

OVERVIEW: DECEMBER 2021

The Nebraska economy continued to exhibit low unemployment through the close of 2021. The state's unemployment rate stayed consistent from November at 1.3%, which was 1.7 points below the previous December. The number of Nebraska jobs continued to increase (2.8%), while labor force numbers decreased slightly by 0.2%. Although jobs are coming back, the data show the labor force is still lagging.



NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

LEADING AND COINCIDENT INDICATORS

LEADING INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: NA

December 2020: NA

NA

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: NA

December 2020: NA

NA

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

COINCIDENT INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: 136.6

December 2020: 128.5

↑ 6.3%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: 131.3

December 2020: 123.8

↑ 6.0%

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

DIFFUSION INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: 100.0

December 2020: 81.3

↑ 23.0%

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

MAINSTREET ECONOMY INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: 70.9

December 2020: 50.5

↑ 40.4%

Source: Ernie Goss, Creighton University

MID-AMERICA INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: 66.2

December 2020: 68.4

↓ -3.2%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: 60.4

December 2020: 59.1

↑ 2.2%

Source: Ernie Goss, Creighton University

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: NA

December 2020: NA

NA

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

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATOR-NE

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: 171.2

December 2020: 51.93

↑ 229.8%

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

LEADING & COINCIDENT INDICATORS: Two main indicators forecasted growth for Nebraska. The December value for BBR's leading indicator was 119 points higher than the 2020 value. Similarly, the Creighton University's Mainstreet index also indicated positive potential. However, the Mid-America Index for Nebraska was displaying a small decline compared to 2020, potentially due to the slow growth in manufacturing jobs. Despite this trend in manufacturing jobs, the Philadelphia Federal Reserve estimated Nebraska's coincident index increased by 8 percent from 2020, suggesting a positive push for economic growth overall.

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 October through December of each year. Non-motor vehicle net taxable sales are three-month averages for September to November. NMV taxable sales are lagged due to the timing of data availability. For quarterly data, third quarter 2021 numbers are compared to third quarter 2020.

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NEBRASKA

JOBS AND WAGES

NON-FARM JOBS (000s), NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **1,028**

December 2020: **1,000**

↑ 2.8%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **149,800**

December 2020: **143,736**

↑ 4.2%

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

NON-FARM MANUFACTURING JOBS (000s), NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **100.8**

December 2020: **98.5**

↑ 2.3%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **12,564**

December 2020: **12,200**

↑ 3.0%

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

NON-FARM FINANCE/ INSURANCE JOBS (000s), NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **62.7**

December 2020: **64.2**

↓ -2.3%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **6,580.8**

December 2020: **6,540.0**

↑ 0.6%

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

NON-FARM HEALTHCARE JOBS, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **141.0**

December 2020: **137.8**

↑ 2.3%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **16,069.6**

December 2020: **19,945.7**

↓ -19.4%

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

PRIVATE AVERAGE WAGE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **\$59,869**

December 2020: **\$56,305**

↑ 6.3%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **\$64,611**

December 2020: **\$61,713**

↑ 4.7%

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

SUMMARY: As noted, Nebraska's nonfarm job growth increased by 2.8%, which was slower than the U.S. growth of 4.2%. Nonfarm employment is the number of jobs by industry as derived from a monthly survey of employers. Nebraska's average wage has continued to rise, and exceeds the U.S.'s average wage growth – 6.3% compared to 4.7%. This continued increase in the average wage has narrowed the gap between Nebraska and the U.S. to less than \$4,800, compared to the 2020 gap of \$5,400. Nebraska wrapped up 2021 with positive job growth in manufacturing and healthcare compared to 2020. The growth was not apparent throughout the U.S. as a major decline in healthcare jobs (19.4%).

LABOR FORCE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **1.3**

December 2020: **3.0**

↓ -1.7

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **3.9**

December 2020: **6.5**

↓ -2.5

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

LABOR FORCE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: **1,025**

December 2020: **1,027**

↓ -0.2%

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: **161,886**

December 2020: **160,696**

↑ 0.7%

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

SUMMARY: In December 2021, the Nebraska labor force decreased by 0.2%, 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 Nebraska labor force started declining last year, and that trend has stayed steady. However, a higher percentage of Nebraska's labor force was employed than nationally. The state's not-seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate was 1.3% in December 2021 compared to 3.9% for the nation. The U.S. unemployment rate has continued to drop from 2020 pandemic highs from 2.5 points, versus a 1.3 point drop for the state.

GDP INCOME AND POPULATION

REAL GDP IN CHAINED DOLLARS (mm)

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 3 2021: \$123,660

Quarter 3 2020: \$118,677

 **4.2%**

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 3 2021: \$1,938,407

Quarter 3 2020: \$1,942,645

 **4.9%**

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

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 3 2021: \$62,432

Quarter 3 2020: \$56,412

 **10.7%**

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 3 2021: \$62,866

Quarter 3 2020: \$59,928

 **4.9%**

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

POPULATION

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 3 2021: 1,942,645

Quarter 3 2020: 1,938,407

 **0.2%**

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 3 2021: 330,587,721

Quarter 3 2020: 329,646,660

 **0.3%**

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

OTHER ECONOMIC INDICATORS

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (UNITS)

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: 852

December 2020: 943

 **-9.7%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (VAL.)

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: \$98,202,558

December 2020: \$153,746,000

 **-36.1%**

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

3-Month Rolling Average

UNITED STATES:

December 2021: 114.9

December 2020: 113.9

 **0.9%**

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve, FRED

NMV NET TAXABLE SALES

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

October 2021: \$2,290,199,989

October 2020: \$3,199,807,195

 **-28.4%**

Source: NE Dept. of Revenue

AVERAGE GAS

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: \$2.36

December 2020: \$2.15

 **9.6%**

Source: NE Dept. of Energy and Environment

AVERAGE PRICE OIL

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

December 2021: \$77.44

December 2020: \$42.45

 **82.4%**

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. As the pandemic's effects have worn down, Nebraska and the U.S. have continued to improve their real GDP. Comparing Quarter 3 2020 to Quarter 3 2021, Nebraska's real GDP increased by 4.2% and the U.S. increased by 4.9%. As mentioned, wage rates have increased in Nebraska compared to 2020. Subsequently, personal income per capita rose 10.7% between Quarter 3 2020 and Quarter 3 2021. This is significantly higher than the U.S. increase of 4.9%.

Other Economic Indicators: Permit issuing places in Nebraska issued 9.7% fewer building permits in December 2021 than in December 2020. The value of permits has also continued to decline, being \$55 million less than in 2020. December 2021 average gasoline prices per gallon in Nebraska continued to rise. These rises are unsurprising, as the price of crude oil was 82.4% higher than in 2020. The weighted index value of the dollar compared to other world currencies was 1.04 points higher than last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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