Our Changing Landscape

Over the past several decades in Nebraska, where and how people live has changed dramatically. In 1900, 67% of Nebraskans lived in nonmetropolitan counties. Today, 65% live in metropolitan counties. The transformation in where people live in Nebraska reveals changes in how people live as well. For instance, in this infographic you can see that metropolitan Nebraska is younger, more diverse and more educated. However, while there are differences between metropolitan and nonmetropolitan Nebraska there are some attributes of life in Nebraska that transcend county boundaries. For instance, the high rate of labor force participation and the overwhelming majority of Nebraskans that choose to stay in Nebraska for their lifetime.

Note: Nebraska had 13 metro counties in 2016: Cass, Douglas, Sarpy, Saunders, and Washington in the Omaha metro; Lancaster and Seward in the Lincoln metro; Dakota and Dixon in the Sioux City metro; and Hall, Hamilton, Howard, and Merrick in the Grand Island metro.

Sources: Decennial Censuses, 2017 Population Estimates, U.S. Census Bureau
Note: 2016 Office of Management and Budget definitions of metropolitan counties