**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.

**LEADING AND COINCIDENT INDICATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Nebraska 3-Month Rolling Average</th>
<th>United States 3-Month Rolling Average</th>
<th>Source</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>LEADING INDEX</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Month Rolling Average</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: NA</td>
<td>December 2020: NA</td>
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<td><strong>COINCIDENT INDEX</strong></td>
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<td>3-Month Rolling Average</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: 136.6</td>
<td>December 2020: 128.5</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DIFFUSION INDEX</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Month Rolling Average</td>
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<td>NA</td>
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<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: 100.0</td>
<td>December 2020: 81.3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAINSTREET ECONOMY INDEX</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Month Rolling Average</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: 70.9</td>
<td>December 2020: 50.5</td>
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<td><strong>MID-AMERICA INDEX</strong></td>
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<td>3-Month Rolling Average</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: 66.2</td>
<td>December 2020: 68.4</td>
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<td><strong>LEADING ECONOMIC INDICATOR-NE</strong></td>
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<td>3-Month Rolling Average</td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: 171.2</td>
<td>December 2020: 51.93</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BUSINESS CONFIDENCE INDEX</strong></td>
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<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bureau of Business Research</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December 2021: NA</td>
<td>December 2020: NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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.
## 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%**


### 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%**


### 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%**


### 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%**


### 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%**


## 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**


### 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%**


### 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

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