

# THE Nebraska ECONOMIC DATABOOK

*A summary of regional economic indicators  
for the state of Nebraska*



MAY 20, 2019

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK of KANSAS CITY

## SUMMARY OF CURRENT NEBRASKA ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

In Nebraska, the unemployment rate was 2.9 percent in April, and total payroll employment grew 0.3 percent compared to the previous year. Employment growth was mixed across industries, with the strongest gains in the federal government and transportation, warehousing and utilities sectors. Nebraska nominal personal income grew 4.1 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to the previous year, with workplace earnings up 4.1 percent. Home prices increased 5.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to a year ago, while single-family and multifamily permits recorded a -23.3 and 56.8 percent change, respectively, year-to-date through March 2019. Nebraska exports were 10.1 percent higher in the fourth quarter of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

This databook provides current economic indicators to help monitor trends and allow comparison of past information. These indicators include: employment; employment by industry; county and state unemployment; personal income; home prices; housing indicators; manufacturing activity; and exports. These indicators can be found on the following pages.



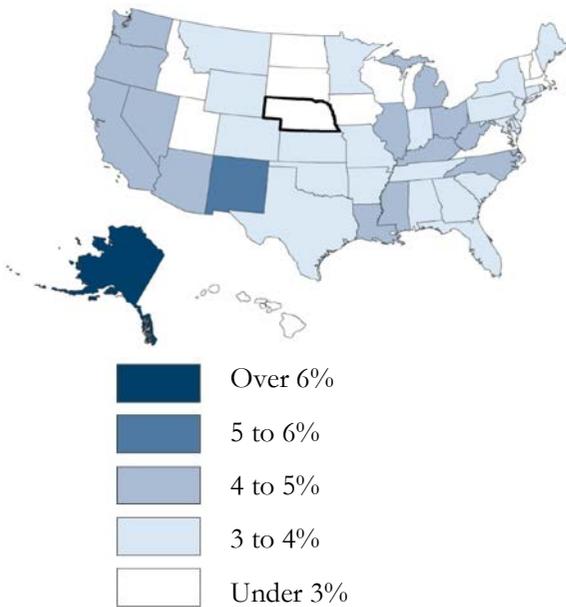
Nathan Kauffman is Vice President and Omaha Branch Executive. In this role, Kauffman is the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's regional economist and lead officer in Nebraska. He is responsible for briefing the Kansas City Fed's President on the economy in Nebraska and the Tenth District.

### Unemployment Rates

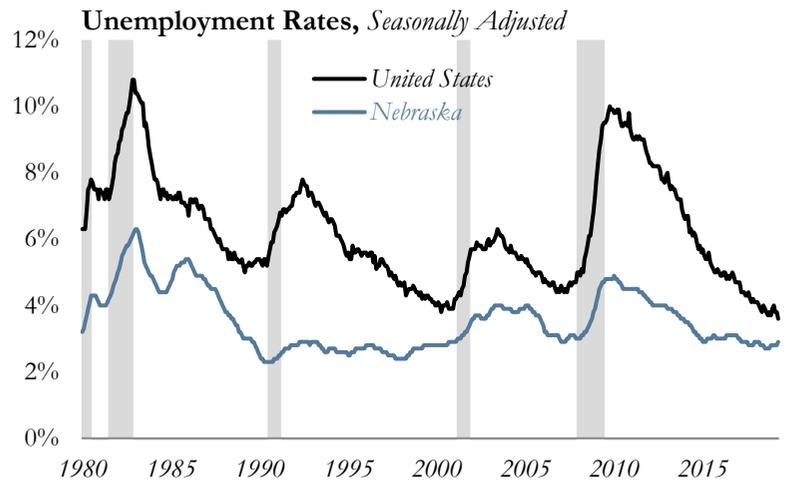
*Seasonally Adjusted*

#### April 2019 Unemployment Rates

*Seasonally Adjusted*



| April 2019                   |               |          |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------|
|                              | United States | Nebraska |
| Unemployment Rate            | 3.6%          | 2.9%     |
| Unemployment Rate, Last Year | 3.9%          | 2.8%     |



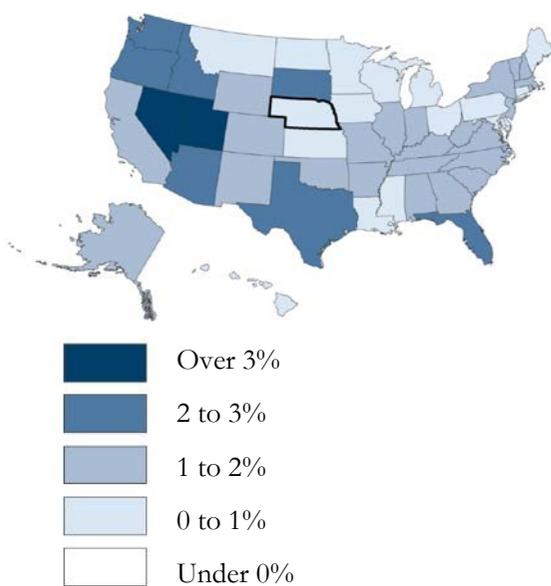
Note: Gray bars indicate recession.

### Payroll Employment

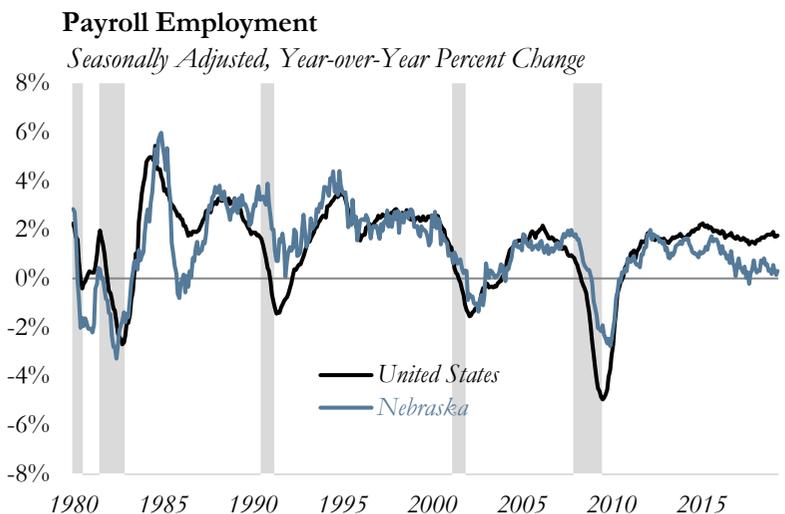
*Seasonally Adjusted*

#### April 2019 Payroll Employment

*Seasonally Adjusted, Year-over-Year Percent Change*



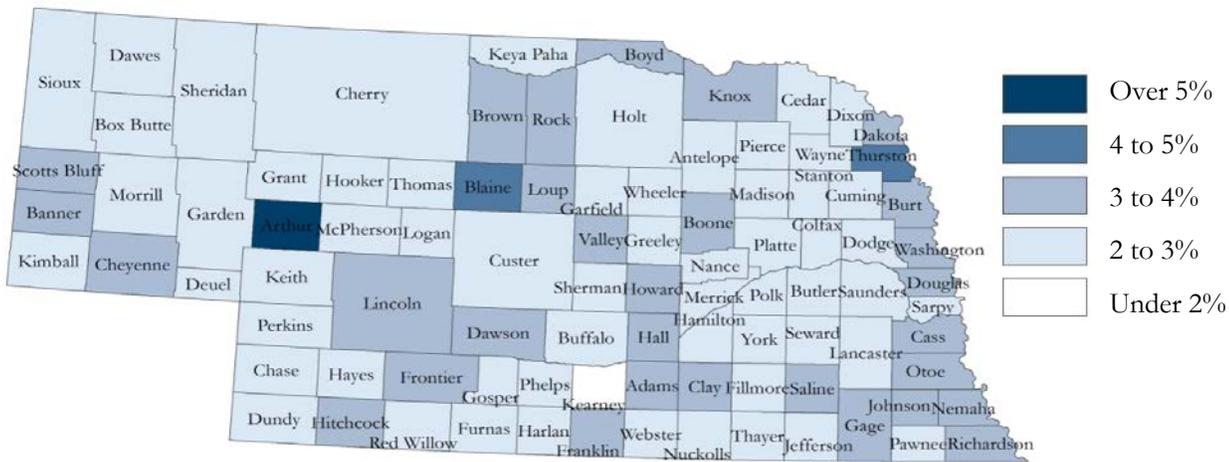
| April 2019            |               |          |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------|
|                       | United States | Nebraska |
| Jobs (Thousands)      | 151,095.0     | 1,024.7  |
| Change from Last Year | 1.8%          | 0.3%     |



Note: Gray bars indicate recession.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics

**March 2019 Unemployment Rates & Civilian Labor Force**  
*Seasonally Adjusted*



|                      | <i>Percent Unemployed</i> | <i>Labor Force (Thousands)</i> |       |        | <i>Percent Unemployed</i> | <i>Labor Force (Thousands)</i> |      |
|----------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------|--------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------|
| <b>United States</b> | <b>3.8%</b>               | <b>162,960.0</b>               | 23    | Howard | 3.2                       | 3.4                            |      |
| <b>Nebraska</b>      | <b>2.8</b>                | <b>1,029.8</b>                 | 24    | Brown  | 3.2                       | 1.4                            |      |
| 1                    | Arthur                    | 5.0                            | 0.2   | 25     | Dawson                    | 3.2                            | 13.2 |
| 2                    | Thurston                  | 5.0                            | 3.2   | 26     | Lincoln                   | 3.1                            | 18.6 |
| 3                    | Blaine                    | 4.0                            | 0.3   | 27     | Banner                    | 3.1                            | 0.4  |
| 4                    | Scotts Bluff              | 3.9                            | 18.7  | 28     | Washington                | 3.1                            | 11.4 |
| 5                    | Dakota                    | 3.9                            | 11.0  | 29     | Adams                     | 3.1                            | 16.9 |
| 6                    | Johnson                   | 3.8                            | 2.1   | 30     | Rock                      | 3.1                            | 0.9  |
| 7                    | Hitchcock                 | 3.8                            | 1.3   | 31     | Otoe                      | 3.1                            | 8.2  |
| 8                    | Frontier                  | 3.7                            | 1.5   | 32     | Franklin                  | 3.1                            | 1.5  |
| 9                    | Gage                      | 3.6                            | 11.1  | 33     | Knox                      | 3.0                            | 4.7  |
| 10                   | Saline                    | 3.4                            | 7.6   | 34     | Nance                     | 3.0                            | 2.0  |
| 11                   | Burt                      | 3.4                            | 3.5   | 35     | Kimball                   | 3.0                            | 2.1  |
| 12                   | Nemaha                    | 3.4                            | 3.6   | 36     | Greeley                   | 3.0                            | 1.2  |
| 13                   | Valley                    | 3.4                            | 2.1   | 37     | Dixon                     | 3.0                            | 3.1  |
| 14                   | Boone                     | 3.4                            | 3.0   | 38     | Madison                   | 3.0                            | 19.8 |
| 15                   | Cass                      | 3.4                            | 13.5  | 39     | Thomas                    | 2.9                            | 0.5  |
| 16                   | Loup                      | 3.3                            | 0.4   | 40     | Webster                   | 2.9                            | 1.7  |
| 17                   | Cheyenne                  | 3.3                            | 4.6   | 41     | Sherman                   | 2.9                            | 1.7  |
| 18                   | Clay                      | 3.3                            | 3.3   | 42     | Merrick                   | 2.9                            | 4.1  |
| 19                   | Richardson                | 3.3                            | 4.3   | 43     | Platte                    | 2.9                            | 17.6 |
| 20                   | Boyd                      | 3.2                            | 1.1   | 44     | Sioux                     | 2.8                            | 0.8  |
| 21                   | Hall                      | 3.2                            | 31.9  | 45     | Harlan                    | 2.8                            | 1.8  |
| 22                   | Douglas                   | 3.2                            | 298.6 | 46     | Dodge                     | 2.8                            | 19.5 |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics

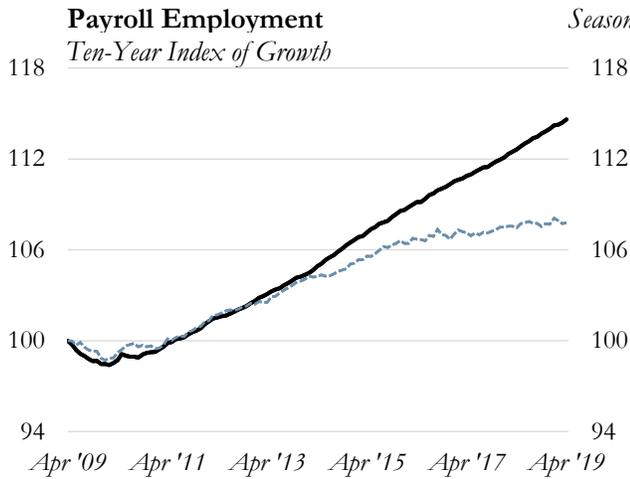
**March 2019 Unemployment Rates & Civilian Labor Force**

|    |            | <i>Percent<br/>Unemployed</i> | <i>Labor Force<br/>(Thousands)</i> |    |           | <i>Percent<br/>Unemployed</i> | <i>Labor Force<br/>(Thousands)</i> |
|----|------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|----|-----------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 47 | Sarpy      | 2.8                           | 95.6                               | 71 | Buffalo   | 2.6                           | 28.0                               |
| 48 | Wheeler    | 2.8                           | 0.6                                | 72 | Phelps    | 2.5                           | 5.0                                |
| 49 | Lancaster  | 2.8                           | 174.1                              | 73 | Colfax    | 2.5                           | 5.6                                |
| 50 | Box Butte  | 2.8                           | 5.5                                | 74 | Hamilton  | 2.5                           | 4.7                                |
| 51 | Pawnee     | 2.8                           | 1.5                                | 75 | Polk      | 2.5                           | 3.0                                |
| 52 | Red Willow | 2.8                           | 5.9                                | 76 | Cedar     | 2.5                           | 4.6                                |
| 53 | Sheridan   | 2.8                           | 2.7                                | 77 | Hayes     | 2.5                           | 0.6                                |
| 54 | Seward     | 2.8                           | 8.8                                | 78 | Grant     | 2.4                           | 0.4                                |
| 55 | Morrill    | 2.8                           | 2.6                                | 79 | Antelope  | 2.4                           | 3.7                                |
| 56 | Gosper     | 2.8                           | 1.1                                | 80 | Logan     | 2.4                           | 0.5                                |
| 57 | Fillmore   | 2.7                           | 3.2                                | 81 | Custer    | 2.4                           | 6.6                                |
| 58 | Dawes      | 2.7                           | 5.0                                | 82 | Garden    | 2.4                           | 1.2                                |
| 59 | Thayer     | 2.7                           | 2.9                                | 83 | Butler    | 2.4                           | 4.6                                |
| 60 | York       | 2.7                           | 7.5                                | 84 | Hooker    | 2.4                           | 0.4                                |
| 61 | Jefferson  | 2.7                           | 4.3                                | 85 | Perkins   | 2.4                           | 1.9                                |
| 62 | Holt       | 2.7                           | 5.9                                | 86 | McPherson | 2.3                           | 0.4                                |
| 63 | Wayne      | 2.7                           | 5.7                                | 87 | Cherry    | 2.2                           | 3.5                                |
| 64 | Furnas     | 2.6                           | 2.6                                | 88 | Chase     | 2.2                           | 2.3                                |
| 65 | Cuming     | 2.6                           | 4.8                                | 89 | Keya Paha | 2.1                           | 0.6                                |
| 66 | Saunders   | 2.6                           | 11.1                               | 90 | Garfield  | 2.1                           | 1.2                                |
| 67 | Keith      | 2.6                           | 4.5                                | 91 | Deuel     | 2.0                           | 1.0                                |
| 68 | Pierce     | 2.6                           | 4.2                                | 92 | Dundy     | 2.0                           | 1.2                                |
| 69 | Nuckolls   | 2.6                           | 2.4                                | 93 | Kearney   | 1.9                           | 3.8                                |
| 70 | Stanton    | 2.6                           | 3.5                                |    |           |                               |                                    |

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics

**Payroll Employment**

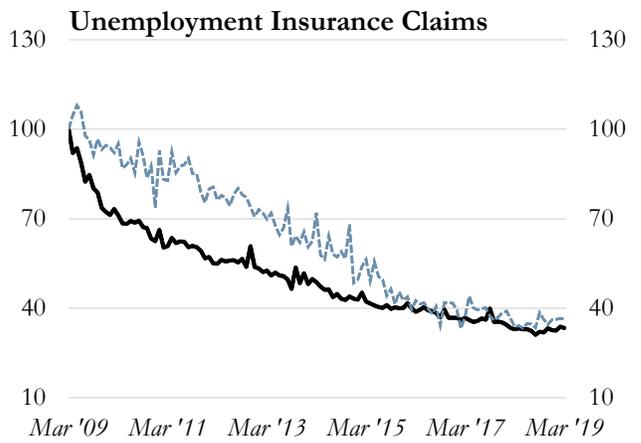
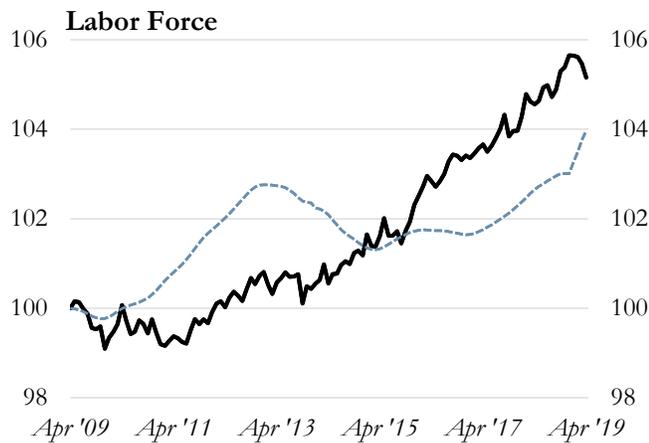
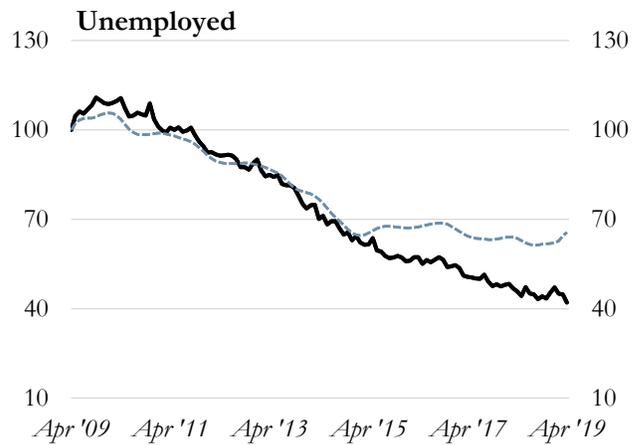
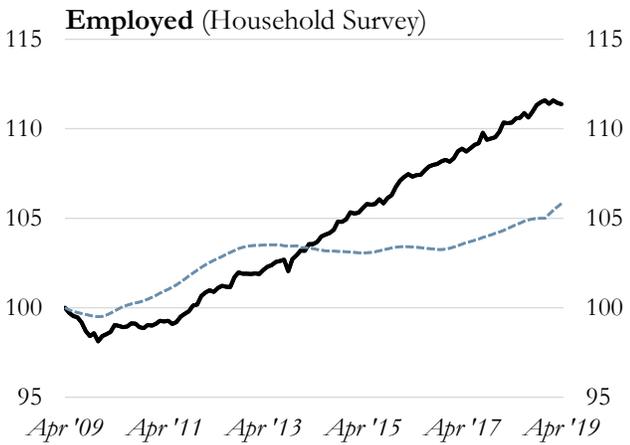
*Seasonally Adjusted*



| April 2019                        |               |          |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|
|                                   | United States | Nebraska |
| Jobs (Thousands)                  | 151,095.0     | 1,024.7  |
| Change from Last Year (Thousands) | 2,620.0       | 3.2      |
| Share of U.S. Employment          |               | 0.7%     |

**Labor Force Dynamics**

*Ten-Year Index of Growth, Seasonally Adjusted*

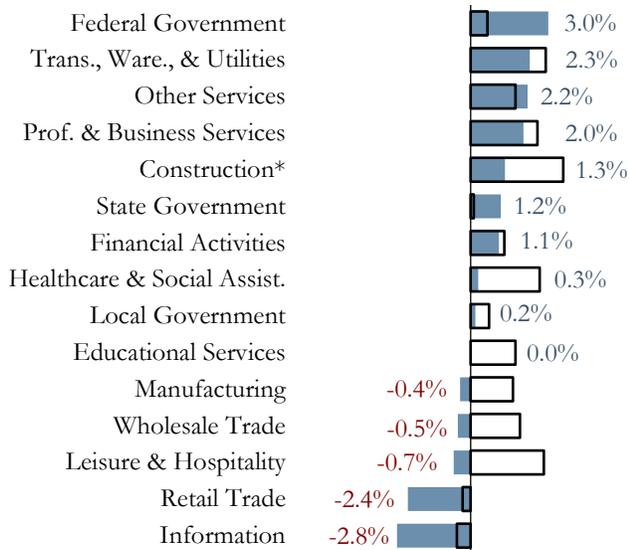


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & Department of Labor/Haver Analytics

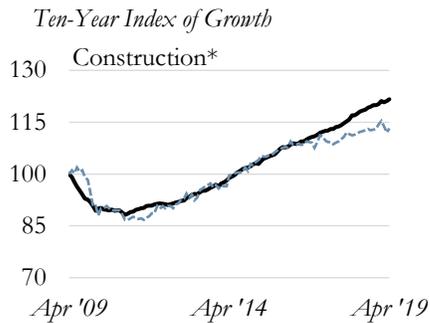
### Payroll Employment by Industry

*Seasonally Adjusted*

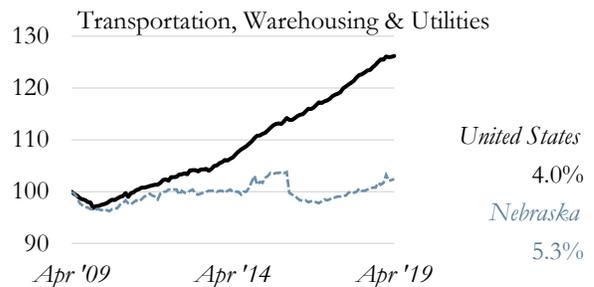
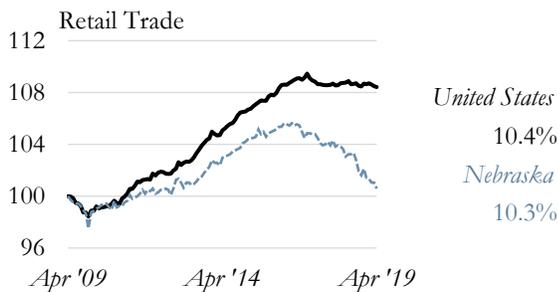
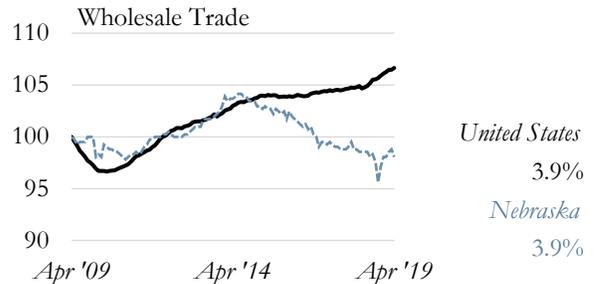
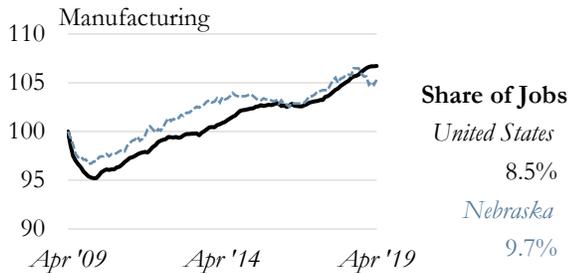
**April 2019** *Percent Change Year-over-Year*



— United States  
 - - - Nebraska



\*Construction includes natural resources and mining employment in Nebraska.

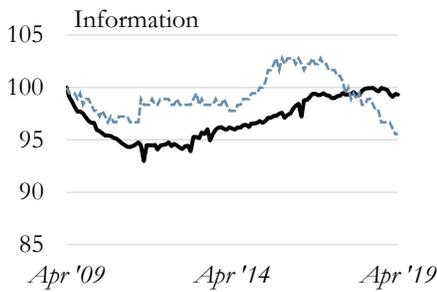


Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics

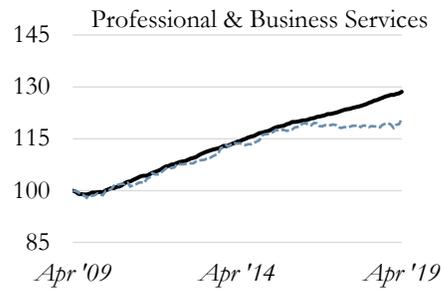
**Payroll Employment by Industry**

Ten-Year Index of Growth, Seasonally Adjusted

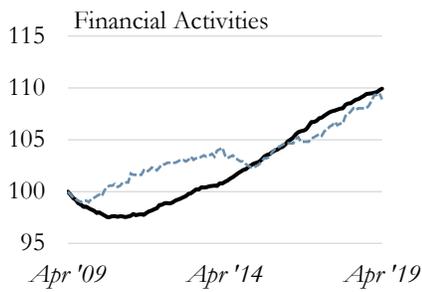
— United States  
 - - - Nebraska



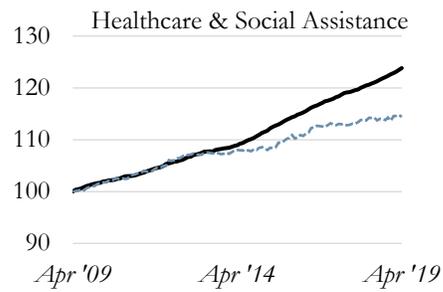
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 1.9%  
 Nebraska  
 1.7%



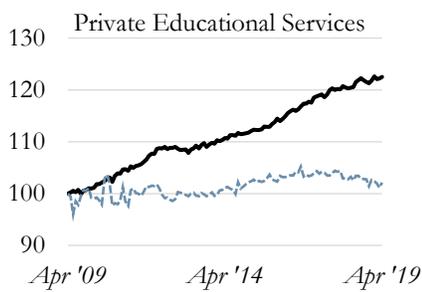
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 14.2%  
 Nebraska  
 11.8%



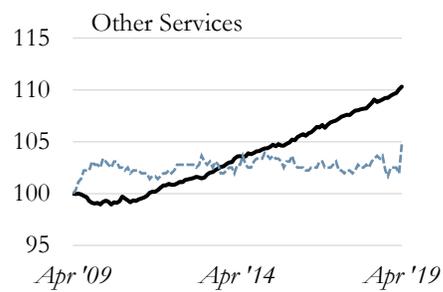
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 5.7%  
 Nebraska  
 7.3%



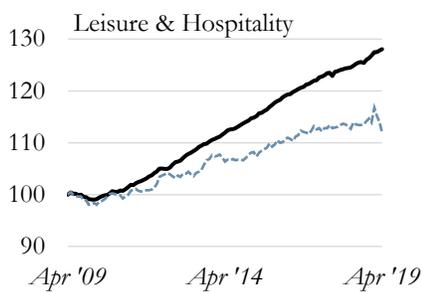
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 13.5%  
 Nebraska  
 13.5%



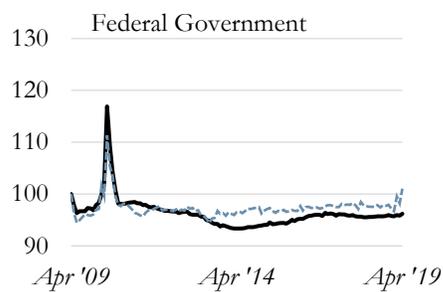
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 2.5%  
 Nebraska  
 1.7%



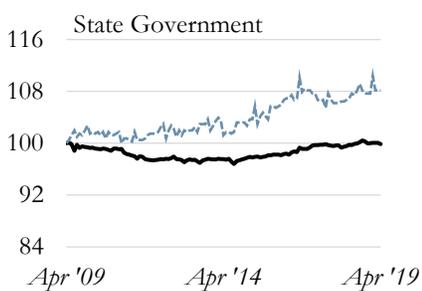
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 3.9%  
 Nebraska  
 3.7%



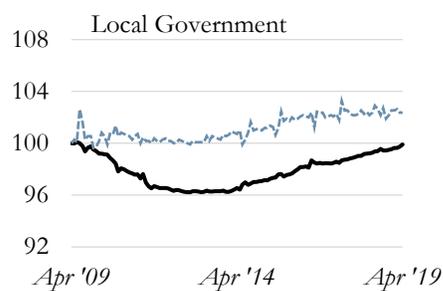
**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 11.1%  
 Nebraska  
 8.9%



**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 1.9%  
 Nebraska  
 1.7%



**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 3.4%  
 Nebraska  
 4.3%

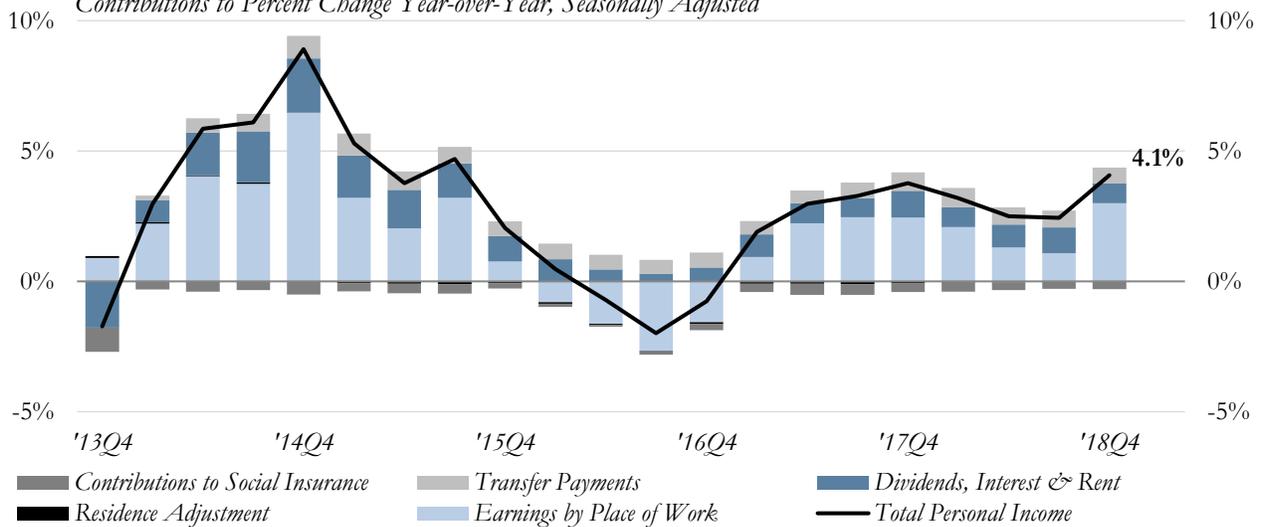


**Share of Jobs**  
 United States  
 9.6%  
 Nebraska  
 11.0%

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics

### Nebraska Nominal Personal Income Growth

*Contributions to Percent Change Year-over-Year, Seasonally Adjusted*

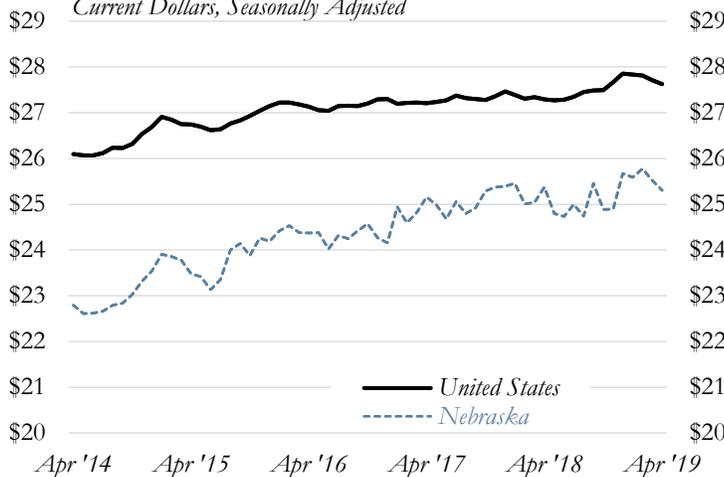


| 2018Q4                          | Percent Change Year-over-Year |             | Share of Personal Income |          |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|----------|
|                                 | United States                 | Nebraska    | United States            | Nebraska |
| <b>Total Personal Income</b>    | <b>4.6%</b>                   | <b>4.1%</b> |                          |          |
| Earnings by Place of Work       | 4.5%                          | 4.1%        | 70.7%                    | 73.8%    |
| Social Insurance Contributions* | -4.9%                         | -3.3%       | -7.7%                    | -8.0%    |
| Residence Adjustment            |                               | 1.9%        |                          | -1.1%    |
| Dividends, Interest & Rent      | 4.8%                          | 3.7%        | 20.1%                    | 20.4%    |
| Transfer Payments               | 4.8%                          | 4.1%        | 16.9%                    | 15.0%    |

\*Subtracted from personal income.

### Real Average Hourly Wage

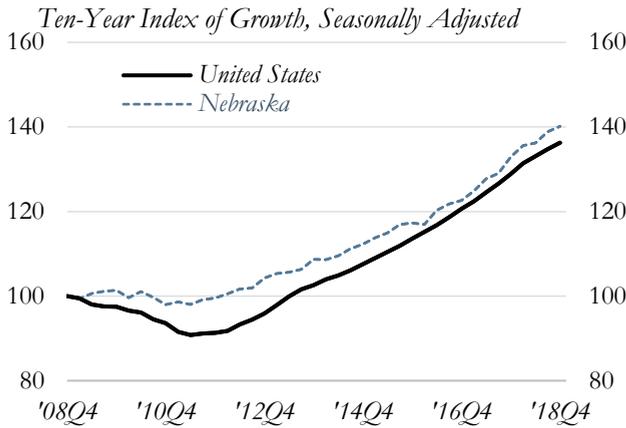
*Current Dollars, Seasonally Adjusted*



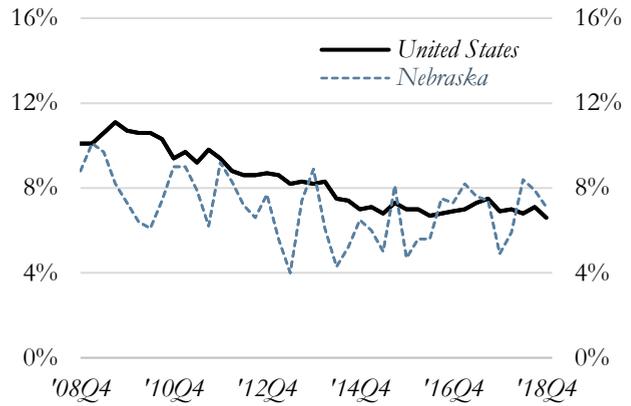
| April 2019              |               |          |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Average Hourly Wage     | United States | Nebraska |
|                         | \$27.62       | \$25.31  |
| <i>Real Change from</i> |               |          |
| Last Month              | -0.3%         | -0.8%    |
| Last Year               | 1.2%          | -0.3%    |

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis & Bureau of Labor Statistics/Haver Analytics

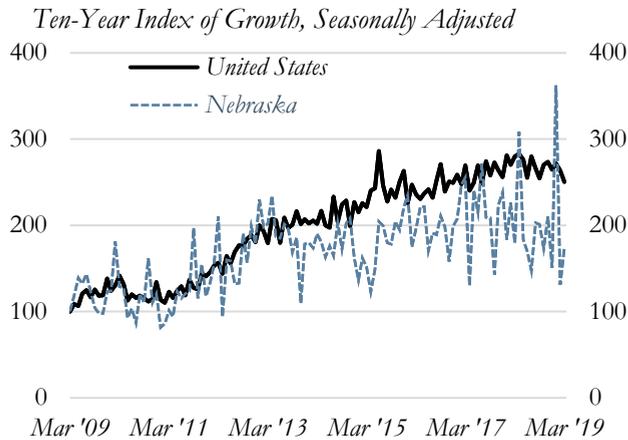
**FHFA Purchase-Only Home Price Index**



**Rental Vacancy Rates**



**Housing Permits**

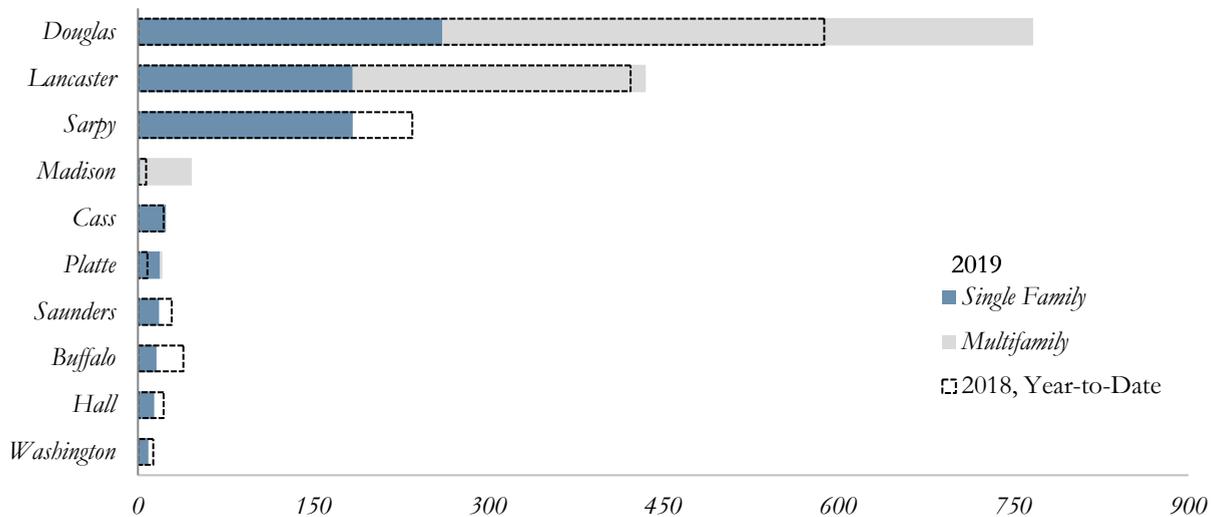


| Summary Statistics      |               |          |
|-------------------------|---------------|----------|
|                         | United States | Nebraska |
| Prices (2018Q4)*        | 5.7%          | 5.4%     |
| Vacancy Rates (2018Q4)  | 6.6%          | 7.1%     |
| Permits (Year-to-Date)* |               |          |
| <i>Single Family</i>    | -7.3%         | -23.3%   |
| <i>Multifamily</i>      | 1.6%          | 56.8%    |

\*Percent change year-over-year.

**Top 10 Nebraska Counties for Permit Activity**

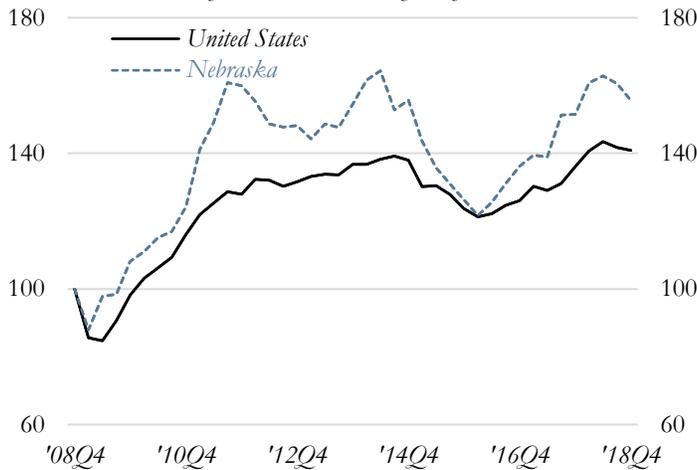
*Year-to-Date through March*



Source: Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) & Census Bureau/Haver Analytics

**Global Exports**

*Ten-Year Index of Growth, Seasonally Adjusted*

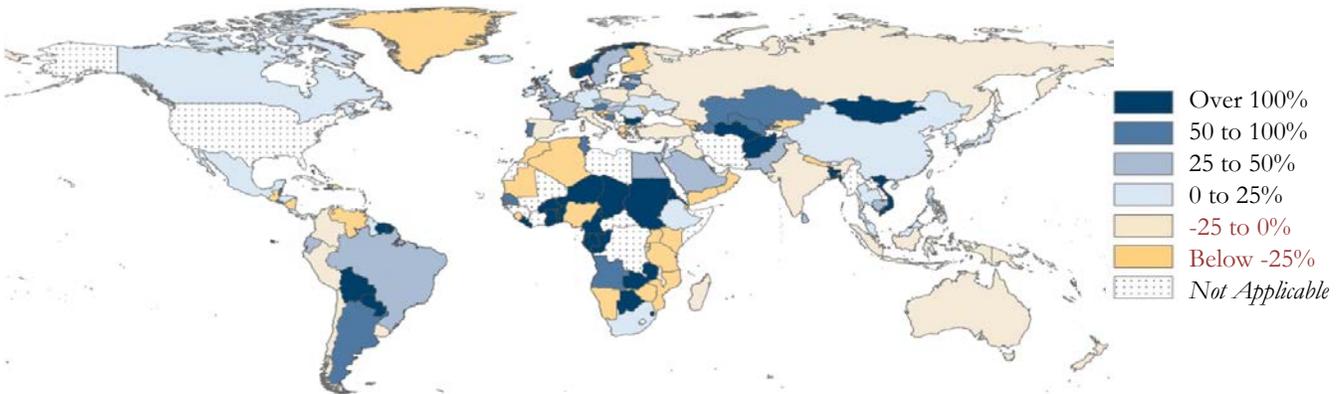


| 2018Q4                   |               |           |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------|
|                          | United States | Nebraska  |
| Exports (Millions)       | \$413,630.0   | \$1,932.3 |
| <i>Change from</i>       |               |           |
| Last Quarter             | -0.6%         | -3.1%     |
| Last Year (year-to-date) | 7.6%          | 10.1%     |
| Share of U.S. Activity   |               | 0.5%      |

| 2018                        |               |          |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------|
| Exports as a Percent of GDP | United States | Nebraska |
|                             | 8.1%          | 6.5%     |

**Nebraska Exports Year-to-Date through 2018Q4**

*Percent Change Year-over-Year*



| Top Markets |             | Share |
|-------------|-------------|-------|
| 1           | Mexico      | 22.3% |
| 2           | Canada      | 21.6  |
| 3           | Japan       | 10.4  |
| 4           | China*      | 10.2  |
| 5           | South Korea | 6.1   |
| 6           | Australia   | 2.9   |
| 7           | Netherlands | 2.1   |
| 8           | Vietnam     | 2.0   |
| 9           | Germany     | 1.9   |
| 10          | Belgium     | 1.8   |

| Top Exports |                                | Share |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| 1           | Food                           | 39.4% |
| 2           | Agriculture & Livestock        | 13.3  |
| 3           | Machinery (Except Electrical)  | 11.9  |
| 4           | Chemicals & Rare Earth Metals  | 10.9  |
| 5           | Transportation Equip.          | 4.1   |
| 6           | Computers & Electronics        | 3.1   |
| 7           | Oil & Gas                      | 3.1   |
| 8           | Misc. Manufactures             | 3.0   |
| 9           | Electronic Equip. & Appliances | 2.7   |
| 10          | Fabricated Metal Products      | 2.2   |

\*China includes Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macao.

Source: Census Bureau, WISERTrade & Bureau of Economic Analysis/Haver Analytics

*Pages 2 - 4:* County unemployment rates typically lag state data releases by one month. Gray bars show recessionary periods as designated by the National Bureau of Economic Research. The "official" and most commonly reported unemployment rate is calculated as the number of unemployed workers divided by the total civilian labor force. These data are reported from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Population Survey, or commonly called the "Household" survey.

*Page 5:* Nonfarm employment data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Current Employment Survey are commonly called "Payroll" employment data. Estimates from this survey are revised throughout the year and a major revision or "benchmark" of the data occurs in March of each year. "Payroll" and "Household" surveys are released monthly, providing the most current estimates of employment published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Because methodologies differ between surveys, employment estimates also differ. For more information, visit:

[http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/ces\\_cps\\_trends.pdf](http://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/ces_cps_trends.pdf)

Initial claims show monthly applications for initial claims for state unemployment insurance benefits.

*Pages 6 and 7:* Payroll employment by industry is shown for each of the major two-digit North American Industrial Classification System industries.

*Page 8:* Personal income provides a measure of all income received by residents of a given geographic area. Data shown are in nominal terms (not adjusted for inflation). Transfer payments include social benefits such as unemployment insurance, Social Security, and Medicaid. Contributions to social insurance are subtracted from personal income. These contributions include taxes paid by businesses and employees that support social insurance programs such as unemployment insurance, Social Security, and Medicaid. The residence adjustment adds income received outside of a recipient's state of residence and makes a corresponding subtraction from the area where this income was earned or received. Real average hourly wages are calculated as total earnings divided by total employment for a given geographic area. Data are adjusted for inflation using the consumer price index for all urban areas (CPI-U) and are indexed to the most current month of data.

*Page 9:* Home price indices estimate regional growth in home values based on repeat sales data for detached single family residential properties. Monthly single and multifamily housing permits data are not revised and therefore may not sum to published year-end totals.

*Page 10:* Exports measure the total physical movement of a given product from the United States to a foreign country.

### Data Revisions

Most data are revised periodically to correct for errors and incorporate additional information as it becomes available. Data shown in this report are subject to change.

### Seasonal Adjustments

Most data are seasonally adjusted to remove variance caused by seasonal fluctuations in economic activity. Data in this report show the seasonal adjustments of data publishers where available. In other cases, Census X-12 adjustments were applied.

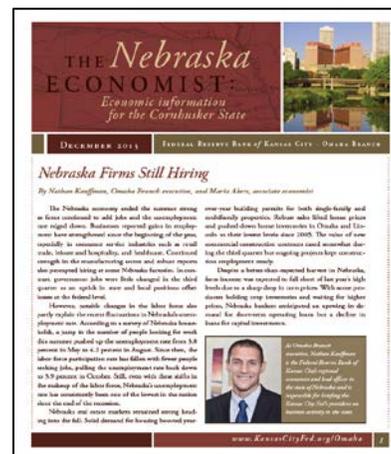
## Regional Economic Analysis

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<http://www.kansascityfed.org/ealert/>

For regional economic analysis on the state of Nebraska, read the latest issues of *The Nebraska Economist*.

<http://www.kansascityfed.org/publications/research/>



## Additional Resources Available

- Agricultural Surveys
- Manufacturing Survey
- Energy Survey
- Regional Economic Analysis
- Speeches
- Banker Resources
- Economic Indicators
- Economic Research
- Educational Tools

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