceding Month (Unadjusted)

State or City	City Index	Bank Debits	Building Activity	Retail Sales	Electricity Consumed	Gas Consumed	Water Pumped	Postal Receipts	Newspaper Advertising
The State	90.8	88.9	88.9	102.9	88.2	93.9	91.5	80.6	100.7
Beatrice	97.5	79.7	65.3	115.8	101.2	92.4	100.0	96.4	108.2
Omaha	95.4	95.7	90.6	104.2	89.7	105.4	89.6	100.0	95.2
Lincoln	93.4	87.8	91.9	107.9	95.2	100.9	92.8	68.4	94.5
Grand Island	90.3	78.5	114.1	99.1	91.9	78.4	91.3	86.2	- -
Hastings	85.8	93.3	83.5	99.9	NA	85.3	96.1	81.3	79.1
Fremont	91.0	95.3	82.1	94.8	90.9	NA	97.6	83.2	NA
North Platte	89.2	85.3	85.0	108.9	86.2	81.5	83.6	100.2	111.2
Kearney	89.3	83.8	75.2	102.6	127.3	83.4	99.4	84.7	NA
Scottsbluff	91.9	67.8	84.3	110.2	82.3	78.9	93.5	107.6	146.7
Norfolk	89.2	90.0	72.8	109.0	82.9	89.6	79.9	94.5	101.8
Columbus	96.2	89.8	157.6	102.8	89.9	91.9	91.6	98.4	106.5
McCook	81.1	82.3	85.9	105.3	100.3	75.2	NA	67.9	71.0
Sidney	93.0	99.6	87.6	97.8	99.5	83.3	82.1	93.7	NA
Alliance	NA	NA	NA	95.9	NA	83.6	NA	NA	99.8
Nebraska City	93.6	100.9	66.9	100.5	91.8	87.0	111.2	88.6	NA
So. Sioux City	85.7	84.5	84.8	94.8	49.2	87.4	NA	86.0	NA
York	93.5	76.8	77.4	93.2	94.4	85.8	100.5	104.0	- -
Falls City	88.8	88.3	65.0	107.4	89.0	86.9	90.8	79.1	127.1
Fairbury	89.8	87.6	91.4	118.4	90.3	NA	86.1	65.0	115.1
Holdrege	97.5	81.5	125.1	110.2	93.5	78.9	96.9	94.5	105.1
Chadron	85.5	81.8	66.7	103.0	101.3	77.4	97.1	77.6	NA
Broken Bow	96.3	120.6	95.3	95.1	90.8	79.8	94.4	100.5	184.2



(Continued from first page) in 1965, was thus reduced to \$351 in 1966. In the same year Nebraska ranked 8th among the states in per capita retail sales. In the nation, the percentage of households with cash income under \$3,000 was the same as the percentage with incomes of \$10,000 or over (21.5%). In Nebraska the percentage under \$3,000 was 22.1% and the percentage with the highest income per household was 19.6%.

A somewhat different approach to analysis of data on financing public education has been taken in publications of the U. S. Department of Commerce, in which figures used are based on state and local government aggregates for fiscal 1965-66 related to personal income in the various states as estimated by the department's Office of Business Economics. In presenting these data it must be pointed out that although personal income figures are frequently used and widely recognized as a valuable measure of the economic scale or approximate fiscal capacity of the states, it should not be inferred that all revenue obtained by governments within a particular state comes directly out of or represents a burden upon the personal income of its residents.

For statistical purposes, the Department of Commerce uses a

7-state region, which is a different grouping of states from that used by the NSEA, with North Dakota and Minnesota included in the area, and Wyoming and Colorado excluded, in what the Commerce Department designates as the West North Central Region.

In relationship to capacity to pay, which is defined as the expenditure per \$1,000 of personal income, the Nebraska outlay was \$44.65 compared to a mean of \$47.15 and a median of \$48.34 in the nation. In the region, only Missouri (\$42.45) ranked lower than Nebraska, while North and South Dakota had the highest rates, \$57.81 and \$60.58, respectively. Nationally, there were extreme variations in the range of educational expenditures in relation to capacity to pay, from \$31.96 in the District of Columbia to \$72.31 in Utah. Both the national mean and median were substantially below the comparable regional figures, \$53.04 and \$51.13, but considerably above the Nebraska expenditure, \$44.65.

#### EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURE

Certain other figures cited in the NEA study raise a serious question as to whether or not the state is getting maximum efficiency from the relatively small amounts expended on elementary and secondary education. Nebraska ranks 35th among the states in

TABLE I  
NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL DATA, COMPARED TO THE UNITED STATES  
AND TO A SEVEN-STATE AREA\*

#### Personal Income, Expenditures, Sources of Revenue

Category	Nebr.	U. S.	Nebr.	Nebr.	Category	Nebr.	U. S.	Nebr.	Nebr.
			Nat'l.	7-State				Nat'l.	7-State
			Rank	Rank				Rank	Rank
<b>Total Personal Income</b> (in Million Dollars)									
1966	\$4,181	\$580,483	31	5					
1965	3,836	532,147	31	5					
<b>Per Capita Personal Income</b>									
1966	\$2,905	\$ 2,963	22	3					
1965	2,629	2,746	25	5					
<b>Per Capita Personal Income as a Percent of National Average</b>									
1966	98.0	100.0	22	3					
1965	95.7	100.0	25	5					
<b>Percent Increase in Per Capita Personal Income</b>									
1956-66	78.4	50.0	1	1					
1955-65	64.8	46.4	4	3					
<b>Personal Income Per Child in Average Daily Membership</b>									
1966	\$13,086	\$ 13,658	18	n.a.					
1965	12,178	12,823	19	n.a.					
<b>Net Effective Buying Income Per Household</b>									
1966	\$ 8,181	\$ 8,532	22	2					
1965	7,365	7,989	29	3					
<b>Percent of Households with Incomes under</b>									
\$3,000 in 1966	22.1	21.5	24	5					
\$2,500 in 1965	21.3	20.1	29	3					
<b>Total Current Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Schools in:</b>									
1966-67 as Percent of Personal Income in 1966	3.4	3.9	44	6					
1965-66 as Percent of Personal Income in 1965	3.5	3.8	42	6					
<b>Estimated Current Expenditures for Public Elem. &amp; Secondary Schools Per Pupil in Average Daily Attendance</b>									
1967-68	\$492	\$619	39	7					
1966-67 (Revised)	463	573	38	7					
<b>Percent Increase in Estimated Current Expenditures Per Pupil in Average Daily Attendance</b>									
1957-58 to 1967-68	71.5	91.0	39	3					
1956-57 to 1966-67	104.4	88.0	11	1					
<b>Estimated % of Revenue Receipts for Public Elem. and Secondary Schools from Local Governments</b>									
1967-68	87.5	52.0	1	1					
1966-67 (Revised)	87.5	53.0	1	1					
<b>Estimated % of Revenue Receipts for Public Elem. and Secondary Schools from State Governments</b>									
1967-68	3.9	40.3	50	7					
1966-67 (Revised)	5.4	39.1	50	7					
<b>Estimated % of Revenue Receipts for Public Elem. and Secondary Schools from Federal Gov't.</b>									
1967-68	8.5	7.7	25	3					
1966-67 (Revised)	8.5	7.9	27	3					
<b>Local Public School Revenue as % of State &amp; Local School Revenue</b>									
1967-68	95.7	56.3	1	1					
1966-67	94.0	56.7	1	1					
<b>Total Public School Revenue, as % of 1966 and 1965 Personal Income</b>									
1966-67	3.7	4.7	47	7					
1965-66	3.9	4.7	46	7					

\*Seven-State Area includes Nebraska and adjacent states - South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa.  
n.a. - Data not available for some states in the area.

Sources: 1967-1968, How Does Nebraska Compare?, Nebraska State Education Association, 1968.  
Rankings of the States, 1968, Research Division, National Education Association, 1968.

total public school enrollment with considerably less than one percent (.737%) of the national total, but leads the 50 states in number of school units and actually has more than 10% of the administrative units in the nation. There is in this state one organized administrative unit per 144.4 pupils and one operating school district per 185.8 students, which is in contrast to the national ratio of one administrative unit per 2,017.5 public school enrollees. It is evident that the proportion of funds used to maintain and operate such an antiquated educational structure is a matter of major significance in analysis of the state's educational expenditures.

A law passed in 1961 authorized the formation of county superintendent districts by two or more counties, but thus far only two counties - Dakota and Dixon - have formed a district for the joint election of a superintendent. In three counties - Banner, Hooker, and Logan - there are no Class I school districts, and the Superintendents of Schools in Harrisburg, Mullen, and Stapleton, respectively, carry out any necessary responsibilities of the county superintendent.

In 1950 there were in Nebraska 4,425 Class I school districts under the supervision of 93 county superintendents. From 1950 to 1960 the number of districts holding school dropped to 2,591, a decrease of 41.4%. In 1960, however, an additional 529 districts were contracting with other schools for education of their children, and 29 other districts remained organized but were inactive. From 1960 to 1967 the number of districts decreased 45.9%, the number contracting with other districts dropped 20%, and the number of inactive districts declined to 5. Thus the number of K-8 (Class I elementary schools) dropped from 4,435 in 1950 to 1,400 in 1967 (68.3%), but the number of county superintendents was only four less.

Enrollment figures from the State Department of Education differ somewhat from those in the table below because they represent

precise enrollments, as of October 1, 1967, not estimates. Figures from the state department show that in the 1,033 one-room, one-teacher schools in Nebraska there is a total enrollment of 11,468, or an average of 11.1 pupils per school. Enrollment in such schools constitutes 5.9% of the total public elementary school enrollment (193,692) and 3.5% of the total enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools (325,489). Of the total number of districts holding school this year, 80% are K-8 elementary school districts. One-room, one-teacher schools account for 59% of the total number of operating districts (1,743) and for 74% of the K-8 elementary school districts (1,400). Thus some trenchant questions may be raised with respect to expenditure (or waste) in teacher-power, as well as in money, because 59% of the total operating administrative units are educating only 3.5% of the total enrollment. It is of further significance that the 1,033 teachers in one-room schools constitute 6.3% of the state's public elementary and secondary teachers and 11.6% of the elementary teachers.

Also relevant is the fact that in public school enrollment as a percent of total school enrollment, the Nebraska figure is 83.8% compared to 86.5% in the nation as a whole, and that in this respect the state ranks in 36th place. The parochial schools of this state are thus educating a larger proportion of students and are assuming a larger proportion of educational costs than the average for the nation.

In this state the rate of change (26.4%) in estimated public school cumulative enrollment from 1957-58 to 1967-68 was much lower than in the nation, which showed a 35.8% increase in the 10-year period. Nationally, the state ranks 31st in percentage change in enrollment.

The most recent Business Week measure of total personal income by states shows that Nebraska's increase (6.6%) in 1967 was the same as the national gain, which may be taken as evidence that

TABLE II  
NEBRASKA EDUCATIONAL DATA, COMPARED TO THE UNITED STATES  
AND TO A SEVEN-STATE AREA\*

Enrollment and Attendance

Category	Nebraska	U. S.	Nebr. Nat'l. Rank	Nebr. 7-State Rank	Category	Nebraska	U. S.	Nebr. Nat'l. Rank	Nebr. 7-State Rank
Number of Basic Administrative Units					Public School Enrollment as a Percent of Total School Enrollment				
1967-68	2,175	21,704	1	1	Fall of 1966	83.8%	86.5%	36	7
1966-67	2,400	23,335	1	1	Fall of 1965	83.3%	86.0%	34	6
Public School Enrollment					Average Daily Membership in Public Schools				
Fall of 1967	324,070	43,788,324	35	5	1967-68	321,500	43,231,670	30	n.a.
Fall of 1966	319,000	42,986,514	35	5	1966-67	316,700	42,444,661	30	n.a.
Fall Enrollment as Percent of Population 5-17					Average Daily Membership as a Percent of Cumulative Enrollment				
Years of Age					1967-68	93.7%	95.1%	36	n.a.
July 1, 1967	86.0%	84.9%	27	6	1966-67	93.8%	95.2%	34	n.a.
July 1, 1966	84.6%	84.6%	31	7	Average Daily Membership as Percent of School Age Population (5-17)				
Estimated Public Elementary & Secondary School Cumulative Enrollment					1967-68	85.3%	83.8%	24	n.a.
1967-68	343,100	45,454,390	35	5	1966-67	84.0%	83.5%	23	n.a.
1966-67	337,800	44,593,856	35	5	Sources: 1967-68, <u>How Does Nebraska Compare?</u> , Nebraska State Education Association, 1968.				
Percent Change in Public Elementary & Secondary School Cumulative Enrollment					<u>Rankings of States, 1968</u> , Research Division, National Education Association, 1968.				
1957-58 to 1967-68	26.4%	35.8%	31	3					
1956-57 to 1966-67	25.5%	37.5%	32	4					

\*Seven-State Area includes Nebraska and adjacent states - South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa.  
n.a. - Data not available for some states in the area.

the state's relative prosperity is such that it should be able to afford expenditures comparable to the national average in order to achieve higher educational standards.

Other statistics here cited indicate also that Nebraska has sufficient financial resources to attain excellence in public school elementary and secondary education. Analysis of these figures in relation to the state's position in the region and the nation may lead to a variety of conclusions, including the obvious ones that rapid reduction in the number of one-room, one-teacher schools would make available resources both in teacher-power and in money which are not now employed as efficiently as they might be and that the new system of state aid to education is urgently needed and long overdue. A further conclusion might be that educational progress of the state has been limited more by tradition and conservative concepts than by lack of resources.

DOROTHY SWITZER

## HOW DOES YOUR CITY GROW?

The following article by E. D. Solberg is reprinted by permission from the July, 1967, issue of The Farm Index.

In the past, towns and communities just sort of grew up - like aopsy. Many folks tended to live on their own places with little thought as to the community's future growth.

Today there are more people, and they move at a more rapid pace. Towns have to grow, and grow quickly, to have room for everybody. Roads shoot out into the country, land is subdivided, then developed. The results are not always ideal.

To build a livable community takes a lot of coordinated planning. Above all, people must get together to figure out just what is happening - and how fast - and then decide how they want to shape their future.

A recent Economic Research Service study outlines ways to develop a "comprehensive community plan."

The state legislature, according to the report, can authorize a county government to set up an official planning board. The board will use public funds to make a detailed study of the community, draft long-range plans and suggest measures to implement them.

This sort of planning is usually a three-step job. The steps are: Deciding on goals. In general, goals will be to preserve what is best in the county, to develop what is good, and to oppose what is undesirable. Specifically, they may include some or all of the following:

- Increasing industrial production and employment;
- Reserving the best agricultural areas for farming;
- Protecting historical and scenic values and natural beauty;
- Conserving and developing natural resources;
- Developing attractive residential areas;
- Raising educational levels and providing adequate schools in safe locations;
- Improving road and highway systems and parking facilities;
- Providing convenient shopping areas.

Gathering facts. Facts are the stuff that plans are made of. Various questions, such as those which follow, will need to be answered:

What sort of land is being considered? Does it have unusual characteristics? What sort of climate does the area have?

What improvements have already been made in road systems and public services?

Where are the business and industrial areas? What is the employment situation?

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Can the population be expected to grow? How much? How many children are in school? What about parks and playgrounds?

What plans for physical development in the area have already been made by public agencies?

What about natural resources and conservation problems? What agricultural resources are available?

Making the plan. Using all of the assembled information, the planning board outlines specific suggestions for achieving the goals decided upon. They must make sure that each plan is financially possible and in harmony with all related plans. A typical plan includes:

Economic, civic and social improvement plans such as proposed highways and roads, parking areas, sewage systems, water, power and gas facilities, police and fire protection; plans for fostering business, industrial and agricultural development, encouraging tourist trade and locating proposed schools and housing.

Land-use plans outlining desirable future uses of the land for farming, forestry, recreation, industry, homes and proposed zoning.

Suggestions for uses of natural resources, including measures for preventing soil erosion, fostering and protecting agriculture and obtaining the greatest possible benefits from water, forests and other natural resources.

To be successful, a comprehensive plan must be understood and supported by the citizens. Opportunities must be provided for open hearings where citizens can discuss planning with the board and vote on proposals. The final plans are usually presented to the county government for approval.

The importance of developing local enterprise has been emphasized in recent issues of Business in Nebraska. This emphasis has met with excellent response throughout the state. It is bolstered by a perceptive and carefully analytical article in the Harvard Business Review which maintains that instead of building research and development facilities and instead of pirating companies from other areas, effort should be concentrated on training local entrepreneurs, developing markets where the local enterprises will have a chance to sell their products, and giving small growing companies various kinds of technical assistance. The article was written by Donald A. Schon, Director of the Institute of Applied Technology, National Bureau of Standards, U. S. Department of Commerce.