

NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

APRIL 2023 ISSUE | NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR



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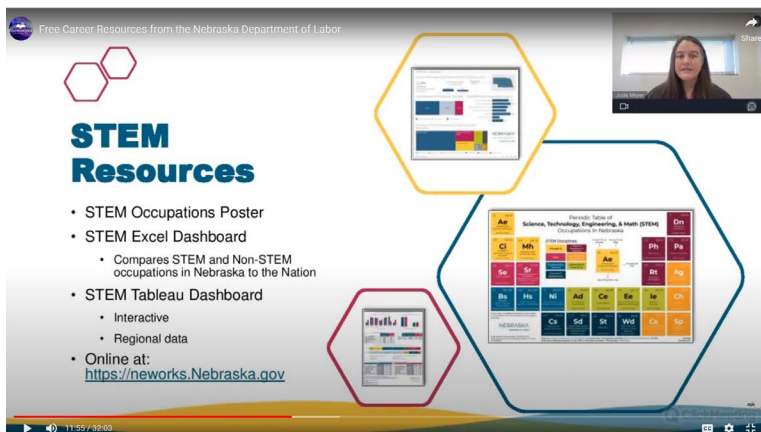
Scott Hunzeker



Jodie Meyer

Webinar for EducationQuest

NDOL research analyst, Jodie Meyer presented a webinar, March 1, 2023, sponsored by EducationQuest on free career resources from the Nebraska Department of Labor. This webinar highlighted High Wage, Skill, and Demand (H3) Occupations, NDOL STEM resources, Nebraska career cluster videos, and national resources such as O*NET OnLine and the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Approximately 85 educators, career counselors, and workforce development staff attended.



Go to educationquest.org to view the full webinar.

Visit [NEworks.nebraska.gov](https://networks.nebraska.gov) to view available LMI career resources.

Workplace Safety and Health Consultations Identify Potential Hazards

Grace Johnson

Employers know that the intangible costs of industrial accidents and disease, although difficult to measure, are just as real as insurance premium costs. The Nebraska On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program assists employers in providing their employees with a safe and healthy workplace by helping to identify and correct safety and health hazards in general industry and construction. Identifying these hazards before they become dangerous and expensive problems can lead to a better work environment and long-term savings.

The program is available to any business that has less than 250 employees on-site and 500 nationwide. Services are provided through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and administered through the Nebraska Department of Labor. Consultations are completed at no cost to the business. Results of these consultations are not shared with OSHA.

Services Offered

The On-site Safety and Health Consultation program offers the following services at no cost to employers:

- Walk-through safety and health survey
- Safety and health program assessment
- Employer-employee training
- Ventilation system evaluation
- Air sampling and analysis
- Evaluation of electrical systems and equipment review of machine guarding
- Noise measurements
- Assistance with Personal Protective Equipment
- Comprehensive written reports
- Technical assistance
- **Some participants in the program receive exemption from routine OSHA inspections through the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP). For more information, visit [osha.gov/sharp](https://www.osha.gov/sharp).**

Consultation Process

- 1. ON-SITE VISIT** During the visit an opening conference is held, followed by a walkthrough survey and a safety and health program assessment of the workplace. A closing conference is held to discuss any hazards found.
- 2. EVALUATION AND REPORT** Following the visit, all collected information is evaluated and relevant research conducted. This may include laboratory analysis if air samples are taken. A report detailing all findings and recommendations, including ways to improve the safety and health program, is prepared and forwarded to the employer.
- 3. CORRECTION OF SERIOUS HAZARDS** The report discusses the identified hazards, including any considered to be serious. Corrective action of serious or imminent hazards by the employer is a required part of this program. The employer and consultant set and agree to the time goals for correction of the serious hazards.
- 4. FOLLOW-UP** Once serious hazards have been corrected, employers are asked to confirm and inform NDOL of corrective actions. In a few instances, a return visit may be necessary.

\$13.3 Million

Approximate amount of potential OSHA penalties avoided by businesses through identification and mitigation of hazards in fiscal year 2022

Consultants Will

- Help employers recognize hazards in the workplace
- Suggest general approaches or options for solving a safety or health problem
- Identify kinds of help available to the employer if further assistance is required
- Provide the employer with a written report summarizing findings

Consultants Will Not

- Issue citations or propose penalties for violations of OSHA standards
- Guarantee that any workplace will “pass” an OSHA inspection
- Prescribe specific engineering designs or identify specific firms to solve problems

Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP)

What is SHARP?

SHARP is the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program offered by the Nebraska Department of Labor’s On-site Safety and Health Consultation Program to Nebraska employers. Companies earn SHARP certification by demonstrating a strong commitment to workplace safety and health as reflected in a reduced occupational injury/illness experience and development of a safety and health management program.

Benefits of Participating in SHARP

- Learn how to maintain a safe and healthy workplace through the development and implementation of proven effective safety and health management systems.
- Receive no cost consultative assistance and training provided by qualified professionals experienced in helping employers develop safety and health management programs, and identify safety and health problem areas.
- Meet program requirements to obtain a certificate of recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA removing your company from OSHA’s routine inspection list for one year. The Nebraska Department of Labor also presents a certificate of recognition and a SHARP program flag from the Commissioner of Labor and the Governor of the State of Nebraska.
- Employers who continue to meet the requirements will be exempted each year they choose to participate and may also apply for and achieve a two-year exemption after the first year.



Image by peopleimages12 from 123rf

Request a Consultation

Information or consultations may be requested online, by phone, or e-mail.

[dol.nebraska.gov/Forms/](https://dol.nebraska.gov/Forms/OnsiteConsultationForm)

[OnsiteConsultationForm](https://dol.nebraska.gov/Forms/OnsiteConsultationForm)

402-471-4717

ndol.safety@nebraska.gov

Certification Process

Certification in the Nebraska SHARP program is a process that includes a comprehensive consultation and a satisfactory review. The company must agree to:

- **A comprehensive safety and health survey** by the Nebraska Department of Labor's OSHA Consultation Program at the facility, which includes a complete safety and health program review.
- **Involve employees** in the development, operations and improvement of all elements of the workplace safety and health program.
- **Work with the consultation program to qualify for the exemption program** during which time the employer will:
 - **Correct all hazards** identified during the survey process.
 - **Implement all elements** of an effective written occupational safety and health management program.
 - **Lower their Injury and Illness Incidence Rates (IIIR)** to below the national average for their industry based on at least one full year's experience, if the rates are not already below the national average. There are also provisions for employers whose injury and illness rates have been below the national average for at least one year and have all the other required elements in place to enter the program.
 - **Notify the consultation program in advance of any changes** in working conditions or processes that might create new hazards in the workplace.

35

Number of SHARP-designated work locations

855

Serious hazards (as defined by OSHA) identified by NDOL consultants in fiscal year 2022

Eligibility

SHARP is available to most companies that meet these eligibility requirements:

- Employ no more than 250 employees at the site and no more than 500 employees at all sites nationwide.
- Have a lost workday injury and illness rate below the average for their industry and be on OSHA's high hazard industry list.
- Be a fixed work site.
- Have at least one year operating history

For more information on the On-Site Consultation Program, SHARP, and other NDOL programs, go to dol.nebraska.gov/laborstandards.

Occupational Profile: **Statisticians**

Rachel Eckloff, Research Analyst

Statisticians “develop or apply mathematical or statistical theory and methods to collect, organize, interpret, and summarize numerical data to provide usable information.”

(1) As of May 2021 data, there were an estimated 170 statisticians working in Nebraska. (2)

The Nebraska Department of Labor classifies this occupation as an H3 occupation, meaning the occupation is high wage, high skill, and high demand. (3)

What They Do:

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), typical duties for statisticians include (4):

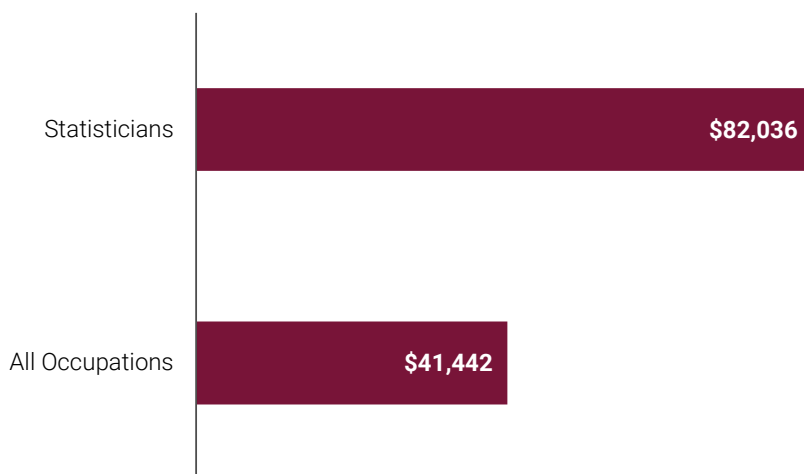
- deciding what data are needed to answer specific questions or problems;
- applying mathematical theories and techniques to solve practical problems in business, engineering, the sciences, and other fields;
- designing surveys, experiments, or opinion polls to collect data;
- developing mathematical or statistical models to analyze data;
- interpreting data and communicate analyses to technical and nontechnical audiences;
- using statistical software to analyze data and create visualizations to aid decision making in business.

Nebraska Employment and Wages by Top Industries of Employment for Statisticians

Industry	Employment (May 2021)	Median Annual Wage (Q3 2022)
Public Administration	60	\$74,336
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	30	\$87,923
Chemical Manufacturing	10	\$62,910
Hospitals	10	\$84,451

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Q3 2022. networks.nebraska.gov.

Nebraska Median Annual Wages for Statisticians, Q3 2022



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Q3 2022. networks.nebraska.gov.

Educational Requirements:

Many jobs for statisticians require a master’s degree in mathematics or statistics. However, some positions may be available to candidates with a bachelor’s degree. (4)

Nebraska Wages:

The median annual wage for statisticians in Nebraska was \$82,036 as of the third quarter of 2022. This was higher than the median wage for all occupations, which was **\$41,442**. (2)

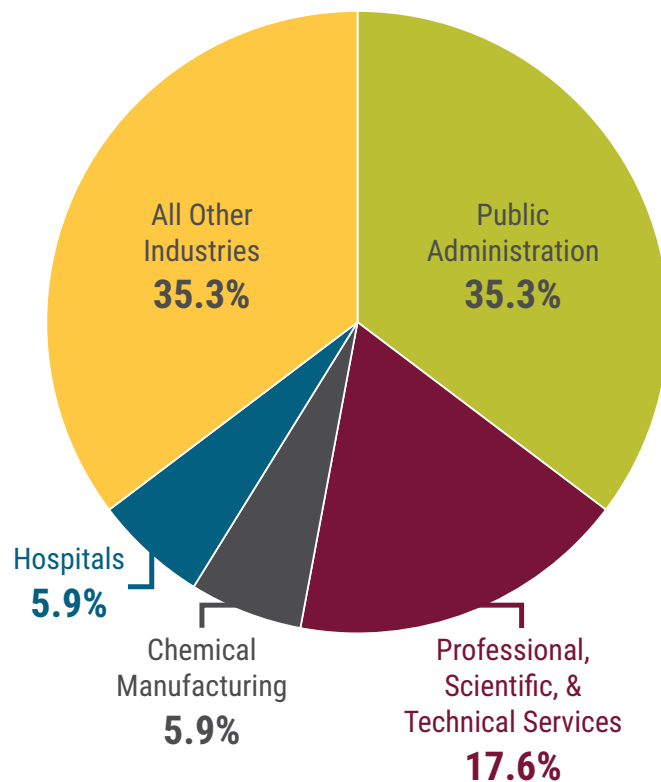
Industry of Employment:

The top industry of employment for Nebraska’s statisticians in May 2021 was public administration (35.3%). Professional, scientific, and technical services (17.6%), chemical manufacturing (5.9%), and hospitals (5.9%) were also major employers of workers in this occupation. All other industries combined accounted for the remaining 35.3% of their employment. (2)

Sources:

1. U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration. Occupational Information Network (O*NET). 15-2041.00 - Statisticians. [Online] 2022. <https://www.onetonline.org/link/summary/15-2041.00>.
2. Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL). Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. [Online] Q3 2022. networks.nebraska.gov.
3. NDOL. High Wage, High Skill, High Demand (H3) Occupations. [Online] July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=oduMpwMRTIQnt7W7WO2/Ew=->.
4. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Outlook Handbook. Mathematicians and Statisticians. [Online] 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/math/mathematicians-and-statisticians.htm>.

Industries of Employment for Nebraska Statisticians, May 2021



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS). Q3 2022. networks.nebraska.gov.

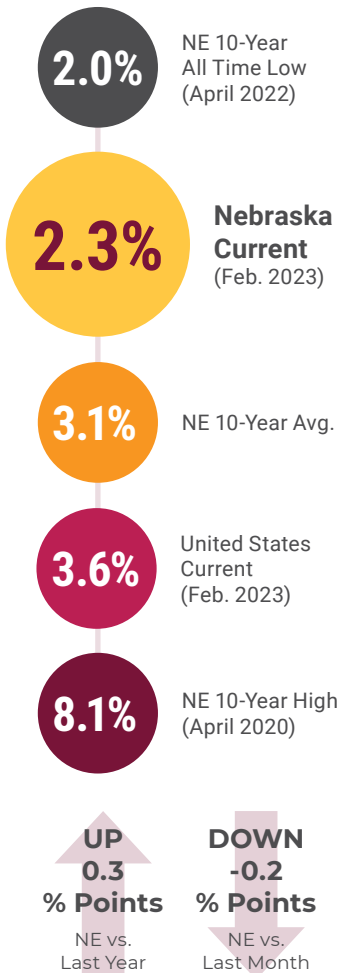


Economic Indicators

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

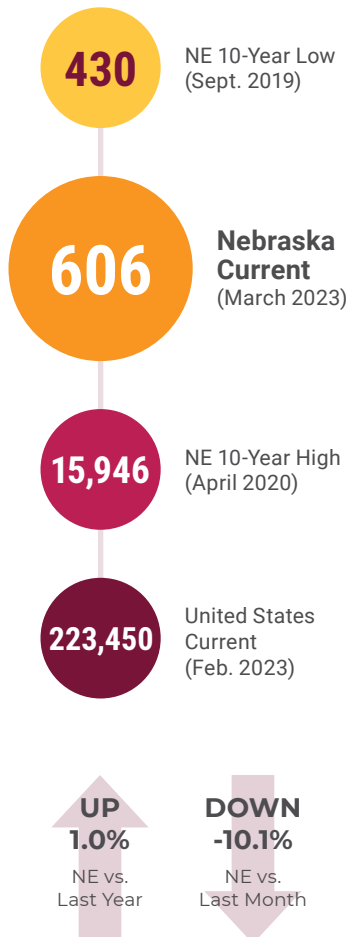
Unemployment Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



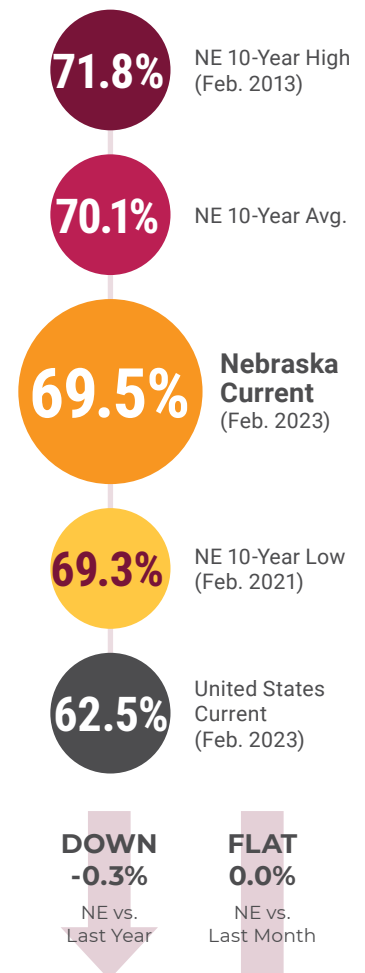
Initial Unemployment Claims

Monthly Avg. Number of Claims per Week



Labor Force Participation Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons as a share of the labor force. Unemployed persons are those ages 16 years and older who had no work during the reference period, but who were available for and actively seeking work.

(For more on defining 'labor force,' see Labor Force Participation Rate.)²

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS). Unemployment Rate (%). NEworks. <https://neworks.nebraska.gov>.
U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey. (Seas) Unemployment Rate. Series ID LNS14000000. <https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/ce>

An initial claim is a request for determination of UI program eligibility filed by an unemployed individual following a separation from an employer. It can serve as an indicator of emerging labor market conditions in the area.¹

NE- U.S. Employment & Training Administration. Initial Claims in Nebraska (NEICLAIMS). Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NEICLAIMS>.
U.S.- U.S. Employment & Training Administration. Initial Claims (ICNSA). Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/ICNSA>.

The labor force participation rate measures the labor force (people working or looking for work) as a percentage of the total civilian, noninstitutionalized population, age 16 and over.³

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Labor Force Participation Rate for Nebraska (LBSSA31). Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LBSSA31>.
U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Civilian Labor Force Participation Rate (CIVPART). Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CIVPART>.

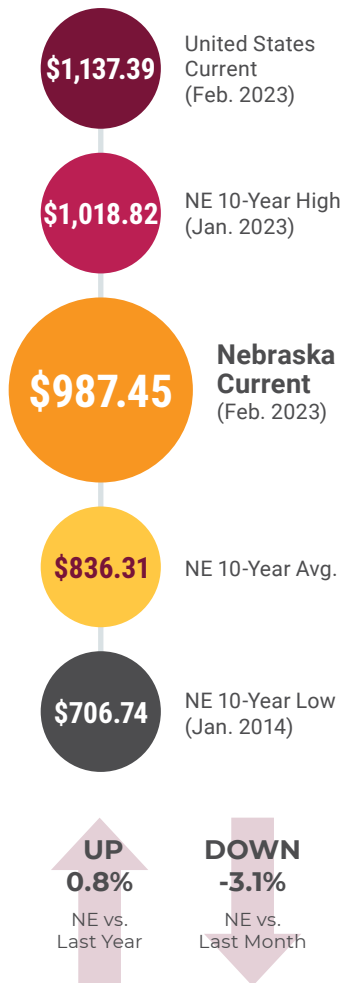
Data Sources: [Retrieved: March 2023.]

Economic Indicators

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

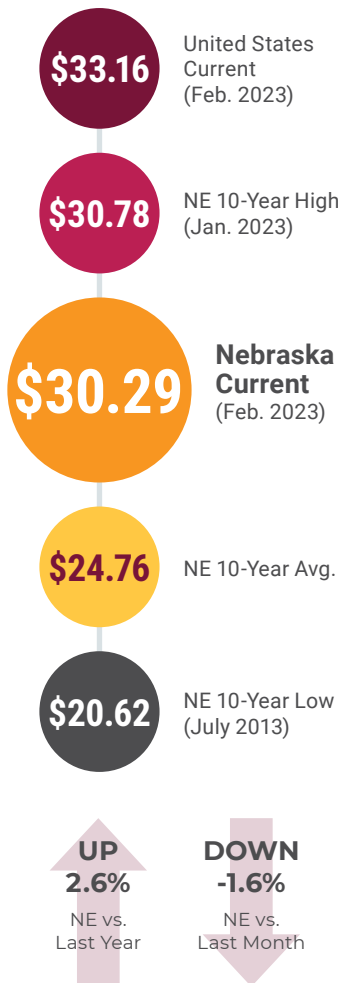
Avg. Weekly Earnings

All Private Employees
Not Seasonally Adjusted



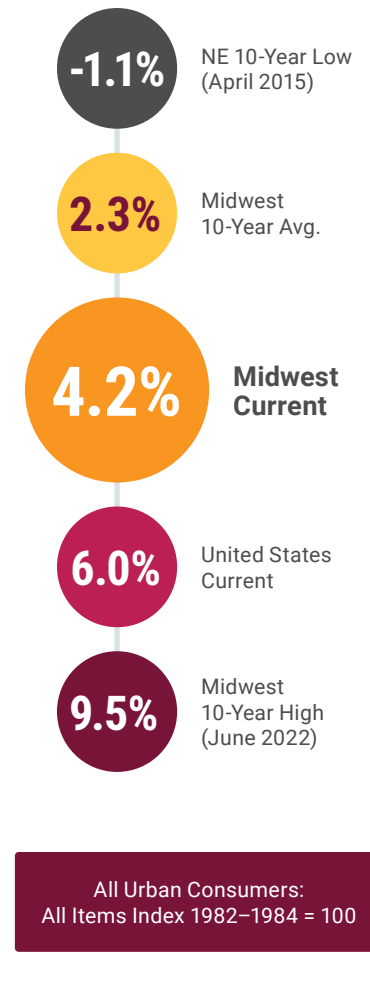
Avg. Hourly Earnings

All Private Employees
Not Seasonally Adjusted



Consumer Price Index

12-Month % Change
Not Seasonally Adjusted



Average weekly earnings represents the mean pay received by workers for services performed over the course of one week.⁴

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. State and Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings. Average Weekly Earnings of All Employees, In Dollars. Nebraska (Statewide): Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted. Series ID SMU31000000500000011.

<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/sm>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment, Hours, & Earnings from the Current Employment Statistics Survey (National). Average Weekly Earnings of All Employees: Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted. Series ID CES0500000011.

<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/ce>.

Average hourly earnings represents the mean pay received by workers for services performed during one hour of work.⁵

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. State and Area Employment, Hours, & Earnings. Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees, In Dollars. Nebraska (Statewide): Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted. Series ID SMU31000000500000003.

<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/sm>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment, Hours, & Earnings from the Current Employment Statistics Survey (National). Average Hourly Earnings of All Employees: Total Private, Not Seasonally Adjusted. Series ID CEU0500000003.

<https://data.bls.gov/PDQWeb/ce>

The consumer price index (CPI) is a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by consumers for goods and services. It is used to determine the real purchasing power of consumers' dollars, and as a measure of inflation.⁶

NE- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items in Midwest (CUUR0200SA0). Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

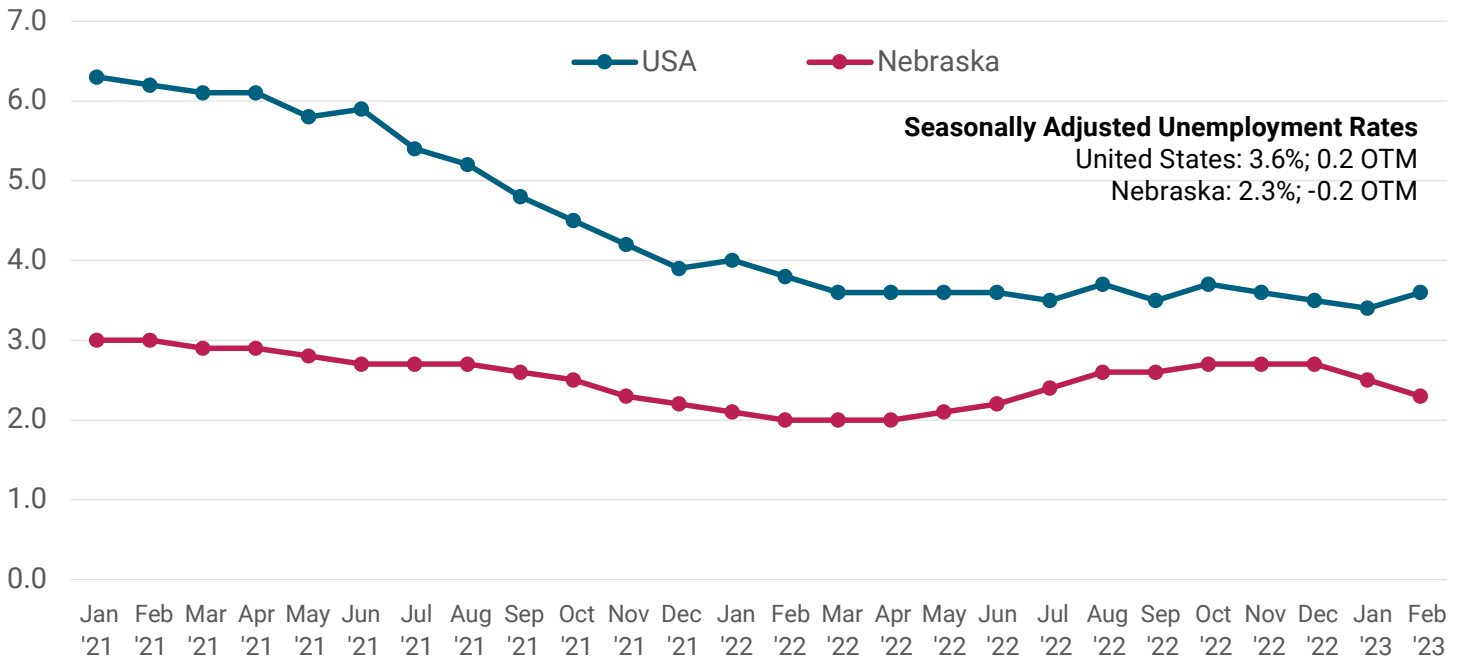
<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CUUR0200SA0#0>.

U.S.- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers: All Items (CPIAUCNS). Retrieved from Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

<https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CPIAUCNS>.

Data Sources: [Retrieved: March 2023.]

Nebraska Employment Summary, February 2023



LABOR FORCE DATA¹ SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	Feb-23 Preliminary	Jan-23 Revised	Feb-22 ²	OTM ³	OTY ³	OTM % Change
Unemployment Rate	2.3	2.5	2.0	-0.2	0.3	—
Labor Force	1,059,694	1,059,793	1,056,108	-99	3,586	0.0
Unemployed	24,677	26,541	21,163	-1,864	3,514	-7.0
Employed	1,035,017	1,033,252	1,034,945	1,765	72	0.2

NON-FARM EMPLOYMENT⁴ BY PLACE OF WORK, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

February Non-Farm Jobs	1,031,710	Manufacturing	105,312
OTM Change	8,817 (0.9%)	OTM Change	1,194 (1.2%)
OTY Change	22,673 (2.3%)	OTM Change	3,365 (3.3%)

NEBRASKA HOUR & WAGE DATA⁴

Average Weekly Hours	38.1	Average Weekly Earnings	\$946.40
OTM Change	-1.2 (-3.1%)	OTM Change	-\$22.74 (-2.3%)
OTY Change	1.4 (3.8%)	OTY Change	\$96.79 (11.4%)
Average Hourly Earnings	\$24.84		
OTM Change	\$0.18 (0.7%)		
OTY Change	\$1.69 (7.3%)		

1. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS), Nebraska Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor
 2. 2022 data has been benchmarked
 3. OTM: over the month; OTY: over the year
 4. Current Employment Statistics Program (CES), Nebraska Department of Labor; Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor

NDOL Awards \$10 Million in ARPA Grants for Worker Recruitment and Retention, Workforce Development

Grace Johnson

The Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) has awarded \$10 million in grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for recruitment and retention of education and health care workers and implementation of workforce development projects. The awarded grants are the full amount of ARPA funds appropriated to NDOL by the Legislature in 2022 through LB 1014. Over \$61 million in ARPA grant applications were received by NDOL. Nearly 3,400 workers will receive \$1,000 to \$2,500 in premium pay through the grants, including over 1,700 education and childcare workers and over 1,600 healthcare workers. Thirteen workforce development projects across the state were funded, included recruitment, training, vocational education, and career services.

“Many worthy applicants applied for these funds, and NDOL is happy to award these grants that help address some of the top workforce needs employers are facing today,” said Commissioner of Labor John H. Albin.

Program 1: \$4 Million in Teacher Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay

Four million dollars in grants were awarded to educational employers and childcare facilities to support the recruitment and retention of educators in math, science, and career and technical education, as well as childcare and early childhood education providers. Premium pay for these workers will range from \$1,250 to \$2,500 depending on length of employment.

Workers Receiving Premium Pay: 1,742

Program 2: \$4 Million in Nursing Recruitment and Retention Grants-Premium Pay

Four million dollars in grants were awarded to healthcare employers to support the recruitment and retention of registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants who work in eligible practice settings. These settings include hospitals, nursing homes, long-term care facilities, rehabilitation centers, residential treatment centers, primary care offices, and urgent care clinics. Premium pay will range from \$1,000 to \$2,500. **Workers Receiving Premium Pay: 1,639**

Program 3: \$2 Million in Workforce Development Grants

Two million dollars in NDOL ARPA funds were awarded to businesses, non-profits, educational institutions, and other entities to provide eligible employment-related services to unemployed workers, underemployed workers, and other populations who suffered economic harm due to the COVID-19 pandemic. **Organizations Receiving Funding: 11**

More NDOL press releases are accessible at dol.nebraska.gov.



Image by evgenyatamanenko from 123rf

1,031,710

Total Nonfarm Employment (filled jobs)
Not Seasonally Adjusted
for February 2023

Nonfarm employment, a count of filled jobs, was 1,031,710 in February, up 8,817 over the month and 22,673 over the year. Private industries with the most growth month to month were leisure and hospitality (up 3,795 jobs), public education and health services (up 1,489 jobs) and professional and business services (up 1,422 jobs). Private industries with the most over the year growth were leisure and hospitality (up 5,852 jobs), mining and construction (up 4,844 jobs), and public education and health services (up 3,718 jobs).

Data Source:

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Current Employment Statistics. NEworks.
networks.nebraska.gov/ces.

48,963

Job count on NEworks as of
March 28, 2023

85,206

Total job count on NEworks for the
month of **February 2023**

This number reflects the number of job openings
advertised on NEworks in Nebraska in February 2023.

Data Source:

NE- Nebraska Department of Labor. Online advertised jobs data. NEworks.
networks.nebraska.gov.

*Labor market information is updated continuously.
For the latest data, visit networks.nebraska.gov or contact us
at 800-876-1377 or email lmi_ne@nebraska.gov.*

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