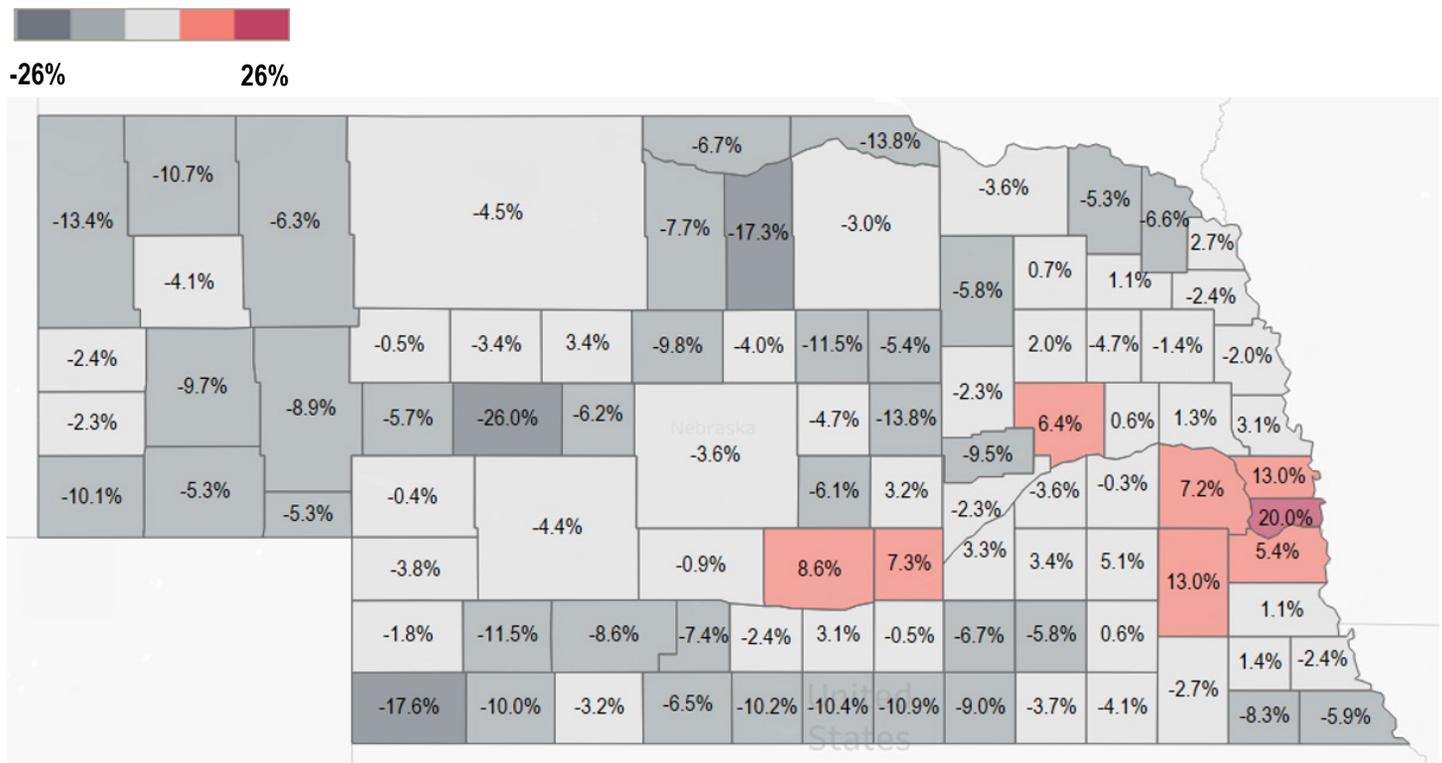


POPULATION PROJECTIONS FOR NEBRASKA COUNTIES 2020 TO 2050

The 2020 Census, the official count of every person in the United States, placed the population of Nebraska at 1,961,504. Over the decade 2010 to 2020, the state grew 7.4%, see Figure 1. However, population growth was uneven statewide, as 69 counties lost population while areas including Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney, and Columbus grew at stronger rates than previously projected (UNO CPAR, 2015).

The release of the 2020 Census data provides the most accurate data to update population projections; however, not all data has been released at this time. Nonetheless, existing data on the fundamental aspects of population change, natural change and migration, are available. Moreover with aggregate population data for 2020, we can best fit a model of population change that reflects past dynamics. Nonetheless, all population projections should be viewed and applied with a great deal of caution as all projections are based on assumptions that may or may not occur. Moreover, as the time horizon for the projections increase, the likelihood of their accuracy decreases.

Figure 1: Since 2010, Nebraska’s population has increased 7.4% but 69 counties have lost population
Percent change in population 2010 – 2020 | 2020 total population = 1,961,504



Source: 2010 and 2020 Census, U.S. Census Bureau

The table provided includes Decennial Census counts for Nebraska Counties in 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020. Projections for the total population by county are provided for 2030, 2040, and 2050.

In contrast to past projections made by UNO CPAR, we apply the “regional rivalry” model developed by Hauer (2019) provided by the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center. The regional rivalry model was evaluated against five other models including available projections from UNO CPAR. The regional rivalry model was adopted as it best fit the population change dynamics seen within the state, including low migration and positive natural change rate. This model also estimates growth steadily and conservatively compared to the other models evaluated, consistent with Nebraska’s population dynamics over time.

Table 1: Decennial Census counts for Nebraska Counties in 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 and projections for the total population by county for 2030, 2040, and 2050

County	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	2030 Projected	2040 Projected	2050 Projected
Adams	29,625	31,151	31,364	31,205	29,997	28,143	25,936
Antelope	7,965	7,452	6,685	6,295	5,292	4,634	4,079
Arthur	462	444	460	434	420	401	391
Banner	852	819	690	674	959	979	982
Blaine	675	583	478	431	560	600	631
Boone	6,667	6,259	5,505	5,379	4,462	3,952	3,501
BoxButte	13,130	12,158	11,308	10,842	10,834	10,532	10,267
Boyd	2,835	2,438	2,099	1,810	1,670	1,418	1,219
Brown	3,657	3,525	3,145	2,903	2,279	1,881	1,560
Buffalo	37,447	42,259	46,102	50,084	54,376	56,982	58,981
Burt	7,868	7,791	6,858	6,722	5,505	4,815	4,208
Butler	8,601	8,767	8,395	8,369	6,873	6,023	5,225
Cass	21,318	24,334	25,241	26,598	24,575	23,071	21,036
Cedar	10,131	9,615	8,852	8,380	7,335	6,525	5,742
Chase	4,381	4,068	3,966	3,893	3,845	3,732	3,658
Cherry	6,307	6,148	5,713	5,455	5,690	5,584	5,514
Cheyenne	9,494	9,830	9,998	9,468	10,179	10,036	9,776
Clay	7,123	7,039	6,542	6,104	5,484	4,862	4,291
Colfax	9,139	10,441	10,515	10,582	10,368	10,344	10,410
Cuming	10,117	10,203	9,139	9,013	8,728	8,407	8,076
Custer	12,270	11,793	10,939	10,545	9,728	9,048	8,360
Dakota	16,742	20,253	21,006	21,582	18,962	17,652	16,360
Dawes	9,021	9,060	9,182	8,199	8,342	7,514	6,718
Dawson	19,940	24,365	24,326	24,111	21,277	19,408	17,658
Deuel	2,237	2,098	1,941	1,838	1,891	1,912	1,954
Dixon	6,143	6,339	6,000	5,606	4,926	4,262	3,645
Dodge	34,500	36,160	36,691	37,167	34,737	32,833	31,011
Douglas	416,444	463,585	517,110	584,526	615,383	643,724	660,606
Dundy	2,582	2,292	2,008	1,654	1,414	1,212	1,059
Fillmore	7,103	6,634	5,890	5,551	5,320	4,924	4,527
Franklin	3,938	3,574	3,225	2,889	2,592	2,259	1,942
Frontier	3,101	3,099	2,756	2,519	2,095	1,707	1,406
Furnas	5,553	5,324	4,959	4,636	4,312	3,997	3,744
Gage	22,794	22,993	22,311	21,704	19,290	17,205	15,125
Garden	2,460	2,292	2,057	1,874	1,498	1,252	1,039
Garfield	2,141	1,902	2,049	1,813	1,922	1,846	1,780

County	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	2030 Projected	2040 Projected	2050 Projected
Gosper	1,928	2,143	2,044	1,893	1,755	1,673	1,641
Grant	769	747	614	611	639	630	612
Greeley	3,006	2,714	2,538	2,188	1,931	1,646	1,396
Hall	48,925	53,534	58,607	62,895	66,348	68,881	70,904
Hamilton	8,862	9,403	9,124	9,429	8,791	8,358	7,875
Harlan	3,810	3,786	3,423	3,073	3,296	3,095	2,950
Hayes	1,222	1,068	967	856	723	560	419
Hitchcock	3,750	3,111	2,908	2,616	2,608	2,464	2,400
Holt	12,599	11,551	10,435	10,127	8,931	8,067	7,369
Hooker	793	783	736	711	746	740	712
Howard	6,057	6,567	6,274	6,475	6,255	6,046	5,768
Jefferson	8,759	8,333	7,547	7,240	6,375	5,805	5,386
Johnson	4,673	4,488	5,217	5,290	4,903	4,801	4,744
Kearney	6,629	6,882	6,489	6,688	6,520	6,442	6,383
Keith	8,584	8,875	8,368	8,335	7,017	6,318	5,771
KeyaPaha	1,029	983	824	769	679	591	514
Kimball	4,108	4,089	3,821	3,434	3,222	2,920	2,689
Knox	9,564	9,374	8,701	8,391	7,467	6,787	6,233
Lancaster	213,641	250,291	285,407	322,608	352,368	375,268	393,993
Lincoln	32,508	34,632	36,288	34,676	31,722	28,521	25,688
Logan	878	774	763	716	724	681	643
Loup	683	712	632	607	427	319	243
Madison	32,655	35,226	34,876	35,585	33,090	30,952	28,591
McPherson	546	533	539	399	382	308	254
Merrick	8,049	8,204	7,845	7,668	7,023	6,425	5,779
Morrill	5,423	5,440	5,042	4,555	4,423	4,239	4,127
Nance	4,275	4,038	3,735	3,380	3,111	2,801	2,508
Nemaha	7,980	7,576	7,248	7,074	6,459	5,901	5,517
Nuckolls	5,786	5,057	4,500	4,095	3,604	3,182	2,780
Otoe	14,252	15,396	15,740	15,912	15,506	14,925	14,277
Pawnee	3,317	3,087	2,773	2,544	2,329	2,168	2,056
Perkins	3,367	3,200	2,970	2,858	2,499	2,182	1,911
Phelps	9,715	9,747	9,188	8,968	8,795	8,411	7,998
Pierce	7,827	7,857	7,266	7,317	6,775	6,453	6,056
Platte	29,820	31,662	32,237	34,296	32,335	31,966	31,796
Polk	5,668	5,639	5,406	5,214	4,740	4,467	4,251
Red Willow	11,705	11,450	11,055	10,702	9,692	8,910	8,217
Richardson	9,937	9,531	8,363	7,871	6,829	5,985	5,242

County	1990 Population	2000 Population	2010 Population	2020 Population	2030 Projected	2040 Projected	2050 Projected
Rock	2,019	1,756	1,526	1,262	968	753	608
Saline	12,715	13,843	14,200	14,292	14,543	14,473	14,613
Sarpy	102,583	122,595	158,840	190,604	213,311	232,217	245,861
Saunders	18,285	19,830	20,780	22,278	19,835	18,456	16,599
Scotts Bluff	36,025	36,951	36,970	36,084	32,782	29,995	27,704
Seward	15,450	16,496	16,750	17,609	16,432	15,491	14,422
Sheridan	6,750	6,198	5,469	5,127	4,416	3,928	3,575
Sherman	3,718	3,318	3,152	2,959	2,554	2,168	1,818
Sioux	1,549	1,475	1,311	1,135	1,070	948	873
Stanton	6,244	6,455	6,129	5,842	4,797	4,002	3,258
Thayer	6,635	6,055	5,228	5,034	4,644	4,440	4,320
Thomas	851	729	647	669	696	691	695
Thurston	6,936	7,171	6,940	6,773	6,361	5,867	5,369
Valley	5,169	4,647	4,260	4,059	3,633	3,338	3,143
Washington	16,607	18,780	20,234	20,865	18,943	17,437	15,659
Wayne	9,364	9,851	9,595	9,697	9,650	9,244	8,993
Webster	4,279	4,061	3,812	3,395	3,284	3,074	2,853
Wheeler	948	886	818	774	574	474	391
York	14,428	14,598	13,665	14,125	13,120	12,623	12,208
Nebraska	1,578,417	1,711,265	1,826,341	1,961,504	1,995,774	2,023,184	2,031,075

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