NEBRASKA
DEPT. OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

6 REGIONS
One Nebraska

REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
INITIATIVE

SOUTHEAST

COMMUNITY COLLEGE REGION

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
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2024

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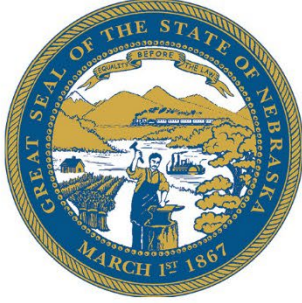
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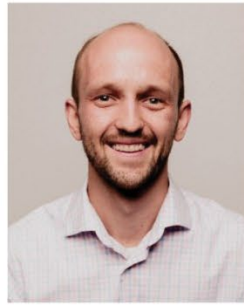
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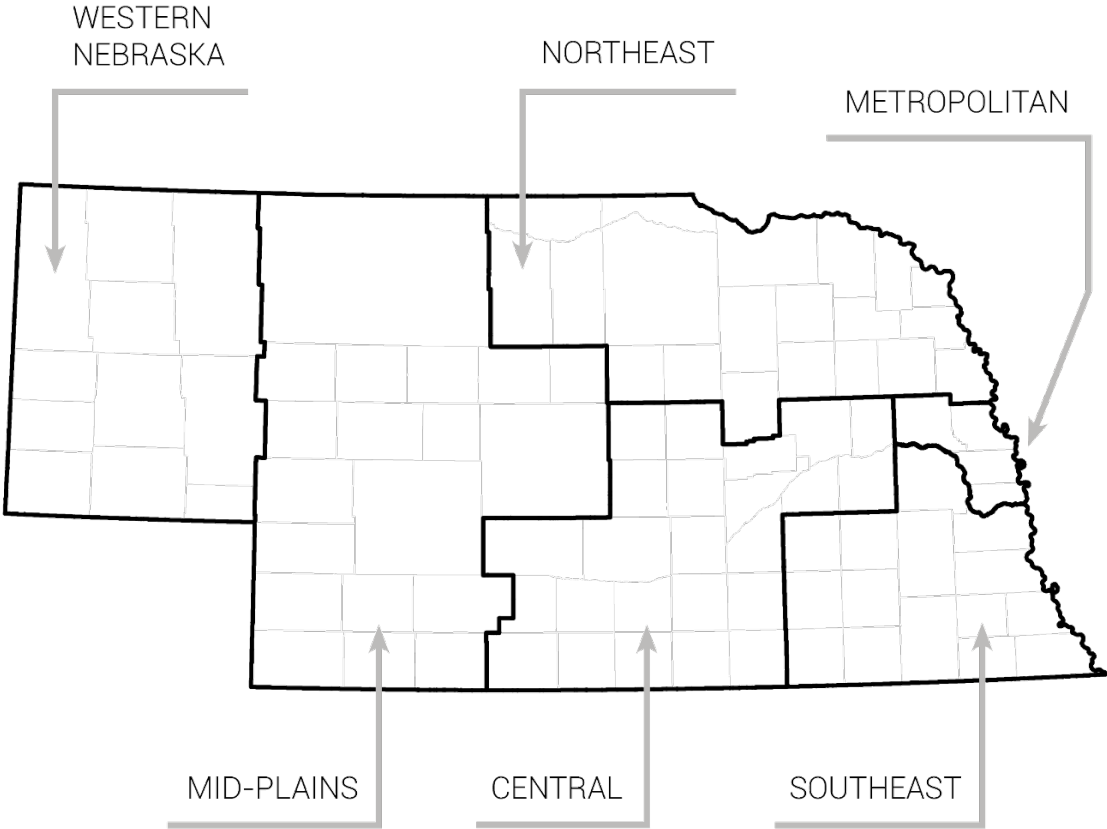**Josie Schafer**

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SOUTHEAST REGION

The Southeast Community College Region encompasses the counties of:

- Cass
- Fillmore
- Gage
- Jefferson
- Johnson
- Lancaster
- Nemaha
- Otoe

- Pawnee
- Richardson
- Saline
- Saunders
- Seward
- Thayer
- York

DEMOGRAPHICS

The demographics section provides detailed data on the population, its composition, and how the population has changed over time within the Southeast Community College Region of Nebraska, referred to here as the Southeast Region. Much of the data presented in this section is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey spanning multiple years and analyzed by the University of Nebraska at Omaha's Center for Public Affairs Research (UNO CPAR).

Total Population

The following images display the total population in the Southeast Region by county for the year 2022, the most recent year of data available from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey. They also illustrate the change in population by county in the Southeast Region from 2010 to 2022, along with a comparison of the population in the region to other community college regions in Nebraska.

Population by County, 2022

Percentage Population Change, 2010 to 2022
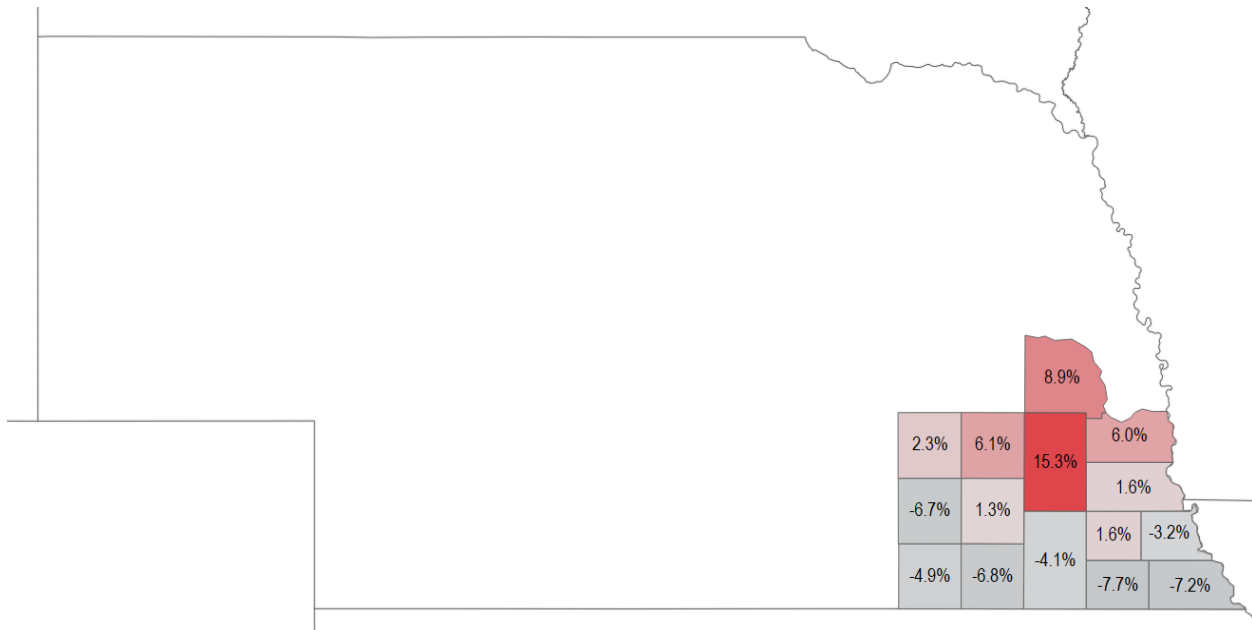
Population by Region in 2022 and Population Change 2010 to 2022

Region	Population 2022	Population Change 2010 to 2022
Central	309,453	-2.9%
Metropolitan	831,969	11.5%
Mid-Plains	88,027	-5.1%
Northeast	150,290	-3.3%
Southeast	495,430	0.2%
Western	83,770	-7.6%

Population by Age Group

The economic vitality of a region is related to having a large percentage of the population in the 18 to 64 age group as they are the most active in the workforce.

This section outlines the population's age composition in 2022 and compares it to the distribution in 2012, delineating three age brackets: under 18, 18 to 64, 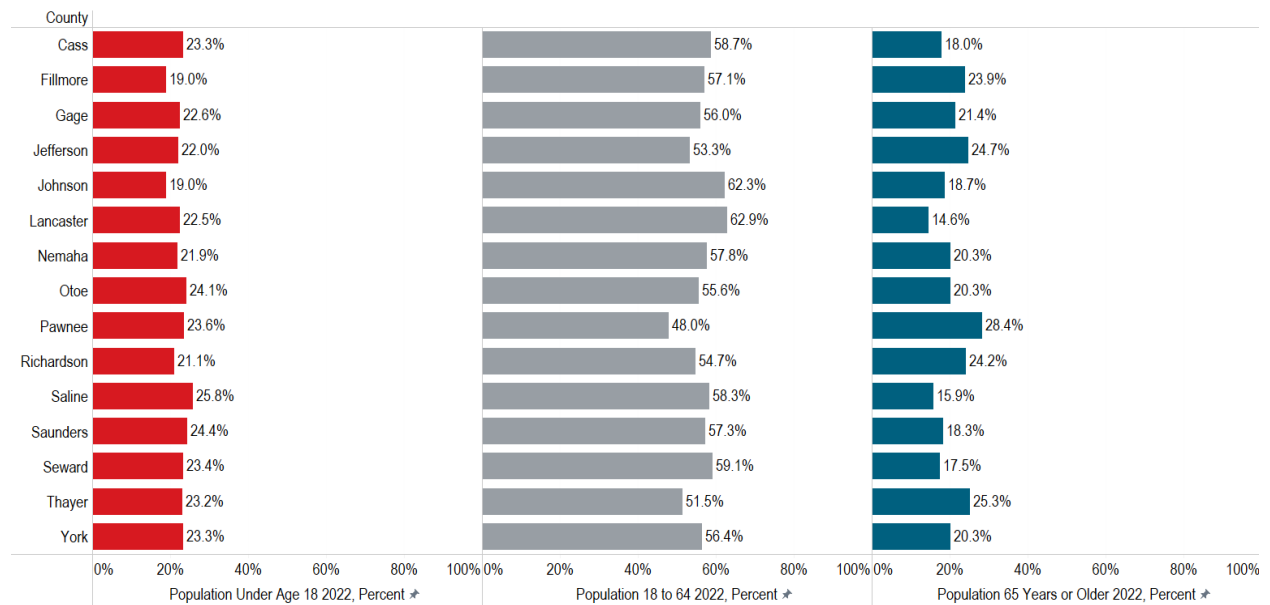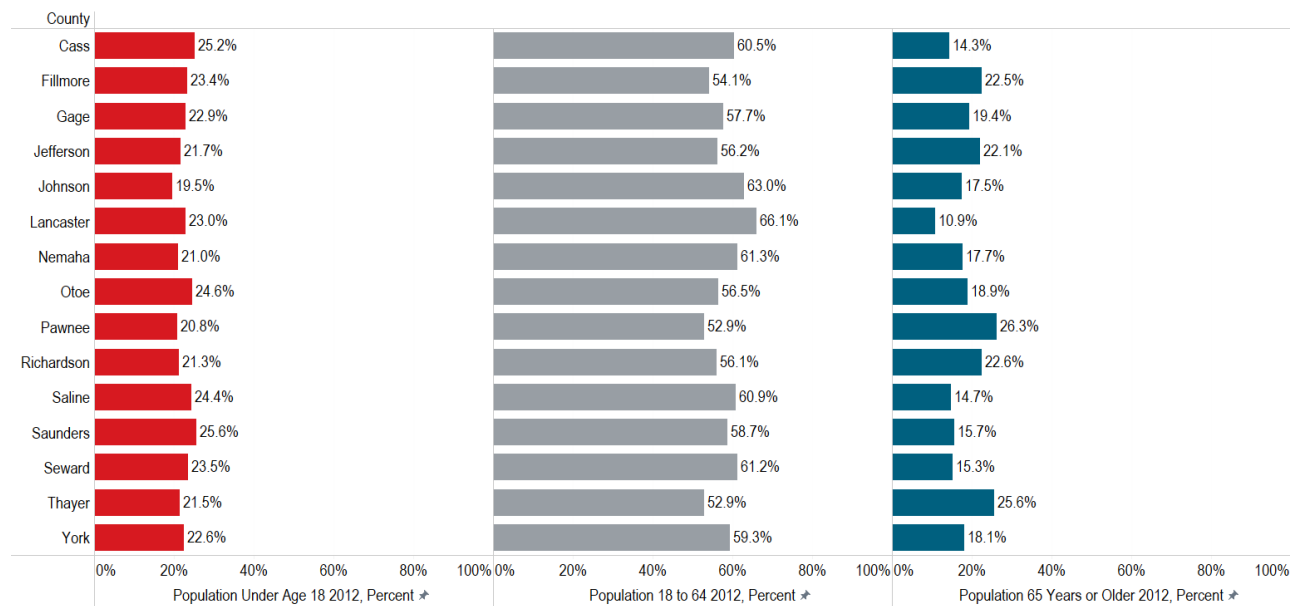and 65 and over. A decline in the population aged 18 to 64 may indicate potential challenges for sustaining economic productivity.

Population by Age Group, 2022

County	Population Under Age 18 2022, Percent	Population 18 to 64 2022, Percent	Population 65 Years or Older 2022, Percent
Cass	23.3%	58.7%	18.0%
Fillmore	19.0%	57.1%	23.9%
Gage	22.6%	56.0%	21.4%
Jefferson	22.0%	53.3%	24.7%
Johnson	19.0%	62.3%	18.7%
Lancaster	22.5%	62.9%	14.6%
Nemaha	21.9%	57.8%	20.3%
Otoe	24.1%	55.6%	20.3%
Pawnee	23.6%	48.0%	28.4%
Richardson	21.1%	54.7%	24.2%
Saline	25.8%	58.3%	15.9%
Saunders	24.4%	57.3%	18.3%
Seward	23.4%	59.1%	17.5%
Thayer	23.2%	51.5%	25.3%
York	23.3%	56.4%	20.3%

Population by Age Group, 2012

| County	Population Under Age 18 2012, Percent	Population 18 to 64 2012, Percent	Population 65 Years or Older 2012, Percent
Cass	25.2%	60.5%	14.3%
Fillmore	23.4%	54.1%	22.5%
Gage	22.9%	57.7%	19.4%
Jefferson	21.7%	56.2%	22.1%
Johnson	19.5%	63.0%	17.5%
Lancaster	23.0%	66.1%	10.9%
Nemaha	21.0%	61.3%	17.7%
Otoe	24.6%	56.5%	18.9%
Pawnee	20.8%	52.9%	26.3%
Richardson	21.3%	56.1%	22.6%
Saline	24.4%	60.9%	14.7%
Saunders	25.6%	58.7%	15.7%
Seward	23.5%	61.2%	15.3%
Thayer	21.5%	52.9%	25.6%
York	22.6%	59.3%	18.1%

The percentage of the population aged 65 and older by county in 2022 is included for reference.

**Population Aged 65 and Older, 2022**
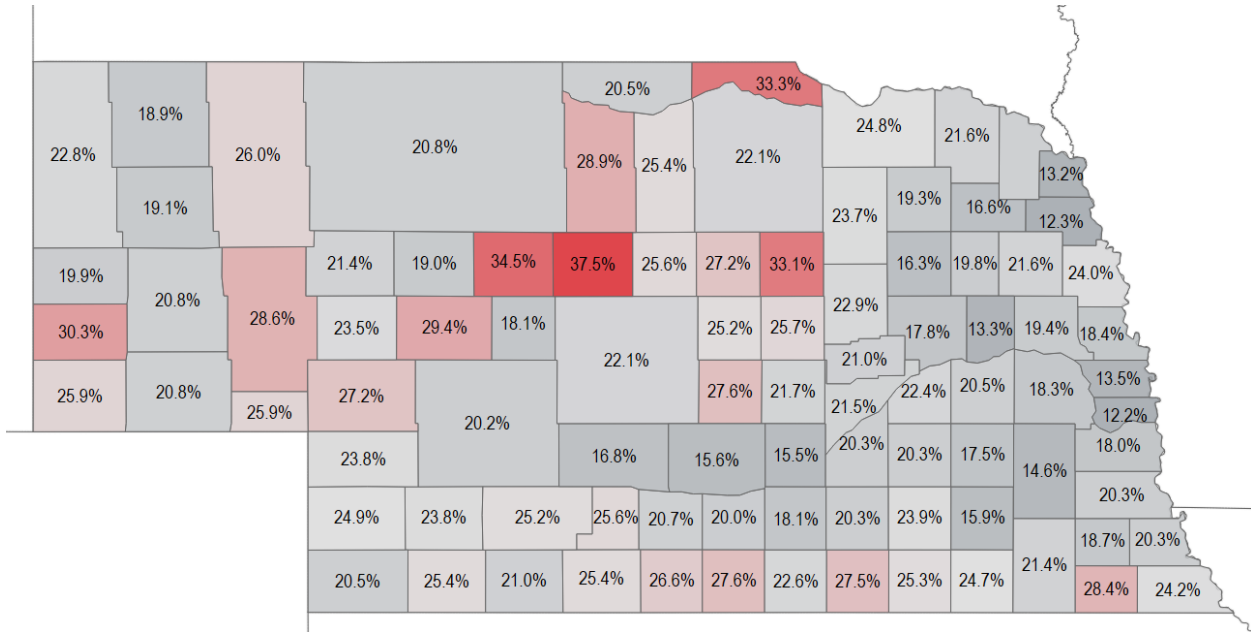
Migration

Shifts in a region's total population result from three main factors: births, deaths, and migration. Analyzing changes in the age composition of the population sheds light on trends in births and deaths. Next, we delve into the components of migration, which encompass two main aspects:

1. County-to-county migrations, involving individuals relocating from one county within Nebraska to another.

2. Domestic migration, which entails people either leaving Nebraska for another state or arriving in Nebraska from another state.

Previous statewide analysis by UNO CPAR has revealed that most Nebraskans engage in county-to-county migration within the state. There is a notable trend of Nebraskans leaving rural counties and resettling in counties within metropolitan areas. Consequently, most domestic out-migration happens from metropolitan counties. This overarching trend is also evident within the Southeast Region.

In the first image, we aggregate migration data from 2018 to 2022 to provide a comprehensive estimate of population gains and losses in the Southeast Region. This data reveals the number of individuals who either left or arrived in each county within the region from and to other counties in Nebraska, including those within the same region. It is important to note that while migration occurs both into and out of each county annually, we present only the net migration estimates to illustrate the overall impact of migration on the total population

Net County-to-County Migration in Nebraska, 2018 to 2022
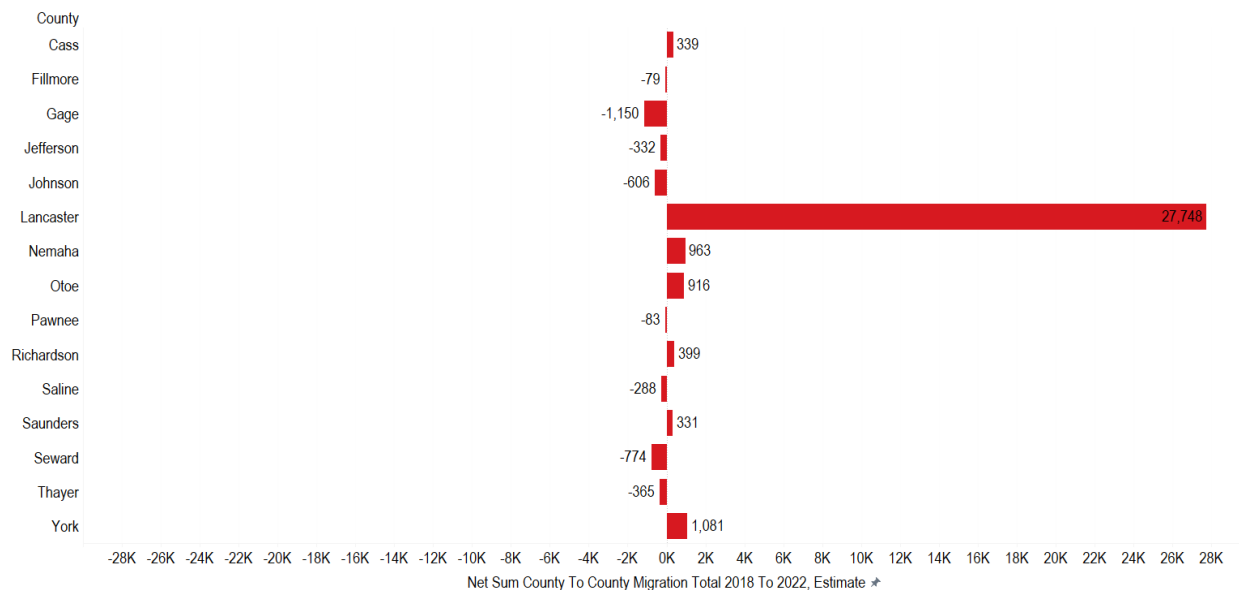
The next image depicts net domestic migration from 2018 to 2022 by county in the Southeast Region. Domestic migration involves individuals moving in or out of Nebraska by state.

Net Domestic Migration, 2018 to 2022

Net Sum Domestic Migration Total 2018 To 2022, Estimate
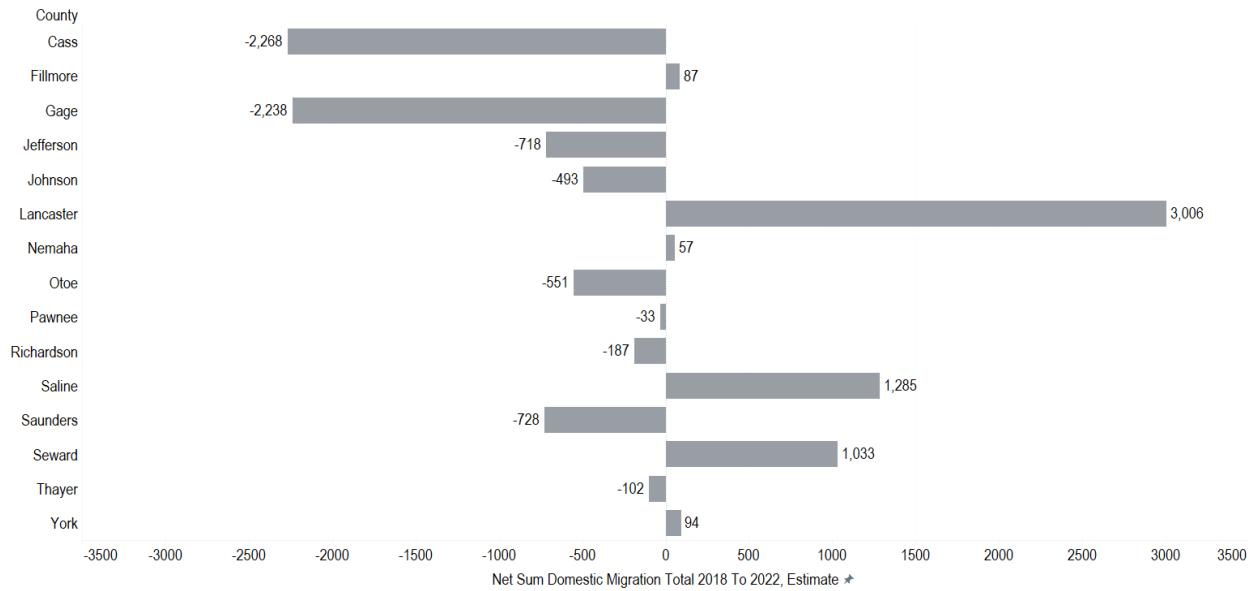
The table compares net domestic migration by community college region in Nebraska.

Net Domestic Migration by Region, 2018 to 2022

Region	Net Domestic Migration
Central	-1,329
Metropolitan	-12,244
Mid-Plains	-603
Northeast	781
Southeast	-1,756
Western	-259

Migration by Age

Individuals migrate at various stages of life. Examining the age of migration can help infer reasons for migration and provide valuable insights into other aspects of population change within a region.

The next set of graphs depict county-to-county migration patterns of Nebraskans across various age groups, ranging from 1 to 75 and over. This data is for the year 2022 only.

Net County-to-County Migration Ages 1 to 19, 2022

County	Net Migration County to County Ages 1 To 4 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 5 To 17 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 18 To 19 2022, Estimate
Cass	-49	30	-133
Fillmore	20	-13	-41
Gage	9	62	-125
Jefferson	-3	4	-18
Johnson	8	7	-13
Lancaster	-180	718	1,976
Nemaha	-3	19	140
Otoe	132	6	-76
Pawnee	0	0	3
Richardson	38	21	-8
Saline	-77	89	183
Saunders	21	325	-173
Seward	12	-548	266
Thayer	0	-5	-96
York	24	-2	-27

Net County-to-County Migration Ages 20 to 34, 2022

County	Net Migration County to County Ages 20 To 24 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 25 To 29 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 30 To 34 2022, Estimate
Cass	129	77	-62
Fillmore	57	-26	-31
Gage	-206	-32	49
Jefferson	-2	30	23
Johnson	8	-37	26
Lancaster	1,238	308	123
Nemaha	-15	-23	3
Otoe	93	97	34
Pawnee	13	-7	0
Richardson	57	19	-4
Saline	-40	-140	-13
Saunders	-46	77	96
Seward	23	-55	1
Thayer	32	3	14
York	-68	57	-1

Net County-to-County Migration Ages 35 to 49, 2022

County	Net Migration County to County Ages 35 To 39 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 40 To 44 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 45 To 49 2022, Estimate
Cass	17	11	22
Fillmore	17	15	0
Gage	102	46	-7
Jefferson	-27	-14	7
Johnson	-22	-24	14
Lancaster	92	-81	301
Nemaha	-6	5	9
Otoe	70	38	22
Pawnee	-13	0	0
Richardson	8	-7	1
Saline	37	97	71
Saunders	66	28	55
Seward	-4	-10	-210
Thayer	6	0	16
York	31	-11	-13

Net County-to-County Migration Ages 50 to 64, 2022

County	Net Migration County to County Ages 50 To 54 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 55 To 59 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 60 To 64 2022, Estimate
Cass	8	1	-22
Fillmore	5	11	9
Gage	22	5	2
Jefferson	-1	9	11
Johnson	6	14	3
Lancaster	217	-189	108
Nemaha	19	-7	14
Otoe	-9	32	-8
Pawnee	0	-1	-9
Richardson	9	-2	-22
Saline	-35	14	26
Saunders	26	58	-47
Seward	-163	-11	23
Thayer	-2	-13	-4
York	-82	10	-11

Net County-to-County Migration Ages 65 to 75, 2022

County	Net Migration County to County Ages 65 To 69 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 70 To 74 2022, Estimate	Net Migration County to County Ages 75 And Over 2022, Estimate
Cass	17	5	1
Fillmore	-9	11	-3
Gage	-1	-2	-75
Jefferson	0	6	-14
Johnson	0	-3	-11
Lancaster	-145	-55	120
Nemaha	18	10	12
Otoe	23	-12	-11
Pawnee	1	0	-24
Richardson	4	13	-14
Saline	3	1	-12
Saunders	-13	16	10
Seward	18	37	15
Thayer	-17	-6	-7
York	12	-6	17

13

The next set of graphs explores domestic migration—movement in and out of states—by age. We examine this data by age group to better understand when and, thus, why someone may move in or out of Nebraska. This data is for 2022.

Net Domestic Migration Ages 1 to 19, 2022
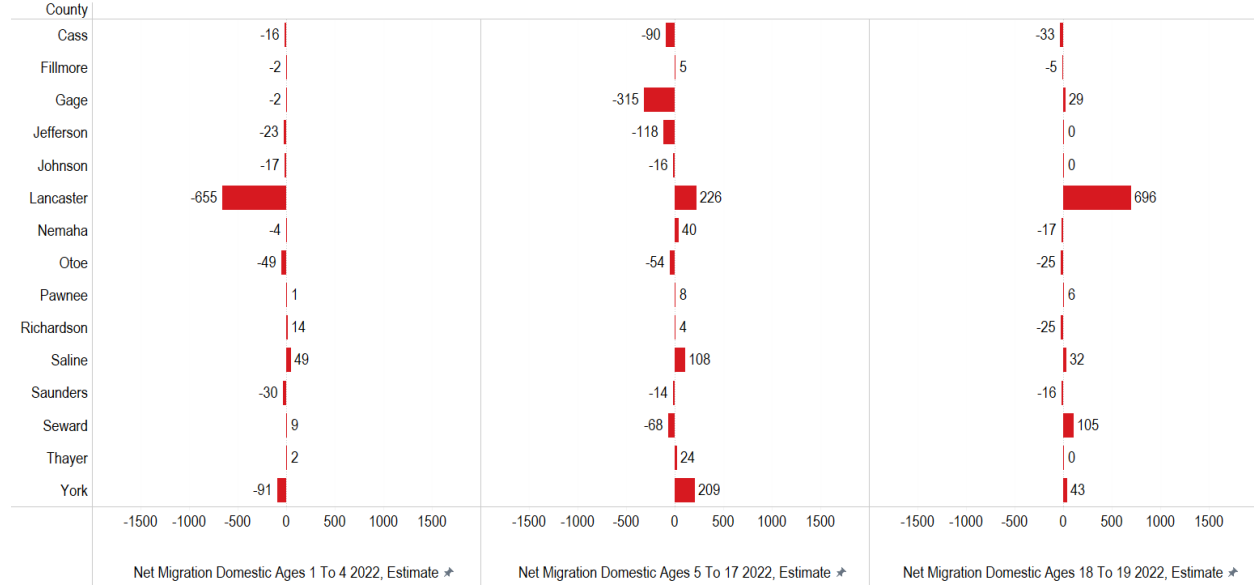
Net Domestic Migration Ages 20 to 34, 2022

Net Domestic Migration Ages 35 to 49, 2022
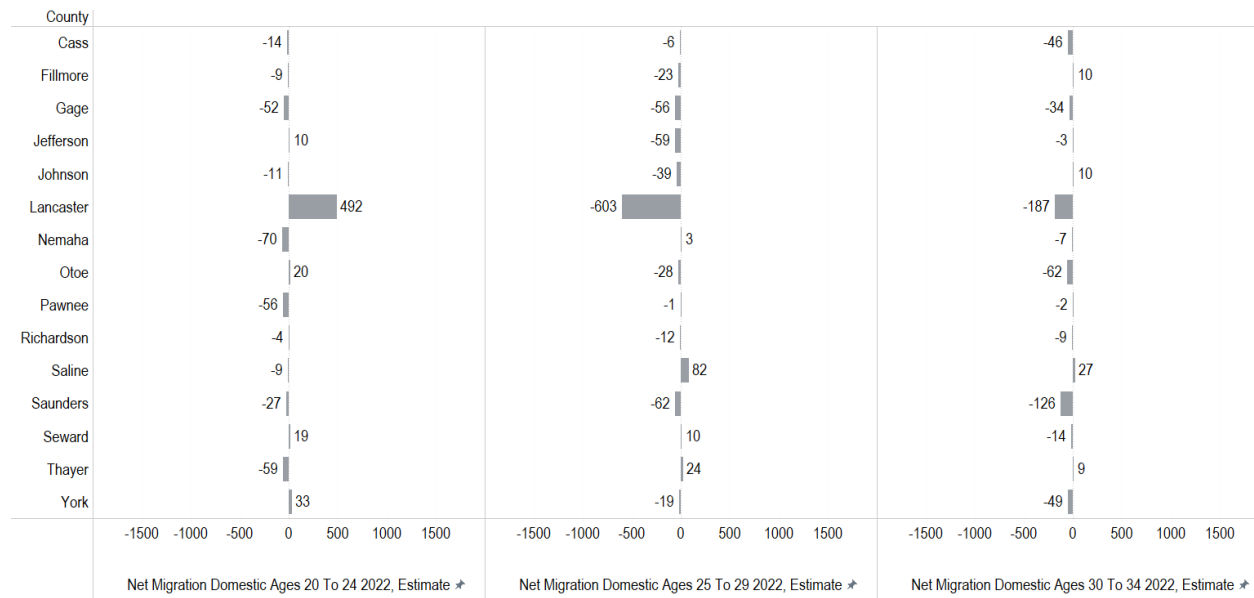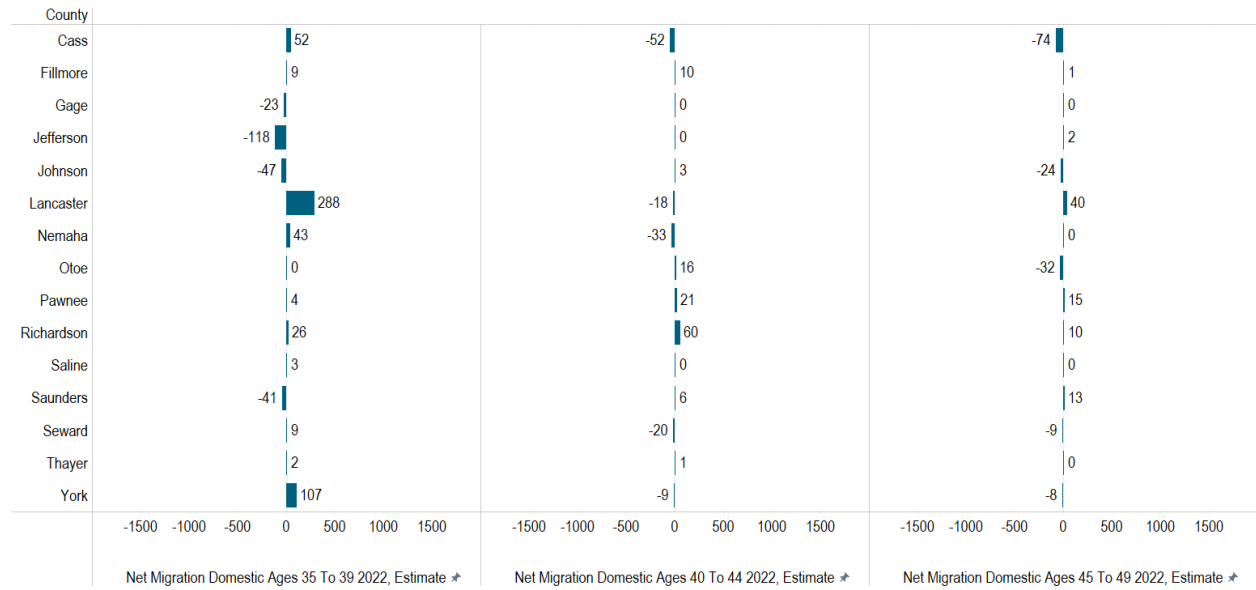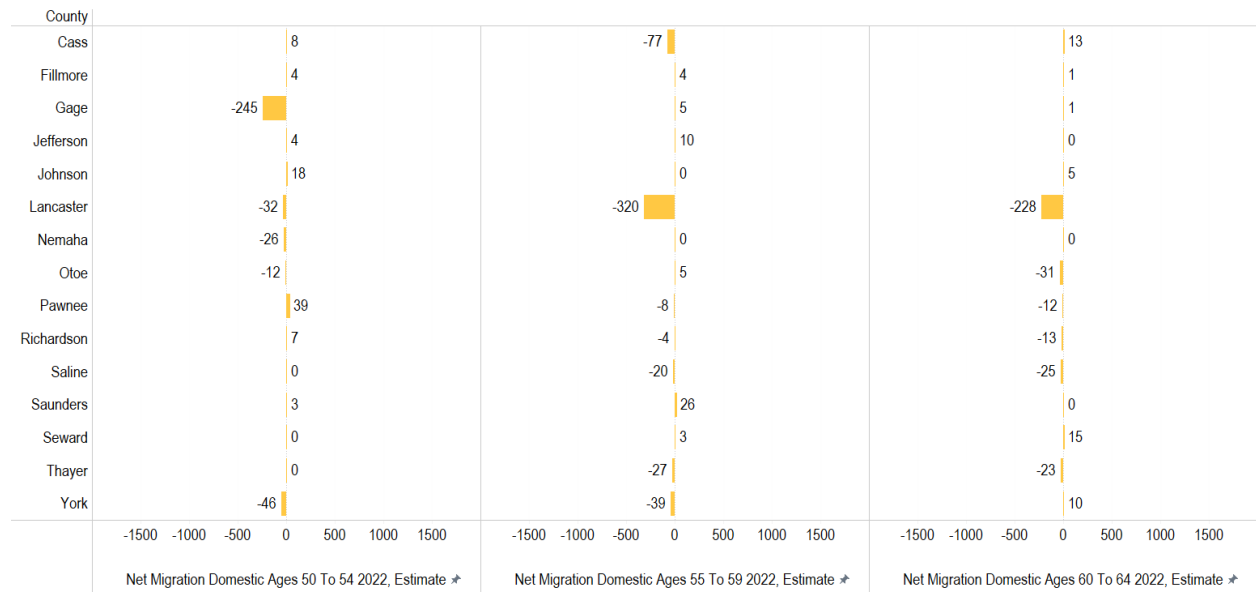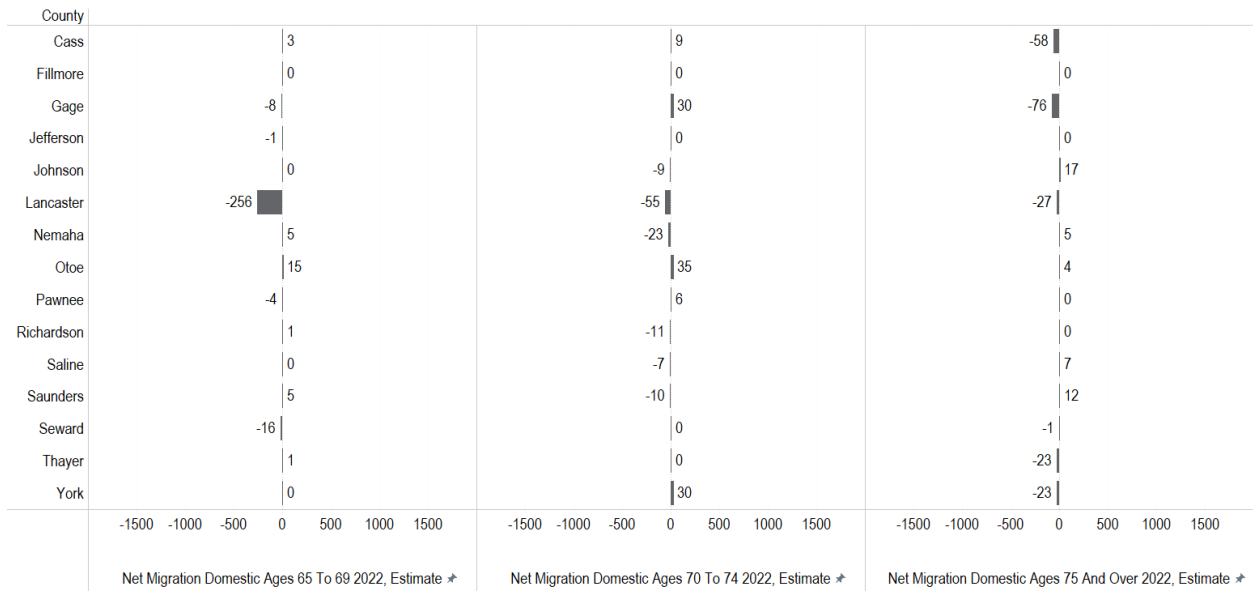
County	Net Migration Domestic Ages 35 To 39 2022, Estimate	Net Migration Domestic Ages 40 To 44 2022, Estimate	Net Migration Domestic Ages 45 To 49 2022, Estimate
Cass	52	-52	-74
Fillmore	9	10	1
Gage	-23	0	0
Jefferson	-118	0	2
Johnson	-47	3	-24
Lancaster	288	-18	40
Nemaha	43	-33	0
Otoe	0	16	-32
Pawnee	4	21	15
Richardson	26	60	10
Saline	3	0	0
Saunders	-41	6	13
Seward	9	-20	-9
Thayer	2	1	0
York	107	-9	-8

Net Domestic Migration Ages 50 to 64, 2022

County	Net Migration Domestic Ages 50 To 54 2022, Estimate	Net Migration Domestic Ages 55 To 59 2022, Estimate	Net Migration Domestic Ages 60 To 64 2022, Estimate
Cass	8	-77	13
Fillmore	4	4	1
Gage	-245	5	1
Jefferson	4	10	0
Johnson	18	0	5
Lancaster	-32	-320	-228
Nemaha	-26	0	0
Otoe	-12	5	-31
Pawnee	39	-8	-12
Richardson	7	-4	-13
Saline	0	-20	-25
Saunders	3	26	0
Seward	0	3	15
Thayer	0	-27	-23
York	-46	-39	10

Net Sum Domestic Migration in Southeast Region Ages 65 to 75, 2022

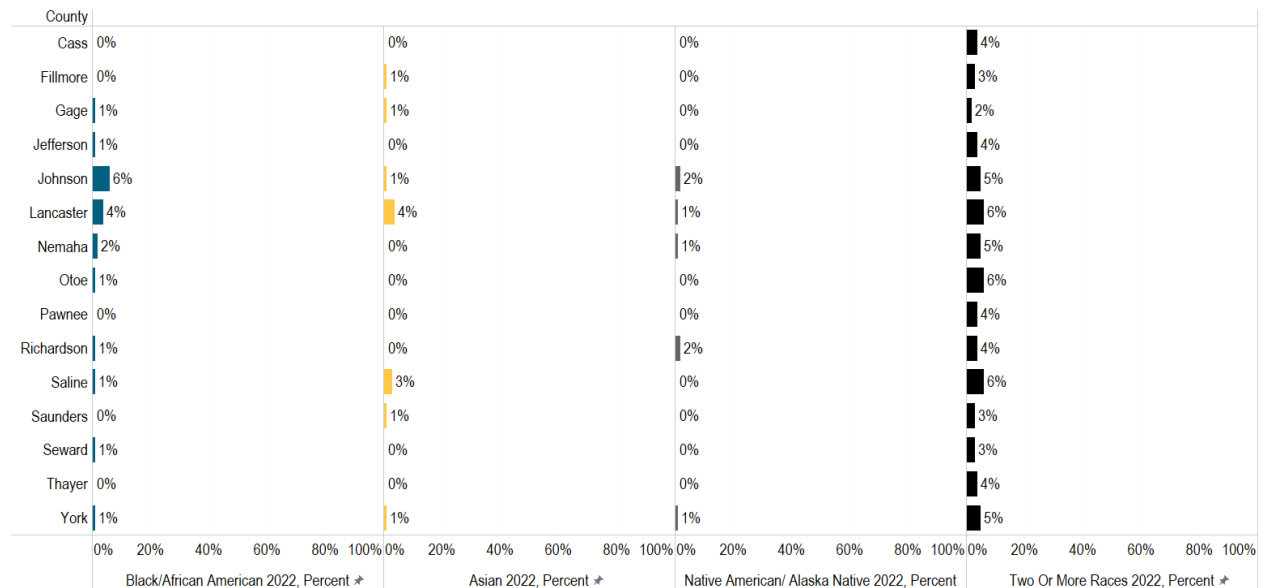| County	Net Migration Domestic Ages 65 To 69 2022, Estimate	Net Migration Domestic Ages 70 To 74 2022, Estimate	Net Migration Domestic Ages 75 And Over 2022, Estimate
Cass	3	9	-58
Fillmore	0	0	0
Gage	-8	30	-76
Jefferson	-1	0	0
Johnson	0	-9	17
Lancaster	-256	-55	-27
Nemaha	5	-23	5
Otoe	15	35	4
Pawnee	-4	6	0
Richardson	1	-11	0
Saline	0	-7	7
Saunders	5	-10	12
Seward	-16	0	-1
Thayer	1	0	-23
York	0	30	-23

Population by Race and Ethnicity

The next section examines the racial and ethnic composition of the population in each county, based on data from 2022. While many counties in this region have historically been predominantly White and have maintained this demographic profile, there has been some growth in the percentage of the population identifying as persons of color, particularly within the Latino/a population, across most counties.

Population Identifying as White Alone and Latino/a, 2022

County	White Alone 2022, Percent	Latino/a 2022, Percent
Cass	93%	4%
Fillmore	95%	4%
Gage	96%	3%
Jefferson	94%	5%
Johnson	82%	10%
Lancaster	83%	8%
Nemaha	92%	3%
Otoe	89%	9%
Pawnee	95%	2%
Richardson	92%	2%
Saline	81%	27%
Saunders	95%	2%
Seward	96%	3%
Thayer	95%	3%
York	92%	5%
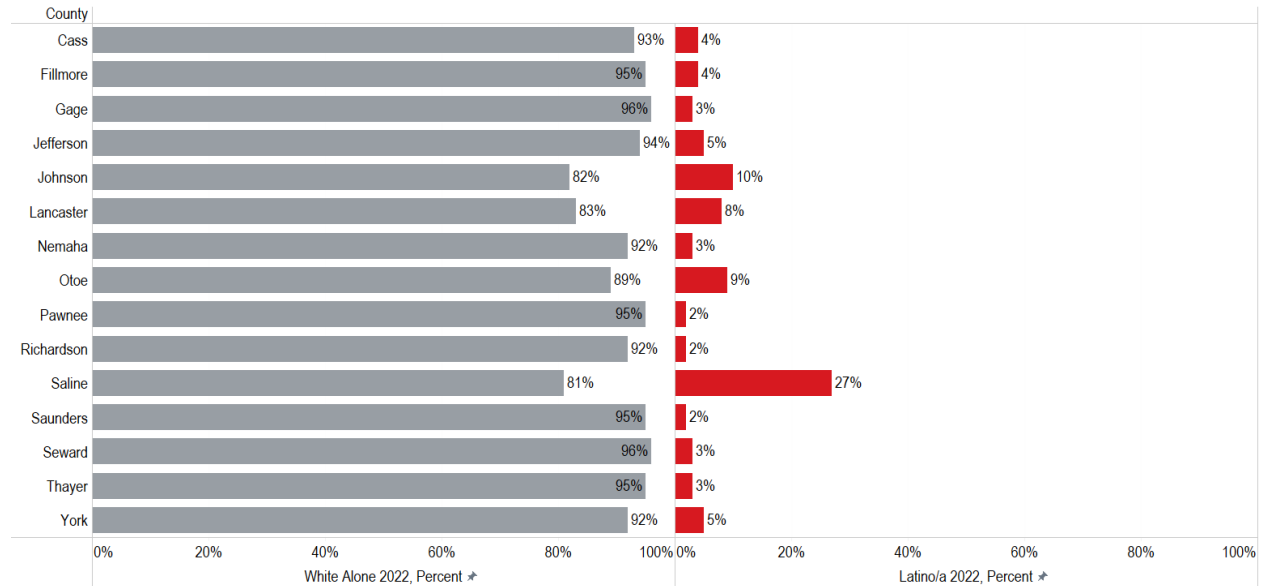
Population Identifying as Black, Asian, Native American/Alaska Native, and Two or More Races, 2022

County	Black/African American 2022, Percent	Asian 2022, Percent	Native American/ Alaska Native 2022, Percent	Two Or More Races 2022, Percent
Cass	0%	0%	0%	4%
Fillmore	0%	1%	0%	3%
Gage	1%	1%	0%	2%
Jefferson	1%	0%	0%	4%
Johnson	6%	1%	2%	5%
Lancaster	4%	4%	1%	6%
Nemaha	2%	0%	1%	5%
Otoe	1%	0%	0%	6%
Pawnee	0%	0%	0%	4%
Richardson	1%	0%	2%	4%
Saline	1%	3%	0%	6%
Saunders	0%	1%	0%	3%
Seward	1%	0%	0%	3%
Thayer	0%	0%	0%	4%
York	1%	1%	1%	5%

Foreign Born

This section shows the percentage of population by county in the region that is foreign-born in 2022. This data includes people from various continents who immigrated to Nebraska at different times, which provides another perspective on the demographic diversity of the area. According to research from UNO CPAR, the foreign-born population in Nebraska has a higher labor force participation rate than the native population of the state.
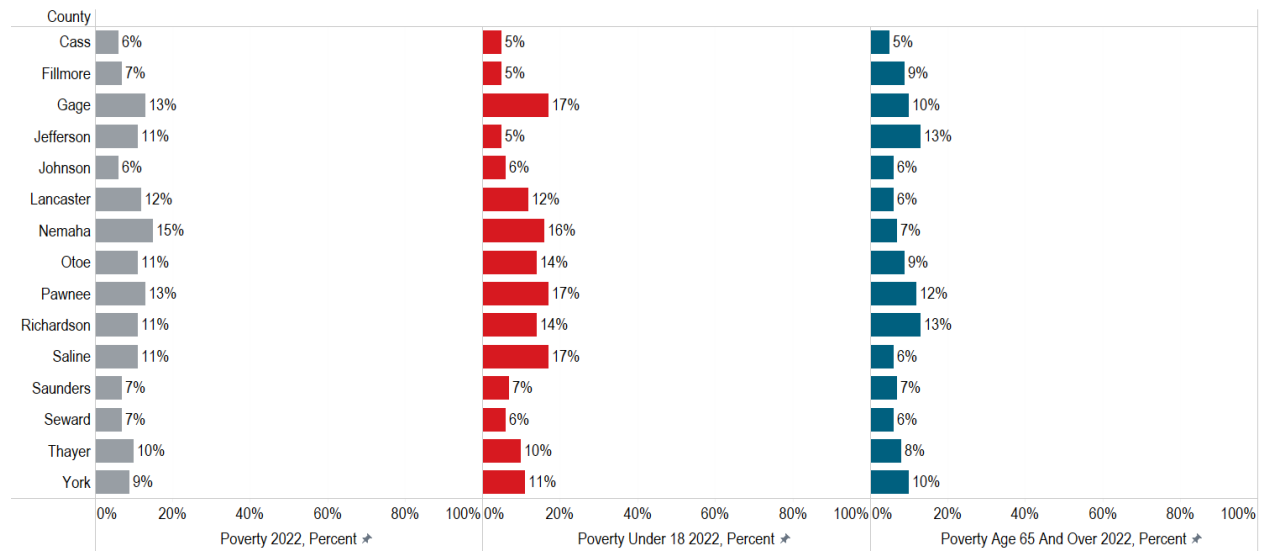
Foreign Born Population, 2022

County	Foreign Born 2022, Percent
Cass	1.1%
Fillmore	1.2%
Gage	1.7%
Jefferson	2.2%
Johnson	2.9%
Lancaster	8.4%
Nemaha	1.0%
Otoe	6.8%
Pawnee	1.1%
Richardson	1.2%
Saline	15.7%
Saunders	1.2%
Seward	1.0%
Thayer	0.4%
York	2.1%

Population in Poverty

The next section presents the percentage of the population living in poverty. Poverty rates are determined by thresholds set by the United States government, which are based on income and family size. For instance, in 2022, a family of four with two children under the age of 18 is in poverty if their total annual income is $29,678 or less.

The graph illustrates poverty rates in each county within the Southeast Region, including rates for individuals aged 18 and under, as well as those over 65. In Nebraska, poverty rates among the population over the age of 65 have been steadily increasing over time, particularly in rural counties. Typically, poverty rates for the population under the age of 18 are higher compared to the general population as the formula accounts for family size.

Population in Poverty, 2022

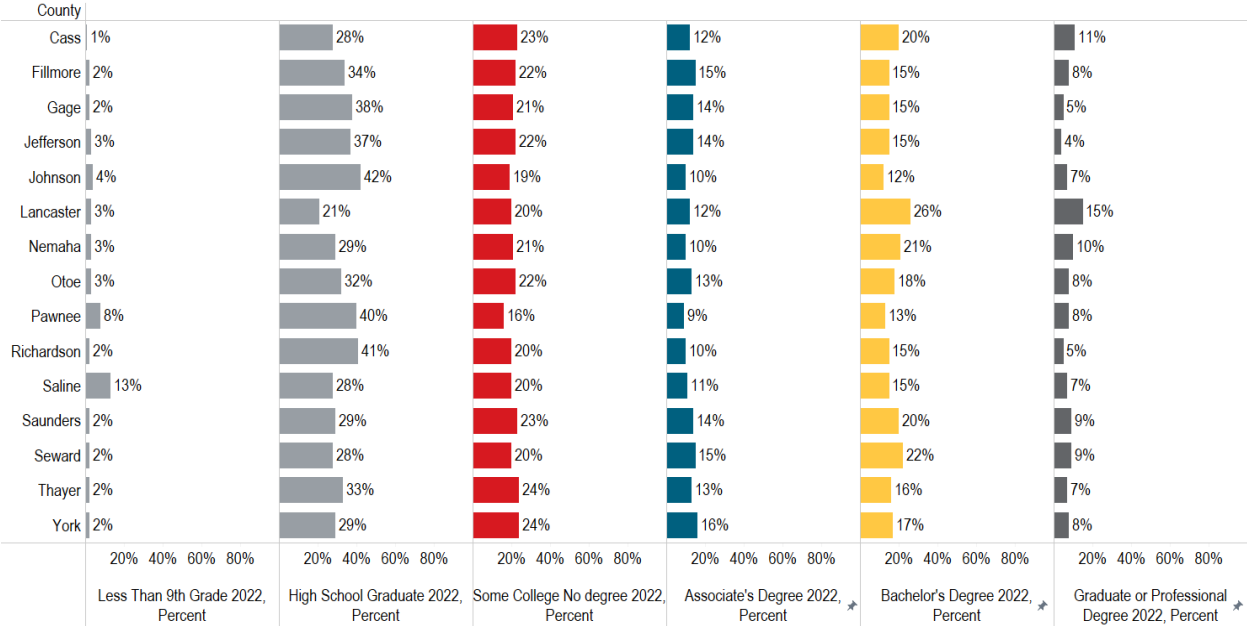| County	Poverty 2022, Percent	Poverty Under 18 2022, Percent	Poverty Age 65 And Over 2022, Percent
Cass	6%	5%	5%
Fillmore	7%	5%	9%
Gage	13%	17%	10%
Jefferson	11%	5%	13%
Johnson	6%	6%	6%
Lancaster	12%	12%	6%
Nemaha	15%	16%	7%
Otoe	11%	14%	9%
Pawnee	13%	17%	12%
Richardson	11%	14%	13%
Saline	11%	17%	6%
Saunders	7%	7%	7%
Seward	7%	6%	6%
Thayer	10%	10%	8%
York	9%	11%	10%

EDUCATION

The next section presents a range of metrics on education, as they offer crucial insights into the region's human capital, workforce preparedness, and potential for economic growth. Data for this section is sourced from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and the Nebraska Statewide Workforce and Educational Reporting System (NSWERS).

Educational Attainment of Population 25 Years and Over

The graph shows the percentage of individuals aged 25 years and older who have achieved various levels of education within the Southeast Region. We use the age of 25 and older because it generally signifies the conclusion of one's educational journey, although this isn't always the case.

Previous research from UNO CPAR has demonstrated a significant positive correlation between educational attainment and economic opportunity. As educational attainment increases, individuals tend to earn higher wages and thus have increasing economic opportunity.

Educational Attainment, 2022

County	Less Than 9th Grade 2022, Percent	High School Graduate 2022, Percent	Some College No degree 2022, Percent	Associate's Degree 2022, Percent	Bachelor's Degree 2022, Percent	Graduate or Professional Degree 2022, Percent
Cass	1%	28%	23%	12%	20%	11%
Fillmore	2%	34%	22%	15%	15%	8%
Gage	2%	38%	21%	14%	15%	5%
Jefferson	3%	37%	22%	14%	15%	4%
Johnson	4%	42%	19%	10%	12%	7%
Lancaster	3%	21%	20%	12%	26%	15%
Nemaha	3%	29%	21%	10%	21%	10%
Otoe	3%	32%	22%	13%	18%	8%
Pawnee	8%	40%	16%	9%	13%	8%
Richardson	2%	41%	20%	10%	15%	5%
Saline	13%	28%	20%	11%	15%	7%
Saunders	2%	29%	23%	14%	20%	9%
Seward	2%	28%	20%	15%	22%	9%
Thayer	2%	33%	24%	13%	16%	7%
York	2%	29%	24%	16%	17%	8%

Educational Attainment by Region, 2022

Region	Less Than 9th Grade	High School Graduate	Some College No Degree	Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Central	3.8%	32.1%	23.4%	13.4%	16.0%	6.6%
Metropolitan	3.5%	25.8%	22.0%	10.3%	22.5%	12.0%
Mid-Plains	2.3%	30.1%	25.6%	14.8%	17.6%	5.6%
Northeast	3.2%	33.3%	22.6%	13.6%	16.7%	6.9%
Southeast	3.5%	32.6%	21.1%	12.5%	17.3%	8.1%
Western	2.9%	29.0%	27.7%	11.4%	16.6%	7.0%

High School Graduation

The following image displays the count of high school graduates per county in the Southeast Region for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Number of High School Graduates, 2019, 2020, and 2021
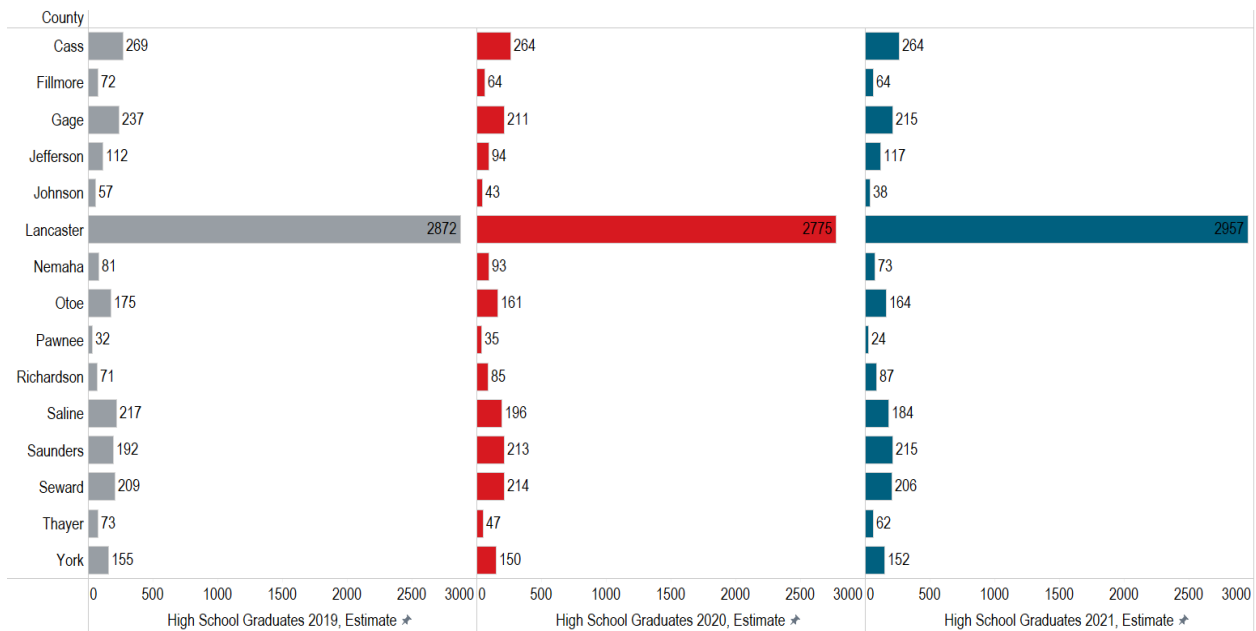
Number of High School Graduates by Region, 2019, 2020, and 2021

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	3,614	3,756	3,860
Metropolitan	8,629	8,796	8,621
Mid-Plains	992	1,017	972
Northeast	1,733	1,727	1,774
Southeast	4,824	4,645	4,822
Western	982	919	946

College Going

The next graph illustrates the percentage of high school graduates in Nebraska who pursued higher education at either a two-year or four-year postsecondary institution, anywhere in the country, or the college going rate.

College Going Rates, 2019, 2020, and 2021

County	2019	2020	2021
Cass	57.4%	60.6%	64.9%
Fillmore	79.4%	70.7%	77.4%
Gage	67.2%	65.4%	69.4%
Jefferson	68.1%	62.0%	66.7%
Johnson	71.9%	72.5%	74.3%
Lancaster	78.4%	77.6%	77.1%
Nemaha	84.4%	73.0%	73.2%
Otoe	67.6%	69.2%	63.4%
Pawnee	71.9%	52.9%	75.0%
Richardson	71.0%	53.0%	59.3%
Saline	67.0%	71.8%	72.4%
Saunders	72.0%	74.0%	73.3%
Seward	79.9%	79.4%	82.8%
Thayer	68.6%	72.3%	80.6%
York	70.9%	79.2%	72.4%

Sum of College Going Rate 2019 Students Who Went To College, Percent

Sum of College Going Rate 2020 Students Who Went To College, Percent

Sum of College Going Rate 2021 Students Who Went To College, Percent

College Going Rates by Region, 2019, 2020, and 2021

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	76.5%	72.6%	73.6%
Metropolitan	71.1%	68.5%	69.3%
Mid-Plains	76.4%	74.8%	77.8%
Northeast	75.4%	75.0%	73.2%
Southeast	71.7%	68.9%	72.1%
Western	69.7%	65.7%	64.5%

Regional Post-Secondary Institutions

In the Southeast Region, there are sixteen post-secondary institutions, as noted in the following table. Note, a dash (−) represents no data being available.

The table provides the number of students that matriculated through these schools each year 2017 to 2022 and the total number of students for the institutions and years shown.

Number of Students Matriculating by Region, 2017 to 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Bryan College of Health Sciences	173	169	158	149	161	173	**983**
College of Hair Design-Downtown	65	46	75	64	52	48	**350**
College of Hair Design-East Campus	51	68	46	77	107	155	**504**
Concordia University-Nebraska	724	799	691	567	1,272	651	**4,704**
Davines Professional Academy of Beauty and Business	21	20	31	10	18	-	**100**
Doane University	228	259	854	804	689	641	**3,475**
Entourage Institute of Beauty and Esthetics	-	-	-	-	-	13	**13**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Joseph's College Cosmetology	114	93	64	74	54	62	**461**
Myotherapy Institute	27	22	11	16	8	5	**89**
Nebraska Wesleyan University	540	518	566	448	497	510	**3,079**
Peru State College	507	419	445	420	372	374	**2,537**
Southeast Community College Area	1,600	1,521	1,571	1,110	1,427	1,477	**8,706**
Union College	213	213	207	247	233	242	**1,355**
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	5,641	5,807	6,266	6,153	6,179	6,113	**36,159**
York College	76	118	95	101	85	-	**475**
York University	-	-	-	-	-	210	**210**
Total	**9,980**	**10,072**	**11,080**	**10,240**	**11,154**	**10,674**	**63,200**

Post Secondary Persistence

Post-secondary persistence rates refer to the percentage of post-secondary students who continue their studies after their first year. The graphs illustrate the persistence rates of students for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. Data is not available for all counties.

Post Secondary Persistence Rates, 2019, 2020, and 2021

County	2019	2020	2021
Cass	81.0%	90.9%	75.5%
Fillmore	80.0%	88.9%	
Gage	82.6%	81.2%	82.4%
Jefferson	86.4%	85.7%	73.7%
Johnson		84.6%	
Lancaster	79.6%	79.3%	79.7%
Nemaha	87.0%	73.3%	78.3%
Otoe	80.0%	81.6%	71.8%
Pawnee			
Richardson			
Saline	79.6%	87.5%	76.2%
Saunders	89.4%	84.2%	82.7%
Seward	79.1%	84.5%	90.2%
Thayer	78.3%	100.0%	
York	77.3%	79.5%	87.2%

Post Secondary Persistence Rate 2019 Students In College Who Remained After Their First Year, Percent

Post Secondary Persistence Rate 2020 Students In College Who Remained After Their First Year, Percent

Post Secondary Persistence Rate 2021 Students In College Who Remained After Their First Year, Percent

Post Secondary Persistence Rates by Region, 2019, 2020, and 2021

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	87.8%	87.4%	87.3%
Metropolitan	83.5%	84.1%	81.2%
Mid-Plains	84.4%	80.9%	79.7%
Northeast	78.7%	83.3%	86.3%
Southeast	81.7%	84.7%	79.8%
Western	84.6%	88.5%	84.6%

Post Secondary Graduation

Post-secondary graduation rates measure the proportion of students who successfully complete their programs at a post-secondary institution. This includes first-time, full-time, degree- and certificate-seeking undergraduate students enrolled in Nebraska public post-secondary institutions who earn awards within one and a half times the standard program duration. Therefore, the most current data available is for 2020. However, data for this metric is unavailable for many counties in Nebraska.

Post Secondary Graduation Rates, 2020
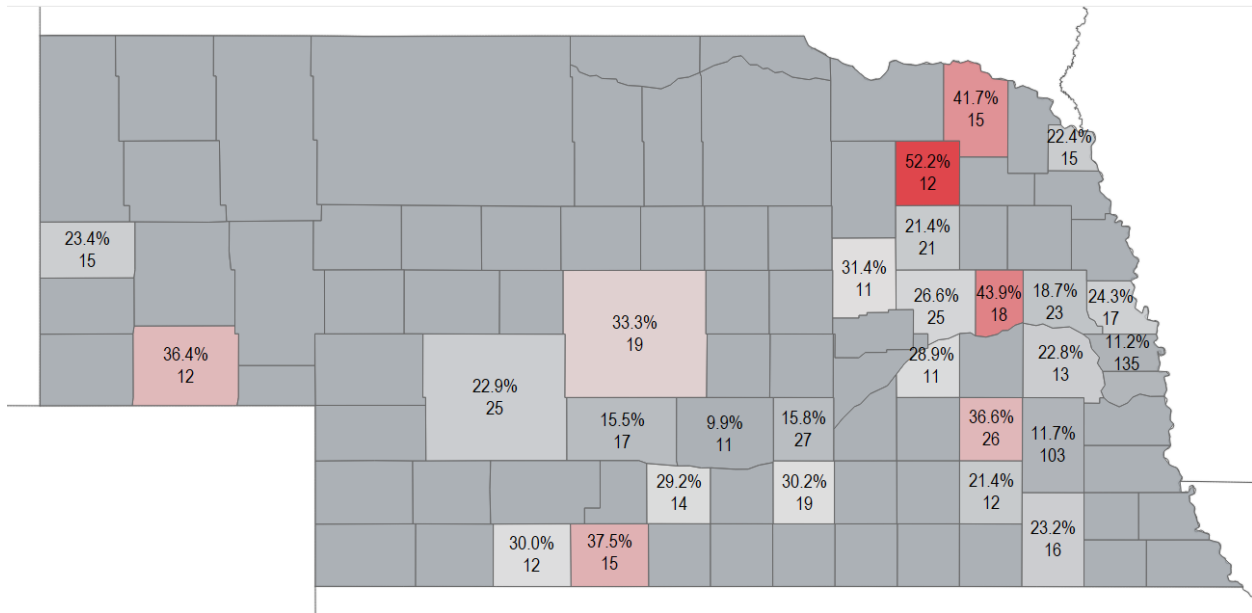
Post Secondary Graduation Rates by Region, 2019 and 2020

Region	2019	2020
Central	54.1%	26.9%
Metropolitan	48.5%	16.7%
Mid-Plains	55.3%	28.7%
Northeast	47.5%	34.4%
Southeast	49.8%	23.1%
Western	50.3%	29.9%

Talent Retention

Talent retention measures the percentage of students who have left a Nebraska public post-secondary institution and are employed anywhere in the state of Nebraska. Specifically, these are individuals who have worked for at least one year in Nebraska within two years after leaving their post-secondary education.

Talent Retention Rates, 2019, 2020, and 2021

County	Talent Retention Rate 2019, Percent	Talent Retention Rate 2020, Percent	Talent Retention Rate 2021, Percent
Cass	86.7%	80.3%	84.8%
Fillmore	81.6%	75.0%	76.3%
Gage	84.7%	81.4%	84.6%
Jefferson	83.9%	82.0%	88.9%
Johnson	78.6%	73.3%	83.3%
Lancaster	79.8%	80.9%	80.4%
Nemaha	83.8%	80.4%	75.0%
Otoe	74.0%	83.1%	83.3%
Pawnee	94.7%	71.4%	71.4%
Richardson	67.6%	68.2%	79.6%
Saline	84.8%	76.2%	79.8%
Saunders	85.3%	87.4%	86.3%
Seward	81.1%	82.2%	83.0%
Thayer	74.4%	65.5%	74.2%
York	75.4%	79.7%	87.8%

Talent Retention Rates by Region, 2019, 2020, and 2021

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	80.1%	79.9%	83.4%
Metropolitan	80.4%	79.6%	80.7%
Mid-Plains	77.0%	79.1%	79.0%
Northeast	76.1%	78.4%	78.1%
Southeast	81.1%	77.8%	81.2%
Western	75.1%	74.8%	75.6%

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMY

Data on the workforce, wages, and overall economy are presented in this section to provide insights into the economic vitality of the region today and into the future. Data presented in this section comes from the American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Labor Force Participation

Participation in the labor force is high both in the Southeast Region and statewide in Nebraska. On the other hand, unemployment rates in both the region and the state are low. These trends bode well for the economy.

Labor Force Participation Rate, 2022

Unemployment Rate, 2022
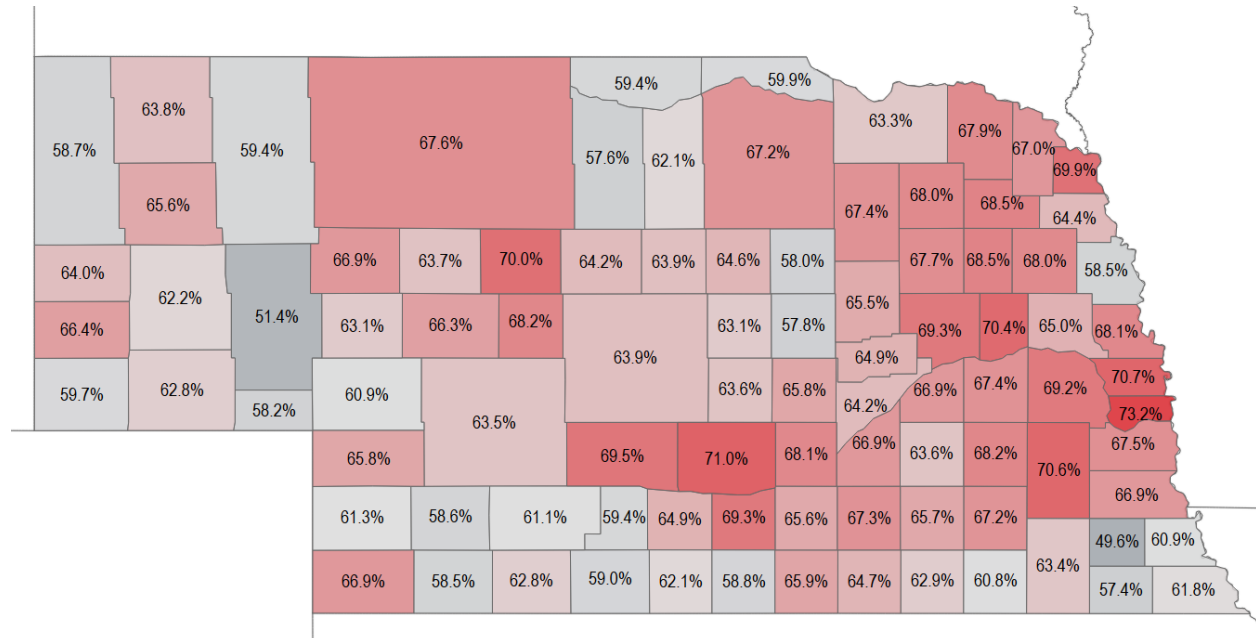
Class of Worker

The graph provides the percentage of workers in each class of worker by region. The four categories of workers are private wage and salary workers, government employees, self-employed individuals, and unpaid family workers. This data specifically concerns individuals aged 16 and above who are currently employed.

Class of Worker, 2022
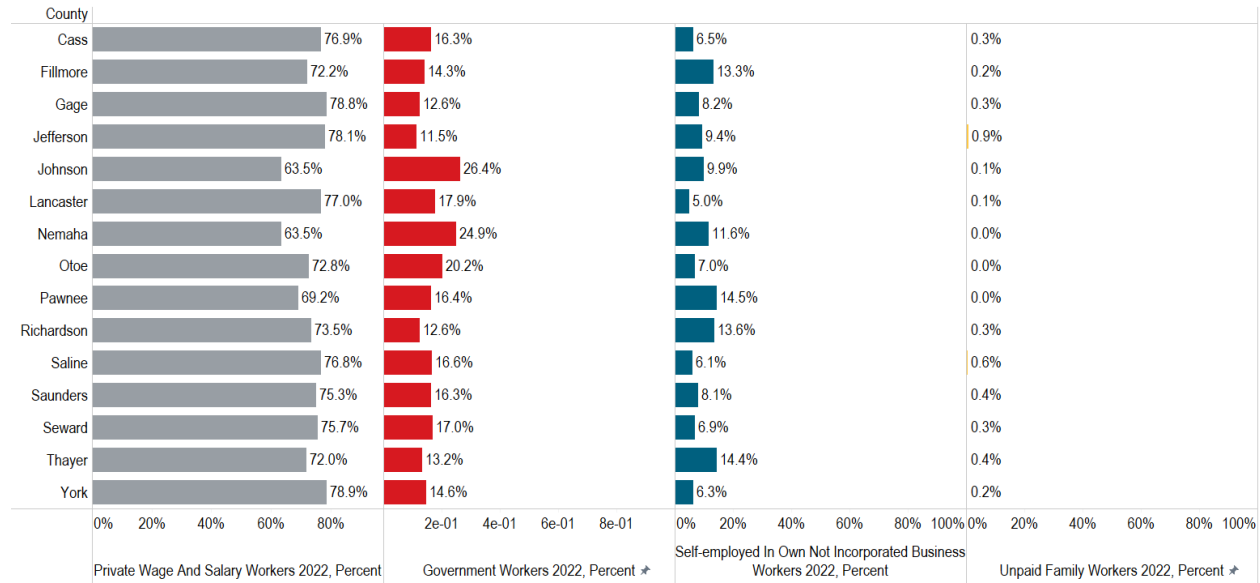
The table provides a comparison of the percentage distribution of each category of worker for the year 2022 across different community college regions.

Class of Worker by Region, 2022

Region	Private Wage and Salary Workers	Government Workers	Self-employed in Own Not Incorporated Business Workers	Unpaid Family Workers
Central	74.0%	14.1%	11.6%	0.3%
Metropolitan	81.3%	13.8%	4.8%	0.2%
Mid-Plains	64.5%	18.1%	16.1%	1.4%
Northeast	67.1%	16.5%	15.7%	0.7%
Southeast	73.6%	16.7%	9.4%	0.3%
Western	66.0%	19.4%	14.0%	0.6%

Occupations

The image illustrates the percentage distribution of each occupation group per county in the Southeast Region for the year 2022. Here, "occupation" refers to the work individuals perform, compared to "industry," which is a classification of the place people work, discussed next. The five occupation groups include management, business, science, and arts; natural resources, construction, and maintenance; production, transportation, material moving; service; and sales and office. This data specifically pertains to individuals aged 16 and above who are currently employed.

Previous research by UNO CPAR has shown that in Nebraska, occupations in management, business, science, and arts typically yield the highest wages.

Percent Employed in Occupations, 2022

County	Management, Business, Science, And Arts Occupations 2022, Percent	Natural Resources, Construction, And Maintenance Occupations 2022, Percent	Production, Transportation, And Material Moving Occupations 2022, Percent	Service Occupations 2022, Percent	Sales And Office Occupations 2022, Percent
Cass	38.6%	12.6%	14.5%	14.0%	20.3%
Fillmore	37.6%	13.2%	14.6%	14.0%	20.5%
Gage	32.3%	10.1%	20.4%	20.4%	16.8%
Jefferson	31.2%	16.3%	20.1%	15.9%	16.5%
Johnson	32.4%	15.4%	18.8%	16.0%	17.4%
Lancaster	42.7%	8.1%	12.0%	16.6%	20.6%
Nemaha	36.2%	11.2%	18.3%	20.2%	14.1%
Otoe	36.2%	10.5%	16.4%	18.9%	18.0%
Pawnee	33.4%	16.1%	23.4%	15.0%	12.1%
Richardson	35.0%	19.2%	13.9%	16.7%	15.2%
Saline	33.7%	14.1%	24.9%	13.7%	13.6%
Saunders	38.8%	11.8%	14.2%	13.7%	21.5%
Seward	37.1%	12.9%	15.4%	15.1%	19.4%
Thayer	33.5%	19.8%	15.8%	15.3%	15.6%
York	36.1%	12.8%	15.2%	13.1%	22.9%

Occupation by Region, 2022

Region	Management, Business, Science and Arts Occupations	Service Occupations	Sales and Office Occupations	Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance Occupations	Production, Transportation, and Material Moving Occupations
Central	34.6%	15.2%	18.2%	14.4%	17.6%
Metropolitan	41.4%	14.4%	21.2%	10.1%	13.0%
Mid-Plains	38.8%	15.5%	17.6%	16.5%	11.6%
Northeast	36.8%	16.0%	17.8%	15.0%	14.4%
Southeast	35.7%	15.9%	17.6%	13.6%	17.2%
Western	38.4%	14.3%	18.2%	15.1%	14.0%

Establishment and Industry

The map shows the total number of business establishments in each county of Nebraska for 2023.

Total Establishments, 2023
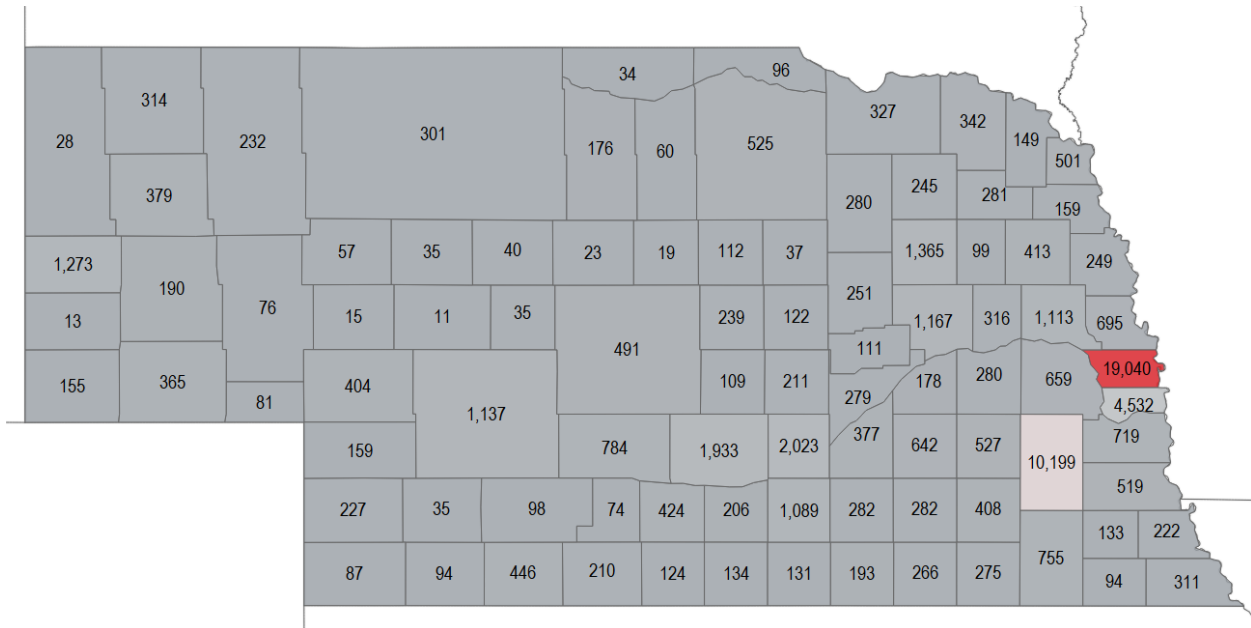
The following images depict the number of business establishments for each industry group per county in the Southeast Region for 2023. Industry is a classification used to describe the type of establishment. The 11 industries are categorized into two visual groups:

Trades and Services:
- Natural Resources and Mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities
- Other Services Except Public Administration

Professional:
- Information
- Financial Activities
- Professional and Business Services
- Education and Health Services
- Leisure and Hospitality
- Public Administration

Previous research demonstrates that those employed in "professional" industries earn higher wages.

Number of Establishments in Trades and Services Industries, 2023

County	Natural Resources and Mining Q2 2023, Estimate	Construction Q2 2023, Estimate	Manufacturing Q2 2023, Estimate	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities Q2 2023, Estimate	Other Services Except Public Administration Q2 2023, Estimate
Cass	23	144	20	167	53
Fillmore	47	18	11	86	15
Gage	25	87	40	212	52
Jefferson	34	28	11	73	18
Johnson	4	17	5	39	6
Lancaster	54	1141	275	1651	858
Nemaha	9	16	8	50	14
Otoe	20	66	13	131	27
Pawnee		11	6	22	6
Richardson	11	27	11	95	25
Saline	19	41	18	109	27
Saunders	26	98	21	150	36
Seward	44	85	15	119	39
Thayer	32	29	9	76	20
York	64	59	34	163	50

Number of Establishments in Professional Industries, 2023

County	Information Q2 2023, Estimate	Financial Activities Q2 2023, Estimate	Professional and Business Services Q2 2023, Estimate	Education and Health Services Q2 2023, Estimate	Leisure and Hospitality Q2 2023, Estimate	Public Administration Q2 2023, Estimate
Cass	7	68	89	67	53	28
Fillmore	3	20	12	38	17	15
Gage	8	64	73	96	58	40
Jefferson	5	16	23	34	18	15
Johnson		14	10	16	7	14
Lancaster	177	1,093	1842	2,040	937	131
Nemaha	3	21	23	36	21	21
Otoe	8	43	56	77	53	25
Pawnee		8	7	15	6	11
Richardson	4	19	24	52	28	15
Saline	3	35	41	57	38	20
Saunders	9	66	100	66	48	39
Seward	6	45	61	57	40	16
Thayer	3	24	15	21	15	22
York	11	66	49	71	53	22

Earnings and Income

The graph below compares average weekly wages of workers for the 2nd quarter in each county in the Southeast Region for the years 2021, 2022, and 2023 to explore changes in the average wages earned over time. Generally, in Nebraska, wages have risen in recent years.

Average Weekly Wage 2nd Quarter, 2021, 2022, 2023
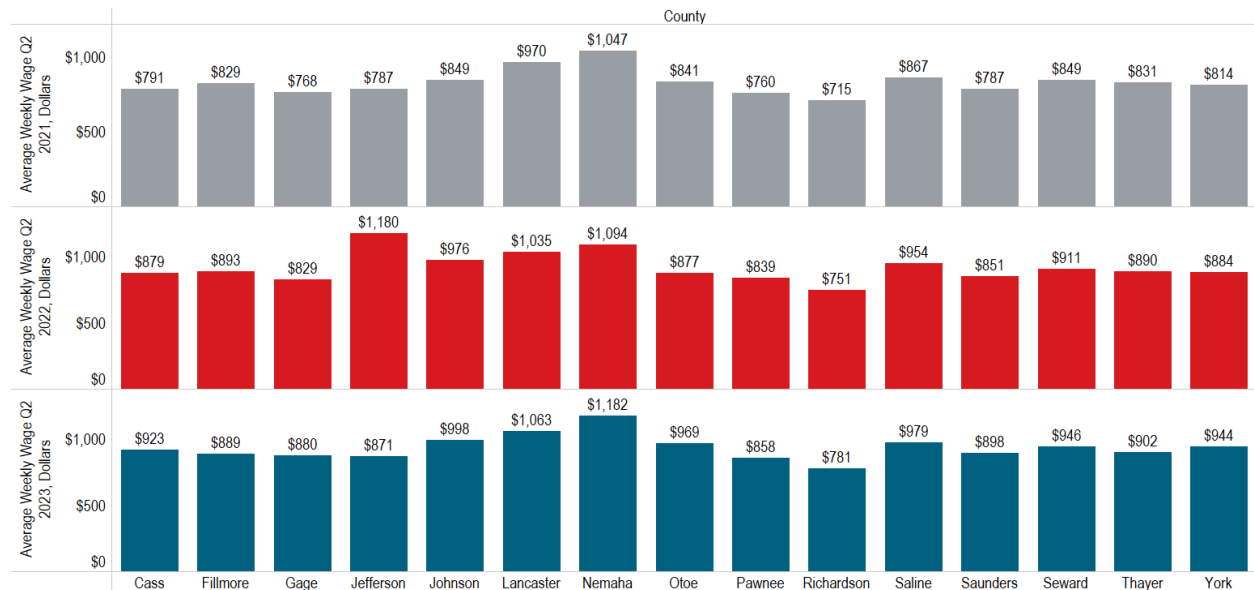
Average Weekly Wage 2nd Quarter by Region, 2021, 2022, and 2023

Region	Average Weekly Wage Q2 2021	Average Weekly Wage Q2 2022	Average Weekly Wage Q2 2023
Central	$780	$833	$878
Metropolitan	$1,009	$1,058	$1,098
Mid-Plains	$725	$763	$784
Northeast	$785	$831	$868
Southeast	$834	$ 923	$939
Western	$714	$745	$792

The final metric in the earnings and income section is median household income which represents the income of all earners within a household, including wages and other sources of income. This data is provided here by county, statewide to demonstrate the significant differences across the region as well as the state.

Median Household Income, 2022
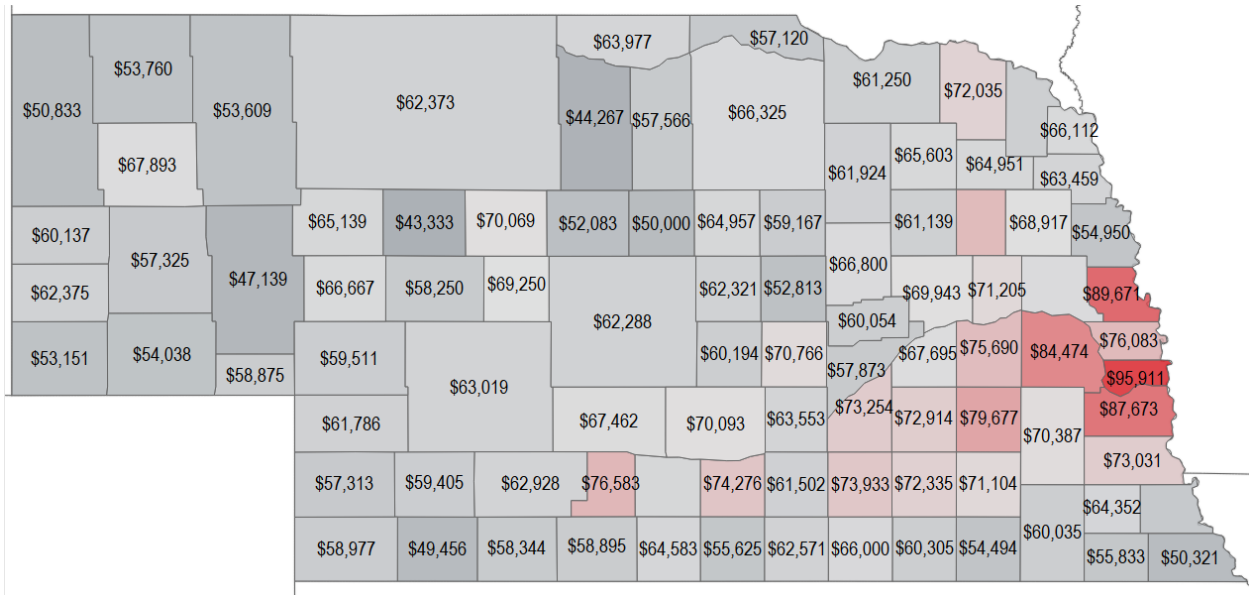
This table shows the average median household income in 2022, by region, and the average percent change in median household income from 2018 to 2022, also by region.

Median Household Income by Region for 2022 and Percent Change 2018 to 2022

Region	Average Median Household Income 2022	Average Change in Median Household Income 2018 to 2022
Central	$65,952	23.3%
Metropolitan	$82,115	24.1%
Mid-Plains	$59,170	19.5%
Northeast	$62,649	17.9%
Southeast	$67,609	22.1%
Western	$57,023	18.5%

Economy

Wages earned by individuals across establishments can be aggregated to assess how different industries contribute to the overall economy in the region. This table enables comparison of the total wages paid by establishments within each industry by region. The first table covers trade industries, while the second focuses on professional industries.

Total Wages Paid by Trade Industries by Region in the 2nd Quarter of 2023

Region	Natural Resources and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Other Services Except Public Administration
Central	$2,676,888	$4,769,281	$21,664,316	$14,712,472	$1,517,780
Metropolitan	$3,967,432	$128,428,831	$126,315,601	$291,871,965	$33,896,194
Mid-Plains	$1,692,742	$1,926,913	$1,886,910	$5,823,512	$680,778
Northeast	$1,799,712	$2,740,747	$11,786,420	$9,540,554	$844,916
Southeast	$2,354,722	$14,492,020	$25,722,539	$37,405,559	$4,747,174
Western	$1,304,640	$2,442,610	$2,607,338	$7,324,819	$642,243

Total Wages Paid by Professional Industries by Region in the 2nd Quarter of 2023

Region	Information	Financial Activities	Professional and Business Services	Education and Health	Public Administration	Leisure and Hospitality	Total Wages by Industry Total Q2 2023, Dollars
Central	$900,739	$3,340,008	$5,123,704	$17,789,290	$3,804,877	$2,535,860	**$75,015,437**
Metropolitan	$47,770,002	$176,461,221	$359,723,489	$398,297,039	$64,379,318	$74,918,632	**$1,706,029,722**
Mid-Plains	$636,042	$1,422,699	$1,368,624	$8,758,985	$2,024,278	$1,328,862	**$23,074,781**
Northeast	$568,623	$3,138,829	$2,412,349	$12,388,136	$2,687,709	$1,310,934	**$45,467,682**
Southeast	$6,034,161	$13,079,577	$24,379,514	$54,519,043	$21,003,466	$8,171,839	**$210,962,992**
Western	$830,581	$1,624,669	$3,168,811	$11,999,775	$2,659,054	$1,579,037	**$30,747,828**

HOUSING

Data on housing, including housing availability, quality, and affordability are integral factors influencing population dynamics, economic development, and quality of life within the region. Data presented in this section comes from the American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau for multiple years as well as from the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA).

Occupancy and Vacancy Rates

Occupied housing refers to houses that are currently occupied by owners or renters. The following map displays the percentage of occupied housing units in the Southeast Region by county for the year 2022. This metric helps gauge the demand and usage of available housing.

Occupied Housing Units, 2022
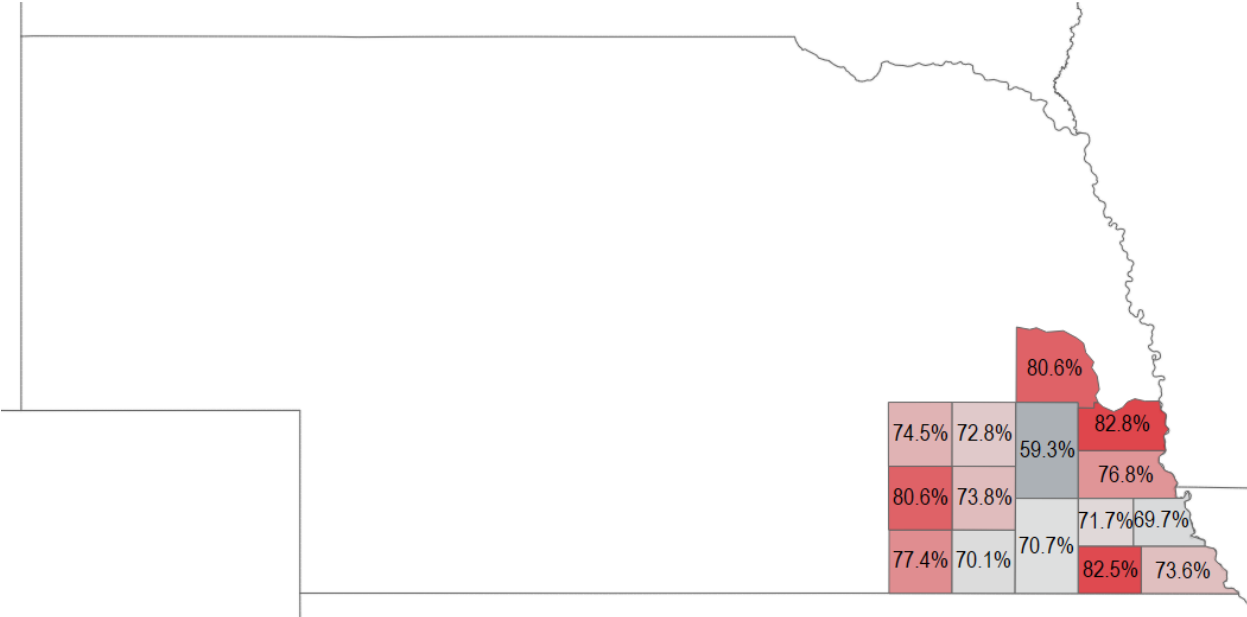
In contrast, vacant housing refers to houses that are not currently occupied but for sale or rent. Vacant houses may be vacant for various reasons including low quality or low demand.

The following map displays the percentage of vacant housing units in the Southeast Region by county for the year 2022.

Vacant Housing Units, 2022
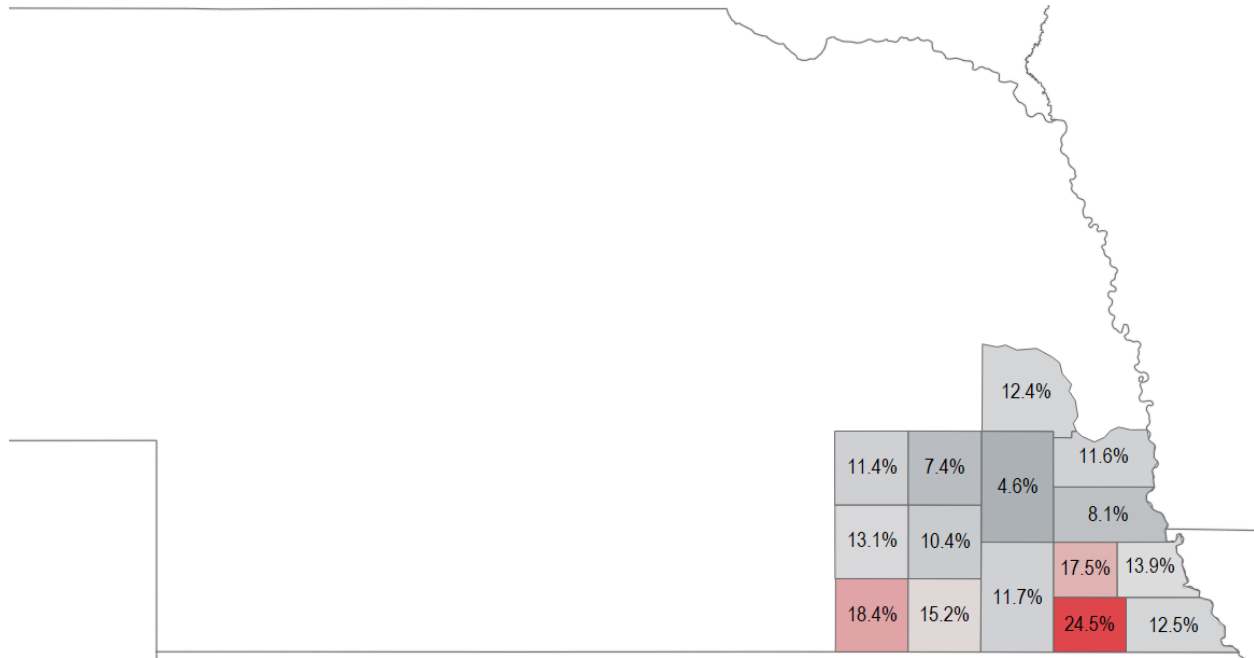
The following table contains data on the average percentage of occupied housing in 2022, the average change in occupied housing from 2012 to 2022, the average vacant housing rate in 2022, and the average change in vacant housing rate from 2012 to 2022 by region.

Occupied and Vacant Housing by Region for 2022 and Percent Change 2012 to 2022

Region	Average Occupancy Rate	Percent Change Occupancy 2012 To 2022	Average Vacancy Rate	Average Change in Vacancy Rate 2012 To 2022
Central	77.2%	-3.6%	15.9%	-3.4%
Metropolitan	69.8%	9.8%	6.0%	-11.5%
Mid-Plains	71.1%	-5.9%	23.0%	8.8%
Northeast	74.4%	-5.4%	18.7%	-2.4%
Southeast	74.7%	-1.7%	12.8%	0.1%
Western	71.4%	-6.3%	20.6%	8.3%

Housing can be occupied by owners or renters, each with distinct needs that impact the housing market differently.

The following map displays the percentage and number of renter-occupied housing units in the Southeast Region by county for the year 2022.

Percent and Number of Renter Occupied Housing Units, 2022
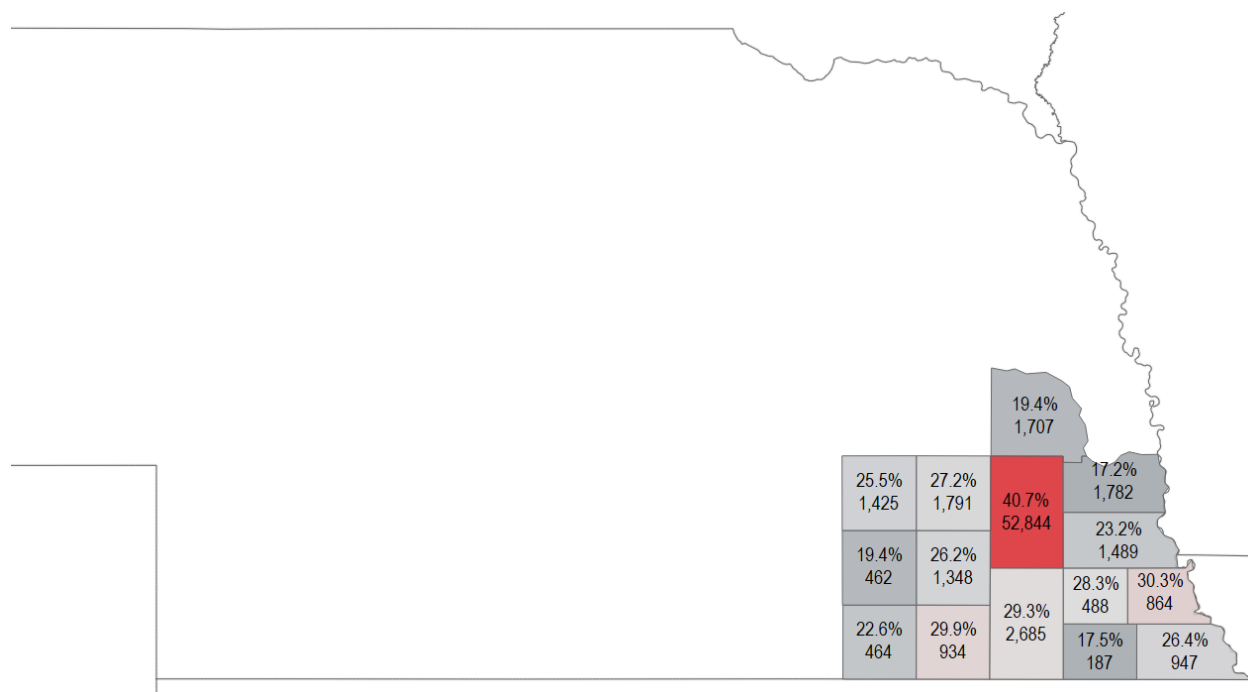
The following table contains data on the percentage of renter-occupied housing in 2022, the total number of renter-occupied housing units in 2022, the rental vacancy rate in 2022, and the median year when renters moved into housing units, averaged by region.

Status of Renters by Region, 2022

Region	Average Rate of Renter Occupied Housing Units	Number of Renter Occupied Housing Units	Average Rental Vacancy Rate	Median Year Renter Moved into Housing Unit
Central	22.8%	35,110	6.3%	2016
Metropolitan	30.4%	116,316	5.8%	2017
Mid-Plains	29.0%	11,330	4.8%	2015
Northeast	25.6%	16,614	6.6%	2016
Southeast	25.5%	69,417	2.9%	2017
Western	28.7%	10,941	4.5%	2017

Housing Age

The median age of homes is important to note, as it provides insights into the overall housing stock, infrastructure maintenance needs, and potential trends in housing development within the region. A more recent median year suggests that there has been recent development in the area, while an older median year indicates older housing stock that may require more maintenance or updates.

The map displays the median age of homes in the Southeast Region by county for the year 2022.

Median Age of Housing, 2022
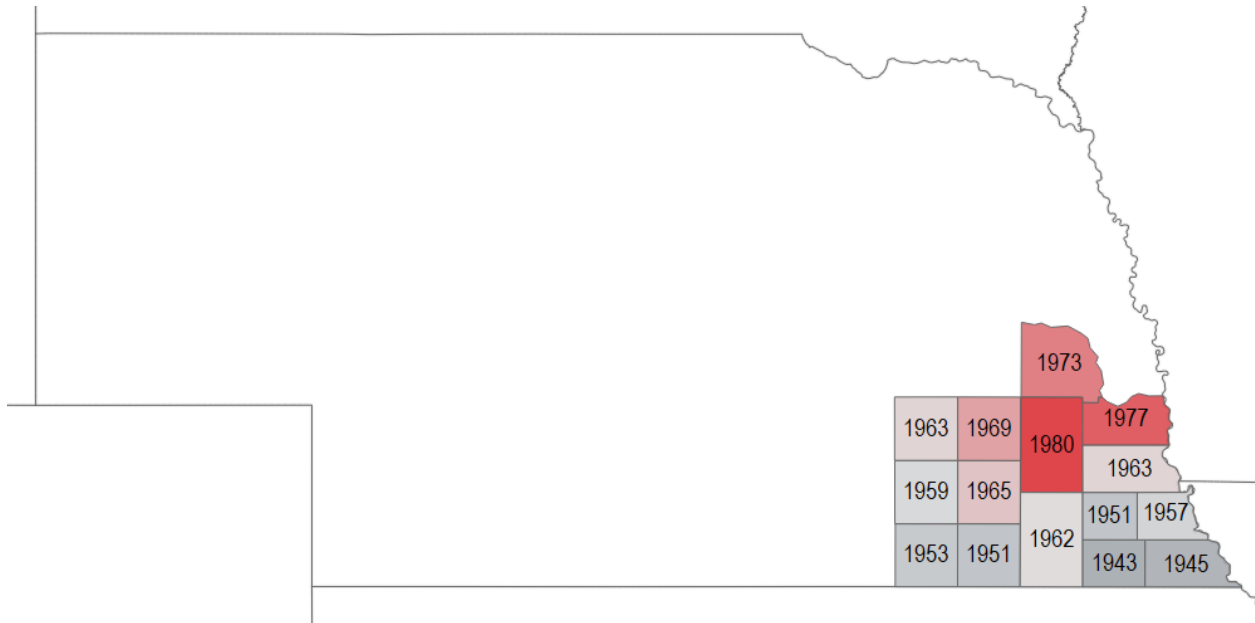
The following maps display the median year homeowners and renters moved into their homes in the Southeast Region by county. A mismatch between when homes are built and when people move in may suggest a need for new housing to meet contemporary needs.

Median Year Owner Moved In, 2022
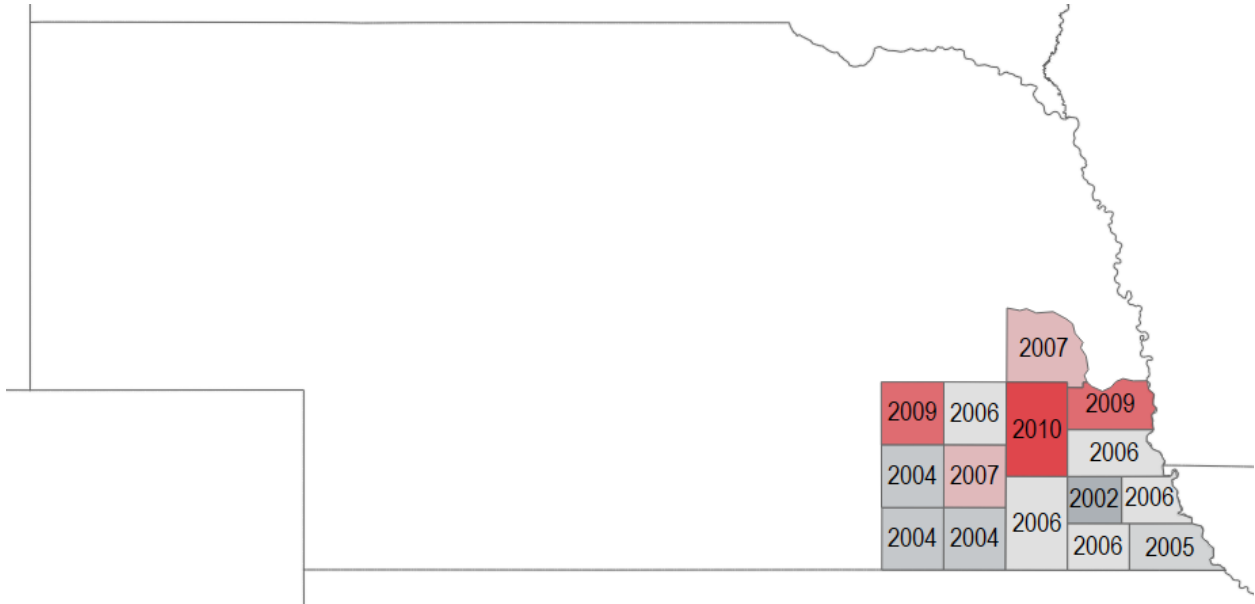
Median Year Renter Moved In, 2022
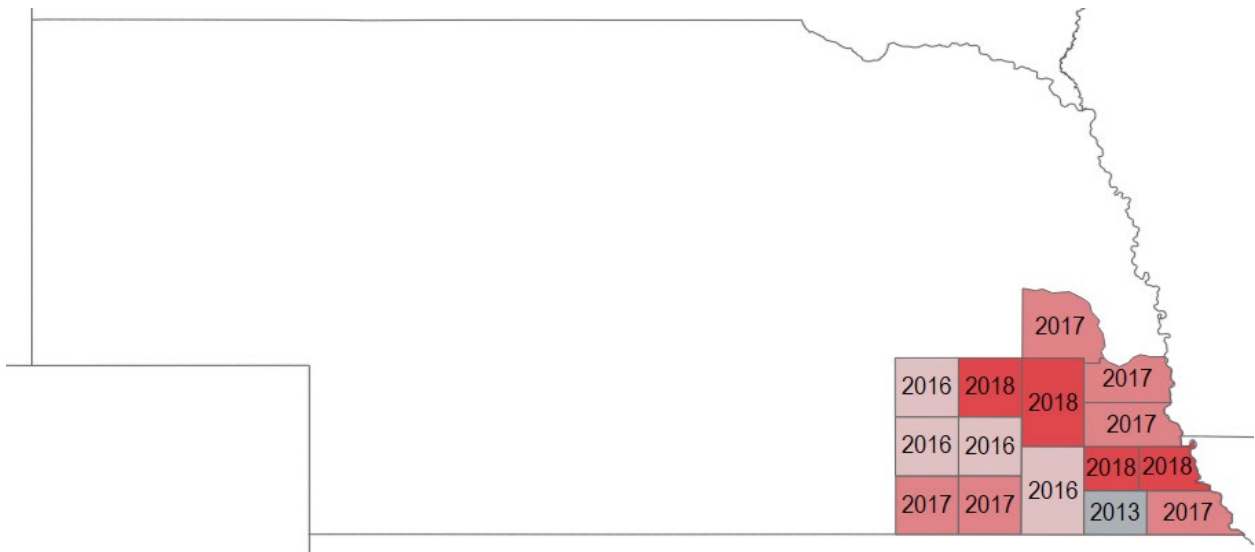
The table compares three housing indicators across regions: the average median age of homes, the median year homeowners moved into their homes, and the median year renters moved into their homes. These statistics are all from the year 2022.

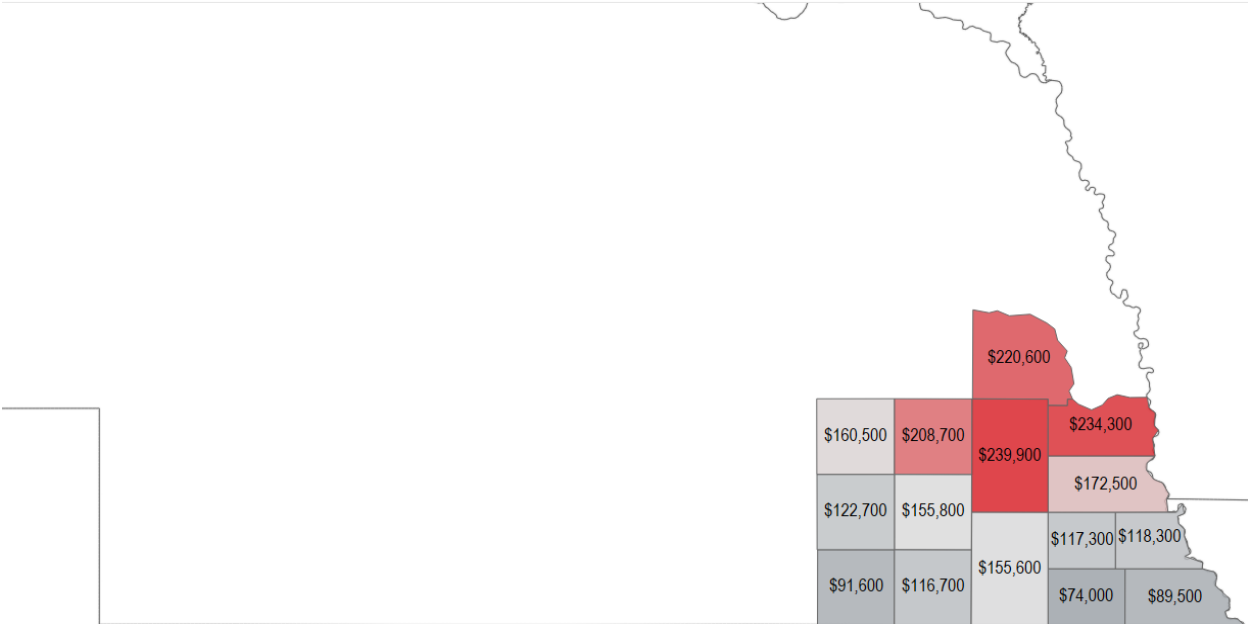**Median Housing Age and Median Year Owners and Renter Moved In by Region, 2022**

Region	Median Housing Age	Median Year Owner Moved into Housing Unit	Median Year Renter Moved into Housing Unit
Central	1962	2006	2016
Metropolitan	1978	2009	2017
Mid-Plains	1962	2004	2015
Northeast	1964	2004	2016
Southeast	1961	2006	2017
Western	1957	2005	2017

Housing Value

Housing value and the ability of residents to afford housing are critical metrics for understanding the housing market in a region.

The map shows the median value of owner-occupied homes in the Southeast Region in 2022.

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Housing Units, 2022

This map includes the median value of rent paid for rental units in the region for 2022.

Median Rent, 2022

The following map displays the percentage and number of housing units that are considered housing cost burdened, defined as paying 30 percent or more of their income on housing in the Southeast Region by county for the year 2022.

Percentage and Number Housing Cost Burdened, 2022

The table below contains data on the average percentage and sum of housing units that are housing cost burdened in the region.

Housing Cost Burdened by Region, 2022

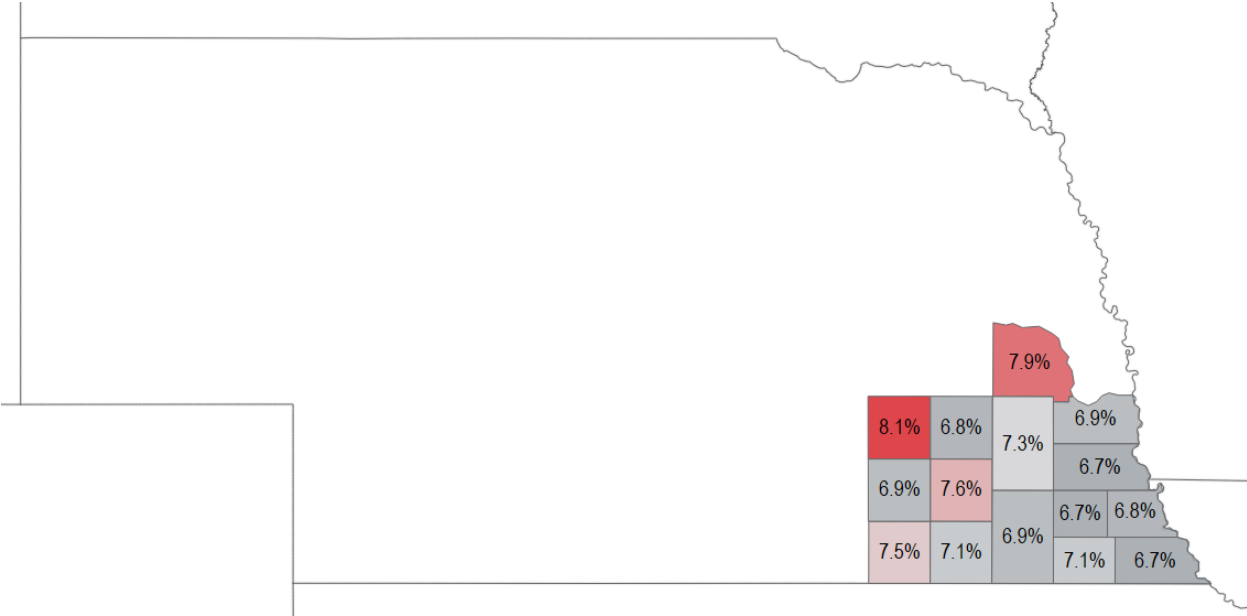| Region	Average of Housing Units Paying 30% or More of Income on Housing	Number of Housing Units Paying 30% or More of Income on Housing
Central	19.0%	26,791
Metropolitan	24.4%	88,507
Mid-Plains	18.9%	8,617
Northeast	19.0%	11,695
Southeast	19.8%	49,400
Western	21.9%	8,977

CHILDCARE

The data presented in this section comes from the American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau and the Administration for Children & Families, analyzed by the non-profit First Five, for multiple years.

Childcare Need

While counties across Nebraska are aging, there are still children throughout the state who need quality childcare.

The first map provides the percentage of the population under age 6 in 2022, while the second shows the percentage of those under age 6 with all parents in the labor force. The latter metric is one in which Nebraska consistently ranks high due to our high labor force participation rate.

Percent of Population Under Age 6, 2022

Percent of Children Under Age 6 with all Parents in the Labor Force, 2022

Providers and Capacity

Childcare providers are establishments that are licensed to provide childcare. The map provides the number of licensed childcare providers in 2023 and the percentage change in the number of providers 2019 to 2023.

Number of Licensed Providers in 2023 and Percent Change in Number of Providers 2019 to 2023

Capacity is the number of children that can be served by a childcare provider. This map displays the licensed provider capacity in 2023 and the percent change in capacity from 2019 to 2023.

Licensed Provider Capacity in 2023 and Percent Change in Number of Licensed Provider Capacity 2019 to 2023
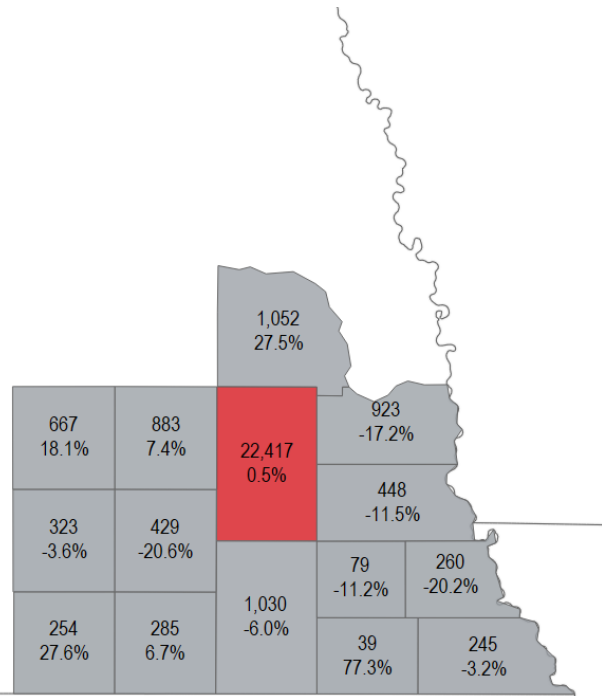
The table compares the number of children under age 6 and the licensed provider capacity across regions for the years 2022 and 2023. The data suggests a potential discrepancy in many regions, as the childcare capacity appears to be lower than the number of children under age 6.

**Number of Children Aged 6 and Under and Childcare Capacity by Region, 2022 and 2023**

Region	Number of Children Under 6 2022	Licensed Provider Capacity 2023
Central	23,744	14,653
Metropolitan	69,077	68,196
Mid-Plains	6,254	3,017
Northeast	12,219	6,302
Southeast	34,589	29,334
Western	5,874	3,784

Head Start/Early Head Start

Head Start/Early Head Start is a federally funded program in the United States that provides comprehensive early childhood education. The map displays the number of Head Start/Early Head Start service locations per county in the Southeast Region in 2023.

Number of Head Start/ Early Head Start Service Locations, 2023

This map displays the capacity of the Head Start/Early Head Start programs per county in the Southeast Region in 2023.

Capacity Head Start/ Early Head Start, 2023

Public Pre-Kindergarten

Public pre-kindergarten (pre-K) refers to early childhood education programs offered by public school systems for children typically between the ages of three and five. Research has shown that enrollment in pre-K helps narrow achievement gaps, supports working families, and yields long-term economic benefits.

This map displays the percentage of children enrolled in a public pre-K program and the number of children enrolled in public pre-K programs in the 2023/2024 school year per county in the Southeast Region.

Percent and Number Enrolled in Public Pre-K Programs, 2023/2024
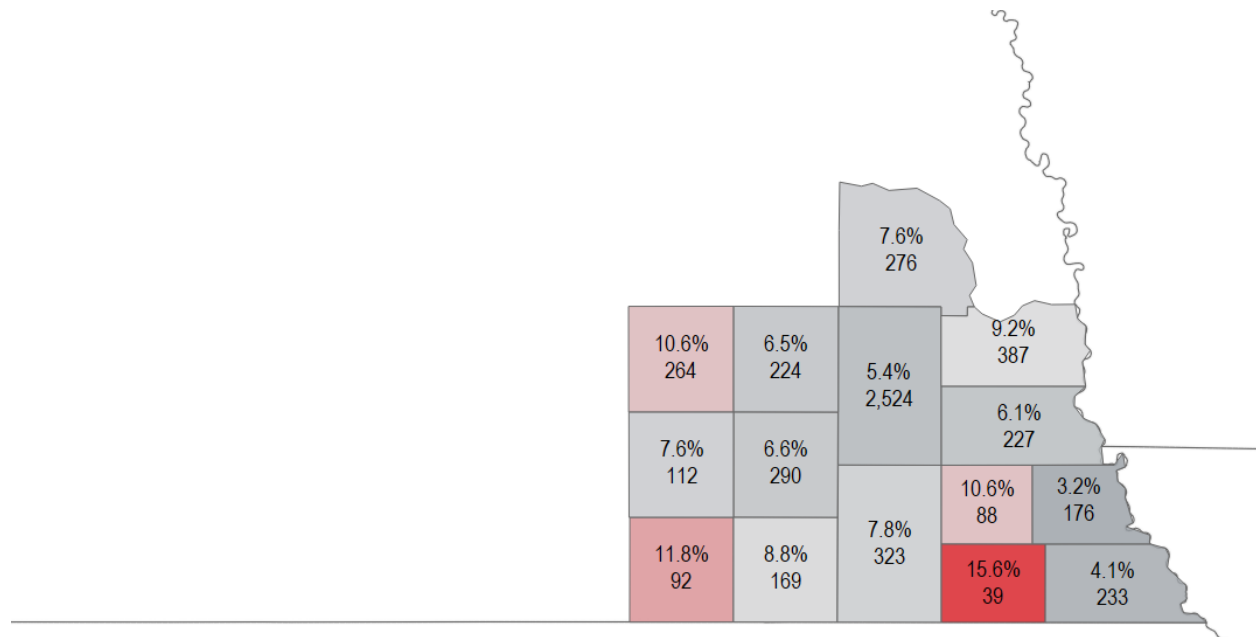
Number of Pre-K Programs by Region, Number of Children Enrolled, and Average Percentage Enrolled by Region, AY 2023/24

Region	Number of Pre-K Programs	Number of Children Enrolled	Average Percent Children Enrolled
Central	119	4962	7.6%
Metropolitan	195	7092	6.7%
Mid-Plains	45	1022	6.0%
Northeast	70	2519	8.1%
Southeast	117	5424	8.1%
Western	35	1232	5.4%

SOURCES

Administration for Children & Families. Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center. Head Start Center Locator. Multiple Years.

Nebraska Department of Education. County Membership by Grade. 2023-2024

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Public Data Request & Licensing Roster. Multiple Years.

Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System. Analysis of data from NSWERS Data System. 2014-2023.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. 2023.

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UNL Bureau of Business Research. Monthly Survey of Nebraska Business. Jan. - Dec. 2023.

U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. 5-Year Estimates. Multiple Years.

U.S. Census Bureau. Population Estimates. Multiple Years.