

OVERVIEW: AUGUST 2021

The Nebraska economy continued to exhibit low unemployment in August 2021. The state's unemployment rate of 2.2% was less than in August 2020. Also, the number of Nebraska jobs increased 4.0%, though the labor force numbers decreased 2.6%, so not every state economic indicator was positive.



NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

LEADING AND COINCIDENT INDICATORS

LEADING INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: **NA**

August 2020: **NA**

NA

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: **NA**

August 2020: **NA**

NA

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

COINCIDENT INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: **134.4**

August 2020: **127.3**

↑ 5.5%

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: **128.6**

August 2020: **122.3**

↑ 5.2%

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

DIFFUSION INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: **86.7**

August 2020: **82.0**

↑ 5.7%

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

MAINSTREET ECONOMY INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: **71.1**

August 2020: **45.3**

↑ 57.1%

Source: Ernie Goss, Creighton University

MID-AMERICA INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: **71.2**

August 2020: **61.8**

↑ 15.2%

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: **60.0**

August 2020: **54.3**

↑ 10.6%

Source: Ernie Goss, Creighton University

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: **NA**

August 2020: **86.5**

NA

Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATOR-NE

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: **170.4**

August 2020: **151.0**

↑ 12.8%

Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research

LEADING & COINCIDENT INDICATORS: The BBR's Leading Economic Indicator-Nebraska (LEI-N) predicts growth/decline in the coincident index six months in the future. The August 2021 value was 19.4 points higher than the 2020 value. Likewise, the survey-based Mainstreet Index was positive at 71.1. Values greater than 50.0 indicate future economic growth. The Mid-America indexes also showed positive expectations for the NE and U.S. economies. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve has suspended estimating state leading economic indicators, but the Fed's estimate of Nebraska's coincident index increased 6.8 points between 2020 and 2021 suggesting, again, economic growth for the state.

METHODOLOGY: For the Nebraska Economic Dashboard all indicators are monthly, not seasonally adjusted, except where noted. The values cited are generally three-month moving averages for June through August of each year. Non-motor vehicle net taxable sales are three-month averages for May through July. NMV taxable sales are lagged due to the timing of data availability. For quarterly data, first quarter 2021 numbers are compared to the second quarter of 2021.

NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

DIRECTOR
ANTHONY L. GOINS

NEBRASKA

JOBS AND WAGES

NON-FARM JOBS (000s), NSA 3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 1,017.5

August 2020: 978.1

 **4.0%**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 146,659.3

August 2020: 139,433.7

 **5.2%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

NON-FARM MANUFACTURING JOBS (000s), NSA 3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 101.2

August 2020: 97.1

 **4.2%**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 12,449.0

August 2020: 12,151.7

 **2.4%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

NON-FARM FINANCE/ INSURANCE JOBS (000s), NSA 3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 62.8

August 2020: 65.0

 **-3.3%**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 6,552.5

August 2020: 6,488.8

 **1.0%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

NON-FARM HEALTHCARE JOBS, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 145.7

August 2020: 133.2

 **8.5%**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 15,991.0

August 2020: 18,218.9

 **-12.2%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

PRIVATE AVERAGE WAGE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: \$55,369.5

August 2020: \$47,637.1

 **16.2%**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: \$62,885.3

August 2020: \$52,882.8

 **18.9%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics

SUMMARY: As noted, Nebraska's nonfarm job growth increased 4.0%, compared to 5.2% for the U.S. Nonfarm employment is the number of jobs by industry as derived from a monthly survey of employers. Nebraska's average wage did not grow as fast as the U.S. average rate — 18.2% vs. 20.0% — and the average value remained well below the national average value. When comparing August 2020 to August 2021, manufacturing job growth, at 4.2%, exceeded the U.S. increase of 2.4%. Nebraska's finance/insurance sector jobs decreased 3.3%, while the U.S. gained 1.0%. Nebraska healthcare jobs numbers increased at a much faster rate (8.5%) than U.S. healthcare jobs, which fell 12.2%.

LABOR FORCE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NSA 3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 2.2

August 2020: 5.1

 **-2.9**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 5.7%

August 2020: 10.1%

 **-4.4**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics & Current Population Statistics

LABOR FORCE, NSA 3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 1,030.0

August 2020: 1,057.9

 **-2.6%**

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 162,257.3

August 2020: 161,074.3

 **0.7%**

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics & Current Population Statistics

SUMMARY: In August 2021, the Nebraska labor force decreased by 2.6% while the U.S. labor force grew 0.7%. The labor force is the total number of persons available to work as determined by a household survey. The size of the Nebraska labor force began to decline last year, and that trend continues. However, a higher percentage of Nebraska's labor force was employed than nationally. The state unemployment rate was 2.2% in August 2021 compared to 5.7% for the nation. Compared to 2020, the U.S. unemployment rate dropped 4.4 points versus a 3.2 drop for the state. That indicates that NE's unemployment didn't increase as much as the U.S. throughout 2020.

GDP INCOME AND POPULATION

REAL GDP IN CHAINED DOLLARS (mm)

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 1 2021: \$118,971

Quarter 4 2020: \$119,441

↓ -0.4

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 1 2021: \$18,971,000

Quarter 4 2020: \$19,056,000

↑ 1.6%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SQCGDP9

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 1 2021: \$61,289

Quarter 4 2020: \$64,339

↓ -4.7

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 1 2021: \$62,215

Quarter 4 2020: \$66,191

↓ -6.0

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SQINC1

POPULATION

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 1 2021: 1,941,133

Quarter 4 2020: 1,940,333

↑ 0.04%

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 1 2021: 330,290,762

Quarter 4 2020: 330,092,941

↑ 0.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, SQINC1

OTHER ECONOMIC INDICATORS

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (UNITS)

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: 677.3

August 2020: 726.0

↓ -6.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (VAL.)

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: \$141,400,000

August 2020: \$142,725,667

↓ -0.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

REAL TRADE WEIGHTED U.S. DOLLAR INDEX: BROAD, GOODS

3-Month Rolling Average

UNITED STATES:

August 2021: 112.6

August 2020: 118.8

↓ -5.2%

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve, FRED

NMV NET TAXABLE SALES

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: \$3,291,782,437

July 2020: \$3,124,398,501

↑ 5.4%

Source: NE Dept. of Revenue

AVERAGE GAS

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: \$3.0

August 2020: \$2.1

↑ 42.7%

Source: NE Dept. of Energy and Environment

AVERAGE PRICE OIL

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

August 2021: \$71.3

August 2020: \$33.9

↑ 110.1%

Source: NE Dept. of Energy and Environment

SUMMARY:

GDP & Population: Gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced in a region. Real GDP is GDP with the effects of inflation removed. Comparing Quarter 1 2021 to Quarter 2 2021 shows that Nebraska's real GDP decreased 0.4%. Per capita income decreased 4.7% in NE and 6.0% nationally over those two quarters. The estimated populations of Nebraska and the U.S. didn't change much from Quarter 1 2021 to Quarter 2 2021, increasing 0.04% and 0.1%, respectively.

Other Economic Indicators: Permit issuing places in Nebraska issued 6.7% fewer building permits in August 2021 than in August 2020. The value of those permits was \$1.3 million less than in 2020. August 2021 average gasoline prices per gallon in Nebraska were .09 cents higher than the previous August. The index value of the dollar, compared to other world currencies, was 8.1 points lower than last year. If the dollar is valued less compared to foreign currencies, typically, U.S. export sales are stronger.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

RESEARCH ANALYST
MICHAEL LUNDEEN
michael.lundeen@nebraska.gov

PHONE 800-426-6505

opportunity.nebraska.gov/research/