Inside this issue

Workplace Accidents & the ‘Most Dangerous’ Jobs

Map Facts:
Health Spending Per Capita

Fast Facts:
Nebraska’s Healthcare Industry
Contents

5  Workplace Accidents & the ‘Most Dangerous’ Jobs

3  Openings & Expansions

4  Map Facts: Health Spending Per Capita

10 County Rates

11 Fast Facts: Nebraska’s Healthcare Industry

14 Economic Indicators

Credits
Commissioner
John H. Albin
Editors
Rachel Stevens
Grace Johnson
Scott Hunzeker
Graphic Designer
Hillary Lee

Helpful Links
Labor Market Publications
Previous Issues
NEworks.nebraska.gov
Reader Feedback Survey
## Openings & Expansions August

**Kermit Spade, Research Analyst**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Category</th>
<th>Business Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food &amp; Entertainment</td>
<td>Double Dips (Opening)</td>
<td>North Platte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O Street Nutrition (Opening)</td>
<td>Gering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O Street Nutrition (Opening)</td>
<td>North Platte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Kopf Orthodontics (Opening)</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Therapy Works (New Location Opening)</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail/Sales</td>
<td>Bomgaars (Opening)</td>
<td>North Platte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cottage Refunk (Opening)</td>
<td>Plattsmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nexgen Outfitters (Expansion)</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Advance Services (Expansion)</td>
<td>Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agency 39 (Opening)</td>
<td>Sidney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BellaNova Travel (Opening)</td>
<td>Nebraska City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Creative Landscapes of Nebraska LLC (Opening)</td>
<td>North Platte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overton Veterinarian Clinic (Opening)</td>
<td>Overton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top Knot hair salon (Opening)</td>
<td>Norfolk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Source:** Nebraska Department of Labor

Openings and expansions listed are a sampling of activity reported for that month. Some activity may have occurred outside the month. If you have an opening or expansion to report, contact us at LMI_NE@nebraska.gov.
The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), a division of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, produces health spending information by state of residence every five years, with the latest release, derived from 2014 data, published in 2017. These estimates include expenditures for all privately and publicly funded personal health care services and products (such as hospital care, physician services, nursing home care, prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, eyeglasses, hearing aids, etc.). Hospital care spending estimates are based on the hospitals’ total net revenue (gross charges less contractual adjustments, bad debts, and charity care). Not included in health spending estimates are insurance program administration, research, and construction expenses. (1)

Overall U.S. health spending per capita was $8,045 in 2014, compared to $8,412 in Nebraska. The District of Columbia ($11,944), Alaska ($11,064), and Massachusetts ($10,559) reported the highest health spending per capita. Utah ($5,982), Arizona ($6,452), and Georgia ($6,587) spent the least per capita on health expenditures. (1)

Health Spending Per Capita, 2014


Sources:
The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) collects data about workplace injuries, illnesses, and fatalities through its Survey of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (SOII) and Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). Nonfatal data provided by BLS includes industry rates of workplace injuries and illnesses with case circumstances and worker characteristics for those events where days away from work are required. The fatal injury data that BLS provides includes detailed industry, case, and worker characteristics on fatal workplace injuries. (1)

Nonfatal Injuries & Illnesses

Nationally, there were an estimated 2.8 million nonfatal workplace injuries (95.5% of the total) and illnesses (4.5% of the total) reported by private employers in 2017. (2) These injuries and illnesses occurred at a rate of 2.8 cases per 100 full-time equivalent (FTE) workers, as shown in the chart below. (3) Nonfatal injury and illness cases reported by private industry decreased by nearly 45,800 from 2016 to 2017. (2) Since 2003, the incidence rate for nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses has had a pattern of decline, other than in 2012 when the rate remained constant. (3) Nebraska’s incidence rates have also declined since 2003, but have been consistently higher than rates observed in the U.S. as a whole. (4)

Nationally, estimated incidence rates of occupational injuries and illnesses in 2017 were highest in the agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting sector (5.0 cases per 100 FTE workers). (5) In Nebraska, the agricultural industry also had the highest incidence rate of nonfatal occupational injury and illness, at 5.9 cases per 100 FTE workers. (4) The prominence of agriculture in Nebraska’s economy may help to explain why the state’s injury/illness rates consistently surpass the national average. Incidence rates and numbers of nonfatal occupational injuries in Iowa (3.6 rate, 45,800) and Kansas (3.2 rate, 33,900) were comparable to Nebraska figures in 2017.

The industry sector with the greatest total number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses nationwide was health care and social assistance (582,800 cases), followed by manufacturing (428,900), retail trade (395,700), and accommodation and food services (282,600). (2) In Nebraska, the manufacturing (4,800), health care and social assistance (3,700), and retail trade (2,500) industry sectors had the highest number of reported cases. (6)

In 2017, a total of 882,730 nonfatal occupational injuries and illnesses across the United States involved days away from work. The occupational groups with the highest number of injuries and illness cases were transportation and material moving workers (178,270 cases), production workers (98,320 cases), and installation workers (82,690). The specific occupation with the most recorded occupational injuries and illnesses involving days away from work was laborers and freight, stock, and materials movers (62,870 cases nationally), followed by heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (46,860 cases), nursing assistants (30,370 cases), retail salespersons (25,190 cases), and production workers, all other (25,040 cases). (7)

The industry sector with the greatest total number of nonfatal injuries and illnesses nationwide was health care and social assistance (582,800 cases), followed by manufacturing (428,900), retail trade (395,700), and accommodation and food services (282,600). (2) In Nebraska, the manufacturing (4,800), health care and social assistance (3,700), and retail trade (2,500) industry sectors had the highest number of reported cases. (6)
Workplace Fatalities

More than 5,140 U.S. workers died from an occupational injury in 2017, a 1% decrease from 2016 totals. (8) Since 2003, annual fatal work injuries were highest in 2006 (5,840), while the year with the fewest fatal injuries was 2009 (4,551). (8) The chart on page 8 displays the trend in the rate of fatal work injuries per 100,000 FTE workers. According to BLS, "fatal injury rates depict the risk of incurring a fatal occupational injury and can be used to compare risk among worker groups with varying employment levels." (8) The rate of fatal work injuries appears to be consistent nationally since 2008, but Nebraska's rate has fluctuated over time, and decreased from 6.3 per 10,000 FTE workers in 2016 to 3.6 per 10,000 in 2017. (9; 10) Since 2003, the annual total number of fatal workplace injuries in Nebraska was highest in 2016 (60 cases), while the fewest fatal injuries occurred in 2017 (35 cases). (11) State and national rates for industries are not directly comparable due to the inclusion of government workers at the state level, but the exclusion of federal government employees. (8)
In 2017, the transportation and material moving occupation group had the highest number of fatal work injuries nationally, at 1,443. (12) More than 960 fatal injuries occurred in the construction and extraction occupational group, followed by installation, maintenance, and repair (414 cases) and management (414 cases). (12) Computer and mathematical occupations (11 cases) and legal occupations (11 cases) tied for the fewest fatal injuries of any group in the nation in 2017, both with 11 fatal incidents. (12)

Farming, fishing, and forestry had the highest fatal work injury rate per 100,000 FTE workers of any occupational group in 2017 (20.9 per 100,000) followed by transportation and material moving (15.9 per 100,000), and construction and extraction (12.2 per 100,000). (13)

**Total Fatal Workplace Injuries in the US by Occupation, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Number of Fatal Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Material Moving</td>
<td>1,443</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction &amp; Extraction</td>
<td>965</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation, Maintenance, &amp; Repair</td>
<td>414</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bldg &amp; Grounds Cleaning &amp; Maintenance</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protective Service</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming, Fishing, &amp; Forestry</td>
<td>264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales &amp; Related</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office &amp; Admin. Support</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Prep &amp; Serving Related</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Specific</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care &amp; Service</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Practitioners &amp; Technical</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, &amp; Media</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community &amp; Social Services</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education, Training, &amp; Library</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business &amp; Financial Operations</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Support</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architecture &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, Physical, &amp; Social Science</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer &amp; Mathematical</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The specific occupation titles where U.S. workers suffered the most fatal injuries were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (840 cases), construction laborers (259 cases), farmers (258 cases), supervisors of construction workers (121 cases), and landscaping and groundskeeping workers (109 cases). (12)

In Nebraska, there were 35 total fatal occupational injuries in 2017, with the highest number occurring in the management (8 cases) and transportation and material moving (7 cases) occupation groups. The majority (57.1%) of these were caused by transportation incidents, with contact with objects and equipment (20.0%) and falls, slips, and trips (11.4%) being the next-most-common causes of fatal workplace injuries in Nebraska. (14) Incidence rates and numbers of fatal occupational injuries in Iowa (4.7 rate, 72) and Kansas (5.2 rate, 72) were comparable to Nebraska figures in 2017.

The Final Word

The downward trend in nonfatal occupational injury and illness incidence rates observed in private industry from 2003 to 2017 is encouraging for Nebraska and the United States as a whole. In both Nebraska and nationwide, the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting industry had the highest injury and illness incident rates during 2017, while the finance and insurance industry had the lowest. The most dangerous jobs in the country in 2017, based on the highest number of total fatal workplace injuries, were heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers (840 cases), construction laborers (259 cases), and farmers (258 cases).

On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program

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 before they become dangerous and expensive problems.

The program is available to any business that has less than 250 employees on-site and 500 nationwide. We are unable to provide services to municipal, county, state or federal organizations. Services are provided through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and administered through the Nebraska Department of Labor On-Site Safety and Health Consultation Program at no cost to the business requesting consultation services. The program is 90 percent federally funded and 10 percent state funded.

Sources:
NEBRASKA WORKFORCE TRENDS

Employment Data | August
August 2019 County Unemployment Rates

**NEBRASKA**
August Non-Farm
Total Employment: 1,033,390
Manufacturing: 100,909

**Nebraska**
(Smooth Seasonally Adjusted)
August Unemployment Rate: 3.1%
Change (OTM): 0.0
Change (OTY): -0.4

**Economic Region**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
Central: 2.9%
Mid Plains: 3.2%
Northeast: 2.9%
Panhandle: 3.5%
Sandhills: 3.0%
Southeast: 3.2%

**OMAHA MSA**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
August Unemployment Rate: 3.0%
August Total Non-Farm Employment: 515,405
Manufacturing: 33,151

Largest OTM Increase (Private)
Mining & Construction: 964 (2.9%)
Education & Health: 589 (0.7%)

Largest OTY Increase (Private)
Mining & Construction: 4,374 (14.6%)
Professional & Business Services: 4,289 (5.9%)

**GRAND ISLAND MSA**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
August Unemployment Rate: 3.1%
August Total Non-Farm Employment: 42,134
Change (OTM): -99 (-0.2%)
Change (OTY): 42 (0.1%)

**LINCOLN MSA**
(Not Seasonally Adjusted)
August Unemployment Rate: 2.9%
August Total Non-Farm Employment: 191,375
Manufacturing: 13,776

Largest OTM Increase (Private)
Education & Health Services: 366 (1.2%)
Leisure & Hospitality: 273 (0.3%)

Largest OTY Increase (Private)
Education & Health Services: 1,451 (5.0%)
Mining & Construction: 290 (3.0%)

**Sources:**
### Nebraska's Healthcare Industry

**Fast Facts**

**Jodie Meyer,**
**Research Analyst**

#### #1

Healthcare and social assistance was Nebraska’s largest industry sector by employment in 2018, employing 144,644 workers statewide. (1)

#### 1 in 7

The share of employed Nebraskans who worked in the healthcare and social assistance sector in 2018. (1)

#### $899

The average weekly wage for workers in Nebraska’s healthcare and social assistance sector as of 2018. (1)

#### 43,472

The average number of Nebraskans employed in the ambulatory health care services industry subsector in 2018. This was the state’s largest healthcare and social assistance subsector by employment. (1)

#### $1,329

The average weekly wage for workers in Nebraska’s ambulatory health care services subsector, which was the highest-paying healthcare and social assistance industry subsector statewide as of 2018. (1)

#### 15.6%

The amount by which overall employment in Nebraska’s healthcare and social assistance industry sector is projected to increase from 2016 to 2026, according to NDOL’s long-term industry projections. (2)

#### 21,861

The number of new jobs expected to be created in Nebraska’s healthcare and social assistance sector between 2016 and 2026. (2)
The number of health care and social assistance industry subsectors that are in the top ten industry subsectors projected to experience the most employment growth in Nebraska between 2016 and 2026. Ambulatory health care services came in at #1 with a 24.7% expected increase, social assistance ranked #3 (20.8%), and nursing and residential care facilities was #9 (15.3%). (2)

Women's share of total healthcare and social assistance employment in Nebraska as of 2017. (3)

**Projected Employment Change in Nebraska's Health Care & Social Assistance Sector by Region, 2016-2026**

![Map showing employment change by region](source)

**Employment in Nebraska's Healthcare & Social Assistance Sector by Education Level*, 2017**

![Bar chart showing employment by education level](source)

**Top 5 Most Common Occupations in Nebraska's Health Care & Social Assistance Sector, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOC Title</th>
<th>2016 Estimated Employment</th>
<th>% of Total Sector Employment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>21,283</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Assistants</td>
<td>11,890</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare Workers</td>
<td>7,701</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical &amp; Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>4,422</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Aides</td>
<td>4,406</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators, QWI Explorer, 2017.*

*Workers age 25 and over*  

The average hourly wage earned by occupational therapy assistants in Nebraska, making it the highest-paying job in the healthcare support occupational group. (4)

The projected increase in employment of home health aides in Nebraska from 2016 to 2026. They are expected to be the state’s fastest-growing healthcare occupation during this decade. (5)

### Top 10 High Wage, High Skill, High Demand (H3) Healthcare Occupations in Nebraska, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Occupation Title</th>
<th>Avg. Hourly Wage (2017)</th>
<th>Education; Work Experience (Years); Job Training</th>
<th>Avg. Annual Openings (2016-2026)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurses</td>
<td>$29.85</td>
<td>Bachelor's degree; None; None</td>
<td>1,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Licensed Practical &amp; Licensed Vocational Nurses</td>
<td>$20.10</td>
<td>Postsecondary non-degree award; None; None</td>
<td>477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental Assistants</td>
<td>$17.75</td>
<td>Postsecondary non-degree award; None; None</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapists</td>
<td>$36.97</td>
<td>Doctoral or professional degree; None; None</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Records &amp; Health Information Technicians</td>
<td>$19.33</td>
<td>Postsecondary non-degree award; None; None</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
<td>$48.46</td>
<td>Master's degree; None; None</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical &amp; Clinical Laboratory Technicians</td>
<td>$19.30</td>
<td>Associate's degree; None; None</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


### Sources:
**Initial Unemployment Claims**

Monthly Avg. Number of Claims per Week

- **3,500**
  - NE 10-Year High (Dec. 2009)
- **632**
  - Nebraska Current 2019
- **3,273**
  - NE 10-Year High (Dec. 2009)
- **1,375**
  - NE 10-Year Avg.
- **579**
  - NE 10-Year Low (Apr. 2018)

**Avg. Weekly Earnings**

All Private Employees Not Seasonally Adjusted

- **$1,200**
  - 10-Year High
- **$755.05**
  - NE 10-Year Low
- **$600**
  - 10-Year Avg.
- **$787.77**
  - NE 10-Year High (June 2019)
- **$781.94**
  - NE 10-Year Low (July 2009)
- **$562.21**
  - United States Current 2019

**Gas Prices**

Avg. Retail Price per Gallon (Regular-Grade Unleaded Gasoline)

- **$5.00**
  - 10-Year High
- **$2.87**
  - NE 10-Year High (May 2011)
- **$2.52**
  - United States Current 2019
- **$2.62**
  - NE Avg.
- **$1.68**
  - NE 10-Year Low (Feb. 2016)
- **$2.62**
  - United States Current 2019

---

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.

Data Sources: [Retrieved: September 2019.]

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

Data Sources: [Retrieved: September 2019.]

This figure represents the average price consumers paid at the pump for a gallon of regular-grade, unleaded gasoline during the specified timeframe. The main components affecting the retail price of gasoline are crude oil prices; costs and profits associated with refining, distribution, and marketing; fluctuations in supply and demand; and federal, state, and local taxes.

Data Sources: [Retrieved: September 2019.]
The labor force is comprised of all persons age 16 and over in the civilian, noninstitutional population who are either employed or unemployed but available for work and actively seeking employment. It excludes people doing unpaid homemaking or volunteer work, retired people, and people who are not employed and not actively seeking work. The labor force participation rate measures the labor force as a percentage of the total civilian, noninstitutional population, age 16 and over.¹

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.⁵

Data Sources: [Retrieved: September 2019.]

The housing price index (HPI) measures the movement of single-family house prices, based on purchases involving conventional mortgages purchased or securitized by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac. “Four-quarter” change is relative to the same quarter one year earlier. HPI data are often considered useful for estimating housing affordability and projecting future changes in mortgage default rates.⁵

Data Source: [Retrieved: September 2019.]