Remote work is both a challenge and an opportunity for Nebraska in addressing labor shortages that have emerged alongside an ongoing economic recovery from the pandemic.

**Worker Availability**

- Employers across the nation face challenges in attracting and hiring workers.

  - Two or fewer workers were available for each job opening at the end of 2020 in all but nine states.
  - About six workers were available for each job opening nationwide in the wake of the 2007-2009 recession.

**Remote Work Potential**

Throughout the country, a large share of the labor market could have the potential to work remotely on a long-term basis.

**Broader Horizons?**

Remote work could allow Nebraskans to look beyond their local market for jobs and offer Nebraska businesses a larger labor pool.

- Businesses in areas with a high cost of living may consider hiring from areas with a low cost of living.

  20% of Omaha jobs meet criteria to be employed by businesses in San Jose, California.

  2 million+ employees live in other states with occupations and salaries that might incentivize Omaha businesses to hire them.

For more information, including analysis methodology, see the article "Remote Work a Challenge and Opportunity for Nebraska" at www.kansascityfed.org/omaha/nebraska-economist.