

NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

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Inside this issue

Growth, Recovery, or a Gamble?
Shedding Light on Rapid Projected
Growth Rates

Spotlight:
The Current
Population Survey

Postsecondary Instructors
vs. Related Occupations:
How Do They Compare?

Contents

3	Growth, Recovery, or a Gamble? Shedding Light on Rapid Projected Growth Rates
10	Employment Projections
11	Spotlight: The Current Population Survey
15	Postsecondary Instructors vs. Related Occupations: How Do They Compare?
18	Economic Indicators

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Growth, Recovery, or a Gamble?

Shedding Light on Rapid Projected Growth Rates

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

Introduction

The biennially produced 2020-2030 long-term projections by the Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) published in July of 2022 were based on employment data from 2020. During this time, employment in many industries was lower than normal due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, some industries and occupations were projected to experience high job growth as they recovered from the effects of the pandemic. This can result in an unclear picture of projected growth, especially when looking at the fastest-growing industries and occupations.

Methodology

This article utilizes custom calculated data based on the 2020-2030 long-term industry and occupational employment projections produced by NDOL. To determine how much growth could be attributed to pandemic recovery, the employment levels for 2019 were compared to the 2020 levels to see how much employment was lost. This difference was then subtracted from the projected employment growth from 2020 to 2030. Recovery was only attributed to industries and occupations that experienced a decline from 2019 to 2020 and were projected to increase between 2020 and 2030.

Industry projections use time series data to produce projections, and the annual average for 2019 was used to compare to 2020. Occupational projections use staffing patterns applied to the 2020 base year to determine the employment levels for occupations. Since this method does not produce a 2019 occupational employment number, specialized projections suite software was used to apply the staffing patterns used for the long-term projections to the 2019 industry employment levels.

This method does have a few limitations. It assumes that any job loss between 2019 and 2020 could be attributed to the pandemic. This may not always be the case, since some industries could have been declining before the pandemic, or other factors could have contributed to the decline. Growth between 2020 and 2030 may not be due to pandemic recovery, but due to new business or expansions.

Overall, employment in Nebraska is expected to grow by 8.1%, adding 89,498 jobs between 2020 and 2030. Of this, 38,513 jobs (43%) are expected to be from pandemic recovery and 50,985 (57%) from economic growth. When pandemic recovery is removed, the projected growth rate between 2020 and 2030 is 4.6%. (1)

Gambling (Rolling the Dice)

Leisure and hospitality industries were impacted by the pandemic as concerts and events were canceled, museums closed, and bars and restaurants closed or were restricted in services. Hotels saw fewer visitors as events were canceled. Due to this, the leisure and hospitality supersector is expected to grow the fastest between 2020 and 2030, at 27.5%, adding 21,863 jobs. Of these, 14,308 (65.4%) are expected to be from pandemic recovery and 7,555 (34.6%) from economic growth. (1)

When pandemic recovery is removed, this supersector is still the fastest-growing at 9.5%. This is due to the recent expansion of legalization of casino gambling in Nebraska. The first facility opened in the fall of 2022 and more have opened since and are expected to begin operations during the projections period.

Since these are high-profile projects in the state and construction had started at the time of the production of the long-term projections in 2022, these new facilities were accounted for in the projections. Adjustments were made based on the best data available at the time. Based on this knowledge, the new casinos could fall into either the amusement, gambling, and recreation industries or accommodation including hotels and motels, depending on how the business is structured and if it is planned to be a casino hotel or just a casino.

Looking at the greater industry detail, accommodation including hotels and motels, has the third fastest projected growth rate between 2020 and 2030, increasing by 57.4% and adding 3,521 jobs. Of these, 2,396 (68.0%) are from recovery and 1,125 (32.0%) are from growth. When removing pandemic recovery, this becomes the fourth fastest-growing industry at 18.3%. (1)

The amusement, gambling, and recreation industry is the sixth fastest-growing between 2020 and 2030, increasing by 34.8% and adding 3,104 jobs. Of this, 1,785 (57.5%) are from recovery and 1,319 (42.5%) are from growth. When pandemic recovery is removed, this is the seventh fastest-growing industry at a rate of 14.8%. (1)

The impact of the new casinos is most apparent in the occupational projections where the six fastest-growing occupations with 2020 employment over five are related to gaming. The fastest-growing occupation is projected to be gaming dealers, with 1,910.5% growth (+363 jobs) by 2030. Prior to the legalization of casino gambling, there were a few smaller facilities owned and operated by Native American Tribes with limited gambling allowed. Keno and Bingo have also been allowed in the state previously, accounting for the existing employment in gambling occupations. The rest of the top ten fastest-growing list are also related to arts, entertainment, and recreation, and the high growth can mostly be attributed to pandemic recovery. Even when pandemic recovery is removed, the same six gambling occupations are still projected to see the fastest growth. (2)

Top 10 Projected Fastest-Growing Occupations (With 2020 Employment >5) by Percent Change, 2020 – 2030

Rank	Occupation	2020	2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030	% Change 2020-2030	Recovery	% Recovery	Growth	% Growth
1	Gaming Dealers	19	382	363	1910.5%	8	2.2%	355	97.8%
2	First-Line Supervisors of Gambling Services Workers	46	288	242	526.1%	16	6.6%	226	93.4%
3	Gaming Cage Workers	25	96	71	284.0%	8	11.3%	63	88.7%
4	Gaming Managers	33	95	62	187.9%	10	16.1%	52	83.9%
5	Gaming Change Persons and Booth Cashiers	39	109	70	179.5%	14	20.0%	56	80.0%
6	Gaming Surveillance Officers and Gaming Investigators	42	86	44	104.8%	10	22.7%	34	77.3%
7	Agents and Business Managers of Artists, Performers, and Athletes	9	15	6	66.7%	4	66.7%	2	33.3%
8	Ushers, Lobby Attendants, and Ticket Takers	409	678	269	65.8%	213	79.2%	56	20.8%
9	Motion Picture Projectionists	9	14	5	55.6%	5	100.0%	0	0.0%
10	Craft Artists	40	61	21	52.5%	21	100.0%	0	0.0%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Occupational Projections: 2020-2030. July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

Pandemic Industry Impact

Several other industries related to leisure and hospitality also make the list of the top ten fastest-growing industries between 2020 and 2030. While not classified directly under leisure and hospitality in the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), the related industry of motion picture and sound recording, classified under the information supersector within the NAICS structure, is projected to grow the fastest by 83.6%, adding 445 jobs. Of these, 426 can be attributed to recovery (95.7%) and 19 (4.3%) are from growth, with a 3.6% growth rate when recovery is removed. This industry includes movie theaters, many of which were temporarily closed due to the pandemic in 2020. Overall, 71.7% of the 1,216 projected openings in the information supersector are expected to come from growth, the majority due to motion picture and sound recording. When recovery is accounted for, the growth rate in the information supersector drops from 7.1% to 2.0%. (1)

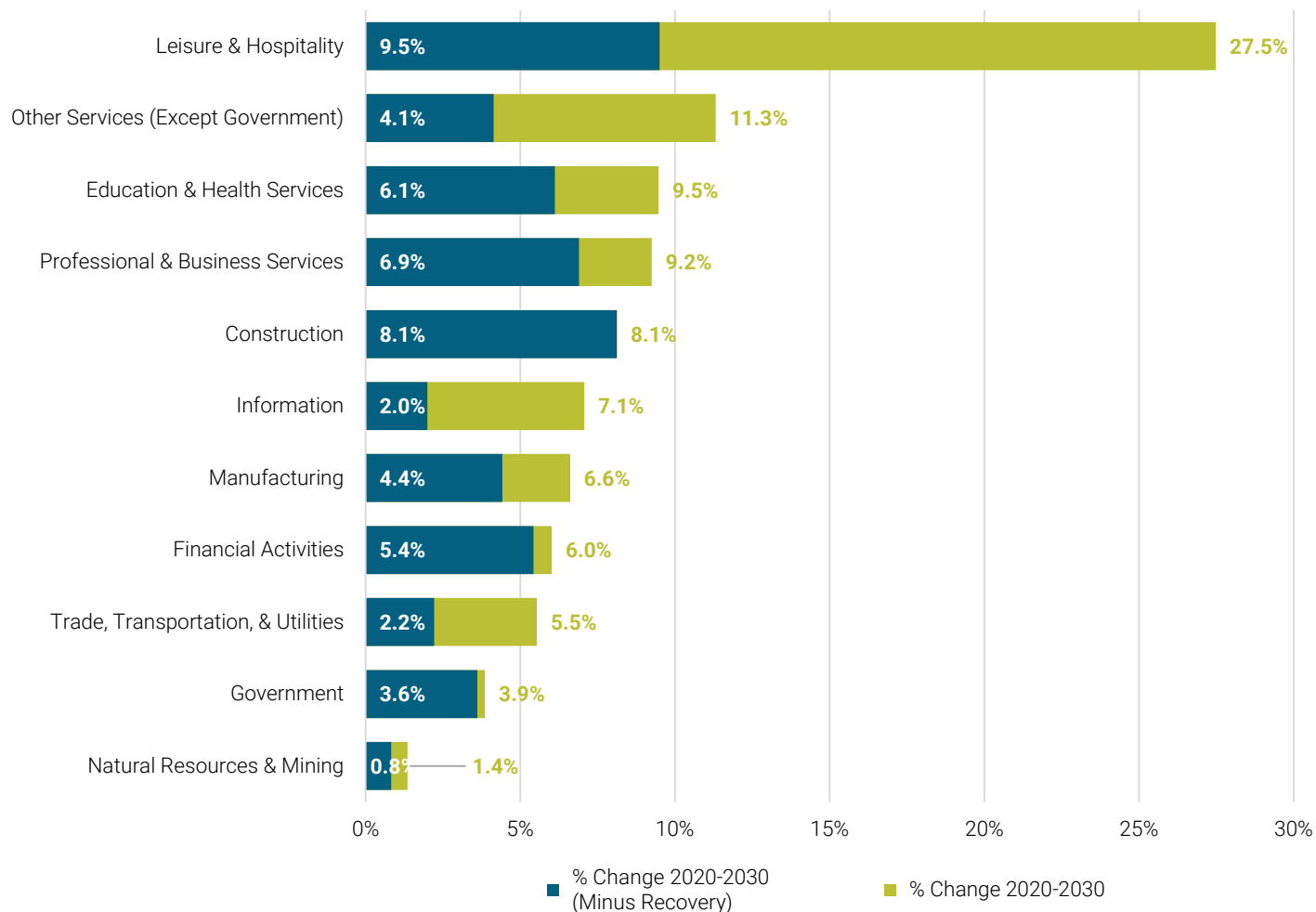
Top 10 Projected Fastest-Growing Industries by Percent Change, 2020 – 2030

Rank	Industry	2020	2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030	% Change 2020-2030	Recovery	% Recovery	Growth	% Growth
1	Motion Picture and Sound Recording Industries	532	977	445	83.6%	426	95.7%	19	4.3%
2	Performing Arts, Spectator Sports, and Related Industries	1,759	3,206	1,447	82.3%	1,321	91.3%	126	8.7%
3	Accommodation, including Hotels and Motels	6,131	9,652	3,521	57.4%	2,396	68.0%	1,125	32.0%
4	Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institution	1,114	1,719	605	54.3%	396	65.5%	209	34.5%
5	Transit and Ground Passenger Transportation	1,481	2,081	600	40.5%	570	95.0%	30	5.0%
6	Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	8,908	12,012	3,104	34.8%	1,785	57.5%	1,319	42.5%
7	Other Information Services	1,539	1,925	386	25.1%	0	0.0%	386	100.0%
8	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	1,275	1,560	285	22.4%	70	24.6%	215	75.4%
9	Ambulatory Health Care Services	41,631	50,807	9,176	22.0%	687	7.5%	8,489	92.5%
10	Food Services and Drinking Places	61,626	74,812	13,186	21.4%	8,410	63.8%	4,776	36.2%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Industry Projections: 2020-2030. July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

Performing arts, spectator sports, and related industries are projected to increase by 82.3% between 2020 and 2030, the second-highest industry growth rate. Of the 1,447 jobs expected to be added, 1,321 (91.3%) are expected to be from recovery and 126 (8.7%) from growth with a 7.2% growth rate when recovery is subtracted out. (1)

Projected 2020 – 2030 Employment Change by Industry, With and Without Pandemic Recovery



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Industry Projections: 2020-2030. July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

Museums, historical sites, and similar institutions come in fourth on the top ten list of fastest-growing industries, with a growth rate of 54.3%, or 605 jobs. Of these, 396 (65.5%) are expected to be from recovery and 209 (34.5%) from growth. When recovery is accounted for, the growth rate of 18.8% ranks third. Also related to leisure and hospitality, the food services and drinking places industry ranks at tenth place when looking at the industries with the fastest projected growth between 2020 and 2030. The growth rate of 21.4%, representing an increase of 13,186 jobs, is comprised of 8,410 (63.8%) from recovery and 4,776 (36.2%) from growth, with a growth rate of 7.7% when recovery is accounted for. (1)

The second fastest-growing industry supersector is other services (except government) at a rate of 11.3%. This supersector is comprised of the industries of repair and maintenance; personal and laundry services; religious, grantmaking, civic, professional, and similar organizations; and private households. With the exception of repair and maintenance, all of these industries were impacted by the pandemic, and 63.5% of the 3,916 projected openings between 2020 and 2030 can be attributed to recovery. Accounting for recovery, the growth rate for the supersector drops to 4.1%. (1)

The education and health services supersector is the third fastest, with a growth rate of 9.5% between 2020 and 2030. Of the 22,788 projected openings, 35.4% are expected to be from recovery. Most of these are in education (private, state, and local), where 50.6% (4,134) of the openings in the industry can be attributed to recovery. Social assistance accounts for 1,978 of the recovery openings for the supersector, however recovery accounts for 83.8% of the industry’s projected growth. Nursing and residential care facilities contributed 1,200 of the supersector’s recovery openings, but recovery accounted for 93.7% of the industry’s growth. (1)

Not all industries in the education and health services supersector were as negatively impacted by the pandemic. Ambulatory health care services had 7.5% (687) of its openings attributed to recovery and the remaining 92.5% (8,489) came from growth. The projected growth rate for the industry between 2020 and 2030 is 22.0%, where its growth ranks as the ninth fastest. When recovery is factored in, the rate drops slightly to 20.4%; however, it then ranks as the second fastest-growing industry in the state for the projection period. Hospital employment (private, state, and local) had 4.1% (73) of its openings attributed to recovery and the remaining 95.9% (1,722) from growth. Education (private, state, and local) also had quite a few openings from growth, at 49.4% (4,042). (1)

The professional and business services supersector is projected to grow the fourth fastest between 2020 and 2030 at a rate of 9.2%. Overall, this sector was not as impacted by the pandemic with 25.5% (2,719) of the projected 10,667 openings attributed to recovery. Most of the openings attributed to recovery come from the administrative and support services industry, where 72.5% (2,827) of the industry's growth was from recovery. (1)

Construction was the fifth fastest-growing supersector between 2020-2030 at a rate of 8.1%. This supersector was the only one where the pandemic did not have a negative impact and all of the growth of 4,472 jobs can be attributed to growth and not recovery. When the pandemic recovery is removed and rates are recalculated and ranked, the construction supersector is the second fastest-growing in the state. (1)

Top 10 Projected Fastest-Growing Industries Minus Recovery by Percent Change, 2020 – 2030

Rank	Industry	2020	2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030	% Change 2020-2030
1	Other Information Services	1,539	1,925	386	25.1%
2	Ambulatory Health Care Services	41,631	50,120	8,489	20.4%
3	Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institution	1,114	1,323	209	18.8%
4	Accommodation, including Hotels and Motels	6,131	7,256	1,125	18.3%
5	Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component Manufacturing	1,275	1,490	215	16.9%
6	Couriers and Messengers	4,000	4,644	644	16.1%
7	Amusement, Gambling, and Recreation Industries	8,908	10,227	1,319	14.8%
8	Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation	22	25	3	13.6%
9	Beverage and Tobacco Product Manufacturing	683	772	89	13.0%
10	Data Processing, Hosting and Related Services	2,199	2,447	248	11.3%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Industry Projections: 2020-2030. July 2022. <https://neworks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

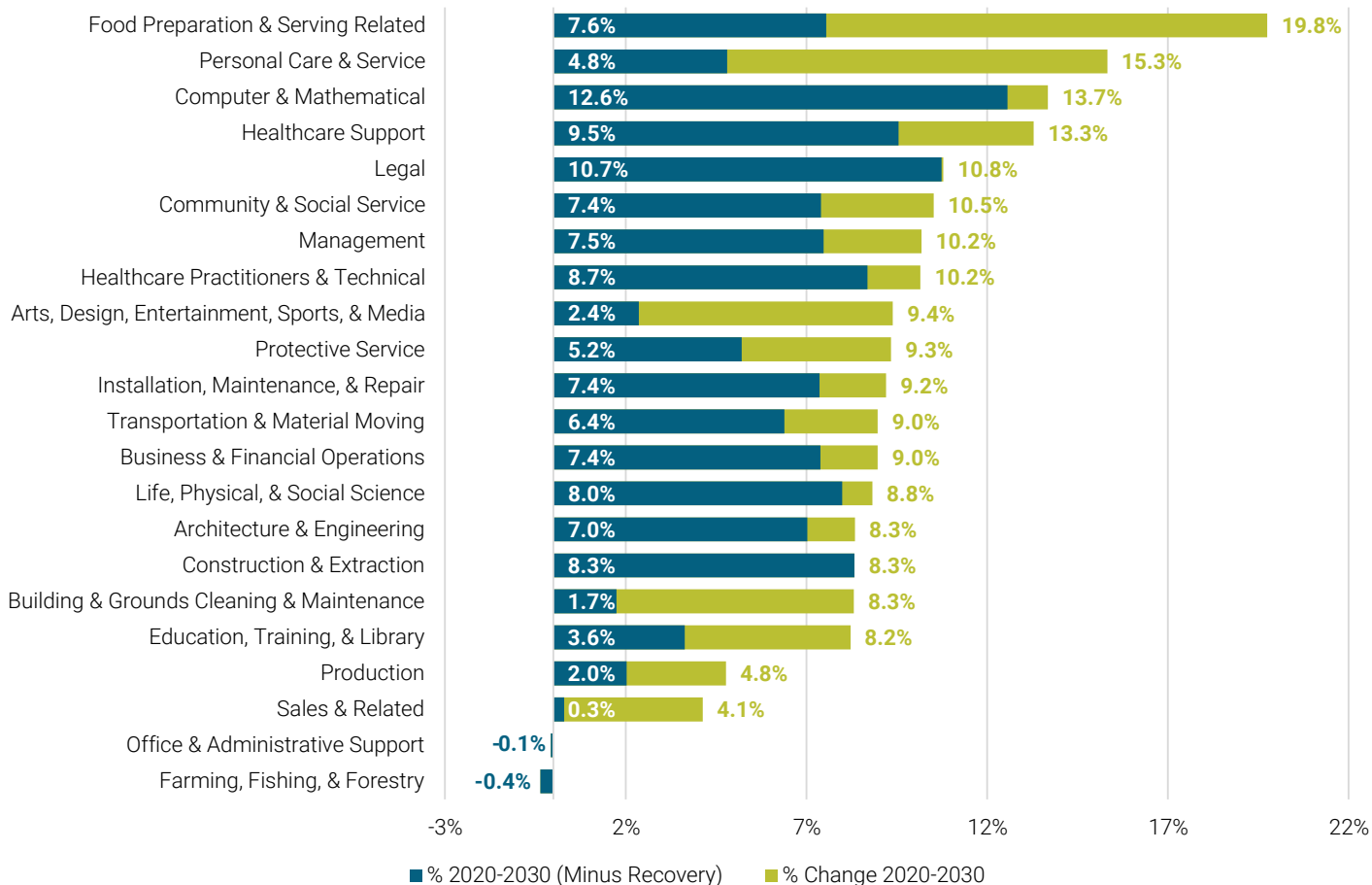
The other information services industry was the seventh fastest-growing industry between 2020-2030 at a rate of 25.1%. This industry was not negatively impacted by the pandemic, and when pandemic recovery is factored out, it is the fastest-growing industry. This industry includes news syndicates, libraries, and internet publishing and broadcasting and web search portals. (1)

Pandemic Occupational Impact

The fastest-growing projected major occupational groups between 2020 and 2030 are related to leisure and hospitality. This follows the trend seen in the industry projections. Since several industries that employ workers in these occupations were impacted, it was expected the occupations would be as well. Many occupations related to casinos are also found in these occupational groups, additionally contributing to the higher growth. Food preparation and serving related occupations, with a growth rate of 19.8% (15,137 jobs) are projected to grow the fastest, followed by personal care and service occupations at 15.3% (4,236 jobs). Food preparation and serving-related occupations are expected to have 61.8% of the projected job come from recovery, while personal care and service occupations are expected to have 68.6% come from recovery. (2)

Computer and mathematical occupations are projected to grow the third fastest between 2020 and 2030 at a rate of 13.7%, adding 4,882 jobs. The majority of these (91.8%) are expected to be from growth. When recovery is removed, this category of occupations ranks first with a growth rate of 12.6%. The occupation of software developers and software quality assurance analysts and testers is projected to contribute the most to this category's growth, adding 2,412 jobs (22.1%). (2)

Projected 2020 – 2030 Employment Change by Industry, With and Without Pandemic Recovery



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Occupational Projections: 2020-2030. July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

The fourth fastest growing occupational group is healthcare support occupations, with growth of 13.3% adding 5,018 jobs, the majority of these (71.8%) from growth. When recovery is factored into the rankings, this group ranks third at 9.5%. Healthcare practitioners and technical occupations rank eighth by projected growth rate between 2020 and 2030, growing by 10.2% and adding 7,276 jobs. The majority of these are due to growth (85.6%), and when recovery is factored in the growth rate is 8.7%, ranking fourth overall. (2)

Healthcare-related occupations appear on the list of the top ten fastest-growing occupations with employment greater than five when pandemic recovery and casino related occupations are removed. Occupational therapy assistants top the list with a 41.4% growth rate (+58). Other healthcare occupations in the top ten include nurse practitioners in second at 38.5% (+651), physical therapist assistants in fourth at 34.6% (+196), epidemiologists in fifth at 34.1% (+15), and occupational therapy aides in ninth at 30.2% (+55). (2)

Top 10 Projected Fastest-Growing Non-Casino Occupations (With 2020 Employment >5) by Percent Change Minus Recovery, 2020 – 2030

Rank	Occupation	2020	2030	Numeric Change 2020-2030	% Change 2020-2030
1	Occupational Therapy Assistants	140	198	58	41.4%
2	Nurse Practitioners	1,690	2,341	651	38.5%
3	Cooks, Restaurant	6,069	8,261	2,192	36.1%
4	Physical Therapist Assistants	566	762	196	34.6%
5	Epidemiologists	44	59	15	34.1%
6	Information Security Analysts	753	1,006	253	33.6%
7	Statisticians	247	325	78	31.6%
8	Logisticians	784	1,023	239	30.5%
9	Occupational Therapy Aides	182	237	55	30.2%
10	Data Scientists and Mathematical Science Occupations, All Other	398	504	106	26.6%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Occupational Projections: 2020-2030. July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.

The pandemic had little to no negative impact on two major occupational groups. Legal occupations had only three of the 666 projected growth openings attributed to pandemic recovery and had a growth rate of 10.7% after recovery was removed, ranking second on the list of fastest-growing occupational groups. Construction and extraction occupations had 100% of its 4,572 openings coming from growth with a rate of 8.3%. (2)

The Final Word

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted almost all industries and occupations to some degree, and this impact carried over to the long-term industry and occupational projections. Pandemic impact combined with the new casino gambling establishments caused some rather large growth rates. Removing these factors helps to shed light on what industries and occupations are projected to experience true growth and not just pandemic recovery. This is a rich dataset and provides new ways to explore the 2020 to 2030 long-term projections data. The full files on pandemic recovery can be found online in the [data download center](#).

Sources:

1. Nebraska Department of Labor. Long-term Industry Projections: 2020-2030. [Online] 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=gPg0mWJQASphok+Pe8+dnQ==>.
2. —. Long-term Occupational Projections: 2020-2030. [Online] July 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/gsipub/documentView.aspx?enc=EV+mnVfK6qRWnoXwN+RfXg==>.

Employment Projections

Jodie Meyer, Research Analyst

Through funding from the federal Workforce Information Grant, NDOL's labor market information office produces employment projections by industry and occupation, for two time periods: short-term (two years into the future) and long-term (ten years into the future). (1)

Short-term projections are produced annually; current short-term projections are for 2022-2024 and were released at the beginning of March of 2023. Long-term projections are produced biennially in even numbered years. Current long-term projections are for 2020-2030 and were published in July of 2022.

Long-term projections are available for Nebraska statewide and nine regions. The areas include: Nebraska Statewide, the Omaha Consortium, the Lincoln and Grand Island Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA), and the Central, Mid Plains, Northeast, Panhandle, Sandhills, and Southeast regions. Short-term projections are only available for Nebraska statewide.

Specialized software is provided to the states for use in calculating projections. Industry projections are developed by combining employment time series data with current economic indicators. The software uses a variety of statistical models to analyze the past data to make projections about the future. An analyst then examines each of these models and uses local knowledge of the area's economy to determine which one to choose.

Occupational projections are produced by combining industry projections with staffing patterns from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program and with change factors provided by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Employment Projections program. Staffing patterns provide ratios of employment by occupation in a specific industry. These are applied to the industry projections to distribute the base year and projected employment to the occupations. Change factors are a numeric representation of how an occupation's employment share is changing within a particular industry. All these inputs are combined, and the software does the proper calculations on the data after the analyst does a review of the inputs to make sure they are reasonable and adjusts as needed.

For both the industry and occupational projections, employment levels for the base and projected time frames are produced. These employment levels are then used to calculate the growth rate and net change in employment.

Additional data is calculated for occupational projections on openings expected to occur. (2) Openings can occur from growth in the occupation (numeric change), but they are also created when people employed in the occupation leave the occupation and need to be replaced. Labor force exits represent individuals leaving an occupation and exiting the labor force entirely, most commonly from retirements, but they can occur for other reasons such as leaving the labor force to attend college. Occupational transfers represent individuals who leave an occupation and transfer to a different occupation. These two numbers combine with the openings from occupational growth to create total openings. Each occupation is also assigned a level of education, work experience, and job training typically required to obtain a position.

Projections are used by a variety of individuals and groups, including students, career counselors, and job seekers for career planning; businesses and economic developers to predict future employment needs; and educational program planners for reviewing curriculum. In Nebraska, occupational projections are also used to determine the high demand component of NDOL's High Wage, Skill, and Demand (H3) occupations list. (3)

Industry and occupational projections files can be found online for download and are incorporated into several reports and profiles on **NEworks**. More details on the overall projections process can be found in the **March 2020 issue of Trends**.

Sources:

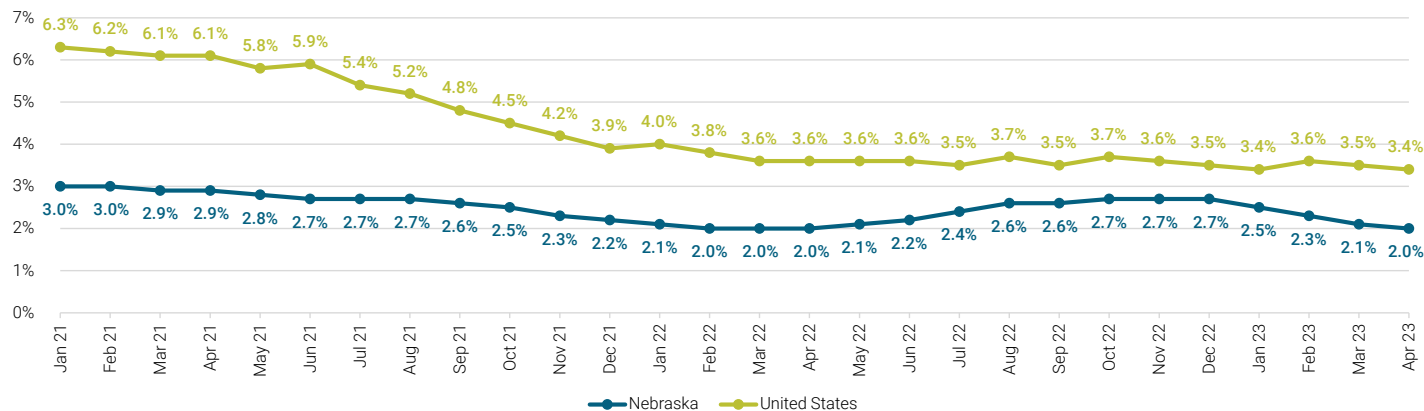
1. *United States Department of Labor. Employment and Training Administration. Training and Employment Guidance Letter No. 01-22. [Online] July 1, 2022. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/eta/advisories/tegl-01-22>.*
2. *U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Employment Projections. Employment Projections Data Definitions. [Online] <https://www.bls.gov/emp/documentation/definitions.htm>.*
3. *Nebraska Department of Labor. High Wage, Skill, Demand (H3) Occupations Methodology. [Online] <https://networks.nebraska.gov/admin/gsipub/htmlarea/uploads/H3%20Methodology.pdf>.*

Spotlight: The Current Population Survey

Byron Lefler, Research Analyst

On the first Friday of each month, the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes data on the nation’s labor force. This data includes the number of employed and unemployed, the unemployment rate, the labor force participation rate, the employment-population ratio, and nonfarm payroll employment. These data points are key indicators of the overall health of the U.S. economy. The data published comes from the Current Population Survey, commonly referred to as the ‘CPS’ or ‘household survey.’

NE and U.S. Unemployment Rate by Month, January 2021 – April 2023



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS). 2023.

Basic Information on the Current Population Survey

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is a monthly survey conducted by the U.S. BLS. The CPS samples around 62,000 households nationwide through a combination of telephone and in-person interviews. Each month the CPS is conducted on the week that includes the 19th of the month and collects information that references the week that includes the 12th of the month. (1)

The CPS collects information on the civilian, noninstitutionalized population ages 16 and older in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Excluded from the CPS are active-duty members of the armed forces and people residing in correctional institutions and long-term care facilities. The main purpose of the CPS is to collect data on demographic characteristics of people in the household, along with other information that will determine if the respondent was employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force. The major data points collected by the CPS include the number of employed and unemployed, along with the labor force participation rate and unemployment rates by age, sex, race and Hispanic and Latino ethnicity, educational attainment, and veteran status. Other data collected by the CPS includes:

- Employed people (including self-employed) by occupation, industry, hours worked, full or part-time status (including involuntary part time)
- Unemployed people by duration of unemployment and general reason for unemployment (job losers, job leavers, and entrants to the labor force);
- Discouraged workers and others not in the labor force;
- Multiple jobholders by full or part-time status of their jobs;
- Median weekly earnings by demographic characteristics, occupation, full and part time employment status and union and non-union status;
- Number of hourly-paid workers with earnings at and below the federal minimum wage;
- Number of union and non-union members by demographic characteristics, industry, and occupation. (1)

Current Population Survey Publications

The BLS creates monthly, quarterly, and annual news releases and several annual reports using data from the CPS. (1)

Monthly News Releases

The Employment Situation is a monthly new release that provides national data on nonfarm payroll employment and the unemployment rate.

Quarterly News Releases

The Usual Weekly Earnings of Wage and Salary Workers is a quarterly news release that provides wage data on such topics as full-time work status, sex, race, ethnicity, occupational group, and educational attainment.

Annual News Releases

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) publishes several yearly news releases that use Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

- Employment Situation of Veterans
- Union Members
- Labor Force Characteristics of Persons with a Disability
- Labor Force Characteristics of Foreign-born workers
- College Enrollment and Work Activity of High School Graduates
- Summer Youth Labor Force
- Employment Characteristics of Families
- Work Experience of the Population
- Worker Displacement
- Employment Tenure

Annual Publications

- Labor Force Characteristics by Race and Ethnicity
- Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers
- Highlights of Women's Earnings
- A Profile of the Working Poor
- Women in the Labor Force: A Databook

Uses of the Current Population Survey

The CPS is used for public policy planning and general economic research. The labor force participation rate, employment-population ratio, and the unemployment rate are key indicators of the labor market and economic health. This data can help government entities at the local, state, and national levels make public policy and economic development decisions. (1)

For economic research purposes, the CPS is the primary source of demographic characteristics of the labor force, occupations, and industries. This data includes such characteristics as age, sex, race, and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. The CPS is also the most comprehensive measure of national employment and provides data on the agricultural sector, the self-employed, and unpaid workers in family businesses. Finally, the CPS provides earnings data by demographic characteristics such as sex, race, Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, and educational attainment. (1)

Current Population Survey Design

The CPS is a scientifically selected multistate probability-based sample of households designed to represent the civilian noninstitutional population of each state, the District of Columbia, and the United States as a whole. Below are several of the major aspects of the CPS survey sample. (2)

The CPS sample each month is split into 8 different groups, which are called rotation groups. (2)

1. Each rotation group is a representative sample of the U.S. Population.
2. Each group is interviewed for a total of eight months, divided into two equal periods.
 - a. A rotation group is in the sample for a total of four consecutive months, then leaves for eight months, and then returns for four consecutive months.
3. 75% of the sample is the same on a month-to-month basis.
4. 50% of the sample is from the same month a year earlier.
 - a. The purpose of the sample overlap is to get better estimates of change and to improve the reliability of the data without overburdening households.

CPS Survey Participants Timeline

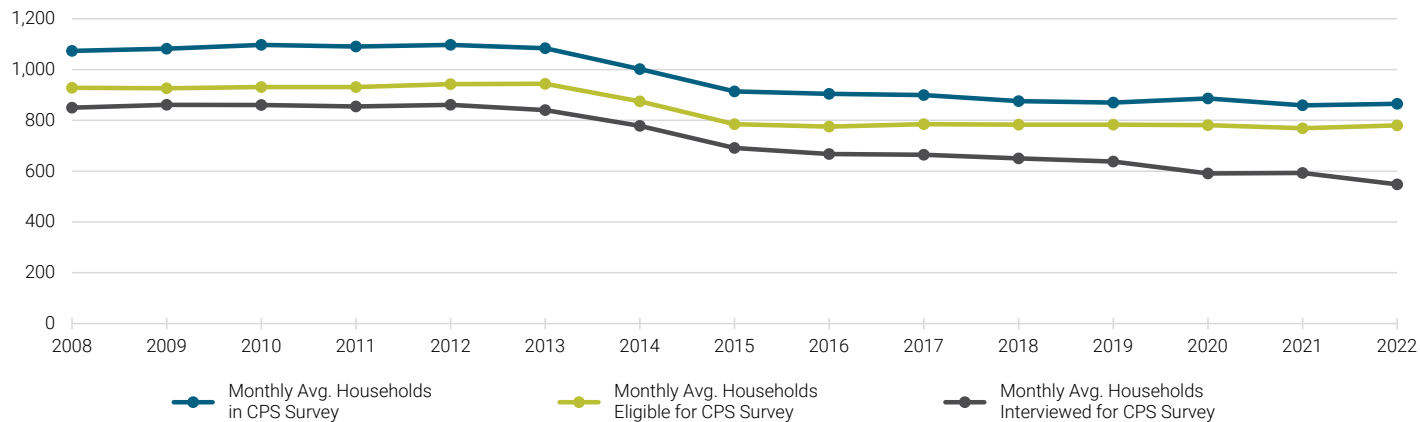


Statewide Labor Force Models and the CPS Survey

CPS data is used to create labor force estimates for the United States as a whole and the nine census divisions. Due to the small sample size, BLS uses a time series model to create statewide labor force estimates. The primary input into this model is the CPS, along with data from the labor force program, the payroll employment program, and unemployment insurance claims counts. (3)

BLS has provided analysts with monthly statewide CPS response rate data going back to 2008. In Nebraska, from 2008 to 2012, the average monthly CPS response rates were above 90%. From 2013 to 2019, the average monthly CPS response rates were between 81% and 89%. Since 2020, the average monthly CPS response rates have been below 80%. Below is a chart showing the average monthly total CPS sample, eligible CPS sample, and the interviewed CPS sample in Nebraska from 2008 to 2022. As you will see, the CPS sample has gotten smaller over the past 15 years. (3)

NE Average Monthly CPS Survey Sample Size Over Time, 2008 – 2022



Source: Nebraska Department of Labor and U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS). 2023.

The Current Population Survey is a very valuable dataset for getting detailed information about the labor force and provides several data elements used to gauge the health of the United States economy. To learn more, go to [bls.gov/cps](https://www.bls.gov/cps). Nebraska labor force data can be found at networks.nebraska.gov/laus.

Sources:

1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Population Survey Program. Current Population Survey: Overview. [Online] March 24, 2023. https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_over.htm.
2. -. Current Population Survey Program. Current Population Survey: Handbook of Methods. [Online] April 10, 2018. <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cps/design.htm>.
3. -. Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program. Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program Manual. [Online] 2022.



Postsecondary Instructors vs. Related Occupations: How Do They Compare?

Andrew Bouwens, Research Analyst

Have you ever sat in class and wondered what your teacher makes for a salary? Or maybe you're an instructor, and you've wondered what your students will be making once they get out into their respective fields. May 2021 data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) Program sheds some light on the differences in training requirements and income potential between occupations and their respective post-secondary instructors.

Occupation Title	Est. Employment (May 2021)	Projected Employment Change (2020-2030)	Average Annual Wage	Education Typically Required
Postsecondary Chemistry Teachers	150	+19	\$86,920	Doctoral or professional degree
Chemists	290	+44	\$76,890	Bachelor's Degree
Postsecondary Engineering Teachers	100	+8	\$96,220	Doctoral or professional degree
Civil Engineers	1,600	+168	\$89,000	Bachelor's Degree
Postsecondary Economics Teachers	130	+15	\$105,810	Doctoral or professional degree
Economists	60	+7	\$70,390	Master's Degree
Postsecondary Education Teachers	850	+74	\$65,720	Doctoral or professional degree
Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	9,860	+774	\$61,510	Bachelor's Degree
Postsecondary Library Science Teachers	50	+5	\$75,100	Doctoral or professional degree
Librarians and Media Collections Specialists	970	+73	\$55,780	Master's Degree
Postsecondary Social Work Teachers	150	+14	\$76,280	Doctoral or professional degree
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	2,940	+282	\$43,730	Bachelor's Degree

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. State Data Tables. [Online] May 2021. <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>.

Nebraska Department of Labor. Long Term Projections 2020-2030. Long-Term Occupational Projections 2020-2030. [Online] July 01, 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/analyzer/resultsNew.aspx?session=occproj>.

Many occupations can be explored using this data. Law, nursing, and dentistry are three important fields whose workers enjoy wages substantially above the overall statewide mean of \$54,219 for the May 2021. (1) Postsecondary instructors in nursing and law earned a higher annual average than their students could typically expect after graduation, however they also often required a higher level of educational attainment (as in the case of nursing instructors) and must compete for a much smaller number of job openings.

Nurses and Nursing Instructors

Occupation Title	Est. Employment (May 2021)	Projected Employment Change (2020-2030)	Average Annual Wage	Education Typically Required
Postsecondary Nursing Teachers	670	+56	\$77,330	Doctoral or professional degree
Registered Nurses	20,660	+2,140	\$69,850	Bachelor's degree

During May 2021, post-secondary nursing instructors in Nebraska were making a mean of \$80,118 dollars annually, while their students were averaging around \$72,363. There were an estimated 670 nursing instructors, compared to 20,660 registered nurses, working in Nebraska. (1)

To become a nursing post-secondary instructor, a person would typically need to achieve a doctorate in their field of study, although some programs hire instructors with only a master's degree. (2) Registered nurses (RNs) may complete bachelor's degrees, associate's degrees in nursing, or accredited nursing certificate programs offered by hospitals or medical centers, with bachelor's degrees being the most common and favored by most employers. Some nurses may choose to continue their education to master's degrees or doctorates. Nurses also required periodic updated trainings and must be licensed in the state in which they work. (3)

While nursing instructors brought in a higher mean annual wage, they required substantially more education to qualify for these higher-earning jobs than most of their students would need to complete to obtain employment as nurses.

Lawyers and Law Teachers

Occupation Title	Est. Employment (May 2021)	Projected Employment Change (2020-2030)	Average Annual Wage	Education Typically Required
Postsecondary Law Teachers	80	+10	\$150,470	Doctoral or professional degree
Lawyers	3,380	+378	\$106,560	Doctoral or professional degree

For lawyers, the difference in earning potential is starker than nurses when comparing lawyers to postsecondary law instructors. During May 2021, post-secondary law teachers in Nebraska had a mean wage of \$150,470 annually, while lawyers had a mean annual wage of \$106,560. There were an estimated 3,380 lawyers working in Nebraska along with 80 postsecondary law teachers. (1)

Looking at education requirements for these two occupations, there were fewer differences between lawyers and their postsecondary instructors as compared to teachers and students in other fields. Both lawyers and postsecondary law instructors needed to obtain four years of undergraduate studies, followed by three years of law school, and then must complete the state's Bar exam to practice as an attorney and qualify for most jobs. (4)

Dentist and Health Specialties Instructor

Occupation Title	Est. Employment (May 2021)	Projected Employment Change (2020-2030)	Average Annual Wage	Education Typically Required
Postsecondary Health Specialties Instructors	2,570	+213	\$88,420	Doctoral or professional degree
Dentists	830	+56	\$146,170	Doctoral or professional degree

Dentists differed from nurses and lawyers in that their average annual wages of \$146,170 exceeded those for their postsecondary instructors. Postsecondary health specialties instructors had an average annual wage of \$88,420 as of May 2021 data. However, not all postsecondary health specialties instructors teach dentists; some may teach classes in less lucrative specialties, driving the overall average wage for this occupational category lower. (1)

To become a dentist, candidates typically need a four-year bachelor's degree and a DDS or DMD degree from an accredited dental program, and must become licensed in the state in which they plan to work. Dental specialties require additional training, usually including a two to four-year residency, and often result in a postdoctoral certificate or other credential. (5) Postsecondary health specialties instructors typically need, at a minimum, the same level of education as the students they teach, plus licensure and work experience in their field. Many universities also expect instructors to have a relevant master's degree or Ph.D. (2)

Nebraska is projected to add 2,140 RNs into its workforce between 2020 and 2030, while postsecondary nursing instructors are projected to add 56 new positions. Lawyers will add an additional 378 jobs, and postsecondary law instructors will add 10, during the same time period. Jobs for dentists are expected to increase by 56, and postsecondary health specialties instructors by 213 through 2030. (6)

How to Use It:

This data may be valuable for students and recent graduates to keep in mind when deciding whether practicing in their field of study or entering the world of teaching may be a better choice for their career goals.

Sources:

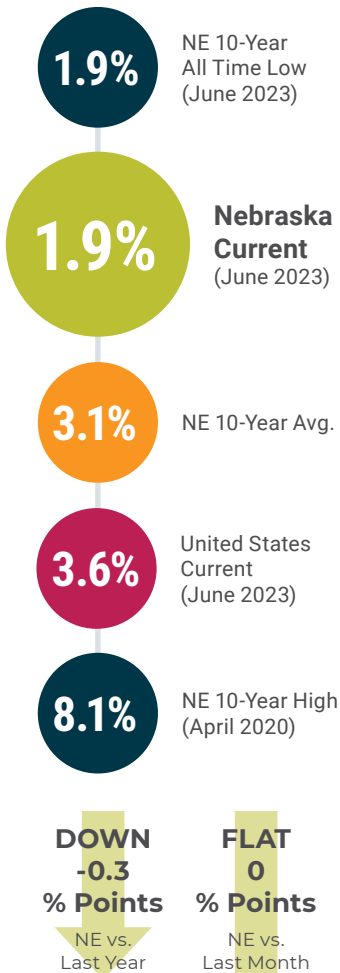
1. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. *Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics. State Data Tables.* [Online] May 2021. <https://www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm>.
2. —. *Occupational Outlook Handbook. Postsecondary Teachers.* [Online] 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/education-training-and-library/postsecondary-teachers.htm>.
3. —. *Occupational Outlook Handbook. Registered Nurses.* [Online] 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/registered-nurses.htm>.
4. —. *Occupational Outlook Handbook. Lawyers.* [Online] 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/legal/lawyers.htm>.
5. —. *Occupational Outlook Handbook. Dentists.* [Online] 2022. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/healthcare/dentists.htm>.
6. Nebraska Department of Labor. *Long-Term Occupational Projections 2020-2030.* [Online] July 01, 2022. <https://networks.nebraska.gov/vosnet/analyzer/resultsNew.aspx?session=occpj>.

Economic Indicators

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

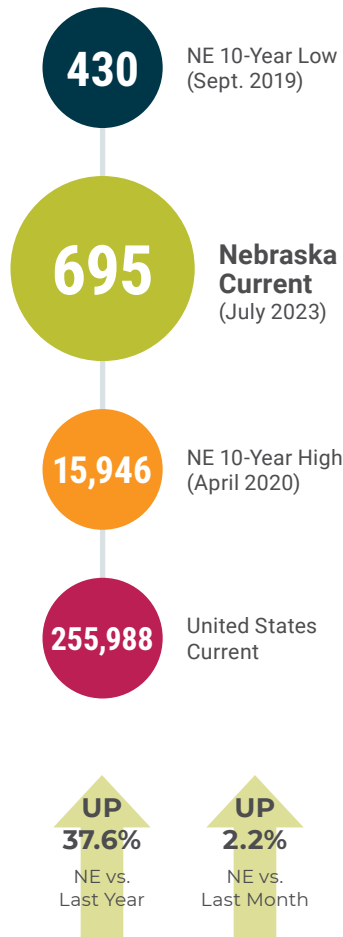
Unemployment Rate

Seasonally Adjusted



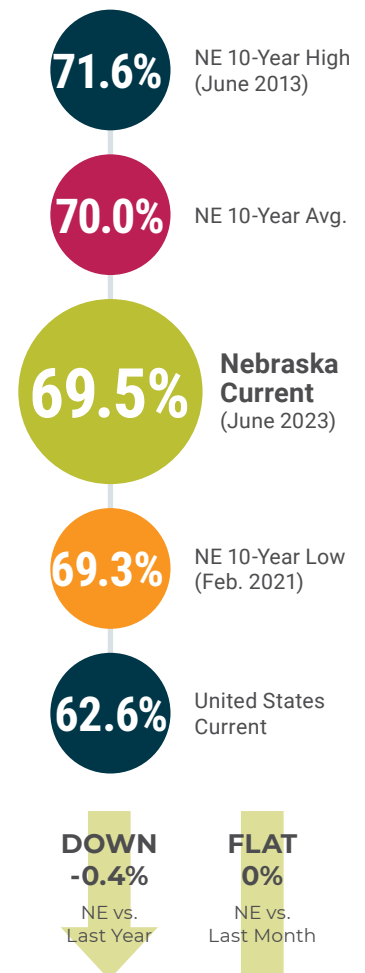
Initial Unemployment Claims

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>.

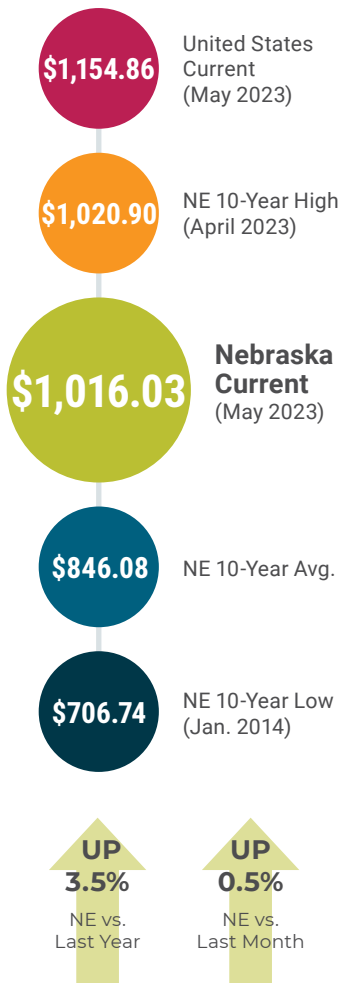
Data Sources: [Retrieved: July 2023.]

Economic Indicators

Kermit Spade, Research Analyst

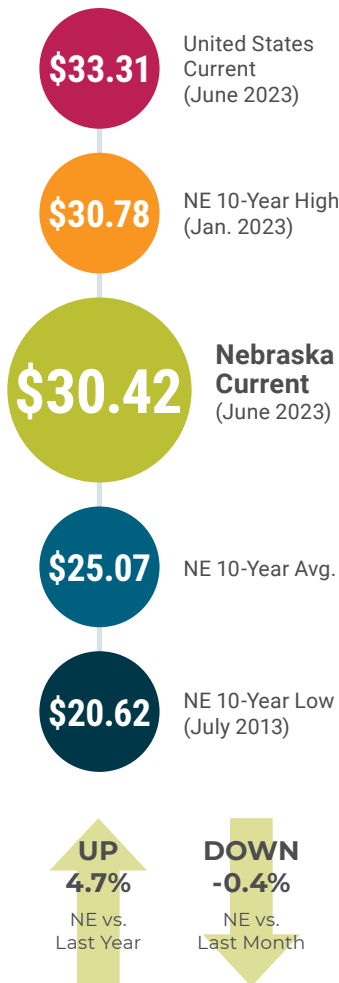
Avg. Weekly Earnings

All Private Employees
Not Seasonally Adjusted



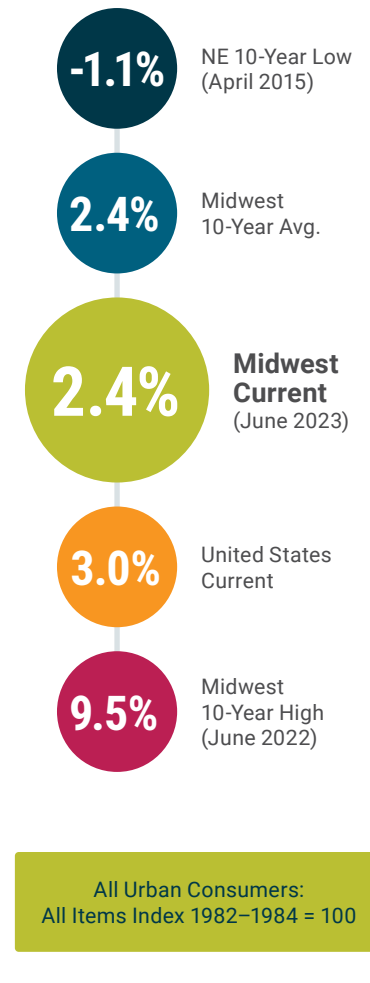
Avg. Hourly Earnings

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: July 2023.]

1,056,575

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

Nonfarm employment, a count of filled jobs, was up 10,429 over the month and up 27,157 over the year. Private industries with the most growth month to month were leisure and hospitality (up 3,455 jobs), mining and construction (up 1,833 jobs), and trade, transportation and utilities (up 1,457 jobs). Private industries with the most over the year growth were private education and health services (up 6,899 jobs), leisure and hospitality service (up 6,021 jobs), and mining and construction (up 4,237 jobs).

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

42,091

Job count on NEworks as of
August 3, 2023

.....

81,706

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

This number reflects the number of job openings
advertised on NEworks in Nebraska in June 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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