

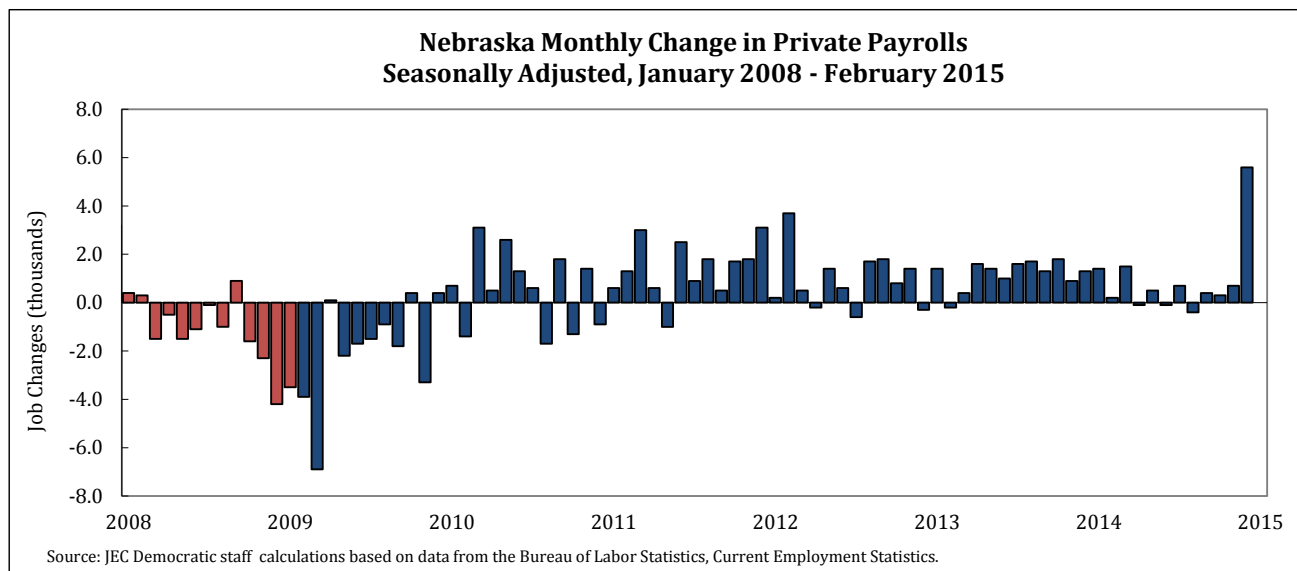


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: NEBRASKA

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through February 2015

JOBS

- In February, private-sector employment in Nebraska was unchanged. Over the past year, the Nebraska private sector has added 9,300 jobs. This compares with an increase of 14,200 jobs over the 12 months ending in February 2014.
- Nebraska private-sector employers have added 58,700 jobs (an increase of 7.6 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Nebraska, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (15,400 jobs), education and health services (10,400 jobs) and leisure and hospitality (10,200 jobs).
- The Nebraska sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (15.5 percent), leisure and hospitality (12.7 percent) and education and health services (7.4 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Nebraska was 2.7 percent in February 2015, down 0.2 percentage point from January. The rate is down 0.8 percentage point from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 4.8 percent in March 2010.
- 27,800 Nebraska residents were unemployed during February 2015, down from a recent high of 48,000 in January 2010. There are now 2,200 fewer people unemployed in Nebraska than when the recession began.
- In Nebraska, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 5,085 during February, up 3.9 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 11.5 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Nebraska, exports totaled \$539 million in January and \$7.5 billion over the past year, up 6.6 percent from the 12 months ending in January 2014 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Nebraska exports over the past 12 months are up 24.0 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Nebraska increased by 3.7 percent from the fourth quarter of 2013 to the fourth quarter of 2014 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 15.7 percent since their recent low in the fourth quarter of 2010 and are now 8.5 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Nebraska totaled 5,180 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 3.9 percent from January.
- Within the Midwest census region, which includes Nebraska, sales of new single-family homes totaled 54,000 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in February 2015, a decrease of 12.9 percent from January. Sales of existing single-family homes remained steady at 1,010,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from January to February 2015.

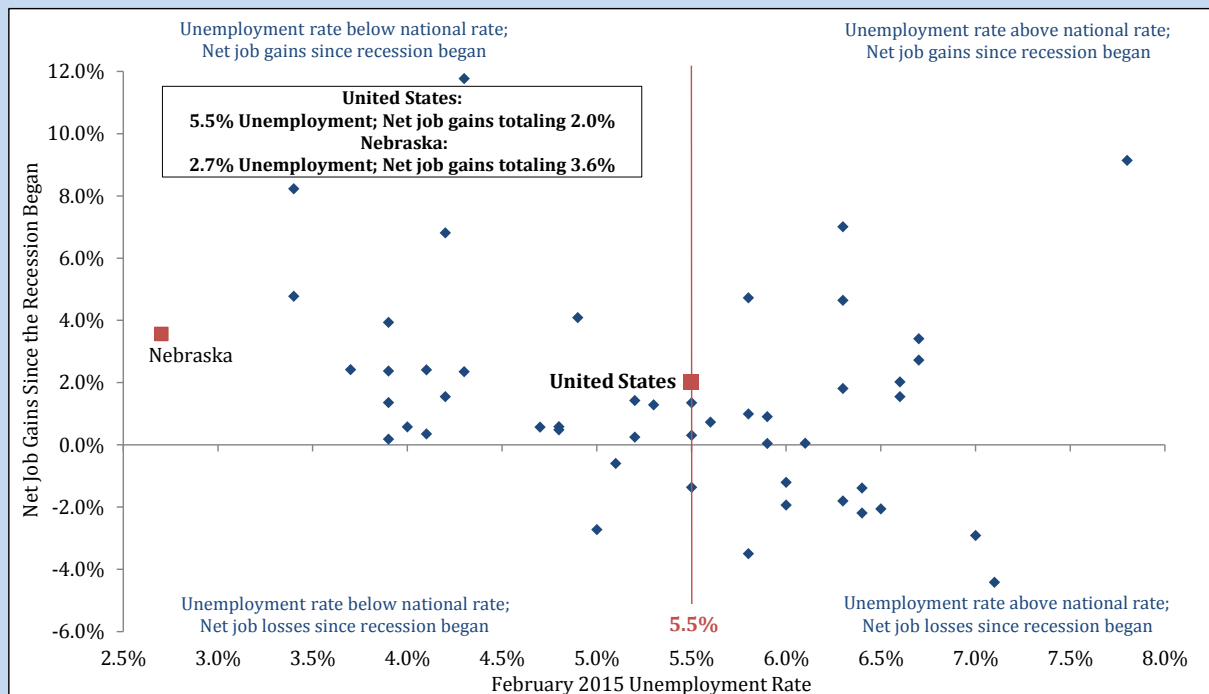
* For Nebraska-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Nebraska office: <http://www.dol.nebraska.gov/>

How Does Nebraska Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Nebraska to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Nebraska, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.9% and net job gains totaling 30.2% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

	Nebraska	United States
Unemployment Rate		
February 2015	2.7%	5.5%
February 2014	3.5%	6.7%
February 2013	3.9%	7.7%
February 2012	4.0%	8.3%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans		
2014	9.7%	8.9%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate		
2014	4.1%	5.3%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate		
2014	5.2%	7.2%
Median Household Income (2013 \$)		
2013	\$ 53,774	\$ 51,939
(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	\$ 55,246	\$ 56,436
Poverty Rate		
2013	11.0%	14.5%
(CPS Annual Social and Economic Supplement) 2007	9.9%	12.5%
Percentage Without Health Insurance		
2013	11.3%	14.5%
(American Community Survey)		