

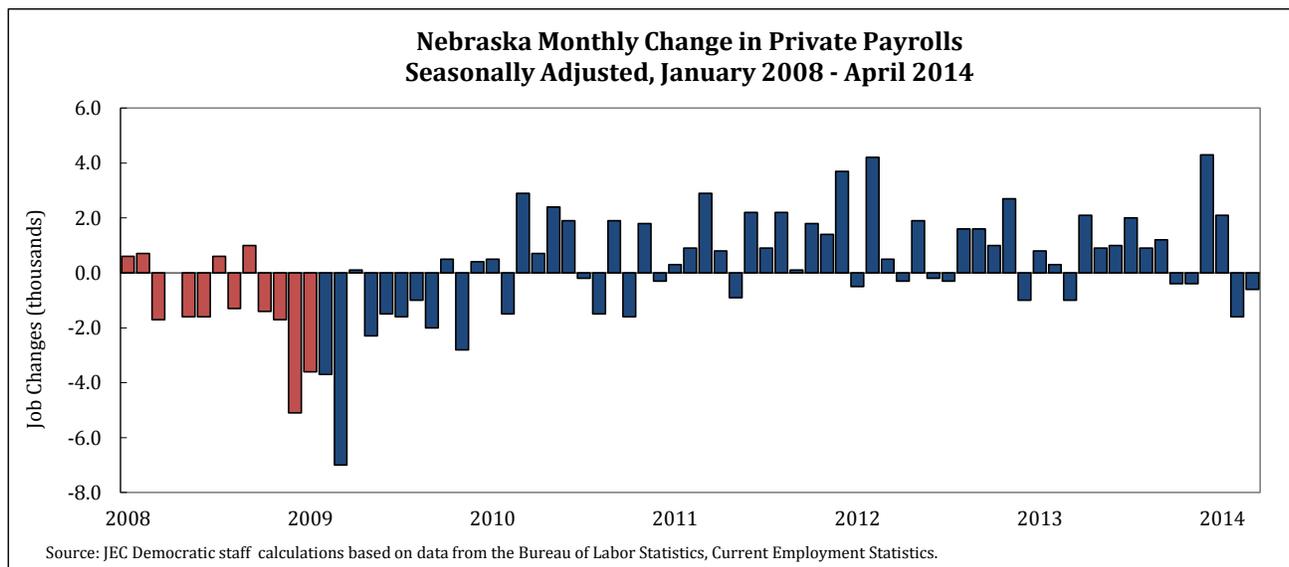


ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT: NEBRASKA

Includes Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs and unemployment data through April 2014

JOBS

- In April, private-sector employment in Nebraska fell by 600 jobs. Over the past year, the Nebraska private sector has added 11,500 jobs. This compares with an increase of 7,100 jobs over the 12 months ending in April 2013.
- Nebraska private-sector employers have added 45,600 jobs (an increase of 5.9 percent) since February 2010, the national low point for private-sector employment.
- In Nebraska, the following sectors have posted the largest job gains since February 2010: professional and business services (9,400 jobs), education and health services (9,300 jobs) and trade, transportation and utilities (8,800 jobs).
- The Nebraska sectors with the greatest job gains in percentage terms since February 2010 are: professional and business services (9.4 percent), logging, mining and construction (7.1 percent) and leisure and hospitality (7.0 percent).



UNEMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Nebraska was 3.6 percent in April 2014, down 0.2 percentage point from March. The rate is down 0.4 percentage point from one year earlier and is below its recent peak of 4.9 percent in February 2010.
- 37,500 Nebraska residents were unemployed during April 2014, down from a recent high of 48,000 in February 2010. There are still 8,200 more people unemployed in Nebraska than when the recession began.
- In Nebraska, initial claims for unemployment insurance benefits totaled 7,336 during March, up 23.6 percent from the previous month. Total initial claims over the past 12 months are down 12.4 percent from their level over the 12 months before that.

EXPORTS

- In Nebraska, exports totaled \$797 million in March and \$7.7 billion over the past year, up 4.8 percent from the 12 months ending in March 2013 (inflation-adjusted dollars).
- Nebraska exports over the past 12 months are up 31.5 percent from their level in the same 12-month period four years earlier (inflation-adjusted dollars).

HOUSING

- Home prices in Nebraska increased by 3.8 percent from the fourth quarter of 2012 to the fourth quarter of 2013 (the most recent quarter for which data are available). They are up 6.7 percent since their recent low in the first quarter of 2010 and are now 3.6 percent above their pre-housing-crash peak.
- Housing starts in Nebraska totaled 7,120 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in March 2014, an increase of 26.0 percent from February.
- Within the Midwest census region, which includes Nebraska, sales of new single-family homes totaled 51,000 units in March 2014, a decrease of 21.5 percent from February. Sales of existing single-family homes increased by 4.3 percent to 970,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from February to March 2014.

* For Nebraska-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Nebraska office: <http://www.dol.nebraska.gov/>

How Does Nebraska Compare to Other States?

Workers across the country were hit hard during the recent recession. Since then, employment in some states has returned to pre-recession levels, while employment in other states remains below pre-recession levels. The chart below allows for a comparison of Nebraska to other states using two metrics.

The unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor-market conditions in Nebraska, while net job gains since the recession began (current nonfarm jobs as a share of jobs prior to the recession) measures progress toward labor-market recovery (vertical axis).

States falling in the upper left quadrant have net job gains since the start of the recession and unemployment rates lower than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower right quadrant have higher unemployment rates than the United States overall and are still experiencing net job losses relative to pre-recession levels.



Note: The figure above excludes North Dakota, which has a current unemployment rate of 2.6% and net job gains totaling 27.3% since the start of the recession.

STATE QUICK FACTS

		Nebraska	United States
Unemployment Rates	April 2014	3.6%	6.3%
	April 2013	4.0%	7.5%
	April 2012	4.0%	8.2%
	April 2011	4.5%	9.1%
Percent of Population Who Are Veterans	2013	9.8%	9.0%
All Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	4.4%	6.6%
Post-9/11 Veterans' Unemployment Rate	2013	13.8%	9.0%
Median Household Income	2012	\$ 52,196	\$ 51,017
	(2012 \$) 2007	\$ 54,455	\$ 55,627
Poverty Rate	2012	12.2%	15.0%
	2007	9.9%	12.5%
No Health Insurance	2012	13.3%	15.4%
	2007	13.0%	14.7%