The Policy Environment for Nebraska

CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH

John Bartle, Ph.D. Dean, College of Public Affairs and Community Service
Josie Schafer, Ph.D., Director
jgschafer@unomaha.edu
cpar.unomaha.edu/policy

@UNOmahacpar
#Nebraskabythenumbers
@unocpar
Mission Statement of Nebraska Planning Committee

The planning committee of the Legislature is charged with establishing and maintaining a future focus on the priorities of the state. Its responsibility is to assure continuity of policy to achieve long term goals. The committee will do so by:
collecting and analyzing data about Nebraska, including, but not limited to, demographics, workforce, education, wages, wealth, tax structure, revenue, natural resources, assets, challenges, trends, and growth and efficiency of government;
identifying long-term issues significant to the state;
setting goals and benchmarks;
issuing a yearly report of the committee’s findings; and proposing legislation.
Please visit Cpar.unomaha.edu/policy to access Nebraska Legislative Districts by the Numbers and over 30 policy briefs in 9 different topic areas.
Senators in attendance at the November 2018 Legislative Council were asked about the importance of each of the topics that were shown to them by Josie Schafer, UNO CPAR. Only aggregate information was maintained.

**Population**
58% of Senators Said Topic was Extremely Important or Important

**Education**
76% of Senators Said Topic was Extremely Important or Important

**Aging**
76% of Senators Said Topic was Extremely Important or Important

**Workforce**
82% of Senators Said Topic was Extremely Important or Important

**Diversity & Demographics**
60% of Senators Said Topic was Extremely Important or Important

**Public Safety**
* Not surveyed
Since 2010, Nebraska’s population has increased about 5% but 66 counties have lost population

Percent change in population 2010 - 2018

Note: Nebraska population overall increased 5.6%
- Dark gray: Population decrease of 5.0% or more (28 counties)
- Medium gray: Population decrease of less than 5.0% (38 counties)
- Light red: Population increase of less than 5.0% (18 counties)
- Red: Population increase of 5.0% or more (9 counties)
Nebraska is losing about 2,000 people a year to other states

*Persons age 1 and older by area (no. of counties) 2017*

- Flow with other states
- Flow within NE

Source: American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2013-2017
65% of Nebraska’s population will live in a metro by 2020

- Metro counties (12)
- Nonmetro counties (81)

Sources: Decennial Census, U.S Census Bureau. Population projections, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research
Aging
The ratio of working age to aging adults was 6:1 in 1950, 5:1 in 2010 and is expected to be 4:1 by 2030 as the aging adult population increases and the number under age 5 is flat.
Since 2000, all but 9 counties have lost population under age 20

Percent change in population under 20 2000-2017

Sources: Tables PCT012 and PCT012I, 2000 Census (SF1); 2017 Vintage Population Estimates, all U.S. Census Bureau
Increasing Diversity
21% of Nebraska’s population is minority, up from 8% in 1990

Minority population as % of total population by age groups

Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2013-2017
Since 2000, in all but 3 counties there has been a decline in the number of White, non-Hispanic population under 20

Percent change in White population under 20, 2000-2017

Sources: Tables PCT012 and PCT012I, 2000 Census (SF1); 2017 Vintage Population Estimates, all U.S. Census Bureau
Education
Smaller school districts have higher spending per student

*School district per pupil spending for Nebraska school districts under 6,100 students*

- **< $10,355**
- **$10,356 – $13,910**
- **$13,911 - $17,001**
- **$17,002 – $20,556**
- **> $20,557**

Average per pupil expenditures for schools with 6,100 students or less is $15,456.

Average for the 7 largest school districts is $10,421.67.

Nebraska’s per pupil spending of $12,578 is near the national average of $12,520

2017 average per pupil expenditure calculated by U.S. Census Bureau

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Annual Survey of School System Finances FY 2017
64% of Nebraskans have some higher education and higher education leads to higher income

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata and American Community Survey 5 year estimates, 2013-217
693,857 persons over 16 that are employed full-time year-round
1,024,737 persons 16 years and older in the labor force
70% labor force participation

**Labor force participation rate by race, ethnicity, and gender**
Latino ----- 75%  Black ----- 68%  Male ----- 88%
White ----- 70%  Asian ----- 66%  Female ----- 80%
American Indian & Alaska Native ----- 64%

---

**State Rankings**

**#1** Labor force participation of single mothers with kids under six - 81%

---

**#2** for age 25-64 with a bachelor’s degree+ in the labor force - 90%

in % of married-couple families with both spouses in the labor force - 61%

for share of families in poverty that have a householder or spouse who worked “full time and year round” - 29%

for age 55-64 labor force participation - 74%

---

**#3** for age 16-19 labor force participation - 53%

---

**#4** for age 65+ labor force participation - 22%

for portion of workers that have more than one job - 8%

---

**#5** for kids under six with all parents in the labor force - 72%

---

**#9** 2.9% Unemployment as of April 2019
The prime age workforce is peaking and will decline for the next 10 years

Nebraska projected age 25-64 population 2010 to 2030
Public Safety
Since 1982, the number of inmates housed in Nebraska facilities has increased 200%

Nebraska Department of Corrections average daily population and design capacity fiscal year 1982 – 2020 | 2019 and 2020 are projections

Source: Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Location History Records. Prepared by: Abby L. Carbaugh, Ph.D., Nebraska Department of Correctional Services
On average, only 14% of probationers reoffend within three years of release

Yearly number of probationers and recidivism rate within three years of discharge

Number of Probationers
- 2,000
- 4,000
- 6,000
- 8,000
- 10,000
- 12,000

Percent Recidivating
- 14%
- 15%

2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012
Over $2,000 is lost for every person not counted
In 2019 the population of 75+ surpassed the population under age 5

Projection of Nebraska population for select age groups 2010 - 2050

- Population under age 5
- Population age 75+

Source: June 2013 Population Projections, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research
Prepared by: David Drozd
Rural counties have the highest percentages of persons 65+ in poverty

Percent of population in poverty by county groups

- Rural (50): 12% in poverty, 10% 65+ in poverty, 17% under 18 in poverty
- Rural with a urban cluster (22): 11% in poverty, 8% 65+ in poverty, 15% under 18 in poverty
- Micropolitan (9): 12% in poverty, 8% 65+ in poverty, 17% under 18 in poverty
- Suburban (7): 9% in poverty, 8% 65+ in poverty, 12% under 18 in poverty
- Metropolitan (5): 13% in poverty, 7% 65+ in poverty, 17% under 18 in poverty
NEBRASKA'S COMPOSITION OF GENERAL FUND REVENUE FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

TOTAL: $3,895,877,673.87

- LOCAL: 56% - $2,186,730,167.62
- STATE: 37% - $1,455,099,449.97
- FEDERAL: 5% - $199,019,517.47
- OTHER: 0.4% - $18,230,545.28
- COUNTY & ESU: 0.9% - $36,797,993.53
Larger school districts have higher teacher to student ratio

2017/18 average teacher to student ratio by school district size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SCHOOL DISTRICT</th>
<th>NUMBER OF STUDENTS</th>
<th>SPENDING PER STUDENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elkhorn Public</td>
<td>9,347</td>
<td>$9,297.40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue Public</td>
<td>9,801</td>
<td>$10,676.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Island Public</td>
<td>9,897</td>
<td>$10,457.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papillion La Vista Community</td>
<td>12,018</td>
<td>$9,644.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millard Public</td>
<td>24,018</td>
<td>$9,453.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln Public</td>
<td>41,737</td>
<td>$10,777.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omaha Public</td>
<td>52,836</td>
<td>$12,644.60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>69 – 593 students</th>
<th>599 – 6,060 students</th>
<th>Over 6,100</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.56</td>
<td>8.61</td>
<td>11.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Data from Nebraska Department of Education.
9.8% of Nebraska's age 20+ population have an associate degree. (133,203)

Distribution of age 20+ population with an associate degree by race, ethnicity, and gender:
- White: 90.2%
- Latino: 4.1%
- Black: 3.1%
- Asian: 1.0%
- Other: 1.0%
- American Indian: 0.6%

Female: 52.2%
Male: 47.8%

7.3% poverty rate
$40,894 median earnings of full-time workers
72.4% in owner-occupied households

Sources: 2012-2016 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Samples, U.S. Census Bureau & 2017 American Community Survey 5-year estimates
In only 7 counties, there are over 30.6% of persons with a Bachelor’s degree.

Percent of population 25 years and older with a Bachelor’s Degree or higher education.
Nebraska’s brain drain continues versus a net inmigration of those with less education

*Net domestic migration of age 25+ population by education, 2010 to 2017*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>Net Migration of Age 25+ Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School or Less</td>
<td>-1,104, 826, 797, 475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college/Associates Degree</td>
<td>1,935, 1,873, 1,708, -83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's Degree or More</td>
<td>984, 826, 687, 376, 266, 495, 256, 902, 1,106</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

377,452 BD or higher
Median income for BD in US is $52,019
NE is $46,835

Sources: 2006-2010 to 2013-2017 American Community Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau, Prepared by: David Drozd
On average, Nebraskans’ incomes have increased about 8% since 2006 ranking 7th best in the country

Inflation adjusted mean household income. About 145,000 households per quintile, 37,000 in the top 5%

The graph shows the trend of average household income across different quintiles from 2006 to 2017. The income for the Top 5% has consistently increased over the years, with a 14.4% percent change. The incomes for other quintiles have also increased, with the lowest quintile showing a 3.9% percent change.
Of the 12% of the population that is in poverty, **47%** work full or part-time.

**Percent of population 16 and over that are in poverty by employment status over the past 12 months**

- **Worked Full-Time**: 3%
- **Worked Less Than Full-Time**: 44%
- **Did Not Work**: 39%

23% of those in poverty, 25 or older, have less than a high school degree.

*Sources: 2013-2017 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, S1701*
Misdemeanors and civil cases account for the largest amount of statewide county court caseloads

Breakdown of Nebraska County Court Caseloads by Year

- Traffic - Misdemeanor/Ordinance
- Non-Traffic - Misdemeanor/Ordinance
- Felony
- Civil
- Other

Source: County Court Annual Caseload Reports, Nebraska Judicial Branch
2017 Violent Offense Rate by State

The violent offense rate per 100,000 people in Nebraska is lower than the national average

Yearly Rate of Recidivism among Discharged Probationers

On average, only 14% of probationers reoffend within three years of release

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Probationers</th>
<th>Number Recidiving</th>
<th>Percent Recidiving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>9,775</td>
<td>1,363</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>9,637</td>
<td>1,365</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>9,401</td>
<td>1,394</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>9,937</td>
<td>1,410</td>
<td>14.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9,795</td>
<td>1,352</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8,765</td>
<td>1,233</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7,741</td>
<td>1,143</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: Most recent data available

Source: Richard L. Wiener, PhD. Recidivism Rates for Adult Probationers: 2006 to 2012
Nebraska Department of Correctional Services Capacity and Average Daily Population, FY 1982-FY 2020

Since 1982, the number of inmates housed in Nebraska facilities has increased by over 200%