

OVERVIEW: JULY 2021

The Nebraska economy continued to exhibit low unemployment in July 2021. The state's unemployment rate of 2.4% was less than in July 2020. As expected with low unemployment, the number of jobs continues to rise, increasing 4.9%. However, not every state economic indicator was positive. The labor force decreased 2.3%, continuing the trend that started in 2020.



NEBRASKA'S ECONOMIC DASHBOARD

LEADING AND COINCIDENT INDICATORS

LEADING INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: NA

July 2020: NA

NA

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: NA

July 2020: NA

NA

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

COINCIDENT INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 125.6

July 2020: 133.5

↑ 6.2%

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 128.0

July 2020: 121.2

↑ 5.6%

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

DIFFUSION INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 86.7

July 2020: 73.3

↑ 13.3%

Source: Philadelphia Federal Reserve

MAINSTREET ECONOMY INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 77.3

July 2020: 33.7

↑ 129.5%

Source: Ernie Goss, Creighton University

MID-AMERICA INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 73.7

July 2020: 55.0

↑ 33.9%

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 60.4

July 2020: 50.0

↑ 20.9%

Source: Ernie Goss, Creighton University

BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: NA

July 2020: 83.3

NA

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

LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATOR-NE

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 169.6

July 2020: 65.9

↑ 157.3%

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 July 2021 value was over 100 points higher than the 2020 value. Likewise, the survey-based Mainstreet Index was positive at 77.3. Values greater than 50.0 indicate growth for that index. The Mid-America indexes also showed positive expectations for the NE and U.S. economies. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve has suspended its estimates of the states' leading economic indicators. The Fed's estimate of Nebraska's coincident index increased 7.9 points between 2020 and 2021, suggesting future 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 3-month moving averages for May through July of each year. Non-Motor vehicle net taxable sales are 3-month averages for April through June. NMV taxable sales are lagged due to data availability. For quarterly data, first quarter 2021 numbers are compared to the fourth quarter of 2020.

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NEBRASKA

JOBS AND WAGES

NON-FARM JOBS (000s), NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 1,014.8

July 2020: 9,567.8

 **4.9%**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 146,147.3

July 2020: 137,006.7

 **6.7%**

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

NON-FARM MANUFACTURING JOBS (000s), NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 100.8

July 2020: 96.0

 **5.0%**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 12,370.7

July 2020: 11,957.7

 **3.5%**

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

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

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 63.0

July 2020: 64.6

 **-2.6%**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 6,540.0

July 2020: 6,471.4

 **1.1%**

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

NON-FARM HEALTHCARE JOBS, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 138.4

July 2020: 133.2

 **3.9%**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 15,980.7

July 2020: 16,737.4

 **-4.5%**

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

PRIVATE AVERAGE WAGE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: \$56,063

July 2020: \$47,449

 **18.2%**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: \$62,629

July 2020: \$52,188

 **20%**

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

SUMMARY: As noted, Nebraska nonfarm job growth increased 4.9% compared to 6.7% for the U.S. Nonfarm employment is the number of jobs by industry as derived from a monthly survey of employers. Between July 2020 and July 2021, manufacturing job growth at 5.0% exceeded the U.S. increase of 2.5%. Nebraska's finance/insurance sector jobs decreased 2.6%, while the U.S. gained 1.1%. Nebraska healthcare jobs numbers increased at a faster rate (3.9%) than the U.S. (-4.5%). Nebraska's average wage did not grow as fast as the U.S. average rate, 18.2% to 20.0%, and the average wage remains 90% of the national average.

LABOR FORCE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 2.4

July 2020: 5.6

 **-3.2**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 5.8%

July 2020: 11.6%

 **-5.8**

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

LABOR FORCE, NSA

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 1,030.4

July 2020: 1,054.5

 **-2.3%**

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 161,863.7

July 2020: 160,077.3

 **1.1%**

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

SUMMARY: In July 2021, the Nebraska labor force decreased by 2.3% while the U.S. grew 1.1%. 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 2.4% in July 2021 compared to 5.8% for the nation. The U.S. unemployment rate dropped 5.8 points compared to a 3.2 drop for the state. This indicates that NE's unemployment rate did not rise as high as the U.S. throughout 2020.

GDP INCOME AND POPULATION

REAL GDP IN CHAINED DOLLARS (mm)

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 1 2021: \$119,441
Quarter 4 2020: \$117,678

↑ 1.5%

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 1 2021: \$19,055,700
Quarter 4 2020: \$18,767,800

↑ 1.5%

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

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 1 2021: \$65,690
Quarter 4 2020: \$58,880

↑ 11.6%

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 1 2021: \$66,889
Quarter 4 2020: \$59,086

↑ 13.2%

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

POPULATION

Quarter-over-Quarter Change

NEBRASKA:

Quarter 1 2021: 1,940,334
Quarter 4 2020: 1,939,875

↑ 0.02%

UNITED STATES:

Quarter 1 2021: 330,092,941
Quarter 4 2020: 329,933,229

↑ 0.05%

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

OTHER ECONOMIC INDICATORS

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (UNITS)

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: 822.7
July 2020: 695.3

↑ 18.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

RESIDENTIAL BUILDING PERMITS (VAL.)

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: \$146,503,667
July 2020: \$135,571,333

↑ 8.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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

3-Month Rolling Average

UNITED STATES:

July 2021: 112.2
July 2020: 120.6

↓ -8.4%

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve, FRED

NMV NET TAXABLE SALES

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

June 2021: \$3,255,763,097
June 2020: \$2,757,564,582

↑ 18.1%

Source: NE Dept. of Revenue

AVERAGE GAS

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: \$2.93
July 2020: \$2.06

↑ 41.9%

Source: NE Dept. of Energy and Environment

AVERAGE PRICE OIL

3-Month Rolling Average

NEBRASKA:

July 2021: \$69.98
July 2020: \$28.8

↑ 142.1%

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. Between Quarter 4 2020 and Quarter 1 2021, Nebraska's real GDP increased 1.5%, which equaled the national increase. Per capita income increased 11.6% in NE and 13.2% nationally over those two quarters. The estimated populations of Nebraska and the U.S. remained flat from Quarter 4 2020 to Quarter 1 2021, increasing 0.02% and 0.05%, respectively.

Other Economic Indicators: Permit issuing places in Nebraska issued 18.3% more building permits in July 2021 than in July 2020. The value of those permits was \$10.9 million more than in 2020. July 2021 average gasoline prices per gallon in Nebraska were 41.9% higher than the previous July. The index value of the dollar, compared to other world currencies, was 8.4 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:

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