

2015

Legislature's Planning Committee 2015 Report

Tanya Cook

Paul Schumacher

Galen Hadley

Bob Krist

Heath Mello

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Tanya Cook, Paul Schumacher, Galen Hadley, Bob Krist, Heath Mello, Kathy Campbell, Mike Gloor, Merv Riepe, and Ken Schilz

Legislature's Planning Committee 2015 Report

Committee Members

Senator Tanya Cook, Chair

Senator Paul Schumacher, Vice-Chair

Senator Galen Hadley, Speaker of the Legislature

Senator Bob Krist, Chair, Executive Board

Senator Heath Mello, Chair, Appropriations Committee

Senator Kathy Campbell

Senator Mike Gloor

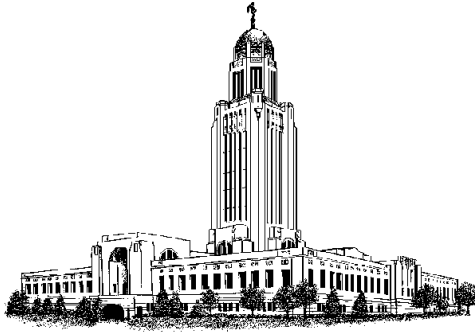
Senator Merv Riepe

Senator Ken Schilz

Nebraska State Legislature

SENATOR TANYA COOK

District 13
State Capitol
PO Box 94604
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4604
(402) 471-2727
tcook@leg.ne.gov



COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Legislature's Planning
Appropriations

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tanya D. Cook". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Senator Tanya Cook
Legislative District 13

Legislature's Planning Committee
2015 Report
Introduction

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

State Planning Committee Mission Statement

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

State Planning Committee Goals

Economy

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

Agriculture

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

Education

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

Health and Human Services

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

Natural Resources

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

Public Safety

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

State and local Government

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

Transportation and Telecommunications

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

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Overview of Key Indicators

Introduction

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

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

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

Agriculture

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

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

Economy

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

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

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

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

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

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

Education

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

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

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

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

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

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

Health and Human Services

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

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

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

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

Natural Resources

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

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

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

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

Public Safety

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

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

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

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

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

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

State and Local Government

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

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

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

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

Telecommunications

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

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

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

Transportation

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - Agriculture

Introduction

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

Farm Income

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

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

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

Farm Receipts

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

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

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

Agricultural Diversity

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

Farm Operations

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

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

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

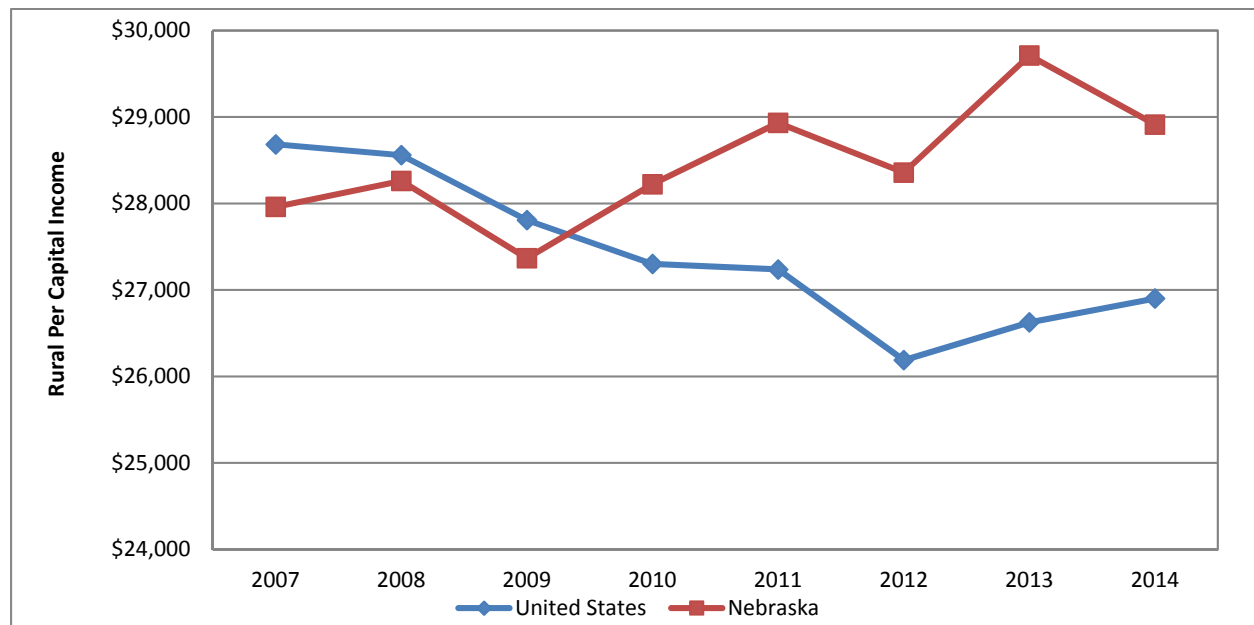
Farm Income

Rural Per Capita Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



* 2014 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars

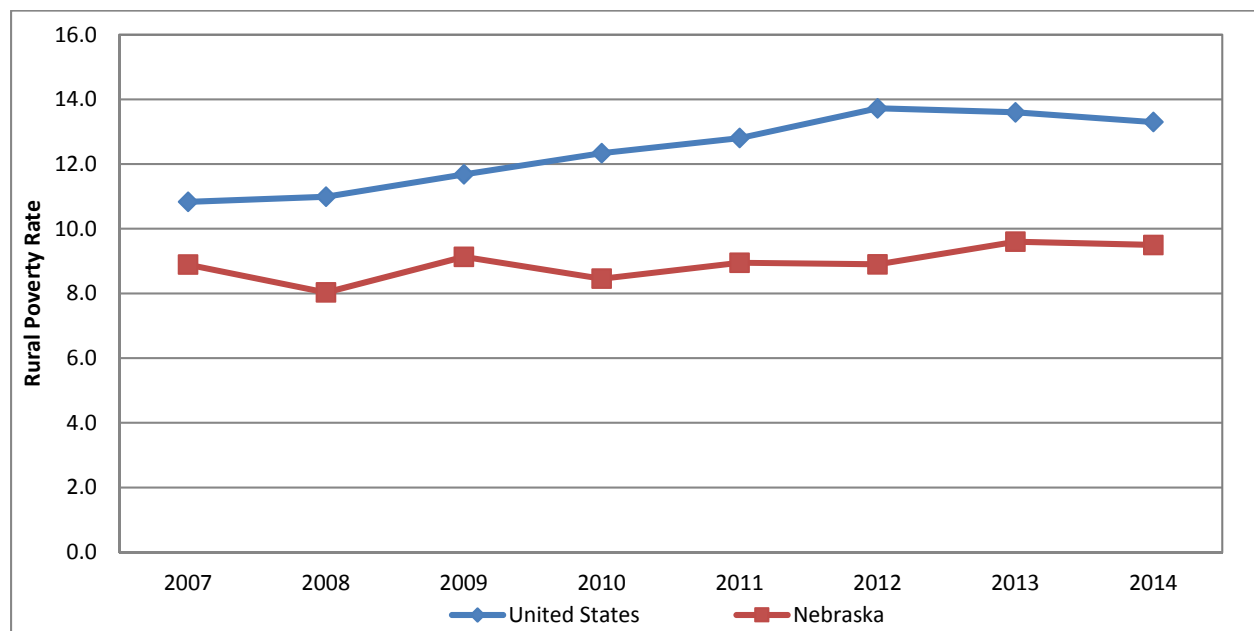
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Rural Poverty Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



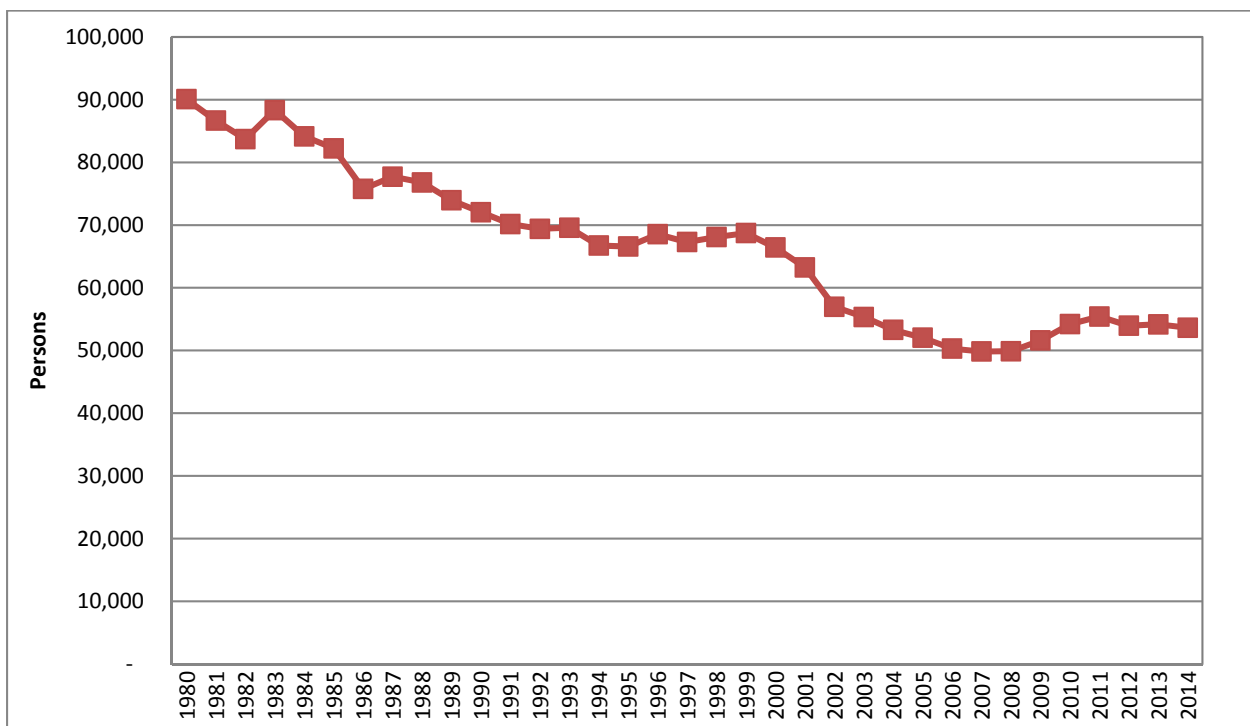
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2014 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Farm Employment, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Farm Employment, Nebraska: 1980-2014



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

Rural Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Farm Receipts

Cash Receipts from Livestock and Products, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

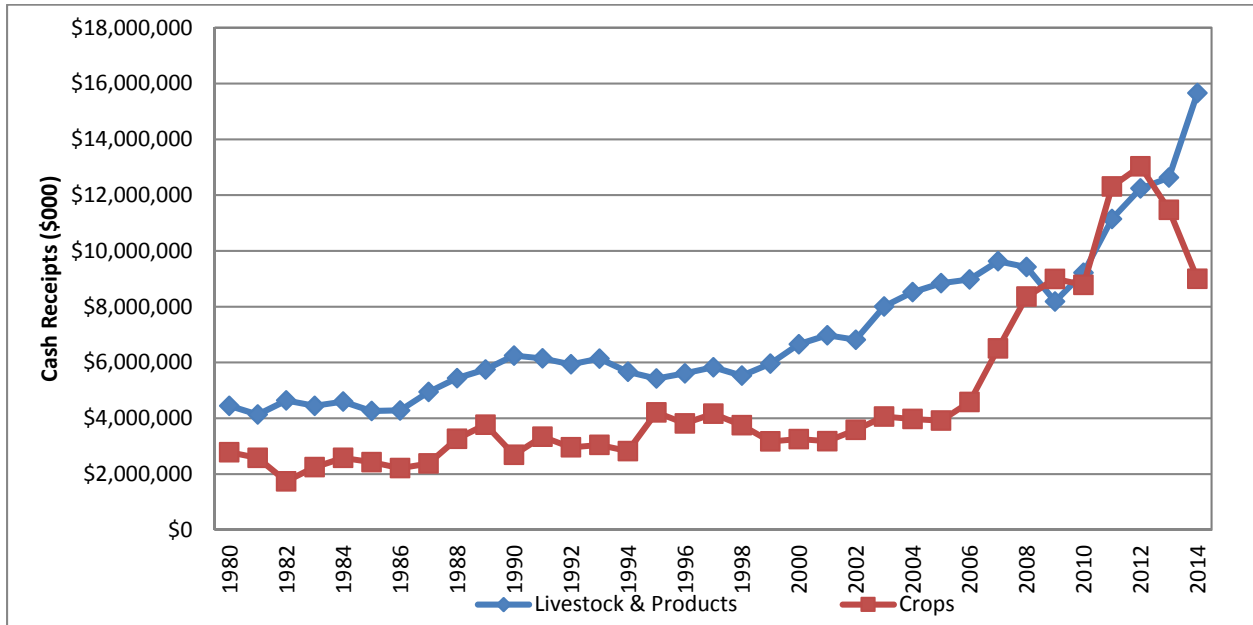
Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Cash Receipts from Crops, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



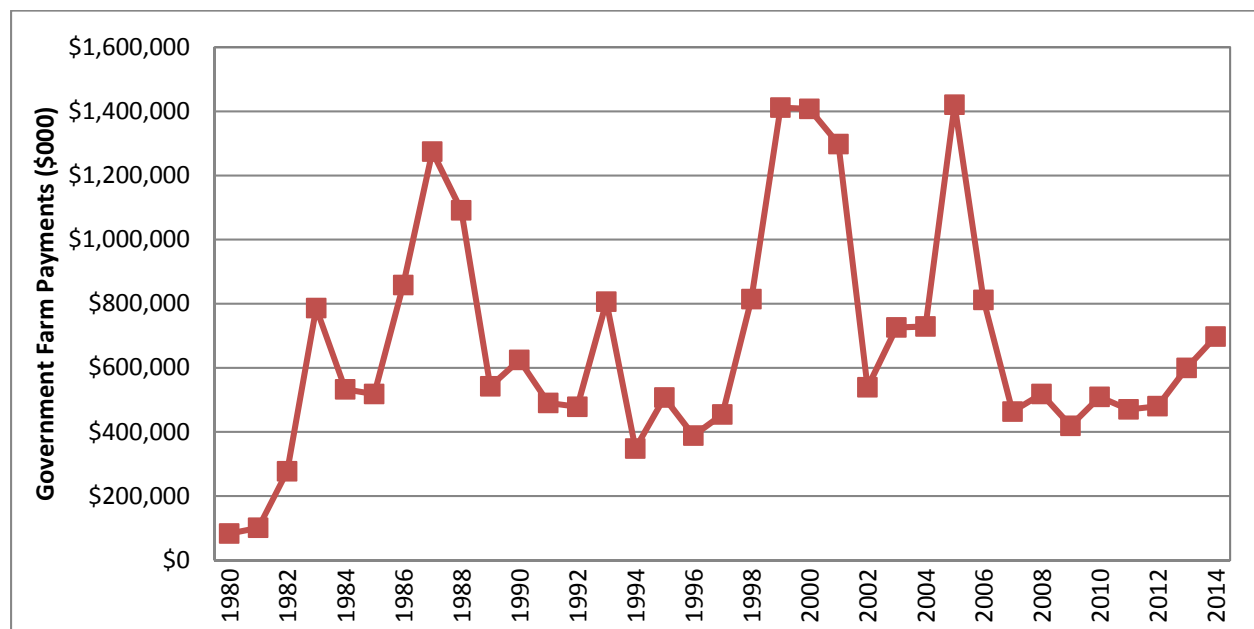
Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Government Farm Payments, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Government Farm Payments, Nebraska: 1980-2014



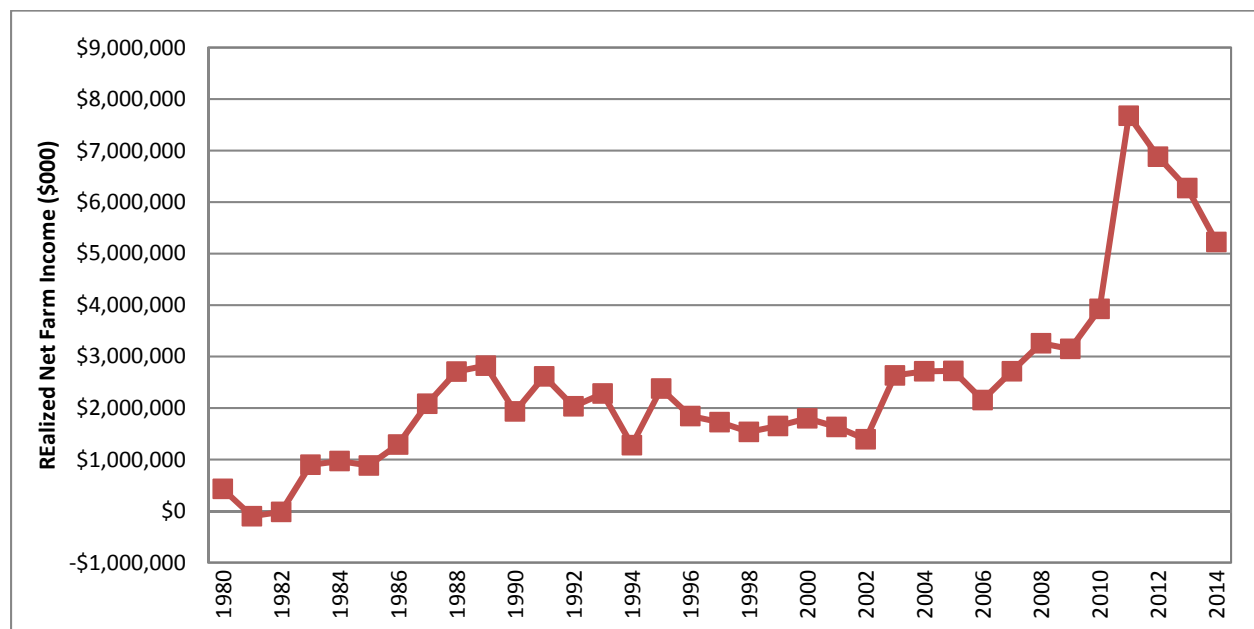
Source: Regional Economic Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, December 2015

Realized Net Farm Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Realized Net Farm Income, Nebraska: 1980-2014



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

Agricultural Diversity

Top 5 Agriculture Commodities, Nebraska: 2014

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

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

Top 5 Agriculture Exports, Estimates, Nebraska: FY 2014

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

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

Farm Operations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

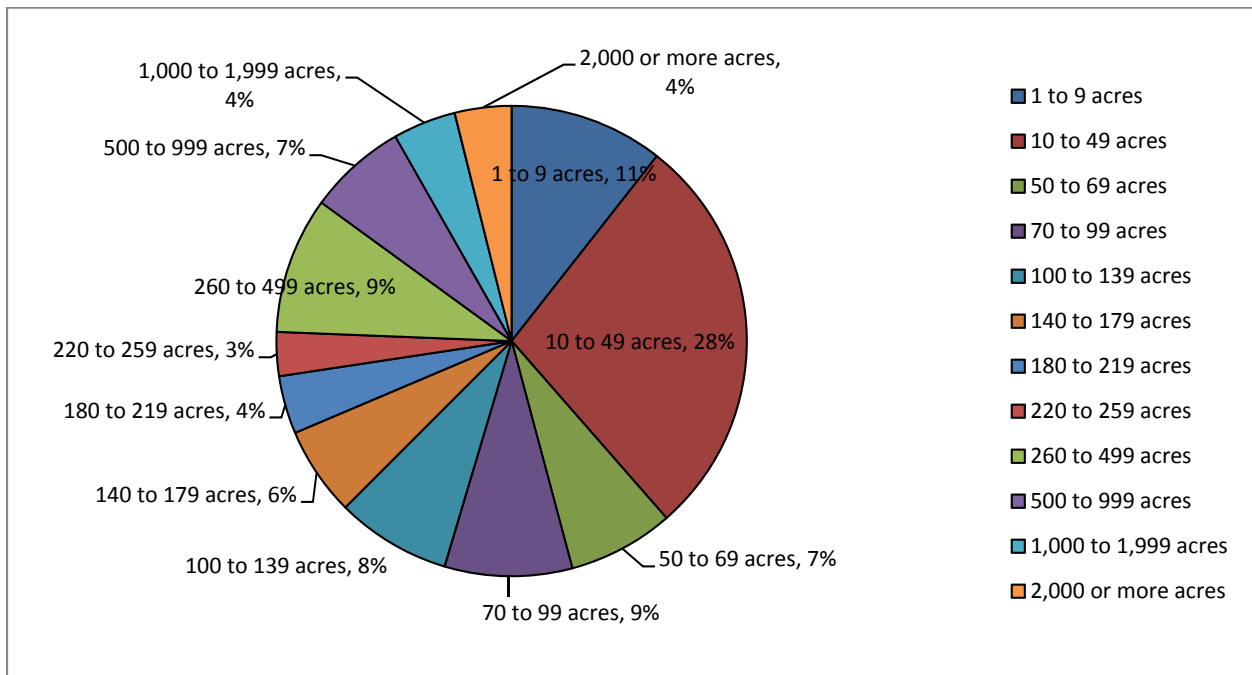
Sources: 2002, 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture and State Fact Sheets, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

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

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

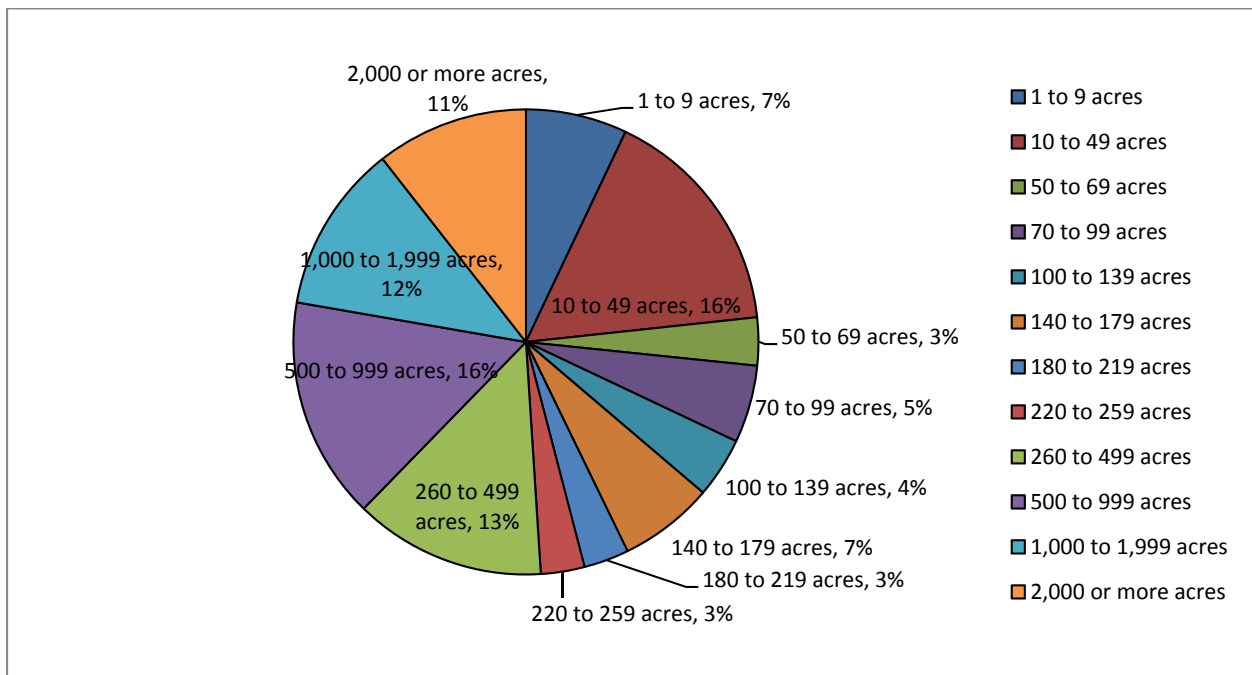
Source: 2002, 2007 and 2012 Census of Agriculture and State Fact Sheets, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Size, United States: 2012



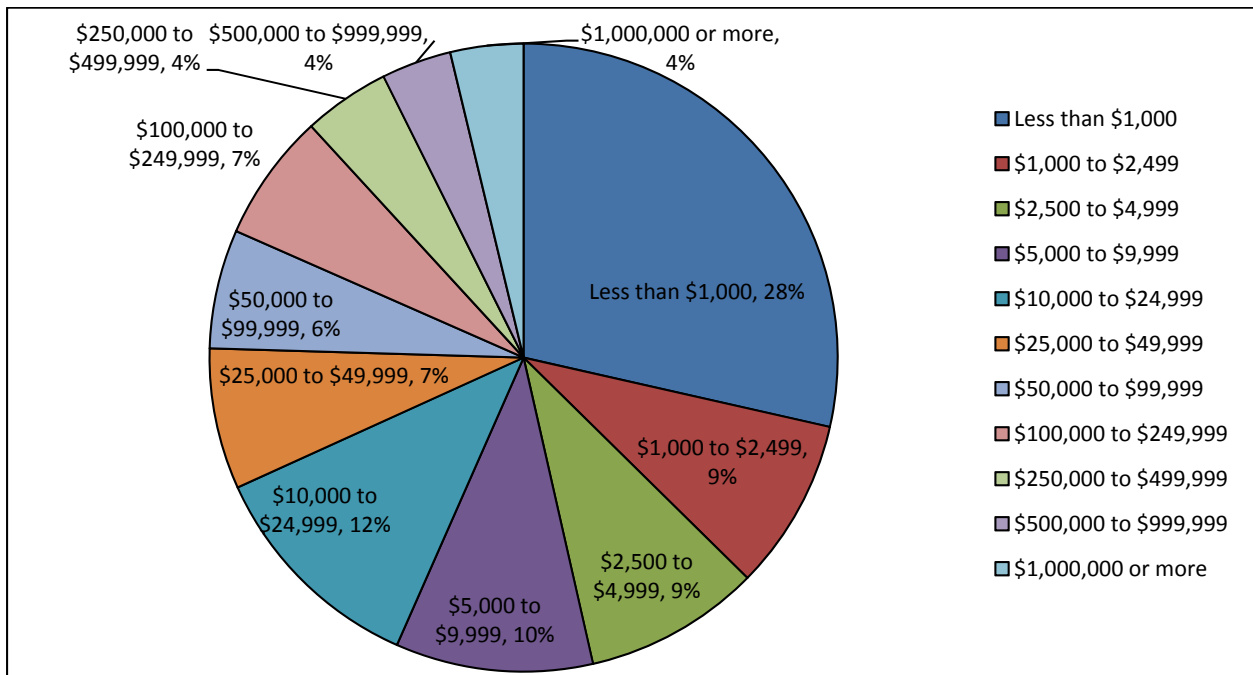
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Size, Nebraska: 2012



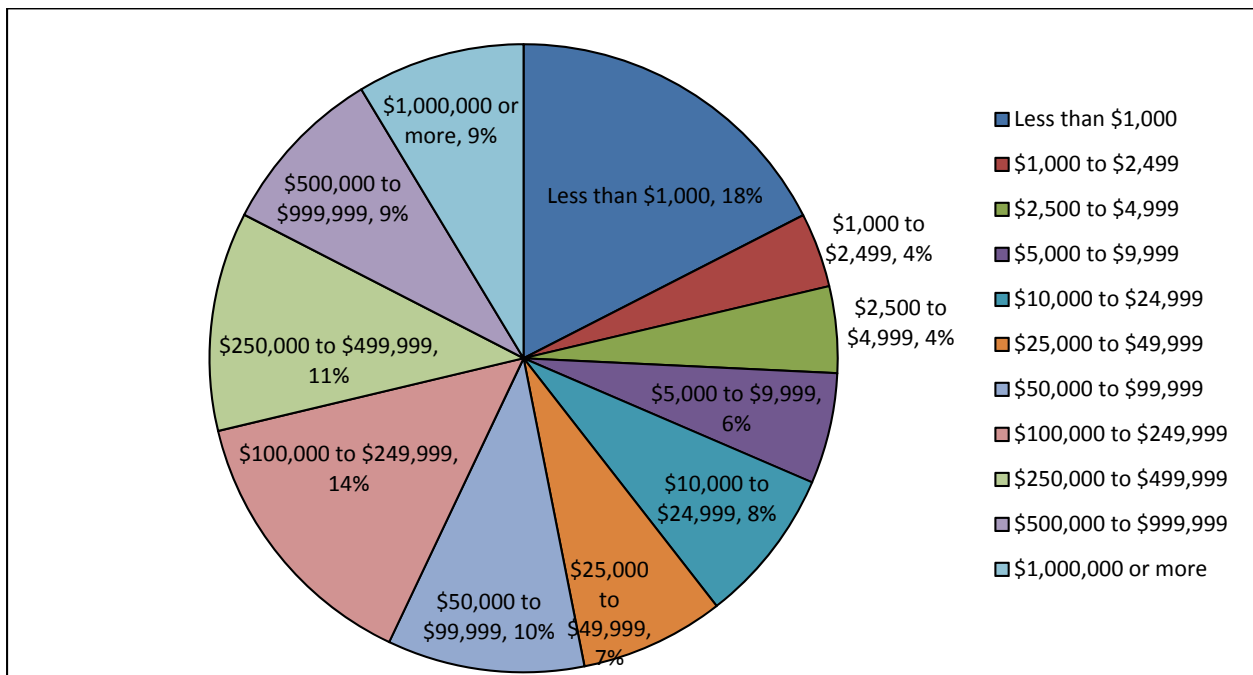
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Value of Sales, United States: 2012



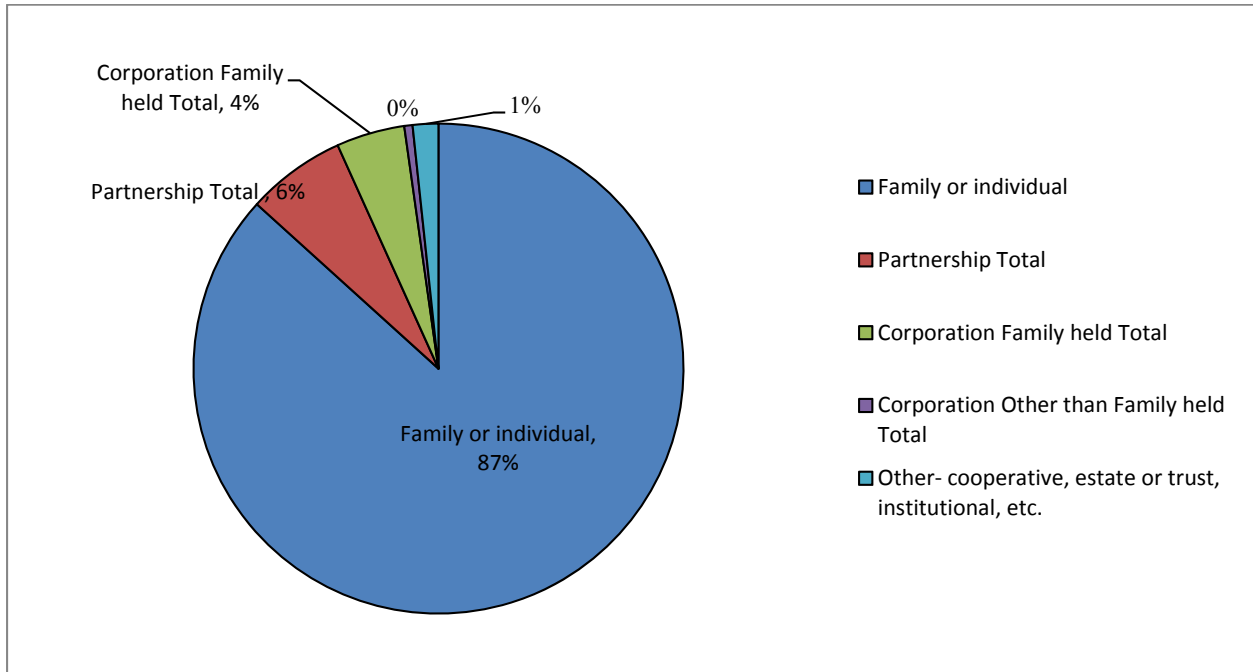
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Farms by Value of Sales, Nebraska: 2012



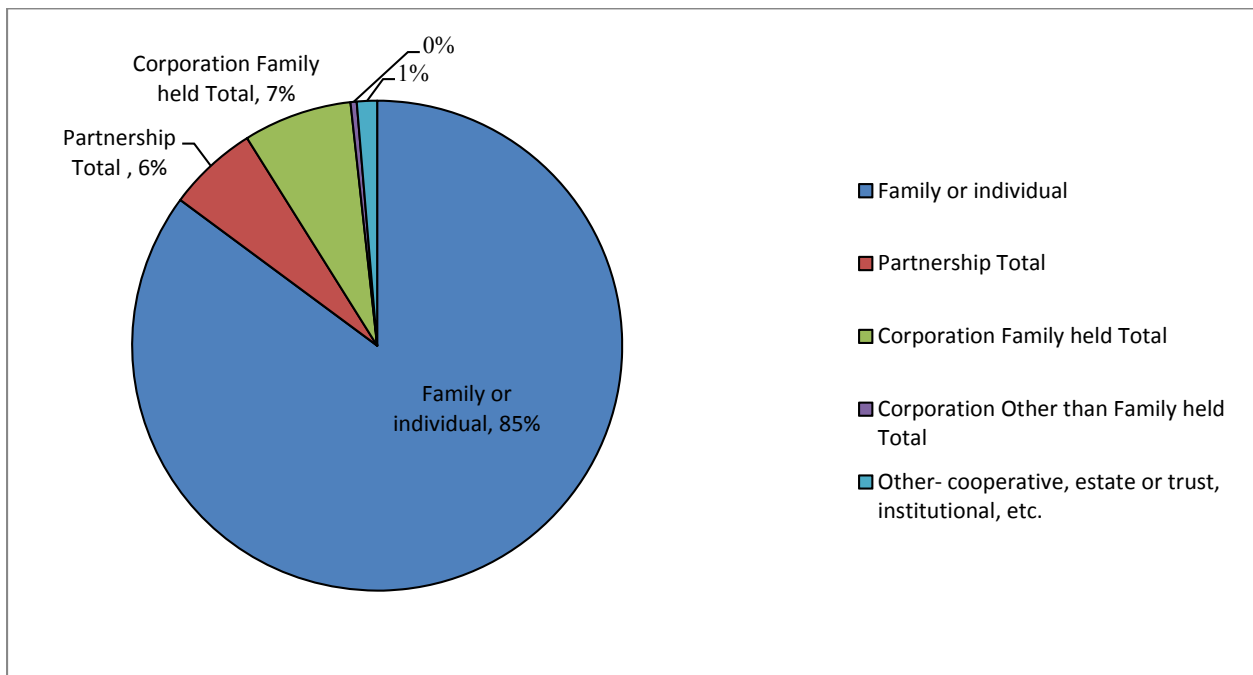
Source: 2012 Census Publications, The Census of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

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



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

Farm Organization (Percentage of Total), Nebraska: 2012



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

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

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

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

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Nebraska Legislative Planning Database – Economy

Introduction

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

Income, Poverty and Comparative Costs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Employment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business Climate and Business Start-ups

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

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

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

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

Workforce Quality, Technology, and Innovation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

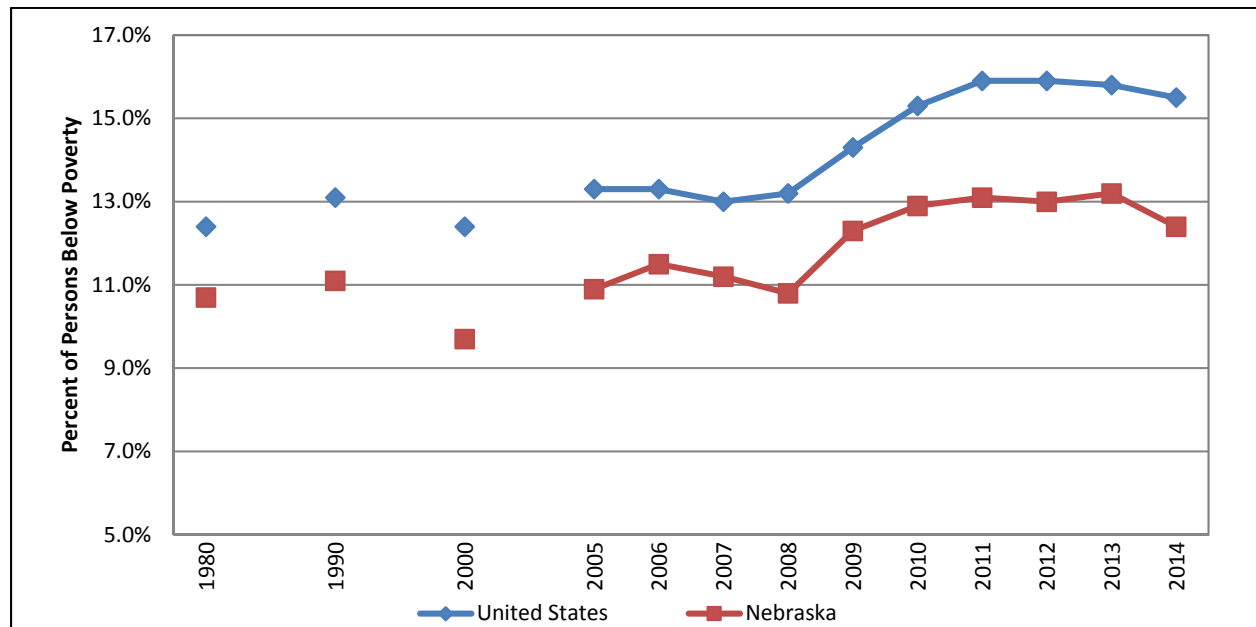
Poverty

Poverty Rate for Persons, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



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

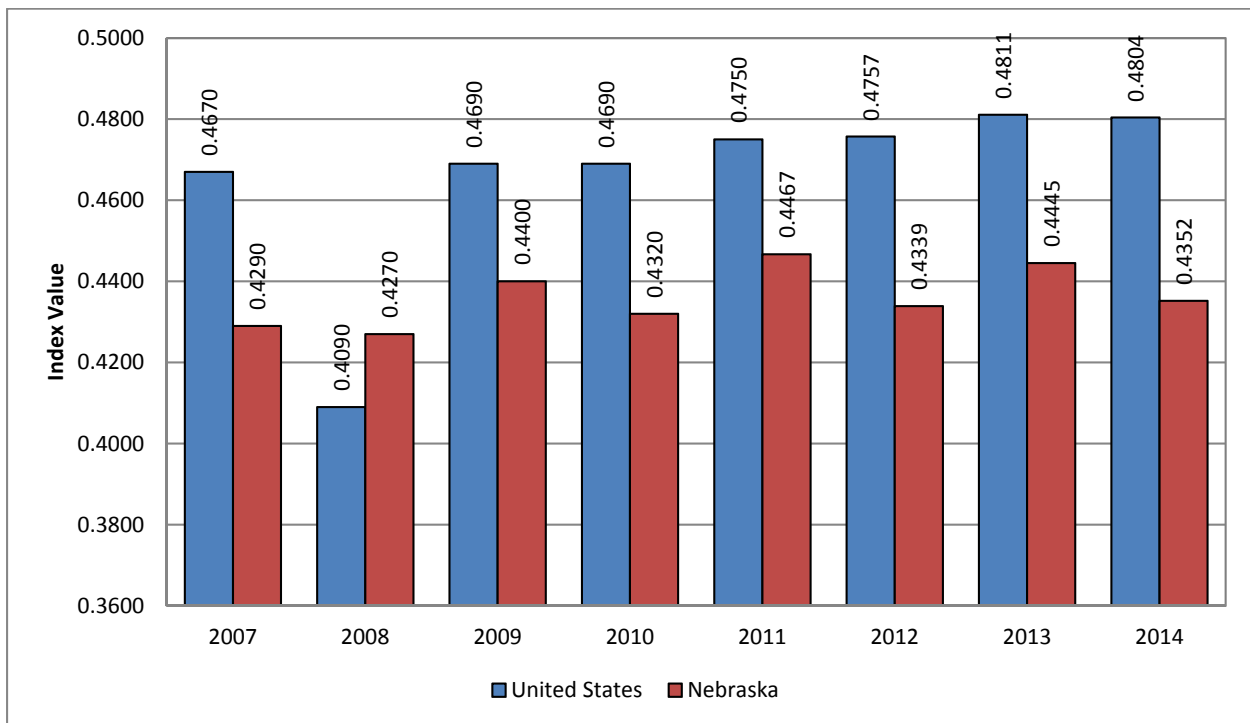
Gini Index of Income Inequality, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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



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

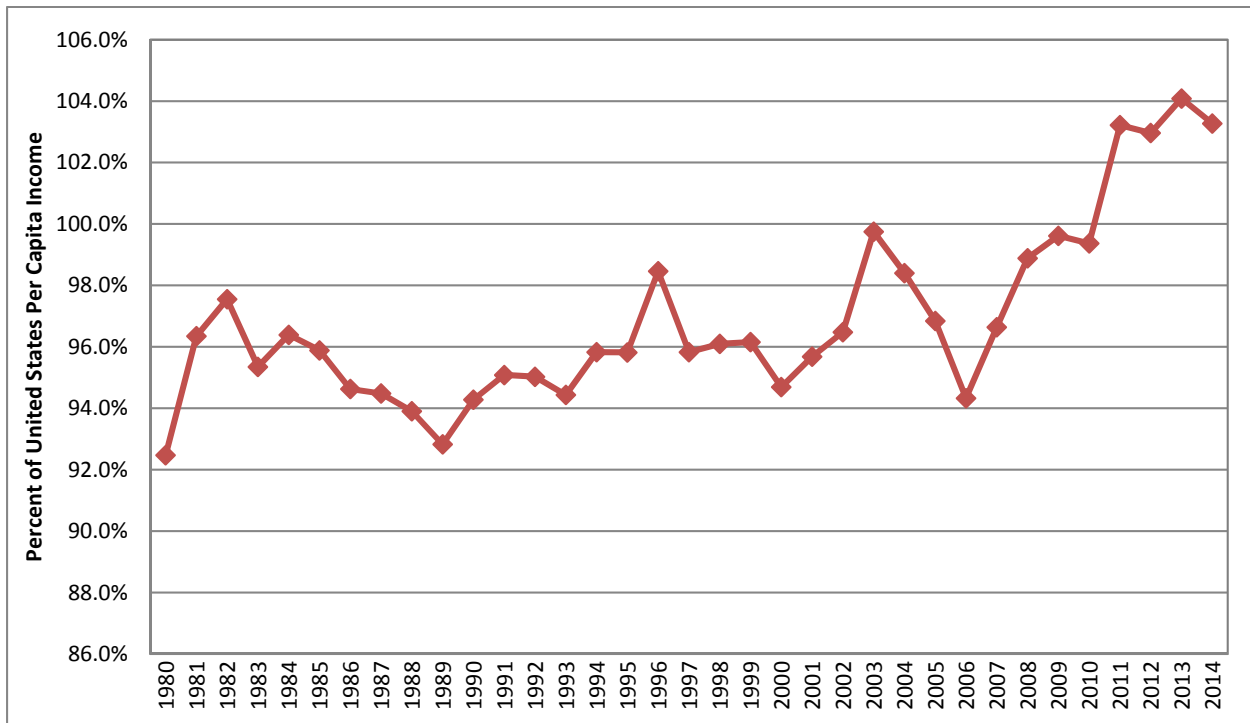
Personal Income

Per Capita Personal Income, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



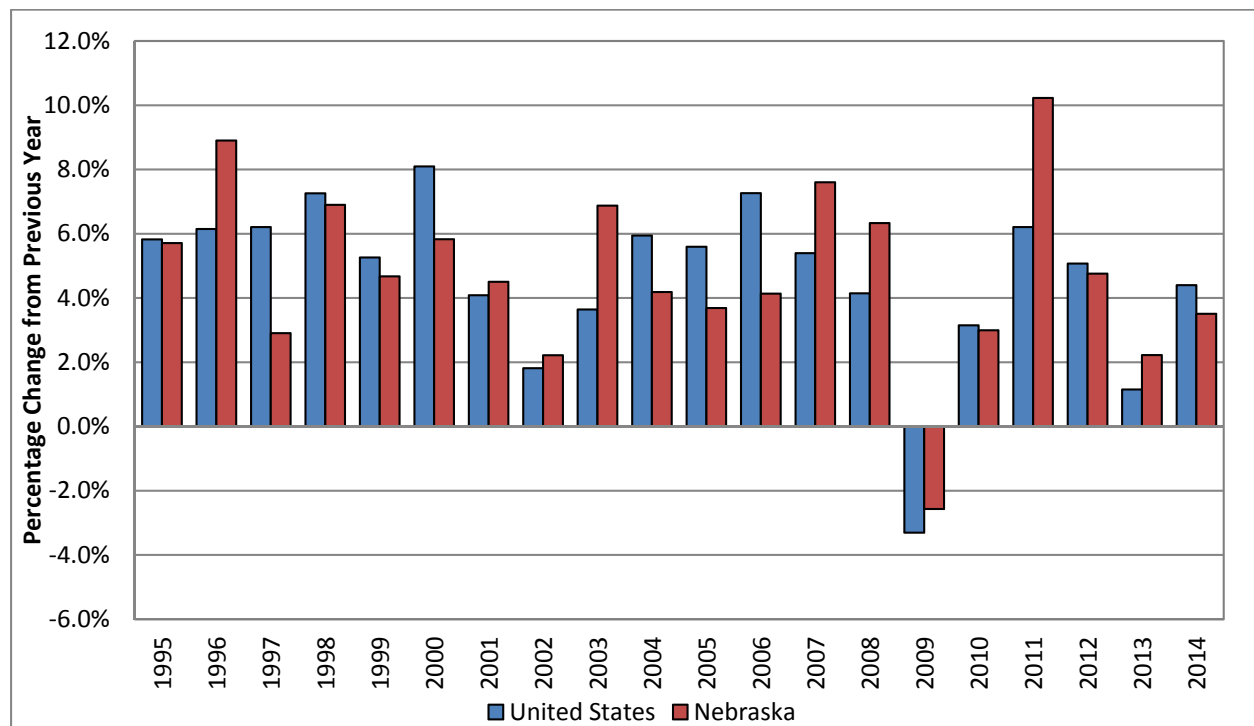
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



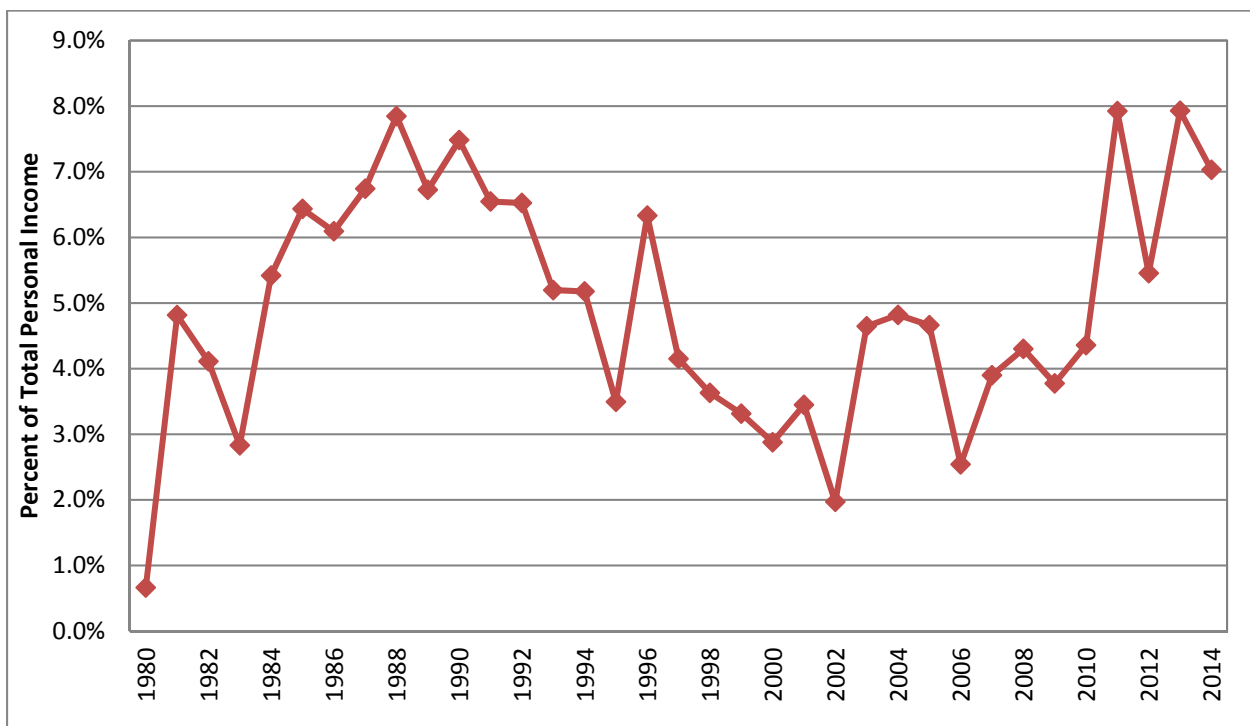
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



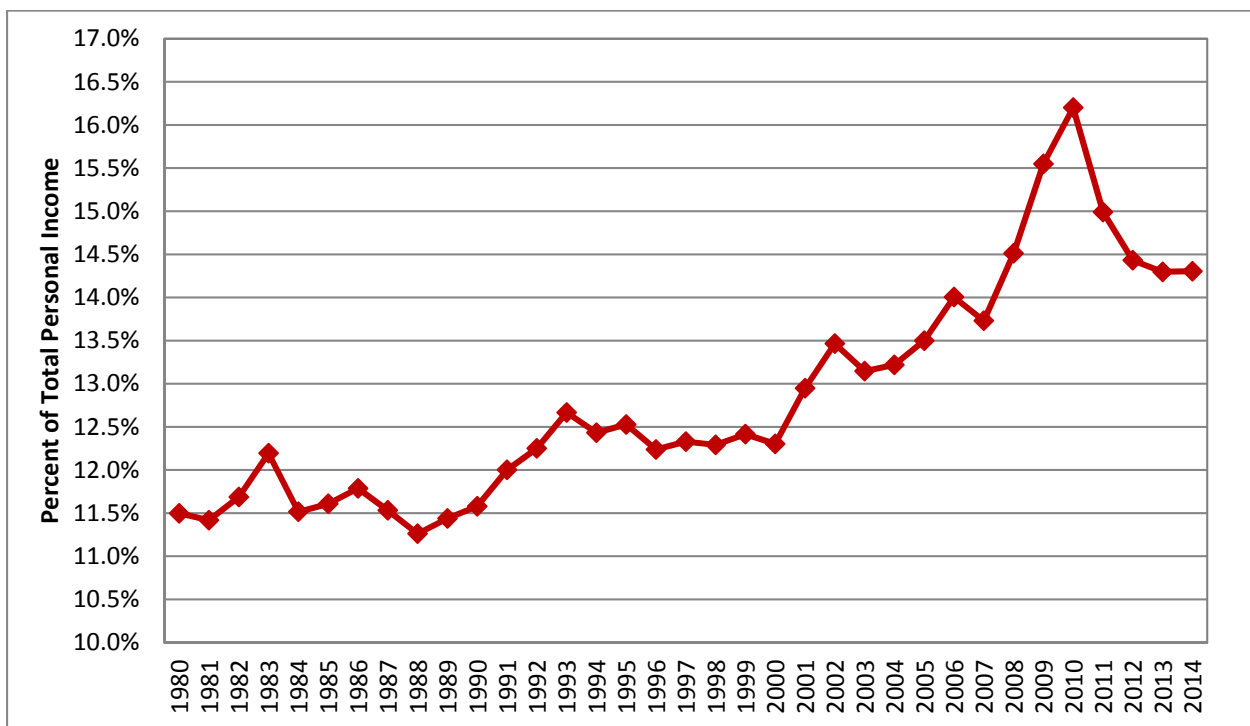
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



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

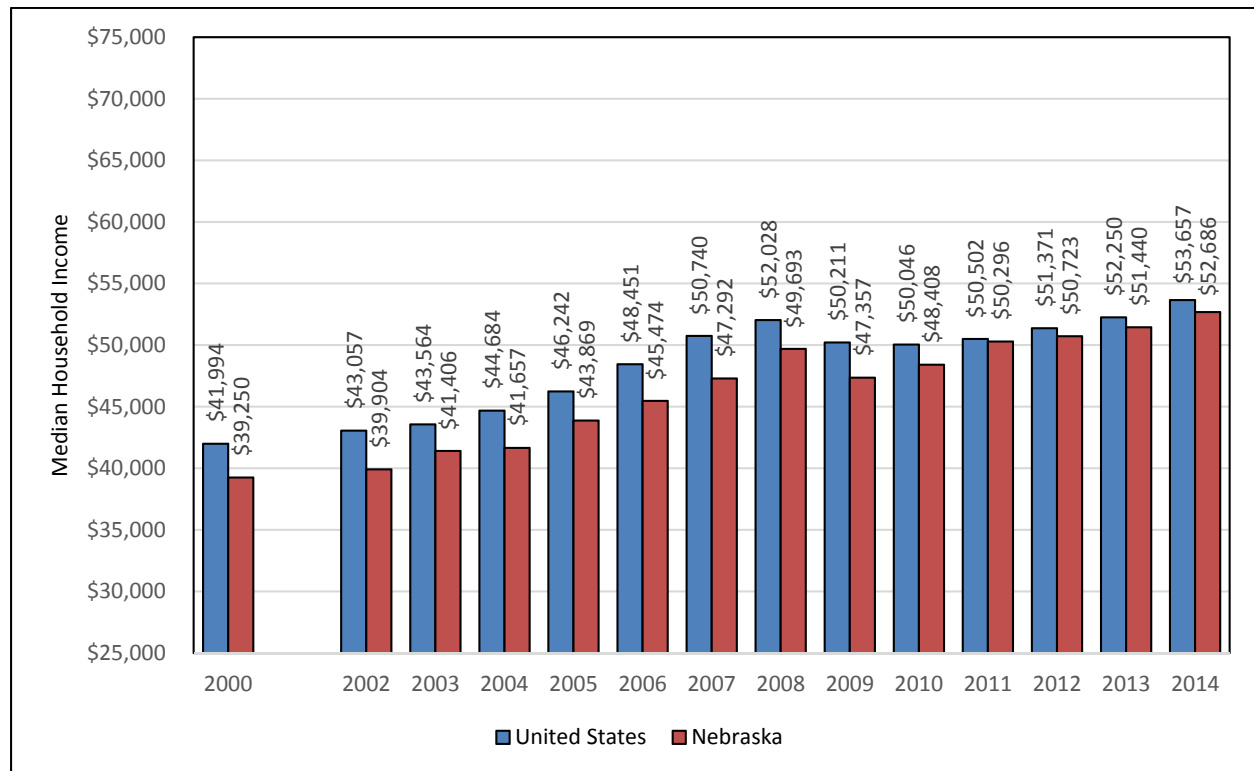
Median Household Income

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

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

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

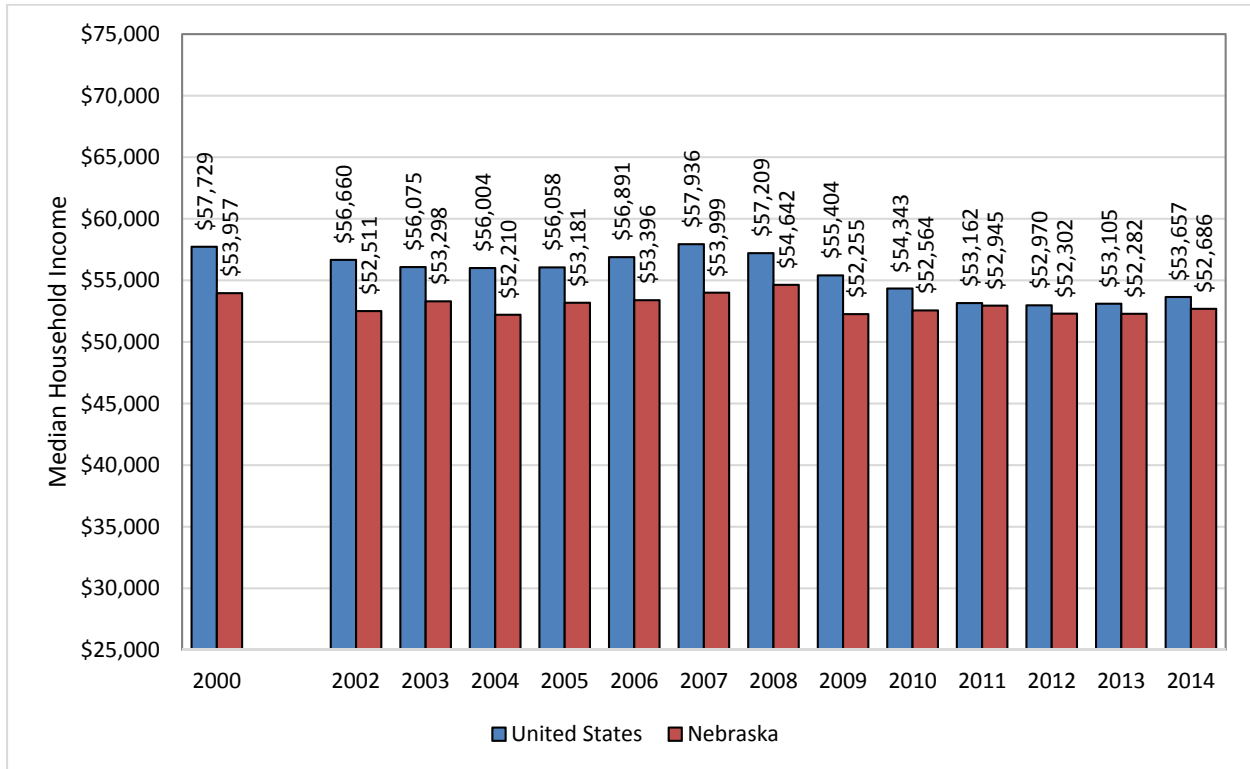
Median Household Income, Nebraska and the United States: 2000-2014



Note: 2001 data is not available.

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

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



*2014 CPI-U-RS adjusted dollars

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

Note: 2001 data is not available.

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

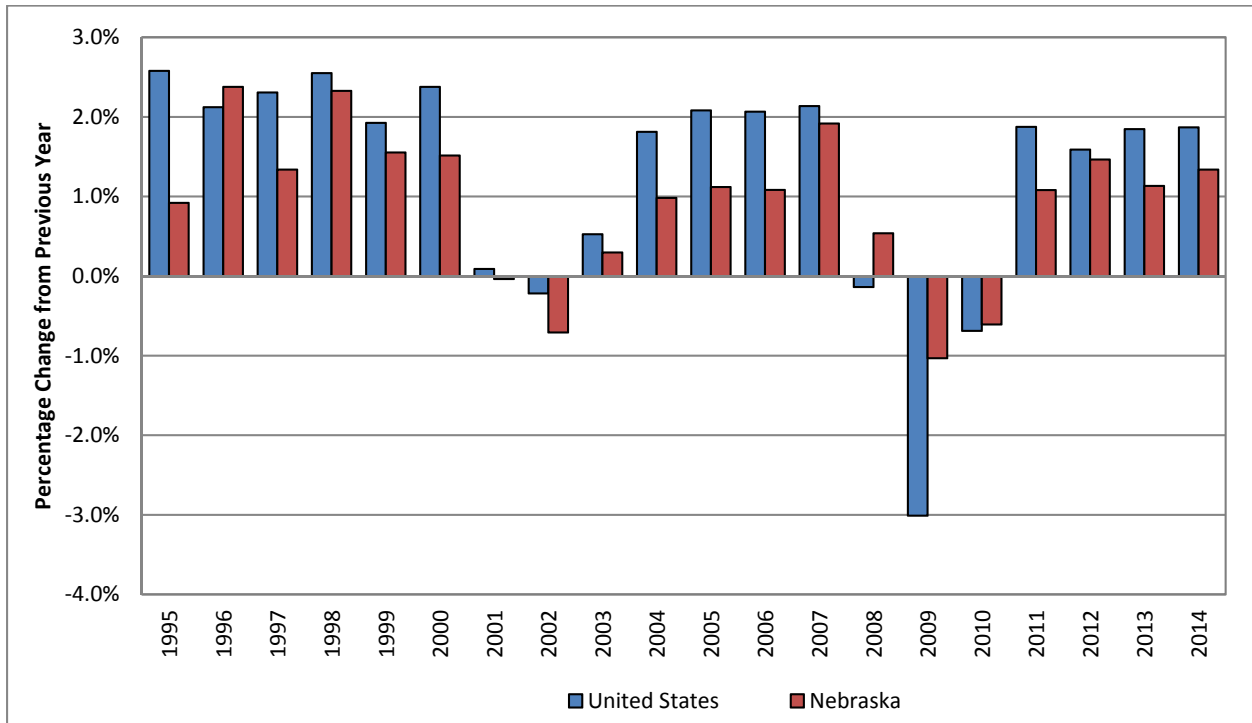
Employment

Percentage Change in Employment, Regional Comparison: 2013-2014

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

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

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



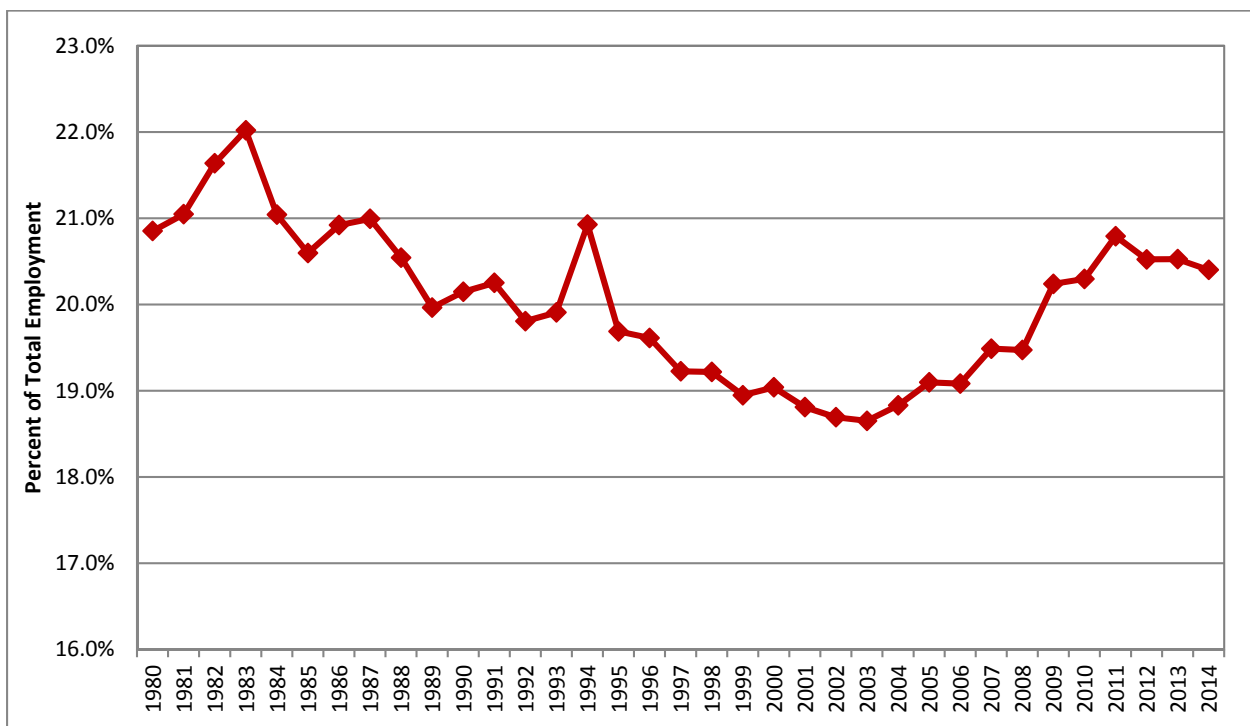
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



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

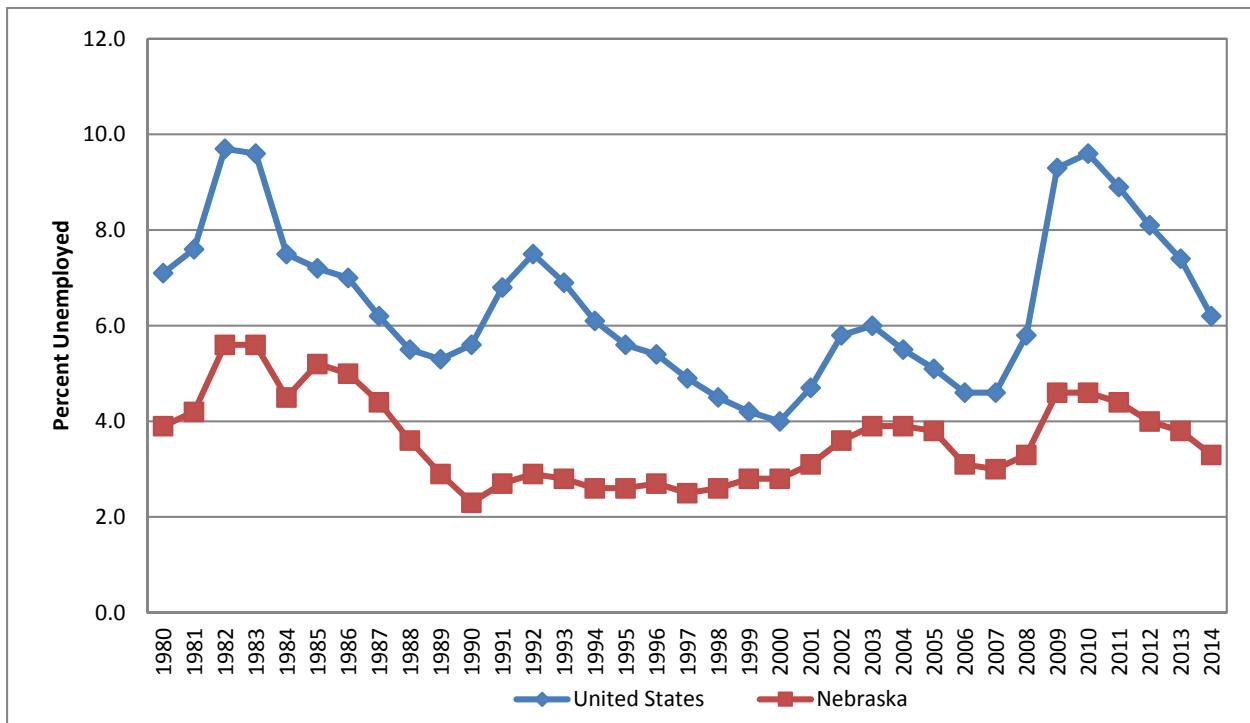
Unemployment

Annual Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



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

Alternative Annual Unemployment Rate, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

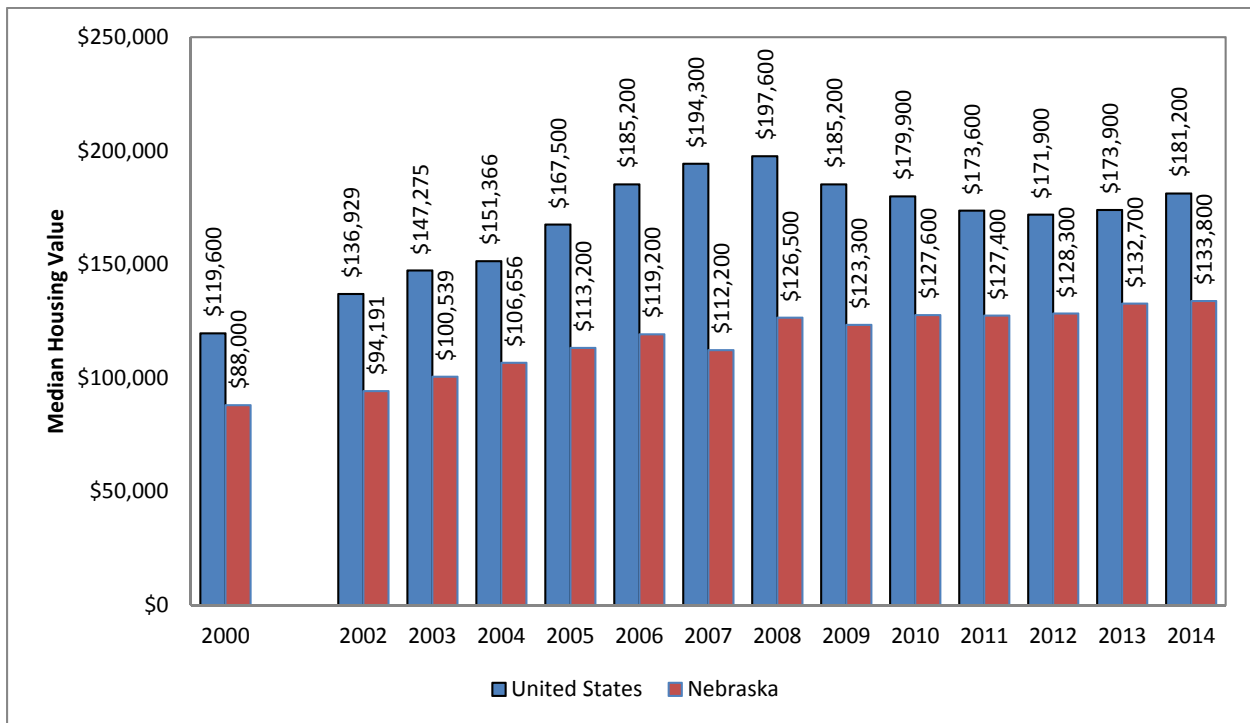
Median Housing Value

Median Housing Value, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



Note: 2001 data is not available.

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

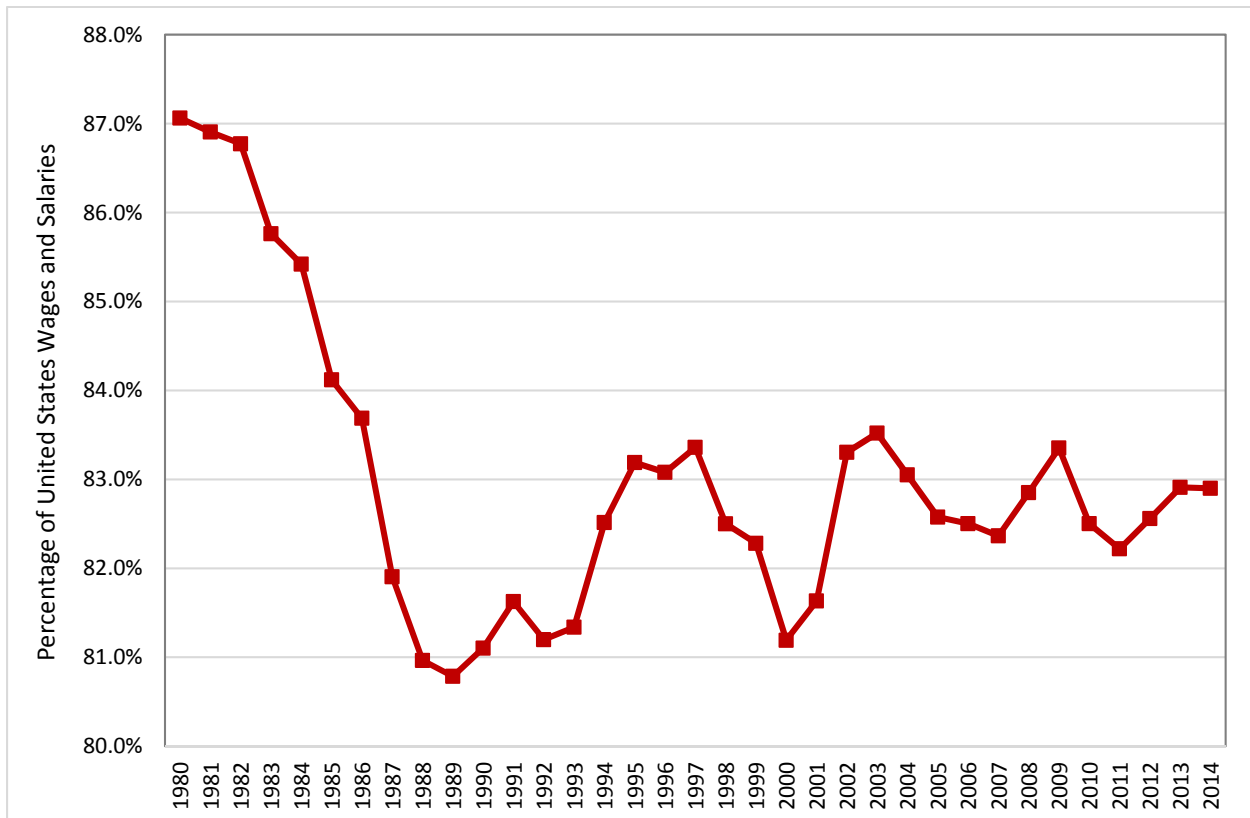
Comparative Costs

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

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

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

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



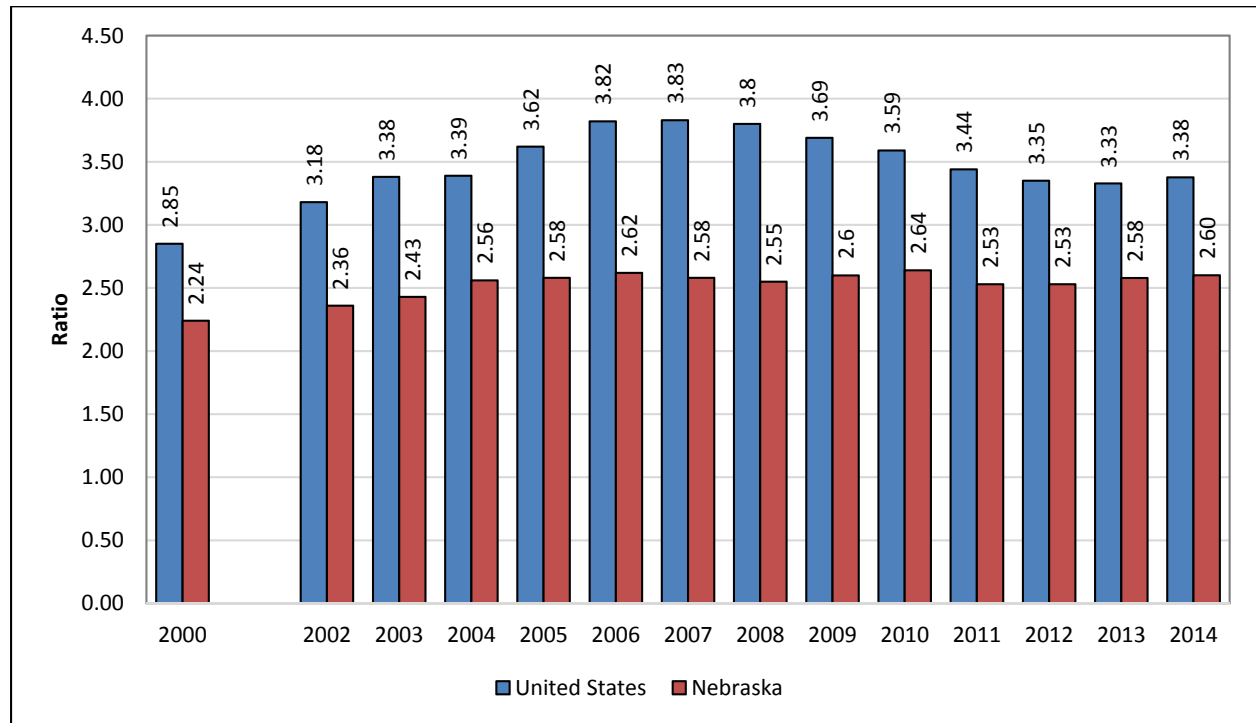
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



Note: 2001 data is not available.

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

Business Climate

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

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

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

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

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

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

Business Startups

Business Startups, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

Workforce Quality

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

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

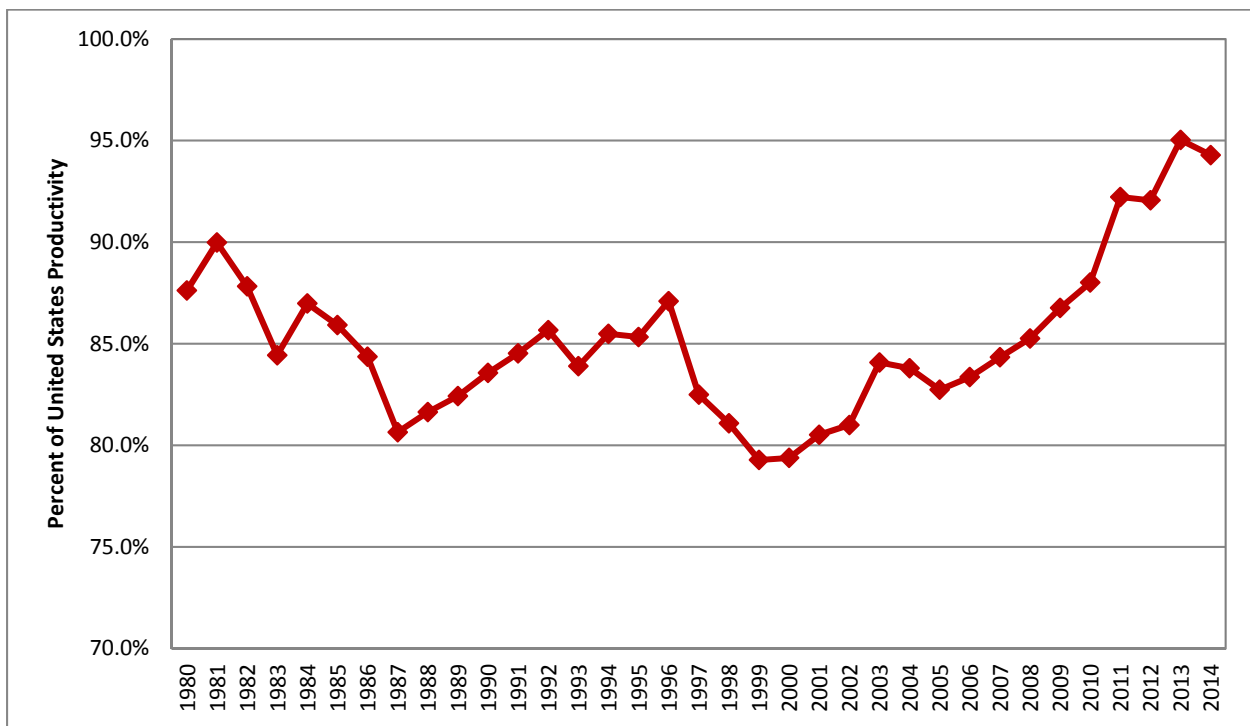
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



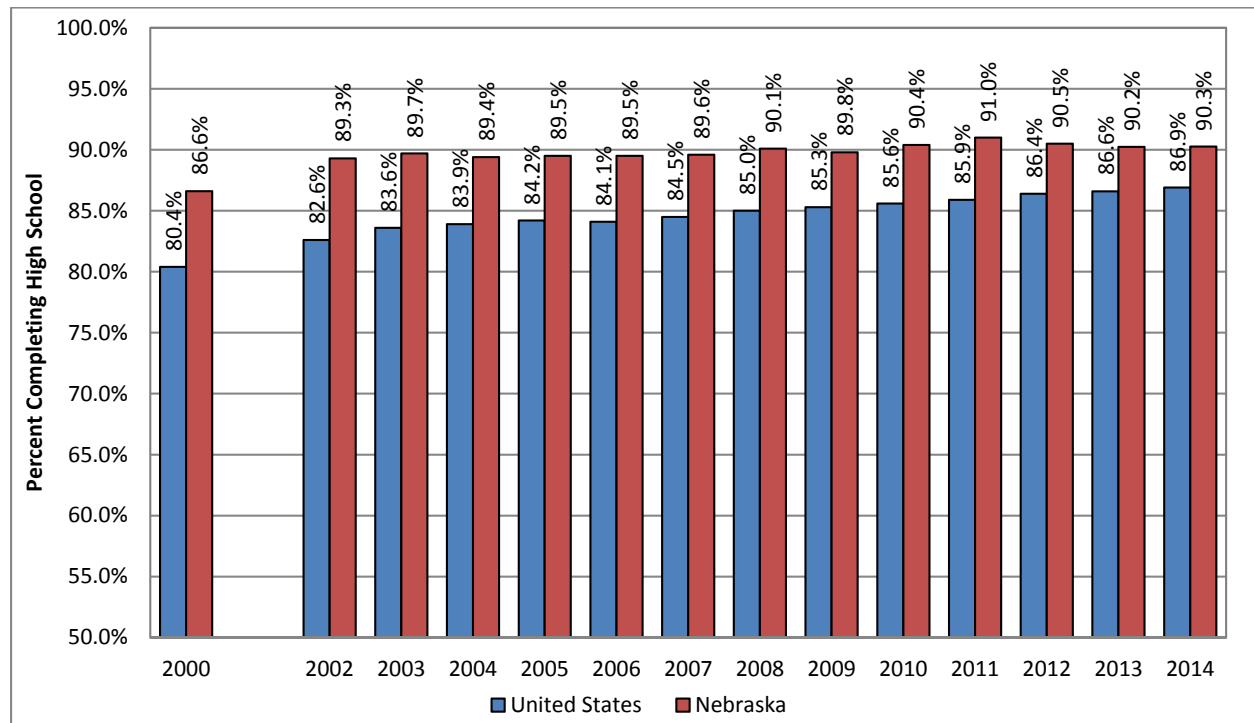
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Income Division, Gross Domestic Product by State and Annual State Personal Income and Employment; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



Note: 2001 data is not available.

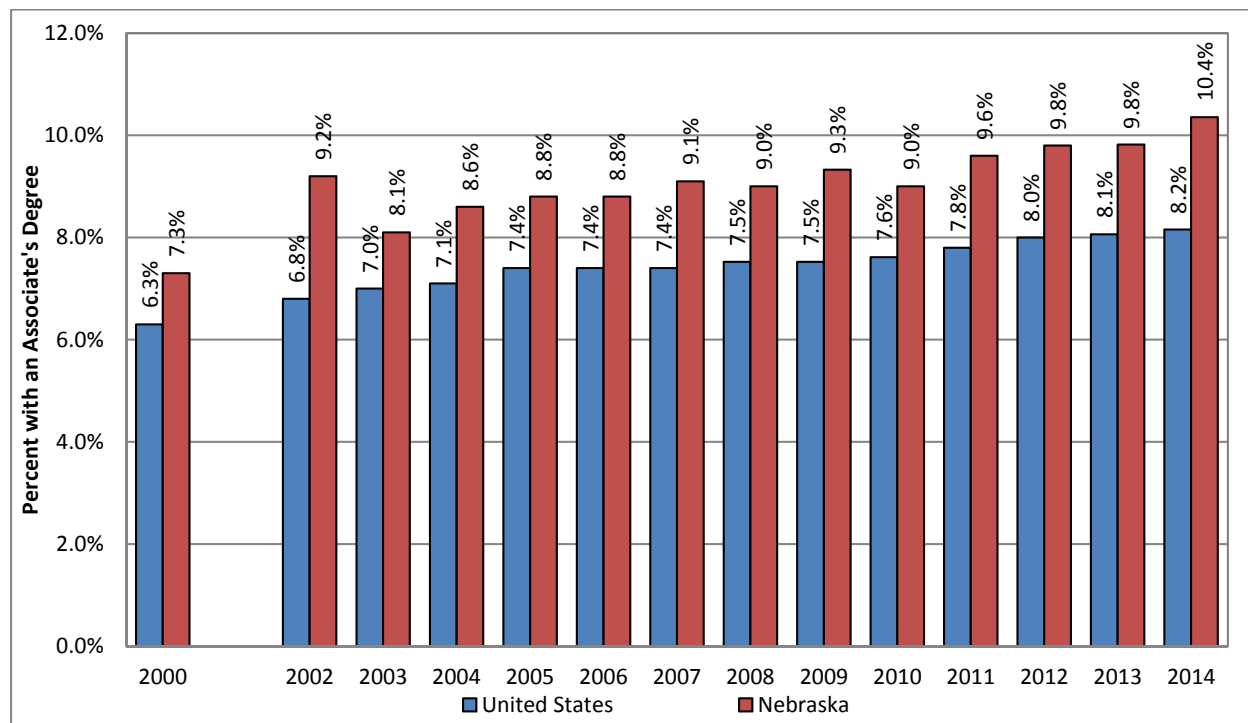
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2000-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



Note. 2001 data is unavailable.

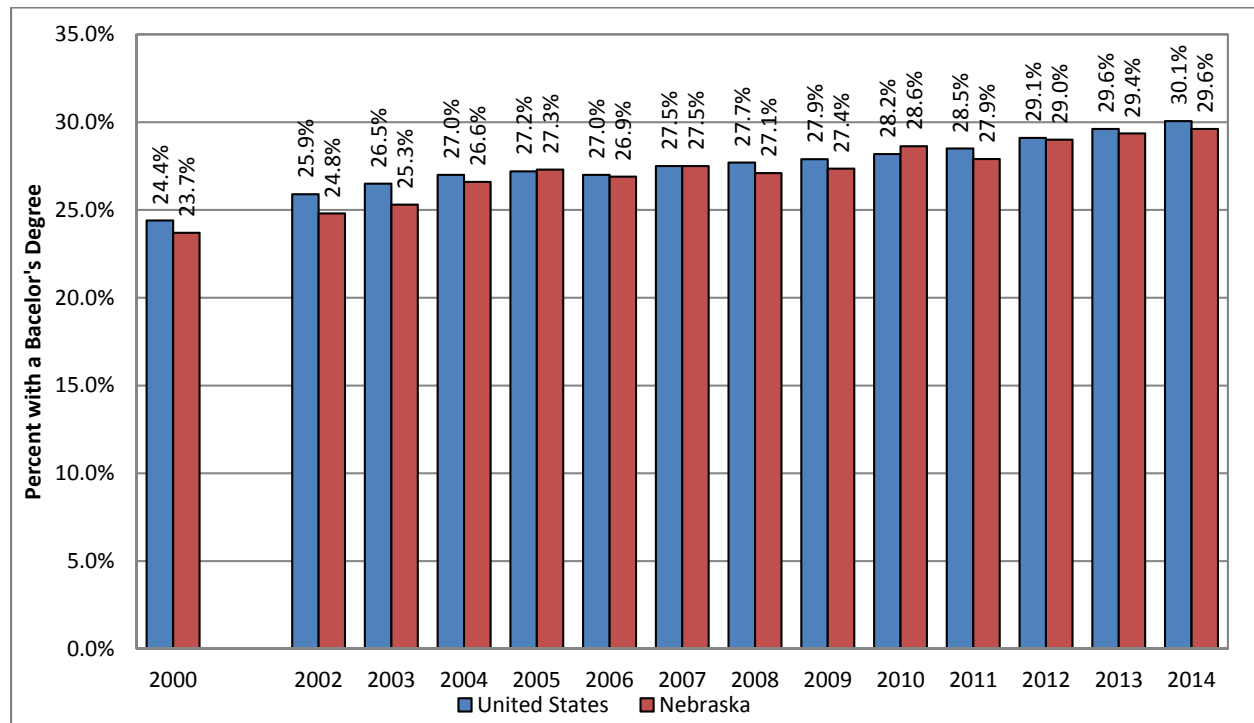
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



Note: 2001 data is not available.

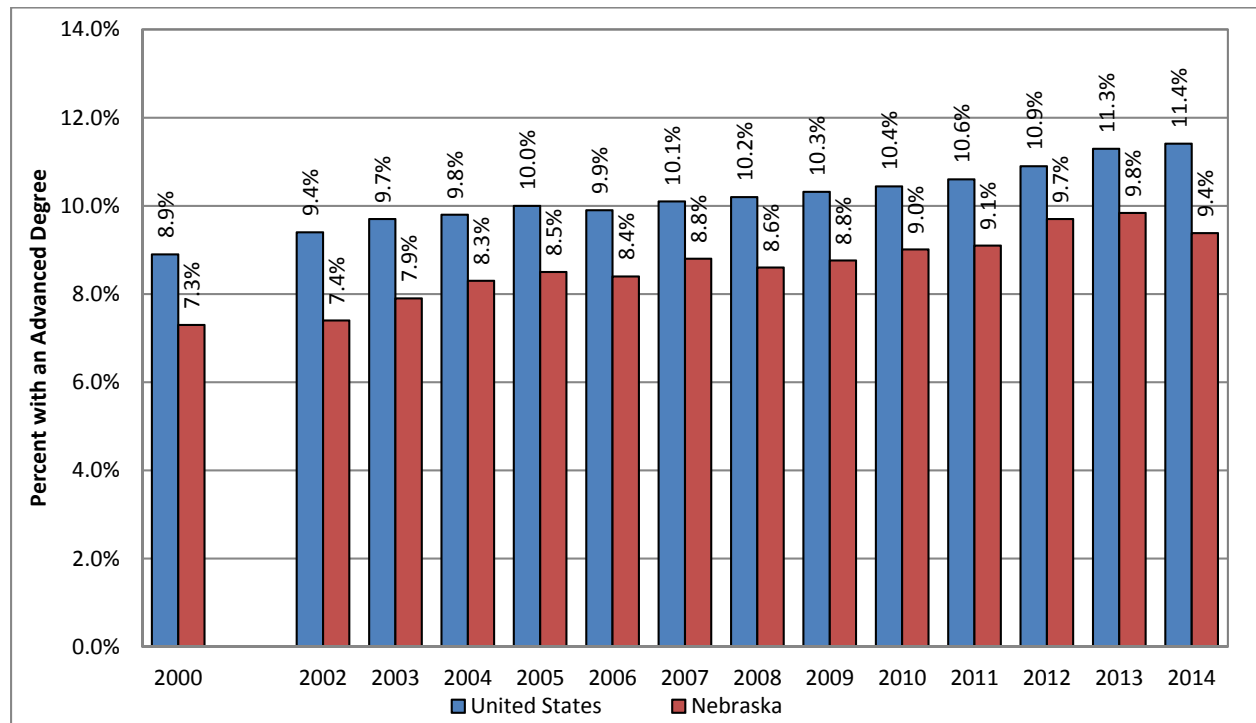
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2002-2014 and 2000 Census of Population and Housing; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, October 2015

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

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

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

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



Note: 2001 data is not available.

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

Technology and Innovation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Education

Introduction

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

P-16 Initiative Goals

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

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

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

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

Access

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment

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

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

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

Funding Stability

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

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

P-16 Initiative Goals

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Access

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

Children 3 to 4 years of age

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

Children 5 to 17 years of age

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

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

** As a percentage of those enrolled

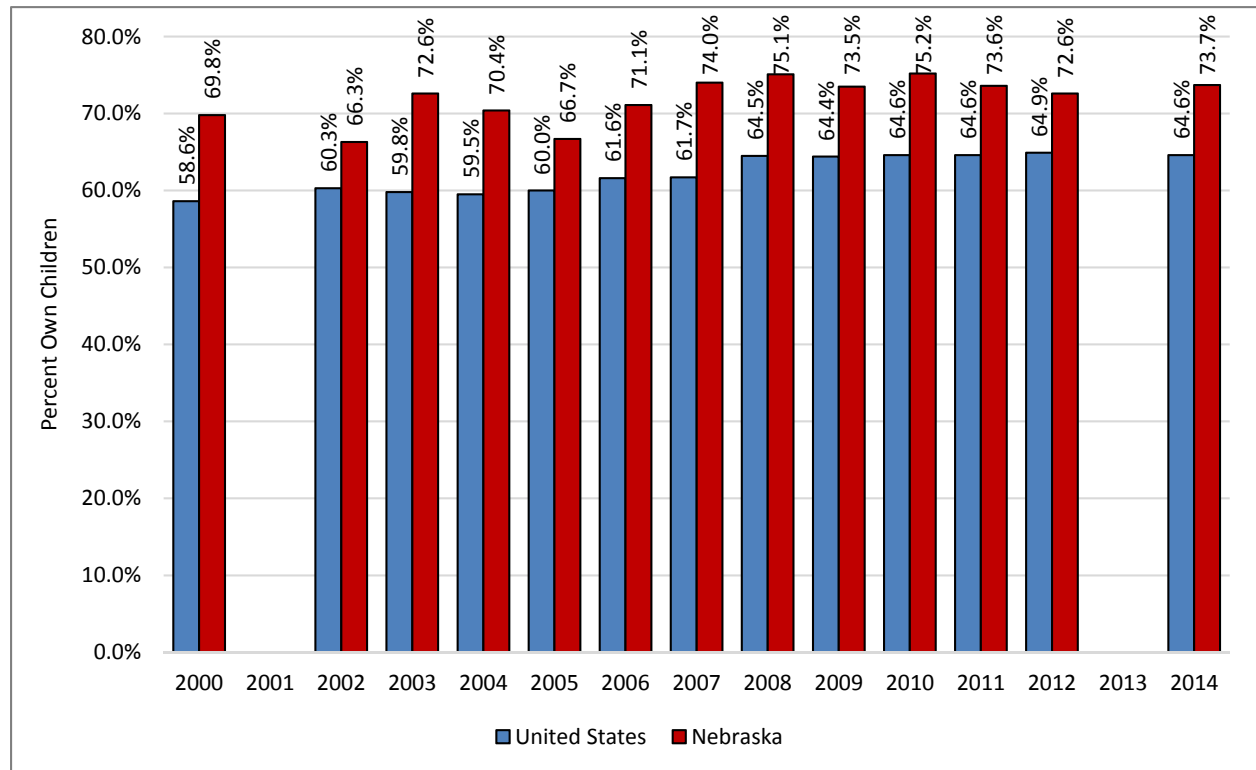
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

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

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

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

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



Note: 2001 data is not available.

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

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

Public 4-year Institutions

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

Public 2-year Institutions

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

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

Enrollment in Institutions of Higher Education, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Assessment

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

4th Graders

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

8th Graders

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

Notes: *Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

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

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

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

4th Graders

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

8th Graders

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

Notes: *Scale ranges from 0 to 500.

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

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

Funding Sustainability

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database – Health and Human Services

Introduction

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

Health Access

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

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

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

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

Health Status

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

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

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

Family Welfare

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

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

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

Health Costs

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

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

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

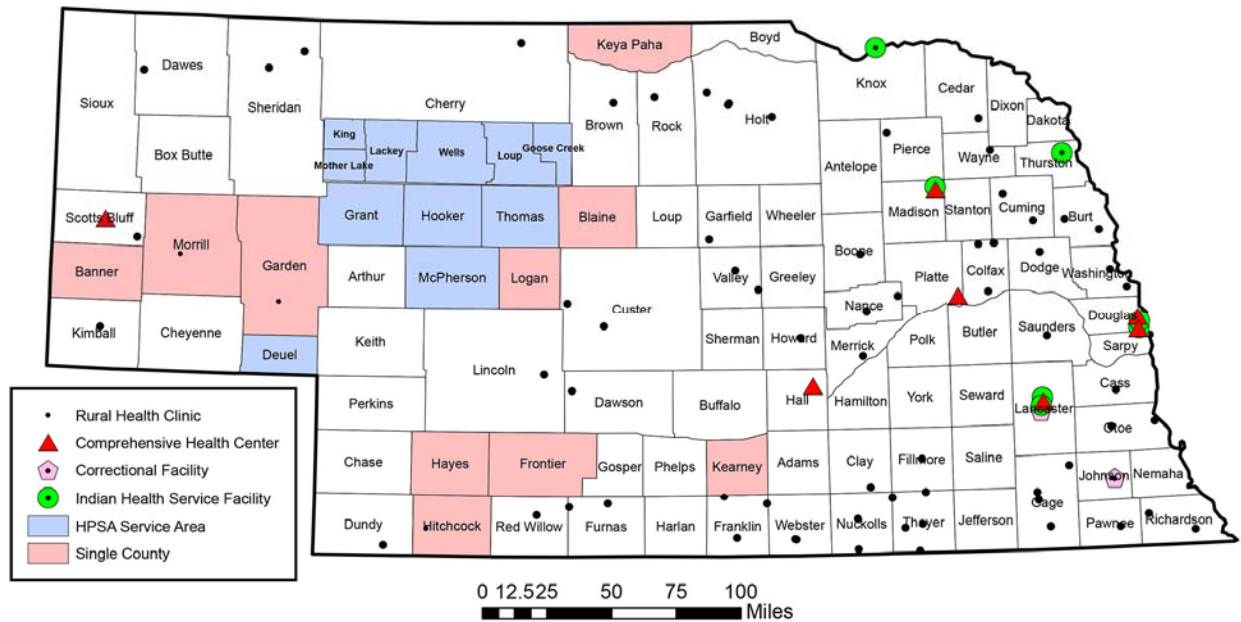
Health Access

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

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

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

Health Professional Shortage Areas Primary Care, Nebraska: 2015



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

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

Total Population

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

Under 18 years

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

18 to 64 years

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

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

Rural Response Hotline Summary, Nebraska: 1999-2012

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

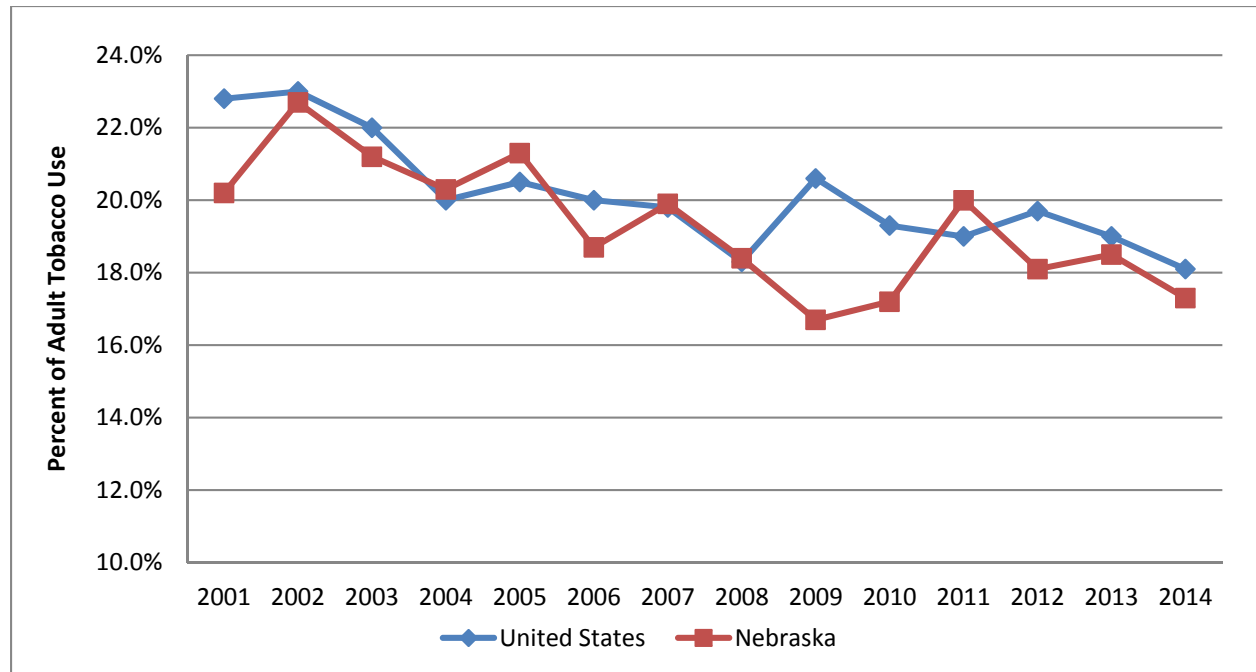
Health Status

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

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

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

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



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

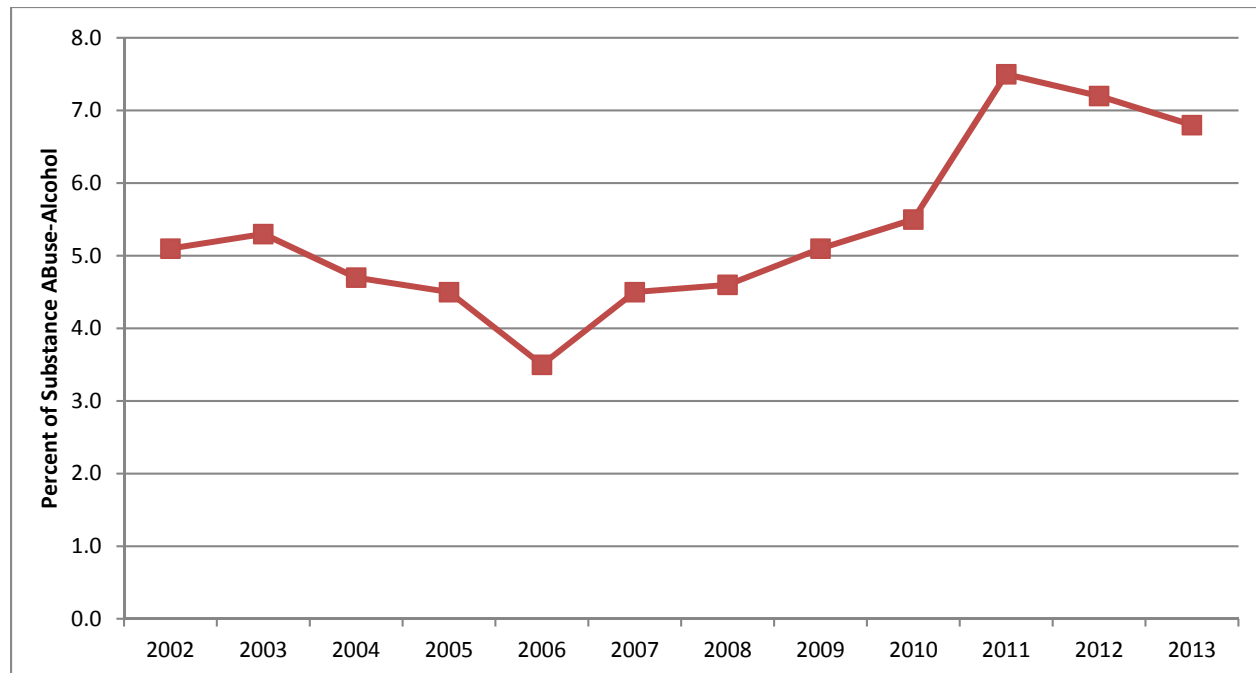
Percentage of Substance Abuse-Alcohol (Heavy Drinking), Nebraska: 2002-2013

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: Percentage of high school students who were obese.

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

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

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

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

Infant Mortality Rate, Nebraska: 2005-2014

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

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

Number of Teen Births, Nebraska: 2005-2014

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

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

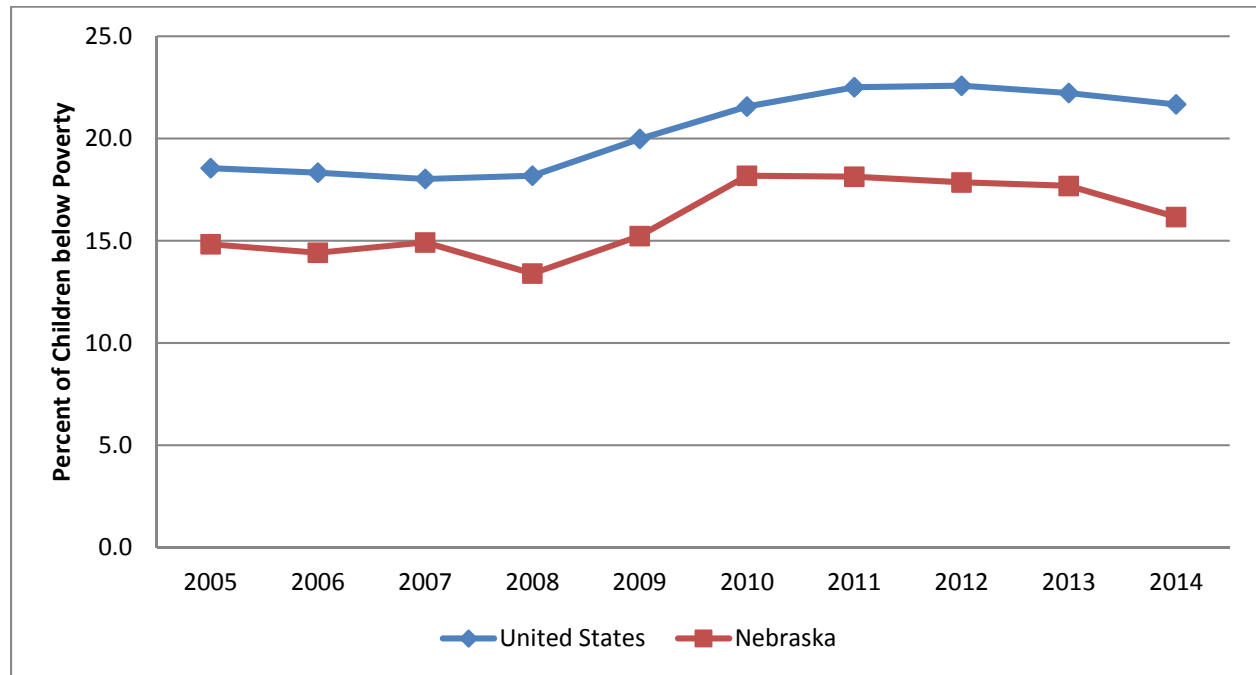
Family Welfare

Percentage of Children Living in Poverty, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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



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

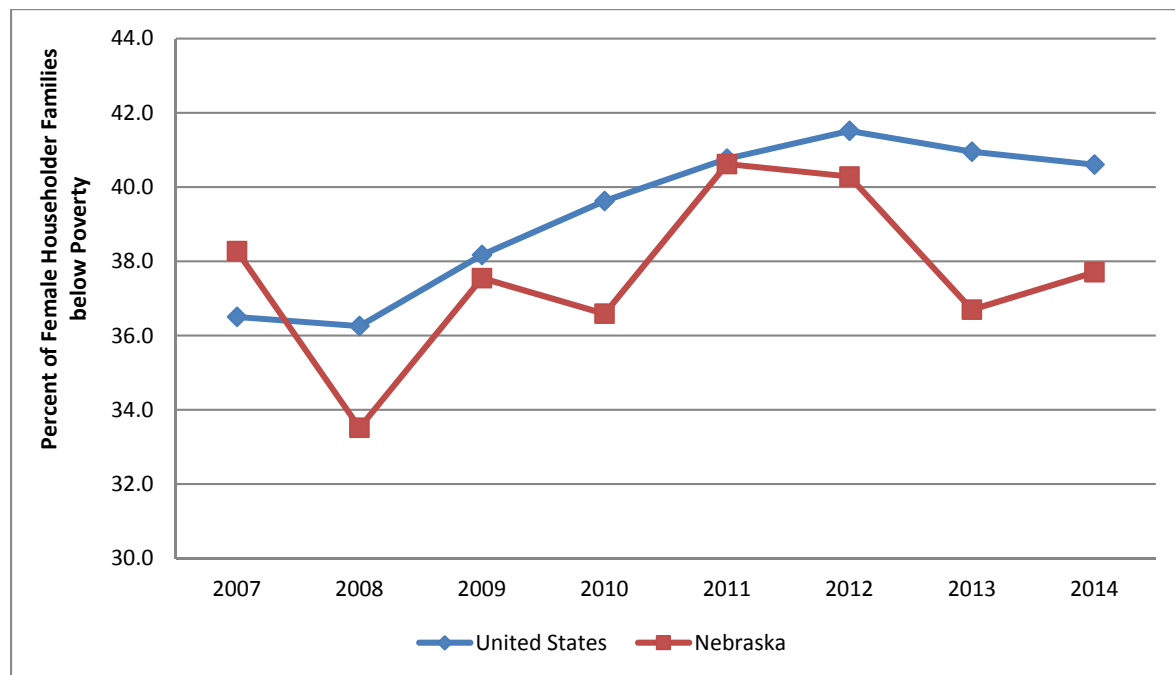
Percentage of Female Head of Families Living in Poverty, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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



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

Number of State Wards, Nebraska: 2001-2015

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

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

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

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

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

Health Costs

Per Capita State Public Welfare Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

Per Capita Local Public Welfare Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database – Natural Resources

Introduction

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

Air Quality

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

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

Land Quality and Waste

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

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

Water Quality

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

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

Energy

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

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

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

Air Quality

Air Pollution Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2015

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

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

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

Toxic Releases: Total Air Emissions, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

CO₂ Emissions from Fossil Fuel Combustion, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

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

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

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

Land Quality and Waste

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Total Toxic Releases to Surface Water, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Water Quality

Water System Data, Regional Comparison: 2011

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

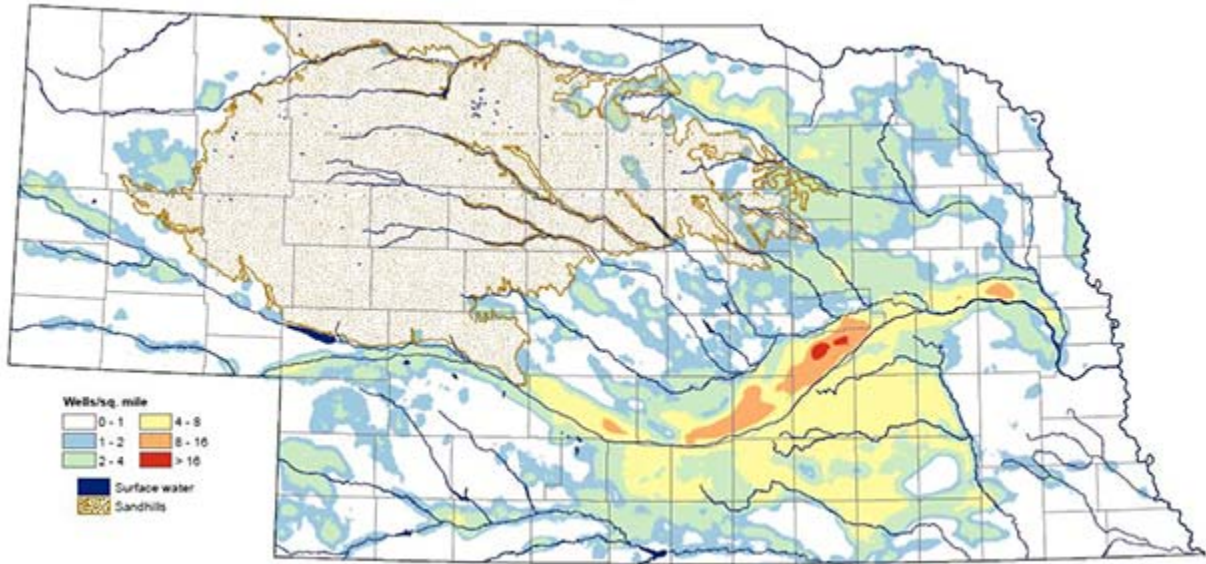
South Dakota								
Number of Systems	456	24	164	644	500	144	82	13%
Population Served	719,433	8,468	23,103	751,004	316,491	434,513	45,639	6%

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

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

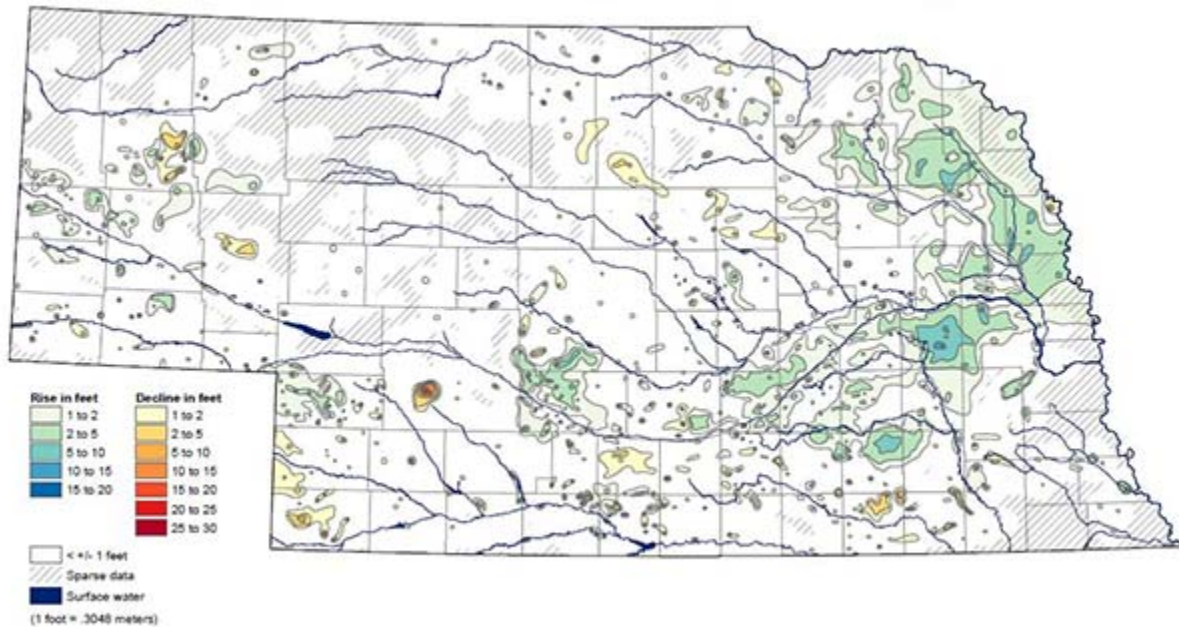
Source: FACTOIDS: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for FY2011, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

Density of Active Registered Irrigation Wells, Nebraska: December 2015



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

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



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

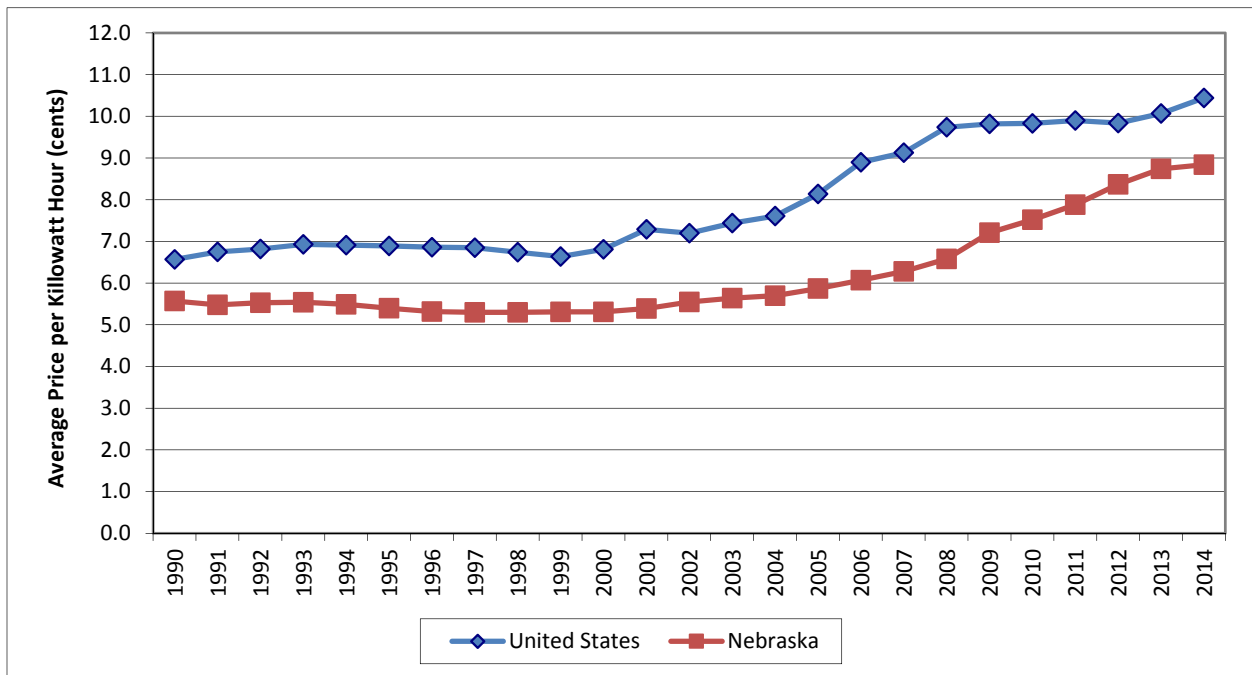
Energy

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

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

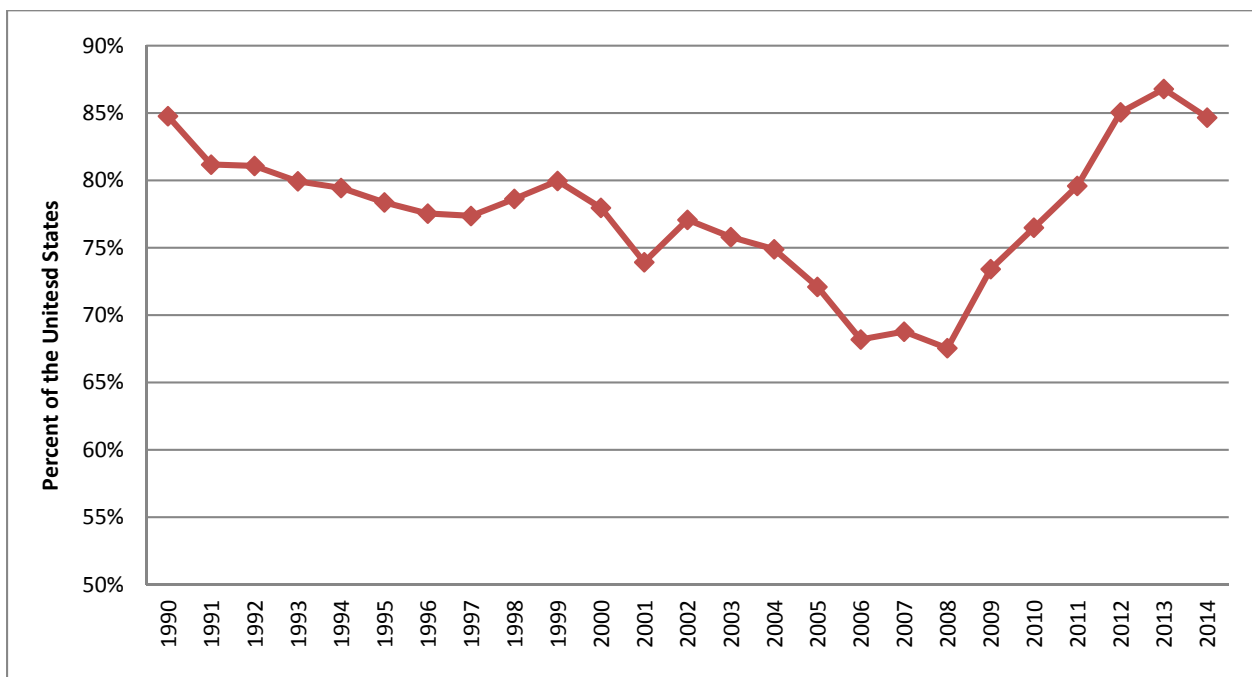
Source: Electric Power Annual (2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

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



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

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



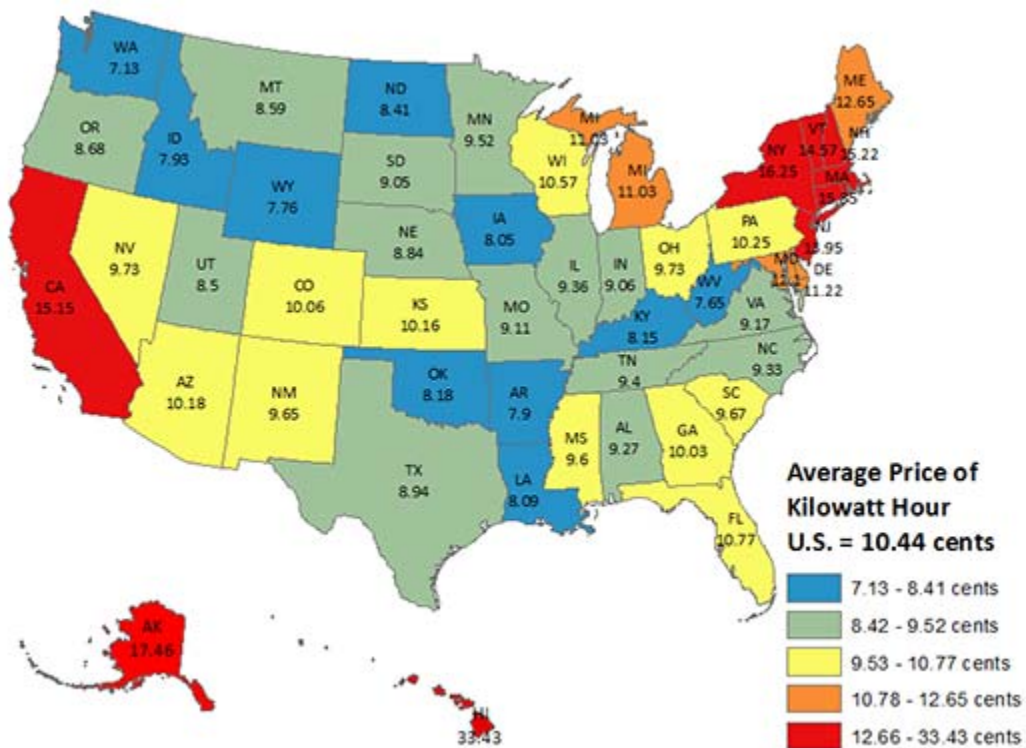
Source: Electric Power Annual (1990-2014), Independent Statistics and Analysis, U.S. Energy Information Administration; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, March 2016

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Average Price per Kilowatt Hour, All States: 2014



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

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

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

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

Energy Consumption per Person, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Energy Expenditures, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Energy Expenditures Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Public Safety

Introduction

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

Crime

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

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

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

Juvenile Intakes

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

Public Safety Funding

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

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

Emergency Preparedness

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

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

Crime

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Arrests for Drug Abuse Violation, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Centers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Juvenile Intakes

Juvenile Arrests, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Public Safety Funding

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Annual Cost Report: FY 2010

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

Notes:

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

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

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

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

Emergency Preparedness

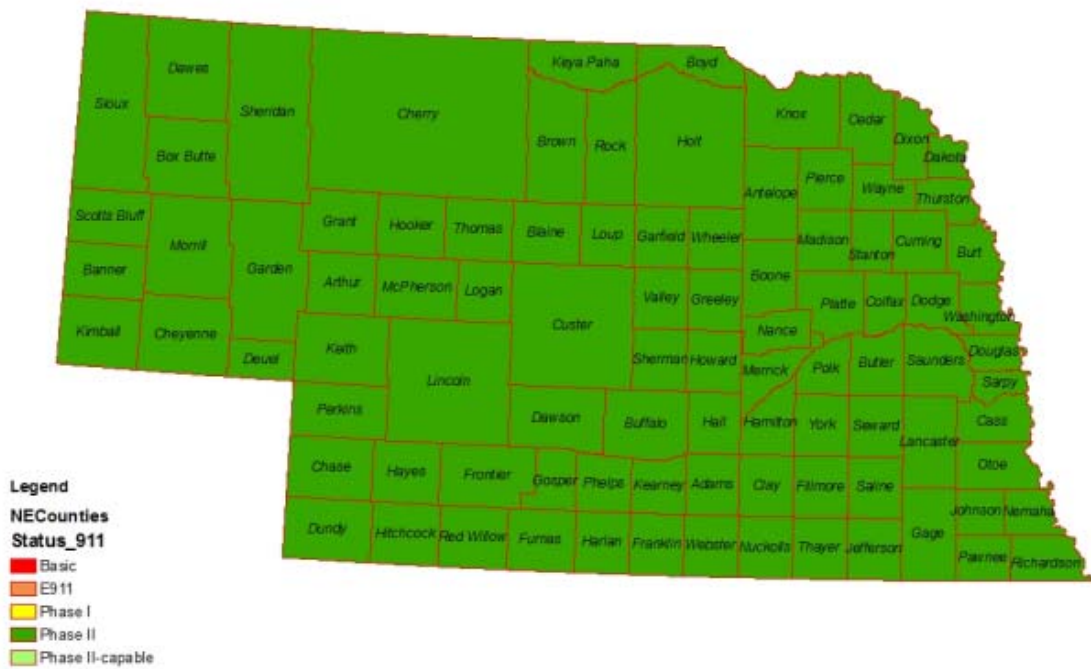
Disasters Declared by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency: June 2005 – June 2015

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

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

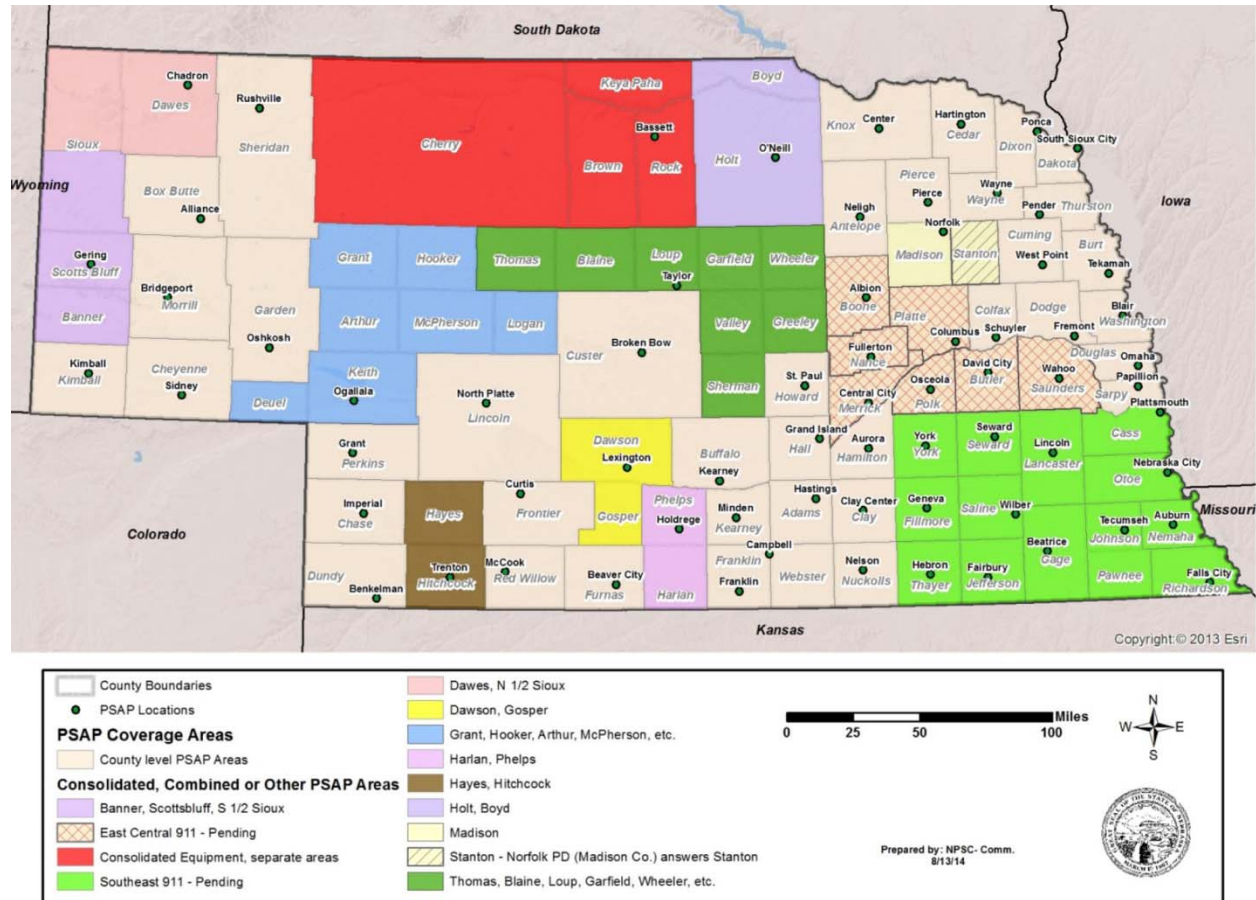
Source: Nebraska Emergency Management Agency; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2014

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



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

PSAPs* Funded by Wireless Fund, Nebraska: 2014



*public safety answering point (PSAP)

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

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

Nebraska Legislative Planning Database - State and Local Government

Introduction

Units of Government

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

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

Employment and Payroll

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

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

Federal Government Expenditures

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

Expenditures, Revenues and Debt

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

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

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

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

Units of Government

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

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

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

Number of Local Government Units, Regional Comparison: 2012

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

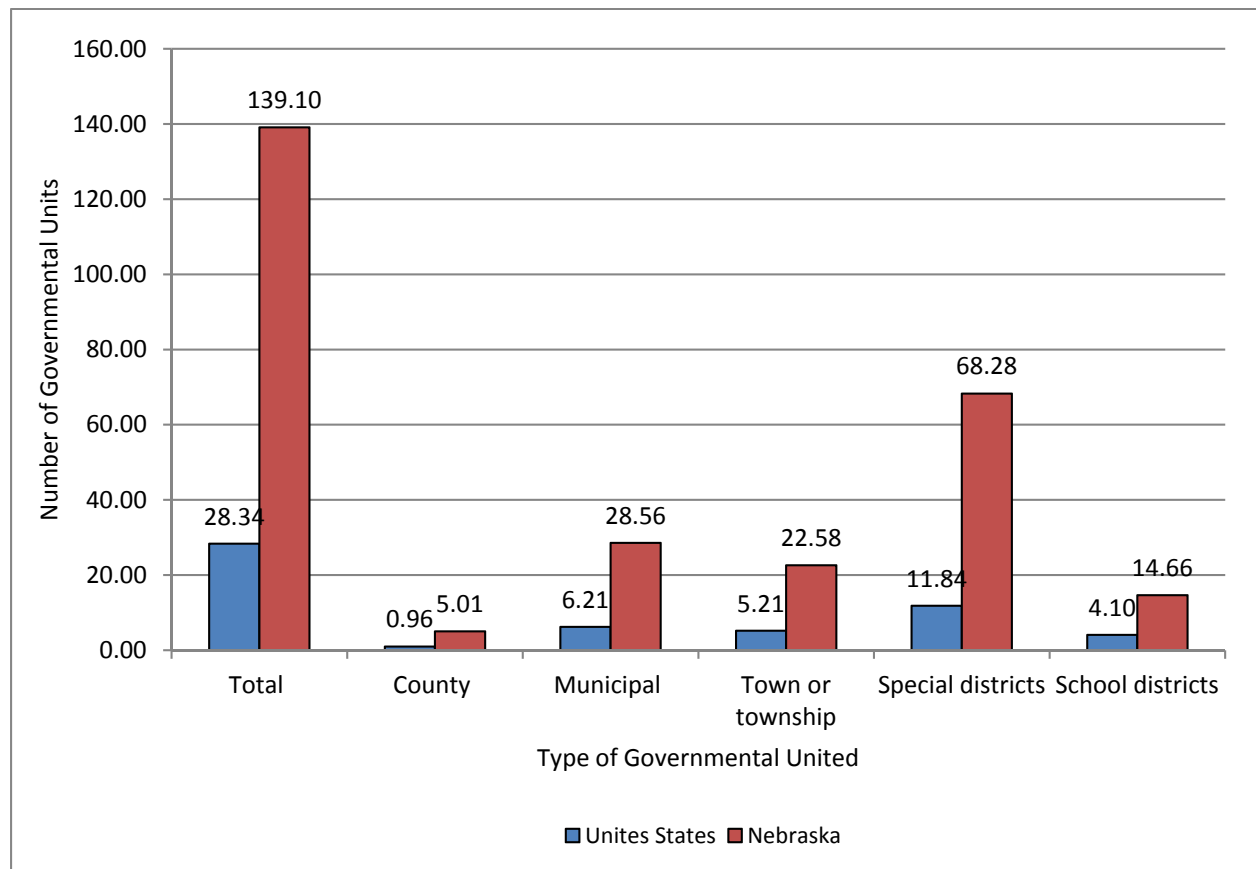
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012 Census of Governments, Lists and Structure of Government and population estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, November 2015

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

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

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

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



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

Employment and Payroll

State Government Employment, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

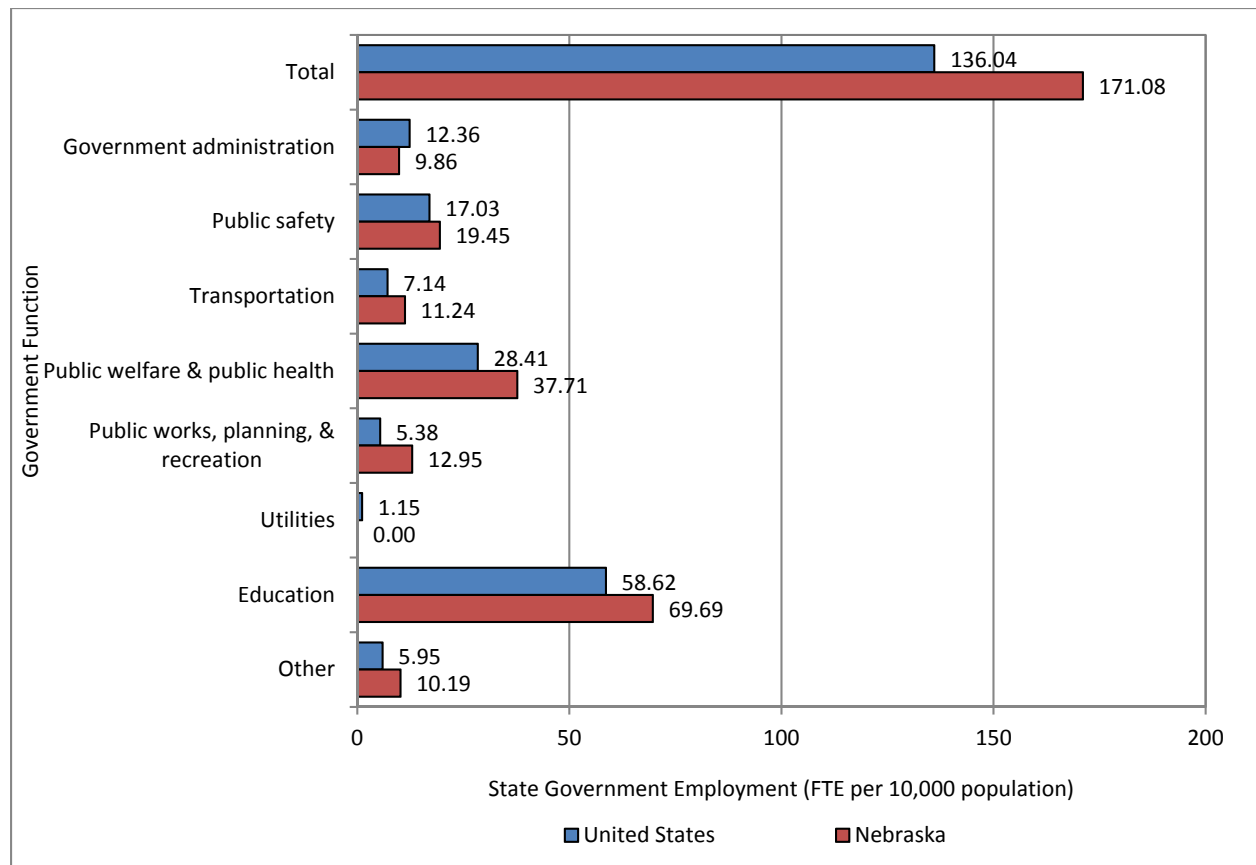
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

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

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

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

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



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

State Government Payroll, Regional Comparison: March 2013

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

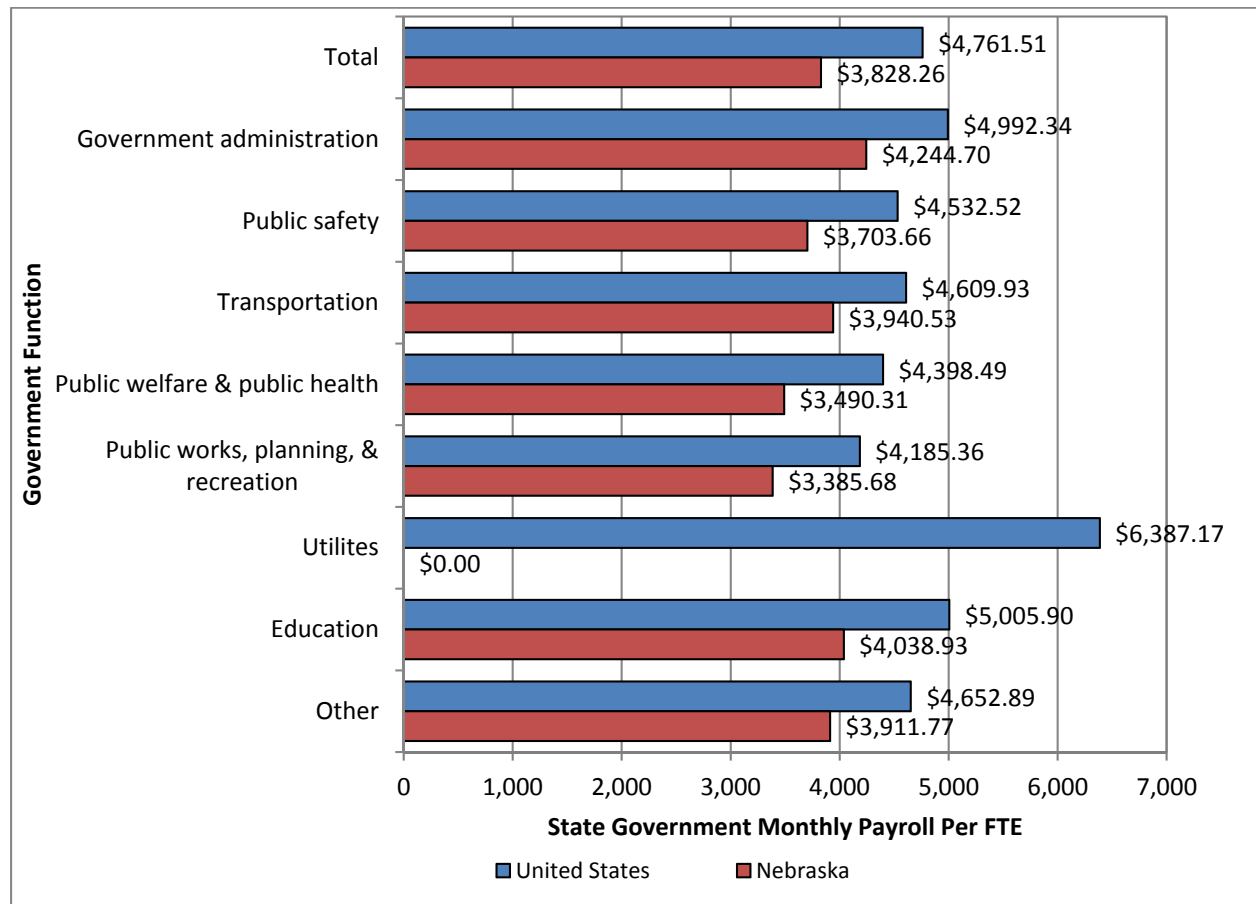
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

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

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

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

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



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

Local Government Employment, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

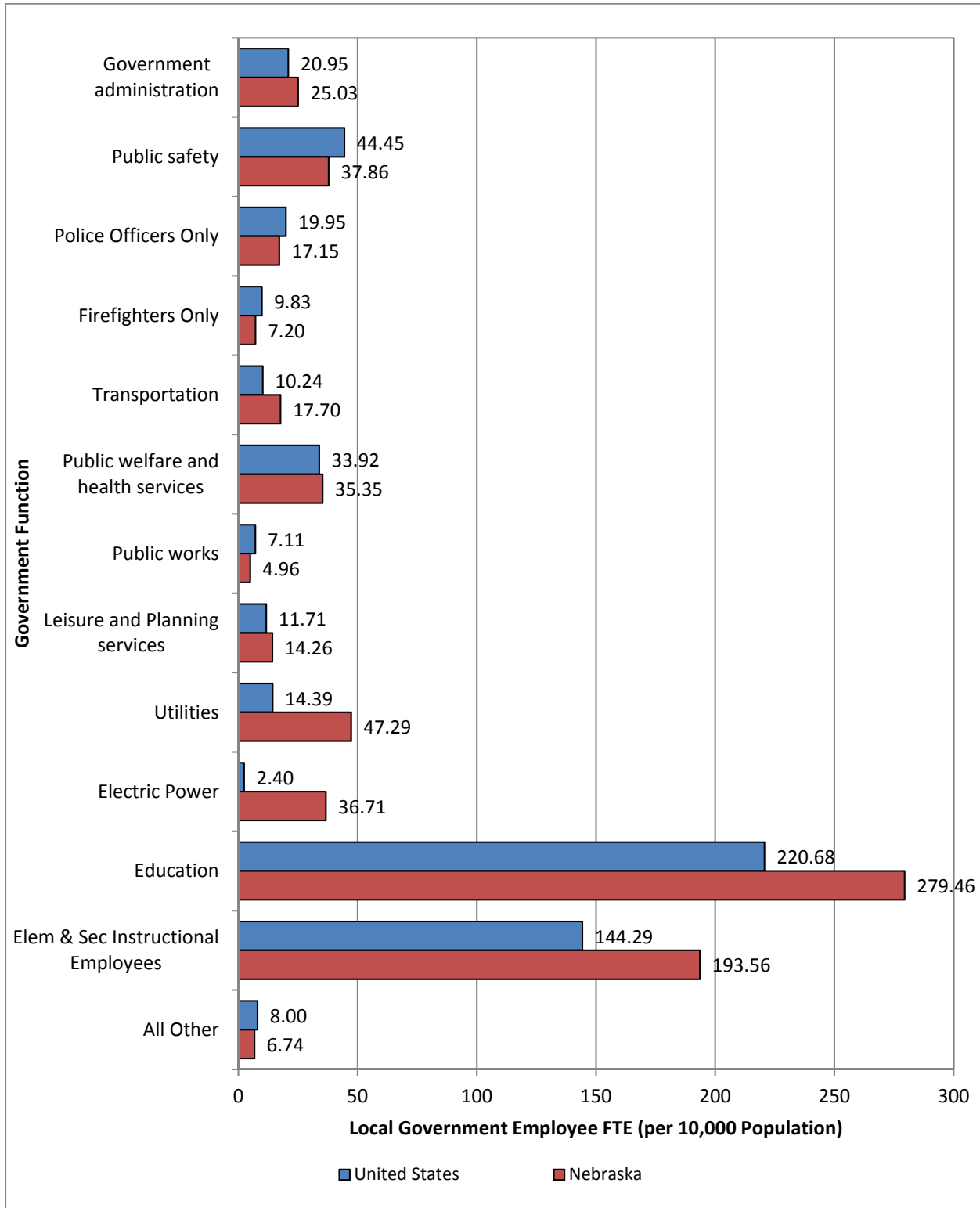
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

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

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

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

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



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

Local Government Payroll, Regional Comparison: March 2013

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

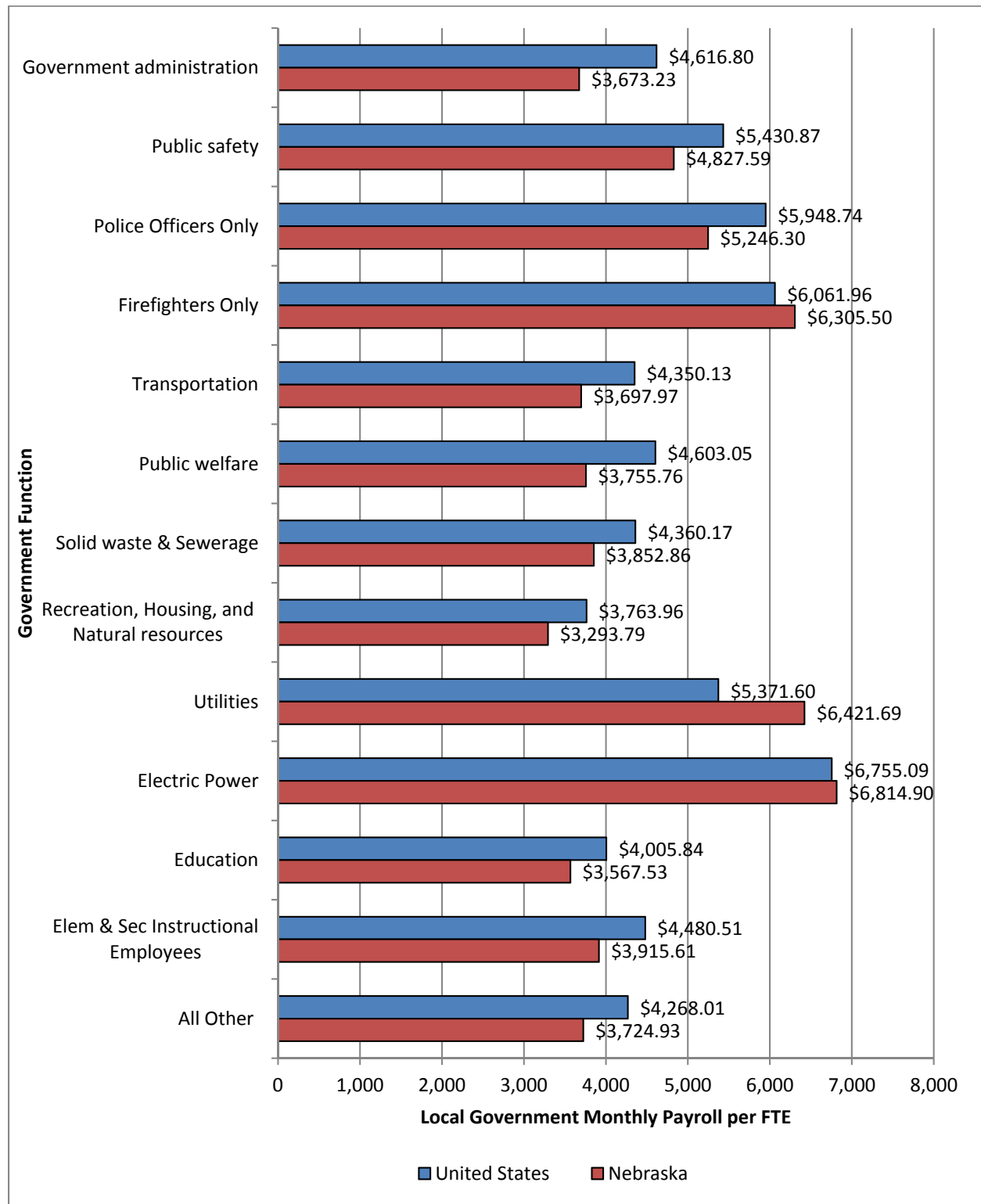
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Employment and Payroll; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

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

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

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

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



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

Federal Government Expenditures

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Expenditures, Revenues and Debt

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

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

Note: Direct general expenditure only

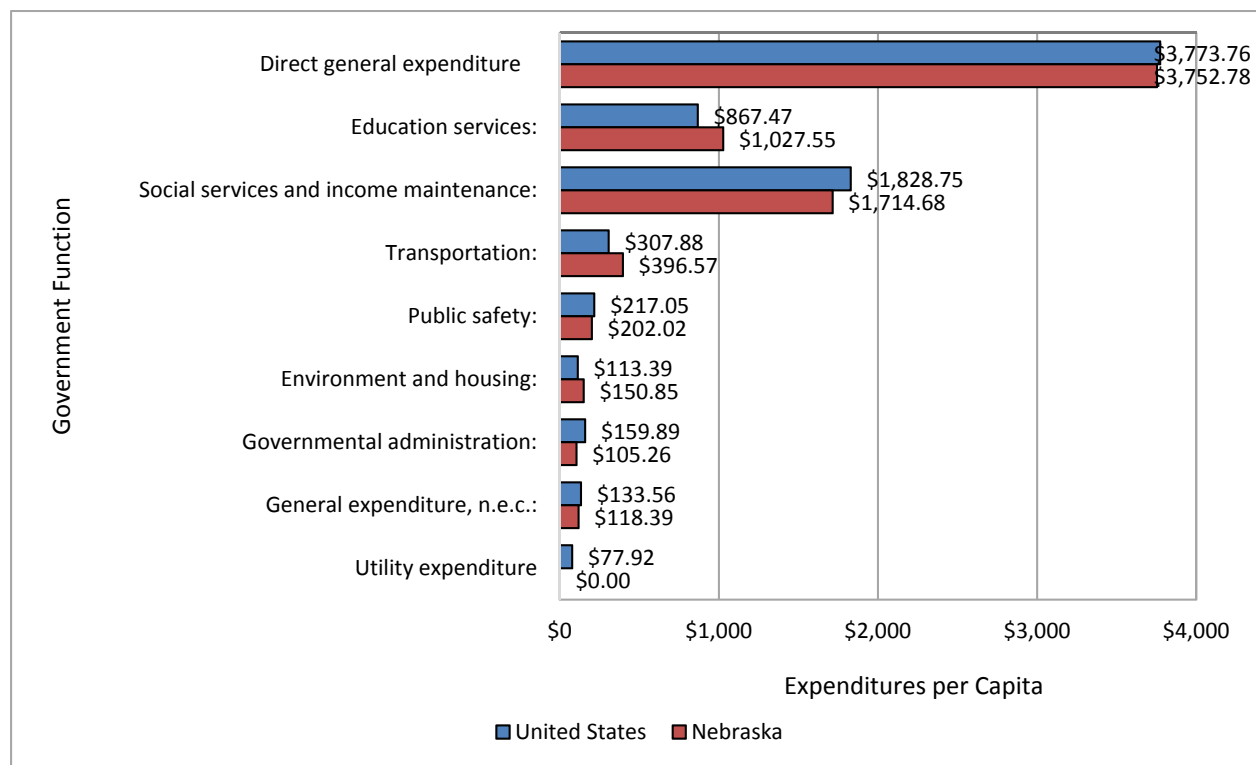
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2013 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

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

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

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

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



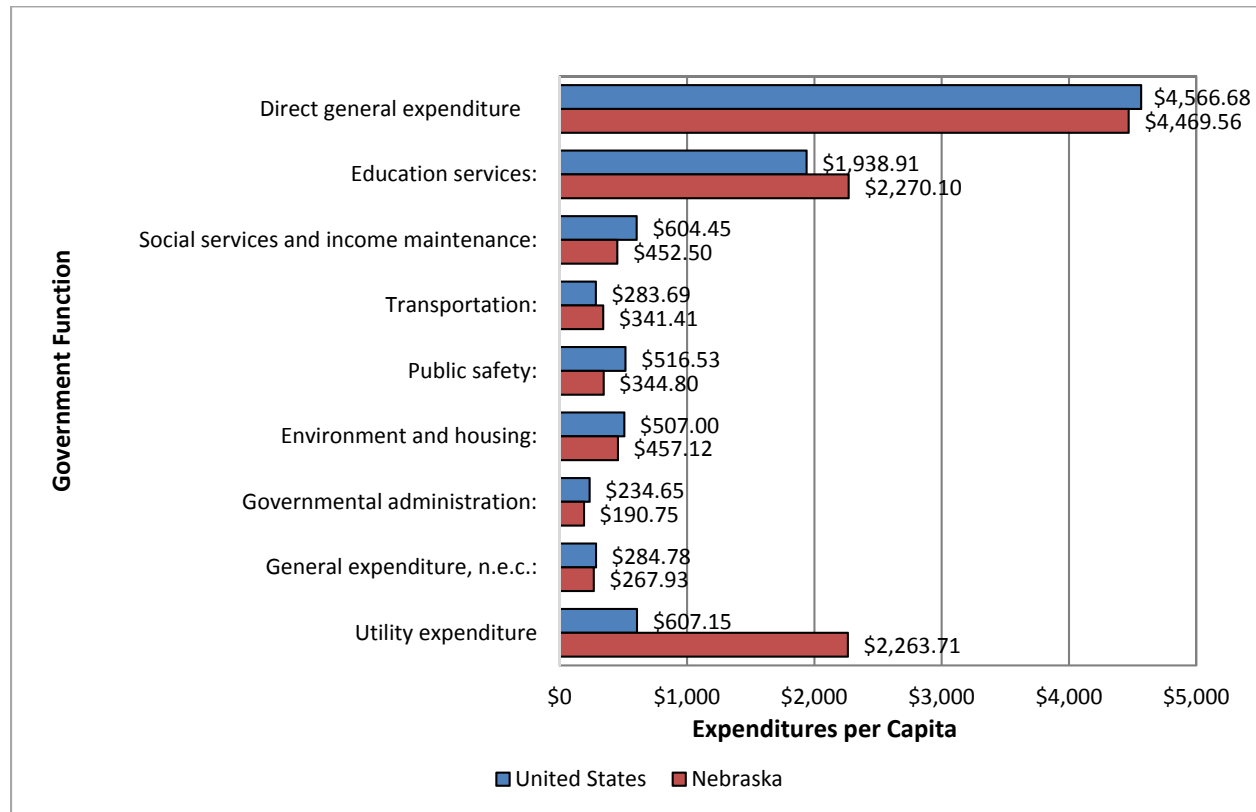
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance Statistics, population estimates 2012 ACS 1-year estimates; prepared by UNO Center for Public Affairs Research, February 2016

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Note: General Revenue from Own Sources

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

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

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

Note: General Revenue from Own Sources

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Telecommunications

Introduction

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

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

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

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

Internet Access

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

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

Sustainability of Statewide Services

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

Telephone/Cell Phone Penetration

Telephone Penetration, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

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

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

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

Internet Access

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sustainability of Statewide Services

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

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

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

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Nebraska’s Legislative Planning Database - Transportation

Introduction

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

Transportation Infrastructure

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

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

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

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

Accidents

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

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

Transportation Access

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

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

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

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

Transportation Funding

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

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

Transportation Infrastructure

Road Smoothness, Nebraska: 2002-2014

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

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

*Formulas used to track condition were refined in 2008.

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

Pavement Condition Rating, Nebraska: 2014

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

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

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

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

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

Overall Highway Performance Ratings , Regional Comparison: 2011-2012

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

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

Deficient Bridges, Regional Comparison: 2015

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

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

Accidents

Railroad Accidents and Incidents, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

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

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

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

Highway Traffic Fatality Rates, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

Transportation Access

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

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

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

Commuting to Work, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Travel Time to Work, Regional Comparison: 2014

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

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

Passenger Boardings (Enplanements), Nebraska: 2013 and 2014

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

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

Transportation Funding

Local Highway Spending Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

State Highway Spending Per Capita, Regional Comparison: 2013

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

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

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