



2015 YEAR IN REVIEW: NEBRASKA

***Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs, unemployment and earnings data through December 2015**
Last updated on January 26th; January 2016 data will be released on March 14th*

JOBS

- In 2015, private-sector employment in Nebraska grew by 12,400 jobs, an average of 1,030 jobs per month. This represents an improvement over the 530 jobs per month added in 2014. In December, Nebraska businesses shed 800 jobs.
- The state sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms in 2015 were: other services at 5.4 percent (2,000 jobs), education and health services at 4.6 percent (6,900 jobs) and financial activities at 3.6 percent (2,600 jobs).
- Since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment, Nebraska businesses have added 65,500 jobs (an increase of 8.5 percent). Nationally, private payrolls have increased by 13.1 percent over this time.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The Nebraska unemployment rate fell by 0.2 percentage point in 2015 and was 2.9 percent in December. The rate is 1.9 percentage points below its recent peak of 4.8 percent in March 2010.
- Unemployment in Nebraska was 2.1 percentage points below the national rate of 5.0 percent in December. The rate held constant from November.
- There were 29,700 state residents unemployed in December, down 1,400 from one year prior.

EARNINGS

- Adjusting for inflation, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers in Nebraska rose by 3.7 percent in 2015. Nationally, these earnings increased by 1.7 percent (not seasonally adjusted).
- In December, average hourly earnings of private-sector workers were \$22.70. The average workweek was 33.9 hours, and average weekly earnings were \$769.53.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Nebraska	United States
Private-Sector Jobs Added	In 2015	12,400	2.6 million
	Since Feb. 2010	65,500	14.1 million
Unemployment Rate	December 2015	2.9%	5.0%
	December 2014	3.1%	5.6%
	Recession-Era Peak	4.8%	10.0%
Median Household Income (2014 \$)	2014	\$56,900	\$53,700
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	\$56,100	\$57,400
Poverty Rate	2014	11.8%	14.8%
	2007 (Pre-Recession)	9.9%	12.5%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	4.1%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2014	5.2%	7.2%
Percentage Without Health Insurance	2014	9.7%	11.7%
	2013	11.3%	14.5%

Note: full 2015 data are not yet available for many indicators on this page; they will be included in future reports

STATE GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

- Real gross domestic product (GDP) in Nebraska grew by 2.3 percent in 2014, above the national average growth rate of 2.2 percent.*
- Since 2009, annual Nebraska GDP growth has averaged 2.6 percent, compared with a national average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent.

HOUSING

- Home prices in Nebraska increased by 5.4 percent from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015. They are up 20.8 percent since their recent low in the fourth quarter of 2010.
- In November 2015, builders in Nebraska broke ground on 8,150 new housing units (seasonally adjusted annual rate), bringing the average over the past 12 months to 6,540 units. That marks a decrease of 15.9 percent from the average over the prior 12 months.

EXPORTS

- In Nebraska, goods exports totaled \$532 million in November and \$6.5 billion over the past year, down 9.2 percent from the 12 months ending in November 2014 (inflation-adjusted).
- Exports over the past 12 months are up 29.6 percent from their level in 2009 (inflation-adjusted).

* Note: Because of methodological differences, total U.S. real GDP by state differs slightly from headline national GDP figures

** A list of sources used to compile the Nebraska economic snapshot is available at: <http://bit.ly/JEC-state-by-state-sources>

*** For additional Nebraska-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Nebraska office: <http://www.dol.nebraska.gov/>