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Strong Economic Growth Will Continue for the Next Two Years

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Nebraska Business Forecast Council

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Business in Nebraska

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Strong Economic Growth Will Continue for the Next Two Years

John Austin and the Nebraska Business Forecast Council

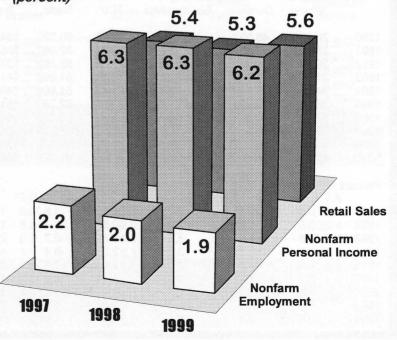
The year-end analysis shows the state's economy growing rapidly with prospects for continued growth over the next two years. Total nonfarm employment will grow 2.2 percent in 1997 and just under that rate in 1998 and 1999 (Figure 1 and Table 1). Total nonfarm personal income will grow 6.3 percent in both 1997 and 1998, and 6.2 percent in 1999. Despite snow in the middle of the harvest season in parts of eastern Nebraska, net farm income will reach \$2.3 billion in 1997, just under \$2.5 billion in 1998, and \$2.5 billion in 1999. Total net taxable retail sales will grow 5.4 percent in 1997, 5.3 percent in 1998, and 5.6 percent in 1999. Both the sales and income forecasts rely on a slight uptick in inflation in 1999.

Nonfarm Employment

Nebraska's 2.2 percent total nonfarm employment growth on a year-to-date basis through September (Table 2) is identical to full-year growth in 1996. Total nonfarm employment will grow 2 percent in 1998 and 1.9 percent in 1999. Comments on sector growth follow.

Construction activity is unsettled. Due to uncertainties in federal highway construction funding, the construction employment forecast is somewhat tentative. Residential permits statewide have slowed in the first half of the year, especially in multifamily construction. That implies a future slowdown in residential construction unless permits rebound. The third major component of construction, nonresidential buildings, is operating at very high levels, especially in the Omaha area. Employment will expand by nearly 5 percent in construction and mining in 1997. The rate of expansion may slow in the next two years because of labor shortfalls.

Figure 1
Key Economic Growth Rates
(percent)



- Durable manufacturing employment is expected to grow at least 2.7 percent per year in 1997, 1998, and 1999. Nondurable manufacturing employment growth is at a standstill and is expected to remain so in 1998 and 1999. There is speculation that lower-paid nondurable manufacturing employees are finding higher-paying jobs in the durable manufacturing sector.
- Transportation, communications, and utilities (TCU) employment is enjoying a growth spurt in 1997. Railroading and trucking are leading the way. Growth will continue in the sector at a moderated pace.
- Retail trade employment will grow slowly as the competition for labor intensifies. The retail industry has largely completed its move toward replacing full-time employees with part-time employees, a movement that had caused the number of retail jobs to grow rapidly.
- The services sector will grow rapidly over the 1997 to 1999 period with a growth rate of 3.6 percent expected each year. The services sector, the largest employment sector, is currently running third in employment growth behind construction and mining and TCU. By 1999 total services employment in Nebraska will be just below one-quarter million jobs.
- The federal government sector will continue to exhibit decreasing job numbers in 1997, 1998, and 1999. Continuing concern over balancing the federal budget implies

- little or no growth in this sector for the foreseeable future. However, relocation of federal jobs within the $U.\ S.\ can$ occur
- Despite hiring freezes and legislation designed to curtail spending, state and local government employment will grow by just under 1.0 percent this year. While the growth rate will drop marginally, state and local government employment will continue to grow in 1998 and 1999.

Nonfarm Personal Income

Total nonfarm personal income is expected to rise 6.3 percent annually from 1997 to 1998 and 6.2 percent in 1999 (Table 3). A discussion of major Nebraska nonfarm income forecast components follows.

Wages and salaries are responding to both an increase in total employment and to increased wage pressures. Wage pressures have been signaled in the Nebraska Quarterly Business Conditions Survey (NQBCS) (see September 1997, Business in Nebraska). Ironically, wage pressures in Nebraska are mounting at a time when national price indexes show an overall cooling off of inflation. Inflation is forecast to range between 2.0 and 2.5 percent. If the recent data on the price index for the Gross Domestic Product are any indication, the inflation rate may still be overstated.

Table 1
Number of Jobs and Percent Changes by Industry

Annuai	Averages (14%-11-	D-4-3			F = 4 1	State &	
	Const & Mining	Durables	ıfacturing Nondurables	TCU	Wholesale Trade	Retail Trade	FIRE	Services	Federal Gov't	Local Gov't	Total
1990	28,596	48,522	49,286	46,276	53,392	134,145	48,426	177,966	18,040	125,379	730,026
1991	28,728	47,485	52,119	47,414	52,567	135,642	48,576	181,052	17,416	128,213	739,212
1992	29,760	46,922	53,791	47,165	52,362	137,457	49,429	185,605	17,076	130,588	750,153
1993	31,778	48,752	55,032	47,338	51,998	141,160	50,506	191,681	17,312	131,655	767,212
1994	34,599	51,999	56,754	48,443	51,806	146,971	51,706	202,348	17,214	134,356	796,194
1995	36,009	54,017	58,199	49,596	52,787	151,428	52,648	210,964	16,409	134,310	816,367
1996	37,906	54,604	59,075	50,269	53,248	154,239	53,110	220,341	15,998	135,547	834,336
1997	39,725	56,078	59,134	52,280	54,313	155,781	54,438	228,273	15,646	136,767	852,436
1998	41,315	57,649	59,193	53,848	55,128	157,028	55,527	236,491	15,302	137,724	869,203
1999	42,719	- 59,320	59,252	55,194	55,679	158,284	56,637	245,005	14,965	138,688	885,744
Percen	t Changes										
1991	0.5	-2.1	5.7	2.5	-1.5	1.1	0.3	1.7	-3.5	2.3	1.3
1992	3.6	-1.2	3.2	-0.5	-0.4	1.3	1.8	2.5	-2.0	1.9	1.5
1993	6.8	3.9	2.3	0.4	-0.7	2.7	2.2	3.3	1.4	0.8	2.3
1994	8.9	6.7	3.1	2.3	-0.4	4.1	2.4	5.6	-0.6	2.1	3.8
1995	4.1	3.9	2.5	2.4	1.9	3.0	1.8	4.3	-4.7	0.0	2.5
1996	5.3	1.1	1.5	1.4	0.9	1.9	0.9	4.4	-2.5	0.9	2.2
1997	4.8	2.7	0.1	4.0	2.0	1.0	2.5	3.6	-2.2	0.9	2.2
1998	4.0	2.8	0.1	3.0	1.5	0.8	2.0	3.6	-2.2	0.7	2.0
1999	3.4	2.9	0.1	2.5	1.0	0.8	2.0	3.6	-2.2	0.7	1.9

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Table 2
Percent Change in Employment
January - September 1997 vs January - September 1996

	State	Nonurbai	n Urban	Urban
	Rate	Rate	Rate¹	Share
Nonfarm Employment Total Construction & Mining Manufacturing	2.2 4.6	2.2 3.8	2.1 5.3	58.0 56.3
Durable Goods	2.7	3.1	2.2	42.8
Nondurable Goods	0.0	0.8	-0.9	44.8
TCU ²	3.5	4.7	2.8	64.2
Trade Retail Wholesale	0.7 2.4	1.2 4.5	0.2 0.6	53.4 52.5
FIRE ³ Services Government	3.1	2.0	3.4	76.1
	3.8	3.6	3.9	68.4
Federal	-2.1	-2.5	-1.8	65.6
State	0.4	3.5	-0.8	71.6
Local	0.8	0.0	2.0	41.1

¹Urban is defined here to include Douglas, Sarpy, and Lancaster Counties.

Table 3
Nonfarm Personal Income and Selected Components, 1992 to 1999

	Nonfarm Personal Income	Total Wages & Salaries	Other Labor Income	DIR*	Transfer Payments	Nonfam Proprietor Income
992	28,760	16,620	2,002	5,930	4,382	1,963
1993	30,082	17,300	2,200	6,070	4,678	2,074
994	31,624	18,384	2,320	5,948	4,902	2,497
1995	33,763	19,631	2,337	6,491	5,205	2,689
1996	35,704	20,856	2,366	6,901	5,525	2,794
1997	37,962	22,212	2,437	7,384	5,807	3,018
1998	40,363	23,700	2,535	7,827	6,103	3,259
1999	42,867	25,288	2,636	8,218	6,439	3,520
Percent C	7.5	5.9	12.0	8.8	8.9	7.4
1993	4.6	4.1	9.9	2.4	6.7	5.7
1994	5.1	6.3	5.5	-2.0	4.8	20.4
1995	6.8	6.8	0.7	9.1	6.2	7.7
1996 -	5.8	6.2	1.3	6.3	6.2	3.9
1997	6.3	6.5	3.0	7.0	5.1	8.0
1998 1999	6.3	6.7	4.0	6.0 5.0		8.0
	6.2	6.7	4.0	5.0	5.5	8.0

²Transportation, Communication, and Utilities

³Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

The near recent nose dive in the rate of growth in the other labor income component, benefits, has been reversed. The drop in the rate of growth of benefits took place as workers took on a larger share of benefit contributions, especially health insurance. Growth in benefits will be 3.0 percent in 1997 and 4.0 percent in both 1998 and 1999.

Data collected by the Nebraska Department of Revenue indicate that both dividends and interest are growing rapidly. Further, anecdotal evidence suggests that rents in major cities in Nebraska are climbing rapidly. Dividends, interest, and rent (DIR) will advance 7.0 percent in 1997, 6.0 in 1998, and 5.0 in 1999.

Nonfarm proprietors' income is forecast to be 8.0 percent for each year in the three-year period.

Farm Income

- There has been a slight reduction in the estimate of the state's crop production as a result of late October heavy snow in eastern Nebraska. The effects were highly variable across the state. Despite early snow, the corn harvest was slightly ahead of average through mid November. Estimates of the corn harvest for 1997 are 1.16 billion bushels. Losses have had no discernible impact on commodity markets.
- The impact of the snow and on-ground storage at elevators will cause some extra drying expenses for grain farmers, marginally reducing the state's net farm income.
- Asian markets are important for growth in Nebraska's agricultural exports. Recent disruptions in Asian financial markets may cause short-term weakness in the state's agricultural exports to Asian markets.
- Livestock operations are still running in the black despite a decline in cattle prices compared to year ago. Conversely, calf prices increased almost one-third from October 1996 to mid October 1997.
- Federal government transfer payments to Nebraska farmers will reach \$400 million in 1997, and will decrease to \$250 million in 1998.
- Nebraska's net farm income will reach \$2.3 billion in 1997, then increase to slightly less than \$2.5 billion in 1998, and to \$2.5 billion in 1999.

Net Taxable Retail Sales

A slowdown in the growth of prices means that the growth of the dollar volume of sales may slow, even though the physical volume of sales continues to grow.

- Other net taxable retail sales (nonmotor vehicle sales) increased 4.8 percent on a year-to-date basis through July 1997 when compared to a similar period in 1996. However, solid strength in income allows some optimism that the 4.8 percent figure will be exceeded. Growth is expected to be 5.2 percent per year from 1997 to 1999.
- Motor vehicle net taxable retail sales will slow the advance from last year. Growth in 1997 will be 7.0 percent, and will slow further in 1998 and 1999 to 6.0 percent in each year. It is common to have two consecutive strong years of motor vehicle sales followed by more moderate advances.
- Total net taxable retail sales will advance 5.4 percent in 1997, 5.3 percent in 1998, and 5.6 percent in 1999. The forecast for 1999 is tempered by the prospect of a moderate increase in inflation that year.

Table Net Ta <i>(\$ milli</i>	axable Reta	iil Sales, Anr	nual Totals
	Total	Motor	Other
	Sales	Vehicle	Sales
1992	13,389	1,488	11,901
1993	14,173	1,699	12,474
1994	15,229	1,813	13,416
1995	15,873	1,883	13,990
1996	16,853	2,068	14,785
1997	17,767	2,213	15,554
1998	18,709	2,346	16,363
1999	19,749	2,487	17,263
Percent	Changes		
1992	4.7	3.5	4.9
1993	5.9	14.1	4.8
1994	7.5	6.8	7.5
1995	4.2	3.8	4.3
1996	6.2	9.8	5.7
1997	5.4	7.0	5.2
1998	5.3	6.0	5.2
1999	5.6	6.0	5.5

BBR is grateful for the help of the Nebraska Business Forecast Council. Serving in this session were: Phillip Baker, Nebraska Department of Labor; Bruce Johnson, Department of Agricultural Economics, UN-L; Donis Petersan, Nebraska Public Power District; Franz Schwarz, Nebraska Department of Revenue; Keith Turner, Department of Economics, UNO; Charles Lamphear and John Austin, Bureau of Business Research.

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Business in Nebraska (BIN)

Nebraska is Competitive in State Average Wages*

	Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) Wage Surveys								
	NE	СО	IA	OK (medians)	KS	CT			
Executives/Administrators	\$25.85	\$25.37	\$20.29	\$20.25	\$25.32	\$26.12			
Managers**	\$20.74	\$21.61	\$17.44	\$18.25	\$21.81	\$20.23			
Professional Specialists	\$16.80	\$18.75	\$15.55	\$14.52	\$16.54	\$17.08			
Marketing/Sales Representatives	\$10.12	\$10.86	\$7.98	\$8.60	\$9.13	\$9.79			
Administrative Support/Clerical	\$9.98	\$ 9.99	\$8.86	\$8.80	\$9.44	\$9.47			
Service Workers	\$7.47	\$7.16	\$5.98	\$6.86	\$7.16	\$7.44			
Production/Craft/Repair/Operators/Fabricators/Laborers	\$12.05	\$11.31	\$10.44	\$10.29	\$11.89	\$10.69			

^{*}Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) wage survey is conducted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wages are adjusted for cost of living using ACCRA (American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association) cost of living index weighted by employment of provided areas to obtain state estimate. 2nd quarter 1997.

**Managers are composed of the 15000's OES occupation codes. Managers may appear within other categories.

NE-Nebraska OES wage survey 1993-1995 adjusted to 1996 using average wages for industry produced by ES-202 Covered Employment and Wages Program.

CO-Colorado OES wage survey 1993-1995 indexed to 1996 using average wages and employment by industry for employers subject to the Unemployment Insurance law under the Colorado Employment Security Act.

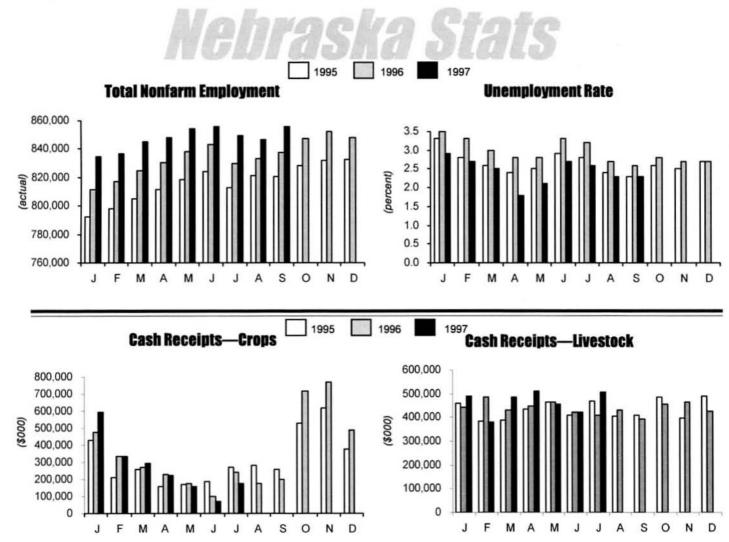
IA-lowa Statewide Wage Survey 1996 using the occupational categories defined by OES.

OK-Oklahoma Wage Survey Report 1996 using the occupational categories defined by OES.

KS-Kansas Wage Survey 1995-1996 edition. Data collection 2nd and 3nd quarters 1995 using OES occupations.

CT-Connecticut OES wage survey. 2nd quarter survey rounds of 1993-1994, 1994-1995, 1995-1996.

Note: These are preliminary comparisons due to differences in survey methodology and data collection times. Further wage comparisons by state will be computed when uniform OES data are available.



Net Taxable Retail Sales* for Nebraska Cities (\$000)

	July	YTD%	August	YTD%		July	YTD	% August	YTD%
	1997 YTD	Change vs	1997	YTD Change vs		1997	YTD Change	evs 1997	YTD Change vs
Attack Barrier	(\$000) (\$000		(\$000)	(\$000) Yr. Ago	V Ad	(\$000)	(\$000) Yr. Ag		(\$000) Yr. Ago
Ainsworth, Brown Albion, Boone	1,977 12,2 2,404 12,3	6 -8.5	1,814 1,798	14,071 8.3 14,114 -6.9	Kenesaw, Adams Kimball, Kimball	100 2,054	687 -4. 11,179 14.		927 11.8 12,966 12.8
Alliance, Box Butte	6,623 41.7		6,181	47,902 5.8	La Vista, Sarpy	7,572	50,873 4.	8,152	59,025 4.3
Alma, Harlan Arapahoe, Furnas	797 4,67 762 4,86		716 678	5,389 1.4 5,547 11.8	Laurel, Cedar Lexington, Dawson	361 7,090	2,499 4. 48,291 -4.		2,871 5.5 55,334 -3.8
Arlington, Washington	163 1,29		191	1,442 7.6	Lincoln, Lancaster	191,231	1,250,534 6		1,443,408 6.0
Amold, Custer Ashland, Saunders	1 557 8 26		235 1,337	2,045 2.4 9,626 31.8	Louisville, Cass Loup City, Sherman	497 599	3,647 45. 3,934 1.		4,165 42.3 4,486 -0.3
Atkinson, Holt	1,008 6,33	8 17.7	893 2,301	7,231 16.1 19.180 3.0	Lyons, Burt	434 826	3,086 7.		3,652 9.4 5.822 0.9
Auburn, Nemaha Aurora, Hamilton	2,421 16,87 2,593 17,98		2,542	20,527 2.2	Madison, Madison McCook, Red Willow	11,644	5,134 3. 74,330 6.		85,523 5.6
Axtell, Kearney	77 54 666 3.12		63 459	606 -7.3 3,583 -1.5	Milford, Seward	984 181	6,235 10. 1,460 11.		7,040 11.1 1.638 7.8
Bassett, Rock Battle Creek, Madison	640 4,42	2 5.8	599	5,021 5.7	Minatare, Scotts Bluff Minden, Kearney	2,085	12,148 17.	1 1,839	13,987 14.5
Bayard, Morrill	451 2,84 10,888 72,28	4 1.8 6 12.5	434 10,359	3,278 2.2 82,645 12.1	Mitchell, Scotts Bluff Morrill, Scotts Bluff	746 433	6,158 29. 3,083 17.		6,865 25.1 3,485 14.0
Beatrice, Gage Beaver City, Furnas	111 8	9.3	114	939 6.7	Nebraska City, Otoe	6,138	40,761 14.	6,525	47,286 14.1
Bellevue, Sarpy Benkelman, Dundy	18,298 119,04 584 3,73	9 3.5 5 6.1	18,784 498	137,833 2.8 4,233 5.0	Neligh, Antelope Newman Grove, Madisor	1,562 1 293	10,347 28, 2,266 1.		11,698 26.0 2,595 2.2
Bennington, Douglas	334 2,67	6 4.4	367	3,043 4.9	Norfolk, Madison	29,907	193,508 7.	30,023	223,531 6.5
Blair, Washington Bloomfield, Knox	6,366 43,66 745 4,33	7 9.7 4 12.8	6,294 623	49,901 8.5 4,997 9.3	North Bend, Dodge North Platte, Lincoln	479 22,800	3,428 5. 142,348 2.	1 467 3 22,906	3,895 4.7 165,254 2.1
Blue Hill, Webster	445 3.00	5 14.2	501	3,536 13.9	O'Neill, Holt	4 447	28,870 -2.	5 4,340	33,210 -1.6
Bridgeport, Morrill Broken Bow, Custer	1,293 7,7° 3,739 26,05		1,047 3,699	8,758 15.9 29,752 -13.2	Oakland, Burt Ogallala, Keith	702 6.775	4,403 6. 37,257 1.		5,125 7.8 43,372 0.9
Burwell, Garfield	1,047 5,09	9 14.0	762	5,861 14.0	Omaha, Douglas	447,856	2,961,429 4.	453,064	3,414,493 3.8
Cairo, Hall Cambridge, Furnas	224 1,52 705 5,79		262 653	1,789 26.1 6,445 -28.6	Ord, Valley Osceola, Polk	1,921 835	13,086 10. 5,114 5.		14,907 10.1 5,886 6.9
Central City, Merrick	1,629 11,64	1 6.0	1,596	13,237 4.7	Oshkosh, Garden	488	2,881 0.	3 444	3,325 1.0
Chadron, Dawes Chappell, Deuel	3,950 23,98 425 2,86	1 10.1	4,074 376	28,054 11.2 3,237 9.5	Osmond, Pierce Oxford, Furnas	475 416	2,679 0. 3,822 89.		3,165 -1.7 4,206 81.0
Clarkson, Colfax	445 3,06	7.7	485	3,552 8.2	Papillion, Sarpy	5,829 290	40,870 20.	5,890	46,760 19.4
Clay Center, Clay Columbus, Platte	373 2,09 20,974 135,63		351 21,331	2,443 16.3 156,967 3.4	Pawnee City, Pawnee Pender, Thurston	798	2,131 8. 5,002 17.		2,386 8.6 5,753 14.6
Cozad, Dawson Crawford, Dawes	3,095 20,40 856 3,76		2,980 762	23,410 13.4 4.522 16.3	Pierce, Pierce Plainview, Pierce	657 677	4,471 6. 4,911 24.		5,158 7.1 5,444 20.1
Creighton, Knox	1 181 6.61	7 2.0	1,113	7,730 2.4	Plattsmouth, Cass	3,397	22,521 12		25,877 11.9
Crete, Saline Crofton, Knox	3,326 22,20 451 2,69		3,162 453	25,368 -3.9 3.148 -0.3	Ponca, Dixon Ralston, Douglas	571 3,381	3,459 0. 21,645 10.		4,040 1.4 24,876 9.5
Curtis, Frontier	393 2,14	0 12.9	354	2,494 11.6	Randolph, Cedar	384	2,571 4.	380	2,951 5.0
Dakota City, Dakota David City, Butler	402 2,80 1,379 9,44		434 1,304	3,241 -27.7 10.747 -6.0	Ravenna, Buffalo Red Cloud, Webster	958 837	5,267 24. 5,357 26.		6,093 25.3 6,096 23.5
Deshler, Thayer	276 1,5	2 1.0	223	1,775 0.5	Rushville, Sheridan	567	3,572 -0.	3 561	4,133 -0.4
Dodge, Dodge Doniphan, Hall	221 1,62 696 4,92		214 584	1,837 7.7 5,505 31.0	Sargent, Custer Schuyler, Colfax	165 1,992	1,315 0. 13,003 1.		1,491 -0.2 14.765 1.5
Eagle, Cass	518 2,64	8 22.9	485	3,133 24.6	Scottsbluff, Scotts Bluff	22,614	143,888 11.	1 21,578	165,466 10.4
Elgin, Antelope Elkhom, Douglas	347 2,90 2,357 14,44	4 22.2	383 2,376	3,288 4.9 16,820 21.8	Scribner, Dodge Seward, Seward	519 4,776	3,236 4. 32,557 5.		3,776 3.1 37,671 5.8
Elm Creek, Buffalo	356 2,06 585 2,90	6 10.1 1 10.8	336 550	2,402 11.6 3,451 9.4	Shelby, Polk	294 656	2,264 7. 3,880 -4.		2,528 4.9 4,439 -5.2
Elwood, Gosper Fairbury, Jefferson	2,771 20,00	2 -1.3	2,907	22,939 -1.2	Shelton, Buffalo Sidney, Cheyenne	8 608	46,905 9.	7 9,350	56,255 9.2
Fairmont, Fillmore Falls City, Richardson	165 1,14 2,303 17,47		135 2,379	1,281 29.5 19,854 4.3	South Sioux City, Dakota Springfield, Sarpy	7,873 342	54,273 0. 1,974 8.		63,088 1.3 2,274 4.6
Franklin, Franklin	453 2.96	3 -5.2	464	3,427 -5.1	St. Paul, Howard	1,414	8,761 15.	3 1,209	9,970 13.4
Fremont, Dodge Friend, Saline	21,068 135,8 404 3,3	6 -3.4 8 3.0	20,485 374	156,301 -3.2 3,712 0.8	Stanton, Stanton Stromsburg, Polk	610 1,283	4,002 7. 7,328 21.	560 1,205	4,562 7.7 8,533 19.5
Fullerton, Nance	519 3,74	8 13.7	593	4,341 14.6	Superior, Nuckolls	1,567	11.277 13.	2 1,535	12,812 11.5
Geneva, Fillmore Genoa, Nance	1,835 12,40 250 1,60	5 -57	1,636 258	14,071 4.7 1,893 -7.8	Sutherland, Lincoln Sutton, Clay	1,567 303 1,020	1,985 0. 7,111 -19.		2,246 -1.1 8,007 -17.3
Gering, Scotts Bluff	3,600 22,03 785 5,56 1,977 12,29 2,537 15,00	0 0.8	3,670 735	25,700 -0.2	Syracuse, Ótoe	1,117	7,198 8.	1 1,103	8,301 8.6
Gibbon, Buffalo Gordon, Sheridan	1,977 12,29 2,537 15,00	3 19.0 2 9.9	1,909 2,264	6,318 18.5 14,201 8.9	Tecumseh, Johnson Tekamah, Burt	866 1,113	7 4 2 9 8	8 1,223	8,652 8.2
Gothenburg, Dawson Grand Island, Hall	2,537 15,02 47,762 321,47	11 13.8	2,264	14,201 8.9 17,285 12.6 371,429 5.0	Tilden, Madison Utica, Seward	459 235	2,982 0.		3,481 1.2 1,760 -9.5
Grant, Perkins	1.047 7.16	6 5.4 6 13.6	49,953 981	8,147 12.0	Valentine, Cherry	4.346	26.305 7	2 4.246	30,551 6.4
Gretna, Sarpy Hartington, Cedar	3,592 21,90 1,769 11,00	9 0.4 6 14.8	3,843 1,579	25,752 -1.0 12,645 11.5	Valley, Douglas Wahoo, Saunders	1,504 2,815	8,862 17. 17,971 13.		9,983 11.4 20,634 13.6
Hastings, Adams	19,490 135,86 317 2,20	0 1.5	20,202	156,062 1.5	Wakefield, Dixon	398 292	2,518 3.	8 384	2,902 5.5
Hay Springs, Sheridan Hebron, Thayer	317 2,20 2,071 13.1	6 1.7 0 25.1	333 1,971	2,539 2.9 15,121 24.4	Wauneta, Chase Waverly, Lancaster	292 666	5.067 19		2,418 -5.0 5,719 17.5
Henderson, York	2,071 13,15 835 4,2	0 25.1 9 -12.1	665	4,884 -12.2	Wavne Wavne	2,772	20,710 4.	3 3,274	23,984 3.8
Hickman, Lancaster Holdrege, Phelps	285 1,55 4,700 31,77	3 1.8 3 0.1	254 4,500	1,807 3.4 36,273 -1.1	Weeping Water, Cass West Point, Cuming	659 3,812	4,416 17. 26,637 10.		5,036 14.5 30,445 9.6
Hooper, Dodge	345 2,3 539 3,4	7 13.9	308	2,685 13.1	Wilber, Saline	455	3,153 11.	3 471	3,624 9.7
Humboldt, Richardson Humphrey, Platte	755 4.89	17 4.7	488 732	3,961 3.2 5,629 2.9	Wisner, Cuming Wood River, Hall	662 508	4,316 21. 3,002 0.	9 597	5,071 23.4 3,599 2.0
Imperial Chase	2,137 13,16	5 17.3	1,833	14,998 15.9	Wymore, Gage	390	2,851 3.	7 383	3,234 1.3
Juniata, Adams Keamey, Buffalo	216 1,57 30,051 195,34	D 12.5 8 3.7	187 32,695	1,757 14.3 228,043 3.7	York, York	9,580	61,213 8.	7 9,704	70,917 8.2

*Does not include motor vehicle sales. Motor vehicle net taxable retail sales are reported by county only.

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Net Taxable Retail Sales for Nebraska Counties (\$000)

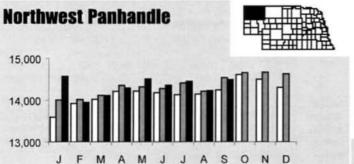
	Motor Vehicle Sales			S	Other Sales				Motor Vehicle Sales			Other Sales					
	July	August		YTD%	July	August		YTD%		July	August		YTD%	July	August		YTD%
	1997	1997	YTD	Chg. vs	1997	1997	YTD	Chg. vs		1997	1997	YTD	Chg. vs	1997	1997	YTD	Chg. v
	(\$000)	(\$000)	\$	Yr. Ago	(\$000)	(\$000)	(\$)	Yr. Ago		(\$000)	(\$000)	\$	Yr. Ago	(\$000)	(\$000)		Yr. Ago
Nebraska 1	203,652	205,553	1,492,567	6.6	1,295,280	1,316,706	9,897,23	1 4.7	Howard	828	737	6,610	21.6	1,745	1,538	12,722	2 10.
Adams	3,524	3,421	26,162	9.4	20,163	20,892	160,99	3 1.9	Jefferson	1,045	978	8,101	8.3	3,706	3,803	29,815	5 2.
Antelope	1,129	994	8,510	11.9	2,260	2,078	17,92	4 15.9	Johnson	445	490	3,800	5.3	1,118	1,216	9,995	
Arthur	51	45	390	-1.5	(D)	(D)	(D) (D)	Keamey	947	1,158	8,049	14.8	2,328	2,063	15,754	11.
Banner	221	92	1,150	7.5	(D)	(D)	(D		Keith	975	985	8,713	15.4	7,503	6,750	47,535	1.
Blaine	57	118	764	42.0	86	69	64		Keya Paha	128	129	847	5.6	74	90	663	3.
Boone	987	813	7.093	7.8	2.925	2,330	18,39		Kimball	558	497	4,183	6.9	2,089	1,816	13,293	13.
Box Butte	1,476	1,681	11,957	-4.8	6,938	6,502	50,22		Knox	839	1,141	8,233	6.6	2,953	2,814	20,663	
Boyd	255	363	1,900	13.0	526	480	4,50		Lancaster	27,143	27,239	185,766	9.5	193,339	194,898	1,460,292	
Brown	233	457	2,959		2.086	1,931	14,71	75 S.	Lincoln	3,723	4,017	27,773	0.3	23,733	23,728	172,073	9 1500
Buffalo	5,107	5,276	36,692		33,241	35,622	250,19		Logan	97	94	749	-3.0	(D)	(D)	(D)	
Burt	959	1,011	8,069		2,412	2,695	18,91		Loup	74	93	777	53.6	(D)	(D)	(D)	
Butler	967	1,054	7,603	-1.1	1,741	1,654	14,37		McPherson	121	52	527	-5.7	(D)	(D)	(D)	
Cass	3,218	3,326	24,576	5.7	6,581	6,684	49.08		Madison	4,035	4,333	30,499	6.0	32,785	32,175	241,545	
Cedar	1,453	1,629	10,094	15.6	2,887	2,901	21,33		Merrick	544	1,136	7,342	-7.3	2,321	2,323	17,761	
Chase	681	520	5,289	27.2	2,469	2,164	17,77		Morrill	779	724	5,554	24.0	1,764	1,500	12,292	
Cherry	780	797	6,280	28.2	4,547	4,437	32,04		Nance	519	529	4,054	20.2	793	876	6,500	
	1.044	1,280	9,318	-4.3	8,857	9,600	58,41		Nemaha	1.083	853	6.944	12.3	2,613	2,611	21,193	
Cheyenne	806	1,068	7,585	10.2	2,349	2,120	30000		Nuckolls	575	629	5,064	12.4	2,156	2,108	17,096	
Clay							17,14	7.5 (E.S. 2000)	Otoe	1,806	2,107		9.4		8,025		
Colfax	1,147	1,267	9,017	10.9	2,767	2,600	21,47		27.5	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	1000000	14,826	7972-0	7,639		58,877	
Cuming	1,505	1,437	11,409		5,045	5,202	40,03		Pawnee Perkins	526 474	404 540	2,938	4.3 1.8	469	433	3,940	
Custer	1,348	1,574	11,429	18.6	4,630	4,574	36,92		25.0			3,797	12505	1,231	1,173	9,766	
Dakota	2,349	2,332	16,104	-0.2	9,024	10,015	72,81		Phelps	1,159	1,617	12,078	3.0	5,012	4,742	38,275	
Dawes	956	648	5,692	0.8	4,806	4,838	32,59		Pierce	896	1,087	8,084	10.2	1,897	1,784	14,454	
Dawson	2,870	2,852	23,149	17.8	13,262	12,754	99,44	76 (1973)	Platte	4,108	3,840	30,529	7.4	22,355	22,784	167,827	
Deuel	260	389	2,370	7.2	1,023	951	6,61	202 CONTRACTOR	Polk	780	840	6,759	18.7	2,540	2,342	17,876	
Dixon	809	583	5,778	22.3	1,077	1,078	7,88		Red Willow	1,118	1,264	10,040	2.7	11,938	11,479	88,033	
Dodge	3,956	4,376	31,563	8.9	22,839	22,353	170,75		Richardson	1,182	975	8,164	11.6	3,132	3,149	26,220	
Douglas	55,610	51,655	369,721	2.9	458,048	461,980	3,485,68		Rock	203	346	1,915	23.7	666	460	3,669	
Dundy	191	322	2,547		611	529	4,47	THE TELESCOPER 1	Saline	1,393	1,430	11,122	-4.5	4,539	4,367	35,787	
Fillmore	730	821	7,173	6.9	2,630	2,351	20,89	11.1	Sarpy	14,950	15,694	106,125	7.4	36,377	37,846	277,268	
Franklin	346	473	3,441	21.4	719	666	5,35		Saunders	2,515	3,011	20,108	8.3	6,426	6,643	47,086	
Frontier	321	459	3,433	28.1	682	666	5,05	21 MART	Scotts Bluff	4,027	4,467	31,147	5.9	27,641	26,597	203,802	
Furnas	654	779	5,483	4.5	2,061	1,922	18,38		Seward	2,029	1,926	14,682	9.3	6,238	6,417	48,484	
Gage	2,441	3,154	19,851	8.3	11,956	11,300	91,54		Sheridan	968	939	6,113	14.4	3,116	3,089	23,030	
Garden	363	351	2,418	0.8	647	596	4,50	4 -1.6	Sherman	494	440	3,328	16.8	747	675	5,705	
Garfield	250	141	1,452	0.4	1,047	762	5,86		Sioux	224	171	1,636	-5.2	152	160	1,145	
Gosper	225	265	2,315	-1.7	641	602	3,88	9 8.8	Stanton	902	958	5,980	9.8	722	698	5,757	3.7
Grant	206	134	933	36.2	242	169	1,42	3 8.7	Thayer	697	971	6,664	20.6	3,018	2,907	21,718	17.0
Greeley	414	207	2,503	8.8	656	574	5,04	7 2.5	Thomas	167	144	874	9.4	394	919	3,259	22.0
Hall	6,336	6,302	45,665	-2.5	49,565	51,797	385,15	8 5.4	Thurston	660	592	4,470	10.1	890	829	6,882	14.0
Hamilton	966	1,300	10,116	6.2	2,978	2,920	23,70	6 1.1	Valley	572	549	4,203	15.2	2,115	2,044	16,299	9.4
Harlan	412	435	3,547	-6.8	1,056	987	6,99	76	Washington	2,773	3,148	20,142	0.0	6,866	6,843	54,762	
Hayes	221	77	1,245	8.3	(D)	(D)	(D		Wayne	940	1,183	8,203	16.6	2,902	3,426	25,218	
Hitchcock	280	395	2.905	-5.0	630	623	4,87		Webster	511	421	3,958	20.8	1,395	1,333	10,511	
Holt	1,452	1,727	12,000	27.1	6,128	5,900	45,37		Wheeler	132	44	1,379	30.1	76	70	792	
	39	134	623		478	494	2,41		York	1,990	1,581	15,227	18.9	10,855	10,835	79,503	

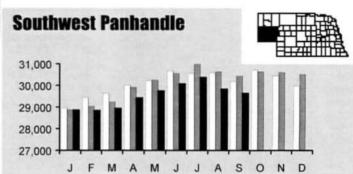
^{*}Totals may not add due to rounding

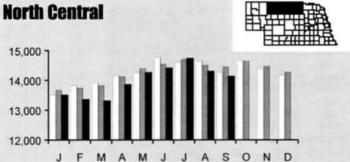
Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

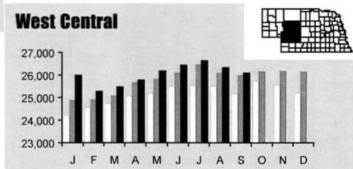
⁽D) Denotes disclosure suppression

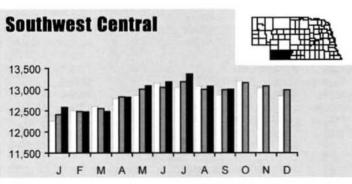
Regional Employment—1995 to September 1997

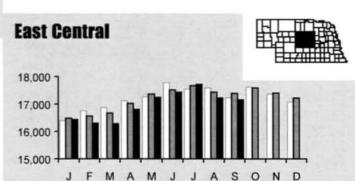




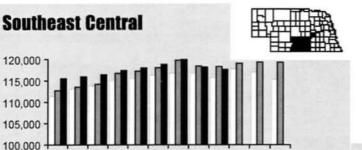


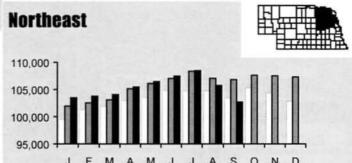


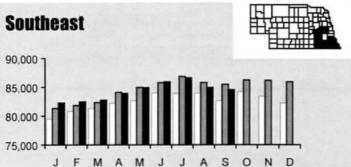


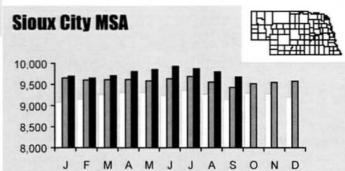


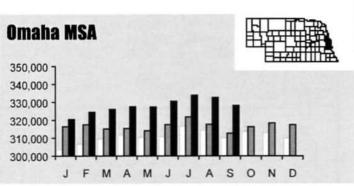
Regional Employment—1995 to September 1997

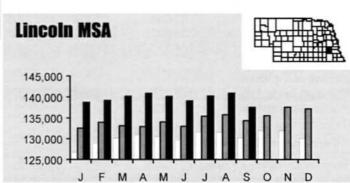




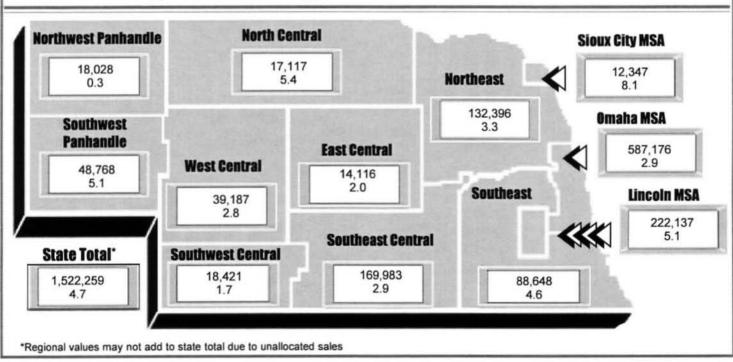








August 1997 Regional Retail Sales (\$000) Percent Change from Year Ago

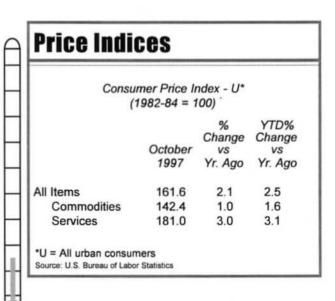


Employment by Industry

	Revised August	Preliminary September	% Change
	1997	1997	Ago
Place of Work			
Nonfarm	846,723	856,126	2.3
Construction & Mining	41,669	40,957	2.1
Manufacturing	115,122	114,877	0.8
Durables	56,242	56,204	2.9
Nondurables	58,880	58,673	-1.1
TCU*	50,690	50,859	1.1
Trade	209,816	210,186	1.0
Wholesale	54,772	55,749	4.3
Retail	155,044	154,437	-0.1
FIRE**	55,506	55,482	4.6
Services	229,690	231,260	4.6
Government	144,230	152,505	1.3
Place of Residence			
Civilian Labor Force	928,997	919,552	1.4
Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.3	
		· Control	

Transportation, Communication, and Utilities
 Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor



November/December 1997

Business in Nebraska (BIN)

Inflation Rate

County of the Month

Scotts Bluff

Gering-County Seat

License plate prefix number: 21

Size of county: 725 square miles, ranks 32nd in the state

Population: 36,679 in 1996, a change of 1.8 percent from 1990

Per capita personal income: \$18,798 in 1995, ranks 41st in the state

Net taxable retail sales (\$000): \$342,767 in 1996, a change of 5.9 percent from 1995; \$234,949 from January through August 1997, a change of 8.9 percent from the same period the

Next County of Month

previous year.

Number of business and service establishments: 1,190 in 1994, 54.0 percent had less than

five employees

Unemployment rate: 4.6 percent in Scotts Bluff County, 2.4 percent in Nebraska for 1995

	State	Scotts Bluff County
Nonfarm employment (1996):	834,336	15,273
	(percei	nt of total)
Construction & Mining	4.5	4.3
Manufacturing	13.6	10.4
TCU	6.0	5.8
Wholesale Trade	6.4	6.4
Retail Trade	18.5	24.5
FIRE	6.4	5.9
Services	26.4	23.8
Government	18.2	18.8

Agriculture:

Number of farms: 821 in 1992, 898 in 1987 Average farm size: 509 acres in 1992

Market value of farm products sold: \$191.3 million in 1992 (\$232,991 average per farm)

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Nebraska Department of Labor, Nebraska Department of Revenue



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