

2013

Legislature's Planning Committee 2013 Report

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Legislature's Planning Committee 2013 Report

Committee Members

Senator John Harms, Chair

Senator Tanya Cook, Vice-Chair

Senator Greg Adams, Speaker of the Legislature

Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board

Senator Heath Mello, Chair, Appropriations Committee

Senator Mike Gloor

Senator Kathy Campbell


Senator Paul Schumacher

Senator Kate Sullivan

Legislature's Planning Committee
2013 Report

Approved By:

Date



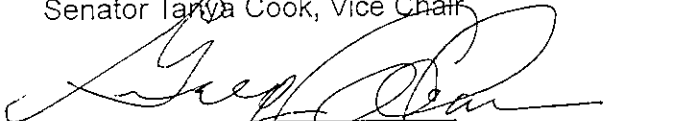
Senator John N. Harms, Chair

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Senator Tanya Cook, Vice Chair

2/21/2013



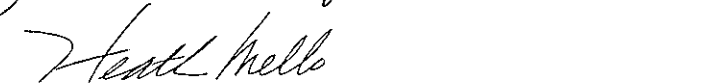
Senator Greg Adams, Speaker of the Legislature

2/21/2013



Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board

2/21/2013



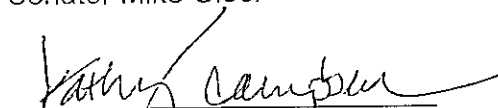
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Senator Mike Gloor

2/21/2013




Senator Kathy Campbell

2/21/2013



Senator Paul Schumacher

2/21/2013



Senator Kate Sullivan

2/21/2013

**Legislature's Planning Committee
2013 Report
Introduction**

The Legislature's Planning Committee was created in 2009, pursuant to LB 653, introduced by Senator John Harms, of Scottsbluff. The 2012-13 Committee is:

Senator John Harms, Chair
Senator Tanya Cook, Vice-Chair
Senator Greg Adams, Speaker of the Legislature
Senator John Wightman, Chair, Executive Board
Senator Heath Mello, Chair, Appropriations Committee
Senator Mike Gloor
Senator Kathy Campbell
Senator Paul Schumacher
Senator Kate Sullivan

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

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

During this time, the Legislative Research Office prepared for the committee binders, for each of the nine categories, which contain a history of legislation passed in Nebraska for each category during the last thirty years, as well as what is currently being done in other states – compiled from organizations such as the National Conference of State Legislatures. These binders are available to be checked out in the Legislative Research Office.

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

This Report is the 2013 Update to the 2011 Report. Added this year is a section titled “Selected Characteristics for Nebraska Legislative Districts from the 2008-2012 American Community Survey”, and also an “At A Glance” summary of the trends of how Nebraska is doing in each area.

This Report and the Executive Summary are available on the Legislature’s Website at <http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/reports/lpc.php>

State Planning Committee

Mission Statement

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

State Planning Committee Goals

Economy

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

Agriculture

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

Education

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

Health and Human Services

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

Natural Resources

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

Public Safety

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

State and local Government

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

Transportation and Telecommunications

Goal: Ensure Nebraska's effective connectivity via transportation and

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Agriculture

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
FARM INCOME				
Rural Per Capita Income, 2012	\$25,875	\$27,503	21	↑
Rural Poverty Rate, 2012	13.7%	8.9%	40	↓
Farm Employment, 2012	2,616,000	47,969	25	↓
Rural Unemployment Rate, 2012	8.0%	3.6%	n.a.	↓
FARM RECEIPTS				
Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products, 2012 (Million \$)	\$198,637.0	\$13,424.0	3	↑
Cash Receipts from Crops, 2012 (Million \$)	\$221,901.8	\$12,714.6	5	↑
Government Farm Payments, 2012 (Million \$)	\$10,635.1	\$480.3	6	↑
Realized Net Farm Income, 2012 (Million \$)	\$103,958.2	\$7,675.2	3	↑
Regional Rank				
FARM OPERATIONS				
Total Farmland, 2007 (Millions of Acres)	922.1	45.5	2	↓
Number of Farms, 2012	2,170,000	46,700	5	↓
Average Farm Size, 2007 (Acres)	418	953	4	↑
Percentage of Farms with Full Owners, 2007	69.0%	50.3%	8	↑
Percentage of Farms with One Operator	57.7%	58.7%	6	↓

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Economy

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
POVERTY				
Poverty rate for persons, 2012	15.0%	12.2%	6	↑
Gini Index, 2012	0.4757	0.4339	9	↓
PERSONAL INCOME				
Per Capita Personal Income, 2012	\$43,735	\$45,012	20	↑
Percentage Change in Total Person Income, 2011-2012	4.2%	3.9%	24	↓
Net Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, 2011	0.7%	6.2%	3	↓
Transfer Receipts as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, 2011	17.2%	14.6%	40	↓
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME				
Median Household Income, 2011	\$51,371	\$50,723	26	↑
EMPLOYMENT				
Change in Employment, 2011-2012	1.9%	1.3%	40	↑
Proprietors as a Percentage of Total Employment, 2012	22.4%	20.7%	36	↑
UNEMPLOYMENT				
Annual Unemployment Rate, 2012	8.1%	3.9%	2	↓
Annual Alternative Unemployment Rate, 2012	14.7%	8.8%	3	↓
MEDIAN HOUSING VALUE				
Median Housing Value, 2012	\$171,900	\$128,300	41	↑
COMPARATIVE COSTS				
Average Annual Wage and Salary Disbursements per Job, 2012	\$49,612	\$41,268	40	↑
Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income, 2012	3.35	2.53	48	↔
BUSINESS CLIMATE				
Forbes Magazine Best States for Business, 2012	n.a.	n.a.	6	↑
America's Top States for Business, 2013	n.a.	n.a.	4	↑

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Economy (continued)

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
BUSINESS STARTUPS				
Percentage Change in New Establishments, 2011	10.4%	9.2%	33	↑
WORKFORCE QUALITY				
Individuals in Science and Engineering Occupations as a Share of the Workforce, 2010	4.00%	3.32%	30	↑
Worker's Productivity (Gross State Product per Worker), 2012	\$86,664	\$80,331	26	↑
Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Over Who Have Completed High School, 2012	86.4%	90.5%	14	↓
Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Over Who Have Completed an Associate Degree, 2012	8.0%	9.8%	8	↑
Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree, 2012	29.1%	29.0%	22	↑
Percentage of Persons 25 Years or Over Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree, 2012	10.9%	9.7%	29	↑
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION				
America's Top States for Business, Technology and Innovation, 2013	n.a.	n.a.	34	↑
State New Economy Index, 2012	n.a.	n.a.	35	↓
Academic Science and Engineering Research and Development per \$1,000 of State GDP, 2009	\$3.91	\$4.56	15	↑
Business-performed Research and Development as a Percentage of Private-industry Output, 2008	2.14%	0.76%	34	n.a.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Education

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
P-16 INITIATIVE GOALS				
Estimated Rate High School Graduates Attending Degree-Granting Institutions, 2009-2010	63.8%	69.5%	7	↑
Estimated Rate of High School Graduates Going to College in Home State, 2009-2010	51.4%	58.2%	6	↑
Six-Year Graduation Rates of Bachelor's Degree Students, 2009	55.5%	55.1%	25	n.a.
Public High School Graduation Rates, 2009-2010	78.2%	83.8%	11	↑
Public High School Dropout Rate, 2008-2009	3.4%	2.2%	40	↓
Population 16 to 19 Years, not in School and not a High School Graduate (Percent of Age Group), 2012	4.4%	3.8%	35	↓
Percentage of Population 16 to 19 Years, not in School and not a High School Graduate, Who Are not in the Labor Force, 2012	53.3%	48.9%	n.a.	↑
ACCESS				
Early Childhood Education Programs, Total Children Served, 2009-2010	n.a.	17,473	n.a.	↑
Public and Private School Fall Enrollment for Children 3 to 4 Years of Age, 2012 (Thousands)	3,988.9	24.9	25	↓
Public and Private School Fall Enrollment for Children 3 to 4 Years of Age as a Percentage of Total, 2012	47.7%	47.4%	25	↓
Public and Private School Fall Enrollment for Children 5 to 17 Years of Age, 2012 (Thousands)	52,185.2	320.8	n.a.	↑
Enrollment of Children 5 to 17 Years of Age in Public School as a Percentage of Total, 2012	89.4%	86.2%	44	↓
Percentage of Own Children under 6 Years Old with All Parents in the Labor Force, 2012	64.9%	72.6%	7	↓
Average Costs Per Full-time-equivalent Student in Public 4-year Institutions, 2011-2012	\$16,789	\$14,584	34	↑
Average Costs Per Full-time-equivalent Student in Public 2-year Institutions, 2011-2012	\$2,647	\$2,475	41	↑
			Regional Rank	
Enrollment in Institutions of Higher Education, 2011 (Thousands)	20,994.1	142.7	6	↓
Total Degrees Conferred by Degree-granting Institutions, 2010-2011	3,552,640	26,451	6	↑
Bachelor Degrees Conferred by Degree-granting Institutions, 2010-2011	1,715,913	14,196	6	↑

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Education (continued)

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
ASSESSMENT				
Average Reading Scale Score of 4th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Reading Achievement Levels, 2011	220	223	18	↔
Average Reading Scale Score of 8th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Reading Achievement Levels, 2011	264	268	18	↑
Average Mathematics Scale Score of 4th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels, 2011	240	240	31	↑
Average Mathematics Scale Score of 8th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels, 2011	283	283	28	↓
FUNDING SUSTAINABILITY				
Total Expenditures Per Pupil in Fall Enrollment in Public Elementary and Secondary Education, 2009-2010	\$12,136	\$12,955	16	↑
Estimated Net Migration of 22 to 64 Year-olds, 2011	n.a.	36	n.a.	↓

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Health and Human Services

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
HEALTH ACCESS				
Overall State Ranking on Health System Performance, 2009	n.a.	n.a.	13	n.a.
Long-Term Services and Support System, 2011	n.a.	n.a.	14	n.a.
Child Health System	n.a.	n.a.	16	n.a.
Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population That Is Uninsured, 2012	14.8%	11.3%	35	↓
Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population Under 18 Years That Is Uninsured, 2012	7.2%	6.0%	23	↑
Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutional Population 18 to 64 Years That Is Uninsured, 2012	20.6%	15.8%	35	↓
HEALTH STATUS				
Percentage of Adult Tobacco Use, 2011	19.0%	20.0%	n.a.	↑
Percentage of Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking), 2012	n.a.	7.2%	n.a.	↓
Adult Obesity, 2011	27.6%	28.6%	n.a.	↑
Child Obesity, 2009	12.0%	11.6%	n.a.	↓
Resident Births , 2011	n.a.	25,722	n.a.	↓
Percentage of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester, 2010	n.a.	74.1%	n.a.	↑
Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Births, 2011	n.a.	5.4%	n.a.	↓
Teen Births as a Percentage of Total Births, 2011	n.a.	6.8%	n.a.	↓
FAMILY WELFARE				
Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, 2012	22.6%	17.9%	35	↓
Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty, 2012	41.5%	40.3%	25	↓
Number of State Wards, 2013	n.a.	5,284	n.a.	↓
Average Monthly Number of TANF Recipients, 2012	4,016,608	13,191	n.a.	↓
HEALTH COSTS				
Per Capita State Public Welfare Expenditures, 2010-2011	\$1,409.90	\$1,109.40	44	↓
Per Capita Local Public Welfare Expenditures, 2010-2011	\$169.10	\$73.10	16	↑
Medicaid and CHIP Vendor Payments, 2013 (Millions)	n.a.	\$1,799.5	n.a.	↑
Per Capita State Mental Health Agency Revenue, 2011-2012	\$126.49	\$83.92	37	n.a.
Community Mental Health Expenditures as a Percent of Total, 2011-2012	72.8%	65.6%	n.a.	n.a.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Natural Resources

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
AIR QUALITY				
Air Pollution Emissions, 2013 (Micrograms of Fine Particles Per Cubic Meter)	10.3	8.2	36	↔
Toxic Releases: Total Air Emissions, 2012 (Thousand Pounds)	757,475	4,628	32	n.a.
CO ₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion, 2011 (Million Metric Tons CO ₂)	n.a.	52.26	16	↑
LAND QUALITY AND WASTE				
Number of Hazardous Waste Sites on the National Priority List, 2013	1,305	13	31	↔
Toxic Chemical Releases: Total On- and Off-site Releases, 2012 (Pounds)	3,632.1	23.6	34	↓
Toxic Releases: Total Surface Water Discharges, 2012 (Thousand Pounds)	215,805	10,523	6	↓
ENERGY				
Average Price Per Kilowatt Hour, 2012 (Cents Per Kilowatt Hour)	9.84	8.37	37	↑
Average Price of Electricity to Residential Sector, 2012 (Cents Per Kilowatt Hour)	n.a.	12.00	27	n.a.
Energy Consumption Per Person, 2011 (Million BTUs)	n.a.	473	7	↑
Energy Expenditures, 2011 (Million \$)	\$1,394,088	\$9,971	35	↑
Energy Expenditures Per Capita, 2011	\$4,474	\$5,413	11	↑
			Regional Rank	
Percentage of Electricity Generated Through Renewable Sources, 2010	12.8%	4.9%	8	↑

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Public Safety

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
CRIME				
Murder Rate Per 100,000 Population, 2012	4.7	2.9	38	↓
Violent Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population, 2012	386.9	259.4	38	↑
Property Crime Rate Per 100,000 Population, 2012	2,859.2	2,754.9	26	↑
Arrests for Drug Abuse Violation, 2011	1,552,432	10,433	32	↓
RECIDIVISM				
Recidivism Rates, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Kearney, Nebraska, 2011-2012	n.a.	25.3%	n.a.	↓
Recidivism Rates, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Geneva, Nebraska, 2011-2012	n.a.	15.1%	n.a.	↓
JUVENILE INTAKES				
Juvenile Arrest Rate Per 100,000 Juvenile Population, Violent Crime Index, 2010	225	109	40	↓
Juvenile Arrest Rate Per 100,000 Juvenile Population, Property Crime Index, 2010	1,084	1,920	1	↓
PUBLIC SECTOR FUNDING				
Per Capita State Public Safety Expenditures, 2010-2011	\$220.00	\$202.70	25	↓
Per Capita Local Public Safety Expenditures, 2010-2011	\$504.00	\$344.90	38	↑

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—State and Local Government

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
UNITS OF GOVERNMENT				
Local Governments Units Per 100,000 Population, 2012	28.69	139.10	4	↓
EMPLOYMENT AND PAYROLL				
State Government Employment Per 10,000 Population, 2011	139.91	174.02	20	↓
State Government Monthly Payroll Per FTE, 2011	\$4,581.35	\$3,803.99	44	↑
Local Government Employment Per 10,000 Population, 2011	385.09	482.51	4	↓
Local Government Monthly Payroll Per FTE, 2011	\$4,200.81	\$3,846.82	25	↑
EXPENDITURES, REVENUE AND DEBT				
State Direct Government Expenditure Per Capita, 2010-2011	\$3,716.85	\$3,425.39	37	↓
Local Direct Government Expenditure Per Capita, 2010-2011	\$4,573.27	\$4,458.30	14	↑
State General Revenue Per Capita, 2010-2011	\$3,406.15	\$3,250.17	32	↑
Local General Revenue Per Capita, 2010-2011	\$2,906.08	\$3,071.03	10	↓
State Debt Outstanding Per Capita, 2010-2011	\$3,635.62	\$1,273.32	49	↔
Local Debt Outstanding Per Capita, 2010-2011	\$5,696.44	\$5,751.84	13	↓
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES				
Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita, 2012-2013	\$3,992.95	\$3,339.01	41	n.a.
STATE PENSION PLANS				
Unfunded Liabilities of State Pension Plans Per Capita, 2011	n.a.	\$1,059	41	n.a.
Assets as a Percent of Liabilities of State Pension Plans, 2011	n.a.	81.5%	14	n.a.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Telecommunications

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
TELEPHONE/CELL PHONE PENETRATION				
Telephone Penetration, Percent of Households with Telephone Service, 2012	97.4%	97.6%	19	↓
Cell Phone Penetration, Percentage Change in Subscribers, 2011-2012	1.6%	1.4%	31	↑
INTERNET ACCESS				
Percentage of Residential End User Premises with Access to High-Speed Services, 2012	80.8%	80.5%	n.a.	↓
Speed of High-Speed Download Services for Internet Access (kbps), 2010	3,002	4,734	16	n.a.
SUSTAINABILITY				
Nebraska Universal Service Fund Expenditures, 2011 (Thousands \$)	n.a.	\$40,375	n.a.	↓

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database at a Glance—Transportation

	United States	Nebraska	National Rank	Trend
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE				
Road Smoothness, Percent of Miles Meeting or Exceeding Acceptable Ride Quality, 2011	n.a.	90%	n.a.	↓
Overall Highway Performance Ratings, 2009	n.a.	n.a.	6	↓
Percent of Deficient Bridges, 2012	24.94%	24.93%	27	↑
ACCIDENTS				
Railroad Accidents and Incidents, 2011	11,412	224	38	↓
Traffic Fatality Rate Per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled, 2010	1.25	0.98	17	↓
TRANSPORTATION ACCESS				
Percentage of Commuters Traveled to Work by Public Transportation, 2012	5.0%	0.6%	42	↓
Travel Time to Work, 2012 (Minutes)	25.7	18.2	48	↓
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING				
Local Highway Spending Per Capita, 2009-2010	\$202.93	\$320.40	8	↑
State Highway Spending Per Capita, 2009-2010	\$300.96	\$356.43	21	↓

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Overview of Key Indicators

Introduction

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

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

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

Agriculture

Depending upon the measure, rural Nebraskans generally fared better economically than the typical rural resident nationally. Per capita incomes were higher, and poverty and unemployment rates were considerably lower. Nebraska's rural per capita income for 2012 was \$27,503, which was 8.3% above the national average and has been growing faster than the nation's. The number of persons working on farms (including farm proprietors) was less than 48,000 in 2012. Since 1990, the number of people working on farms fell 33.4%. Nebraska farms are getting larger and fewer in numbers.

In 2012, farm marketings brought \$26.1 billion into the state. With the exception of 2009 and 2011, over the past 30 years, cash receipts from livestock and livestock products have exceeded those from crops. Net farm income resulting from these marketings rose to \$7.7 billion in 2012. Even though their impact was smaller, government farm payments continued to be an important source of income for Nebraska farmers, as the estimated farm payments to Nebraska farmers amounted to \$480 million, representing about 6.3% of the total net farm income.

Economy

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

Measures of Nebraska's income recorded a mixed performance when compared to the nation. The state fared better than the nation in terms of poverty. In 2012, Nebraska had the 17th lowest poverty rate in the nation (12.2%). In addition, Nebraska had less income inequality than the nation. However, in 2012, the median household income was \$50,723 in Nebraska compared to \$51,371 for the nation.

In contrast to median household income, Nebraska's per capita personal income in 2012 was 2.9% above the national average. Beginning in 1990, Nebraska's per capita personal income began to increase in relation to the national value. As a result of this growth, Nebraska's 2012 per capita personal income was above the national average for the second consecutive year. These last two years were the only years since 1975 that Nebraska's per capita personal income exceeded the nation's.

Nebraska's employment grew slightly in 2012 (1.3%) but rose less than the national average. Historically, Nebraska has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation, and 2012 was no exception. In 2012, Nebraska's unemployment rate was 3.9% and ranked as the second lowest nationally. Even accounting for underemployment and workers who left the labor force, Nebraska's adjusted unemployment rate in 2012 rose to 8.8%.

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

Education

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

Early childhood education can have an important role in the long-term development of a child. Just under one-half (47.4%) of Nebraska children aged three and four were enrolled in an education program. This was slightly below the national percentage. However, nearly all of the Nebraska's children aged 5 to 17 were enrolled in an education program. Private schools were more important in Nebraska than in the nation, as Nebraska recorded a smaller percentage of children aged 5 to 17 who attended public schools (86.2% for Nebraska compared to 89.4% for the nation).

One of the concerns for high school dropouts is their future employment opportunities. The Census Bureau looks at the status of persons aged 16 to 19 years of age who were not enrolled in school and not a high school graduate. In 2012, 3.8% of all persons in the age group met those criteria, and nearly half (48.9%) were not in the labor force; that is, they were not working or looking for work.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the highest labor force participation rates in the nation. As a result, a large portion of Nebraska's children have working parents. In 2012, 72.6% of Nebraska's children under 6 years old had all their parents in the labor force.

Nebraska compared favorably in the cost of higher education. In the 2011-12 academic year, the average cost for a full-time equivalent student in a public 4-year institution in Nebraska was \$14,584, ranking 31st nationally. This was below the national average of \$16,789. For 2-year public institutions, Nebraska's costs of \$2,475 were slightly lower than the nation's of \$2,647. One of the reasons that tuition is relatively low in Nebraska is that state and local appropriations for higher education per FTE student in Nebraska were above the national average. Even though tuition may be relatively low in Nebraska, tuition costs are not the only indicator of college affordability. Nebraska's per pupil spending for public elementary and secondary education, in 2009-2010, totaled \$12,955 and was higher than the national per pupil expenditure of \$12,136.

Looking at reading and mathematics scores for Nebraska's fourth and eighth graders, it appears that Nebraska generally ranked in the middle one-third of the states but ranked toward the bottom of its peer states in 2010. In reading, Nebraska ranked at or above the national median, and the relative rank

increased from fourth to eighth grade. For mathematics, Nebraska ranked below the national median in most categories, although the relative ranking increased from fourth to eighth grade.

Health and Human Services

Health access is an issue facing many Nebraskans. Even though the state's rate of uninsurance is lower than the nation's; still, 11.3% of all Nebraskans, 6.0% of children under 18 years, and 15.8% of those aged 18 to 64 years were uninsured in 2012. In addition, there are many areas of the state (particularly more rural areas) that have shortages of health care professionals. The Nebraska Office of Rural Health looks at professional shortage areas. In 2012, it showed that many of the counties in the western one-third of the state experienced shortages in primary care.

There are several measures of health status reviewed in the database. Compared to the nation, Nebraska had a lower percent of adult tobacco users, and this percentage has been decreasing since 2000. On the other hand, heavy drinking, adult obesity, and child obesity have been increasing recently. The health of mothers and children is a key component in an overall healthy population. In 2011, 74.1% of Nebraska mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester. The infant mortality rate in 2012 was 5.4 per 1,000 live births. This was down from 2011 and among the lowest rates in the past nine years. In 2011, there were 1,745 teen births, which was the lowest number for the 2005-2011 period. Overall, teen births represented 6.8% of all births.

Poverty imposes far-reaching hardships on poor children. Similar to the overall poverty rate discussed in the Economy section, the poverty rate for Nebraska's children remained little changed in 2011, with a rate of 18.1%. However, this was among the lowest in the nation, ranking 35th. In 2012, the average number of monthly recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nebraska was 13,191 persons—2,141 adults and 11,050 children. That number was down by more than 5,000 recipients since the peak in 2010.

On a per capita basis, Nebraska's expenditures on public welfare ranked low nationally and were toward the middle of the states in the region. Looking at Medicaid and CHIP expenditures per eligible person in FY 2013, the highest expenditures were for the blind and disabled at \$1,821 per eligible person and were \$1,727 per eligible person for the aged. Expenditures for children were the lowest on an eligible person basis (\$264). With the exception of ADC adult, the other categories of expenditures per eligible person were higher in FY 2013 than in most of the previous eight years. Expenditures for the aged population should be viewed with caution because the impact of the aging baby boom will not be felt for a few more years.

Natural Resources

Nebraska's air quality was high, as indicated by relatively low total air pollution emissions (36th in the nation), toxic air emissions (32nd) and carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from fossil fuel combustion (16th).

Nebraska had 13 hazardous waste sites on the national priority list in 2011; the 19th fewest in the United States. For toxic chemical releases Nebraska ranked 30th, but for toxic surface water discharges Nebraska ranked 1st in the region. Almost all of the toxic surface water discharges were nitrate compounds. For 2011 Nebraska's community water systems were among the top 3 states in the region to have reported health-based violations. The majority of these issues are due to total coliform bacteria violations or nitrate concentrations. In 2011 large portions of Nebraska's rivers and streams, and lakes and reservoirs failed to meet requirements for one or more beneficial uses. Nebraska was 3rd highest in

this regard among neighboring states for rivers and streams and second highest for lakes and reservoirs. The density of irrigation wells is highest in the Platte River Valley, and low in the Panhandle, southwestern Nebraska and parts of eastern Nebraska. Ground water level changes show the largest decreases in Box Butte, Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties.

Electricity in Nebraska costs less than the national average, although the price is rising faster. Nebraska is a relatively high consumer of energy. Nebraska ranks low in the percentage of electricity generated through renewable resources, but that is increasing. Nebraska's percentage of electricity generated by renewable resources increased from 2.6% to 4.9%, but is still below the U.S. average of 12.8%.

Public Safety

In public safety, Nebraska has lower crime rates and spends less than the national average; however, there are some troubling trends. Nebraska's rate of 2.9 murders per 100,000 is less than the national rate of 4.7, ranking 38th in the nation. This rate has been volatile in recent years; it rose from 2.2 in 2009 to 3.0 in 2010, 3.6 in 2011, then down to 2.9 in 2012. The violent crime rate in Nebraska rose slightly from 253.2 crimes per 100,000 persons to 259.4 in 2012. Nebraska ranked 38th in the nation for violent crime in 2012. Nebraska's property crime rate was up very slightly and has been relatively stable recently. Nebraska ranked 26th in the nation in property crime. Nebraska reported 10,433 arrests for drug abuse violations in 2012, ranking 32nd nationally.

Nebraska's crime trends for juveniles are problematic in some areas. In 2010, Nebraska had the highest rate in the nation for juvenile arrests for property crime. The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime in Nebraska was 48% of the United States average. Nebraska ranks 40th in the nation in juvenile arrests for violent crime. Nebraska's juvenile arrest rate for violent crime decreased by 31% in 2010 to 109, only slightly more than the recent lowest value of 105 in 2005. Nebraska's weapons arrest rate has been lower than the national average since 2005, but this rate has been volatile.

Nebraska's expenditures for public safety are below national levels at both the state and local level. More is spent at the local level on this function than at the state level. Nebraska's per capita local expenditures ranked 38th and state spending ranked 25th nationally. In FY 2010, Nebraska Department of Correctional Services spent \$178 million providing services. The most expensive facility was the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility at \$184.24 per day or \$67,247 per year.

Recent trends in recidivism at both the Kearney and Geneva youth rehabilitation and treatment centers are down. Similarly, the recidivism rate in Nebraska adult correctional facilities has been dropping overall, however there is a recent uptick in recidivism for parolees.

Since 1960, the state has experienced 55 federally declared disasters, 16 of these since 2008. The flooding in the summer of 2011 cost \$106.6 million in public damages, the largest disaster since winter storms in January 2007. Winter storms in November 2013 caused over \$3 million in public damages.

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

State and Local Government

Nebraska's low population density, strong support for public education, and the presence of public power are three important factors that affect government. The low density is part of the reason why Nebraska is high in the number of local governments and in local government employees per capita. Nebraska employs 24% more elementary and secondary school teachers than the national average and

spends more on this function. Public electric utilities are another distinctive feature of Nebraska that causes local government employment to be high. However, state and local government employee pay is lower than the national average in all categories except for local utilities. State government employment decreased in 2011, although Nebraska remains above average in this measure.

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

State general revenue per capita was below the national average and was relatively stable since last year. Local general revenue ranked 10th nationally and was 5.7% above the national average. Total state tax revenue is below the national average in all categories other than state individual income tax and the miscellaneous category. The local property tax is 13.3% above average, local motor vehicle license taxes are over eight times the national average, and "other taxes," are also significantly above the national average. Local tax collections are low for general and selective sales taxes, and zero for local income taxes. Nebraska is particularly low in state debt outstanding per capita and high in local debt outstanding. Nebraska's state pensions are generally healthier than most states. The ratio of assets to liabilities is 81.5%, 14th in the nation. For unfunded pension liabilities, Nebraska is 41st nationally (a lower ranking indicates a lower unfunded liability).

Telecommunications

Almost all Nebraska households have telephone service (land line or cell phone), and the vast majority of Nebraskans have a cell phone. As of June 2012, there were 1.67 million cell phone subscribers in Nebraska.

The ability to receive and transmit digital content or services at high speeds is a fundamental component of the telecommunications industry. However, the issue in Nebraska is not access to internet service but rather the average download speed. In 2012, 80.5% of Nebraska households had access to high speed internet service. The average download speed ranked 16th nationally in 2010.

One way to make sure advanced telecommunication services such as broadband are available to all Nebraskans is through the Universal Service Fund. There was a total of \$40.4 million spent from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund in 2011.

Transportation

Nebraska's transportation is generally good, in part because of strong financial support. Nebraska is 54% above the national average in highway spending at the local level and 9% higher than the national average at the state level. As a result, interstate highways were rated 99% smooth, and other state roads were 90% smooth. The cost-effectiveness of the state highway system was ranked 6th in the nation. However, almost one-quarter of the state's bridges were rated as deficient.

Transportation safety shows a mixed profile. Traffic fatalities were 13% below the national average. The number of railroad accidents in Nebraska was high and ranked 38th nationally (a lower ranking indicates higher accident rate) but decreased by 28% since 2008.

The most notable difference in commuting patterns is that only 0.6% of Nebraskans used public transit, compared to 5.0% nationally. Nebraska was higher in the percentage that drove to work alone, but this decreased slightly since 2011. Average commuting time in Nebraska was 18.2 minutes, the 4th lowest in the nation.

Airline passenger boardings decreased by 1.4% in 2012. The vast majority (about 90%) were from Eppley Airfield in Omaha. Boardings increased significantly at both Grand Island and Kearney.

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Agriculture

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska's economy by reviewing four broad areas: farm income; farm receipts; agricultural diversity; and farm operations. When available, data are presented for the period 1980 to 2012. At other times, the period is 2002 to 2007. The most current available data at the time the data files were put together are used. For most indicators this is 2012, but the Census of Agriculture is conducted every five years, with 2007 being the most recent year with available data. The U.S. Department of Agriculture currently is summarizing responses from farmers and ranchers for the 2012 Census of Agriculture. Some results should be available in 2014.

Farm Income

Historically, measures of Nebraska's rural income have been slightly below the national average. However, 2011 and 2012 were good years for rural Nebraska. The U.S. Census Bureau reported that Nebraska's rural per capita income for 2012 was \$27,503, which was 8.3% above the national average of \$25,399. Rural Nebraska's income ranked 21st nationally and was in the middle of the region. Although there have been year-to-year fluctuations, since 2007, Nebraska's per capita income has been growing faster than the nation's. Between 2007 and 2012, Nebraska's growth was 12.3% compared to 1.1% for the United States.

The U.S. Census Bureau measured the poverty rate for persons living in rural Nebraska in 2012. Using this measure, rural Nebraskans also fared better than the nation with a poverty rate of 8.9% compared to 13.7% for the nation. Regionally, Nebraska was tied for the 3rd lowest rural poverty rate. Since 2007, rural Nebraska's poverty rate has fluctuated from year-to-year, but the 2012 rate was the same as the 2007 rate.

Nebraska ranked 25th nationally and 5th regionally in the number of persons working on farms (this includes farm proprietors). Since 1990, the number of people working on farms fell 33.4%. Even though farm employment increased by nearly 2,800 persons between 2008 and 2011, the 2012 employment level dropped below 2008. Nationally, the decline since 1990 was 17.1%. Even though rural employment has been declining, Nebraska's rural unemployment rate was 3.6% in 2012 and was the 2nd lowest in the region, behind North Dakota.

Farm Receipts

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported cash receipts from livestock and livestock products in 2012 at \$13.4 billion. This ranked 3rd nationally and only behind Iowa in the region. Cash receipts from crops totaled \$12.7 billion in 2012. Nebraska ranked 5th nationally but was lower than Iowa and Minnesota in the region. Historically, cash receipts from livestock and livestock products have exceeded those from crops, but in 2011 and 2009, crop receipts actually exceeded those from livestock and livestock products. These were the only two years in over 30 years where crop receipts exceeded those from livestock.

Although still an important source of income for Nebraska farmers, government farm payments were a smaller share of farm income than any time in the past 30 years. In 2012, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis estimated farm payments to Nebraska farmers were \$480 million. This was the 6th highest nationally and 4th in the region.

Net farm income for Nebraska rose to \$7.7 billion in 2011. This was 3rd nationally but was less than Iowa in the region. Since 2006, Nebraska's net farm income has more than tripled.

Agricultural Diversity

Agricultural diversity looks at the commodities produced in Nebraska and exported from Nebraska. In 2012, the top five agricultural commodities produced in Nebraska were cattle and calves; corn; soybeans; hogs; and wheat. The five most important agricultural exports were soybeans; corn; beef and veal; feeds and fodder; and grain products. Nationally, Nebraska ranked 5th in the value of exports.

Farm Operations

Every five years, in years ending in 2 and 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture conducts a Census of Agriculture. Since the next Census currently is being summarized, most of the information for farm operations is unchanged from previous reports. However, there are more recent estimates for the number of farms. In 2011, Nebraska had 46,700 farms and ranches. This number ranked 5th in the region. Since 2007, the number of Nebraska farms fell about 2.0%.

According to the 2007 Census of Agriculture, Nebraska had 45.5 million acres in farmland (including ranches). This was a decrease of 0.9% since 2002. Between 2002 and 2007, the average Nebraska farm size increased from 930 acres to 953 acres (2.5%). Regionally, Nebraska and South Dakota were the only states experiencing an increase in the average farm size. Nationally, the average farm size dropped 5.2% from 441 acres to 418 acres. Approximately, 41% of Nebraska farms and ranches had sales of \$100 thousand or more, and only 5% had sales of \$1 million or more.

Nebraska farm operators were less likely to be full owners than farm operators nationally and in the region. Overall, in 2007, 50.3% of Nebraska farm operators were full owners (compared to part owners and renters). For the nation, the comparable figure was 69.0%.

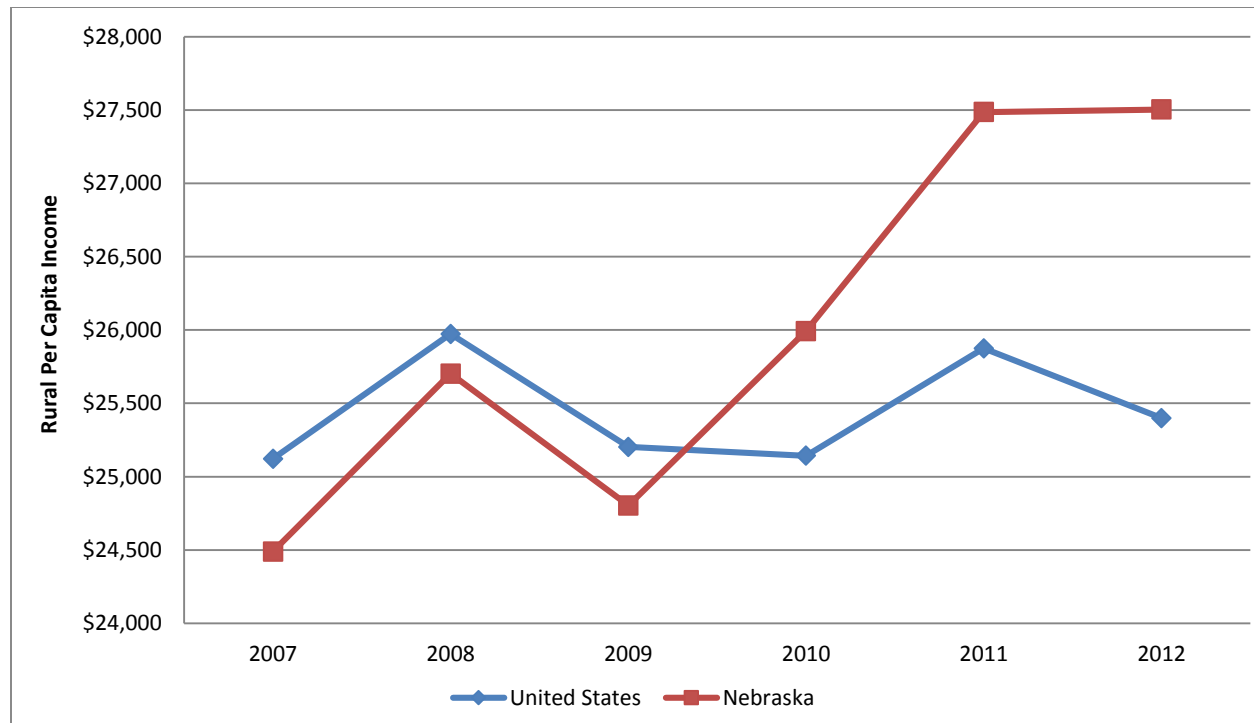
Farm Income

Rural Per Capita Income, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Per Capita Income	National Rank
United States	\$25,399	
Colorado	\$32,809	7
North Dakota	\$30,574	9
Wyoming	\$30,348	10
Minnesota	\$28,890	13
Iowa	\$27,706	19
Nebraska	\$27,503	21
Kansas	\$26,382	24
South Dakota	\$25,792	27
Missouri	\$22,095	40

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Rural Per Capita Income (Inflation-adjusted dollars), Nebraska and the United States: 2007-2012



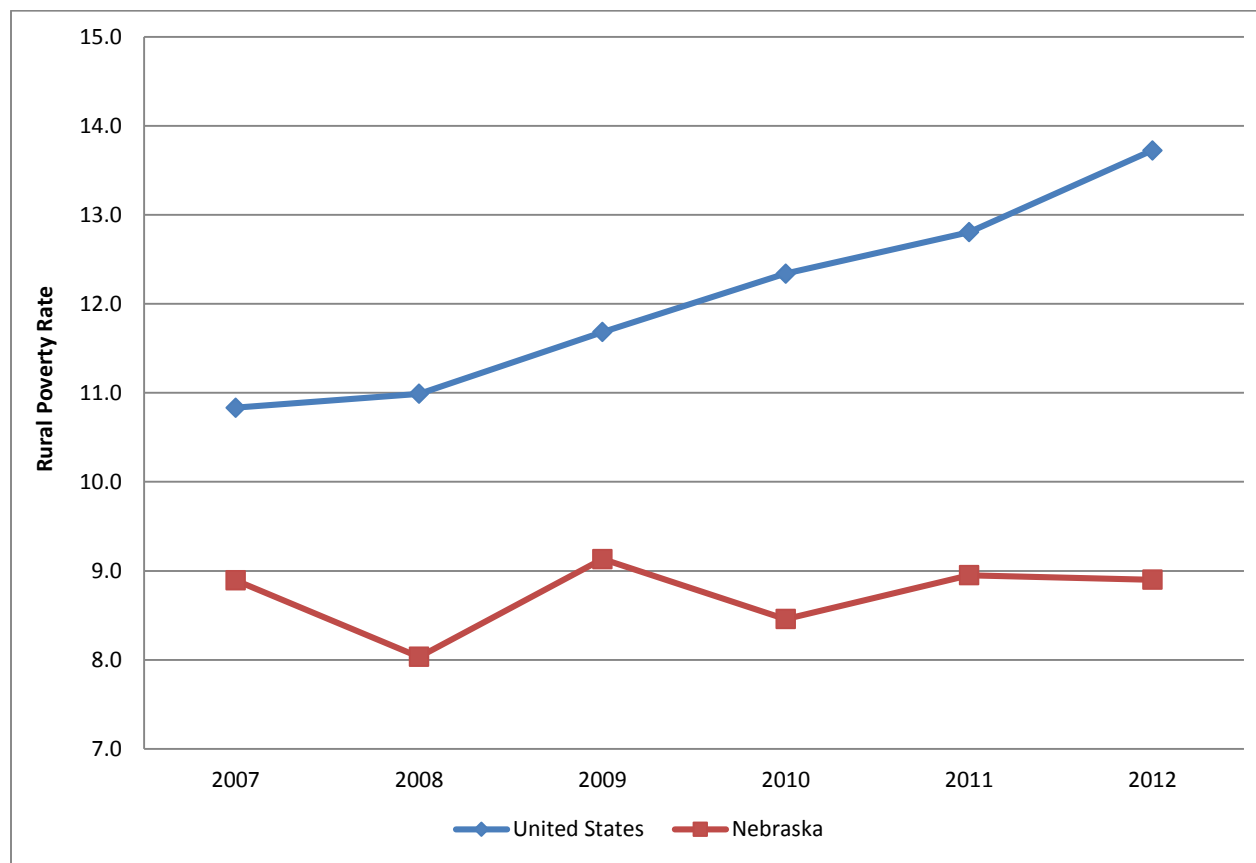
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-2012; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Rural Poverty Rate, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Rural Poverty Rate	National Rank
United States	13.7	
Missouri	15.3	17
South Dakota	13.6	21
North Dakota	11.8	28
Colorado	11.3	30
Kansas	9.7	38
Nebraska	8.9	40
Minnesota	8.9	40
Iowa	8.7	42
Wyoming	7.9	44

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Rural Poverty Rate, Nebraska and the United States: 2007-2012



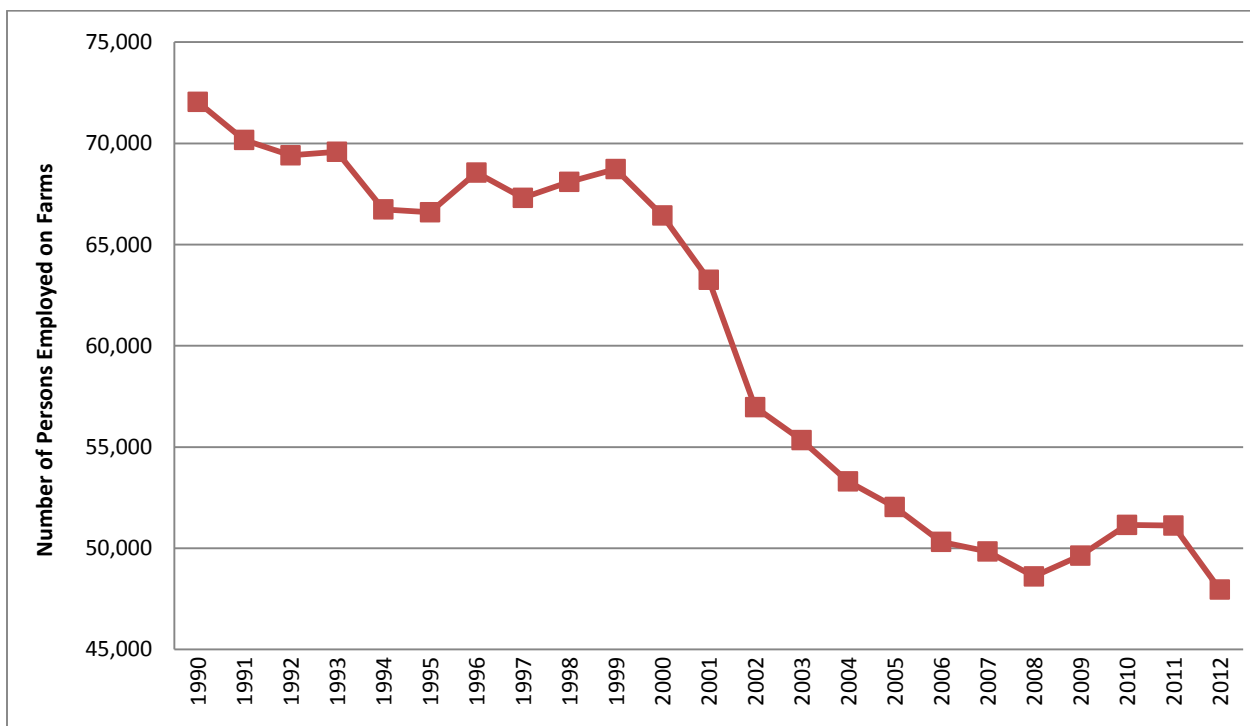
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2012; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Farm Employment, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Persons Employed	National Rank
United States	2,616,000	
Missouri	102,798	3
Iowa	88,357	6
Minnesota	85,538	9
Kansas	64,669	17
Nebraska	47,969	25
Colorado	43,820	26
North Dakota	33,406	29
South Dakota	33,405	30
Wyoming	12,773	40

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Farm Employment, Nebraska: 1990-2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Rural Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Unemployment Rate	Regional Rank
United States	8.0	
Missouri	7.4	1
Colorado	7.9	2
Minnesota	6.0	3
Iowa	5.4	4
Wyoming	5.4	5
Kansas	5.1	6
South Dakota	4.5	7
Nebraska	3.6	8
North Dakota	3.0	9

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, State Fact Sheets; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Farm Receipts

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Cash Receipts (\$000)	National Rank
United States	\$198,636,935	
Iowa	\$15,109,875	2
Nebraska	\$13,423,999	3
Kansas	\$11,421,865	5
Minnesota	\$8,522,553	7
Colorado	\$5,165,231	11
Missouri	\$4,953,092	13
South Dakota	\$4,202,049	17
North Dakota	\$1,278,141	35
Wyoming	\$1,235,198	37

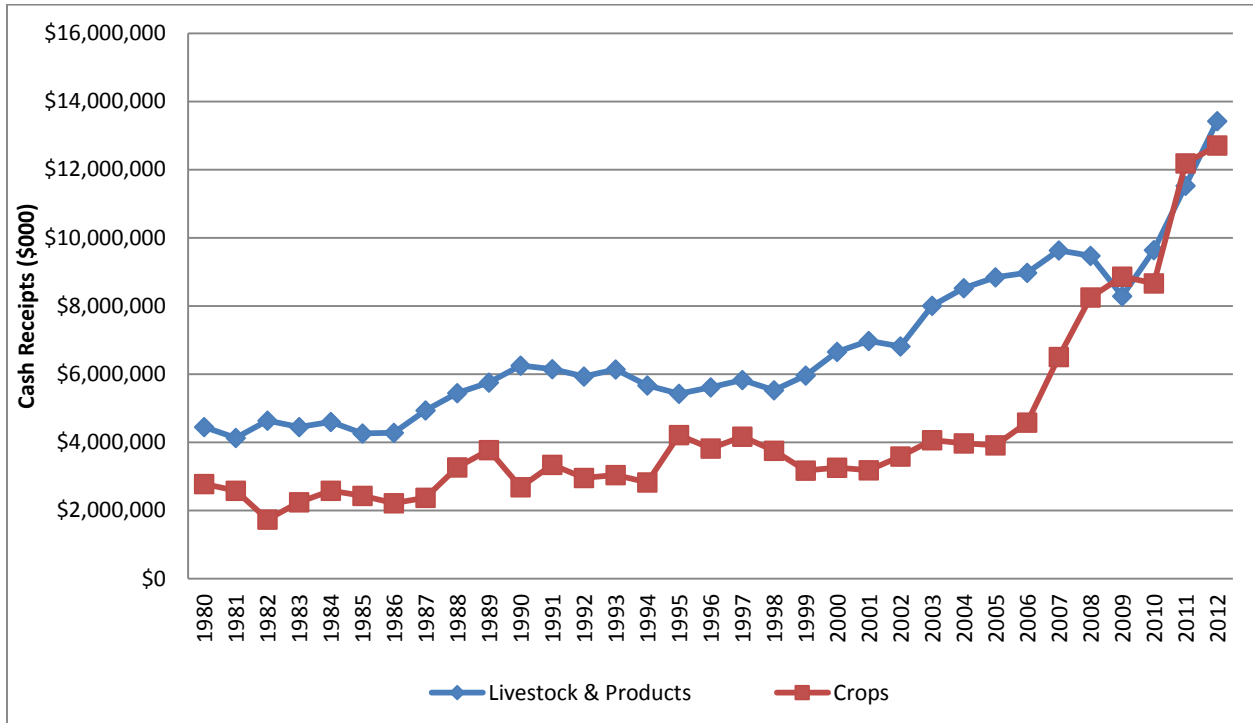
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Cash Receipts from Crops, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Cash Receipts (\$000)	National Rank
United States	\$221,901,804	
Iowa	\$18,944,906	2
Minnesota	\$13,195,019	4
Nebraska	\$12,714,642	5
North Dakota	\$7,544,606	8
Kansas	\$7,099,523	9
South Dakota	\$6,458,871	13
Missouri	\$5,393,545	14
Colorado	\$2,906,264	23
Wyoming	\$428,563	40

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products and Crops, Nebraska: 1980-2012



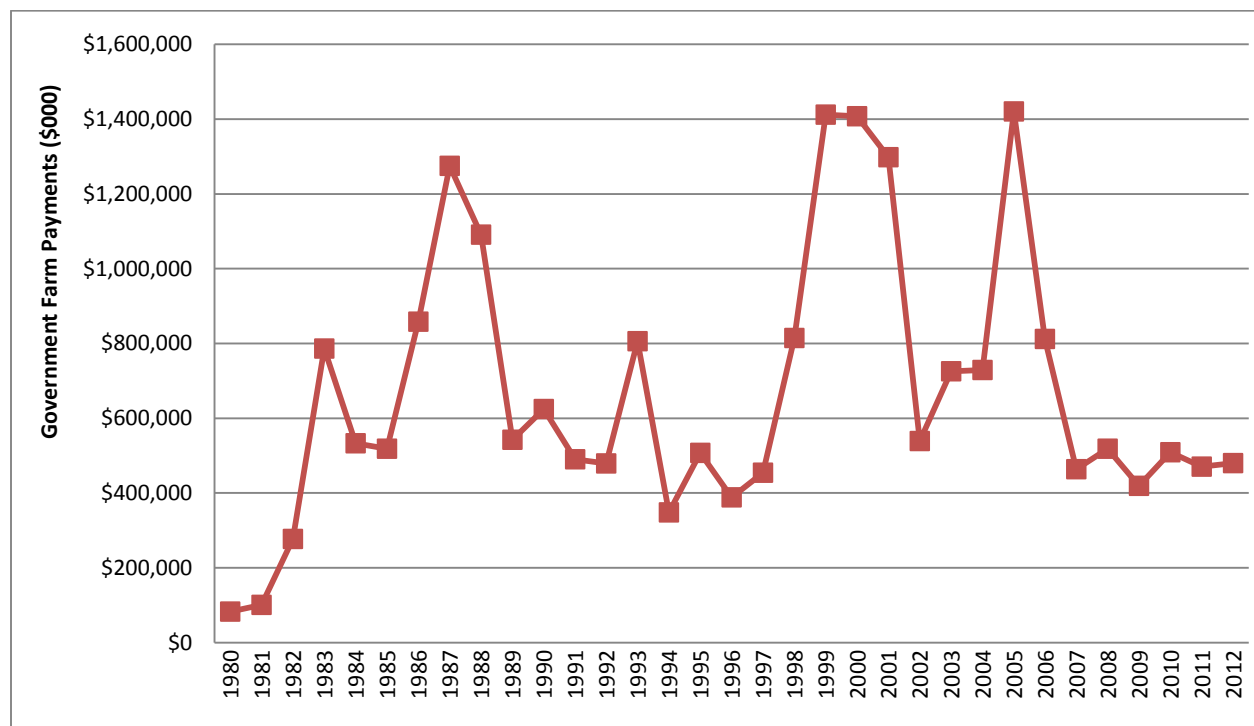
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Government Farm Payments, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Payments (\$000)	National Rank
United States	\$10,635,115	
Iowa	\$855,352	1
Minnesota	\$534,668	4
Kansas	\$518,589	5
Nebraska	\$480,334	6
North Dakota	\$409,094	8
Missouri	\$395,991	9
South Dakota	\$330,831	11
Colorado	\$215,677	22
Wyoming	\$42,573	37

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Government Farm Payments, Nebraska: 1980-2012



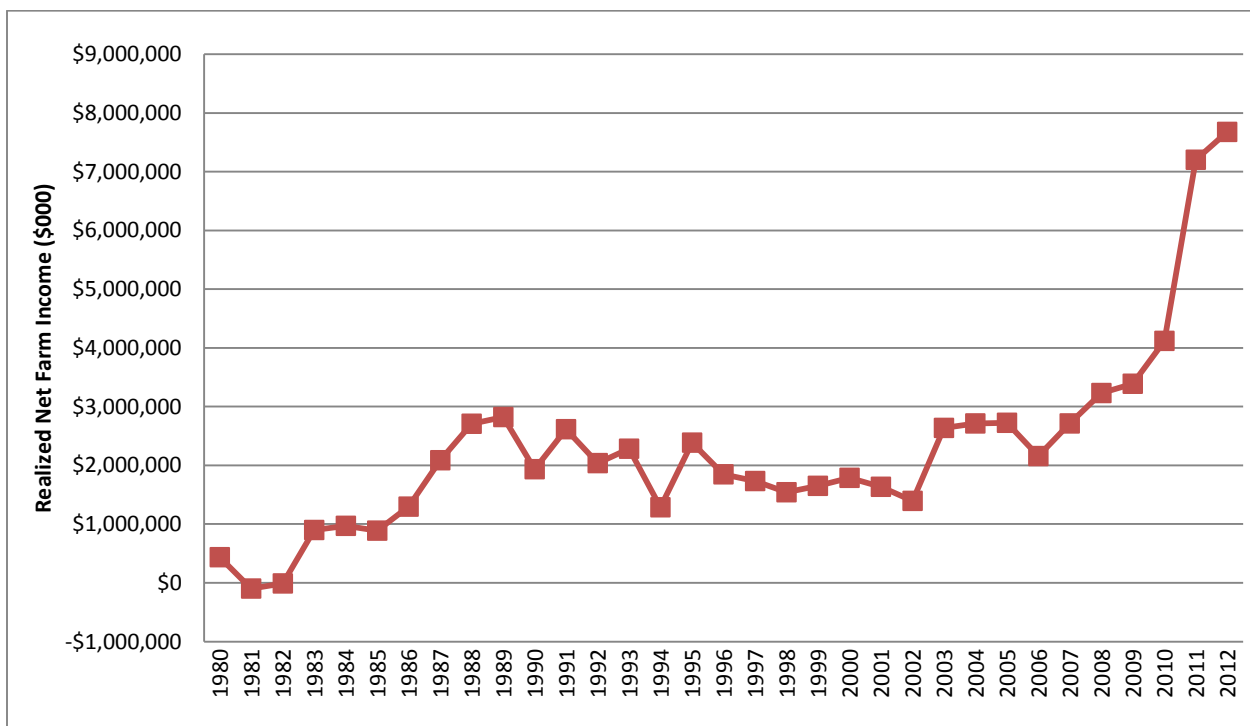
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Realized Net Farm Income, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Income (\$000)	National Rank
United States	\$103,958,152	
Iowa	\$11,686,795	2
Nebraska	\$7,675,222	3
Minnesota	\$6,622,336	5
South Dakota	\$4,061,057	7
Kansas	\$3,217,815	10
North Dakota	\$2,102,028	16
Missouri	\$1,856,916	18
Colorado	\$1,762,667	19
Wyoming	\$345,987	35

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Realized Net Farm Income, Nebraska: 1980-2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Agricultural Diversity

Top 5 Agriculture Commodities, Nebraska: 2012

Commodities	Value of receipts (\$000)	Percent of Nebraska total farm receipts	Percent of United States total farm receipts	Regional Rank
1. Cattle and calves	\$10,360,532	42.3%	15.2%	1
2. Corn	\$8,520,235	34.8%	12.3%	2
3. Soybeans	\$3,028,481	12.4%	7.4%	3
4. Hogs	\$888,735	3.6%	4.0%	4
5. Wheat	\$414,614	1.7%	2.7%	5
All commodities	\$24,465,882		6.2%	

Source: State Fact Sheets, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Top 5 Agriculture Exports, Estimates, Nebraska: FY 2012

	Value (\$ Million)	National Rank
Soybeans	\$1,829	5
Corn	\$1,150	3
Beef and veal	\$840	2
Feeds and fodder	\$713	3
Grain products	\$557	3
Total exports	\$7,286	5

Source: State Fact Sheets, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Farm Operations

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

	Millions of Acres		2007 Regional Rank	Percentage Change
	2002	2007		
United States	938.3	922.1		-1.7%
Kansas	47.2	46.3	1	-1.9%
Nebraska	45.9	45.5	2	-0.9%
South Dakota	43.8	43.7	3	-0.3%
North Dakota	39.3	39.7	4	1.0%
Colorado	31.1	31.6	5	1.6%
Iowa	31.7	30.7	6	-3.1%
Wyoming	34.4	30.2	7	-12.3%
Missouri	29.9	29.0	8	-3.1%
Minnesota	27.5	26.9	9	-2.2%

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Number of Farms, Regional Comparison: 2007, 2011 and 2012

	Number of Farms			2012 Regional Rank
	2007	2011	2012	
United States	2,204,792	2,181,630	2,170,000	
Missouri	107,825	106,500	106,000	1
Iowa	92,856	92,300	92,200	2
Minnesota	80,992	79,800	79,400	3
Kansas	65,531	65,500	65,500	4
Nebraska	47,712	46,800	46,700	5
Colorado	37,054	36,700	36,300	6
North Dakota	31,970	31,900	31,600	7
South Dakota	31,169	31,300	31,000	8
Wyoming	11,069	11,000	10,800	9

Source: State Fact Sheets, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

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

	Percentage Change	Regional Rank
Kansas	0.0%	1
South Dakota	-0.5%	2
Iowa	-0.7%	3
North Dakota	-1.2%	4
Missouri	-1.7%	5
Minnesota	-2.0%	6
Colorado	-2.0%	7
Nebraska	-2.1%	8
Wyoming	-2.4%	9

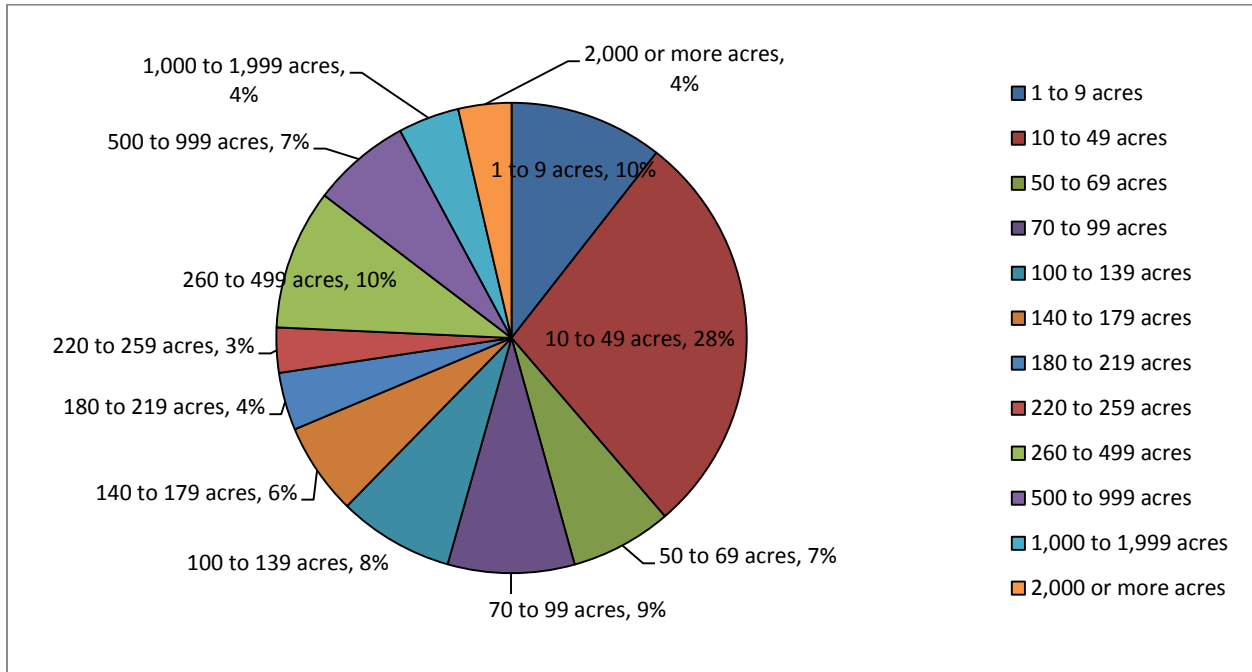
Sources: 2007 Census of Agriculture and State Fact Sheets, National Agricultural Statistics, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

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

	Average Size of Farm (Acres)		2007 Regional Rank	Percentage Change
	2002	2007		
United States	441	418		-5.2%
Wyoming	3,651	2,726	1	-25.3%
South Dakota	1,380	1,410	2	1.5%
North Dakota	1,283	1,241	3	-3.3%
Nebraska	930	953	4	2.5%
Colorado	991	853	5	-13.9%
Kansas	733	707	6	-3.5%
Minnesota	340	332	7	-2.4%
Iowa	350	331	8	-5.4%
Missouri	280	269	9	-3.9%

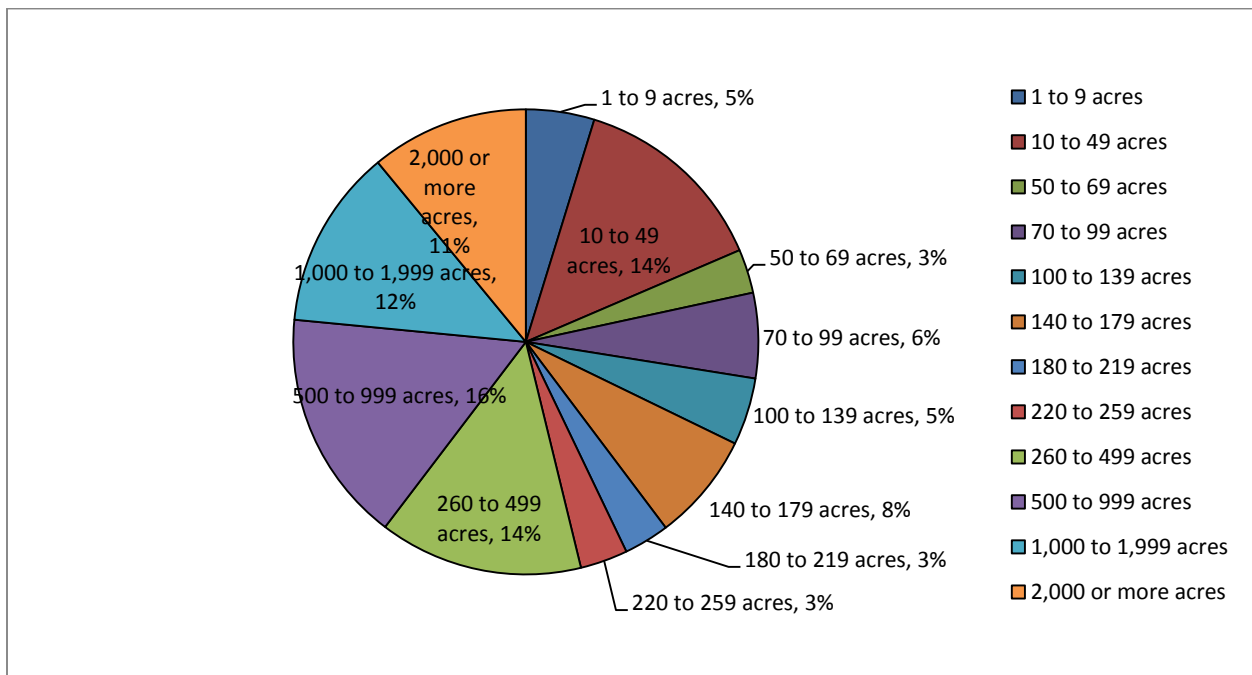
Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Farms by Size, United States: 2007



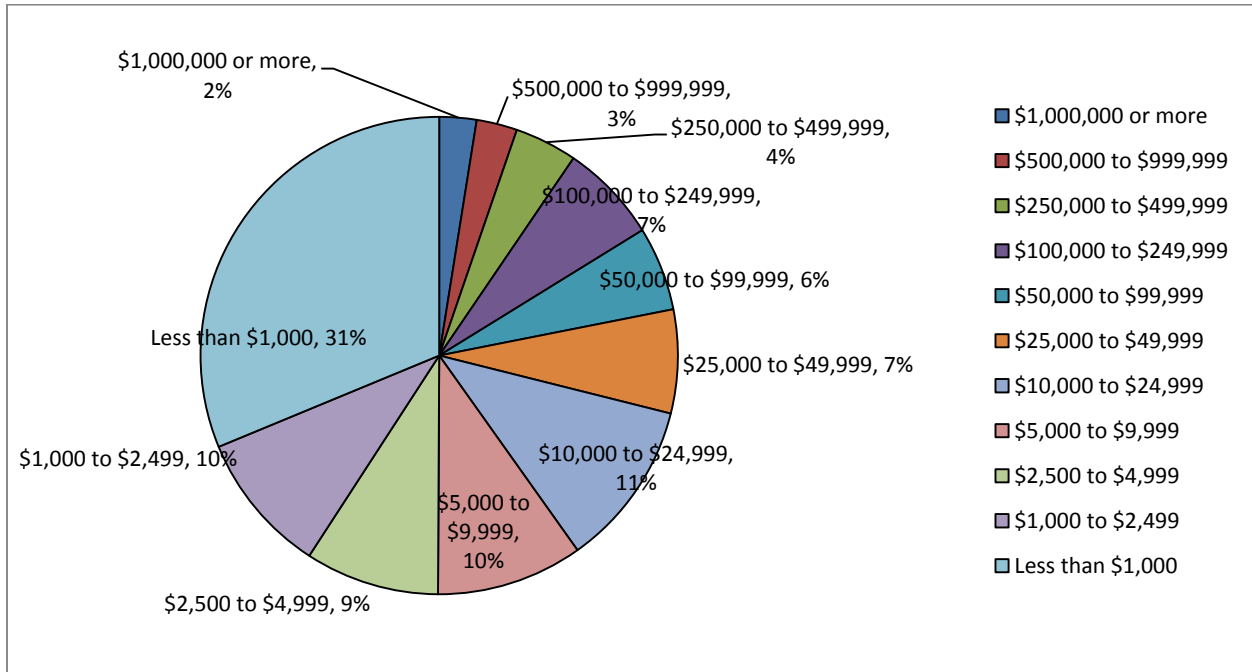
Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, July 2010

Farms by Size, Nebraska: 2007



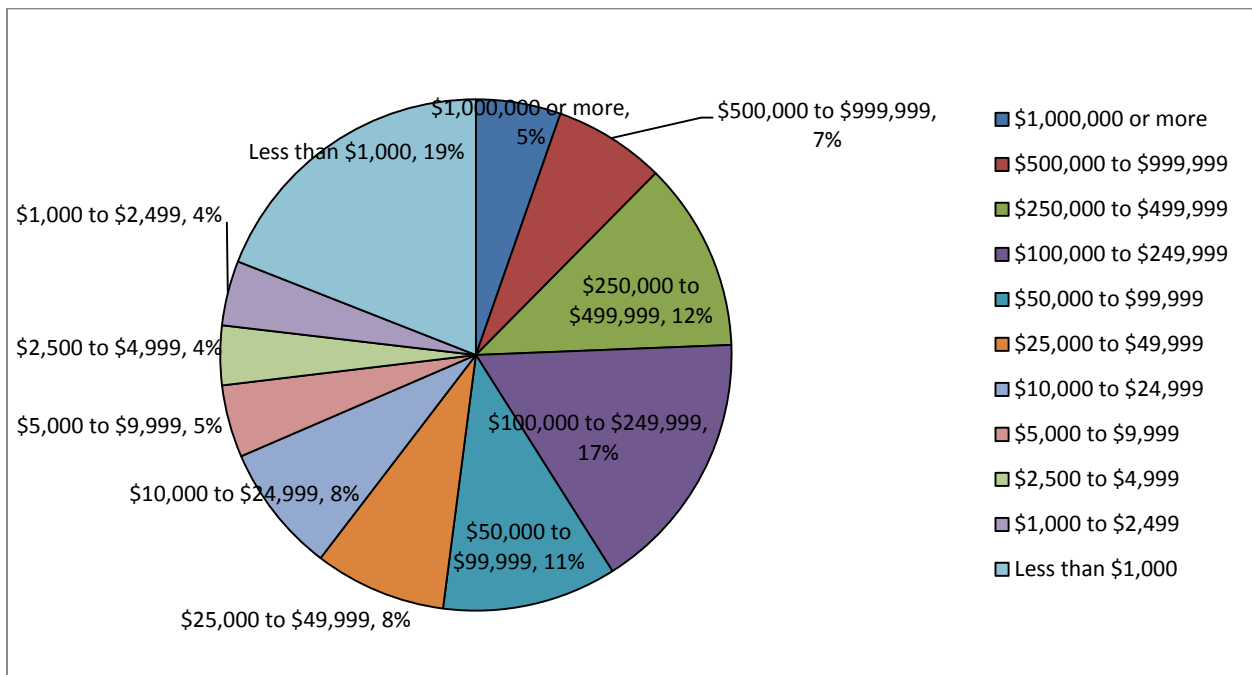
Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, July 2011

Farms by Value of Sales, United States: 2007



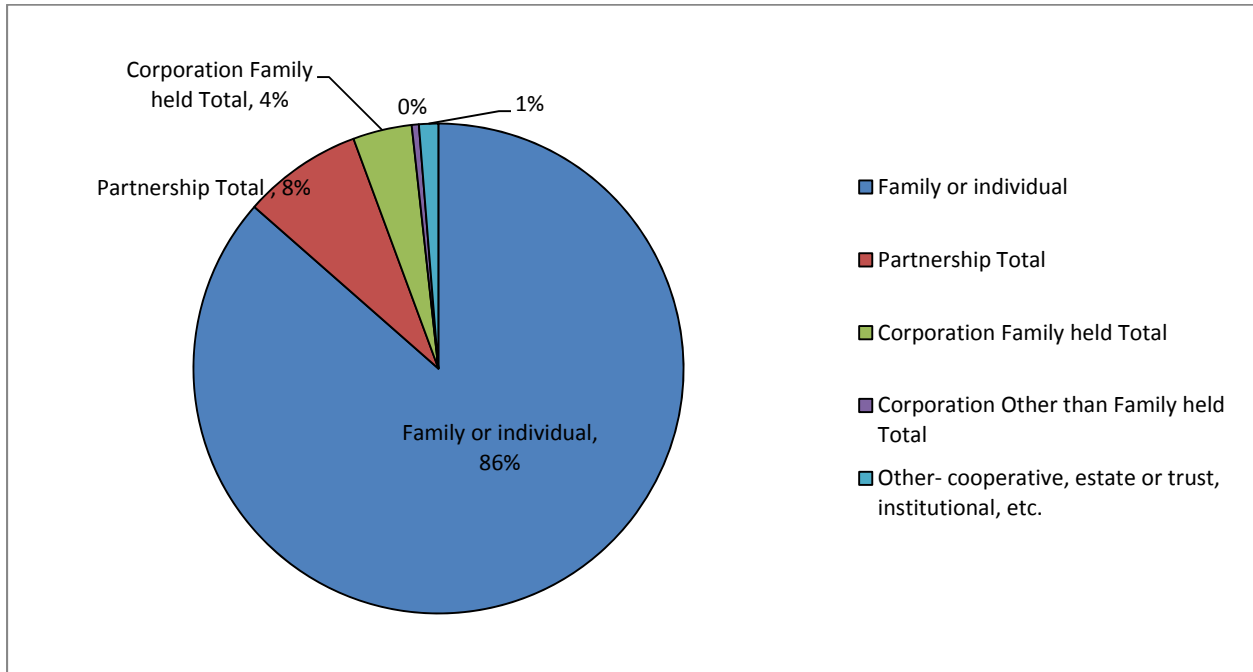
Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, July 2010

Farms by Value of Sales, Nebraska: 2007



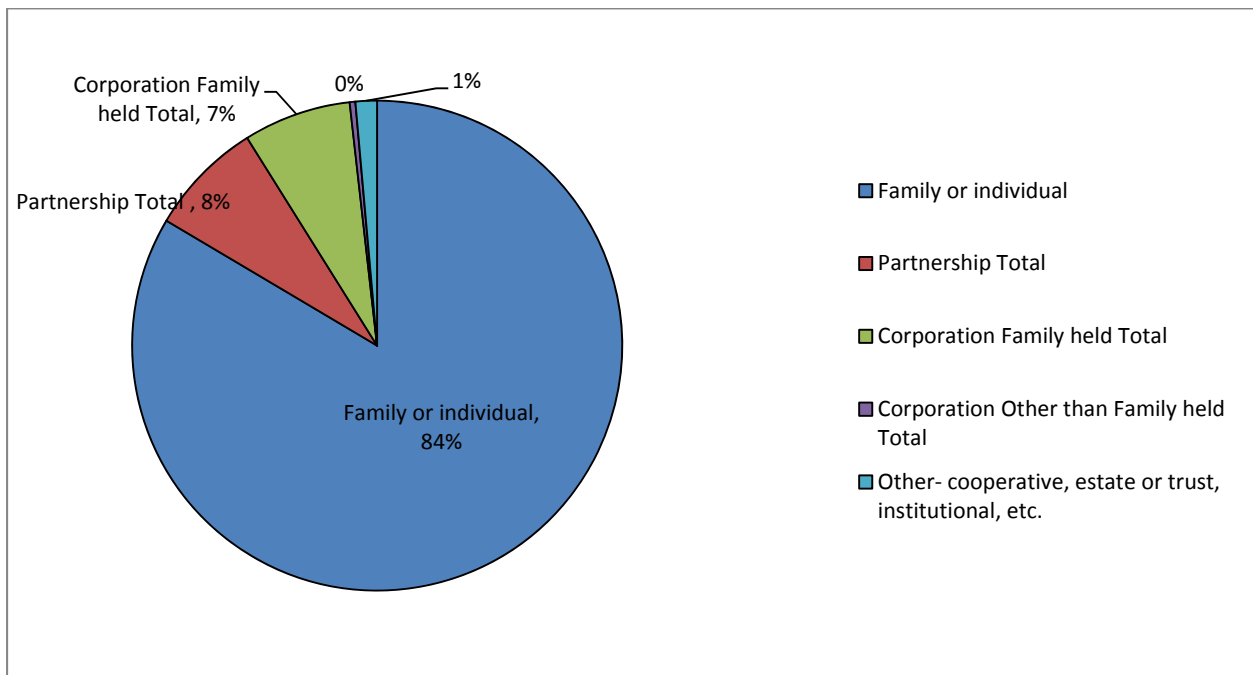
Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, July 2011

Farm Organization (Percentage of Total), United States: 2007



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, July 2010

Farm Organization (Percentage of Total), Nebraska: 2007



Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 2007; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, July 2011

Tenure of Farmers and Number of Farm Operators, Regional Comparison: 2007

	Percent of Farms with Full Owners	Percent of Farms with One Operator
United States	69.0%	57.7%
Colorado	71.5%	47.1%
Iowa	57.6%	62.0%
Kansas	58.7%	59.9%
Minnesota	63.5%	61.0%
Missouri	71.8%	56.6%
Nebraska	50.3%	58.7%
North Dakota	51.0%	65.9%
South Dakota	50.1%	60.1%
Wyoming	64.4%	46.1%

Source: National Agricultural Statistics Service, United States Department of Agriculture, 2007; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Introduction

This benchmark examines Nebraska's economy by reviewing four broad areas: income, poverty, and comparative costs; employment; business climate and business start-ups; and workforce quality, technology, and innovation. When available, data are presented for the period 1980 to 2012. At other times, the period is 2000 to 2012. The most currently available data at the time the data files were put together are used. For most indicators this is 2012.

Income, Poverty and Comparative Costs

Generally, measures of Nebraska's income are slightly below the national average, while the state fares better than the nation in terms of poverty. In 2012, Nebraska had the 17th lowest poverty rate in the nation. During 2012, 12.2% of Nebraskans fell below the federal poverty level. Among Nebraska's peers in 2012, Wyoming had the lowest rate of 9.6%. The national average was 15.0%.

Since 1980, Nebraska consistently has had a poverty rate significantly below the national rate. During the 1990s the United States' rate increased, while Nebraska's rate declined. Since 2000, Nebraska has experienced a sizeable increase in the poverty rate, with much of the increase occurring in the most recent year. Overall, the increase was comparable to the national increase. While the gap between the United States and Nebraska had been widening since 2000, Nebraska's 2012 rate significantly narrowed that gap.

The Gini Index is a summary measure of income inequality. The Gini Index varies from 0 to 1, with 0 indicating perfect equality where there is a proportional distribution of income. A 1 indicates perfect inequality where one household has all the income and others do not have any. In 2012, using this measure, Nebraska had less income inequality than the nation and ranked 9th. Only Wyoming, Iowa, and South Dakota recorded less income inequality than Nebraska.

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

In 2012, Nebraska had the 20th highest per capita personal income in the nation. During 2011, Nebraska's per capita personal income was \$45,012 and was 2.9% above the national value. Among Nebraska's peers in 2012, North Dakota had the highest value at \$54,871, followed by Wyoming at \$50,567. Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri all had per capita incomes below that of Nebraska. The national average was \$43,735.

Nebraska's per capita income in 2012 was above the national average for the second consecutive year but only the sixth time since the data series began in 1929. This improvement in Nebraska's per capita personal income began in 1990.

The percentage change in Nebraska's total personal income (3.9%) between 2011 and 2012 ranked 24th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers during this period, North Dakota, had the highest growth rates in the nation, with increases in per capita personal income of 18.7%. Colorado, Minnesota, and Wyoming also recorded higher increases per capita personal incomes than Nebraska. South Dakota reported the lowest growth rate in the nation.

In 2011, Nebraska's net farm income was 6.2% of Nebraska's total personal income and ranked as the 3rd highest percentage nationally. North Dakota (11.2%) and South Dakota (8.8%) recorded the highest percentages of farm income. Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, and Wyoming recorded percentages higher than the national average, while Colorado and Missouri were below the national average. Nationally, 0.7% of total personal income came from net farm income.

Generally, states in the region are among the lowest in the proportion of personal income received from transfer payments. Only Missouri (19.9%) exceeded the national value of 17.2% of personal income received from transfers. In 2012, Nebraska received 14.6% of its personal income from transfers. This ranked 40th among the 50 states and District of Columbia. North Dakota recorded the smallest percentage (12.1%) of income from transfer receipts in the region.

In 2012, the median household income was \$50,723 in Nebraska. This value ranked 26th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers, Minnesota (\$58,906), Colorado (\$56,765), Wyoming (\$54,901), and North Dakota (\$53,585) exceeded the national average.

Since 2000, Nebraska's median household income has exhibited a growth rate about the same rate as the national rate, although there have been year-to-year fluctuations. In 2000, Nebraska's median household income of \$39,250 was 93.5% of the national value of \$41,994. By 2012, the comparable percentage rose to 98.7% of the national average.

After adjustment for price changes, household income in both Nebraska and the United States has declined significantly since 2000. Nebraska's 2012 median household income is 6.2% lower in real terms than it was in the 2000 Census, while the national median household income was down 11.2%.

Comparative costs generally are lower in Nebraska than the nation. In this section, we look at two measures of costs: annual wage and salary disbursements per job and ratio of median housing value to median household income. In 2012, the average wage and salary disbursements per job were \$41,268 in Nebraska and \$49,612 for the United States. Nationally, Nebraska ranked 40th and above Iowa and South Dakota in the region. Lower wages and salaries may mean lower costs of business, but they also may explain the somewhat lower incomes for Nebraskans.

The relative cost of housing is the other indicator in this section. The states in Nebraska's region are among the most affordable when looking at the value of housing compared to income. In 2012 Nebraska recorded 48th lowest for ratio of median housing cost to median household income (2.53). Iowa reported the 50th lowest ratio in the country. With the exception of Colorado and Wyoming, Nebraska's peers had ratios below the national average of 3.35.

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

Employment

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

The percentage change in Nebraska's employment (1.3%) between 2011 and 2012 ranked 40th nationally. Among Nebraska's peers during this period, North Dakota led the nation with a growth rate

of 6.9%. Colorado was the only other state in the region to exceed the national employment growth rate of 1.9%. Regionally, only Missouri recorded a lower employment growth rate than Nebraska.

With the exception of six years (including 2009 and 2010), employment in Nebraska has increased every year since 1980. Between 2008 and 2009, employment in Nebraska fell 1.6% but was much less than the 3.2% drop nationally.

In 2012, Nebraska had a total of 20.7% of its employment as nonfarm and farm proprietors, which ranked 36th nationally and toward the bottom of its peer states. Colorado (25.5%), Wyoming (24.0%), and South Dakota (23.8%) were among the top ten states in the nation. Nationally, proprietors accounted for 22.4% of all jobs.

Despite the fact that Nebraska ranked relatively low in the percentage of proprietors, this percentage has been steadily increasing since 2003 when it was below 20.0%.

Unemployment is another important indicator of an area's economic well-being. In 2012, Nebraska's unemployment rate was 3.9% and ranked as the 2nd lowest nationally. Nebraska and its peer states recorded the lowest unemployment rates in the nation. North Dakota, Nebraska, and South Dakota had the three lowest unemployment rates, with rates of 3.5%, 4.4%, and 4.7%, respectively. None of Nebraska's peer states had a rate higher than the national value of 8.1%.

Since 1980, Nebraska's unemployment rate has shown a pattern similar to the national rate, but consistently has fallen below it. The exception to this trend occurred in the 1990s when the national rate rose between 1989 and 1992 and then fell steadily until 2000. In contrast, Nebraska's rate was relatively steady until 2000 and then began to increase. Notice that between 2009 and 2010, Nebraska's unemployment rate remained relatively flat while the unemployment rate for the United States increased.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation even accounting for underemployment and workers who left the labor force. Nebraska's adjusted unemployment rate in 2012 was 8.8% and ranked 3rd lowest in the nation behind North Dakota and South Dakota. The comparable national rate was 14.7%.

Business Climate and Business Start-ups

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

In 2012, Nebraska ranked 4th in overall business climate as measured by Forbes. Only two of Nebraska's peer states ranked higher: North Dakota (2nd) and Colorado (5th). Nebraska ranked above North Dakota in 2010. Generally, the business climates (as measured by Forbes) of Nebraska's peer states rank in the upper one-half of all states.

According to CNBC's rankings, Nebraska ranked as the 4th top state for business in 2012. Nebraska ranked toward the top of its peer states. Only South Dakota and North Dakota ranked higher. According to CNBC, Nebraska and its peer states comprise one-half of the top 15 states for business climate.

On the other hand, Nebraska ranked relatively low in business start-ups. New businesses are one indicator of economic growth and reflect the overall strength of an area's economy. In 2011, Nebraska ranked 33rd in the percentage change in new establishments (business startups) as 9.2% of the change

in Nebraska establishments was due to business births. For the most part, Nebraska and its peers ranked relatively low regarding business startups. The weakest states were South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, and Iowa. The strongest state was Colorado with a ranking of 4th. For the United States, 10.1% of the change in establishments was due to business births.

Workforce Quality, Technology, and Innovation

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

In 2010, Nebraska's share of the workforce in science and engineering occupations was 3.32%. This was below the national average of 4.00%. Colorado led the region with a percentage of 5.85% and ranked 5th nationally. Minnesota, Missouri, and Kansas also ranked higher than Nebraska, while North Dakota, Wyoming, Iowa, and South Dakota ranked below Nebraska.

Most of Nebraska's peer states had productivity levels below the nation's output per worker of \$86,664. Nebraska ranked 26th nationally, with an output per worker of \$80,331. Wyoming was the highest state in the area with output per worker of \$97,928 and ranked 7th in the nation. Other neighboring states ranking ahead of Nebraska were Minnesota, Colorado, and North Dakota. Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and South Dakota had lower output per worker than Nebraska.

In 2012, Nebraska and all of its peers exceeded the national high school graduation rate of 86.4%. Minnesota was 2nd in the nation with a rate of 92.5%. Nebraska ranked 14th in the nation, as 90.5% of its population 25 years or over completed high school. Since 2000, Nebraska's percentage of high school graduates has been slowly increasing.

With the exception of Kansas and Missouri, Nebraska and its peers exceeded the national percentage of persons whose highest level of education was an associate degree in 2012. Some of the people with a bachelor's degree or advanced degrees also may have had an associate's degree, but they are not included in this table. Nationally, 8.0% of the persons 25 or over reported having an associate's degree as their highest level of education. North Dakota lead the nation with a rate of 12.3%. It was followed by Iowa, Minnesota, Wyoming, and South Dakota. These states accounted for 5 of the top 7 states in the nation. Nebraska's rate of 9.8% ranked 8th in 2012. Since 2000, Nebraska's rate of persons with an associate's degree has been consistently higher than the national rate.

In 2012, 29.0% of the persons 25 years or over in Nebraska had completed a bachelor's degree. This ranked 22nd nationally but was slightly below the national average of 29.1%. Of Nebraska's peer states, Colorado had the highest rate of bachelor's degrees (37.5%). Minnesota and Kansas also exceeded Nebraska's rate. North Dakota, South Dakota, Missouri, Iowa, and Wyoming ranked below Nebraska.

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

When looking at advanced degrees, Nebraska's ranking has been picking up but still lags the nation. In 2012, 9.7% of Nebraskans 25 years and over had an advanced degree. This compares to 10.9% for the nation and ranks 28th. Nebraska was still ahead of Wyoming, Iowa, South Dakota, and North Dakota.

Since 2000, however, Nebraska has steadily narrowed the gap with the United States with the percentage of Nebraskans 25 years and over who have an advanced degree increasing from 7.3% to 9.7%.

Succeeding in the new economy—or any economy—takes innovation. Top states for business prize innovation, nurture new ideas, and have the infrastructure to support them. It is important to remember measures of innovation are subjective and reflect the bias of the organization preparing the measure.

According to CNBC's rankings, Nebraska ranked as the 34th state for technology and innovation in 2013. Nebraska ranked below most of its peer states. Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas ranked higher, while North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming ranked lower. Nebraska and its peer states generally fell in the bottom portion of the states for technology and innovation. Wyoming had the lowest ranking nationally.

In 2012, Nebraska ranked 35th on the State New Economy Index. Even with its relatively low ranking, Nebraska still ranked higher than Iowa, Wyoming, and South Dakota. Most of Nebraska's peer states ranked in the bottom one-third of all states.

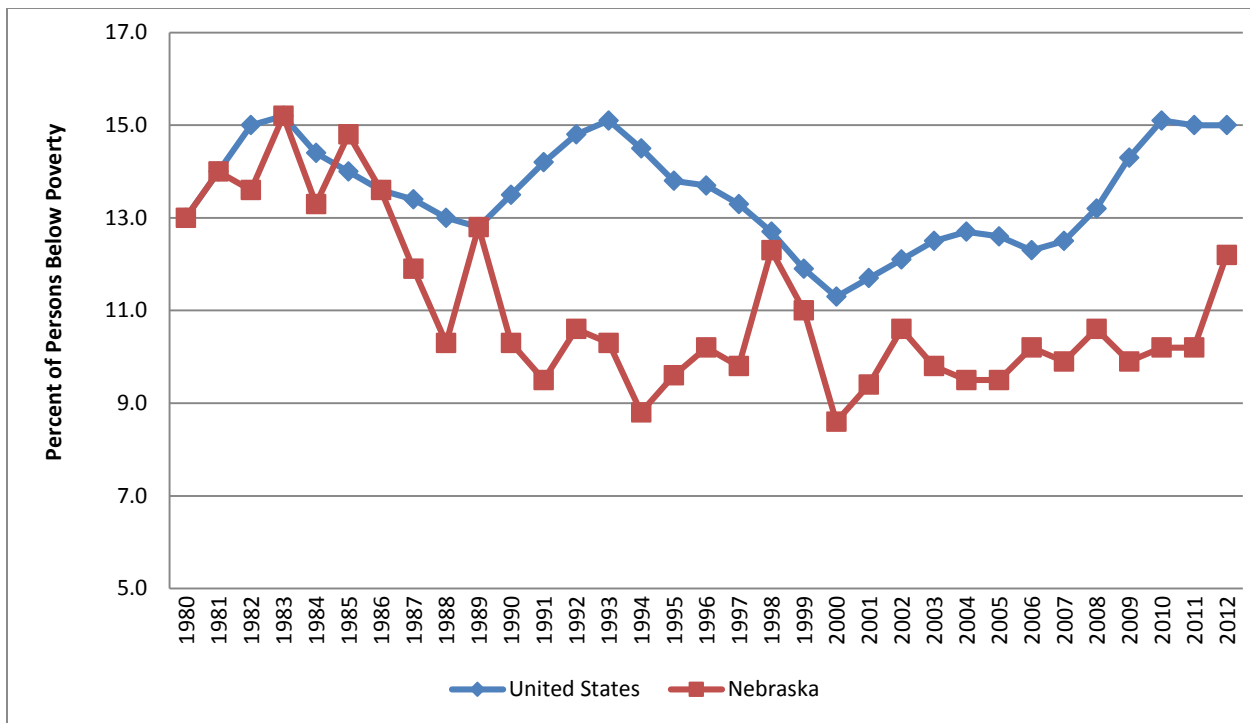
Poverty

Poverty Rate for Persons, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Poverty Rate	National Rank
United States	15.0	
Wyoming	9.6	3
Minnesota	10.0	5
Iowa	10.3	7
North Dakota	11.4	14
Colorado	11.9	16
Nebraska	12.2	17
South Dakota	12.8	20
Kansas	14.0	28
Missouri	15.2	31

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Poverty Rate for Persons, Nebraska and the United States: 1980-2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplements; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

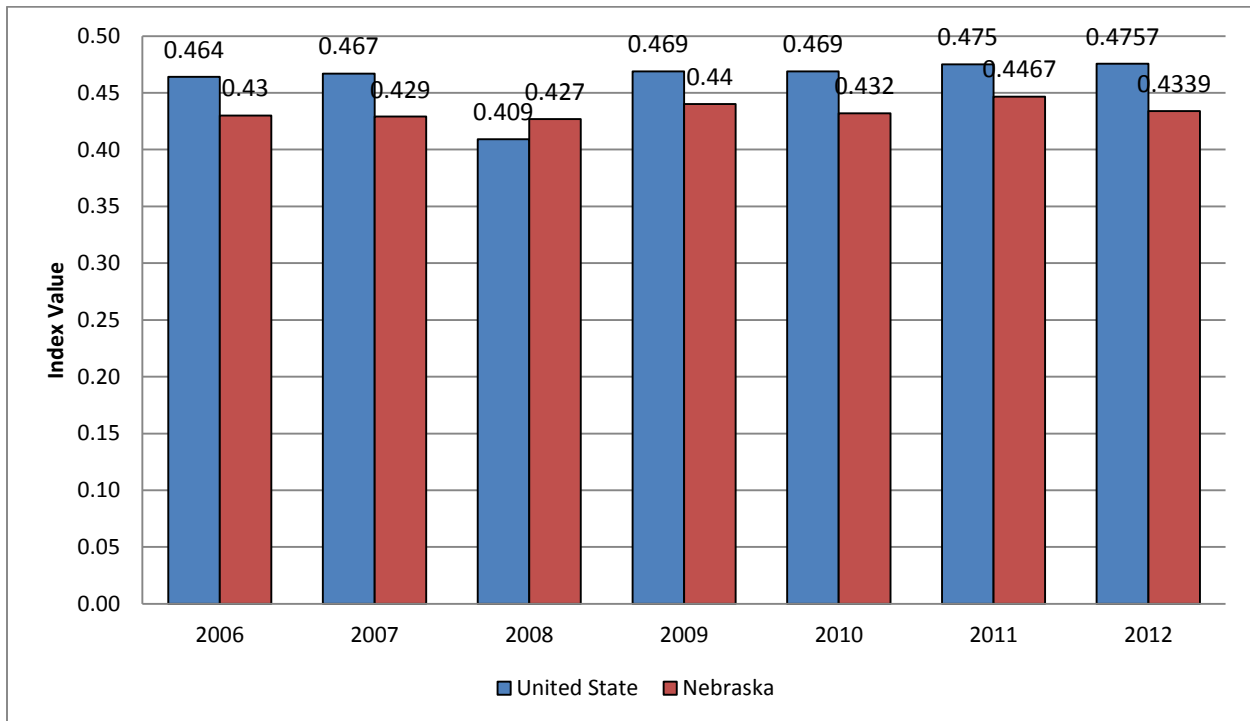
Gini Index of Income Inequality, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Index Value	National Rank
United States	0.4757	
Wyoming	0.4166	1
Iowa	0.4328	7
South Dakota	0.4335	8
Nebraska	0.4339	9
Minnesota	0.4441	14
Kansas	0.4496	17
Colorado	0.4579	22
North Dakota	0.4597	23
Missouri	0.4608	24

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Gini Index of Income Inequality, Nebraska and the United States: 2006-2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2012; prepared by the UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

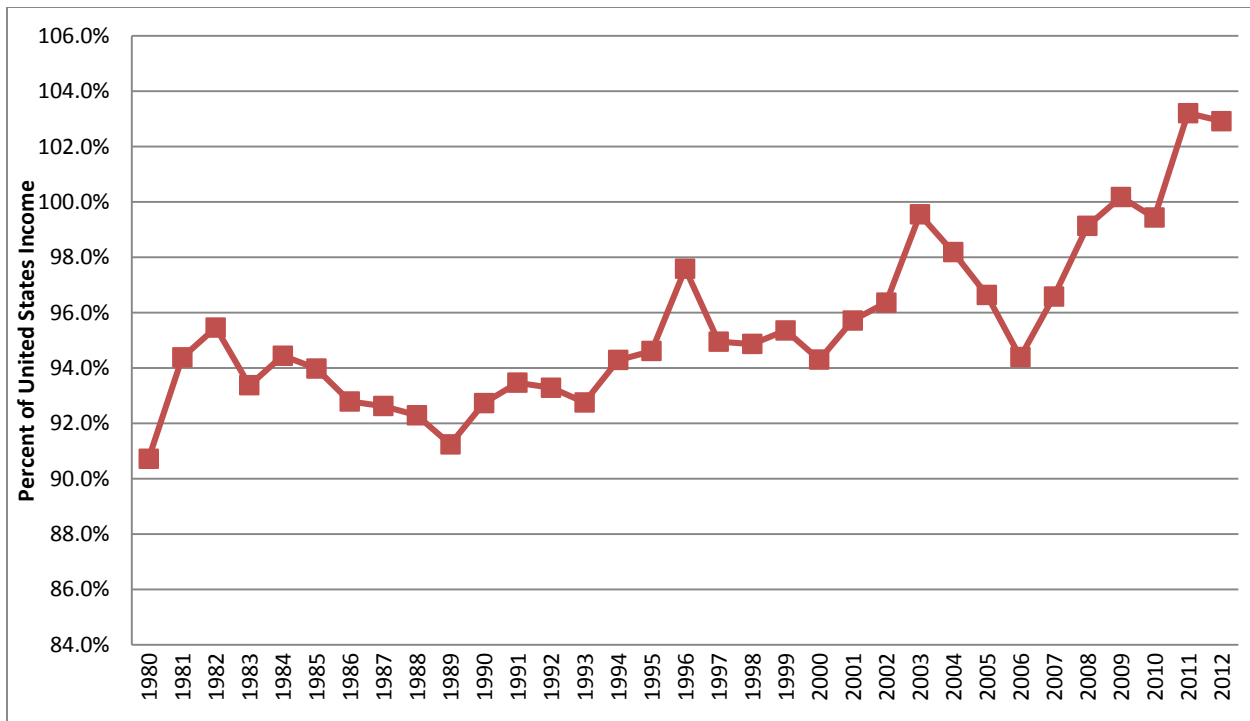
Personal Income

Per Capita Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Per Capita Personal Income	National Rank
United States	\$43,735	
North Dakota	\$54,871	5
Wyoming	\$50,567	8
Minnesota	\$46,925	12
Colorado	\$45,775	17
South Dakota	\$45,381	18
Nebraska	\$45,012	20
Iowa	\$43,935	24
Kansas	\$43,015	25
Missouri	\$39,133	34

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Nebraska Per Capita Personal Income as a Percentage of United States Per Capita Personal Income: 1980-2012



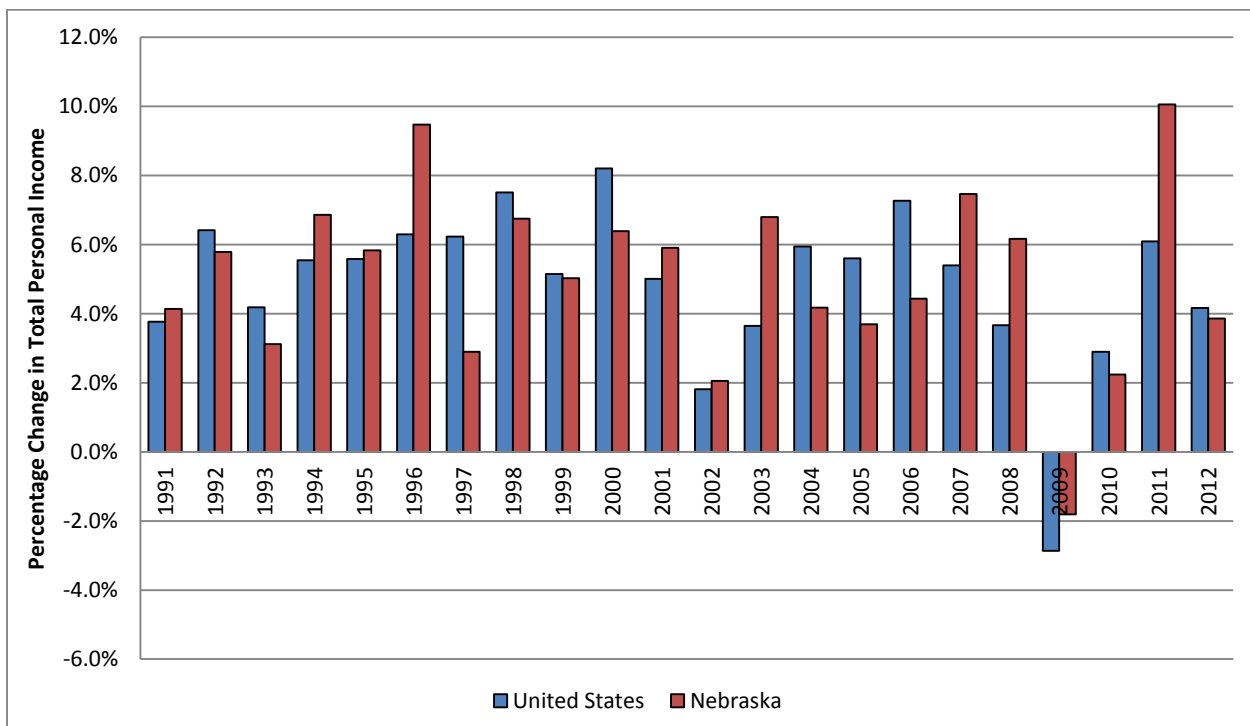
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage Change in Total Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2011-2012

	Percentage Change	National Rank
United States	4.2%	
North Dakota	18.7%	1
Colorado	5.1%	8
Minnesota	4.6%	14
Wyoming	4.4%	16
Nebraska	3.9%	24
Iowa	3.8%	27
Missouri	3.2%	43
Kansas	2.8%	49
South Dakota	2.4%	51

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Annual Percentage Change in Total Personal Income, Nebraska and the United States: 1991-2012



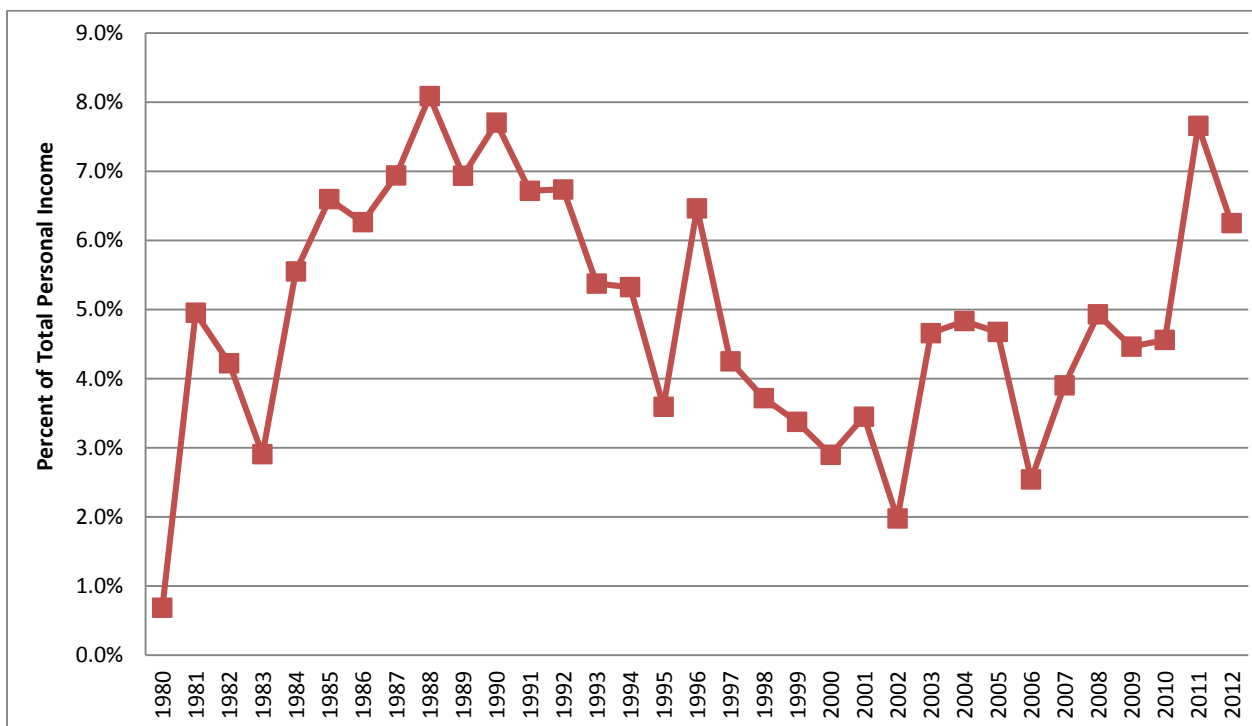
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Net Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent Net Farm Income	National Rank
United States	0.7%	
North Dakota	11.2%	1
South Dakota	8.8%	2
Nebraska	6.2%	3
Iowa	5.9%	4
Minnesota	2.8%	6
Kansas	1.9%	8
Wyoming	0.9%	16
Colorado	0.5%	26
Missouri	0.5%	27

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Farm Income as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Nebraska: 1980-2012



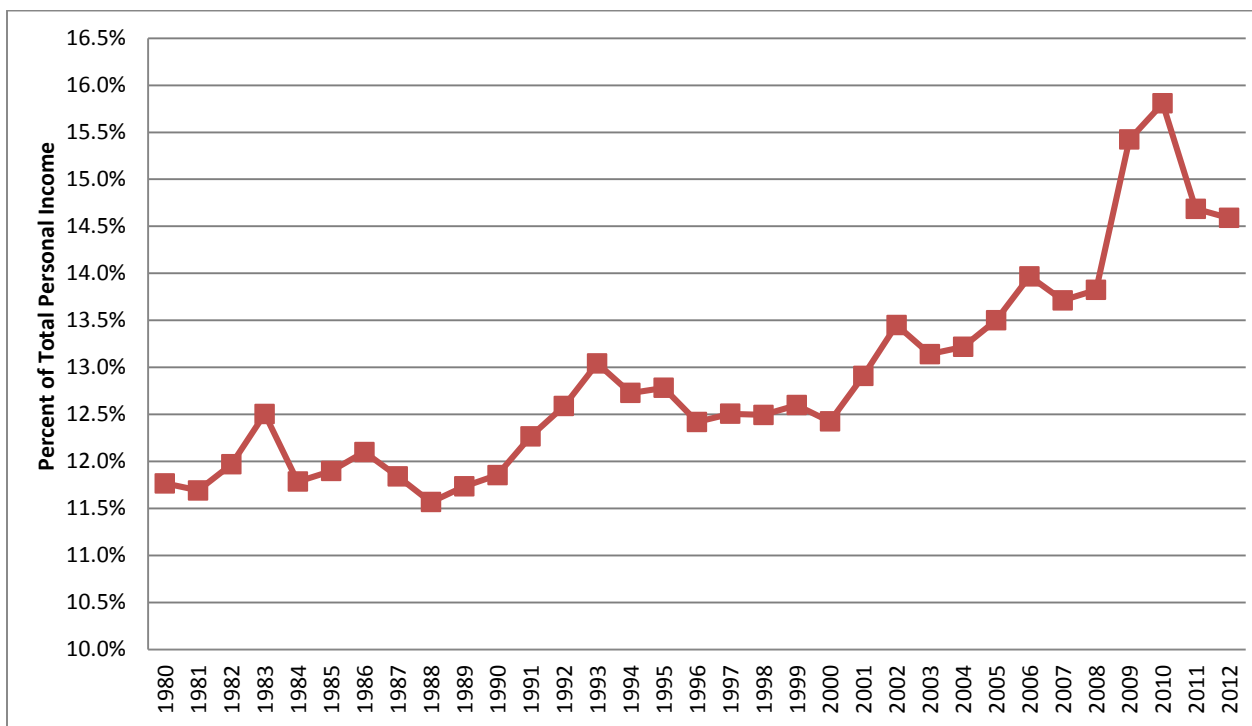
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Transfer Receipts as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent Transfer Receipts	National Rank
United States	17.2%	
Missouri	19.9%	14
Iowa	16.6%	29
Kansas	15.6%	32
Minnesota	15.6%	33
Nebraska	14.6%	40
South Dakota	14.4%	41
Colorado	12.8%	48
Wyoming	12.5%	49
North Dakota	12.1%	50

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment and Personal Current Transfer Receipts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Transfer Receipts as a Percentage of Total Personal Income, Nebraska: 1980-2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment and Personal Current Transfer Receipts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

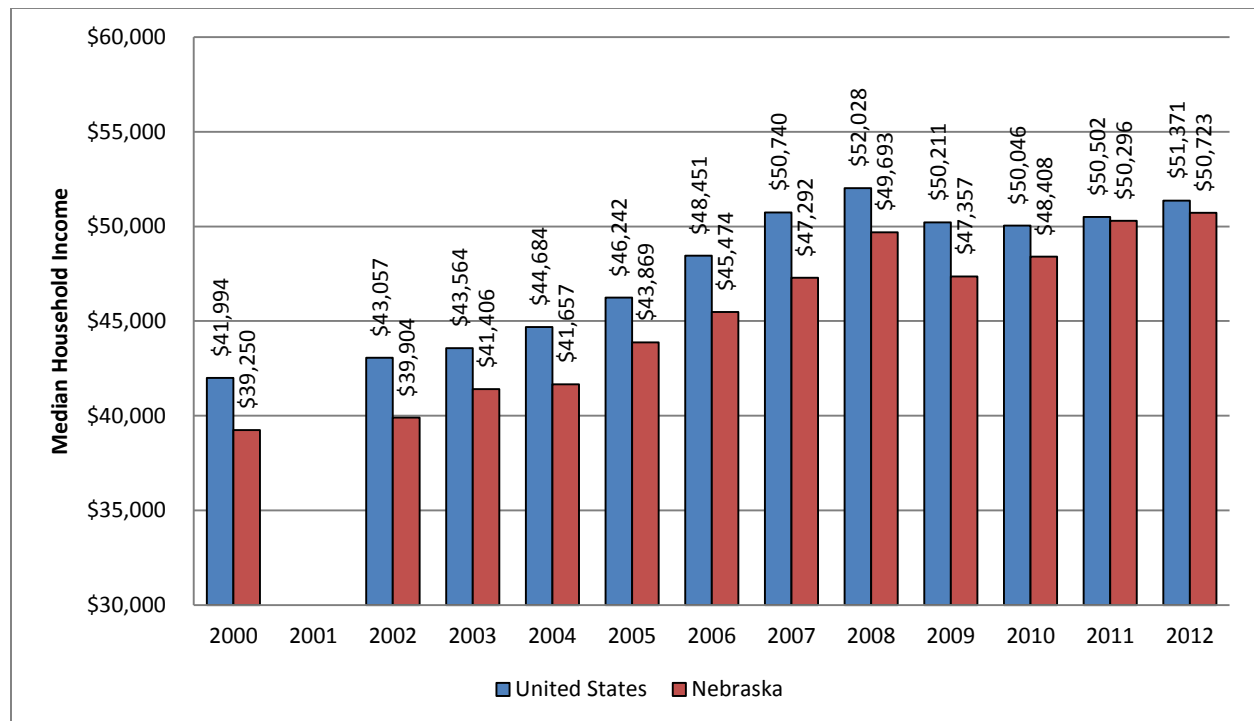
Median Household Income

Median Household Income, Regional Comparison: 2012 (Inflation-adjusted dollars)

	Median Household Income	National Rank
United States	\$51,371	
Minnesota	\$58,906	10
Colorado	\$56,765	15
Wyoming	\$54,901	18
North Dakota	\$53,585	20
Iowa	\$50,957	24
Nebraska	\$50,723	26
Kansas	\$50,241	27
South Dakota	\$48,362	30
Missouri	\$45,321	38

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey (Table R1903); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

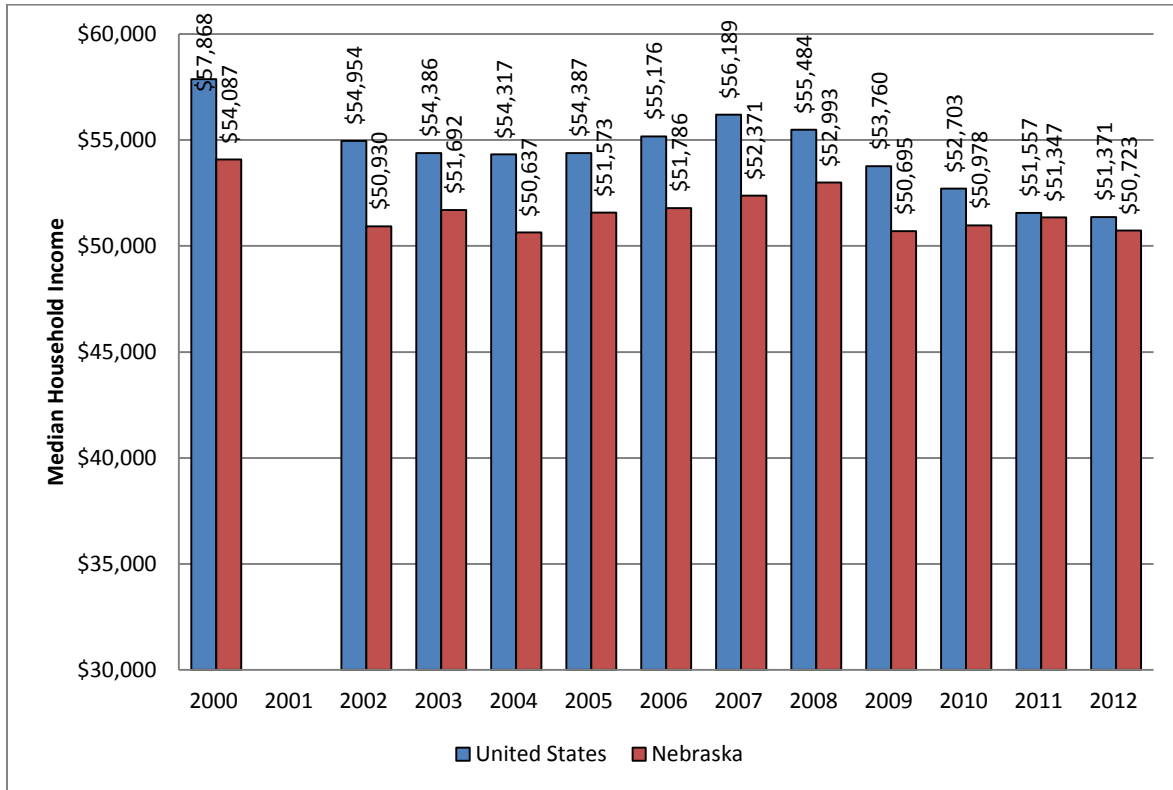
Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Real* Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



*2012 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars

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

Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

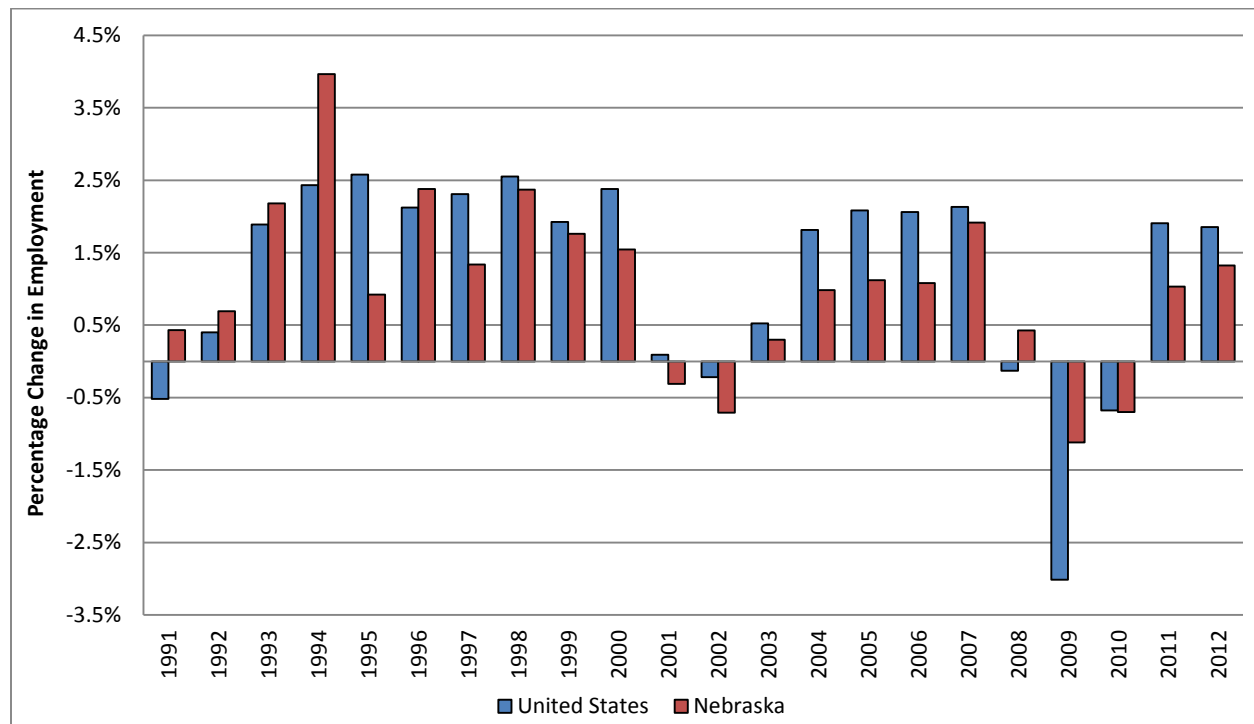
Employment

Percentage Change in Employment, Regional Comparison: 2011-2012

	Percentage Change in Employment	National Rank
United States	1.9%	
North Dakota	6.9%	1
Colorado	2.3%	4
South Dakota	1.9%	14
Minnesota	1.8%	20
Wyoming	1.6%	26
Kansas	1.4%	34
Iowa	1.4%	36
Nebraska	1.3%	40
Missouri	1.2%	42

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage Change in Employment, Nebraska and the United States: 1991-2012



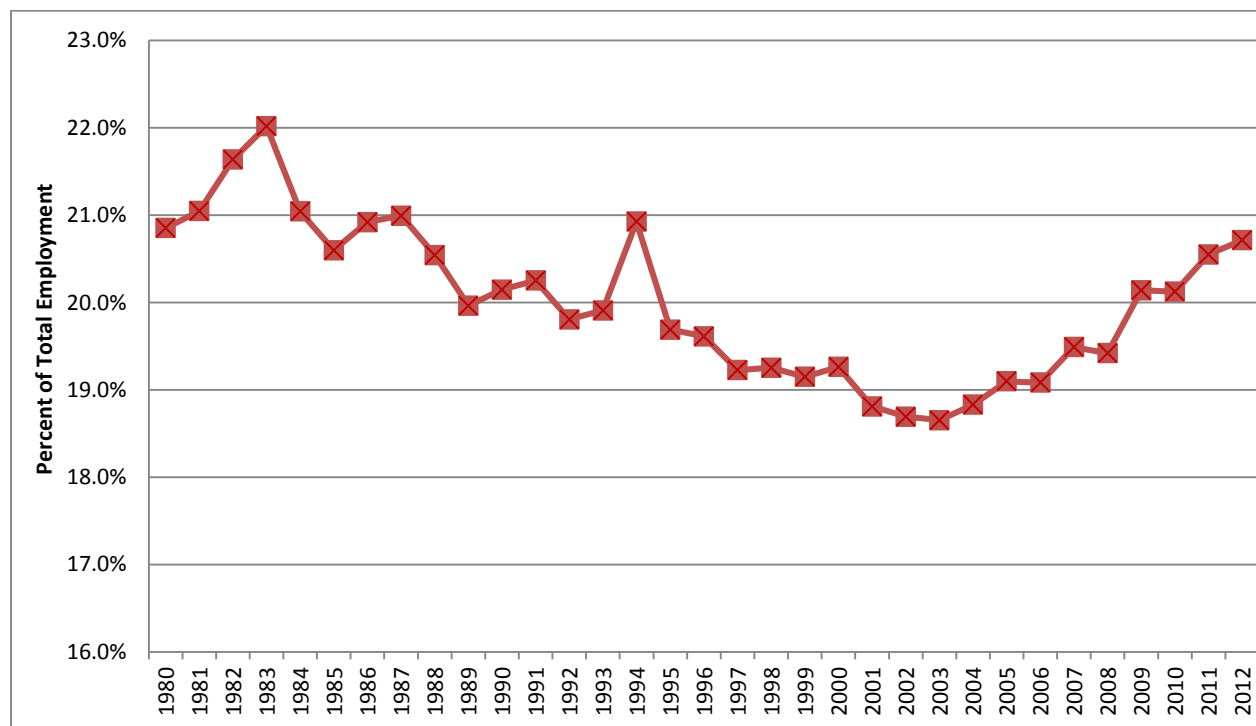
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Proprietors as a Percentage of Total Employment, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent of Total Employment	National Rank
United States	22.4%	
Colorado	25.5%	3
Wyoming	24.0%	10
South Dakota	23.8%	11
Kansas	22.3%	21
Missouri	22.0%	26
Iowa	21.3%	31
Nebraska	20.7%	36
Minnesota	20.6%	37
North Dakota	20.2%	41

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Proprietors as a Percentage of Total Employment, Nebraska: 1980-2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

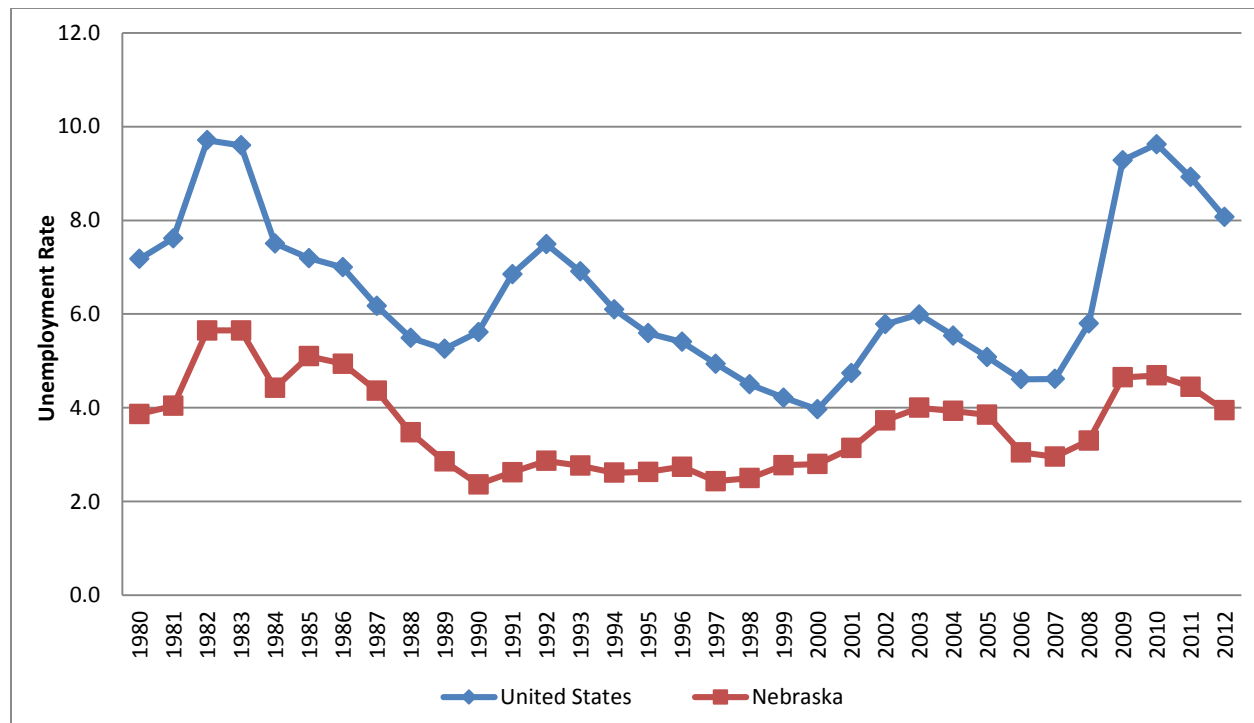
Unemployment

Annual Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Unemployment Rate	National Rank
United States	8.1	--
North Dakota	3.1	1
Nebraska	3.9	2
South Dakota	4.4	3
Iowa	5.2	5
Wyoming	5.4	7
Minnesota	5.6	9
Kansas	5.7	10
Missouri	6.9	19
Colorado	8.0	31

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Annual Unemployment Rate, Nebraska and the United States: 1980-2012



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Alternative Annual Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Unemployment Rate	National Rank
United States	14.7%	
North Dakota	6.1%	1
South Dakota	8.5%	2
Nebraska	8.8%	3
Iowa	10.0%	5
Wyoming	10.0%	5
Kansas	10.2%	7
Minnesota	11.7%	11
Missouri	12.5%	16
Colorado	14.6%	34

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

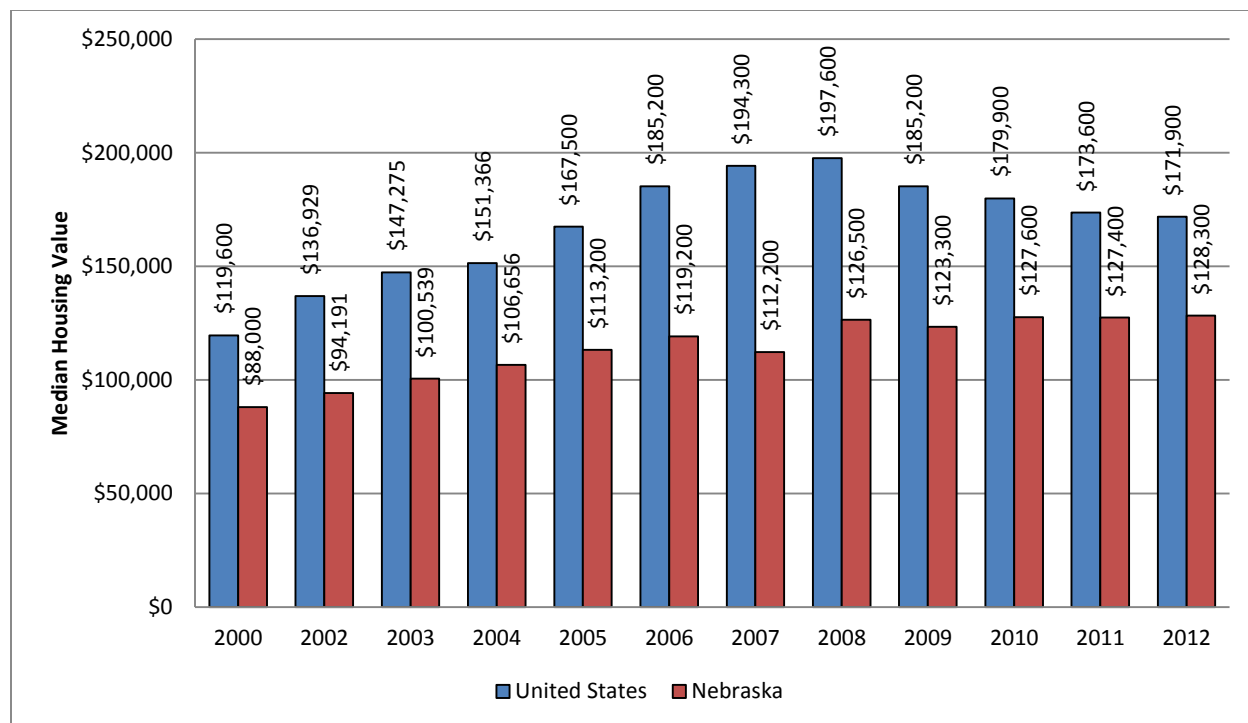
Median Housing Value

Median Housing Value, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Median Housing Value	National Rank
United States	\$171,900	
Colorado	\$234,900	13
Wyoming	\$187,400	19
Minnesota	\$178,400	21
North Dakota	\$142,500	32
Missouri	\$135,000	37
South Dakota	\$134,300	38
Kansas	\$130,100	39
Nebraska	\$128,300	41
Iowa	\$126,300	43

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates (Table B25077); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Median Housing Value, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

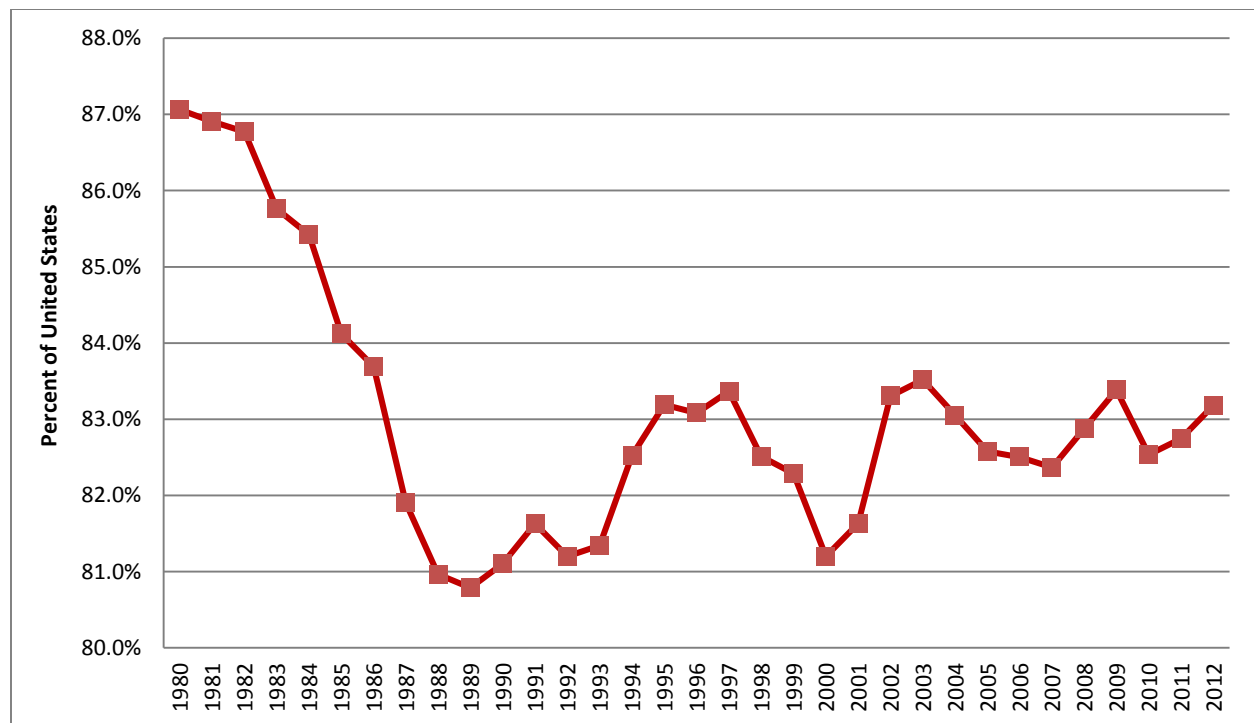
Comparative Costs

Average Annual Wage and Salary Disbursements per Job, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Average Annual Wage	National Rank
United States	\$49,612	
Colorado	\$51,211	12
Minnesota	\$48,412	15
Wyoming	\$45,260	22
North Dakota	\$45,083	23
Missouri	\$43,873	31
Kansas	\$42,215	35
Nebraska	\$41,268	40
Iowa	\$39,468	45
South Dakota	\$36,143	51

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Nebraska Wages and Salaries per Job as a Percentage of United States Wages and Salaries per Job: 1980-2012



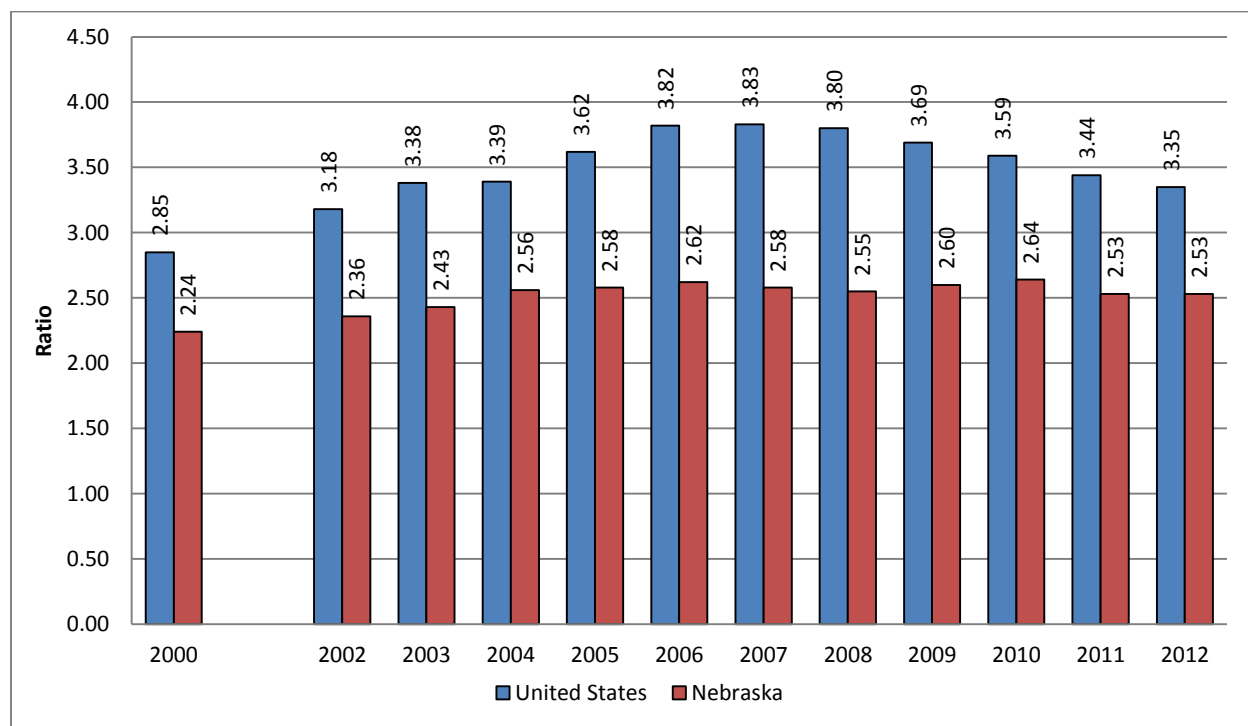
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Median Housing Value	Median Household Income	Ratio	National Rank
United States	\$171,900	\$51,371	3.35	
Colorado	\$234,900	\$56,765	4.14	10
Wyoming	\$187,400	\$54,901	3.41	22
Minnesota	\$178,400	\$58,906	3.03	33
Missouri	\$135,000	\$45,321	2.98	36
South Dakota	\$134,300	\$48,362	2.78	39
North Dakota	\$142,500	\$53,585	2.66	43
Kansas	\$130,100	\$50,241	2.59	45
Nebraska	\$128,300	\$50,723	2.53	48
Iowa	\$126,300	\$50,957	2.48	50

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Ratio of Median Housing Value to Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Business Climate

Forbes Magazine Best States for Business, Regional Comparison: 2010-2012

	2012 Rank	2011 Rank	2010 Rank
North Dakota	2	4	11
Colorado	5	5	4
Nebraska	6	8	9
Iowa	12	10	13
Kansas	17	12	10
Wyoming	23	14	27
Minnesota	8	15	15
South Dakota	11	17	17
Missouri	30	31	18

Source: Forbes.com; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

America's Top States for Business Overall Ranking, Regional Comparison: 2010-2013

	2013 Rank	2012 Rank	2011 Rank	2010 Rank
Colorado	7	8	5	3
Minnesota	15	11	7	8 (tie)
Iowa	11	12	9	6
Kansas	14	15	11	11
South Dakota	1	7	13	7
North Dakota	3	5	13	12
Nebraska	4	6	17	13
Missouri	26	27	16	17
Wyoming	9	10	21	14

Source: CNBC.com; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Business Startups

Business Startups, Regional Comparison: 2011

	2011 Establishment Rate	National Rank
United States	10.4	
Colorado	12.0	4
North Dakota	11.2	8
Wyoming	10.9	11
Missouri	10.3	17
South Dakota	9.8	24
Minnesota	9.6	27
Nebraska	9.2	33
Kansas	9.1	37
Iowa	8.5	45

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies; Business Dynamics Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Workforce Quality

Individuals in Science and Engineering Occupations as a Share of the Workforce, Regional Comparison: 2010

	Share of Workforce	National Rank*
United States	4.00%	
Colorado	5.85%	5
Minnesota	4.55%	10
Missouri	3.75%	19
Kansas	3.51%	27
Nebraska	3.32%	30
North Dakota	3.11%	34
Wyoming	3.02%	35
Iowa	2.82%	38
South Dakota	2.64%	41

*Data were unavailable for 3 states, and they were not included in the rankings.

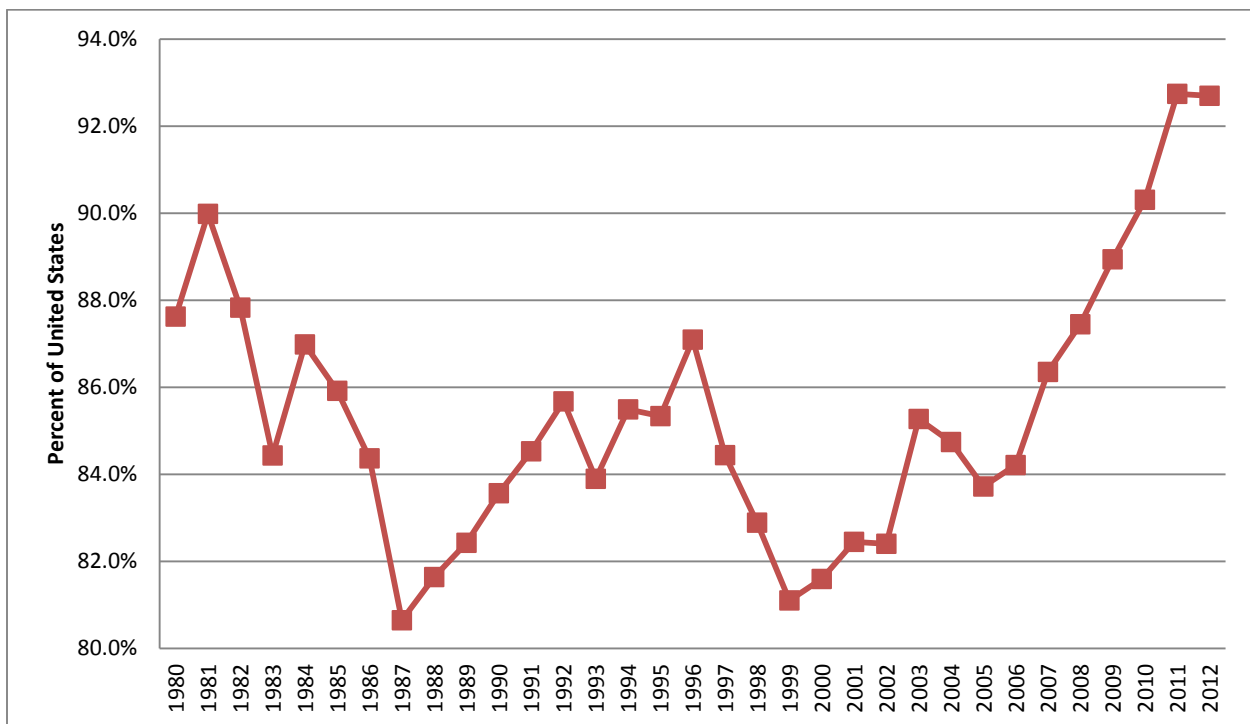
Source: Science and Engineering Indicators, published by the National Science Board; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Worker Productivity (Gross State Product per Full-time Job), Regional Comparison: 2012

	Output per Worker	National Rank
United States	\$86,664	
Wyoming	\$97,928	7
Minnesota	\$83,690	21
Colorado	\$83,578	22
North Dakota	\$82,068	24
Nebraska	\$80,331	26
Iowa	\$76,196	33
Kansas	\$75,286	34
South Dakota	\$74,184	40
Missouri	\$72,863	41

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Nebraska Worker Productivity (Gross State Product per Full-time Job) as a Percentage of United States Productivity: 1980-2012



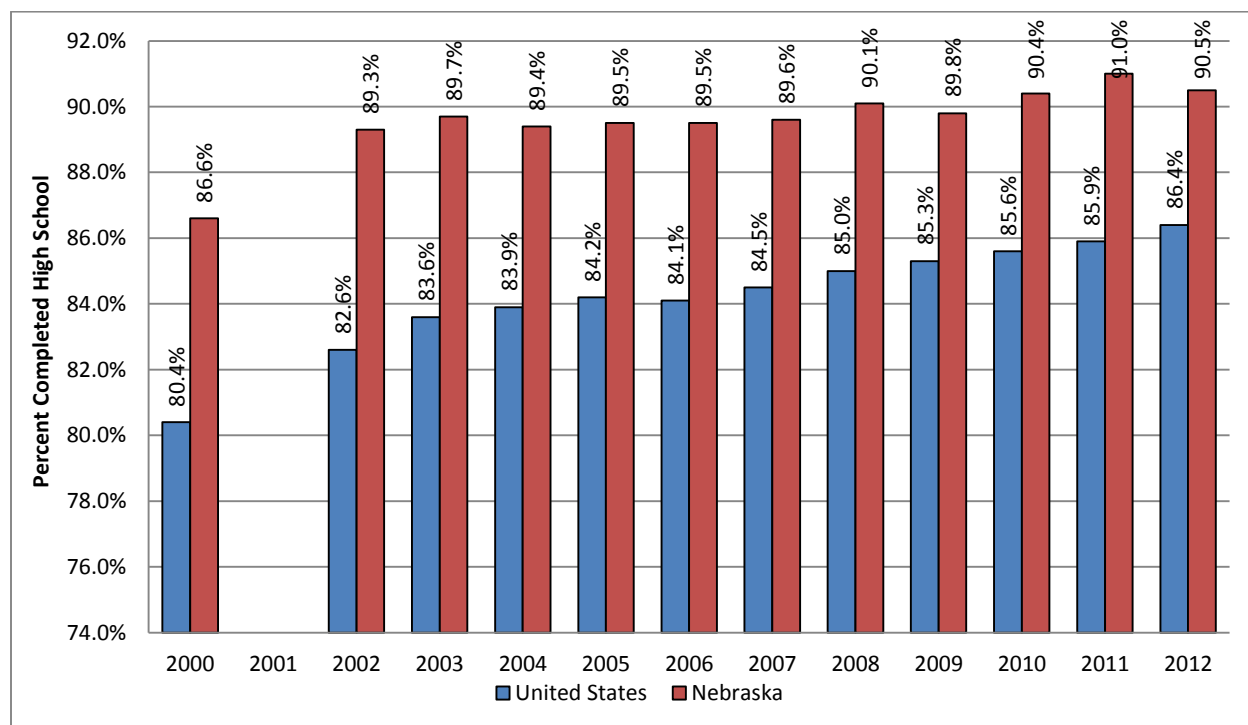
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Accounts; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School (Includes Equivalency), Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent Completing High School	National Rank
United States	86.4%	
Minnesota	92.5%	2
North Dakota	91.7%	5
Wyoming	91.7%	6
Iowa	91.6%	8
Colorado	90.6%	12
South Dakota	90.5%	13
Nebraska	90.5%	14
Kansas	90.2%	17
Missouri	88.0%	29

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School (Includes Equivalency), Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note: 2001 data is not available.

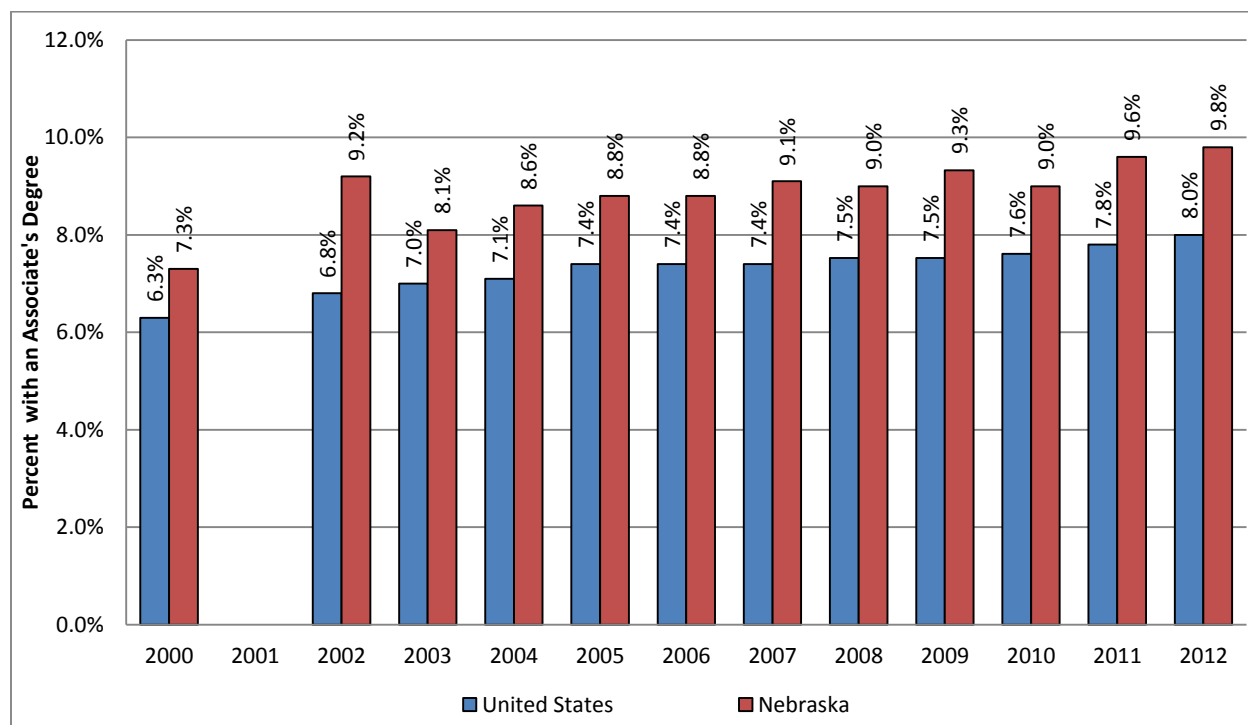
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Whose Highest Level of Education is an Associate’s Degree, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent with an Associate’s Degree	National Rank
United States	8.0%	
North Dakota	12.3%	1
Iowa	11.1%	2
Minnesota	10.6%	3
Wyoming	10.0%	6
South Dakota	9.9%	7
Nebraska	9.8%	8
Colorado	8.4%	24
Kansas	8.0%	30
Missouri	7.1%	42

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Whose Highest Level of Education is an Associate’s Degree, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note. 2001 data is unavailable.

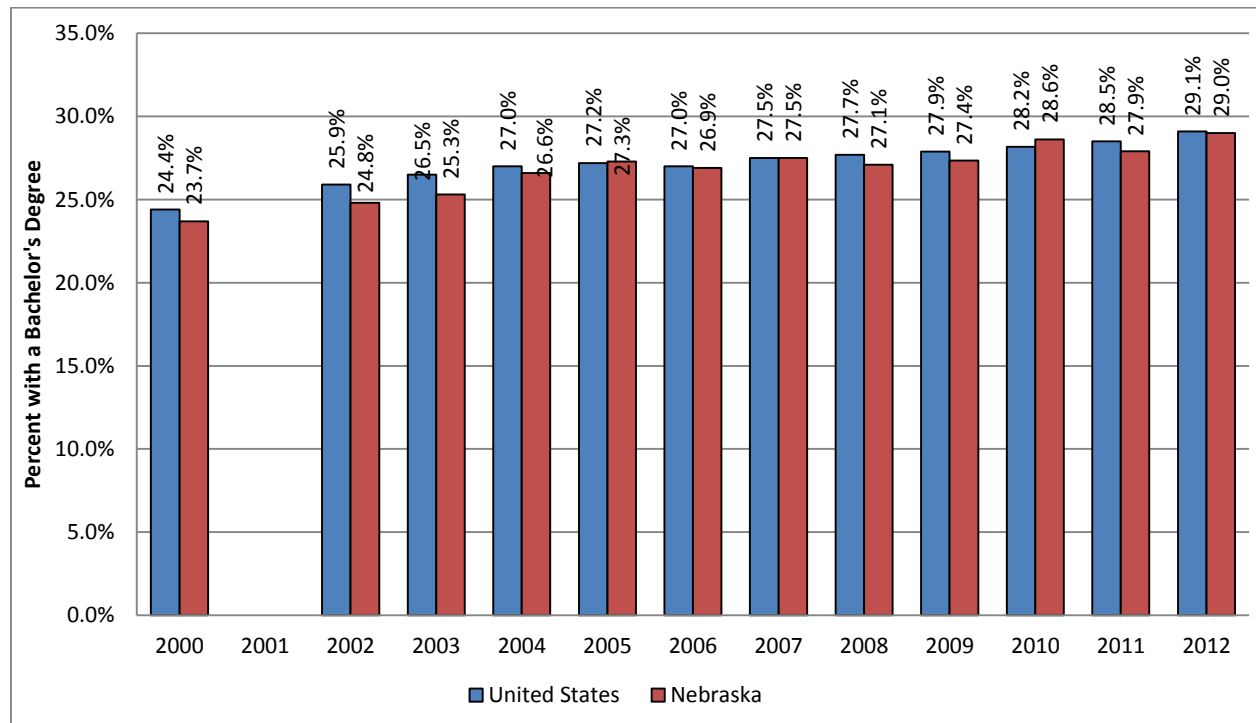
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent with a Bachelor's Degree	National Rank
United States	29.1%	
Colorado	37.5%	3
Minnesota	33.2%	11
Kansas	30.4%	17
Nebraska	29.0%	22
North Dakota	27.9%	26
Missouri	26.4%	33
Iowa	26.3%	34
South Dakota	26.3%	35
Wyoming	24.7%	41

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed a Bachelor's Degree, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note: 2001 data is not available.

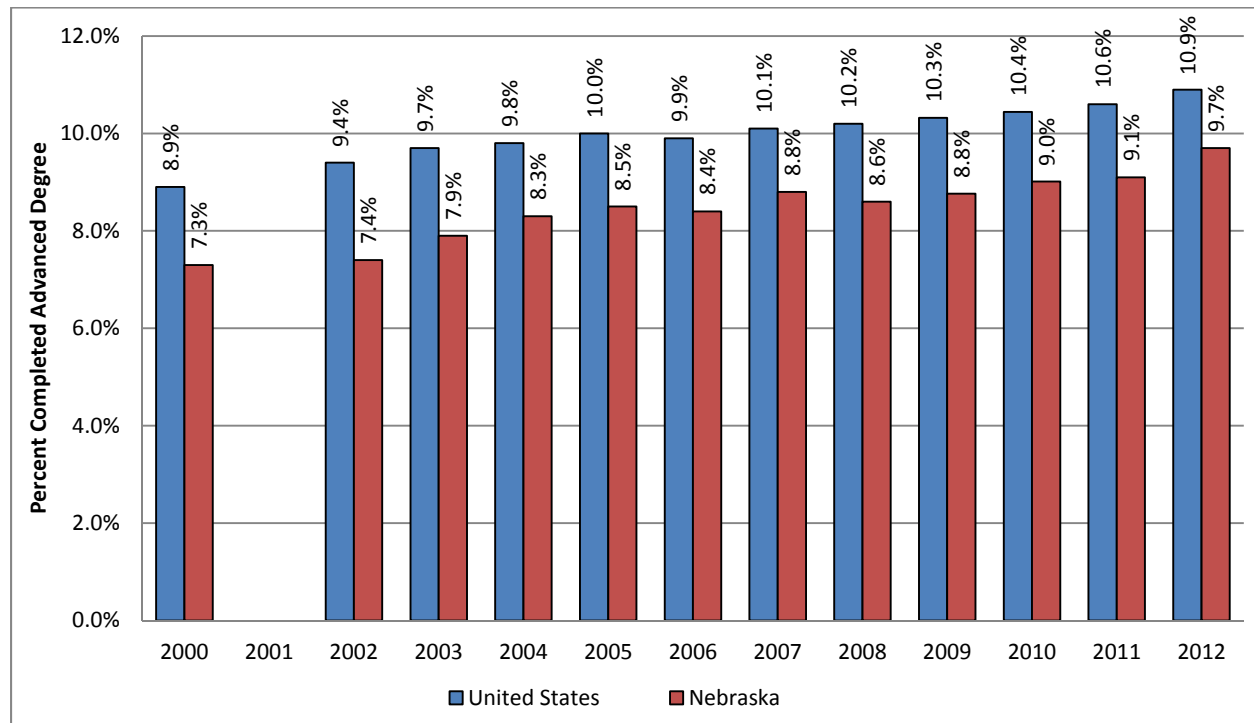
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent with an Advanced Degree	National Rank
United States	10.9%	
Colorado	13.7%	9
Kansas	10.9%	18
Minnesota	10.8%	21
Missouri	9.7%	28
Nebraska	9.7%	29
North Dakota	8.4%	41
Iowa	8.2%	42
South Dakota	8.1%	44
Wyoming	7.8%	46

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Persons 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed an Advanced Degree, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2012 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Technology and Innovation

America’s Top States for Business, Technology and Innovation, Regional Comparison: 2010-2013

	2013 National Rank	2012 National Rank	2011 National Rank	2010 National Rank
Colorado	8	23	14	12
Minnesota	18	2	16	16
Missouri	21	20	23	24
Iowa	28	31	28	29
Kansas	30	6	30	31
Nebraska	34	19	35	37
South Dakota	46	27	49	49
North Dakota	47	15	48	47
Wyoming	48	26	50	50

Source: CNBC.com; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State New Economy Index, Regional Comparison: 2012

	2012 National Rank
Colorado	7
Minnesota	13
Kansas	29
Missouri	33
North Dakota	34
Nebraska	35
Iowa	38
Wyoming	41
South Dakota	43

Source: The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Academic Science and Engineering Research and Development per \$1,000 of State GDP, Regional Comparison: 2009

	Academic Research and Development (\$)/\$1,000 GDP	National Rank
United States	\$3.91	
North Dakota	\$5.87	3
Nebraska	\$4.56	15
Missouri	\$4.24	18
Colorado	\$4.22	19
Iowa	\$4.13	20
Kansas	\$3.60	28
Minnesota	\$2.93	38
South Dakota	\$2.67	41
Wyoming	\$2.11	49

Source: Science and Engineering Indicators, published by the National Science Foundation Board; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Business-performed Research and Development as a Percentage of Private-industry Output, Regional Comparison: 2008

	Business-performed Research and Development/Private-industry Output	National Rank*
United States	2.14%	
Minnesota	2.43%	9
Colorado	1.80%	19
Kansas	1.49%	25
Iowa	1.26%	27
North Dakota	1.10%	30
Nebraska	0.76%	34
South Dakota	0.39%	45
Wyoming	0.18%	48
Missouri	n.a.	n.a.

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

Source: Science and Engineering Indicators, published by the National Science Foundation Board; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Education

Introduction

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

P-16 Initiative Goals

Nebraska has a comparatively large percentage of its high school graduates attending a degree granting institution and most of them attend a college in Nebraska. In the 2009-2010 school year, 69.5% of Nebraska’s high school graduates attended college, and 58.2% attended a college in Nebraska. The comparable numbers for the nation were below Nebraska’s at 63.8% and 51.4%, respectively. Regionally, Nebraska ranked toward the middle in both categories but was 7th nationally in the percentage of college attendees and 6th nationally in the percentage attending college in their home state.

In 2009, 55.1% of Nebraska’s bachelor’s students graduated within six years. This was similar to the national rate of 55.5% and ranked 25th. Nebraska also ranked in the middle of its peer states. Iowa had the highest six-year graduation rate at 62.9% (10th nationally) and was followed closely by Minnesota at 60.2%. South Dakota reported the lowest six-year graduation rate (44.8%).

Nebraska ranked favorably for public high school graduation and dropout rates. In 2009-2010, Nebraska recorded a high school graduation rate of 83.8%, ranking 11th nationally and in the middle of the region. All of the states in Nebraska’s region reported high school graduation rates exceeding the national average of 78.2%. Nebraska’s dropout rate of 2.2% was the 40th lowest in the nation and 6th in the region, lower than North Dakota, Kansas, and Minnesota.

One of the concerns for high school dropouts is their future employment opportunities. The Census Bureau looks at the status of persons aged 16 to 19 years of age who were not enrolled in school and not a high school graduate. In 2012, 3.8% of all persons in the age group met those criteria. This ranked 35th lowest in the nation and was less than the national rate of 4.4%. Nearly half (48.9%) of this group were not in the labor force; that is, they were not working or looking for work.

Access

In 2010-2011, 10,250 children attended an early childhood education program conducted by a school district or ESU. This is a slight decrease from 2009-2010 (10,259) but an increase from 2009-2008 (9,641) and 2007-2008 (8,692). In addition, over 3,000 children were served by non-school district Head Start programs in 2009-2010.

Compared to the nation, Nebraska lags in the percentage of children aged three and four who are enrolled in an education program. According to the 2012 American Community Survey, 47.4% of Nebraska’s children aged three and four were enrolled. This was slightly below the national level of 47.7% and ranked 25th. Regionally, Wyoming, Colorado, and Iowa had higher percentages of children enrolled in school. Of those Nebraska children enrolled, 58.5% were enrolled in a public school. This ranked 24th nationally.

Compared to the nation in 2012, Nebraska recorded a smaller percentage of children aged 5 to 17 who attended public schools (86.2%). For the United States, the value was 89.4%. Nebraska ranked 44th in the percentage of children aged 5 to 17 attending public school and was the lowest in the region.

Historically, Nebraska has had one of the highest labor force participation rates in the nation. As a result, a large portion of Nebraska's children have working parents. In 2012, 72.6% of Nebraska's children under six years old had all their parents in the labor force. This ranked 7th in the nation and compared to the national average of 64.9%. Moreover, the percentage of children with all their parents in the labor force generally has been increasing during the past decade. In 2000, the comparable value was 69.8%.

Nearly three-fourths (74.7%) of Nebraska's students in higher education attended public institutions in 2012. This was slightly higher than the national percentage of 74.5%. Nebraska ranked 27th. Interestingly the highest percentage nationally was in Wyoming where 95.5% of the students attended a public institution. Colorado, Minnesota, Missouri, and Iowa had lower percentages than Nebraska.

Average costs per full-time equivalent student in public colleges and universities in Nebraska ranked relatively low in the nation. In the 2011-2012 academic year, the average cost for a 4-year public institution in Nebraska was \$14,584; for a 2-year public institution the average cost was \$2,475. Nebraska's costs ranked 34th and 41st respectively and were well below the national average.

In 2011, state and local appropriations for higher education in Nebraska totaled \$1.9 billion.

Assessment

Looking at reading and mathematics scores for Nebraska's fourth and eighth graders, it appears that Nebraska generally ranked in the middle one-third of the states but ranked toward the bottom of its peer states in 2010.

In reading, Nebraska ranked at or above the national median, and the relative rank increased from fourth to eighth grade. For both fourth graders and eighth graders, Nebraska's average reading score ranked 18th.

For mathematics, Nebraska ranked below the national median in most categories, although the relative ranking improved from fourth to eighth grade. Nebraska's average mathematics score ranked 31st for fourth graders and 28th for eighth graders.

Funding Stability

Nebraska's per pupil spending for public elementary and secondary education in 2009-2010 totaled \$12,955 and ranked 16th nationally. This was the 2nd highest in the region, below Wyoming, but was higher than the national per pupil expenditure of \$12,136.

Based on information from the 2008-2011 American Community Surveys, it appears that Nebraska has been attracting 22 to 64 year olds. However, in 2011, Nebraska lost people with post-secondary degrees, especially those persons with advanced degrees. This was offset by persons with no high school diploma, high school graduates, and persons with some college but no degree.

P-16 Initiative Goals

Estimated Rate of High School Graduates Attending Degree-granting Institutions, Regional Comparison: 2009-2010

	Rate of Graduates	National Rank
United States	63.8%	
South Dakota	71.8%	5
Minnesota	70.9%	6
Nebraska	69.5%	7
North Dakota	67.4%	12
Iowa	66.6%	13
Kansas	64.7%	17
Missouri	61.4%	31
Colorado	61.2%	32
Wyoming	60.4%	35

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Table 238); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Estimated Rate of High School Graduates Going to College in Home State, Regional Comparison: 2009-2010

	Rate of Graduates	National Rank
United States	51.4%	
Nebraska	58.2%	6
Iowa	57.8%	9
Kansas	55.1%	17
South Dakota	55.0%	18
Missouri	51.8%	23
Minnesota	51.2%	26
North Dakota	50.5%	28
Wyoming	47.1%	34
Colorado	46.3%	35

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Table 238); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Six-Year Graduation Rates of Bachelor’s Degree Students, Regional Comparison: 2009

	Graduation Rate	National Rank
United States	55.5%	
Iowa	62.9%	10
Minnesota	60.2%	13
Missouri	55.8%	23
Wyoming	55.4%	24
Nebraska	55.1%	25
Colorado	53.3%	29
Kansas	53.2%	30
North Dakota	46.9%	39
South Dakota	44.8%	41

Source: The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems Information Center for Higher Education Policymaking and Analysis; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Public High School Graduation Rates, Nebraska and the United States: 1995-2010

	Public High School Graduation Rate	
	United States	Nebraska
1995-1996	71.0%	85.6%
1996-1997	71.3%	84.8%
1997-1998	71.3%	85.6%
1998-1999	71.1%	87.3%
1999-2000	71.7%	85.7%
2000-2001	71.7%	83.8%
2001-2002	72.6%	83.9%
2002-2003	73.9%	85.2%
2003-2004	74.3%	87.6%
2004-2005	74.7%	87.8%
2005-2006	73.4%	87.0%
2006-2007	73.9%	86.3%
2007-2008	74.7%	83.8%
2008-2009	75.5%	82.9%
2009-2010	78.2%	83.8%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Table 238); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Public High School Graduation Rates, Regional Comparison: 2009-2010

	Graduation Rate	National Rank
Unites States	78.2%	
North Dakota	88.4%	3
Minnesota	88.2%	4
Iowa	87.9%	5
Kansas	84.5%	8
Nebraska	83.8%	11
Missouri	83.7%	12
South Dakota	81.8%	18
Wyoming	80.3%	22
Colorado	79.8%	24

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Table 238); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Public High School Dropout Rates, Regional Comparison: 2009-2010

	Dropout Rate	National Rank
United States	3.4%	
Wyoming	6.0%	6
Colorado	5.3%	7
Missouri	3.5%	24
Iowa	3.4%	25
South Dakota	2.6%	35
Nebraska	2.2%	40
North Dakota	2.2%	40
Kansas	2.1%	43
Minnesota	1.6%	47

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Table 126); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

School Enrollment by Educational Attainment for the Population 16 to 19 Years, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Population 16 to 19 Years of Age	Not in School and Not a High School Graduate			
		Number	Percent	Rank	Percent Not in Labor Force
United States	17,406,603	774,568	4.4%		53.3%
Missouri	330,339	17,569	5.3%	15	49.2%
Kansas	169,012	7,806	4.6%	21	39.4%
Colorado	275,489	11,474	4.2%	30	49.1%
Wyoming	31,539	1,291	4.1%	32	31.8%
Nebraska	103,261	3,940	3.8%	35	48.9%
Iowa	168,633	6,185	3.7%	38	50.5%
North Dakota	40,176	1,270	3.2%	42	39.9%
Minnesota	288,309	8,705	3.0%	44	54.3%
South Dakota	50,028	1,391	2.8%	46	32.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Access

Early Childhood Education Programs, Nebraska: 2007-2011

Age/Years	Children served by school districts/ESUs		Children served by non-school district operated Head Start programs	Total children served	Total number of "At-Risk" children served
	Total number of children	Number of children "At-risk"			
2007-2008					
Age 3	2,328	920	1,242	3,570	2,162
Age 4	6,084	3,256	1,735	7,819	4,991
Age 5	280	89	75	355	164
Total	8,692	4,265	3,052	11,744	7,317
2008-2009					
Age 3	2,669	1,283	1,321	3,990	2,604
Age 4	6,670	3,708	1,742	8,412	5,450
Age 5	302	84	84	386	168
Total	9,641	5,075	3,147	12,788	8,222
2009-2010					
Age 3	2,814	1,341	1,247	4,061	2,588
Age 4	7,147	3,944	1,907	9,054	5,851
Age 5	298	108	54	352	162
Total	10,259	5,393	3,071	17,473	7,214
2010-2011					
Age 3	2,518	199	Data not yet available.		
Age 4	6,980	642			
Age 5	0				
Total	10,250				

Notes:

The definition of "high quality program" that is being used is as follows: Children who are enrolled in programs provided by Nebraska Public Schools or Educational Service Units, and programs provided by Nebraska Head Start grantees. Anecdotally, we know that there are private preschools, child care centers and family child care homes that are high quality and prepare children well for school. However, we have no way to document their quality, and we have no way to access information about their enrollment.

Children "At-Risk" and served by schools/ESUs are children whose families are eligible for free or reduced lunch and/or children for whom spoken English is not the primary language spoken in the home. Nebraska Department of Education also includes prematurity/low birth weight, and children of teen parents/parents who have not completed high school as risk factors. Currently, we do not have a way to collect data on those two risk factors.

Legislation allowed some school districts to serve 5-year-olds during the first few years of this report. Head Start is a program for children who are "At-risk", therefore all children attending Head Start are considered in that category.

In order to arrive at an unduplicated count of children enrolled in high quality programs, we began by obtaining data from the NDE data center regarding the children served in preschool classrooms. We then obtained the Head Start Program Information Report data about statewide actual enrollment by age. To get the final Head Start numbers, we subtracted the number of children served by Head Start grantees or Head Start Delegates that are school districts (those children are already counted in the school data). There are many Head Start programs that partner with individual schools across the state and serve children in blended classrooms. However, we have no reliable way of determining exactly how many children that includes. Therefore, some children in many of the Head Start programs have been counted twice.

The 2010-2011 school year is the third year of grants to serve children who are birth to age three through the Early Childhood Education Endowment (Sixpence) fund. Due to the rocky investment climate, no new grants have been awarded. During the 2009-2010 school year, 360 children from birth to aged three years were served in Endowment programs.

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

Public and Private School Fall Enrollment for Children 3 to 4 Years of Age and 5 to 17 Years of Age, Regional Comparison: 2012

Children 3 to 4 years of age

	Total Enrollment (000)	Percent Enrolled*	National Rank of Total Enrollment	Percent Enrolled in Public School**	National Rank of Public School Enrollment
United States	3,988.9	47.7%		56.6%	
Wyoming	7.7	48.9%	19	77.7%	2
Colorado	67.9	48.7%	22	54.8%	29
Iowa	39.4	48.6%	23	65.9%	12
Nebraska	24.9	47.4%	25	58.5%	24
Minnesota	68.7	47.2%	26	60.0%	18
Kansas	38.7	46.1%	28	63.4%	15
Missouri	66.4	42.1%	37	53.5%	32
North Dakota	7.5	39.9%	44	68.5%	7
South Dakota	8.8	35.6%	48	67.7%	8

Children 5 to 17 years of age

	Total Enrollment (000)	Percent Enrolled in Public School**	National Rank of Public School Enrollment
United States	52,185.2	89.4%	
Wyoming	95.0	93.0%	5
Colorado	868.8	90.8%	14
South Dakota	139.6	90.3%	17
Iowa	512.9	90.0%	18
Kansas	505.3	88.8%	28
North Dakota	105.2	88.3%	34
Minnesota	900.9	88.2%	36
Missouri	988.7	87.1%	41
Nebraska	320.8	86.2%	44

* As a percentage of all three and four year olds, includes those not enrolled

** As a percentage of those enrolled

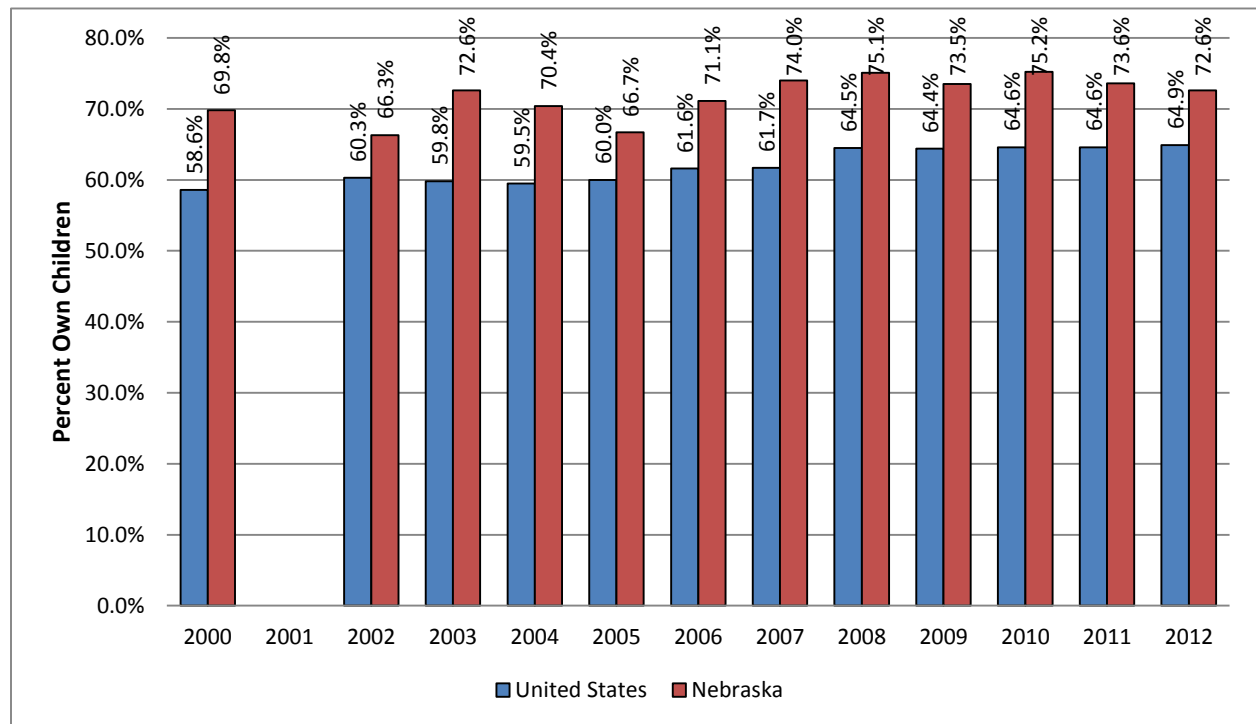
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey (Table C14003); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Own Children under 6 Years of Age with All Parents in the Labor Force, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent of Children under 6 Years of Age	National Rank
United States	64.9%	
Minnesota	74.8%	2
Iowa	74.4%	3
South Dakota	74.0%	4
North Dakota	73.8%	5
Nebraska	72.6%	7
Missouri	67.6%	20
Kansas	67.1%	23
Wyoming	64.5%	36
Colorado	62.5%	42

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Own Children under 6 Years of Age with All Parents in the Labor Force, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2012



Note: 2001 data is not available.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Average Costs per Full-time-equivalent Student in Public Colleges and Universities, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011 and 2011-2012

Public 4-year Institutions

	2011-2012	2010-2011	National Rank 2011-2012
United States	\$16,789	\$15,918	
Minnesota	\$17,286	\$16,385	21
Colorado	\$17,169	\$16,208	22
Iowa	\$15,653	\$14,855	26
Missouri	\$15,634	\$15,110	27
Nebraska	\$14,584	\$14,081	34
Kansas	\$13,457	\$13,229	38
South Dakota	\$13,321	\$12,603	40
North Dakota	\$12,801	\$12,503	45
Wyoming	\$12,022	\$11,467	49

Public 2-year Institutions

	2011-2012	2010-2011	National Rank 2011-2012
United States	\$2,647	\$2,439	
Minnesota	\$5,198	\$4,965	3
South Dakota	\$4,817	\$4,700	4
Iowa	\$3,999	\$3,769	7
North Dakota	\$3,988	\$3,929	8
Colorado	\$3,491	\$2,727	19
Kansas	\$2,597	\$2,463	35
Missouri	\$2,587	\$2,440	36
Nebraska	\$2,475	\$2,391	41
Wyoming	\$2,302	\$2,164	44

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Enrollment in Institutions of Higher Education, Regional Comparison: 2009-2011

	Fall Enrollment					
	Total Fall Enrollment (000)			Percent in Public Institutions		
	2011	2010	2009	2011	National Rank	2009
United States	20,994.1	21,016.1	20,427.7	74.5%		72.1%
Wyoming	38.1	38.2	37.1	95.5%	1	96.2%
North Dakota	55.8	56.9	54.4	87.6%	7	85.8%
Kansas	216.7	214.9	210.8	86.1%	10	86.7%
South Dakota	55.9	58.3	53.3	78.2%	24	78.1%
Nebraska	142.9	144.7	138.6	74.7%	27	75.1%
Colorado	365.8	372.0	352.0	73.6%	30	72.6%
Minnesota	457.8	465.3	442.3	59.9%	41	61.1%
Missouri	457.0	444.7	424.9	57.0%	43	57.8%
Iowa	372.1	381.8	350.6	48.0%	48	48.7%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Tables 242 and 243); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Educational Appropriations for Institutions of Higher Education, Regional Comparisons: 2011

	Total Appropriations (\$ millions)	Percent of National Total	National Rank
United States	\$252,270,144		
Colorado	\$4,524,651	1.8%	20
Minnesota	\$4,405,616	1.7%	21
Missouri	\$3,616,927	1.4%	24
Iowa	\$3,473,156	1.4%	25
Kansas	\$2,844,866	1.1%	31
Nebraska	\$1,859,131	0.7%	36
North Dakota	\$884,248	0.4%	42
Wyoming	\$685,288	0.3%	48
South Dakota	\$672,371	0.3%	49

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Governments Division, 2011 State and Local Government Finances; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Degrees Conferred by Degree-granting Institutions, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Degrees Conferred	Bachelor's Degrees Conferred
United States	3,552,640	1,715,913
Colorado	62,101	29,540
Iowa	68,650	36,266
Kansas	36,395	18,191
Minnesota	80,041	33,386
Missouri	85,535	41,648
Nebraska	26,451	14,196
North Dakota	9,908	5,613
South Dakota	9,539	5,211
Wyoming	5,746	1,860

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Assessment

Average Reading Scale Score and Percentage of 4th and 8th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Reading Achievement Levels, Regional Comparison: 2011

4th Graders

	Average Scale Score*		Percent Attaining Reading Achievement Levels**					
	Score	National Rank	At or Above Basic	National Rank	At or Above Proficient	National Rank	At Advanced	National Rank
United States	220		66.2%		32.4%		7.5%	
Colorado	223	17	70.7%	16	38.5%	9	9.3%	9
Iowa	221	28	68.7%	23	33.2%	28	6.4%	33
Kansas	224	16	70.6%	17	36.1%	12	8.3%	13
Minnesota	222	21	70.1%	19	35.3%	16	8.1%	16
Missouri	220	31	66.6%	32	34.0%	22	8.4%	12
Nebraska	223	18	70.1%	20	36.3%	10	8.2%	15
North Dakota	226	9	73.8%	5	35.8%	13	6.3%	35
South Dakota	220	33	68.7%	24	31.3%	34	5.4%	42
Wyoming	224	14	71.3%	14	34.4%	21	6.8%	26

8th Graders

	Average Scale Score*		Percent Attaining Reading Achievement Levels**					
	Score	National Rank	At or Above Basic	National Rank	At or Above Proficient	National Rank	At Advanced	National Rank
United States	264		74.7%		31.6%		3.0%	
Colorado	271	8	81.1%	11	40.3%	6	4.2%	9
Iowa	265	31	76.8%	29	32.7%	29	2.0%	40
Kansas	267	20	78.8%	19	35.5%	17	2.8%	25
Minnesota	270	9	81.3%	10	39.3%	9	3.9%	10
Missouri	267	24	78.7%	20	35.2%	20	2.6%	30
Nebraska	268	18	80.8%	13	34.8%	23	2.5%	31
North Dakota	269	14	82.9%	6	34.1%	24	1.7%	42
South Dakota	269	12	82.7%	7	35.3%	19	2.1%	38
Wyoming	270	11	81.6%	9	37.7%	12	2.7%	26

Notes: *Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Average Mathematics Scale Score and Percentage of 4th and 8th Graders in Public Schools Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels, Regional Comparison: 2011

4th Graders

	Average Scale Score*		Percent Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels**					
	Score	National Rank	At or Above Basic	National Rank	At or Above Proficient	National Rank	At Advanced	National Rank
United States	240		81.9%		39.7%		6.5%	
Colorado	244	13	84.3%	23	46.8%	10	9.7%	6
Iowa	243	20	85.7%	18	43.1%	21	5.7%	25
Kansas	246	7	89.9%	3	47.7%	7	6.8%	19
Minnesota	249	3	88.0%	8	52.9%	3	11.8%	3
Missouri	240	27	82.7%	30	41.4%	24	5.6%	27
Nebraska	240	31	82.5%	31	39.4%	28	5.1%	36
North Dakota	245	10	89.7%	4	46.4%	11	5.4%	29
South Dakota	241	25	85.6%	19	40.0%	25	4.3%	43
Wyoming	244	16	87.9%	9	43.9%	20	5.4%	28

8th Graders

	Average Scale Score*		Percent Attaining Mathematics Achievement Levels**					
	Score	National Rank	At or Above Basic	National Rank	At or Above Proficient	National Rank	At Advanced	National Rank
United States	283		72.3%		33.5%		7.8%	
Colorado	292	8	80.2%	11	43.5%	7	12.3%	5
Iowa	285	24	76.5%	20	33.6%	27	7.6%	23
Kansas	290	11	80.0%	12	40.8%	11	8.5%	18
Minnesota	295	2	83.2%	3	47.6%	2	13.3%	3
Missouri	282	32	72.6%	31	31.5%	33	6.7%	32
Nebraska	283	28	74.5%	23	32.8%	29	6.7%	35
North Dakota	292	7	84.5%	2	42.6%	8	8.3%	21
South Dakota	291	9	82.0%	6	41.7%	9	8.3%	19
Wyoming	288	18	80.3%	10	37.4%	20	7.1%	29

Notes: *Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

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

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Funding Sustainability

Total Expenditures per Pupil in Fall Enrollment in Public Elementary and Secondary Education, Regional Comparison: 2008-2009 and 2009-2010

	Expenditures per Pupil		National Rank
	2008-2009	2009-2010	2009-2010
United States	\$12,274	\$12,136	
Wyoming	\$18,922	\$19,123	3
Nebraska	\$12,703	\$12,955	16
Minnesota	\$13,046	\$12,328	20
North Dakota	\$10,947	\$12,126	21
Iowa	\$11,667	\$11,590	26
Kansas	\$11,427	\$11,217	31
Missouri	\$11,507	\$11,102	32
Colorado	\$10,600	\$10,713	37
South Dakota	\$10,045	\$10,398	40

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (Tables 215 and 216); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Estimated Net Migration of Persons 22 to 64 Years of Age, Nebraska: 2008-2011

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

Source: Estimates based on the 2008-2011 American Community Survey, conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, obtained from 2013 Nebraska Higher Education Progress Report; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database – Health and Human Services

Introduction

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

Health Access

The Commonwealth Fund’s Commission on a High Performance Health System ranked the overall performance of the states’ health systems. The latest year for this ranking was 2009. Nebraska ranked 13th nationally. Iowa and Minnesota both ranked among the best state in the nation, while Missouri and North Dakota were in the bottom one-third nationally.

The Commonwealth Fund also looked at the long-term services and support system and the child health system. Nebraska also ranks among the top one-third in these measures, with respective rankings of 14th and 16th. Minnesota ranked first in the nation for long-term services and support, and Iowa ranked first in the nation for child health.

The Nebraska Office of Rural Health looks at professional shortage areas. In 2012, many of the counties in the western one-third of the state experienced shortages in primary care. The map included in this section is just one of many prepared by this office.

In 2012, Nebraska ranked better than the United States in the rate of uninsurance, as 11.3% of the total population—6.0% of children under 18 years, and 15.8% of those aged 18 to 64 years—were uninsured. The respective national rankings were: 35th, 23rd, and 35th (A lower ranking indicates a lower uninsurance rate). In general, Nebraska ranked better than its peer states, even though North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota had lower rates. For children under 18 years, only Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota had lower rates than Nebraska. For the 18 to 64 year-old population, North Dakota, Iowa, and Minnesota had lower rates.

Health Status

In 2011, 19.0% of adult Nebraskans were tobacco users. This compares to 20.0% for the United States. Although there has been a two-year increase in the percentage of tobacco users, there has been a general decreasing trend in tobacco use since the early 2000s. Heavy drinking (defined as two drinks per day for men and 1 drink per day for women) has increased since 2006. The value for 2012, at 7.2%, was higher than any of the previous years with the exception of 2011.

Nebraska’s adult obesity rate has been increasing and is consistently higher than the national rate between 2005 and 2012. The obesity rate in 2012 was 28.6%, which was higher than the national rate of 27.6%. Child obesity, on the other hand, has been lower in Nebraska than in the nation (11.6% compared to 12.0% in 2009), although Nebraska’s trend is up while the national average is down.

In 2011, 74.1% of Nebraska mothers received prenatal care in the first trimester. The infant mortality rate in 2012 was 5.4 per 1,000 live births. This was down from 2011 and among the lowest rates in the past nine years. In 2011, there were 1,745 teen births, which was the lowest number for the 2005-2011 period. Overall, teen births represented 6.8% of all births. This was lowest in the 2005-2011 time period.

Family Welfare

The poverty rate for Nebraska's children in 2012 was 17.9% and was among the lowest in the nation, ranking 35th. However, in the region, only Missouri, Kansas, and Colorado recorded higher child poverty rates. Nationally, the child poverty rate was 22.6%. Although recording a slight drop in 2012, the percentage of children in poverty for Nebraska has been on an upward trend since 2005.

Looking at the poverty rate for families with a female householder with no spouse present, Nebraska was below the national rate in 2012, 40.3% in Nebraska compared to 41.5% for the United States. During this period, Nebraska ranked 25th, with Missouri and Wyoming recording higher poverty rates than Nebraska. During the past five years, the poverty rate for families with a female householder with no spouse present has fluctuated from year to year but has exhibited a generally increasing trend.

In 2012, the average number of monthly recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Nebraska was 13,191 persons—2,141 adults and 11,050 children. That number was down by more than 5,000 recipients since the peak in 2010. This pattern was the same for the nation and all of the states in the region, with the exception of Colorado.

Health Costs

In 2010-2011, Nebraska spent \$1,109 per capita at the state level and \$73 per capita at the local level on public welfare. Per capita state expenditures ranked 44th and per capita local expenditures ranked 16th.

In FY 2013, Medicaid and CHIP expenditures totaled more than \$1.8 billion, the majority of which (44.7%) was for the blind and disabled. The next highest category was for children (27.1%); followed by aged (20.7%) and ADC adult (7.4%). Since FY 2005, the largest increases by category were for the blind and disabled and for children. Expenditures for the aged rose the slowest. This relatively slower increase in expenditures for the aged population should be viewed with caution because the impact of the aging baby boom will not be felt for a few more years.

Looking at expenditures per eligible person in FY 2013, a different pattern emerges. The highest expenditures were still highest for the blind and disabled at \$1,821 per eligible person, but expenditures for the aged at \$1,727 per eligible person became the second highest level of spending per person. Although total expenditures for children were relatively high, they were the lowest on an eligible person basis (\$264). With the exception of ADC adult, the other categories of expenditures per eligible person were higher in FY 2013 than in most of the previous eight years.

In FY 2010, \$153 million was received as state mental health agency revenues. This represented a per capita amount of \$84. Nebraska's per capita revenue for mental health ranked 37th nationally and last in the region. Nebraska had a higher percentage (69.6%) of its revenues from state general funds than the United States as a whole. Among the peer states, only Wyoming recorded a higher percentage coming from state general funds. On the expenditure side, 32.9% of Nebraska's mental health spending went to state psychiatric hospital inpatient care, 65.6% went for community mental health, and 1.6% was for administration. Compared to the nation, Nebraska spent a somewhat higher percentage for psychiatric hospital inpatient care and a somewhat lower percentage for community mental health care.

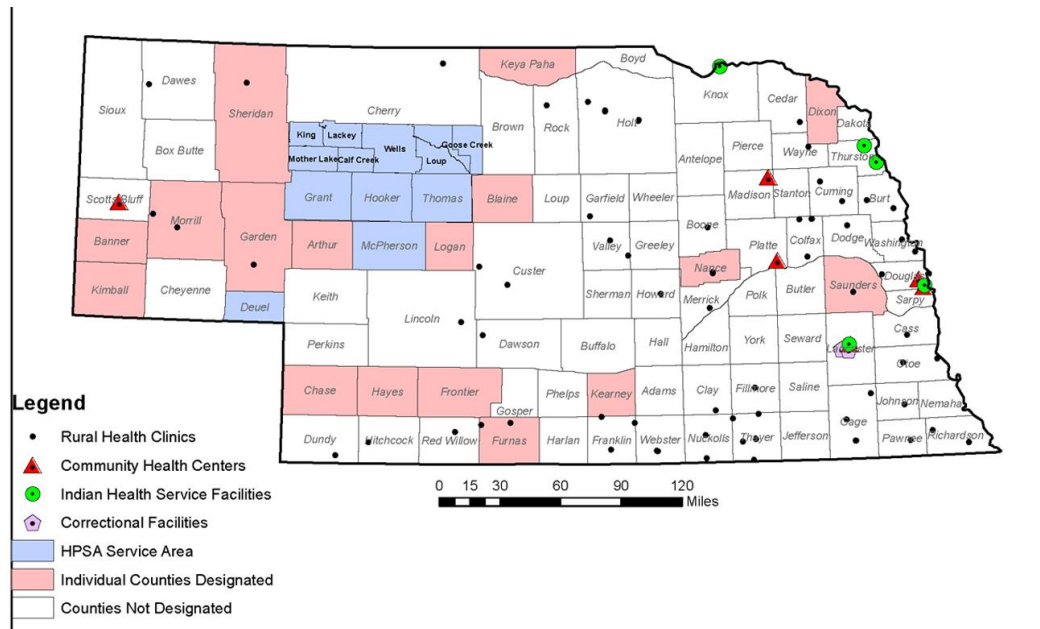
Health Access

Overall, Long-Term Services, and Child Health State Rankings on Health System Performance, Regional Comparison: 2009 and 2011

	National Rank		
	2009	2011	
	Overall Health System	Long-Term Services and Support System	Child Health System
Iowa	2	6	1
Minnesota	4	1	8
South Dakota	12	29	27
Nebraska	13	14	16
Kansas	23	9	13
Colorado	24	7	20
Wyoming	25	20	35
Missouri	36	13	21
North Dakota	41	18	10

Source: The Commonwealth Fund, U.S. Health System Scorecards; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Health Professional Shortage Areas Primary Care, Nebraska: 2012



Note: The Nebraska Office of Rural Health has several maps illustrating health professional shortage areas. See <http://www.raconline.org/states/nebraska.php#maps>.

Source: Nebraska Office of Rural Health; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Percentage of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population that is Uninsured, Regional Comparison: 2012

Total Population

	Percent Uninsured	National Rank
United States	14.8%	
Wyoming	15.4%	17
Colorado	14.7%	19
Missouri	13.6%	26
Kansas	12.6%	30
South Dakota	11.5%	32
Nebraska	11.3%	35
North Dakota	10.0%	41
Iowa	8.4%	46
Minnesota	8.0%	47

Under 18 years

	Percent Uninsured	National Rank
United States	7.2%	
Wyoming	9.3%	9
Colorado	8.8%	10
Missouri	7.0%	19
North Dakota	6.9%	20
Kansas	6.6%	21
Nebraska	6.0%	23
South Dakota	5.8%	25
Minnesota	5.4%	30
Iowa	4.0%	39

18 to 64 years

	Percent Uninsured	National Rank
United States	20.6%	
Wyoming	20.6%	19
Colorado	19.5%	25
Missouri	19.1%	26
Kansas	17.7%	30
South Dakota	16.4%	33
Nebraska	15.8%	35
North Dakota	13.2%	42
Iowa	12.1%	46
Minnesota	10.6%	47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Rural Response Hotline Summary, Nebraska: 1999-2012

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

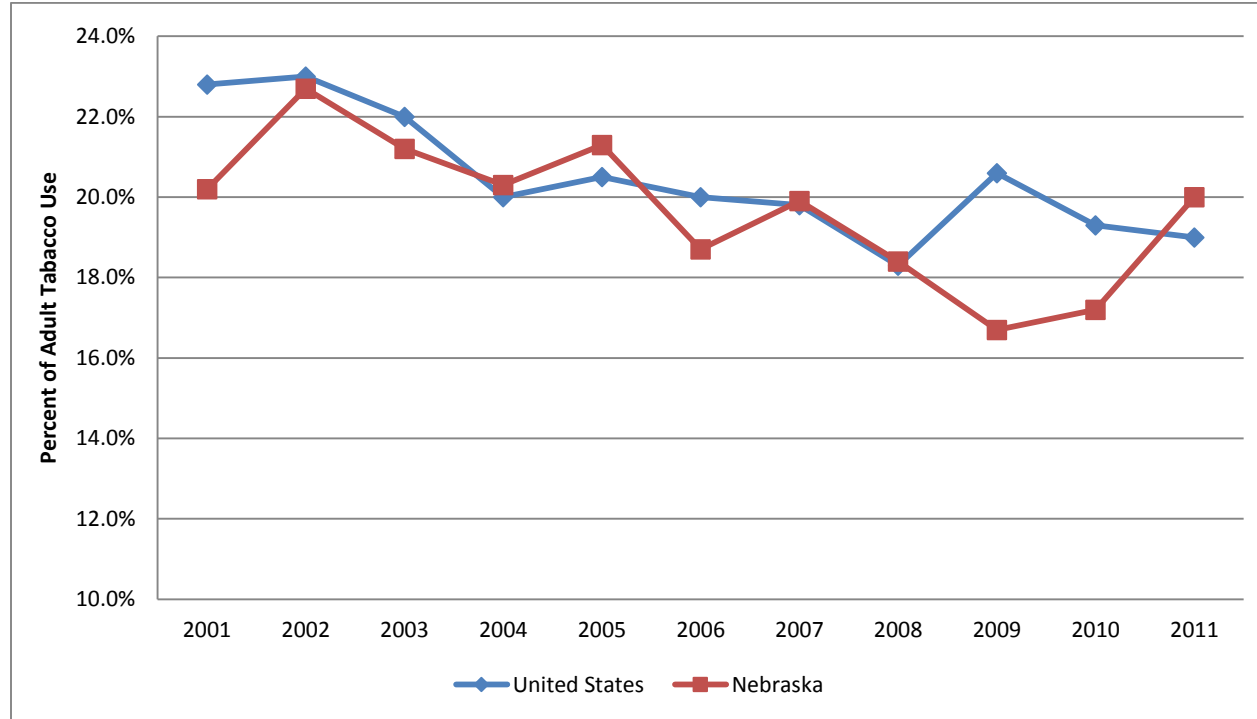
Health Status

Percentage of Adult Tobacco Use, Nebraska and the United States: 2001-2011

	Nebraska	United States
2001	20.2%	22.8%
2002	22.7%	23.0%
2003	21.2%	22.0%
2004	20.3%	20.0%
2005	21.3%	20.5%
2006	18.7%	20.0%
2007	19.9%	19.8%
2008	18.4%	18.3%
2009	16.7%	20.6%
2010	17.2%	19.3%
2011	19.0%	20.0%

Source: State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System: Detailed report (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/statesystem/Default/Default.aspx>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Adult Tobacco Use, Nebraska and the United States: 2001-2011



Source: State Tobacco Activities Tracking and Evaluation (STATE) System: Detailed report (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/statesystem/Default/Default.aspx>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

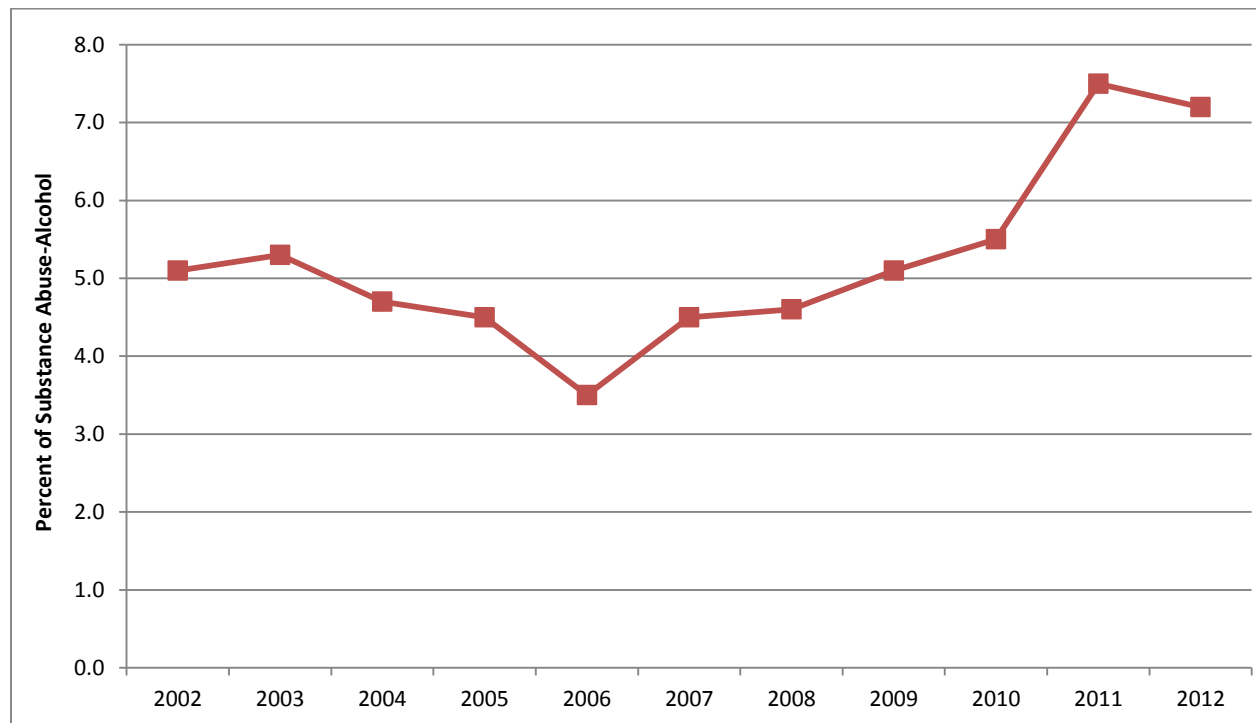
Percentage of Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking), Nebraska: 2002-2012

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

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

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking), Nebraska: 2002-2011



Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Adult Obesity, Nebraska and the United States: 2005-2012

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

Source: Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/brfss/index.asp>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Child Obesity, Nebraska and the United States: 2005, 2007, and 2009

	Nebraska	United States
2005	11.0%	13.1%
2007	11.8%	13.0%
2009	11.6%	12.0%

Note: This measure is updated every two years, 2009 is the latest year available.

Source: Youth Risk Factor Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Resident Births and Percentage of Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester, Nebraska: 2005-2011

	Total Resident Births	Women Receiving Prenatal Care in First Trimester	
		Number	Percent
2005	26,142	18,627	71.3%
2006	26,723	19,096	71.5%
2007	26,935	19,721	73.2%
2008	26,992	19,464	72.1%
2009	26,931	19,382	72.0%
2010	25,916	18,979	73.2%
2011	25,722	19,054	74.1%

Source: Vital Statistics Reports (2005-2011), Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Infant Mortality Rate, Nebraska: 2005-2012

	Mortality Rate (per 1,000 births)
2005	5.6
2006	5.5
2007	6.8
2008	5.4
2009	5.4
2010	5.2
2011	6.1
2012	5.4

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; American’s Health Rankings (2012), United Health Foundation (<http://www.americashealthrankings.org/ALL/IMR/2012>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Number of Teen Births, Nebraska: 2005-2011

	Total Births	Teen Births	
	Number	Number	Percent of Total Births
2005	26,142	2,175	8.3%
2006	26,723	2,143	8.0%
2007	26,935	2,303	8.6%
2008	26,992	2,311	8.6%
2009	26,931	2,236	8.3%
2010	25,916	1,975	7.6%
2011	25,722	1,745	6.8%

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Annual Vital Statistics Reports; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

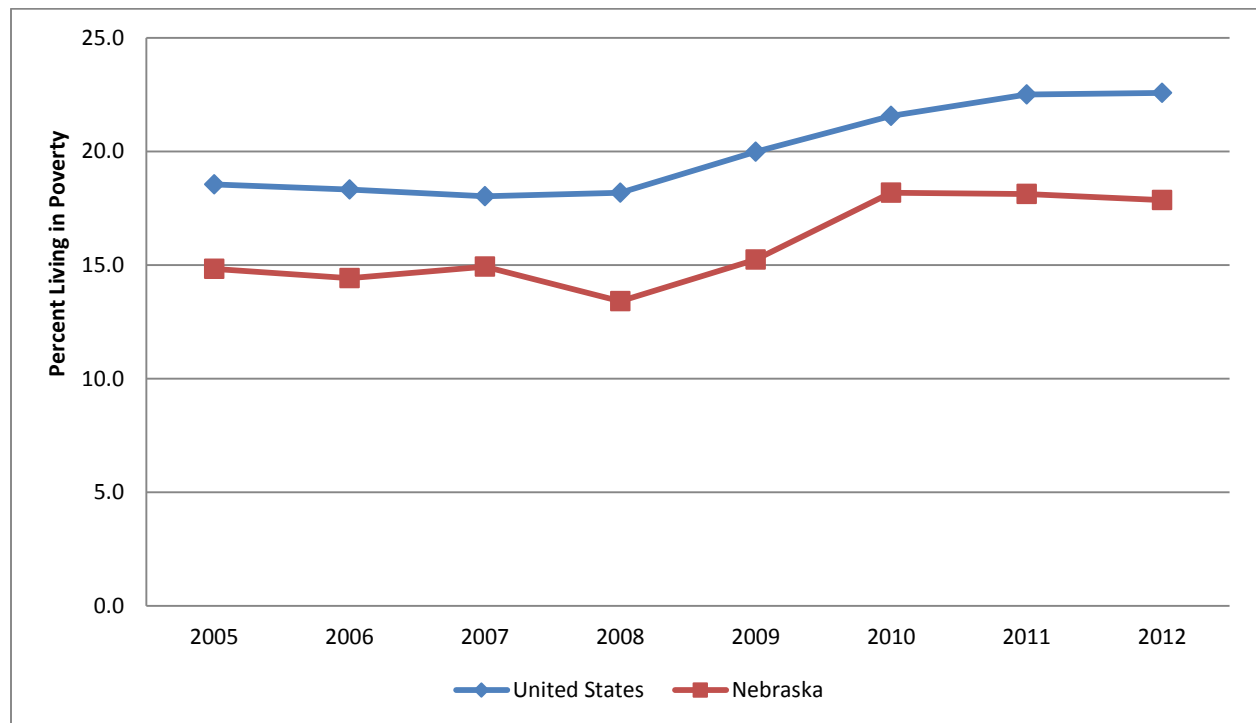
Family Welfare

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent Living in Poverty	National Rank
United States	22.6%	
Missouri	22.6%	23
Kansas	19.0%	31
Colorado	18.5%	33
Nebraska	17.9%	35
South Dakota	17.5%	36
Wyoming	16.9%	39
Iowa	15.9%	40
Minnesota	14.6%	48
North Dakota	13.2%	51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, Nebraska and the United States: 2005-2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2012 American Community Survey (Table C17001); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

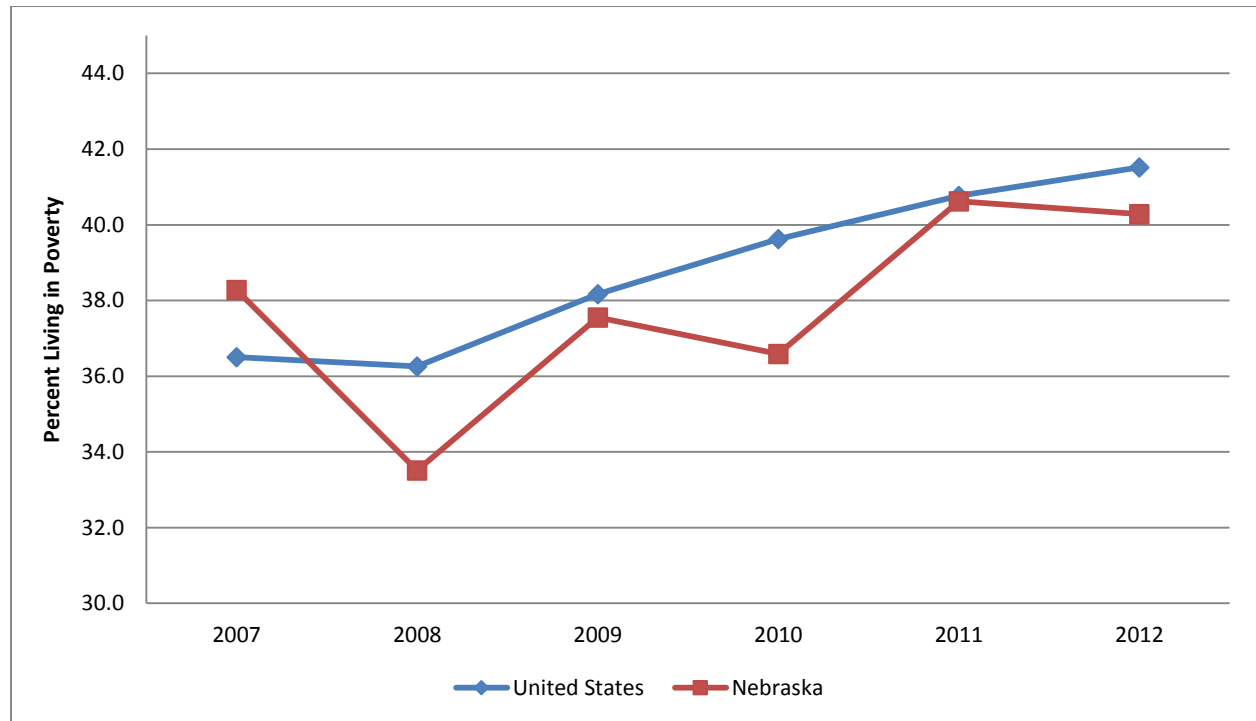
Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent Living in Poverty	National Rank
United States	41.5%	
Missouri	43.4%	18
Wyoming	43.2%	19
Nebraska	40.3%	25
Iowa	39.4%	30
Kansas	38.2%	32
Minnesota	36.3%	37
South Dakota	35.3%	41
North Dakota	35.1%	43
Colorado	33.9%	45

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey (Table C17010); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty, Nebraska and the United States, 2007-2012



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2012 American Community Survey (Table C17010); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Number of State Wards, Nebraska: 2001-2013

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

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Number of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Recipients, Regional Comparison, 2009-2012

	Average Monthly Number of Recipients					
	2012			2011	2010	2009
	Total Recipients	Adults	Children	Total Recipients	Total Recipients	Total Recipients
United States	4,016,608	972,079	3,044,529	4,363,000	4,402,921	4,154,769
Colorado	37,039	10,186	26,853	32,110	29,312	24,576
Iowa	40,321	12,047	28,274	43,828	45,688	42,551
Kansas	25,702	7,656	18,046	37,044	38,251	35,119
Minnesota	47,974	11,052	36,922	48,789	49,548	47,963
Missouri	81,997	25,673	56,324	86,123	86,209	84,826
Nebraska	13,191	2,141	11,050	15,100	18,290	18,090
North Dakota	4,060	936	3,125	4,495	5,071	5,389
South Dakota	6,685	977	5,707	6,824	6,750	6,284
Wyoming	623	116	506	607	661	598

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Family Assistance; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Health Costs

Per Capita State Public Welfare Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	State Expenditures Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$1,409.9	
Minnesota	\$1,933.2	8
Iowa	\$1,543.0	17
Wyoming	\$1,303.7	33
North Dakota	\$1,303.6	34
Missouri	\$1,261.7	37
Kansas	\$1,229.9	38
South Dakota	\$1,164.3	42
Nebraska	\$1,109.4	44
Colorado	\$789.1	49

Source: The figures are calculated based on the data from 2011 Census of Government Finance and 2011 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Per Capita Local Public Welfare Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Local Expenditures Per Capita	National Rank
United States Total	\$169.1	
Minnesota	\$290.3	5
Colorado	\$177.4	9
North Dakota	\$101.1	15
Nebraska	\$73.1	16
Wyoming	\$43.4	24
Iowa	\$33.5	26
Missouri	\$26.5	32
South Dakota	\$17.3	38
Kansas	\$12.6	42

Source: The figures are calculated based on the data from 2011 Census of Government Finance and 2011 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Medicaid and CHIP Vendor Expenditures*, Nebraska: FYs 2005-2013

	Aged	Blind and Disabled	ADC Adult	Children (includes CHIP)	Total
FY 2005	\$364,993,807	\$566,581,397	\$104,133,140	\$360,859,893	\$1,396,568,237
FY 2006	\$356,223,258	\$580,589,583	\$102,043,747	\$392,051,029	\$1,430,907,617
FY 2007	\$333,402,607	\$586,017,234	\$105,182,619	\$414,180,616	\$1,438,783,076
FY 2008	\$341,121,451	\$610,630,371	\$105,546,463	\$439,466,463	\$1,496,764,748
FY 2009	\$345,556,480	\$639,773,363	\$108,670,527	\$444,376,668	\$1,538,377,038
FY 2010	\$347,270,826	\$655,301,099	\$129,735,093	\$439,689,268	\$1,571,996,287
FY 2011	\$337,748,437	\$664,473,101	\$175,196,070	\$398,429,576	\$1,575,847,184
FY 2012	\$341,670,694	\$711,031,873	\$170,704,198	\$378,940,580	\$1,602,347,345
FY 2013	\$372,963,484	\$803,733,957	\$134,708,628	\$488,051,097	\$1,799,457,166

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

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Medicaid and CHIP Average Monthly Cost per Eligible*, Nebraska: FYs 2005-2013

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

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

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Medicaid Annual Report; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State Mental Health Agency Revenue, Regional Comparison: FYs 2005 and 2010

	All Revenue Sources			
	(millions of dollars)			
	FY 2005	FY 2010	Per Capita	Rank
United States	\$33,926	\$39,353	\$126.49	
Minnesota	\$772	\$828	\$156.02	16
Wyoming	\$58	\$80	\$142.57	18
Iowa	\$272	\$426	\$139.74	19
Kansas	\$293	\$391	\$137.72	20
Missouri	\$478	\$709	\$118.64	24
North Dakota	\$54	\$67	\$100.39	29
Colorado	\$397	\$461	\$91.95	33
South Dakota	\$63	\$73	\$89.79	34
Nebraska	\$122	\$153	\$83.92	37

	State General Funds (percent of total)		Medicaid (percent of total)		Medicare/Block Grant/Other (percent of total)	
	FY 2005	FY 2010	FY 2005	FY 2010	FY 2005	FY 2010
	United States		41.7%		47.9%	
Minnesota	41.3%	36.5%	45.4%	52.4%	13.3%	11.1%
Wyoming	83.4%	82.1%	14.9%	16.7%	1.7%	1.2%
Iowa	32.6%	18.0%	41.2%	64.2%	26.2%	17.9%
Kansas	36.3%	27.6%	61.4%	68.8%	2.3%	3.6%
Missouri	48.4%	50.6%	45.7%	43.8%	5.9%	5.5%
North Dakota	47.4%	50.6%	21.9%	22.7%	30.7%	26.7%
Colorado	42.6%	33.6%	51.3%	62.2%	6.1%	4.2%
South Dakota	57.8%	52.6%	34.9%	36.2%	7.3%	11.2%
Nebraska	86.0%	69.6%	8.4%	13.1%	5.7%	17.3%

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Behavioral Health, United States, 2012 (www.samhsa.gov); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

State Mental Health Agency Expenditures, Regional Comparison: FYs 2005 and 2010

	Total Expenditures (millions of dollars)		State Psychiatric Hospital-Inpatient (percent of total)	
	FY 2005	FY 2010	FY 2005	FY 2010
United States	\$33,926	\$38,989		25.0%
Colorado	\$397	\$461	26.2%	25.6%
Iowa	\$272	\$426	11.6%	10.6%
Kansas	\$293	\$391	27.1%	25.0%
Minnesota	\$772	\$828	26.1%	15.1%
Missouri	\$478	\$538	46.8%	48.1%
Nebraska	\$122	\$153	59.3%	32.9%
North Dakota	\$54	\$67	40.1%	31.9%
South Dakota	\$63	\$72	63.3%	61.4%
Wyoming	\$58	\$78	29.9%	32.2%

	Community Mental Health (percent of total)		State Mental Health Agency Central Office (percent of total)	
	FY 2005	FY 2010	FY 2005	FY 2010
United States		72.8%		2.2%
Colorado	73.4%	73.9%	0.4%	0.5%
Iowa	86.7%	87.7%	1.7%	1.6%
Kansas	72.9%	71.3%	0.0%	3.7%
Minnesota	73.3%	84.1%	0.5%	0.8%
Missouri	50.6%	49.2%	2.6%	2.7%
Nebraska	37.7%	65.6%	3.0%	1.6%
North Dakota	59.9%	68.0%	0.1%	0.1%
South Dakota	36.7%	36.9%	0.0%	1.7%
Wyoming	68.5%	66.4%	1.6%	1.5%

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Behavioral Health, United States, 2012 (www.samhsa.gov); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database – Natural Resources

Introduction

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

Air Quality

As measured by total air pollution emissions, Nebraska’s air quality was high. In 2013, Nebraska recorded 8.2 micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter, the same as in 2011. This was the 36th in the nation and 4th in the region. Toxic air emissions in Nebraska in 2012 were 6th in the region, 32nd in the nation. Colorado, South Dakota, and Wyoming all had lower levels of both air pollution emissions and toxic air emissions. Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas were all higher for both measures.

Another form of air pollution and greenhouse gases is the emission of carbon dioxide (CO₂) from fossil fuel combustion. In 2011, Nebraska was 3rd lowest in the region behind South Dakota and North Dakota and 16th nationally. Total emissions in Nebraska have increased by 26.8% since 2000. Almost one-half of these emissions are produced through the generation of electricity; more than one-fourth are produced by transportation.

Land Quality and Waste

Nebraska recorded 13 hazardous waste sites on the national priority list in 2011. This is the same as for 2009; but it changed from having 20th to 19th fewest sites in the United States. For toxic chemical releases in 2011, Nebraska was 3rd in the region and ranked 30th nationally. The total on- and off-site releases reduced by about 9% for Nebraska as compared with a substantial increase (about 17%) for the country as a whole.

For toxic surface water discharges Nebraska ranked 1st regionally in 2011. Compared to 2005, the amount of toxic releases is down from 21.0 to 11.3 million pounds, a drop of 46.6%. Nebraska is substantially higher than other states in the region; toxic releases are almost twice that of Iowa, the 2nd placed state in the region. Nitrate compounds constitute 99.6% of the total toxic releases in Nebraska. The principle sources of nitrate discharge are Tyson Fresh in Dakota City (38.5% of total nitrate discharges), Cargill Meat in Schuyler (36.2%), Tyson Fresh in Lexington (13.7%), and Farmland Foods in Crete (7.7%).

Water Quality

There were substantial portions of surface waters, both flowing (rivers and streams) and standing (lakes and reservoirs) waters, that failed to meet requirements for one or more designated uses (for contact recreation, aquatic life, water supplies for drinking and uses in agriculture and industry, aesthetic pleasure). The commonest impairments in flowing waters were for recreational uses (due largely to bacteria) and aquatic life (due largely to chemical pollution). The most common impairments in standing waters were from enrichment leading to excessive algal growth that fouls the water for aquatic life (including fish) and recreational uses. Over the past 10 years the levels of impairment have remained relatively constant for flowing waters but increased for standing waters in Nebraska. As compared with

neighboring states, in 2011 Nebraska was 3rd highest in impairment for flowing and 2nd highest for standing waters.

By far the majority of public drinking water systems in Nebraska obtain water from ground water sources, though many of these supplies are under the direct influence of surface water and may require disinfection. Most community water systems are small, serving communities and non-community supplies of less than 1,000 individuals. Over the last 10 years, the number of community water systems has declined from 614 in 2002 to 589 in 2011. The frequency in total health-based drinking water violations for community water supplies declined steadily from 31% in 2002 to 11% in 2011, primarily from total coliform rule or nitrate maximum contaminant level violations.

Two maps are included. The first shows the density of irrigation wells as of December 2011. Generally, it indicates that this density is highest in the Platte River Valley, and low in the Panhandle, southwestern Nebraska and parts of eastern Nebraska. The second map shows changes in ground water levels from the development of irrigation to spring 2011. The largest historical decreases are in Box Butte, Perkins, Chase and Dundy counties. The largest increases are in Phelps and Gosper counties. From Spring 2009 to Spring 2011, decreases in Holt, Dawson, Custer and Butler counties were reversed.

Energy

Electricity in Nebraska costs less than in the United States, although the price is rising faster in Nebraska than in the United States. In 2012, the average price per kilowatt hour was 8.37 cents in Nebraska, a 6.2% increase from 2011 compared to 9.84 cents nationally, and a 0.6% decrease. Nebraska's cost was 85.1% of the national cost, up from 67.6% of the national cost in 2008. Nebraska's electricity cost ranked 37th nationally. In the region, Iowa, Wyoming and North Dakota had lower electricity costs. The average residential retail price of electricity in Nebraska was 12 cents per kilowatt hour, 6th in the region and 27th in the nation.

Nebraska is a relatively high user of energy. In 2011, Nebraska's energy consumption was 473 million BTUs per person. This ranked 7th in the nation and 4th in the region. The other states outside of the region that are particularly high are coal and oil producing states of Alaska, Louisiana and Texas. In 2011, Nebraska spent \$9,971 million in total, or \$5,413 per person on energy, up 22.4% since 2010. Nebraska's per capita spending ranked 11th nationally and 5th in the region.

Nebraska ranked low in the percentage of electricity generated through renewable resources. Nationally, 12.8% of the electricity generated in 2010 came from renewable resources, up from 10.6% in 2009. For Nebraska, the portion of electricity generated from renewable sources rose substantially, from 2.6% to 4.9%.

Air Quality

Air Pollution Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2013

	Micrograms of Fine Particles per Cubic Meter	National Rank
United States	10.3	
Missouri	10.0	16
Iowa	9.9	17
Kansas	8.9	32
Nebraska	8.2	36
Minnesota	8.1	38
Colorado	6.7	45
South Dakota	6.4	47
North Dakota	5.6	48
Wyoming	5.3	50

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

Source: America’s Health Rankings (2013), United Health Foundation (<http://www.americashealthrankings.org>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Toxic Releases: Total Air Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Fugitive Air Emissions (Pounds)	Point Source Air Emissions (Pounds)	Total Air Emissions	National Rank
United States	158,083,550	599,392,068	757,475,618	
Iowa	3,575,744	15,994,470	19,570,214	18
North Dakota	11,046,977	3,702,738	14,749,715	21
Missouri	3,696,891	7,864,595	11,561,486	23
Kansas	2,343,463	7,653,251	9,996,714	24
Minnesota	1,894,293	7,283,593	9,177,885	26
Nebraska	556,807	4,070,791	4,627,598	32
Colorado	612,718	2,167,543	2,780,261	35
Wyoming	565,627	1,820,795	2,386,422	36
South Dakota	493,010	726,378	1,219,388	43

* Assuming United States total is the sum of toxic released of all states

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Information Management, 2013 Toxics Release Inventory; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion, Regional Comparison: 2011

	CO₂ Emissions (Million Metric Tons CO₂)	National Rank
South Dakota	14.76	5
North Dakota	50.34	15
Nebraska	52.26	16
Wyoming	63.89	19
Kansas	72.36	25
Iowa	87.42	27
Colorado	91.98	28
Minnesota	92.69	29
Missouri	135.54	39

Source: State and Local Climate and Energy Program, United States Environmental Protection Agency (http://www.epga.gov/statelocalclimate/resources/states_energyco2inv.html); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion by Type, Nebraska: 2000-2011

Type	CO₂ Emissions (Million Metric Tons CO₂)					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Commercial	1.76	1.73	1.64	1.71	1.81	1.62
Industrial	5.65	5.95	5.85	5.73	6.02	5.91
Residential	2.74	2.95	2.86	2.73	2.49	2.49
Transportation	12.17	11.47	11.78	11.98	12.27	12.29
Electric Power	18.90	20.48	19.88	20.78	20.39	21.08
Total	41.23	42.58	42.00	42.94	42.98	43.38
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Commercial	1.68	1.79	2.08	1.87	1.86	1.87
Industrial	6.58	7.35	7.38	7.27	7.81	8.45
Residential	2.32	2.51	2.84	2.65	2.67	2.64
Transportation	12.47	12.62	12.49	11.87	14.67	14.16
Electric Power	20.91	20.12	21.61	22.84	22.83	25.14
Total	43.96	44.39	46.39	46.48	49.83	52.26

Source: State and Local Climate and Energy Program, United States Environmental Protection Agency (http://www.epga.gov/statelocalclimate/resources/states_energyco2inv.html); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Land Quality and Waste

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

	Total Sites				2013 National Rank
	2004	2008	2011	2013	
United States	1,286	1,301	1,320	1305	
Missouri	26	29	33	33	14
Minnesota	24	25	25	25	18
Colorado	18	20	18	18	21
Nebraska	12	13	13	13	31
Kansas	12	12	12	12	34
Iowa	13	12	11	11	36
South Dakota	2	2	2	2	47
Wyoming	2	2	2	2	47
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	51

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Supplementary Materials (2004, 2008, 2011, and 2013); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Toxic Releases: Total On- and Off-site Disposal or Other Releases, Regional Comparison: 2012

State and Outlying Areas	Total On- and Off-site Releases (Million Pounds)	National Rank
United States	3,632.1	
Missouri	69.7	15
Iowa	39.7	25
North Dakota	34.5	28
Colorado	28.6	31
Minnesota	27.4	32
Nebraska	23.6	34
Kansas	19.4	36
Wyoming	17.2	39
South Dakota	5.2	44

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Program, 2012 TRI Public Data Release; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Total Toxic Releases to Surface Waters, Nebraska: 2001-2011

	Total Releases (Pounds)	Nitrate Compounds (Pounds)	Nitrate Compounds as a Percent of Total Releases
2001	9,601,101	9,339,094	97.27%
2002	13,108,748	12,941,403	98.72%
2003	18,177,388	18,092,191	99.53%
2004	20,145,099	20,097,339	99.76%
2005	21,082,285	21,048,000	99.84%
2006	18,842,321	18,797,576	99.76%
2007	17,409,779	17,358,782	99.71%
2008	16,979,499	16,931,956	99.72%
2009	15,174,931	15,132,738	99.72%
2010	14,727,942	14,671,446	99.62%
2011	11,268,159	11,217,172	99.55%

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

Nitrogen Released to Surface Waters by the Top Seven Nitrogen Dischargers, Nebraska: 2011

Discharger	Location	Nitrate Compounds (Pounds)	Percent of Total Nitrate Compounds Released in the State
Tyson Fresh	Dakota City	4,335,050	38.47%
Cargill Meat	Schuyler	4,080,656	36.21%
Tyson Fresh	Lexington	1,543,711	13.70%
Farmland Foods	Crete	871,141	7.73%
Nestle Purina	Crete	216,610	1.92%
Cargill Corn	Blair	138,705	1.23%
MG Waldbaum	Wakefield	31,294	0.28%

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

Total Toxic Releases to Surface Water, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Toxic Releases (Pounds)	National Rank
United States	215,804,518	
Nebraska	10,522,803	6
Iowa	6,829,092	12
Missouri	2,176,282	27
South Dakota	1,895,777	29
Minnesota	1,861,487	30
Colorado	849,619	36
Kansas	302,239	39
North Dakota	151,308	42
Wyoming	15,149	46

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Information Management, 2012 Toxics Release Inventory; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Miles of Rivers and Streams that Fail to Meet One or More Beneficial Uses, Nebraska: 2002-2012

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

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

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

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

Source: http://ofmpub.epa.gov/waters10/attains_state.report_control?p_state=NE&p_cycle=2002&p_report_type=A

Water Quality

Water System Data, Regional Comparison: 2010

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

Colorado								
Number of Systems	874	172	1004	2050	1527	523	78	4%
Population Served	5,323,685	72,057	247,694	5,643,436	708,484	4,934,952	232,058	4%

Iowa								
Number of Systems	1124	137	657	1918	1768	150	75	4%
Population Served	2,667,602	48,570	75,716	2,791,888	1,513,560	1,278,328	64,795	2%

Kansas								
Number of Systems	890	45	90	1025	653	372	113	11%
Population Served	2,639,318	21,024	4,185	2,664,527	750,469	1,914,058	631,816	24%

Minnesota								
Number of Systems	959	517	5705	7181	7062	119	52	1%
Population Served	4,249,409	77,299	534,263	4,860,971	3,450,803	1,410,168	147,994	3%

Missouri								
Number of Systems	1474	247	1075	2796	2564	232	166	6%
Population Served	5,190,106	76,968	117,433	5,384,507	2,046,898	3,337,609	1,372,714	25%

Nebraska								
Number of Systems	595	161	573	1329	1260	67	161	12%
Population Served	1,479,703	47,084	51,800	1,578,587	737,297	841,239	139,651	9%

	Community Water System	Non-Transient Non-Community Water System	Transient Non-Community Water System	Total	Ground	Surface	CWSS with reported health-based violations
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North Dakota								
Number of Systems	330	21	150	501	388	113	18	4%
Population Served	566,027	3,540	15,063	584,630	264,596	320,034	5,227	1%

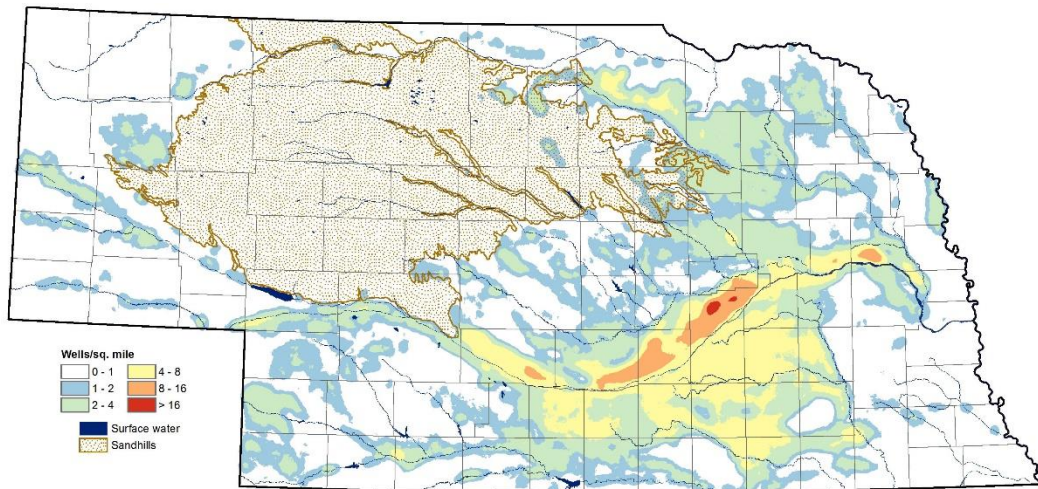
South Dakota								
Number of Systems	457	26	172	655	511	144	94	14%
Population Served	714,364	8,970	23,147	746,481	312,217	434,264	219,384	29%

Wyoming								
Number of Systems	312	85	379	776	640	136	27	3%
Population Served	449,992	22,135	73,516	545,643	197,228	348,415	8,725	2%

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

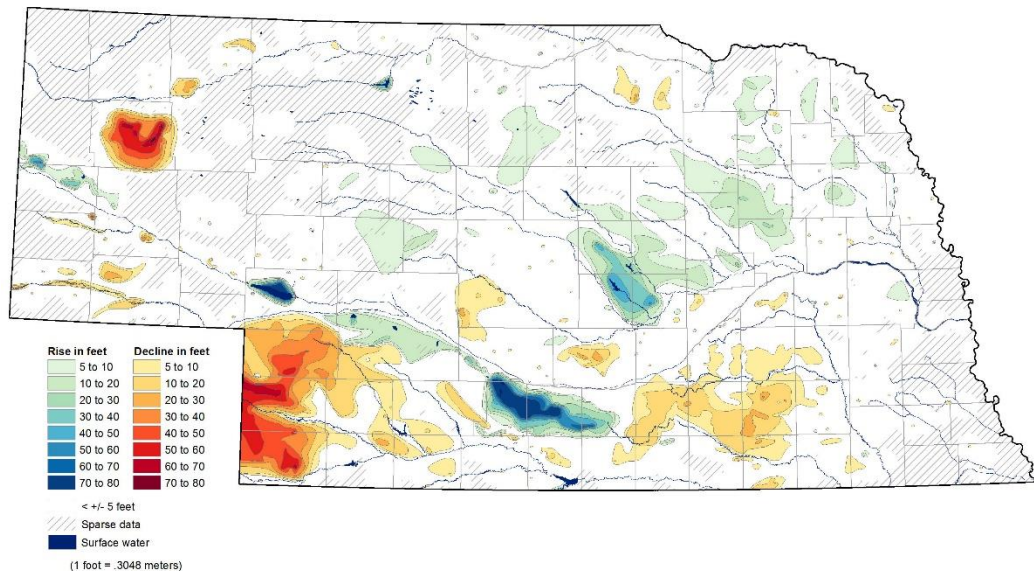
Source: FACTOIDS: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2010, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Density of Active Registered Irrigation Wells, Nebraska: December 2012



Source: Youn, A.R., Burbach, M.E., and Howard, L.M. (2013). Preliminary Groundwater Level Changes at Selected Sites in Nebraska Following the Drought of 2012. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation and Survey Division

Ground Water Level Changes, Nebraska: Pre-development* to Spring 2012



*Predevelopment levels represent the approximate average water levels prior to irrigation development. This date varies from the early 1940s to early 1950s depending on location.

Source: Youn, A.R., Burbach, M.E., and Howard, L.M. (2013). Preliminary Groundwater Level Changes at Selected Sites in Nebraska Following the Drought of 2012. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources Conservation and Survey Division

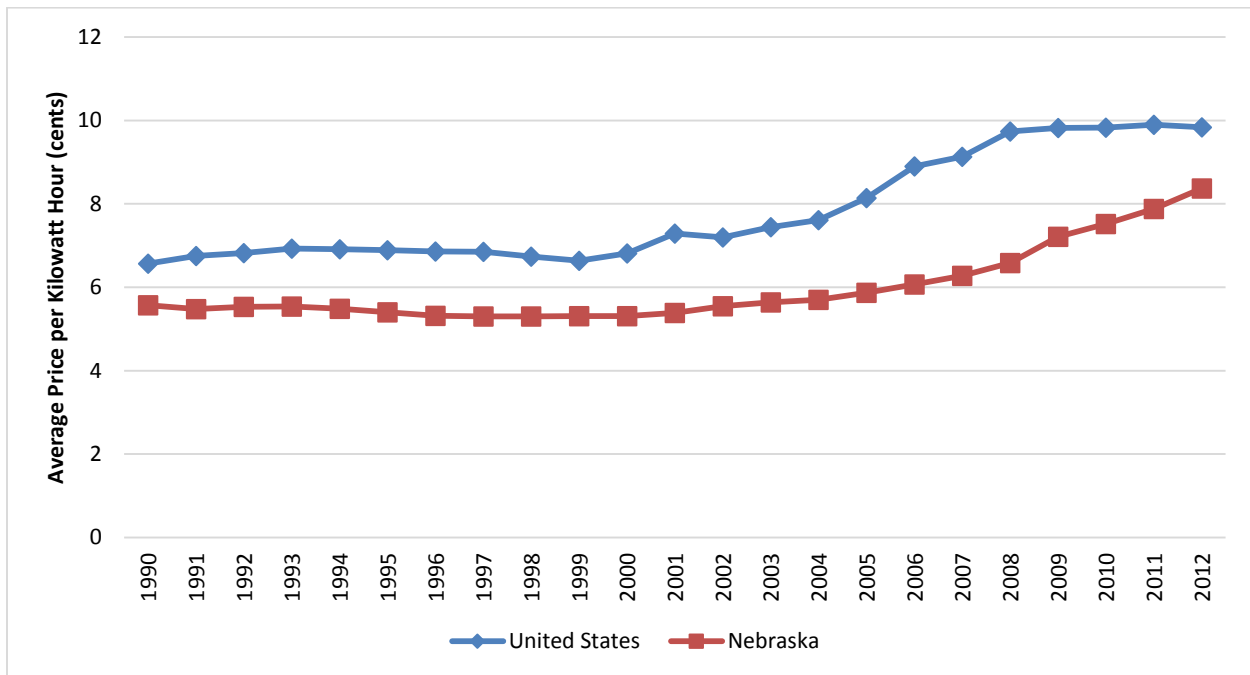
Energy

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour (all classes combined), Nebraska and the United States: 1990-2012

	Average Price by Provider (Cents per kilowatt hour)		Nebraska as a Percent of the United States
	United States	Nebraska	
1990	6.57	5.57	84.8%
1991	6.75	5.48	81.2%
1992	6.82	5.53	81.1%
1993	6.93	5.54	79.9%
1994	6.91	5.49	79.5%
1995	6.89	5.40	78.4%
1996	6.86	5.32	77.6%
1997	6.85	5.30	77.4%
1998	6.74	5.30	78.65
1999	6.64	5.31	80.0%
2000	6.81	5.31	78.0%
2001	7.29	5.39	73.9%
2002	7.20	5.55	77.1%
2003	7.44	5.64	75.8%
2004	7.61	5.70	74.9%
2005	8.14	5.87	72.15
2006	8.90	6.07	68.2%
2007	9.13	6.28	68.8%
2008	9.74	6.58	67.6%
2009	9.82	7.21	73.4%
2010	9.83	7.52	76.5%
2011	9.90	7.88	79.6%
2012	9.84	8.37	85.1%

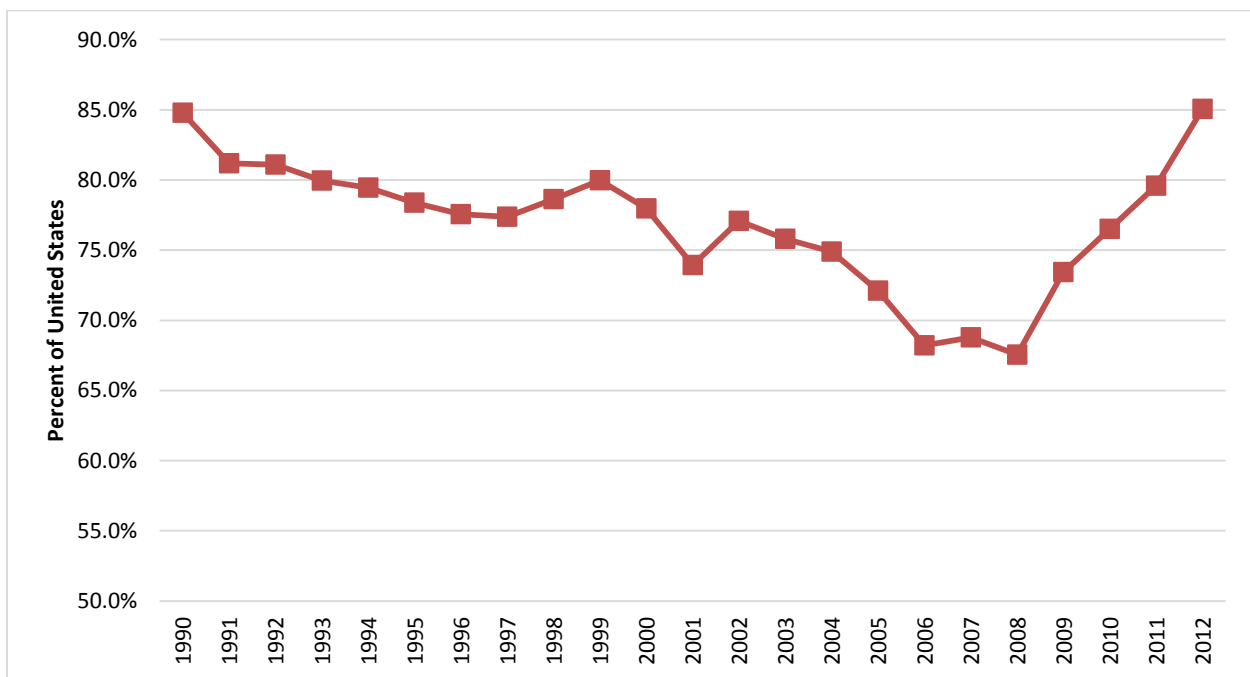
Source: Electric Power Annual (2012), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Nebraska and the United States: 1990-2012



Source: Electric Power Annual (2012), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Nebraska as a Percentage of the United States: 1990-2012



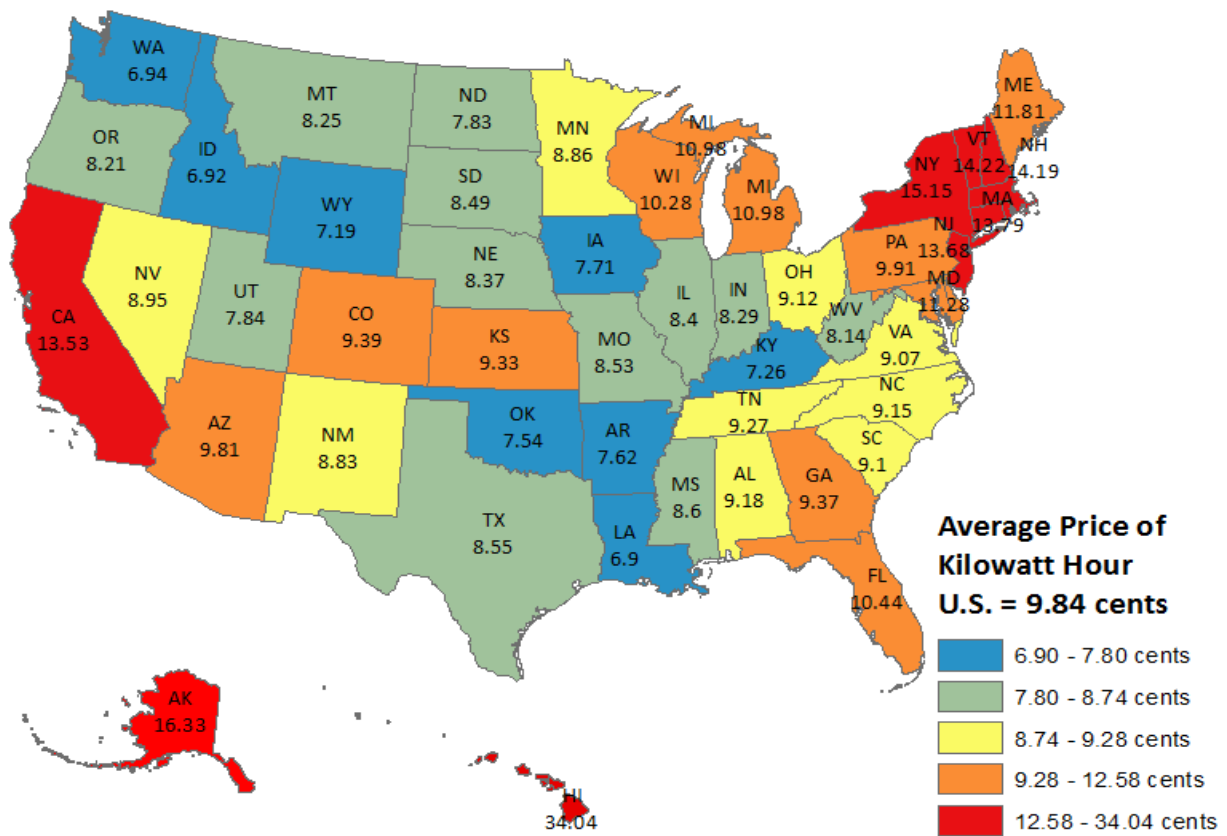
Source: Electric Power Annual (2012), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Average Price (Cents per kilowatt hour)	National Rank
United States	9.84	
Colorado	9.39	20
Kansas	9.33	22
Minnesota	8.86	30
Missouri	8.53	34
South Dakota	8.49	35
Nebraska	8.37	37
North Dakota	7.83	43
Iowa	7.71	44
Wyoming	7.19	48

Source: Electric Power Annual (2011), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, All States: 2012



Source: Electric Power Annual (2012), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2013

Average Retail Price of Electricity to Residential Sector, Regional Comparison: 2013

	Average Retail Price (Cents per kilowatt hour)	National Rank
Colorado	12.81	17
Minnesota	12.78	18
Missouri	12.48	21
Iowa	12.21	24
Kansas	12.08	26
Nebraska	12.00	27
South Dakota	11.19	35
Wyoming	10.86	40
North Dakota	10.27	43

Energy Consumption per Person, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Consumption per Person (Million BTU)	National Rank
Wyoming	975	1
North Dakota	768	4
Iowa	494	5
Nebraska	473	7
South Dakota	464	8
Kansas	405	12
Minnesota	349	18
Missouri	313	25
Colorado	289	34

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data 2010, Independent Statistics and Analysis; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Energy Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Expenditures (\$ Million)	National Rank
United States	\$1,394,088	
Missouri	\$26,750	18
Minnesota	\$24,316	21
Colorado	\$19,333	27
Iowa	\$17,164	28
Kansas	\$14,867	32
Nebraska	\$9,971	35
North Dakota	\$6,409	43
Wyoming	\$5,406	46
South Dakota	\$4,547	47

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System (SEDS): State Profiles and Energy Estimates; Table E15. Energy Prices and Expenditures, Ranked by State, 2011; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Energy Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Expenditures Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$4,474	
Wyoming	\$9,529	3
North Dakota	\$9,360	4
Iowa	\$5,602	6
South Dakota	\$5,521	9
Nebraska	\$5,413	11
Kansas	\$5,179	14
Minnesota	\$4,547	23
Missouri	\$4,452	26
Colorado	\$3,779	43

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, State Energy Data System (SEDS): State Profiles and Energy Estimates; Table E15. Energy Prices and Expenditures, Ranked by State, 2011; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Percentage of Electricity Generated through Renewable Sources, Regional Comparison: 2009 and 2010

	Percent of Electricity Generated Through Renewable Sources	
	2009	2010
United States	10.6%	12.8%
South Dakota	59.3%	65.8%
Iowa	16.5%	17.9%
North Dakota	13.1%	17.7%
Minnesota	14.4%	13.9%
Colorado	10.1%	10.1%
Wyoming	6.9%	8.9%
Kansas	6.2%	7.2%
Nebraska	2.6%	4.9%
Missouri	2.7%	2.7%

Source: State Renewable Electricity Profiles, 2009 and 2010, U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Public Safety

Introduction

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

Crime

Nebraska’s rate of 2.9 murders per 100,000 persons is less than the national rate of 4.7, tied with Kansas for 5th in the region and tied for 38th in the nation. This rate has been volatile in recent years; it rose from 2.2 in 2009 to 3.0 in 2010, 3.6 in 2011, then down to 2.9 in 2012. The violent crime rate in Nebraska rose slightly from 253.2 crimes per 100,000 persons to 259.4 in 2012, an increase of 2.4%. Nebraska ranked 38th in the nation and 6th in the region for violent crime in 2012. Nebraska’s property crime rate was up very slightly and has been relatively stable recently. Nebraska ranked 26th in the nation and 3rd in the region in property crime. Nebraska reported 10,433 arrests for drug abuse violations in 2012, ranking 4th in the region and 32nd nationally. This is up only slightly (10 arrests) since 2011. The national trend is also stable.

Recidivism

From FY 2010 to FY 2012, the twelve-month recidivism rate at both the Kearney and Geneva youth rehabilitation and treatment centers decreased. The rate at the Kearney facility (for males) peaked in FY 2010 and is still higher than in FY 2007 and FY 2008. At the Geneva facility (for females), the recidivism rate has fluctuated substantially, but the FY 2012 rate is below the average of the previous five years.

Juvenile Intakes

In 2010, Nebraska had the highest rate in the nation for juvenile arrests for property crime. The Nebraska rate dropped 10.8% in 2010 and is 23% lower than 2000, but the national average dropped by 18.9% in 2010, increasing Nebraska’s relative ranking. The juvenile arrest rate for violent crime in Nebraska is 48% of the national average. Nebraska ranks 40th in the nation and tied for 6th in the region in juvenile arrests for violent crime. Nebraska’s juvenile arrest rate for violent crime decreased by 31% in 2010 to 109, only slightly more than the recent lowest value of 105 in 2005. Nebraska’s weapons arrest rate has been lower than the national average since 2005, but this rate has been volatile.

Public Safety Funding

Nebraska’s expenditures for public safety are below national levels at both the state and local level. More is spent at the local level on this function than at the state level. Nebraska’s per capita local expenditures ranked 38th and 6th in the region. Local spending on public safety in Nebraska increased very slightly in 2010-2011. The national average decreased by 1.2%. State spending ranked 25th nationally and 3rd in the region. State spending decreased slightly compared to a 0.8% increase nationally.

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

Emergency Preparedness

Since 1960, the state has experienced 55 federally declared disasters, 16 of these since 2008. The flooding in the summer of 2011 cost \$106.6 million in public damages, the largest disaster since winter storms in January 2007. Winter storms in November 2013 caused over \$3 million in public damages.

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

Crime

Murder Rate per 100,000 Population, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Murder & Nonnegligent Manslaughter Rate (per 100,000 Population)	National Rank
United States	4.7	
Missouri	6.5	7
North Dakota	4.0	29
Colorado	3.1	34
South Dakota	3.0	35
Kansas	2.9	38
Nebraska	2.9	38
Wyoming	2.4	41
Minnesota	1.8	45
Iowa	1.5	49

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2012, Table 1 and 5; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Violent Crime Rate (per 100,000 Population)	National Rank
United States	386.9	
Missouri	450.9	14
Kansas	354.6	23
South Dakota	321.8	27
Colorado	308.9	29
Iowa	263.9	36
Nebraska	259.4	38
North Dakota	244.7	41
Minnesota	230.9	43
Wyoming	201.4	47

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2012, Table 1 and 5; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Property Crime Rate per 100,000 Population, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Property Crime Rate (per 100,000 Population)	National Rank
United States	2,859.2	
Missouri	3,314.4	15
Kansas	3,143.2	18
Nebraska	2,754.9	26
Colorado	2,684.7	29
Minnesota	2,568.3	33
Wyoming	2,293.8	41
Iowa	2,271.8	42
South Dakota	2,060.1	47
North Dakota	2,010.1	49

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2012, Table 1 and 5; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Arrests for Drug Abuse Violation, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Number of Arrests	National Rank
United States	1,552,432	
Missouri	34,943	13
Colorado	15,953	23
Minnesota	15,087	25
Nebraska	10,433	32
Iowa	8,666	34
Kansas	7,629	36
South Dakota	4,372	41
Wyoming	3,036	44
North Dakota	2,446	45

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Department of Justice, Crime in the United States 2012, Table 69 and 29; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Recidivism

Recidivism Rates, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Kearney, Nebraska: FYs 2007-2012

Fiscal Year	Parole Revocations	Recommitments	Releases	Recidivism Rate
2006-2007	29	45	393	18.8%
2007-2008	27	47	528	19.7%
2008-2009	76	48	493	25.2%
2009-2010	65	62	434	29.3%
2010-2011	66	51	427	27.4%
2011-2012	64	56	474	25.3%

Note: Recidivism = Parole Violations + Recommitments/Releases. Parole revocations and recommitments are only counted if youth returned to facility within 12 months.

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Recidivism Rates, Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center, Geneva, Nebraska: FYs 2007-2012

Fiscal Year	Parole Revocations	Recommitments	Releases	Recidivism Rate
2006-2007	8	5	130	10.0%
2007-2008	20	10	121	24.8%
2008-2009	5	6	104	10.6%
2009-2010	9	16	134	18.7%
2010-2011	10	12	143	15.4%
2012-2012	17	5	145	15.1%

Note: Recidivism = Parole Violations + Recommitments/Releases. Parole revocations and recommitments are only counted if youth returned to facility within 12 months.

Source: Nebraska Department of Health and Human Resources; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Juvenile Intakes

Juvenile Arrests, Regional Comparison: 2010

State	Reporting population coverage	Violent crime index**	National Rank	Property crime index***	National Rank
United States	84%	225		1,084	
Nebraska	90%	109	40	1,920	1
South Dakota	78%	109	40	1,818	3
North Dakota	90%	92	45	1,693	6
Wyoming	99%	96	42	1,636	7
Iowa	88%	203	21	1,616	9
Missouri	93%	222	15	1,537	11
Minnesota	100%	160	27	1,507	14
Colorado	89%	156	28	1,424	21
Kansas	69%	149	29	976	36

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

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

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

Source: Juvenile Offenders and Victims: National Report Series (2010), Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Juvenile Arrests, Nebraska and the United States: 2000, 2005-2010

United States	Juvenile arrest rate*				
	Reporting Coverage	Violent crime index**	Property crime index ***	Drug abuse	Weapons
2010	84%	225	1,084	n.a.	92
2009	84%	274	1,336	n.a.	103
2008	82%	306	1,398	560	121
2007	81%	301	1,293	590	128
2006	78%	315	1,256	600	141
2005	79%	296	1,289	581	134
2000	72%	330	1,686	649	116

Nebraska	Juvenile arrest rate*				
	Reporting Coverage	Violent crime index**	Property crime index***	Drug abuse	Weapons
2010	90%	109	1,920	n.a.	86
2009	89%	159	2,153	n.a.	78
2008	92%	139	2,013	657	112
2007	85%	138	1,823	644	109
2006	87%	106	1,892	638	91
2005	90%	105	1,935	656	95
2000	91%	118	2,483	719	106

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

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

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

Source: Juvenile Offenders and Victims: National Report Series (2010), Office of Juvenile and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2012

Public Safety Funding

Per Capita Local Public Safety Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Per Capita Expenditures	National Rank
United States	\$504.00	
Colorado	\$789.60	2
Wyoming	\$558.20	12
Minnesota	\$426.00	22
Missouri	\$414.00	25
Kansas	\$411.10	25
Nebraska	\$344.90	38
Iowa	\$306.10	44
South Dakota	\$295.60	45
North Dakota	\$281.20	46

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 Census of Government Finance and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Per Capita State Public Safety Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Per Capita Expenditures	National Rank
United States	\$220.00	
Wyoming	\$372.20	3
Colorado	\$217.90	19
Nebraska	\$202.70	25
North Dakota	\$201.00	27
South Dakota	\$195.60	29
Minnesota	\$160.60	42
Missouri	\$159.60	44
Iowa	\$154.70	46
Kansas	\$150.20	48

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 Census of Government Finance and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Annual Cost Report: FY 2010

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

Notes:

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

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

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

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

Emergency Preparedness

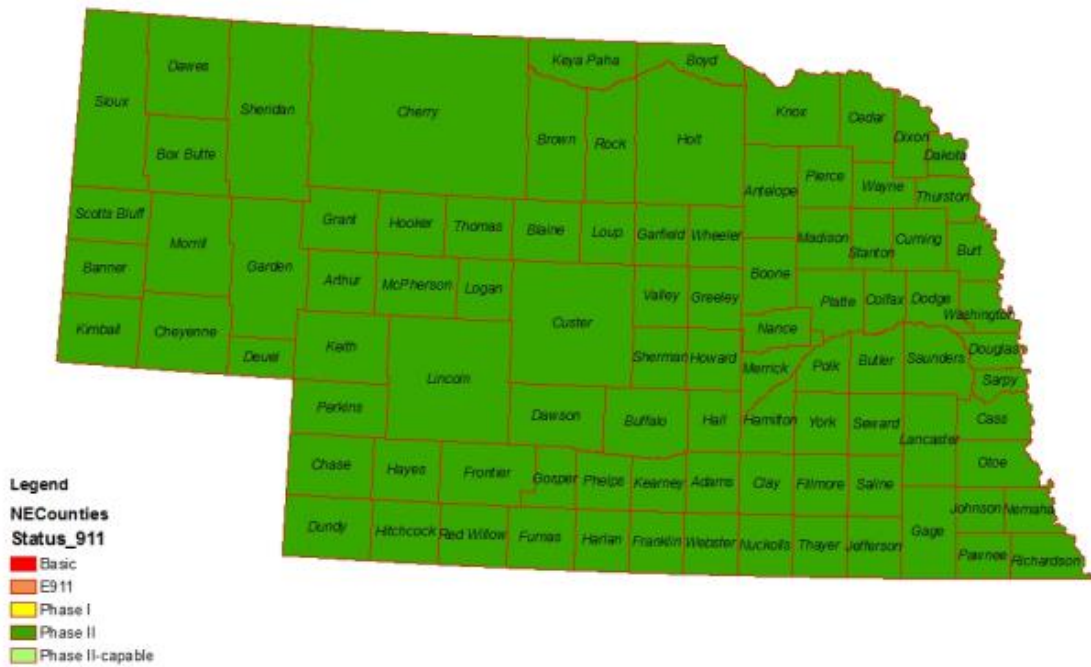
Disasters Declared by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: June 2005 – November 2013

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

Note: The Federal Government has been keeping disaster records since 1960. Between 1960 to today, the state has experienced 54 federally declared disasters-emergencies. All of which would have been a local and state declared disaster prior to seeking assistance at the Federal level. Since 2008, Nebraska has experienced 15 federally declared disasters and emergencies.

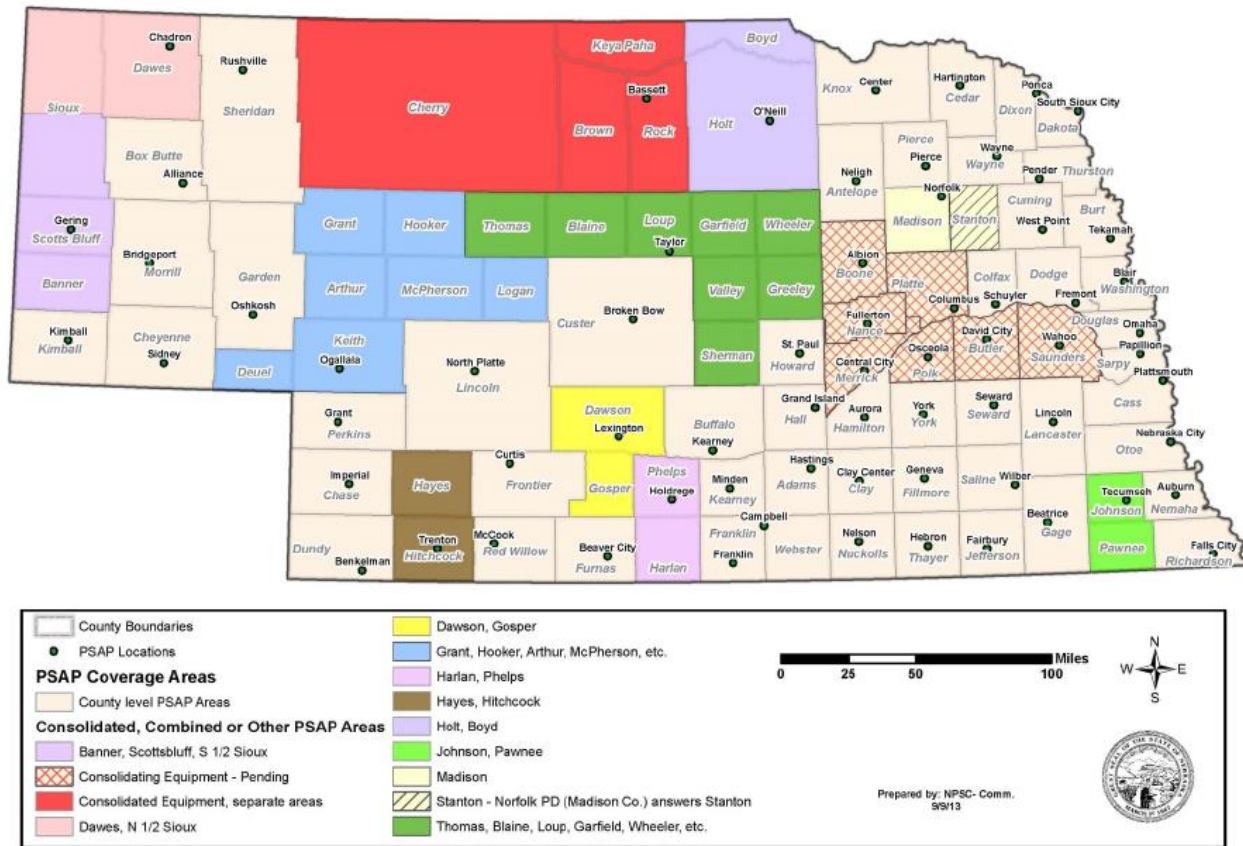
Source: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2012

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



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

PSAPs* Funded by Wireless Fund, Nebraska: 2013



*public safety answering point (PSAP)

Source: Nebraska Public Service Commission, 2012 Annual Report on Telecommunications

http://www.psc.state.ne.us/telecom/pdf/leg_report/AnnualReport2012.pdf

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - State and Local Government

Introduction

Units of Government

In 2012, Nebraska ranked 15th in the nation in the number of local governments in the state. For all types of local governments, Nebraska was above the median. It ranked 8th in the number of special districts and 10th in the number of counties. Since 2007, there were 16 fewer school districts, 25 fewer special districts, and 37 fewer towns and townships as measured by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Nebraska was ranked 4th in the nation in the number of governments per 100,000 population behind North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. All of the states in this region were above the median in this measure, in part due to their low population density. Nebraska was substantially above the national average for all types of local governments. For total local governments per 100,000 population, Nebraska had almost five times more governments than the national average (139.1 compared to 28.69). This ratio was lowest for school districts and highest for special districts.

Employment and Payroll

In 2011, state government employment per capita in Nebraska was above the median and the national average. Nebraska ranked 4th in the region and 20th in the nation. However, state employment decreased in Nebraska in 2011, and it fell one rank behind South Dakota. Nebraska was higher than the national average in all functional categories except the government administration and utilities category, and was more than twice the national average in the public works, planning and recreation category. Employment decreased in all categories between 2010 and 2011. At the same time, Nebraska paid its state employees substantially less than the average, and less than all states in the region except for Missouri. Nebraska was lower than the national average for all functions of state government.

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

Federal Government Expenditures

In FY 2013, for per capita federal government contract and assistance awards, Nebraska ranked 41st in the nation and 7th in the region. Nebraska was particularly low in contracts and insurance payments; below average in total prime awards and grants; and above average in loan guarantees, direct payments, and other expenditures.

Expenditures, Revenues and Debt

In 2010-2011, state government direct general spending per capita in Nebraska was 8% below the national average. Nebraska ranked 37th in the nation and 7th in the region. By this measure, state spending fell by 5.2%, and Nebraska dropped ten spots in the national ranking over the last two years. For the functions of education; environment and housing; and transportation, state spending was higher than the national average. Nebraska spending was lower than the average for public safety; social services and income maintenance; and government administration.

Local government direct general spending per capita in Nebraska was 2.5% below the national average. Nebraska ranked 5th in the region and 14th in the nation. Nebraska was lower than the national average for all functions with the exception of education, transportation, and utilities.

State general revenue per capita was 4.6% below the national average and ranked 32nd in the nation and 6th in the region. This was relatively stable since the previous year. Local general revenue ranked 10th nationally, 3rd in the region, and was 5.7% above the national average. Total state tax revenue was below the national average in all categories other than state individual income tax and the miscellaneous categories. The local property tax was 13.3% above average; local motor vehicle license taxes were over eight times the national average; and other taxes were significantly above the national average. Local tax collections were low for general and selective sales taxes, and zero for local income taxes. Local charges were 5.85% higher than average and local utility revenues were more than four times the national average.

Nebraska was very low in state debt outstanding per capita (49th in the nation and the lowest in the region). Nebraska's state debt was about one-third of the national average. Local government debt outstanding was 1% above the national average, 13th in the nation and 4th in the region. Nebraska's state pensions were generally healthier than most states. The ratio of assets to liabilities was 81.5%, 14th in the nation and 3rd in the region. For unfunded pension liabilities, Nebraska was 41st nationally and 8th regionally (a lower ranking indicates a lower unfunded liability).

Units of Government

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

	2007		2012	
	Number of Units	National Ranking	Number of Units	National Ranking
Total	2,659	14	2,581	15
County	93	10	93	10
Municipal	530	16	530	16
Town or township	454	13	417	13
Special districts	1,294	8	1,269	8
School districts	288	19	272	19

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

Number of Local Government Units, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Number of Units per 100,000 Population	National Rank
United States	28.69	
North Dakota	383.78	1
South Dakota	237.95	2
Wyoming	139.66	3
Nebraska	139.10	4
Kansas	132.58	5
Minnesota	68.26	9
Iowa	63.33	10
Missouri	62.57	12
Colorado	56.00	13

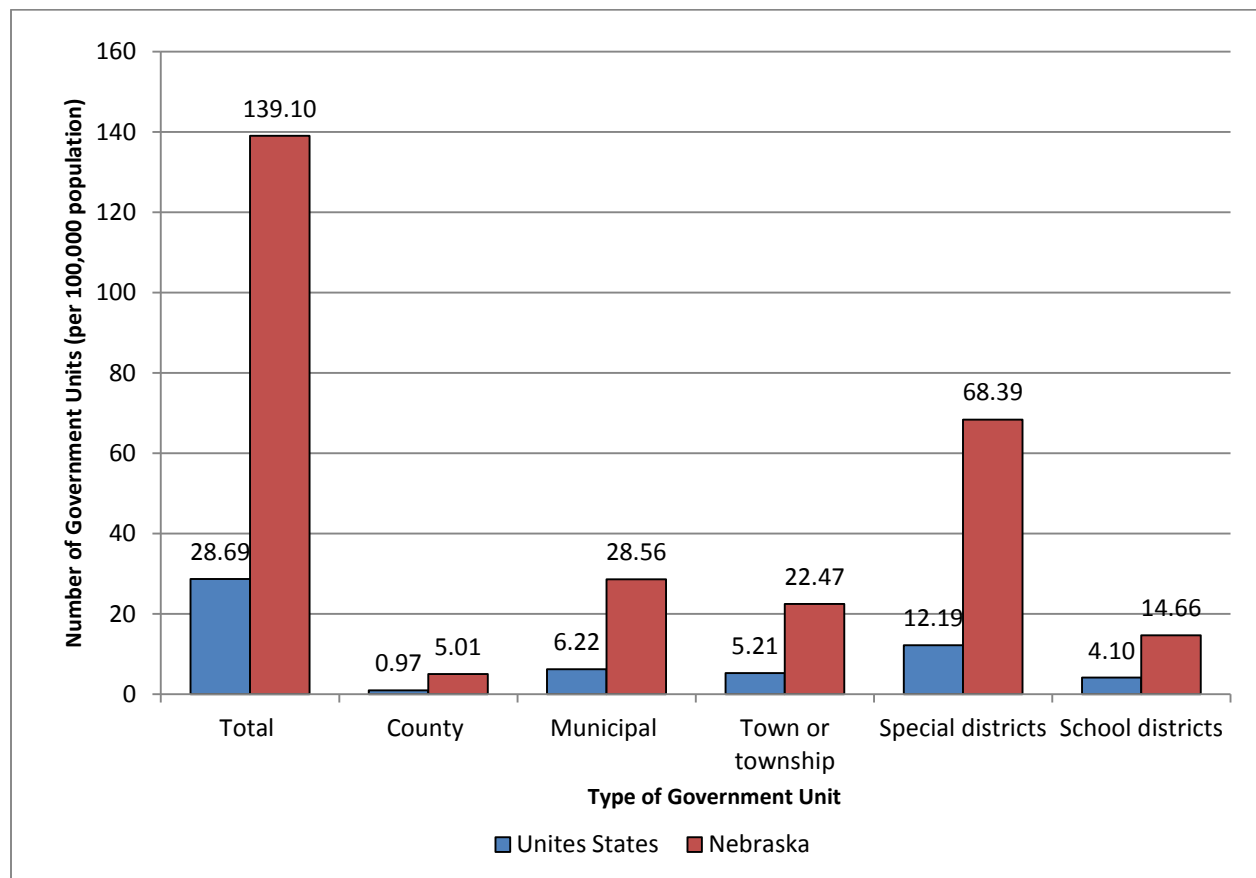
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government & 2012 American Community Survey (1 year estimate); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

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

Type of Government Unit	Number of Units per 100,000 Population	
	United States	Nebraska
Total	28.69	139.10
County	0.97	5.01
Municipal	6.22	28.56
Town or township	5.21	22.47
Special districts	12.19	68.39
School districts	4.10	14.66

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government and 2012 American Community Survey (1 year estimate); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government and 2012 American Community Survey (1 year estimate); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Employment and Payroll

State Government Employment, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Employment FTE per 10,000 Population	National Rank
United States	139.91	
North Dakota	271.84	4
Wyoming	236.13	5
South Dakota	175.44	19
Nebraska	174.02	20
Iowa	164.51	25
Kansas	151.69	29
Minnesota	149.06	30
Missouri	145.34	34
Colorado	140.93	35

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

See http://www2.census.gov/govs/apes/10_methodology.pdf for a detailed description of the specific quality issues and information about the impact on the data.

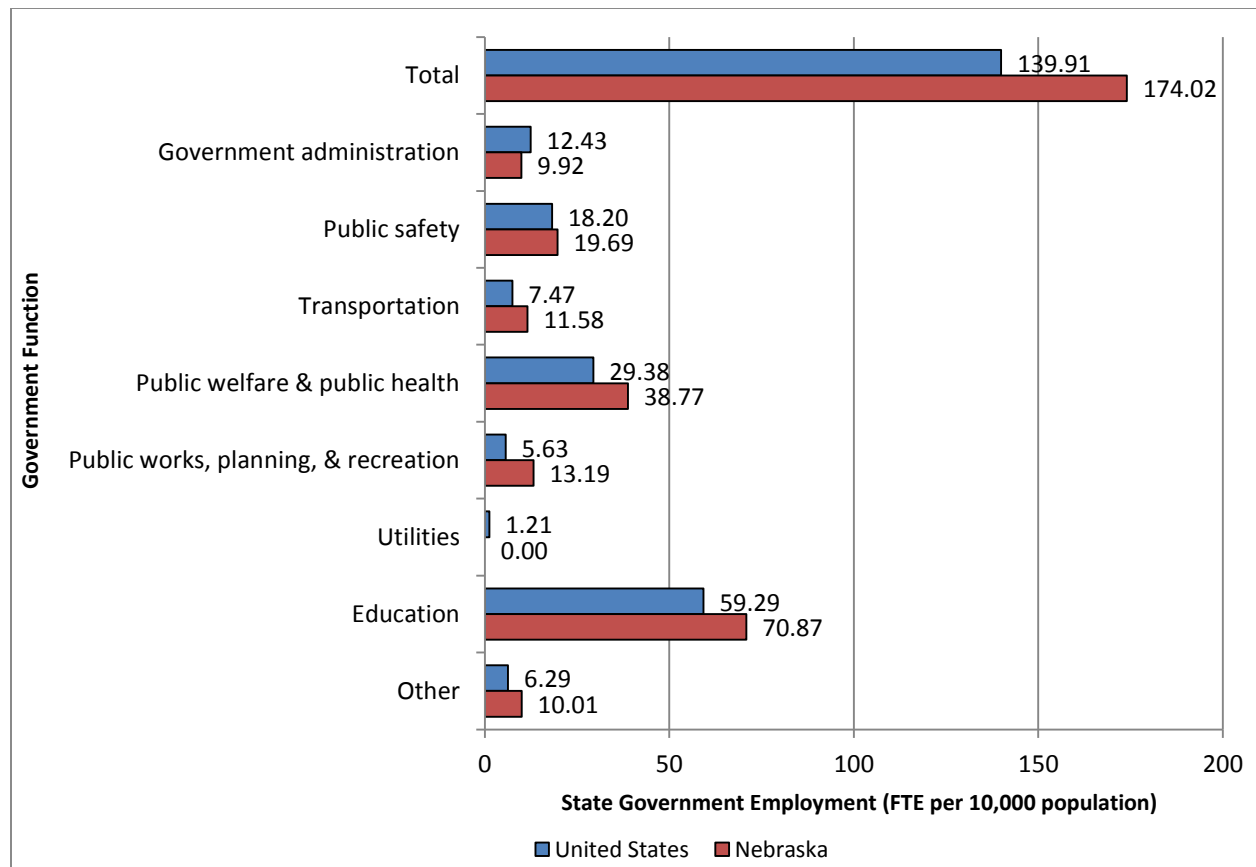
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

State Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2011

Government Function	Employment FTE per 10,000 Population	
	United States	Nebraska
Total	139.91	174.02
Government administration	12.43	9.92
Public safety	18.20	19.69
Transportation	7.47	11.58
Public welfare & public health	29.38	38.77
Public works, planning, & recreation	5.63	13.19
Utilities	1.21	0.00
Education	59.29	70.87
Other	6.29	10.01

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

State Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

State Government Payroll, Regional Comparison: March 2011

	Monthly Payroll per FTE	National Rank
United States	\$4,581.35	
Iowa	\$5,178.17	6
Minnesota	\$5,140.51	8
Colorado	\$4,921.15	12
Wyoming	\$4,189.47	26
Kansas	\$4,095.45	30
North Dakota	\$4,080.97	31
South Dakota	\$3,805.73	43
Nebraska	\$3,803.99	44
Missouri	\$3,434.28	50

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

See http://www2.census.gov/govs/apes/10_methodology.pdf for a detailed description of the specific quality issues and information about the impact on the data.

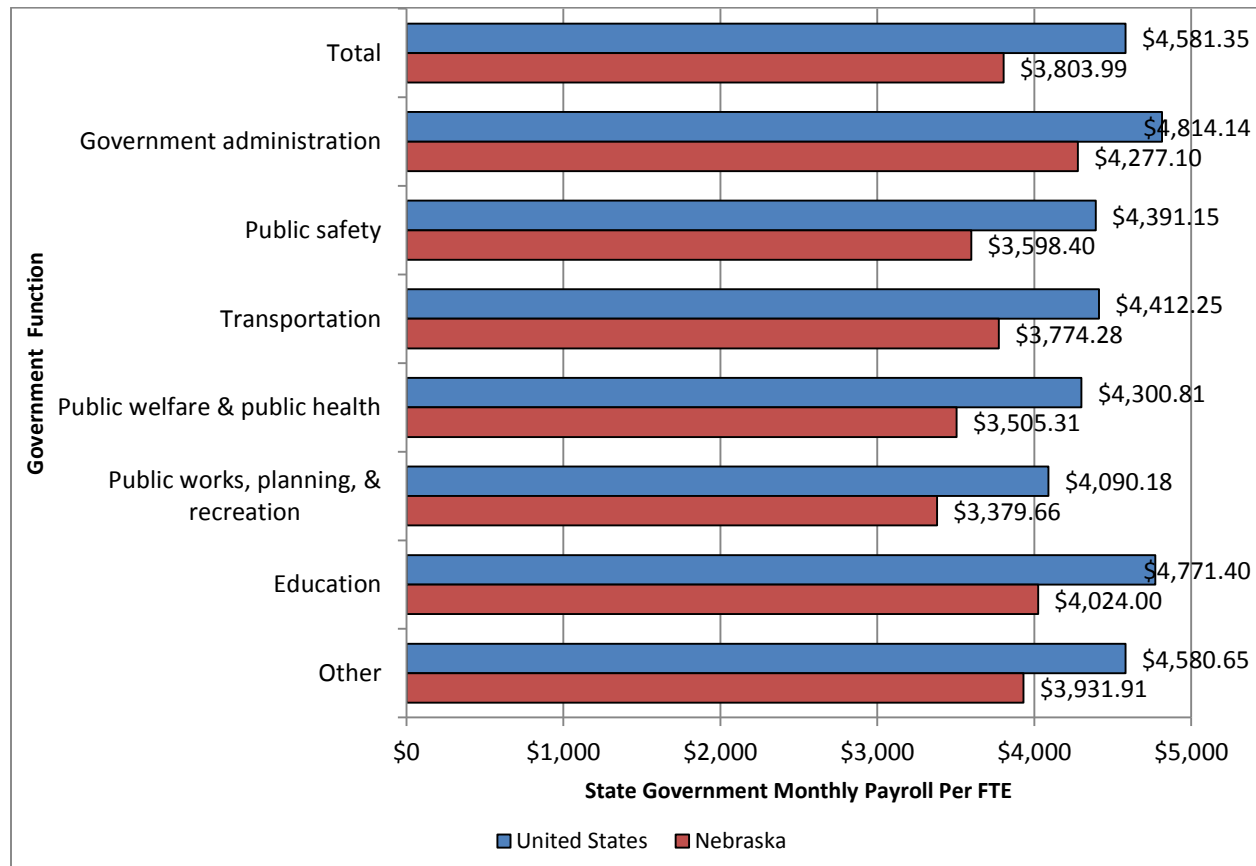
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

State Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2011

Government Function	Monthly Payroll Per FTE	
	United States	Nebraska
Total	\$4,581.35	\$3,803.99
Government administration	\$4,814.14	\$4,277.10
Public safety	\$4,391.15	\$3,598.40
Transportation	\$4,412.25	\$3,774.28
Public welfare & public health	\$4,300.81	\$3,505.31
Public works, planning, & recreation	\$4,090.18	\$3,379.66
Utilities	\$5,887.07	\$0.00
Education	\$4,771.40	\$4,024.00
Other	\$4,580.65	\$3,931.91

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

State Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Local Government Employment, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Employment FTE per 10,000 Population	National Rank
United States	385.09	
Wyoming	691.99	1
Kansas	533.89	3
Nebraska	482.51	4
Iowa	414.36	11
Colorado	387.06	20
North Dakota	386.81	22
Missouri	382.57	25
South Dakota	380.95	26
Minnesota	369.53	34

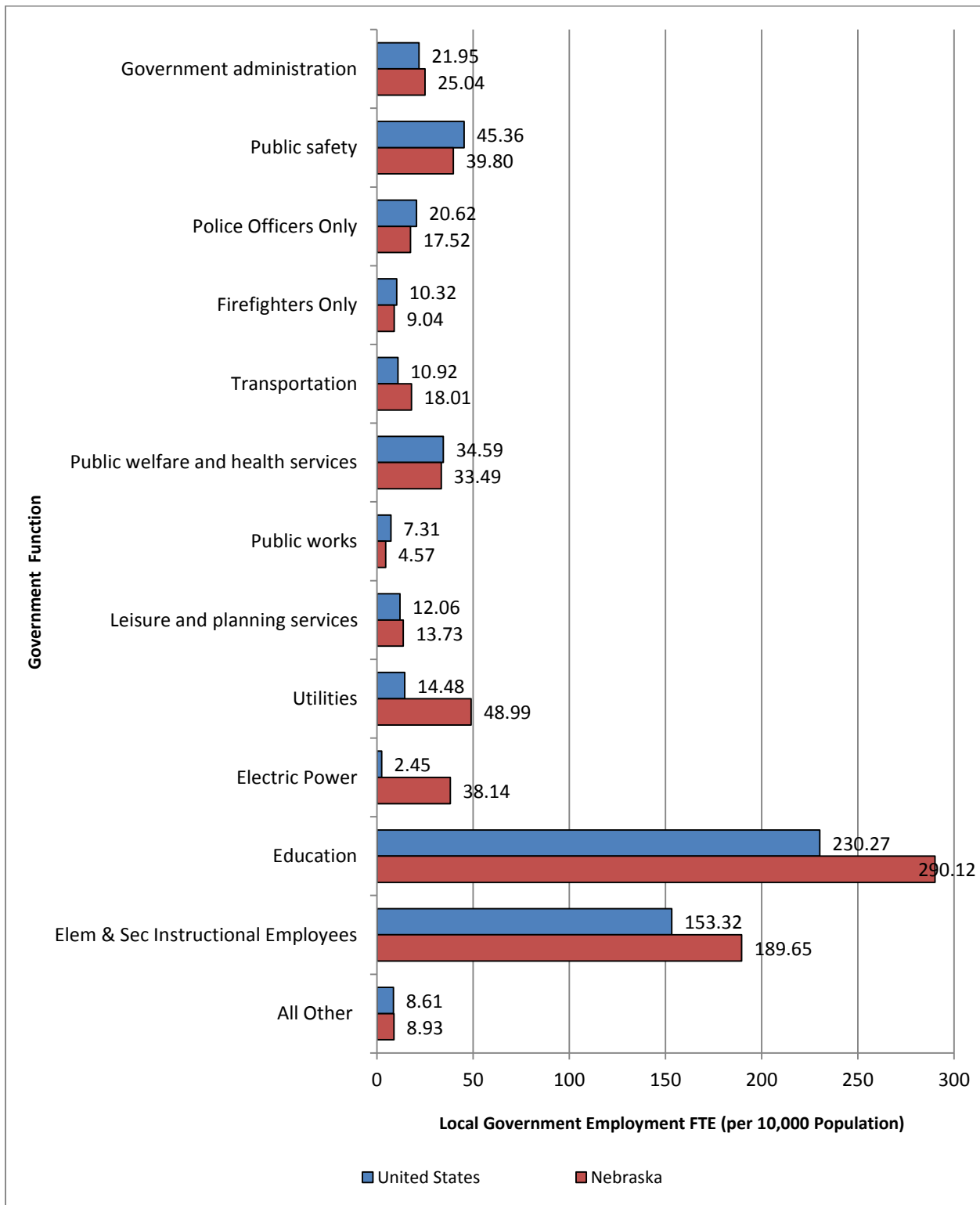
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Local Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and United States: March 2011

Government Function	Employment FTE per 10,000 Population	
	United States	Nebraska
Government administration	21.95	25.04
Public safety	45.36	39.80
Police Officers Only	20.62	17.52
Firefighters Only	10.32	9.04
Transportation	10.92	18.01
Public welfare and health services	34.59	33.49
Public works	7.31	4.57
Leisure and planning services	12.06	13.73
Utilities	14.48	48.99
Electric power	2.45	38.14
Education	230.27	290.12
Elem & sec instructional employees	153.32	189.65
All Other	8.61	8.93
Total	385.09	482.51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Local Government Employment by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Local Government Payroll, Regional Comparison: March 2011

	Monthly Payroll per FTE	National Rank
United States	\$4,200.81	
Minnesota	\$4,253.84	17
Colorado	\$4,100.19	20
Wyoming	\$3,896.30	24
Nebraska	\$3,846.82	25
Iowa	\$3,701.89	27
Missouri	\$3,482.57	33
North Dakota	\$3,454.07	34
Kansas	\$3,319.52	40
South Dakota	\$3,034.21	48

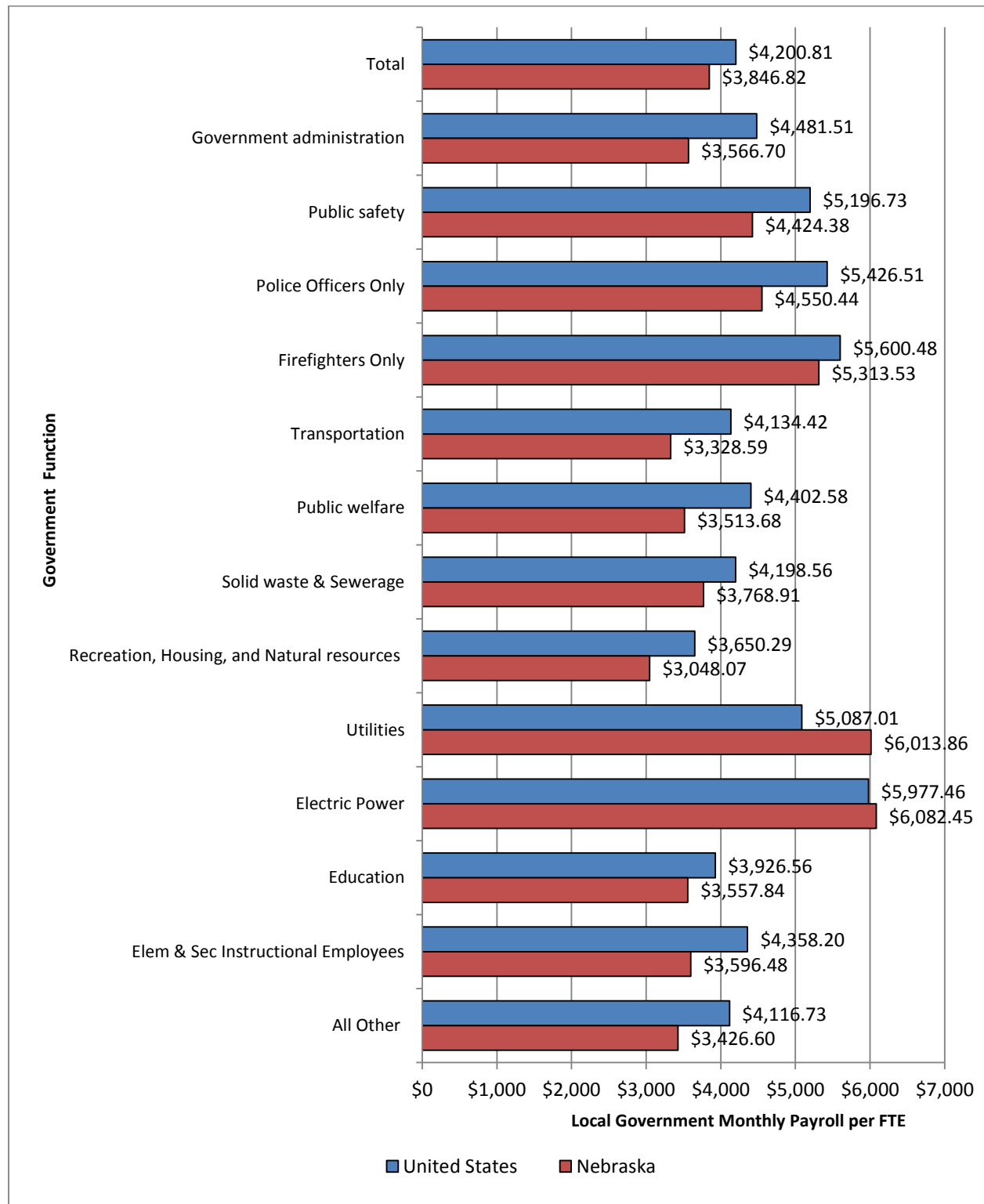
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Local Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2011

Government Function	Monthly Payroll Per FTE	
	United States	Nebraska
Total	\$4,200.81	\$3,846.82
Government administration	\$4,481.51	\$3,566.70
Public safety	\$5,196.73	\$4,424.38
Police Officers only	\$5,426.51	\$4,550.44
Firefighters only	\$5,600.48	\$5,313.53
Transportation	\$4,134.42	\$3,328.59
Public welfare	\$4,402.58	\$3,513.68
Solid waste & sewerage	\$4,198.56	\$3,768.91
Recreation, housing, and natural resources	\$3,650.29	\$3,048.07
Utilities	\$5,087.01	\$6,013.86
Electric power	\$5,977.46	\$6,082.45
Education	\$3,926.56	\$3,557.84
Elem & secondary instructional employees	\$4,358.20	\$3,596.48
All other	\$4,116.73	\$3,426.60

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Local Government Payroll by Function, Nebraska and the United States: March 2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Federal Government Expenditures

Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita, Regional Comparison: FY 2013

	Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita	Rank
United States	\$3,992.95	
North Dakota	\$4,144.10	13
Missouri	\$4,143.35	14
South Dakota	\$3,799.29	27
Iowa	\$3,555.26	34
Colorado	\$3,528.80	35
Kansas	\$3,369.48	39
Nebraska	\$3,339.01	41
Wyoming	\$3,260.72	44
Minnesota	\$3,022.37	49

* Due to the termination of the Federal Financial Statistics program, the Consolidated Federal Funds Report is no longer available and cannot be updated. Values in this table are not directly comparable to previous publications.

Sources: USAspending.gov and U.S. Bureau, 2012 Population Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita, Nebraska and the United States: FY 2013

Type of Expenditure	Federal Contract and Assistance Awards Per Capita		
	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of the United States
Total Prime Awards	\$3,992.95	\$3,339.01	83.6%
Contract	\$797.82	\$291.87	36.6%
Grant	\$316.97	\$312.64	98.6%
Loan Guaranty	(\$0.94)	\$6.30	n.a.
Direct Payment	\$2,388.48	\$2,567.05	107.5%
Insurance	\$477.91	\$143.39	30.0%
Others	\$12.71	\$17.75	139.6%

* Due to the termination of the Federal Financial Statistics program, the Consolidated Federal Funds Report is no longer available and cannot be updated. Values in this table are not directly comparable to previous publications.

Sources: USAspending.gov and U.S. Bureau, 2012 Population Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Expenditures, Revenues and Debt

State Government Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	State Expenditures Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$3,716.85	
Wyoming	\$5,731.47	5
North Dakota	\$5,449.47	6
Minnesota	\$4,033.45	23
South Dakota	\$3,991.91	24
Iowa	\$3,938.28	28
Kansas	\$3,594.66	35
Nebraska	\$3,425.39	37
Missouri	\$3,299.10	41
Colorado	\$3,115.41	45

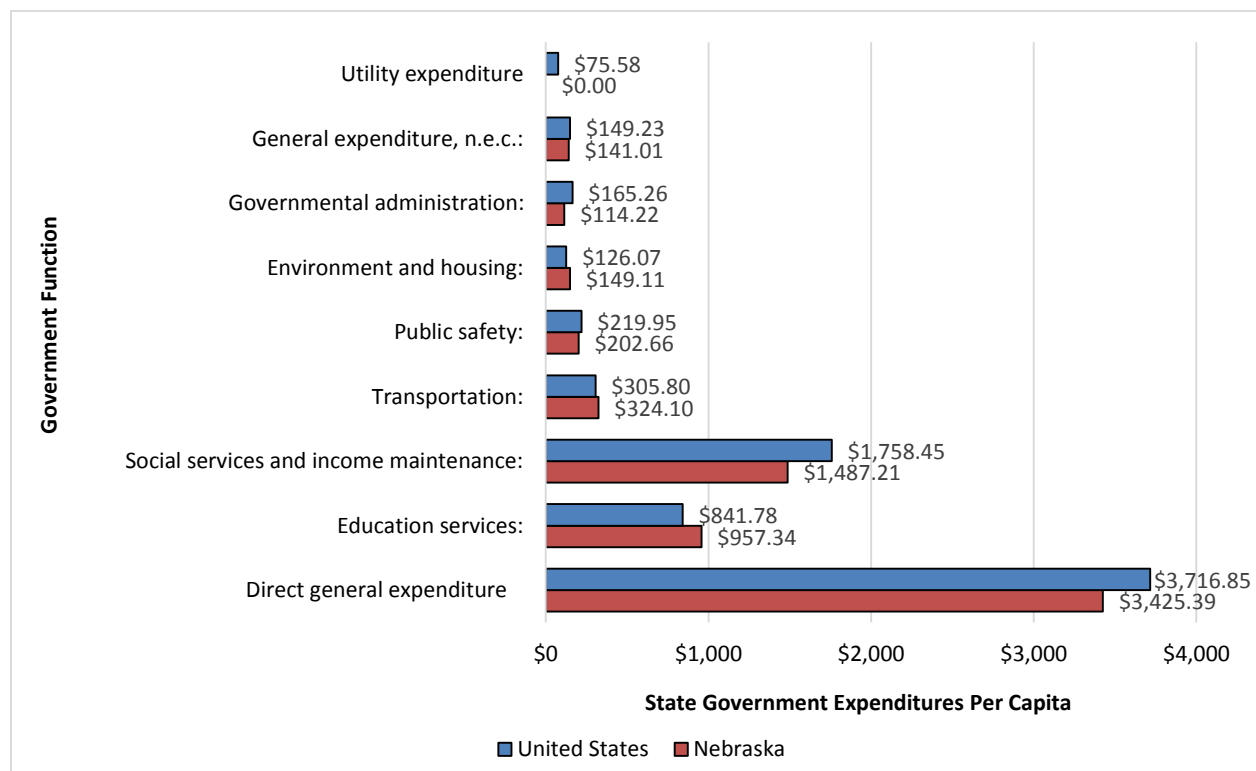
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 1, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2010-2011

Government Function	State Expenditures Per Capita		
	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States
Direct general expenditure	\$3,716.85	\$3,425.39	92.16%
Education services	\$841.78	\$957.34	113.73%
Social services and income maintenance	\$1,758.45	\$1,487.21	84.57%
Transportation	\$305.80	\$324.10	105.99%
Public safety	\$219.95	\$202.66	92.14%
Environment and housing	\$126.07	\$149.11	118.28%
Governmental administration	\$165.26	\$114.22	69.12%
Other General expenditure, n.e.c.	\$149.23	\$141.01	94.49%
Utility expenditure	\$75.58	\$0.00	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2010-2011



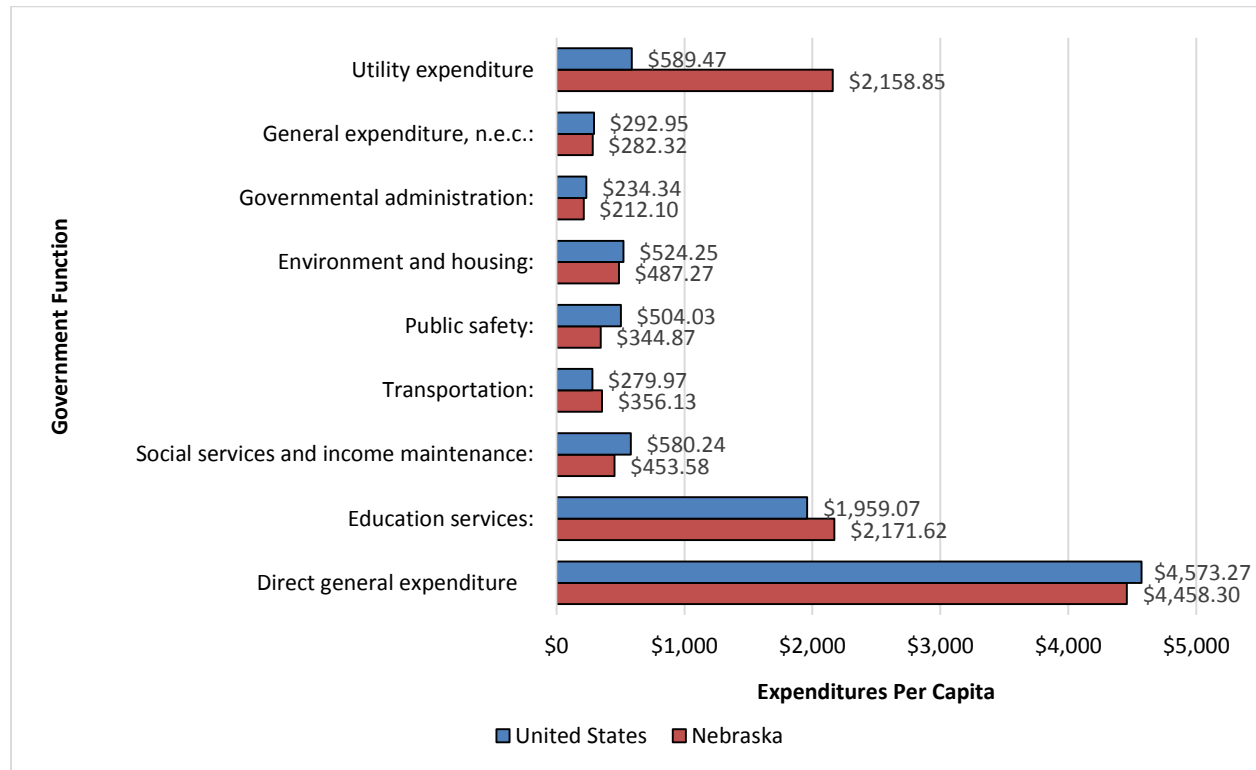
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2010-2011

Government Function	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percentage of United States
Direct general expenditure	\$4,573.27	\$4,458.30	97.49%
Education services	\$1,959.07	\$2,171.62	110.85%
Social services and income maintenance	\$580.24	\$453.58	78.17%
Transportation	\$279.97	\$356.13	127.20%
Public safety	\$504.03	\$344.87	68.42%
Environment and housing	\$524.25	\$487.27	92.95%
Governmental administration	\$234.34	\$212.10	90.51%
Other general expenditure, n.e.c.	\$292.95	\$282.32	96.37%
Utility expenditure	\$589.47	\$2,158.85	366.23%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2010-2011



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Local Government Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Local Expenditures Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$4,573.27	
Wyoming	\$7,588.05	3
Colorado	\$4,954.00	7
Minnesota	\$4,801.12	8
Iowa	\$4,696.28	10
Nebraska	\$4,458.30	14
Kansas	\$4,406.57	17
North Dakota	\$3,935.60	27
Missouri	\$3,603.66	38
South Dakota	\$3,494.09	41

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State and Local Revenues Per Capita by Function, Nebraska and the United States: 2010-2011

Revenue Source	State Government Revenues Per Capita			Local Government Revenues Per Capita		
	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States	United States	Nebraska	Nebraska as a Percent of United States
General revenue from own sources	\$3,406.15	\$3,250.17	95.42%	\$2,906.08	\$3,071.03	105.68%
Taxes	\$2,439.95	\$2,254.39	92.39%	\$1,855.58	\$1,979.90	106.70%
Property	\$45.49	\$0.06	0.14%	\$1,377.10	\$1,560.21	113.30%
Sales/gross receipts	\$1,180.23	\$1,103.44	93.49%	\$298.72	\$203.62	68.16%
General sales	\$757.22	\$752.00	99.31%	\$209.99	\$165.72	78.92%
Selective sales	\$423.02	\$351.44	83.08%	\$88.73	\$37.90	42.71%
Individual income	\$832.22	\$934.49	112.29%	\$82.25	--	--
Corporate income	\$132.81	\$84.11	63.33%	\$22.99	--	--
Motor vehicle lic.	\$69.14	\$47.58	68.82%	\$5.34	\$45.39	850.77%
Other taxes	\$180.06	\$84.71	47.04%	\$69.19	\$170.68	246.69%
Current charges	\$581.22	\$563.10	96.88%	\$795.12	\$841.68	105.85%
Misc. general rev.	\$384.98	\$432.68	112.39%	\$255.37	\$249.45	97.68%
Utility revenue	\$46.67	--	--	\$432.22	\$2,054.19	475.27%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State General Revenues Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	State General Revenues Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$3,406.15	
North Dakota	\$7,223.19	2
Wyoming	\$6,443.78	3
Minnesota	\$4,419.46	10
Iowa	\$3,607.38	20
Kansas	\$3,500.34	25
Nebraska	\$3,250.17	32
Colorado	\$2,903.73	41
South Dakota	\$2,726.31	44
Missouri	\$2,507.54	46

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Local General Revenues Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Local General Revenues Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$2,906.08	
Wyoming	\$4,530.16	3
Colorado	\$3,753.13	5
Nebraska	\$3,071.03	10
Iowa	\$2,933.55	12
Kansas	\$2,902.89	14
Minnesota	\$2,727.25	19
Missouri	\$2,449.27	30
South Dakota	\$2,309.72	34
North Dakota	\$2,193.02	39

Note: General revenue from own sources

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State Debt Outstanding Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	State Debt Outstanding Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$3,635.62	
South Dakota	\$4,304.03	14
Missouri	\$3,441.90	24
Colorado	\$3,192.79	29
North Dakota	\$3,009.19	31
Iowa	\$2,471.79	36
Minnesota	\$2,411.86	37
Wyoming	\$2,404.85	38
Kansas	\$2,401.43	39
Nebraska	\$1,273.32	49

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Local Debt Outstanding Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Local Debt Outstanding Per Capita	National Rank
United States	\$5,696.44	
Kansas	\$7,048.48	6
Colorado	\$7,007.20	7
Minnesota	\$6,332.93	9
Nebraska	\$5,751.84	13
Missouri	\$4,230.80	25
Iowa	\$3,509.73	33
North Dakota	\$3,454.45	34
South Dakota	\$2,659.13	41
Wyoming	\$1,772.23	49

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics and July 11, 2011 population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Liabilities and Unfunded Ratios of State Pension Plans, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Assets as a Percent of Liabilities		Unfunded Liability	
	Percent	Rank	Per Capita	Rank
South Dakota	96.3%	3	\$362	47
Wyoming	83.0%	12	\$2,486	24
Nebraska	81.5%	14	\$1,059	41
Missouri	80.8%	15	\$1,564	36
Iowa	79.5%	16	\$1,959	31
Minnesota	79.3%	17	\$2,448	25
North Dakota	71.7%	26	\$1,061	40
Kansas	59.2%	41	\$3,285	15

Note: The investment firm cautions that direct comparisons between state systems can be misleading. For many plans, other public entities are liable for benefits, along with state governments. Benefit types also vary from plan to plan, along with investment strategies.

Source: State Pension Plans: Liabilities, Funded Ratios, Governing.com (<http://www.governing.com/gov-data/state-pension-funds-retirement-systems-unfunded-liabilities-obligations-data.html>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Telecommunications

Introduction

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

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Almost all of the nation’s households have access to telephone service (land line or cell phone) and the differences among states are relatively small. In 2012, Nebraska ranked 19th nationally and 4th among its neighbors in telephone service. In 2012, 97.6% of Nebraska households had telephone service. This was slightly above the national rate of 97.4%.

The majority of Nebraskans have a cell phone. As of June 2012, there were 1.67 million cell phone subscribers in Nebraska. This was a 1.4% increase since December of 2011 and the 31st largest increase in the United States.

Internet Access

In 2012, 80.5% of Nebraska households had access to high speed internet service, and Nebraska is the 36th highest in the nation. However, the average download speed ranked 16th in 2010, but this was a considerable improvement from 2008.

Sustainability of Statewide Services

There was a total of \$40.4 million spent from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund in 2011.

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Telephone Penetration, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent of Households with Telephone Service	National Rank
United States	97.4	
Minnesota	98.0	6
Colorado	97.7	13
Wyoming	97.7	13
Nebraska	97.6	19
Iowa	97.4	26
Kansas	97.3	32
North Dakota	97.3	32
South Dakota	97.2	37
Missouri	97.1	41

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Cell Phone Penetration, Regional Comparison: December 2011 - June 2012

	Subscribers		Percentage Change	National Rank of Percentage Change
	December 2011	June 2012		
United States	298,280,548	303,052,437	1.6%	
North Dakota	641,160	666,405	3.9%	4
Minnesota	4,942,497	5,071,351	2.6%	10
South Dakota	725,130	742,411	2.4%	12
Iowa	2,658,143	2,717,535	2.2%	16
Missouri	5,650,039	5,748,515	1.7%	21
Wyoming	533,095	542,354	1.7%	22
Kansas	2,653,381	2,689,950	1.4%	30
Nebraska	1,648,066	1,670,547	1.4%	31
Colorado	4,766,733	4,825,093	1.2%	36

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, (<http://transition.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/compt.html>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Internet Access

Percentage of Residential End User Premises with Access to High-Speed Services*, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent with Access	National Rank
United States	80.8%	
South Dakota	88.0%	2
Wyoming	86.6%	9
North Dakota	84.6%	16
Iowa	83.8%	20
Nebraska	80.5%	36
Colorado	80.4%	37
Missouri	78.0%	47
Minnesota	77.8%	48
Kansas	72.5%	50

*Connections over 200 kbps in at least one direction.

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Wireline Competition Bureau, (<http://transition.fcc.gov/wcb/iatd/comp.html>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Speed of High-Speed Services for Internet Access, Regional Comparison: 2010

	Number of Tests	Median Download Speed (kbps)	Median Upload Speed (kbps)	Download Speed National Rank
United States	375,627	3,002	595	
Colorado	4,557	4,413	750	21
Iowa	2,849	3,800	734	28
Kansas	2,936	5,283	969	9
Minnesota	4,311	3,244	735	32
Missouri	6,301	3,028	605	36
Nebraska	1,245	4,734	680	16
North Dakota	421	3,088	698	34
South Dakota	654	4,010	814	24
Wyoming	588	1,463	477	49

Source: Speed Matters Survey, Communications Workers of America, (http://cwa.3cdn.net/25239e0340bb2a2021_v9m6bzg1t.pdf); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2011

Sustainability of Statewide Services

Nebraska Universal Service Fund Expenditures: 2011

	Total Expenditures
Arapahoe	\$794,142
Benkelman	\$443,552
Cambridge	\$323,500
CenturyLink	\$1,111,083
Citizens	\$1,726,089
Clarks	\$257,099
Cons Telco	\$0
Cons Tele	\$510,227
Cons Telecom	\$550,500
Cozad	\$196,620
Curtis	\$342,688
Dalton	\$0
Diller	\$338,107
Elsie	\$0
Glenwood	\$938,453
Great Plains	\$10,978,849
Hamilton	\$0
Hartington	\$152,143
Hartman	\$123,012
Hemingford	\$577,297
Hershey	\$133,181
Hooper	\$55,569
Huntel	\$134,079
K&M	\$282,780
Keystone	\$140,230
Mainstay	\$179,263
Neb Central	\$2,328,251
Northeast	\$2,054,800
Pierce	\$169,416
Plainview	\$231,898
Qwest	\$13,575,012
Sodtown	\$0
Southeast	\$476,384
Stanton	\$194,785
Three River	\$792,617
Wauneta	\$263,374
Windstream	\$0
Total	\$40,375,000

Source: Nebraska Public Service Commission, NUSF-50 Model; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Transportation

Introduction

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

Transportation Infrastructure

One aspect of the transportation infrastructure is the smoothness of its highways. Using a national standard, 99% of Nebraska’s Interstate highways were rated smooth, as were 90% of its non-interstate system state roads in 2011. The smoothness of interstate highways has held steady at 99% since 2008. Non-interstate roads rated as smooth fluctuated between 90% and 91% of the total since 2006.

For all state roads, District 2 (Dodge, Washington, Douglas, Cass [partial] and Sarpy counties) had the most roads rated as poor or very poor (13%) while District 1 (Butler, Seward, Saline, Jefferson, Saunders, Lancaster, Gage, Cass [partial], Otoe, Pawnee, Johnson, Nemaha and Richardson counties) had the highest percentage ranked good or very good (84%).

Using a measure developed by the Reason Foundation, the cost-effectiveness of Nebraska’s state highway system ranked 6th in the nation in 2009, compared to 5th in 2008. North Dakota, Kansas, Wyoming, Missouri and South Dakota also ranked among the top ten state highway systems.

The Federal Highway Administration reported that of the over 15,000 bridges in Nebraska, 24.93% were rated as deficient in 2012, essentially equal to the national average. The state ranked 7th lowest out of nine in the region. Compared to the nation, a much higher portion of Nebraska’s deficient bridges were structurally deficient rather than those that were functionally obsolete.

Accidents

The number of railroad accidents in Nebraska is high but continues to decrease. Nebraska’s 224 railroad accidents in 2011 ranked 38th nationally, and 7th in the region (a lower ranking indicates higher accident rate). However, this was down from 311 in 2008, a 28% drop.

In 2010, Nebraska recorded 0.98 traffic fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, significantly down from 1.09 in 2009. This was below the national average of 1.25 traffic fatalities and was 3rd lowest in the region, behind Minnesota and Colorado. Another comparison for 2011 showed similar results.

Transportation Access

Very few residents of Nebraska or its neighboring states took public transportation to work. In 2012, this amounted to 0.6% of all commuters and ranked 42nd nationally. North Dakota and South Dakota recorded lower rates than Nebraska, while Kansas was the same. All others in the region are also below the national average.

In Nebraska, 80.2% drove to work alone in 2012, slightly less than in 2011. Also, 10% carpooled, 2.8% walked, 1.5% travelled by other means (such as taxi, motorcycle or bicycle) and 4.9% worked at home,

14% more than in 2011. The percentage of people carpooling increased, while the percentage walking stayed the same. Average commuting time in Nebraska in 2012 is 18.2 minutes, slightly less than 2011 and the 4th lowest in the nation behind North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

Another measure of transportation access is airline passenger boarding. In 2012, there were 2.25 million passenger boardings in Nebraska, a decrease of 1.4%. The vast majority (89.8%) was from Eppley Airfield (the 62nd busiest airport in the United States), and 6% was from Lincoln Airport (201st busiest in the United States). Traffic at Omaha and Lincoln was down. Traffic in Grand Island has increased from 7,961 enplanements in 2008 to 56,122 in 2012 and it is now the 3rd busiest airport in Nebraska and 265th in the United States. Kearney has also seen rapid growth and it is now the 4th busiest airport in the state, followed by Scottsbluff and North Platte.

Transportation Funding

Nebraska spent relatively more for highways than the rest of the nation, although recently spending has decreased at both the state and local levels. In 2010-2011, local highway spending was \$300 per capita, a 6.2% decrease to put the state ranking at 11th in the nation. Nebraska is 54% above the national average in local highway spending; all other states in the region are also above the national average. At the state level, Nebraska spent \$323 per capita, a 9.5% decrease from last year. Compared to the nation, state highway spending in Nebraska is 9.1% above the national average and 27th in the nation. In the region, state and local spending on highways is more than the national average for every state except for Colorado.

Transportation Infrastructure

Road Smoothness, Nebraska: 2002-2011

	Percentage of Miles Meeting or Exceeding Acceptable Ride Quality IRIs		
	Interstate System (482 miles)	Non-interstate System (9,431 miles)	Total Highway System* (9,913 miles)
2002	94%	84%	84%
2003	92%	84%	84%
2004	92%	85%	85%
2005	95%	86%	87%
2006	96%	90%	91%
2007	97%	90%	91%
2008**	99%	91%	92%
2009	99%	91%	91%
2010	99%	90%	91%
2011	99%	90%	90%

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

*Excludes 38 miles of gravel roads which were not measured for smoothness as of December 31, 2011.

**Formulas used to track condition were refined in 2008.

Source: Material & Research Division's Integrated Highway Inventory (IHI) database. Retrieved from Performance Measures: A performance based transportation agency, Nebraska Department of Roads (October 2012); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Pavement Condition of Entire Highway System, Nebraska: 2011

District	Percent of miles				
	Very Good Condition	Good Condition	Fair Condition	Poor Condition	Very Poor Condition
1	37%	47%	13%	1%	0%
2	43%	20%	24%	12%	1%
3	28%	38%	30%	4%	0%
4	36%	45%	17%	2%	0%
5	37%	41%	19%	3%	0%
6	31%	33%	31%	5%	0%
7	30%	37%	31%	2%	0%
8	24%	53%	23%	0%	0%

Source: Performance Measures: A performance based transportation agency, Nebraska Department of Roads (October 2012); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2012

Overall Highway Performance (Cost-effectiveness) Ratings, Regional Comparison: 2009

	Rank
North Dakota	1
Kansas	2
Wyoming	3
Nebraska	6
Missouri	8
South Dakota	9
Iowa	33
Colorado	41
Minnesota	42

Source: 20th Annual Highway Report on the Performance of State Highway Systems, Reason Foundation (http://reason.org/files/20th_annual_highway_report); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Deficient Bridges, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Deficient Bridges	Deficient Bridges (Percent of Total)	National Rank
United States	151,497	24.94%	
Minnesota	1,613	12.29%	1
Colorado	1,473	17.15%	9
Kansas	4,617	18.34%	11
North Dakota	993	22.30%	19
Wyoming	713	22.99%	22
South Dakota	1,445	24.62%	26
Nebraska	3,837	24.93%	27
Iowa	6,475	26.43%	30
Missouri	6,893	28.33%	34

Source: Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/deficient.cfm>); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Accidents

Railroad Accidents and Incidents, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Number of Accidents	Percent of United States	National Rank
United States	11,412		
South Dakota	37	0.3%	7
Wyoming	67	0.6%	12
North Dakota	134	1.2%	20
Colorado	160	1.4%	24
Iowa	193	1.7%	34
Minnesota	221	1.9%	37
Nebraska	224	2.0%	38
Kansas	243	2.1%	41
Missouri	243	2.1%	41

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics, State Transportation Statistics as of April 2013; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Traffic Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled, Regional Comparison: 2010

	Fatality Rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled	National Rank
United States	1.25	
Minnesota	0.73	2
Colorado	0.95	13
Nebraska	0.98	17
Missouri	1.16	26
Iowa	1.24	29
North Dakota	1.27	32
Kansas	1.44	40
South Dakota	1.58	43
Wyoming	1.62	46

Source: 20th Annual Highway Report on the Performance of State Highway Systems, Reason Foundation (http://reason.org/files/20th_annual_highway_report); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Highway Traffic Fatality Rates, Regional Comparison: 2011

	Fatality Rate per 100,000 population	National Rank
United States	10.4	
Minnesota	6.9	8
Colorado	8.7	16
Nebraska	9.8	22
Iowa	11.7	30
Missouri	13.0	36
Kansas	13.4	37
South Dakota	13.5	38
North Dakota	21.6	50
Wyoming	23.8	51

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, U.S. Department of Transportation, State Transportation Statistics 2012 (http://www.bts.gov/publications/state_transportation_statistics); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Transportation Access

Percentage of Commuters Traveled to Work by Public Transportation, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Percent Traveled by Public Transportation	National Rank
United States	5.0%	
Minnesota	3.3%	15
Colorado	3.2%	16
Wyoming	1.5%	27
Missouri	1.3%	28
Iowa	1.1%	32
Kansas	0.6%	42
Nebraska	0.6%	42
South Dakota	0.5%	45
North Dakota	0.4%	48

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Commuting to Work, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Car, truck, or van-drove alone	Car, truck, or van-carpooled	Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	Walked	Bicycle	Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	Worked at home
United States	76.3%	9.7%	5.0%	2.8%	0.6%	1.2%	4.4%
Colorado	74.4%	9.7%	3.2%	3.4%	1.5%	1.2%	6.6%
Iowa	79.9%	9.0%	1.1%	3.6%	0.5%	1.1%	4.7%
Kansas	82.2%	9.7%	0.6%	2.2%	0.3%	1.0%	4.1%
Minnesota	78.0%	8.9%	3.3%	2.8%	0.8%	0.8%	5.3%
Missouri	81.3%	9.7%	1.3%	1.9%	0.3%	1.1%	4.4%
Nebraska	80.2%	10.0%	0.6%	2.8%	0.7%	0.8%	4.9%
North Dakota	79.5%	9.7%	0.4%	3.8%	0.4%	0.6%	5.6%
South Dakota	78.7%	9.1%	0.5%	3.9%	0.8%	1.1%	5.8%
Wyoming	75.7%	11.6%	1.5%	3.2%	1.2%	1.2%	5.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Travel Time to Work, Regional Comparison: 2012

	Mean travel time to work (Minutes)	National Rank
United States	25.7	
Colorado	24.5	21
Missouri	23.1	33
Minnesota	22.9	35
Kansas	19.0	45
Iowa	18.8	46
Nebraska	18.2	48
Wyoming	18.1	49
North Dakota	17.4	50
South Dakota	16.7	51

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Passenger Boardings (Enplanement), Nebraska: 2011 and 2012

Rank	City	Airport Name	2012 Boardings	2011 Boardings	Percentage Change
62	Omaha	Eppley Airfield	2,018,526	2,047,055	-1.39%
201	Lincoln	Lincoln	134,772	135,647	-0.65%
265	Grand Island	Central Nebraska Regional	56,122	47,167	18.99%
375	Kearney	Kearney Regional	12,467	11,019	13.14%
402	Scottsbluff	Western Nebraska Regional/William B. Heilig Field	9,839	9,912	-0.74%
411	North Platte	North Platte Regional Airport Lee Bird Field	9,017	10,962	-17.74%
583	Chadron	Chadron Municipal	2,037	1,980	2.88%
613	McCook	McCook Ben Nelson Regional	1,623	1,810	-10.33%
616	Alliance	Alliance Municipal	1,592	1,730	-7.98%
622	Aurora	Aurora Municipal - Al Potter Field	1,495	11,500	-87.00%
647	Omaha	Offutt AFB	1,130	1,275	-11.37%
1018	Valentine	Miller Field	30	2	1400.00%
1087	Imperial	Imperial Municipal	20	10	100.00%
1161	Norfolk	Norfolk Regional/Karl Stefan Memorial Field	14	0	0.00%
1477	Nebraska City	Nebraska City Municipal	2	2	0.00%
	Total		2,248,686	2,280,071	-1.38%

Source: Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, Enplanement at All Airports (Primary, Non-primary Commercial Service, and General Aviation); prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

Transportation Funding

Local Highway Spending Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Per Capita Highway Spending	National Rank
United States	\$195.51	
North Dakota	\$536.03	1
South Dakota	\$418.67	2
Minnesota	\$387.13	5
Wyoming	\$323.17	8
Iowa	\$313.93	10
Nebraska	\$300.49	11
Colorado	\$259.55	13
Kansas	\$251.44	14
Missouri	\$224.68	17

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013

State Highway Spending Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2010-2011

	Per Capita Highway Spending	National Rank
United States	\$295.54	
Wyoming	\$905.13	2
North Dakota	\$844.92	3
South Dakota	\$682.52	5
Iowa	\$370.23	17
Kansas	\$360.05	19
Nebraska	\$322.52	27
Missouri	\$307.47	30
Minnesota	\$274.59	35
Colorado	\$208.78	47

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2013