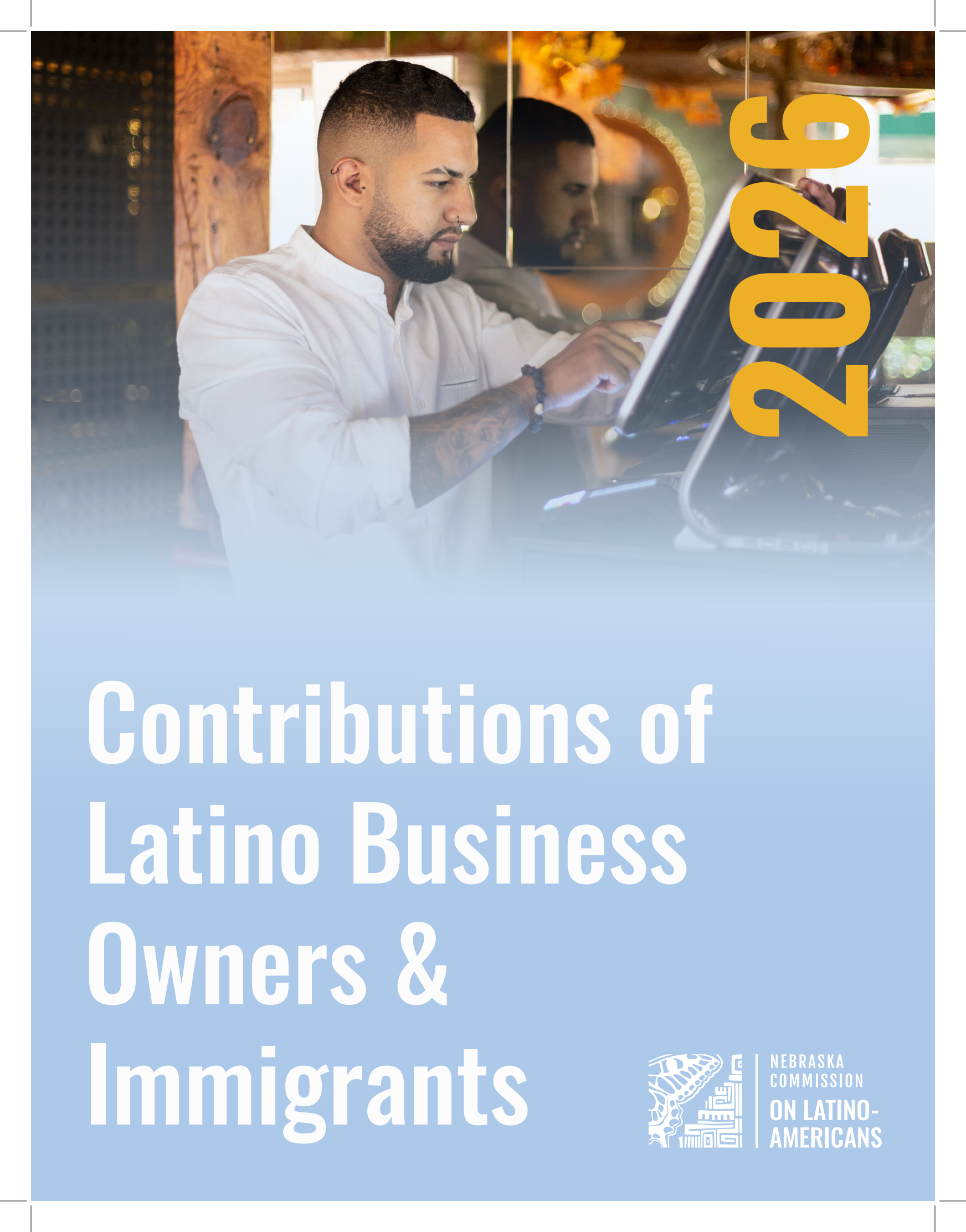


A photograph of a man with a beard and tattoos, wearing a white shirt, working at a computer in what appears to be a restaurant or cafe. The background is slightly blurred, showing warm lighting and other people. The year '2026' is overlaid in large yellow numbers on the right side of the image.

2026

Contributions of Latino Business Owners & Immigrants



NEBRASKA
COMMISSION
ON LATINO-
AMERICANS



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Introduction

Hispanic-owned businesses and immigrants are increasingly important contributors to Nebraska's economy, workforce, and communities. This report provides a comprehensive, data-driven overview of their combined contributions, drawing on multiple federal and state data sources to present a complete picture of their economic and social impact.

The **first section** examines Hispanic business ownership in Nebraska from 2018 to 2023, drawing primarily from the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Business Survey (ABS) and the Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics (NES-D) program. The analysis focuses on business formation, employer transitions, job creation, wages, revenue growth, and county-level distribution. Both **employer firms** (businesses with paid employees) and **nonemployer firms** (sole proprietorships and businesses without paid employees) are included. The section also examines industry distribution patterns to better understand where Hispanic-owned businesses are concentrated within Nebraska's economic structure. Throughout, comparisons are made to statewide totals and to Hispanic population shares to contextualize business ownership patterns.

The **second section** examines the broader contributions of Nebraska's immigrant population — including labor force participation, entrepreneurship, tax contributions, economic output, and social and cultural impacts. This analysis draws on the American Community Survey (ACS), input-output modeling studies, and reports from state and national research organizations. It addresses both the economic dimensions of immigration — including workforce participation, wages, and fiscal impacts — and the social dimensions, including health access, civic engagement, and community integration.

Together, the findings illustrate the growing and multifaceted role that Hispanic entrepreneurs and immigrants play in Nebraska's economic development, demographic stability, and cultural vitality.

Hispanic Business Ownership in Nebraska

A Comprehensive Analysis of State and County-Level Trends, 2018-2023

Executive Summary

This report examines trends in Hispanic business ownership in Nebraska from 2018 to 2023. During this period, Hispanic-owned businesses were the primary driver of business growth in Nebraska, outpacing Non-Hispanic firms across nearly all indicators. See [Table AI](#) for details. Key findings include:

- **Business growth:** Hispanic-owned firms increased by **66%**, compared with **6%** growth among Non-Hispanic firms.
- **Employer firms:** The number of Hispanic employer firms more than **doubled (+103%)**, while Non-Hispanic employer firms decreased by **6%**.
- **Employment:** Hispanic businesses nearly **doubled employment (+93%)**, adding close to 5,000 jobs, compared with **2.9% growth** among Non-Hispanic firms.
- **Payroll:** Annual payroll at Hispanic-owned businesses increased **196%**, from \$134 million to \$396 million, compared with **29% growth** among Non-Hispanic firms.
- **Wages:** Despite rapid growth, **average payroll per employee remained lower** for Hispanic businesses (\$39,758) than for Non-Hispanic businesses (\$51,229) in 2023, indicating wage and industry-mix disparities.
- **Revenue:** Hispanic business revenue reached **\$2.2 billion in 2023**, more than **tripling since 2018**.
- **Industries:** Industry distribution patterns indicate that Hispanic-owned businesses are most concentrated in **construction** (15% of all construction firms statewide), **transportation and warehousing** (12.3%), and **administrative and support services** (11.6%), compared with 7.2% representation across all firms. Representation is comparatively lower in capital-intensive industries such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, and finance. These sector patterns help contextualize observed differences in revenue levels and wage averages.

Although Hispanics represent **12.3%** of Nebraska's population (2023 ACS 5-year estimates), Hispanic entrepreneurs are driving a disproportionate share of business growth, demonstrating resilience during economic disruption and creating quality jobs across the state.

Table ES-1 provides a comprehensive comparison of key business metrics between 2018 and 2023, highlighting the disproportionate contribution of Hispanic entrepreneurs to Nebraska's business growth.

Table ES-1: Hispanic Business Growth Compared to Overall Nebraska Business Trends, 2018-2023

Metric	2018	2023	Absolute Change	% Change
TOTAL FIRMS				
Total Nebraska Firms	182,189	196,718	14,529	8.0%
Hispanic Firms	8,508	14,142	5,634	66.2%
Non-Hispanic Firms	166,968	176,752	9,784	5.9%
EMPLOYER FIRMS				
Total Nebraska Employer Firms	43,189	41,718	-1,471	-3.4%
Hispanic Employer Firms	808	1,642	834	103.2%
Non-Hispanic Employer Firms	38,968	36,752	-2,216	-5.7%
NONEMPLOYER FIRMS				
Total Nebraska Nonemployer Firms	139,000	155,000	16,000	11.5%
Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	7,700	12,500	4,800	62.3%
Non-Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	128,000	140,000	12,000	9.4%
EMPLOYMENT				
Total Nebraska Employees	855,009	885,225	30,216	3.5%
Hispanic Business Employees	5,166	9,956	4,790	92.7%

Continued on next page.....

Table ES-1: Continued

Metric	2018	2023	Absolute Change	% Change
Non-Hispanic Business Employees	451,250	464,474	13,224	2.9%
ANNUAL PAYROLL				
Total Nebraska Payroll	\$38,441,262,000	\$50,403,210,000	\$11,961,948,000	31.1%
Hispanic Business Payroll	\$133,920,000	\$395,830,000	\$261,910,000	195.6%
Non-Hispanic Business Payroll	\$18,466,791,000	\$23,794,565,000	\$5,327,774,000	28.9%
AVERAGE WAGES				
Total Nebraska Avg Wage per Employee	\$44,960	\$56,938	\$11,978	26.6%
Hispanic Business Avg Wage	\$25,923	\$39,758	\$13,835	53.4%
Non-Hispanic Business Avg Wage	\$40,924	\$51,229	\$10,305	25.2%
TOTAL REVENUE (*)				
Hispanic Business Revenue	\$750,000,000 (**)	\$2,217,345,000	\$1,467,345,000	195.6%

Notes: (*) Revenue data for Non-Hispanic and Total Nebraska businesses suppressed by U.S. Census Bureau disclosure rules; only range estimates published (e.g., “\$5 billion or more”). Hispanic business revenue estimates for 2018 derived from published ranges. (**) 2018 revenue shown as range in original Census data; midpoint estimate used for comparison.

Data Limitations

Although Nebraska has 93 counties, data on Hispanic-owned employer firms are published for 36 counties in the Annual Business Survey. This limited coverage reflects the U.S. Census Bureau’s confidentiality and data reliability requirements, which suppress estimates in counties with few employer firms, conditions common in sparsely populated rural areas. As a result, the absence of Hispanic employer firm data for many counties does not indicate a lack of Hispanic entrepreneurship; rather, it reflects limitations in publishing county-level employer statistics when disclosure or reliability thresholds are not met.

Suppression and Disclosure:

- My rural counties show “S” (Suppressed) for small numbers
- Employer data suppressed more frequently than nonemployer data
- Some revenue figures shown in ranges (e.g., “\$500 million to less than \$1 billion”)
- 2020 Hispanic employer data quality flagged due to pandemic survey challenges

Data Limitations

“Hispanic” includes all Hispanic/Latino ethnicities regardless of race

“employer firm” = business with at least one paid employee

“Nonemployer firm” = business with no paid employees (sole proprietor, independent contractor)

Revenue includes gross receipts before expenses

This report is based on publicly available data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Annual Business Survey. All figures are subject to Census Bureau revision. Suppressed data are indicated with “S” per Census disclosure rules. Estimates for suppressed data clearly marked as such.

Part 1: Statewide Analysis (2018-2023)

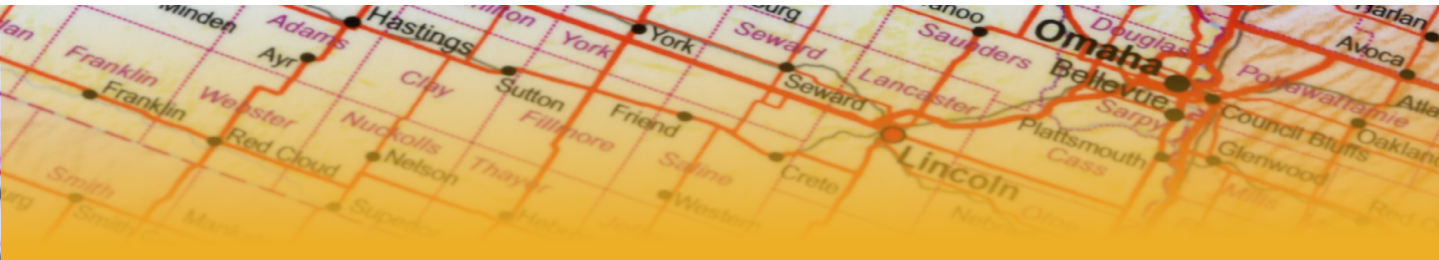
1.1 Overall Business Growth Trends

Hispanic entrepreneurship in Nebraska has experienced growth over the past five years, outpacing overall business formation rates.

Table 1: Nebraska Business Ownership Trends, 2018-2023

Year	Total Hispanic Firms	Hispanic Employer Firms	Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	Total Hispanic Revenue (\$1,000)	Hispanic Employees	Hispanic Annual Payroll (\$1,000)
2018	8,508	808	7,700	~\$750,000 (estimated)	5,166	\$133,920
2019	9,466	966	8,500	~\$850,000 (estimated)	4,587	\$136,284
2020	10,422	Suppressed	9,500	~\$1,200,000 (estimated)	Suppressed	Suppressed
2021	11,850	1,350	10,500	~\$1,500,000 (estimated)	8,385	\$318,346
2022	12,925	1,425	11,500	\$1,934,196	8,735	\$309,257
2023	14,142	1,642	12,500	\$2,217,345	9,956	\$395,830
Change 2018-2023	+5,634	+834	+4,800	+~\$1,467,345	+4,790	+\$261,910
% Change	+66.2%	+103.2%	+62.3%	+195.6%	+92.7%	+195.6%

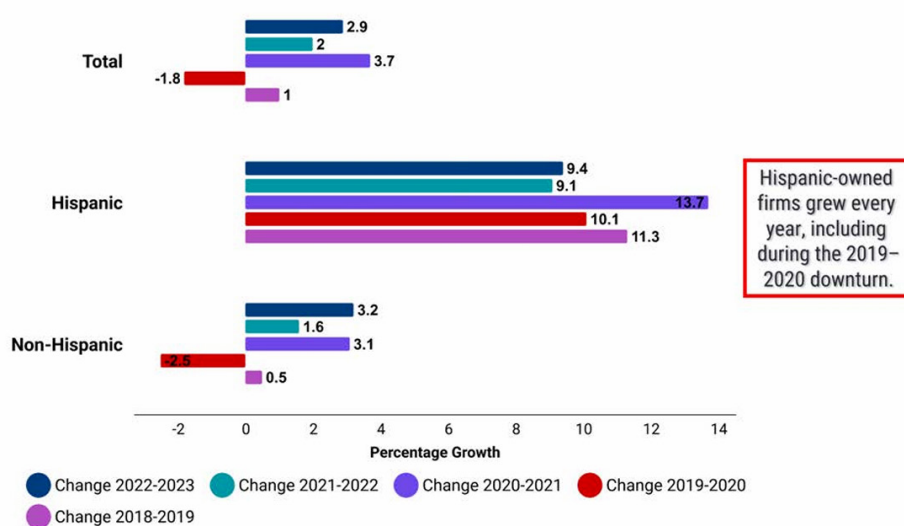
Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 3, 2026.



Key Findings (2018-2023):

- **Hispanic businesses grew 8.3 times faster** than overall Nebraska business growth (66% vs. 8%) between 2018 and 2023
- **Hispanic employer firms doubled** while statewide employer firms declined 3.4%
- **Consistent growth** was maintained across all years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic
- **2020-2021 showed accelerated Hispanic business growth** at 13.7% demonstrating pandemic resilience

Figure 1: Business Growth in Nebraska by Ethnicity (2018-2023). Percent change in employer and nonemployer firms by year



Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 2, 2026.

1.2 Job Creation and Economic Impact

Hispanic-owned businesses have become a significant engine for job creation and wage growth in Nebraska.

Table 2: Economic Impact of Hispanic-Owned Businesses

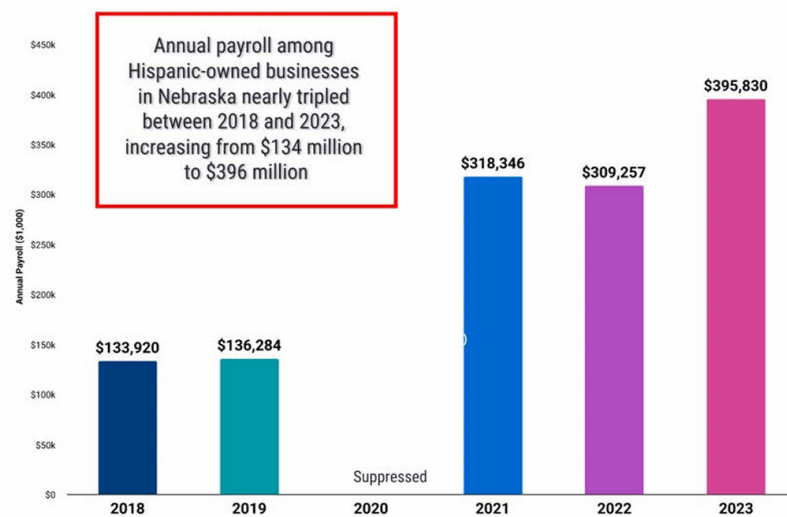
Metric	2018	2023	Growth	% Change
Total Jobs Created	5,166	9,956	+4,790	+92.7%
Annual Payroll	\$133.9M	\$395.8M	+\$261.9M	+195.6%
Average Wage per Employee	\$25,923	\$39,758	+\$13,835	+53.4%
Total Revenue	~\$750M	\$2,217M	+\$1,467M	+195.6%

Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 3, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ABSCS2023.AB00MYCSA01B?q=AB00MYCSA01B&g=040XX00US31>.

Key Findings (2018-2023):

- **Hispanic-owned businesses now support nearly 10,000 jobs—an increase of 93% since 2018.**
- **Average wages increased by 53.4% among Hispanic-owned businesses**, more than twice the increase observed among Non-Hispanic businesses (25.2%), indicating stronger wage growth in Hispanic-owned firms.
- **\$396 million annual payroll** contributes significantly to Nebraska’s economy
- **Economic multiplier effect:** Each new Hispanic-owned business generates local economic activity through wages, supplier purchases, and services.

Figure 2: Annual Payroll (\$1,000) of Hispanic-Owned Businesses in Nebraska



Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 2, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ABSCS2023.AB00MYCSA01B?q=AB00MYCSA01B&g=040XX00US31>.



1.3 Year-over-Year Growth Patterns

Hispanic-owned businesses in Nebraska have experienced substantial growth and expanding economic impact over the past five years.

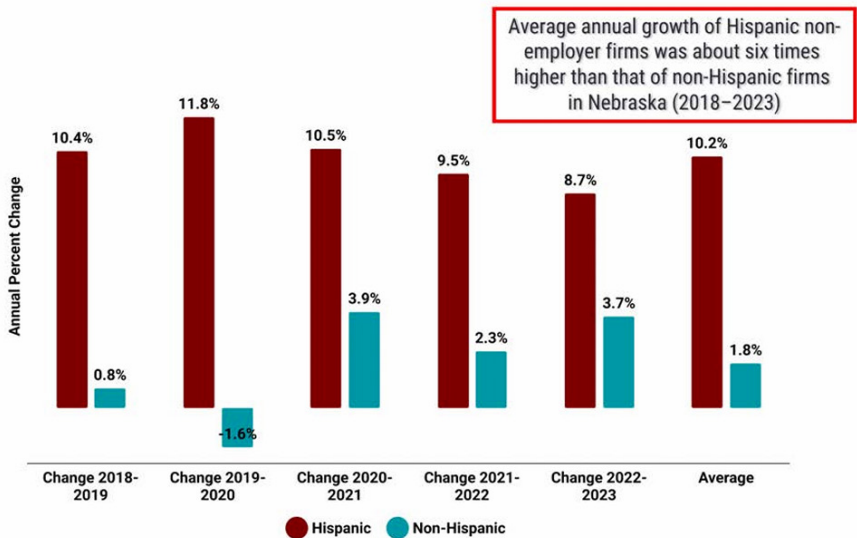
Key Findings:

Table 3: Hispanic Businesses Annual Growth Rates, 2018-2023

Period	Total Firms Growth	Employer Firms Growth	Nonemployer Firms Growth
2018-2019	+11.3%	+19.6%	+10.4%
2019-2020	+10.1%	Suppressed	+11.8%
2020-2021	+13.7%	Suppressed	+10.5%
2021-2022	+9.1%	+5.6%	+9.5%
2022-2023	+9.4%	+15.2%	+8.7%
5-Year Average	+10.7%/year	+15.2%/year	+10.2%/year

- **Double-digit or near double-digit growth sustained** across all years
- **2021 acceleration** (13.7%) demonstrates entrepreneurial resilience during pandemic recovery
- **Employer firm growth** (15.2% annually) indicates successful business scaling
- **Consistent upward trajectory** indicates sustainable momentum, not a temporary spike
- On average, Hispanic nonemployer firms grew nearly **6 times faster** than Non-Hispanic firms between 2018 and 2023 (10.2% vs. 1.8%, respectively). **Figure 3.**

Figure 3: Rapid Growth of Hispanic-Owned Nonemployer Firms in Nebraska Since 2018



Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 2, 2026.

1.4 Scale-Up Success: The Employer Transition

Key Findings:

- The share of Hispanic firms with employees increased from **9.5% in 2018 to 11.6% in 2023**, indicating a growing movement from sole proprietorship to employer firms (**Figure 4**)
- This shift reflects greater movement of Hispanic-owned firms into **employer status**, narrowing, but not closing, the gap relative to other firms.
- 834 new employer firms** were created over five years, representing meaningful economic and workforce development.
- Despite gains, Hispanic-owned firms remain **less likely to employ others** compared with Non-Hispanic firms (11.6% vs. 21.2% in 2023), pointing to persistent structural barriers.

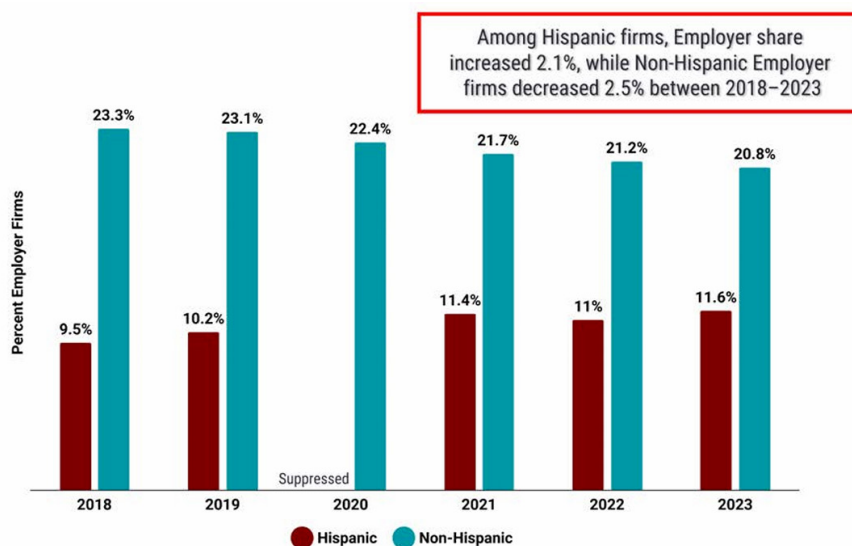
Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 7, 2026.

One of the most significant indicators of entrepreneurial maturity is the transition from nonemployer (sole proprietor) to employer status.

Table 4: Employer vs. Nonemployer Distribution

Year	Hispanic Employer %	Hispanic Nonemployer %	Non-Hispanic Employer %	Non-Hispanic Nonemployer %
2018	9.5%	90.5%	23.3%	76.7%
2019	10.2%	89.8%	23.1%	76.9%
2020	Suppressed	Suppressed	22.4%	77.6%
2021	11.4%	88.6%	21.7%	78.3%
2022	11.0%	89.0%	21.2%	78.8%
2023	11.6%	88.4%	20.8%	79.2%
Change	+2.1 points	-2.1 points	-2.5 points	+2.5 points

Figure 4: Hispanic Employer Firm Share increased while Non-Hispanic Share Declined in Nebraska, 2018-2023



1.5 Comparative Market Performance

Hispanic-owned businesses have substantially increased their market share, although gaps remain in revenue generation.

Table 5: Hispanic Business Market Share in Nebraska (2023)

Metric	Hispanic	Total Nebraska	Hispanic Share	Hispanic per Capita (1,000)*
Total Firms	14,142	196,718	7.2%	58.4 firms
Employer Firms	1,642	41,718	3.9%	6.8 firms
Nonemployer Firms	12,500	155,000	8.1%	51.6 firms
Employees	9,956	885,225	1.1%	41.1 jobs
Total Revenue	\$2.2B	\$338.3B	0.66%	\$9,080 per Hispanic resident
Annual Payroll	\$396M	\$50.4B	0.79%	\$1,635 per Hispanic resident

Notes: *Based on the Nebraska Hispanic population of 242,226 persons (2023 U.S. Census Bureau. DP05 | ACS 5-year estimates. <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2023.DP05?g=040XX00US31>). Firms/jobs per 1,000 residents; dollars per resident.

Key Findings:

- **7.2% of all Nebraska firms** are Hispanic-owned (vs. 12.3% Hispanic population)
- **Revenue share (0.66%) lags significantly** behind firm share (7.2%), indicating a smaller average firm size. This difference reflects the smaller average size of Hispanic-owned firms relative to the statewide business profile.
- Nonemployer firms account for 8.1% of all nonemployer businesses, **approaching population parity and reflecting strong entrepreneurial activity.**
- **Employer firms account for only 3.9% of Nebraska's employer businesses,** indicating persistent barriers to scaling and job creation.

Average Revenue per Firm:

- Hispanic firms: \$157K per firm
- All Nebraska firms: \$1.72M per firm
- **Gap:** Hispanic-owned firms generate roughly 9% of the statewide average revenue per firm.

This gap reflects the smaller average size of Hispanic-owned firms relative to the statewide business profile.

Table 5a: Hispanic Business Population-Parity Index (2023)

Population-Parity Index = Hispanic market share ÷ Hispanic population share (12.3%)

Parity Scale:

- At or above parity: ≥ 1.00
- Near parity: 0.75–0.99
- Moderate underrepresentation: 0.50–0.74
- Severe underrepresentation: < 0.50

Hispanic-owned businesses remain substantially underrepresented in employment and payroll.

Table 5a: Population-Parity Index for Hispanic-Owned Businesses by Economic Indicator, Nebraska (2023)

Metric	Hispanic Share	Parity Index	Parity Category
Nonemployer Firms	8.1%	0.66	Moderate underrepresentation
Total Firms	7.2%	0.59	Moderate underrepresentation
Employer Firms	3.9%	0.32	Severe underrepresentation
Employees	1.1%	0.09	Severe underrepresentation
Annual Payroll	0.8%	0.06	Severe underrepresentation
Total Revenue	0.7%	0.05	Severe underrepresentation

Notes: Underrepresentation is modest for firm ownership, particularly among nonemployer firms, but becomes severe for employer firms, employment, and compensation.

1.6 Covid-19 Pandemic Resilience

Hispanic entrepreneurs demonstrated exceptional adaptability during the 2020-2021 pandemic period.

Table 6: Pandemic Period Performance

Metric	2019	2020	2021	2019-2021 Change
Hispanic Firms	9,466	10,422	11,850	+25.2%
Hispanic Nonemployer	8,500	9,500	10,500	+23.5%
Hispanic Employer	966	Suppressed	1,350	+39.8%
All Nebraska Firms	183,990	180,740	187,391	+1.8%

Notes: Employer firm counts for 2020 were suppressed due to data disclosure limitations.

Key Findings:

- **Hispanic-owned firms grew by 25.2% between 2019 and 2021, compared with 1.8% growth among all Nebraska firms.**
- **No net decline in Hispanic-owned firms was observed in 2020**, in contrast to declines observed across many sectors statewide.
- **Growth accelerated in 2021 (13.7%)**, indicating strong post-shock recovery momentum.
- **Hispanic-owned employer firms increased by nearly 40% from 2019 to 2021, indicating successful adaptation and transition to employer status despite pandemic disruptions.**

These trends point to strong business resilience among Hispanic entrepreneurs.

1.7 Wage Quality and Job Characteristics

Hispanic-owned businesses are not just creating jobs, they're creating quality jobs with rising wages.

Table 7: Wage trends in Hispanic-Owned Businesses

Year	Total Annual Payroll	Number of Employees	Average Annual Wage	Comparison to NE Average*
2018	\$133,920,000	5,166	\$25,923	58% of average
2019	\$136,284,000	4,587	\$29,711	64% of average
2020	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed
2021	\$318,346,000	8,385	\$37,970	70% of average
2022	\$309,257,000	8,735	\$35,409	64% of average
2023	\$395,830,000	9,956	\$39,758	70% of average
Change	+\$261,910,000	+4,790	+\$13,835	+12 points
% Change	+195.6%	+92.7%	+53.4%	+27%

Key Findings:

- Average annual wages at Hispanic-owned businesses increased by **53.4% between 2018 and 2023**, exceeding cumulative U.S. inflation of approximately **21%** over the same period.
- **Wage quality improving:** Hispanic business wages moved from 58% to 70% of state average
- **\$396 million annual payroll** represents substantial purchasing power in local economies
- **Job quality trajectory** indicates businesses are moving into higher-value sectors
- **Hispanic business wages grew nearly twice as fast** as the statewide average in percentage terms (53.4% vs. 26.6%, respectively). The gap **narrowed**, but did not close: 2018 gap: ~\$19,000, 2023 gap: ~\$17,000

Notes: 1) *Nebraska average annual wage ~\$45,000-\$57,000 (varies by year). State average wages increased over this period; percentages reflect year-specific comparisons. 2) Employer firm counts for 2020 were suppressed due to data disclosure limitations.

Hispanic-owned businesses delivered real wage gains that exceeded both inflation and statewide wage growth, even though absolute wage levels remain lower. Figure 5.

Figure 5: Average Annual Wages in Hispanic-Owned Businesses vs. All Nebraska Firms (2018-2023)



Data source: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved February 2, 2026.



1.8 Industry Structure

construction represents the largest concentration of Hispanic-owned firms, accounting for 15% of all construction businesses statewide, more than double the overall Hispanic firm share of 7.2%. Hispanic firms also have a strong presence in transportation and warehousing (12.3%) and administrative and support services (11.6%), sectors that rely heavily on small-scale and owner-operated models. In contrast, Hispanic representation remains comparatively limited in higher-capital industries such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, and finance.

Table 8: Pandemic Period Performance

NAICS (*)	Industry	Hispanic Firms	Total Firms	Hispanic Share (%)
23	Construction	3,493	23,320	15.0%
NAICS (*)	Industry	Hispanic Firms	Total Firms	Hispanic Share (%)
48-49	Transportation & Warehousing	2,384	19,366	12.3%
56	Administrative & Support Services	1,793	15,496	11.6%
44-45	Retail Trade	842	17,222	4.9%
31-33	Manufacturing	153	3,383	4.5%
54	Professional, Scientific & Technical	837	20,400	4.1%
42	Wholesale Trade	128	3,933	3.3%
11	Agriculture	100	3,923	2.5%

Data source: AB2300NESD01 | Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics series (NES-D): Statistics for Employer and Nonemployer Firms by Industry, Sex, Ethnicity, Race, and Veteran Status for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties, and Places: 2023. **Note:** (*) NAICS stands for North American Industry Classification System. It's the standard system used in the U.S. (and across North America) to classify businesses by their primary type of economic activity. Agencies like the U.S. Census Bureau use NAICS codes so industry data are consistent and comparable across datasets, years, and geographies. Two-digit NAICS codes identify broad industry sectors; code ranges (e.g., 31–33) indicate combined sectors reported together in this table.

Part 2: County-Level Analysis (2023)

2.1 Counties with Hispanic Business Presence

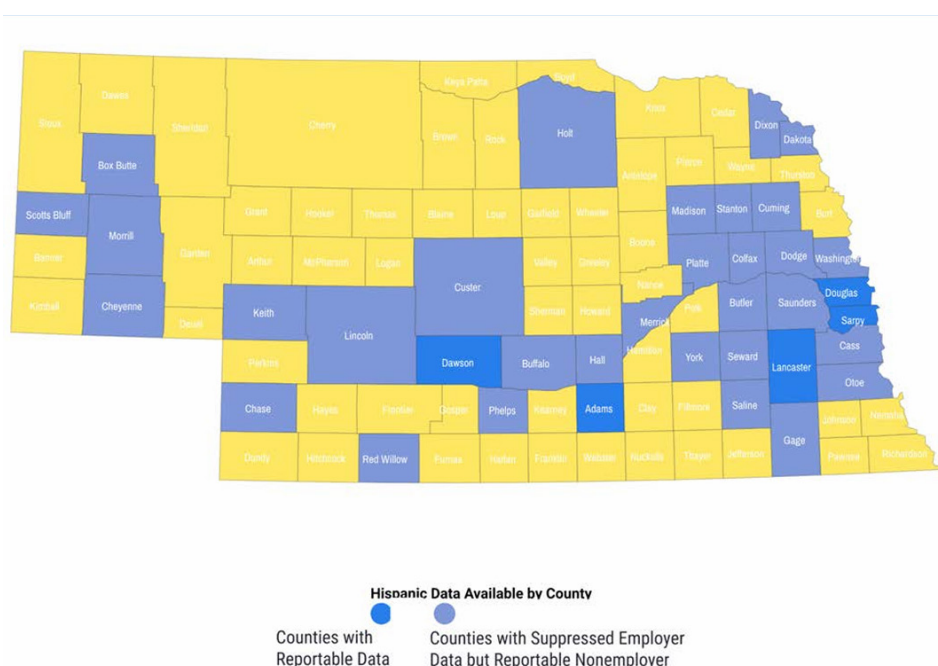
Data for Hispanic-owned employer firms are suppressed in some counties to protect business confidentiality or because estimates do not meet Census Bureau reliability standards. Suppression is more common in sparsely populated counties with few employer establishments. Counts of nonemployer firms provide the most complete and reliable indicator of Hispanic business presence at the county level.

Hispanic owned businesses are present in at least **36 Nebraska Counties**, though employer-level data are reportable in only **five**, highlighting both the geographic reach of Hispanic entrepreneurship and the extent to which data suppression obscures small-scale business activity.

Table 9: All Nebraska Counties with Hispanic-Owned Businesses (2023)

• Counties with Reportable Hispanic Data:	5
• Counties with Suppressed Hispanic Employer Data but Reportable Nonemployer:	31
• Counties with No Reportable Hispanic Business Data:	57 (depicted in yellow on the map below - Figure 6)

Figure 6: County-Level Availability of Hispanic Business Data, Nebraska (2023)



Counties with Reportable Hispanic Employer and Nonemployer Data (5): Adams, Dawson, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy (employer + nonemployer data available)

Counties with Suppressed Employer Data but Reportable Nonemployer (31): Box Butte, Buffalo, Butler, Cass, Chase, Cheyenne, Colfax, Cuming, Custer, Dakota, Dixon, Dodge, Gage, Hall, Holt, Keith, Lincoln, Madison, Merrick, Morrill, Otoe, Phelps, Platte, Red Willow, Saline, Saunders, Scotts Bluff, Seward, Stanton, Washington, and York

Counties with No Reportable Hispanic Business Data (57): Antelope, Arthur, Banner, Blaine, Boone, Boyd, Brown, Burt, Cedar, Cherry, Clay, Deuel, Fillmore, Franklin, Frontier, Furnas, Garden, Garfield, Gosper, Grant, Greeley, Hamilton, Harlan, Hayes, Hitchcock, Hooker, Howard, Jefferson, Johnson, Kearney, Keya Paha, Kimball, Knox, Logan, Loup, McPherson, Nance, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Pawnee, Pierce, Perkins, Polk, Richardson, Rock, Sherman, Sheridan, Sioux, Thayer, Thomas, Thurston, Valley, Wayne, Webster, and Wheeler

Note: “No reportable data” may indicate: (1) no Hispanic businesses, (2) Hispanic population too small, or (3) data suppressed for disclosure reasons

2.2 Geographic Distribution of Hispanic Businesses

Hispanic entrepreneurship is concentrated in urban centers but extends across much of Nebraska

Table 10: Top 15 Counties for Hispanic Business Ownership

Rank	County	Total Hispanic Firms	Employer Firms	Nonemployer Firms	Total Revenue (\$1,000)	Employees	% of County Firms
1	Douglas	5,199	799	4,400	\$855,267	4,321	8.9%
2	Lancaster	1,631	231	1,400	\$245,613	779	5.0%
3	Sarpy	1,377	177	1,200	\$204,441	730	8.0%
4	Hall	Suppressed	Suppressed	1,200	Suppressed	Suppressed	~18% (est.)
5	Platte	Suppressed	Suppressed	500	Suppressed	Suppressed	~11% (est.)
6	Scotts Bluff	403	Suppressed	400	\$33,156	Suppressed	12.1%
7	Dawson	363	13	350	\$23,604	42	14.7%
8	Dakota	362	Suppressed	350	\$56,863	Suppressed	20.6%
9	Madison	Suppressed	Suppressed	300	Suppressed	Suppressed	~7% (est.)
10	Adams	252	2	250	\$23,214	41	7.7%
11	Dodge	Suppressed	Suppressed	250	Suppressed	Suppressed	~7% (est.)
12	Buffalo	Suppressed	Suppressed	250	Suppressed	Suppressed	n.a.
13	Saline	214	Suppressed	200	\$18,733	Suppressed	17.3%
14	Colfax	Suppressed	Suppressed	150	Suppressed	Suppressed	~15% (est.)
15	Lincoln	Suppressed	Suppressed	100	Suppressed	Suppressed	~5% (est.)

Note: 1) Percent estimates (% est.) for County Firms are based on data from previous years (2021 and 2022). 2) Hispanic employer firm data are not shown for some counties due to U.S. Census Bureau confidentiality and data reliability requirements, particularly in counties with a small number of employer firms.

Key Findings:

- The three largest metro counties—**Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy**—account for approximately **8,200 Hispanic-owned firms, representing 58% of all Hispanic businesses statewide.**
- Dakota County leads in concentration** at 20.6% of all county firms
- Meat processing corridor** (Hall, Platte, Dakota, Colfax, Cuming, Madison) shows strong Hispanic entrepreneurship

2.3 Urban vs. Rural Distribution Patterns

Table 11: Hispanic Business Distribution by Region Type (2023)

Region Type	Counties	Hispanic Firms	Avg Firms per County	% of Statewide Total
Major Metro (Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy)	3	8,207	2,736	58.0%
Meat Processing Corridor (Hall, Platte, Dakota, Madison, Colfax, Cuming)	6	~2,500 (est.)	~417	17.7%
Regional Centers (Scotts Bluff, Dawson, Lincoln, Buffalo, Dodge, Adams)	6	~1,900 (est.)	~317	13.4%
Other Rural (all remaining counties with available data)	20+	~1,535 (est.)	~75	10.9%
Statewide Total	93	14,142	-	100%

Note: Estimates are derived from county-level nonemployer firm counts and prior-year employer firm distributions where 2023 data are suppressed.

Key Findings:

- **Nearly 60% of Hispanic firms are concentrated in just three metro counties**
- Another **30% are clustered in corridor and regional hub counties**
- **Meat processing corridor** emerging as secondary entrepreneurship hub
- **Geographic diversification** indicates entrepreneurial diffusion beyond traditional immigrant gateways

2.4 Employer vs. Nonemployer Patterns by County

Hispanic entrepreneurship varies significantly by county in terms of business scale and employee hiring. See [Table 12](#) and [Figure 7](#).

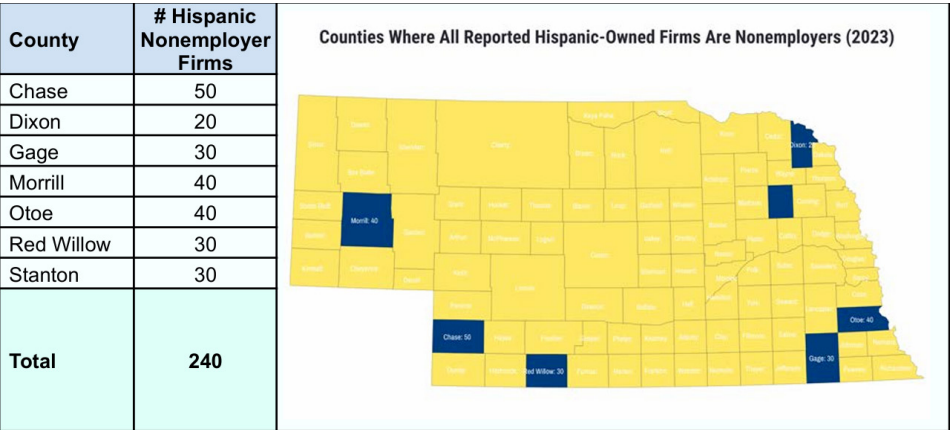
Table 12: Counties with Reportable Hispanic Employer Firms

County	Hispanic Employer Firms	Hispanic Employees	Hispanic Employer Revenue (\$1,000)	Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	Employer %
Douglas	799	4,321	\$597,745	4,400	15.4%
Lancaster	231	779	\$172,642	1,400	14.2%
Sarpy	177	730	\$127,922	1,200	12.9%
Dawson	13	42	\$1,985	350	3.6%
Adams	2	41	\$3,742	250	0.8%

Key Findings:

- **Metro counties show higher employer rates (13–15%)** compared with the statewide Hispanic employer share (11.6%).
- **Rural counties heavily nonemployer-dependent**, indicating sole proprietorship prevalence
- **Dawson County illustrates the scale-up challenge**, with only **3.6% of Hispanic firms classified as employers**, despite a sizable base of 363 Hispanic-owned businesses.
- **Scale-up gap most acute in rural areas**, suggesting need for targeted business development support

Figure 7: Counties with 100% Nonemployer Hispanic Businesses (2023)



2.5 Revenue and Economic Impact by County

Table 13: Economic Impact of Hispanic Businesses - Top Counties (2023)

County	Total Hispanic Revenue (\$1,000)	Hispanic Payroll (\$1,000)	Revenue per Firm (*)	Payroll per Employee	% of County Revenue
Douglas	\$855,267	\$152,571	\$165K	\$35,309	0.68%
Lancaster	\$245,613	\$36,149	\$151K	\$46,404	0.53%
Sarpy	\$204,441	\$37,626	\$148K	\$51,542	0.91%
Dakota	\$56,863	Suppressed	\$157K	Suppressed	0.66%
Scotts Bluff	\$33,156	Suppressed	\$82K	Suppressed	0.91%
Dawson	\$23,604	\$718	\$65K	\$17,095	0.40%
Adams	\$23,214	\$732	\$92K	\$17,854	0.58%
Saline	\$18,733	Suppressed	\$88K	Suppressed	0.46%

Note: (*) Revenue per firm is calculated using the total number of Hispanic-owned employer and nonemployer firms.

Key Findings:

- **Douglas County accounts for approximately \$855 million in Hispanic business revenue, representing 38.6% of statewide Hispanic-owned business revenue.**
- **The three largest metro counties—Douglas, Lancaster, and Sarpy—generate roughly \$1.3 billion, or about 59% of total Hispanic business revenue statewide.**
- **Revenue per firm is substantially higher in metro counties (\$148,000–\$165,000) than in rural counties (\$65,000–\$92,000), reflecting differences in firm scale and industry mix.**
- **Payroll levels vary widely by county, with metro counties reporting average payroll per employee between \$35,000 and \$52,000, compared with approximately \$17,000 in rural counties where data are reportable.**

2.6 Nonemployer Firm Performance

Nonemployer firms represent the foundation of Hispanic entrepreneurship and demonstrate strong economic viability. Across most counties, Hispanic nonemployer firms generate revenue at or above Non-Hispanic levels, indicating that performance gaps emerge primarily during the transition to employer status rather than at business entry.

Table 14: Hispanic Nonemployer Firm Revenue Analysis

County	Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	Nonemployer Revenue (\$1,000)	Revenue per Nonemployer	County Avg Nonemployer Revenue (Non-Hispanic)	Hispanic / Non-Hispanic Revenue Ratio (*)
Douglas	4,400	\$257,522	\$58,528	\$54,363	1.08
Lancaster	1,400	\$72,971	\$52,122	\$48,383	1.08
Sarpy	1,200	\$76,519	\$63,766	\$43,762	1.46
Hall	1,200	\$65,041	\$54,201	\$57,527	0.94
Platte	500	\$18,721	\$37,442	\$61,891	0.60
Scotts Bluff	400	\$28,785	\$71,963	\$53,264	1.35
Dawson	350	\$21,619	\$61,769	\$56,619	1.09
Dakota	350	\$22,416	\$64,046	\$81,428	0.79

Key Findings:

- **Hispanic nonemployer firms match or exceed the revenue of Non-Hispanic nonemployer firms in most counties**, indicating no inherent performance disadvantage at the nonemployer stage.
- In several counties—including **Sarpy, Scotts Bluff, Douglas, Lancaster, and Dawson**—Hispanic nonemployer firms generate **substantially higher average revenue** than their Non-Hispanic counterparts.
- **Sarpy County stands out**, with Hispanic nonemployer firms earning approximately **46% more** than Non-Hispanic nonemployer firms.

Note: (*) Ratio ≥ 1.00 → Hispanic nonemployer firms outperform Non-Hispanic peers. **Ratio < 1.00** → Hispanic nonemployer firms trail Non-Hispanic peers

2.7 Market Penetration Analysis

How well are Hispanic Businesses penetrating county markets relative to Hispanic population?

Key Findings:

- **No county achieves parity** between Hispanic population share and Hispanic business ownership.
- **Sarpy County reports the strongest market penetration (0.72)**, though Hispanic-owned businesses remain underrepresented relative to population share.
- Counties with **large Hispanic populations** show the greatest underrepresentation, particularly **Dawson (0.40)**, **Dakota (0.50)**, and **Scotts Bluff (0.52)**.
- These gaps indicate **substantial untapped entrepreneurial potential** in counties with established Hispanic workforces.

Note: *Based on 2023 Census data (5-year estimates), Table B03001: Hispanic or Latino Origin by Specific Origin.

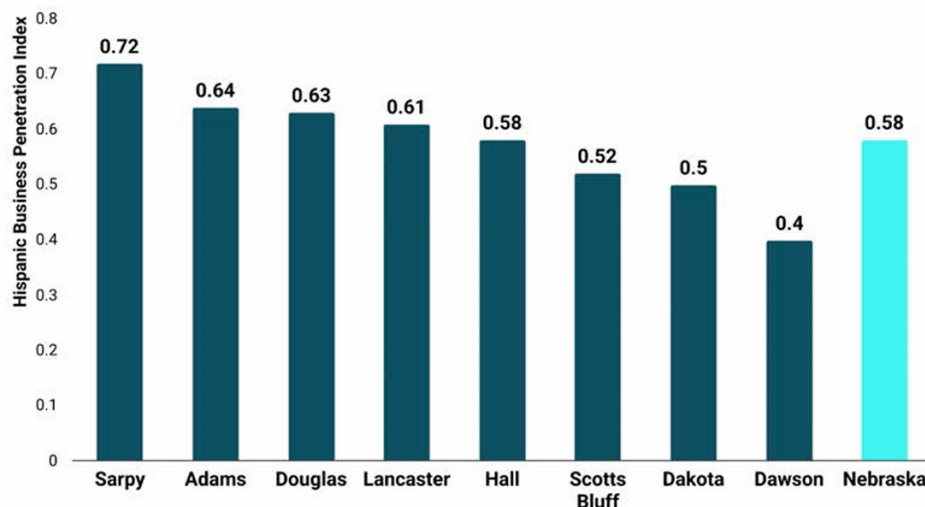
** Average data from 2021 and 2022. Data from 2023 was suppressed.

***Penetration Index = (% Hispanic firms) / (% Hispanic population). **1.00 = parity; 0.70–0.84 = near parity; 0.55–0.69 = moderate underrepresentation; < 0.55 = significant underrepresentation.**

Table 15: Hispanic Business Market Penetration

County	Hispanic Pop % (2023)*	Hispanic Firms %	Penetration Index**	Assessment
Sarpy	11.1%	8.0%	0.72	Near parity
Adams	12.0%	7.7%	0.64	Moderate underrepresentation
Douglas	14.1%	8.9%	0.63	Moderate underrepresentation
Lancaster	8.2%	5.0%	0.61	Moderate underrepresentation
Hall	31.3%	18.3% **	0.58	Moderate underrepresentation
Scotts Bluff	23.4%	12.1%	0.52	Significant underrepresentation
Dakota	41.2%	20.6%	0.50	Significant underrepresentation
Dawson	36.3%	14.7%	0.40	Significant underrepresentation
Nebraska	12.3%	7.2%	0.58	Moderate underrepresentation

Figure 8: Hispanic Business Market Penetration by County



Part 3: Comparative County-Level Analysis

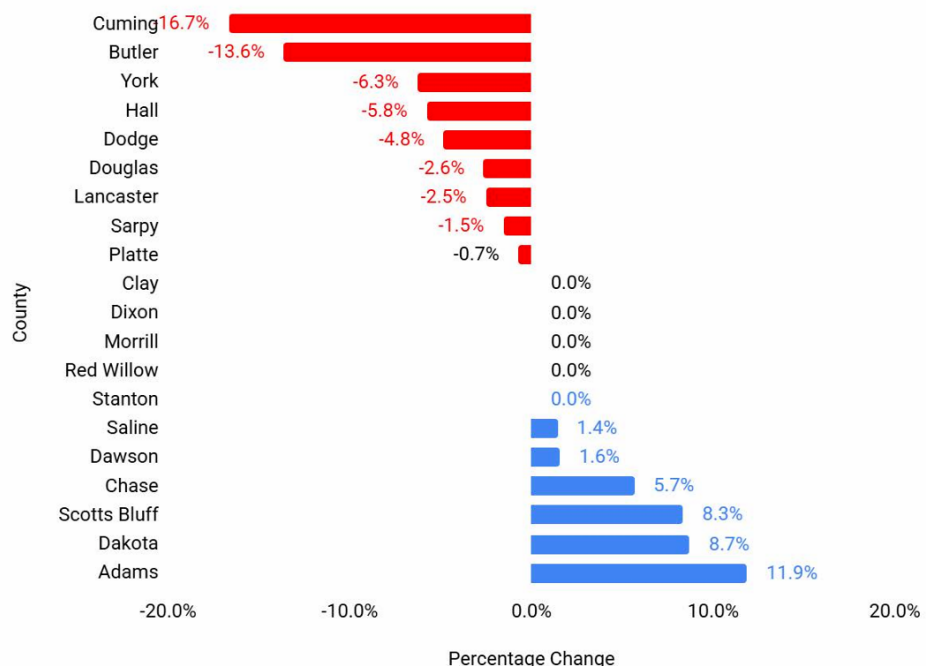
3.1 Growth in the Share of Hispanic Nonemployer Firms

Hispanic-owned business activity in Nebraska counties showed notable structural shifts in business composition between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023, particularly in the share of firms operating as nonemployers. Several rural and micropolitan counties experienced substantial increases in the proportion of Hispanic businesses classified as nonemployer firms, including **Adams County** (from 87.3% to 99.2%), **Dakota County** (from 88.0% to 96.7%), and **Scotts Bluff County** (from 90.9% to 99.3%).

In contrast, large metropolitan counties such as **Douglas** and **Lancaster** showed relatively stable patterns, with modest declines of approximately two percentage points in the share of Hispanic nonemployer firms. These differences highlight a growing divergence between metro and non-metro counties, where Hispanic entrepreneurship in rural areas is increasingly concentrated among sole proprietors rather than employer firms (**Figure 9**).

Data Sources: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics series (NES-D): Statistics for Employer and Nonemployer Firms by Industry and Ethnicity for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties, and Places: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics Company Summary, Table AB00MYNESD01B. Retrieved January 23, 2026.

Figure 9:
Magnitude of Change in the
Share of Hispanic Nonemployer
Firms, 2021/2022 - 2022/2023.

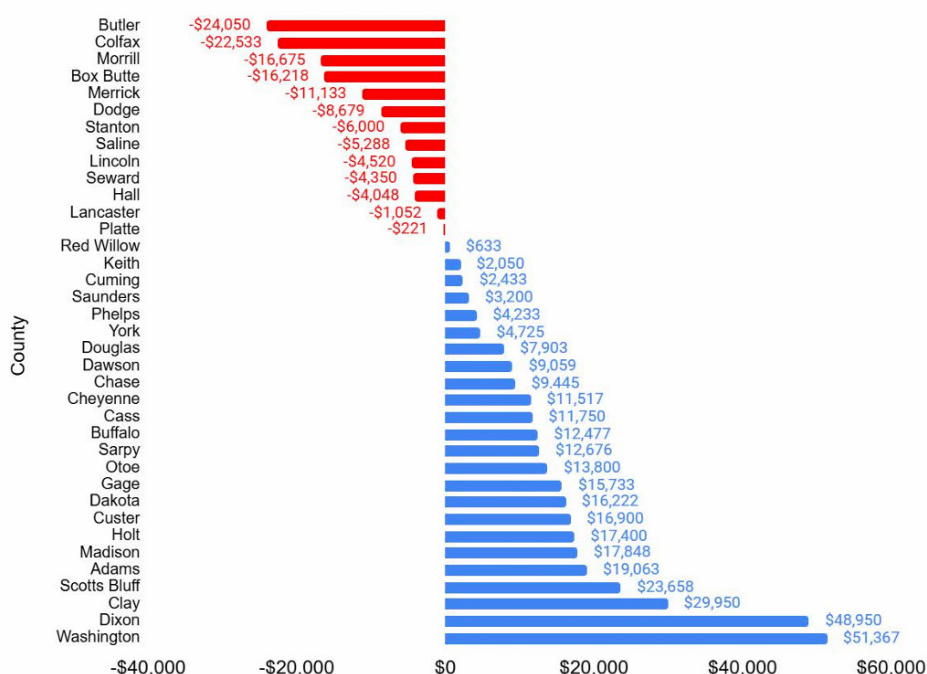


3.2 Gains in Average Revenue among Hispanic Nonemployer Firms

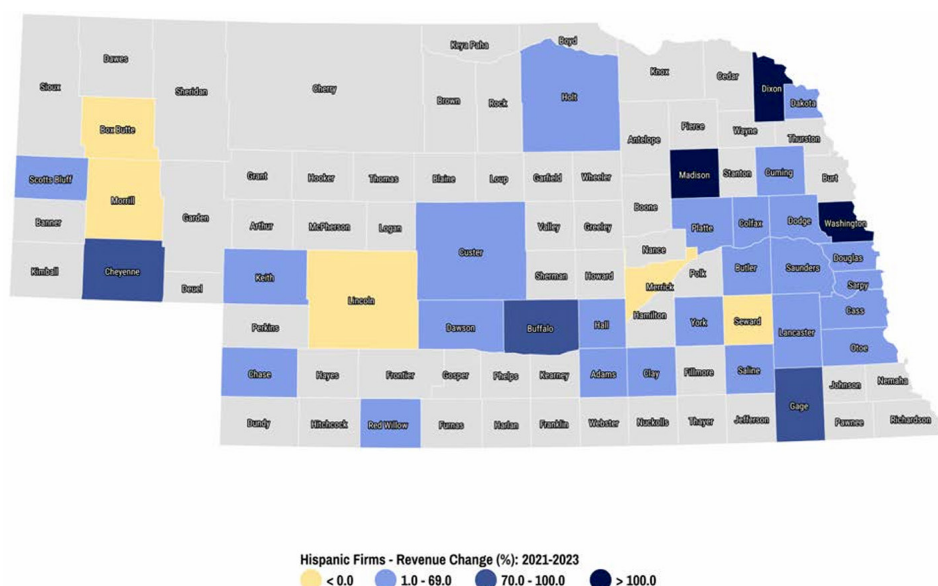
Revenue performance among Hispanic nonemployer firms varied considerably across Nebraska counties between 2021/2022 and 2022/2023. Several counties experienced substantial **gains in average annual revenue per nonemployer firm**, most notably **Washington County (+\$51,000)**, **Dixon County (+\$49,000)**, **Clay County (+\$30,000)**, **Scotts Bluff County (+\$24,000)**, **Adams County (+\$19,000)**, and **Madison County (+\$18,000)**.

These increases often occurred without corresponding growth in firm counts, suggesting improved **productivity**, **market access**, or shifts in **sector composition**. In contrast, a number of counties experienced notable declines in average nonemployer revenue, including **Butler (-\$24,000)**, **Colfax (-\$22,000)**, **Morrill (-\$17,000)**, **Box Butte (-\$16,000)**, **Merrick (-\$11,000)**, and **Dodge (-\$9,000)**.

Figure 10:
Average Change in Revenue per
Hispanic Nonemployer Firm,
2021/2022 - 2022/2023.



Data Sources: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics series (NES-D): Statistics for Employer and Nonemployer Firms by Industry and Ethnicity for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties, and Places: 2023.



Part 4: Key Findings and Implications

4.1 Summary of major Findings

Together, these findings demonstrate that Hispanic-owned businesses are an increasingly important and dynamic component of Nebraska's economic landscape, contributing to business formation, employment growth, and rising wages across both metropolitan and rural counties.

Growth Trajectory (Statewide):

- Hispanic businesses grew 66% from 2018-2023, 8.3 times faster than overall business growth.
- Hispanic business payroll tripled from \$134 million to \$396 million, expanding purchasing power in local economies.
- Hispanic employer firms doubled (103% growth) while statewide employer firms declined 3.4%.
- Hispanic-owned businesses now support nearly 10,000 jobs, representing a 93% increase since 2018.
- Hispanic business revenue reached \$2.2 billion in 2023, nearly tripling since 2018.
- Average wages in Hispanic businesses increased 53%, reflecting improved job quality.
- Hispanic businesses demonstrated resilience, growing 13.7% during the 2021 recovery period.

Economic Impact of Immigrants

A Comprehensive Analysis of State and County-Level Trends, 2018-2023

Executive Summary

Nebraska's immigrant population has grown dramatically over the past three decades — from 1.8% of the state's population in 1990 to approximately 9.0% (180,800 residents) in 2024 — and has become an indispensable contributor to the state's economy, workforce, and communities.

Labor Force and Key Industries

Immigrants participate in the labor force at higher rates than native-born Nebraskans (73% vs. 69%) and account for 11.0% of the state's workforce despite representing 9.0% of the population. They are concentrated in sectors critical to Nebraska's economy — particularly manufacturing (25.2% of foreign-born workers), construction (10.7%), and meatpacking and food services — industries that report chronic difficulty filling positions from the native-born workforce alone.

Entrepreneurship and Economic Output

Immigrant-owned businesses generated an estimated \$321.6 million in business income in 2023, a 28.9% increase from \$249.4 million in 2018, contributing meaningfully to Nebraska's private sector across industries ranging from food service and retail to agriculture and technology. A University of Nebraska at Omaha analysis found that foreign-born workers in just three sectors generated approximately \$22 billion in total economic output and supported over 94,000 jobs statewide.

Tax Contributions

Immigrants contribute approximately \$1.6 billion in total taxes annually, including \$993.6 million in federal taxes and \$620.8 million in state and local taxes. Undocumented immigrants contributed an additional estimated \$457.1 million in taxes despite having limited access to public benefits.

Workforce and Demographic Significance

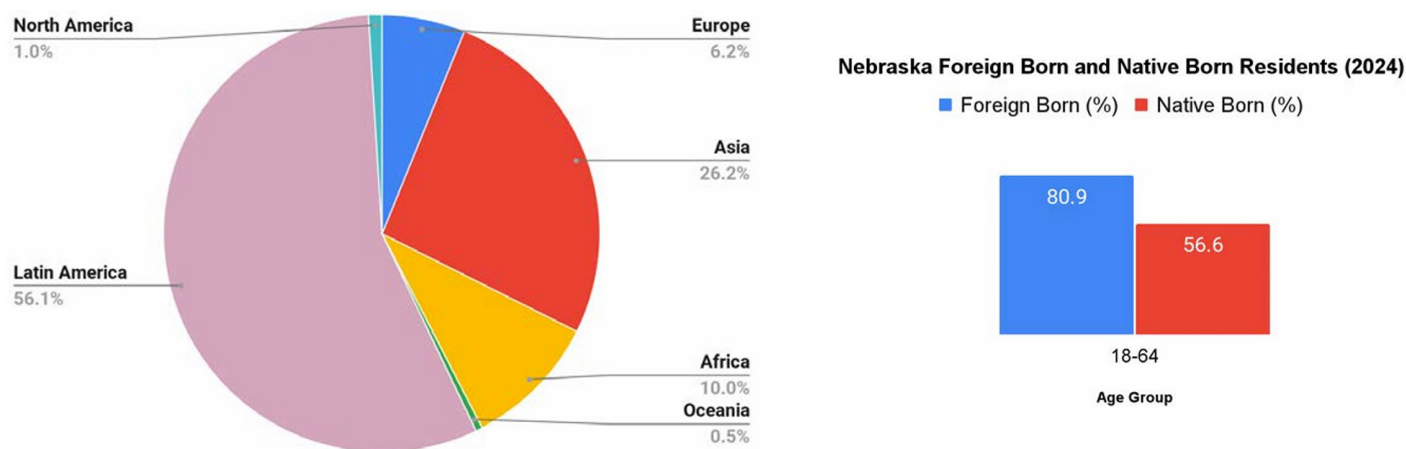
With up to 45,000 job openings unfilled and an aging native-born population, Nebraska faces a structural labor shortage that immigration is uniquely positioned to address. Economic research consistently finds that immigrants complement rather than displace native-born workers, filling vacant roles and enabling business expansion that creates additional employment opportunities.

Part 5: Overview of Immigrant Populations

Nebraska has a relatively small but growing immigrant population that is increasingly important to the state's economy. As of 2024, about **180,800 Nebraska residents** – roughly **9.0% of the state's population** – were born outside the U.S. This represents a dramatic increase from just **1.8% of the population in 1990**. In fact, the foreign-born population in Nebraska more than doubled between 2000 and 2024. (ACS, 2024).

Nebraska's foreign-born population (excluding those born at sea) is predominantly from **Latin America (56.1%; ~101,461)**. The next largest share is Asia (26.2%; ~47,384), followed by Africa (10.0%; ~18,086) and Europe (6.2%; ~11,213). Very small proportions of Nebraska's foreign-born residents are from North America (1.0%; ~1,809) and Oceania (0.5%; ~904). Figure 12.

Figure 12: Nebraska foreign-born population: n = 180,857 (2024)



Immigrants are also disproportionately of working age: over **80% of Nebraska's foreign-born residents are between 18 and 64 years old**, compared to about 57% of the U.S.-born population. This age structure means immigrants contribute significantly to the labor force as workers, while also

raising families and contributing to the next generation (about **17% of Nebraska children have at least one immigrant parent** (MPI, 2023).

Overall, immigrants and refugees account for an estimated **8% of Nebraska's total economic output (GDP)**

(nebraskaexaminer.com, 2023), indicating that their economic contributions slightly exceed their share of the population. The sections below examine in detail how Nebraska's immigrants participate in the labor force, drive entrepreneurship, pay taxes, contribute to output, and affect the broader labor market.

Part 6: Immigrant Labor Force Participation

Immigrants are a critical component of Nebraska's workforce. About 11.0% of Nebraska's labor force is foreign-born, a share higher than their 9.0% of the population. Immigrant workers also tend to have high labor participation rates – roughly 73% of Nebraska's foreign-born working-age population is in the labor force, compared to about 69% for U.S.-born Nebraskans. This indicates that many immigrants are of prime working age and come to Nebraska for employment opportunities. Indeed, policymakers note that Nebraska's economy "won't be able to meet its workforce needs without more immigrants," given the state's high employment rates and labor shortages (nebraskaexaminer.com; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 2023).

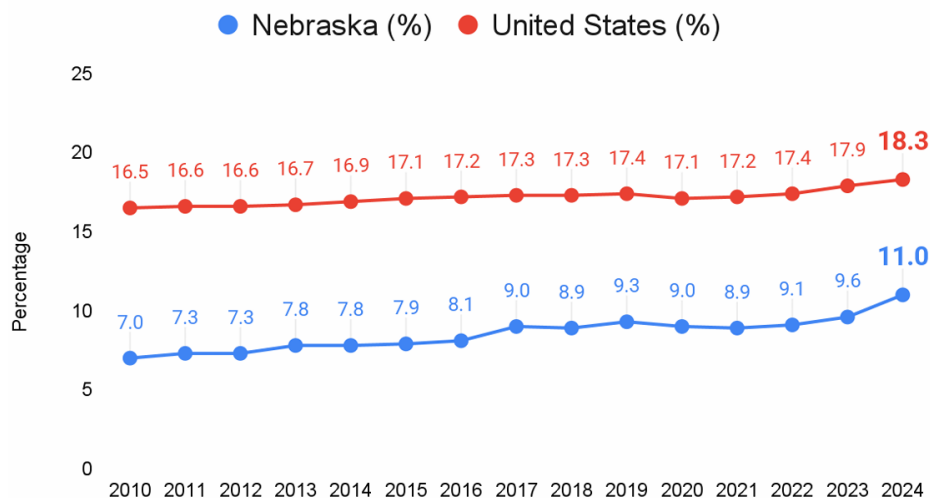
"Reduced immigration has contributed to slower labor force growth in Nebraska."

~Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, 2023

While immigrants account for 11.0% of jobs, they constitute 9.1% of Nebraska's working-age population. This indicates a higher-than-expected employment rate.

In 2024, a smaller share of jobs in Nebraska was held by immigrants than the U.S. average (11.0% vs. 18.3%). Figure 13.

Figure 13: Percentage of jobs held by immigrants in Nebraska and in the United States: 2010-2024



Data Sources: ACS, Table S0501 -1-year estimates. USAFacts. Note: ACS 5-year estimates data were used for 2020.

6.1 Key Industries

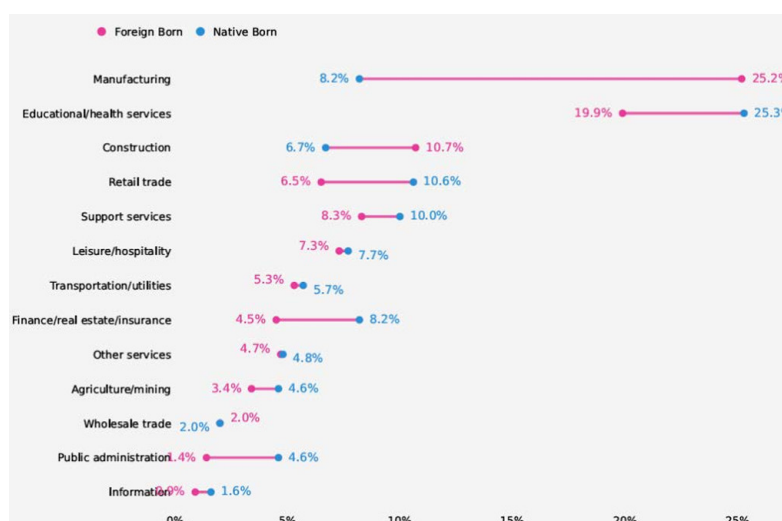
“Employers in ‘construction and extraction’ are losing potential hires because many lack the legal status or documents required to work, compounding already severe shortages in these occupations.”

~NE DOL, 2025. Table Hiring Difficulty. Page 10

Immigrant workers are heavily represented in several of Nebraska’s most important industries. They contribute across sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing, construction, and services. In 2024, the industry mix of employed workers differed between foreign-born and native-born populations. Foreign-born workers were most concentrated in manufacturing (25.2%), followed by educational/health services (19.9%) and construction (10.7%). In contrast, native-born workers were most concentrated in educational/health services (25.3%), with retail trade (10.6%) and support services (10.0%) comprising the next largest shares, followed by manufacturing (8.2%) and finance/real estate/insurance (8.2%) (Figure 14).

The largest gaps were in manufacturing, where the foreign-born share was 17.0 percentage points higher than the native-born share (25.2% vs. 8.2%), and educational/health services, where the native-born share exceeded the foreign-born share by 5.4 percentage points (25.3% vs. 19.9%). Native-born workers also had higher shares in public administration (4.6% vs. 1.4%), finance/real estate/insurance (8.2% vs. 4.5%), and information (1.6% vs. 0.9%), while foreign-born workers had higher shares in construction (10.7% vs. 6.7%). Several sectors were similar across groups, including other services (4.7% vs. 4.8%), leisure/hospitality (7.3% vs. 7.7%), and wholesale trade (2.0% vs. 2.0%).

Figure 14: Share of Employed Workers by Industry: Foreign-Born vs Native-Born in Nebraska, 2024



Data Sources: ACS, Table S0501. 1-year estimates, 2024. Note: Percentages may not sum to exactly 100 due to rounding.

6. Occupations

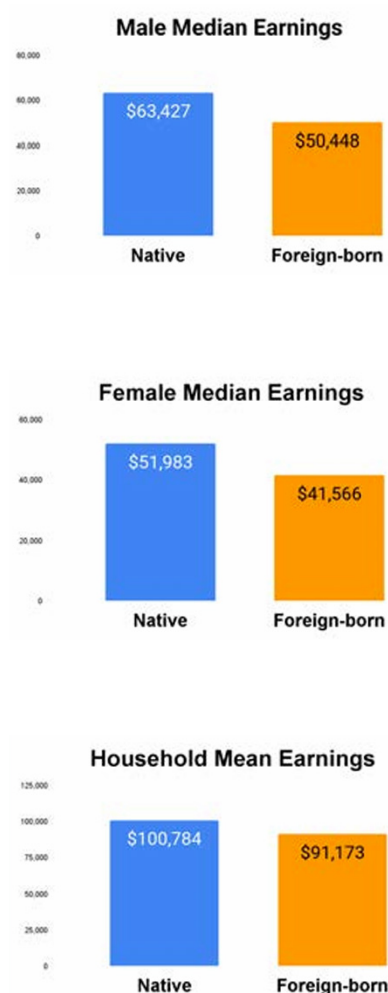
In Nebraska's civilian employed population ages 16+ (**930,631 native-born** and **114,437 foreign-born**), foreign-born workers are concentrated in a different mix of occupations than native-born workers. The largest share of foreign-born workers is in **production, transportation, and material-moving occupations (30.3%)**—about **34,700** workers—more than double the native-born share in these jobs (**12.7%**, about **118,200** workers). Foreign-born workers are also more represented in **natural resources, construction, and maintenance (13.6%; ~15,600)** than native-born workers (**9.1%; ~84,700**), and slightly more represented in **service occupations (18.7%; ~21,400)** than native-born workers (**15.4%; ~143,300**).

By contrast, foreign-born workers make up smaller shares of **management, business, science, and arts occupations (27.2%; ~31,100)** compared with native-born workers (**43.4%; ~403,900**), and smaller shares of **sales and office occupations (10.2%; ~11,700)** compared with native-born workers (**19.5%; ~181,500**). Overall, these patterns indicate that foreign-born workers are particularly important to Nebraska's hands-on and logistics-related workforce, whereas native-born workers are more concentrated in managerial/professional and sales/office roles.

Earnings: Among full-time, year-round workers in Nebraska (**684,430 native-born** and **81,391 foreign-born**), foreign-born workers are more concentrated in lower- and middle-earning brackets and less concentrated at the top. About **51.9%** of foreign-born workers earned **under \$50,000** in the past 12 months (2024 inflation-adjusted dollars), compared with **35.5%** of native-born workers; meanwhile, **21.4%** of foreign-born workers earned **\$75,000 or more**, versus **33.4%** of native-born workers. Consistent with this distribution, median earnings were lower for foreign-born workers (**\$50,448** for men; **\$41,566** for women) than for native-born workers (**\$63,427** for men; **\$51,983** for women), and mean household earnings were also lower (**\$91,173** foreign-born vs. **\$100,784** native-born). [Figure 15](#).

These gaps likely reflect, in part, differences in occupational and industry concentration—foreign-born workers are more represented in production, transportation, service, and construction-related roles—sectors that often pay, on average, less than many professional and managerial occupations. At the same time, these workers are a critical part of the labor force in essential industries and roles that keep businesses and supply chains running across the state.

Figure 14:
Earnings Comparison: Native vs. Foreign-Born Workers in Nebraska



Part 7: Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Business Ownership

Entrepreneurship is another avenue through which immigrants contribute to Nebraska's economy. Immigrants in Nebraska exhibit high rates of business creation, in line with national trends in which immigrants often start businesses at higher rates than natives (map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org). In Nebraska, there were **7,782 immigrant entrepreneurs** (self-employed business owners) as of 2024 (ACS, 1-year estimates, Table S0201). These immigrant-owned businesses represent about **11.8% of all self-employed people in Nebraska** (ACS, 2024, Table S0501, 1-year estimates). Immigrant entrepreneurs are found in a variety of sectors – from running restaurants, grocery stores, and retail shops to operating farms and tech startups – and they create jobs for locals as well.

The economic output of these businesses is considerable. In 2023, Nebraska's immigrant entrepreneurs generated an estimated **\$321.6 million in business income** compared to **\$249.4 million in 2018, a 28.9% increase** (American Immigration Council, Map the Impact, 2023). This figure reflects the net revenue of immigrant-owned businesses across the state, highlighting their contribution to Nebraska's private sector. Some immigrant businesses are small family operations, while others have grown into substantial companies employing many workers. For example, immigrant business owners have been active in revitalizing areas such as Omaha's South 24th Street corridor, opening shops and restaurants that create jobs and spur local spending (unomaha.edu, 2021).

6. Occupations



Share of entrepreneurs who are immigrants

\$321.6M

Total business income of immigrant entrepreneurs

Part 8: Tax Contributions and Fiscal Impact

Immigrants in Nebraska contribute substantially to public revenues through taxes paid at the federal, state, and local levels. In 2023, Nebraska immigrant households reported an estimated \$6.3 billion in household income and held \$4.6 billion in total spending power, emphasizing their role as both taxpayers and consumers. In total, immigrants pay an estimated **\$1.6 billion in taxes**, including **\$993.6 million in federal taxes** and **\$620.8 million in state and local taxes**. Their tax contributions also include major payroll tax support for federal programs—about **\$616.7 million to Social Security** and **\$162.1 million to Medicare**. (American Immigration Council, Map the Impact, 2023). These state and local tax dollars help fund Nebraska's public schools, infrastructure, and essential services across communities. Immigrants contribute not only as workers and business owners, but also as consumers (sales and excise taxes) and homeowners or renters (with property taxes often embedded in housing costs).

Immigrant families had billions to spend on local housing, food, transportation, and other goods and services, supporting local businesses and jobs.

8.1 Taxes and Spending Power

\$1.6B

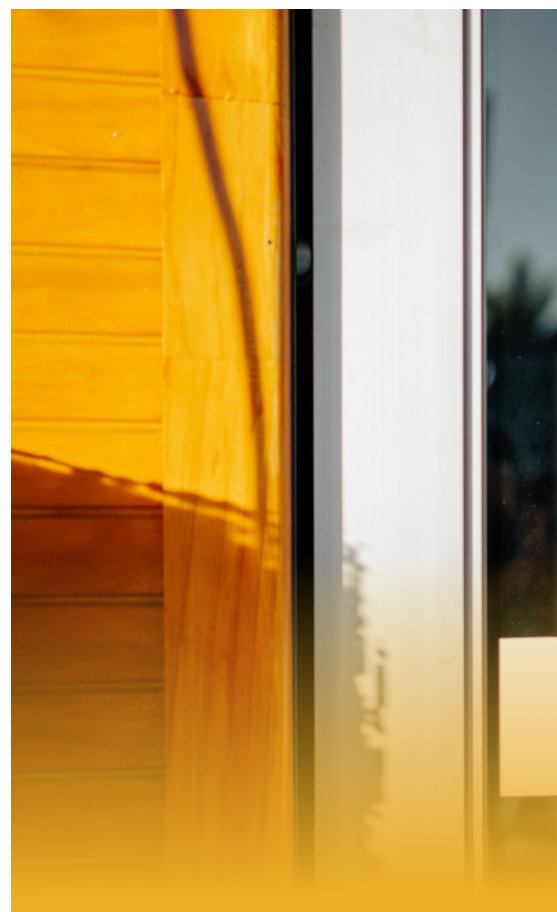
Total Taxes Paid

\$4.6B

Total Spending Power

Undocumented immigrants in Nebraska also contribute substantially to public revenues. The data show an estimated 52,800 undocumented immigrants in the state, with 92.0% who are working age. Undocumented households generate approximately \$2.0 billion in household income and have \$1.5 billion in total spending power, translating into significant tax payments. In total, undocumented immigrants pay an estimated \$457.1 million in taxes, including \$289.4 million in federal taxes and \$167.7 million in state and local taxes. These contributions arise because many undocumented workers have payroll taxes withheld (and often file tax returns using ITINs), and they also pay sales taxes on purchases and property taxes, directly or indirectly through rent. (American Immigration Council, Map the Impact, 2023).

Nebraska residents who benefit from programs like DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and other humanitarian protections now contribute far more than a few million dollars in taxes each year; together, these immigrants pay an estimated 45 million dollars in state and local taxes annually in Nebraska, with about 13,000 workers under humanitarian or temporary protections contributing roughly 96 million dollars in state and local taxes overall (FWD, 2025).



If Nebraska lost foreign-born workers in just three sectors, construction, meat processing, and food services, the state would lose about 22 billion dollars in output and over 94,000 jobs.

Part 9: Economic Output

Studies using input-output models have quantified the broader impact of Nebraska's immigrants on state output and job creation. A detailed analysis of 2019 data by the University of Nebraska at Omaha found that foreign-born workers in key sectors such as construction, animal slaughtering and processing, and restaurants and other food services generated about 22.0 billion dollars in total economic output and supported 94,409 jobs statewide, including both immigrant and U.S.-born workers whose positions were sustained directly or indirectly by immigrant labor and spending. A large share of this impact is attributable to immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean, whose employment in these sectors generated approximately 16.1 billion dollars in output and 70,516 jobs in 2019, reflecting their prominence within Nebraska's foreign-born population (Decker, 2021).



Part 10: Effects on Wages and Employment for Native-Born Workers

The impact of immigration on the wages and employment of native-born workers is a frequently debated topic. In Nebraska, as nationwide, **economic research finds that immigrants generally do not have a negative effect on average wages or job opportunities for U.S.-born workers** (Economic Policy Institute, 2024). Instead, immigrants often complement native-born workers in the labor market. Many immigrants fill roles that might otherwise remain vacant or enable businesses to expand production, thereby potentially increasing employment for natives. For example, employing immigrant laborers in Nebraska's agricultural and construction industries enables farms to harvest more produce and contractors to build more homes, which can create more jobs for supervisors, salespeople, and suppliers (often filled by natives). Economists note that "businesses adjust to new immigrants by opening stores, restaurants, or production facilities" to take advantage of the larger labor supply, and "more workers translate into more business", creating a virtuous cycle of job growth (brookings.edu; American Immigration Council, 2012).

Multiple studies surveying U.S. data have concluded that immigration has **little to no adverse effect on average native wages**, and may even **slightly raise overall wages** by boosting productivity and lowering consumer prices. The **National Academy of Sciences** found that the presence of immigrants tends to have a very small impact on the wages of most native-born Americans, often positive for many groups and only slightly negative for a few specific groups (National Academies, 2017).

In Nebraska, immigrants are heavily represented in sectors with chronic labor shortages, helping employers fill jobs that might otherwise remain vacant. Foreign-born workers are especially prevalent in **manufacturing and meatpacking**, as well as in **construction, cleaning and maintenance, and health care**—industries that report persistent difficulty hiring enough local workers. Many occupations in which immigrants are most concentrated, such as food processing, cleaning, and caregiving, also have large numbers of job openings across the state (NE DOL, 2025). By filling these gaps, immigrant workers help keep plants, farms, and service providers operating, which in turn sustains jobs for native-born Nebraskans in complementary roles—from supervisors and sales staff to truck drivers and suppliers linked to Nebraska's meat and agricultural industries.

"In the early 1990's, Mexicans, along with Central Americans and Africans, were actively recruited to save Nebraska's meatpacking industry, state budgets, and rural towns devastated by the farm crisis"

~Gouveia and Saenz 2000

Part 11: Demographic and Workforce Trends Linked to Immigration

Immigration has been a key driver of Nebraska's demographic and workforce trends in recent decades. While Nebraska's native-born population has grown slowly and even experienced out-migration to other states, **international migration has supplied a vital source of population growth.**

From the 1990s up until around 2015, Nebraska added immigrants at a steady pace (about a 5% annual increase in the foreign-born population) (nebraskaexaminer.com). During this period, **new immigrants often contributed more to Nebraska's population gains than people moving in from other states** (nebraskaexaminer.com).

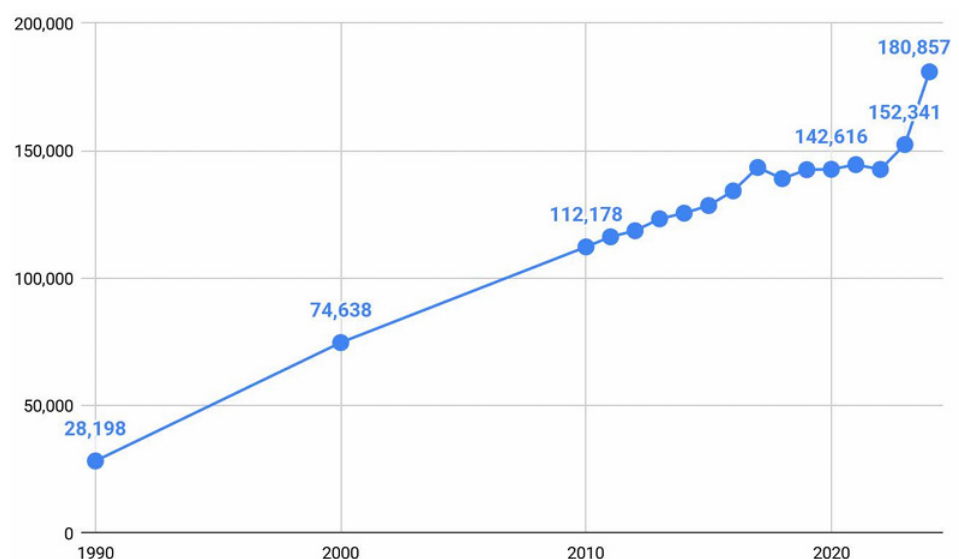
Nebraska's foreign-born population climbed from just over 28,000 in 1990 to more than 180,000 by 2024, with most of that growth occurring after 2000. This influx has helped counteract the state's aging demographics and supplied younger workers to Nebraska's labor force.

Immigrants (including refugees) have also contributed to the revitalization of several rural towns and urban neighborhoods, helping stabilize school enrollments and local housing markets as they would otherwise face population decline.

From about 2016 through the early 2020s, the pace of new immigration to Nebraska slowed, echoing national shifts tied to policy changes and the pandemic, but foreign-born residents still made up roughly 7–8 percent of the state's population and about 8 percent of its total economic output. After this period of slower growth, the foreign-born population rose more sharply again by 2023–2024, indicating renewed inflows that are once more expanding Nebraska's workforce and economic base. [Figure 16.](#)

Figure 13:
Percentage of jobs held by
immigrants in Nebraska and in
the United States: 2010-2024

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. "SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP02, <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2020.DP02?q=Native+and+Foreign-Born&g=040XX00US31&moe=false>. Accessed on 17 Feb 2026.



As of June 2025, Nebraska businesses reported up to 45,000 job openings remaining **unfilled** (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics). This scarcity of workers is “more pronounced [in Nebraska] than in many other states,” and it risks constraining economic growth. In this context, immigrants and refugees are seen as an untapped “**workforce supply source**” – a potential “**economic powerhouse**” for Nebraska if better integrated (nebraskaexaminer.com).

State and local leaders are increasingly recognizing the need to attract and retain immigrant workers to meet Nebraska’s workforce needs, given the state’s extremely tight labor market and slow population growth. The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and its foundation frame legal immigration as a top workforce priority, urging Nebraska’s congressional delegation to champion federal reforms that expand lawful pathways while “opening the front door” for more workers to come, live, and work in the state.

In its 2024 Nebraska Economic Competitiveness Assessment, the Chamber further calls for coordinated regional plans to welcome and support new immigrants—with the explicit goal of making Nebraska “the most welcoming and ready state for immigrants”—arguing that future competition among states will be won by those that both attract foreign-born talent and help them put down roots in local communities (Nebraska Chamber Foundation, 2024).

Efforts are underway in Nebraska to reform professional licensing rules, expand language access, and implement local ‘welcoming’ plans so immigrants and refugees can use their skills and fully participate in community life (WES, 2024). As Nebraska’s population ages and Baby Boomers retire, policymakers and business leaders increasingly view younger immigrant workers as essential to replacing those exiting the labor force and sustaining future labor-force growth (NE DOL, 2023).

Nebraska’s immigrants are a net economic asset — as workers, entrepreneurs, taxpayers, and consumers — whose contributions significantly exceed their share of the population. Continued investment in immigrant integration and inclusive workforce policy will be essential as Nebraska navigates the demographic and labor market challenges of the coming decades.



Social and Cultural Impacts of Immigrants in Nebraska

Part 12: Health

12.1 Insurance and access challenges

Federal law prohibits states from providing medicaid coverage to most undocumented immigrants beyond emergency services

Immigrants—especially those who are undocumented—often face major barriers to health coverage because eligibility rules limit access to Medicaid and other public programs. In Nebraska, people without eligible immigration status generally cannot receive full-scope Medicaid and may

No health Care Coverage

4.3 times

Foreign-born Nebraskans were more likely than U.S.-born Nebraskans to have no health care coverage



Native-born



Foreign-born

only qualify for **Emergency Medicaid (Emergency Medical Services for Aliens)** for qualifying emergency conditions (e.g., labor and delivery, emergency stabilization). (Enroll Nebraska, 2016). At the population level, foreign-born individuals were 4.3 times more likely to be uninsured than native-born individuals (23.4% vs. 5.4%, respectively (ACS, 2024, 1-year estimates. Table S2701).

12.2 Safety-net care and community clinics

To compensate for limited access to insurance, many immigrants rely on Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and community clinics that provide sliding-scale or free care regardless of immigration status. (USCIS Guide; Enroll Nebraska, 2016; ASPE, 2021).

12.3 Health disparities and community support needs

State health equity materials note that immigrants can face obstacles to care tied to language access, cultural barriers, and socioeconomic constraints—factors that can contribute to preventable disparities (including mental health and chronic disease risks). (NE DHHS, 2016).

In Nebraska, individuals without lawful immigration status generally cannot receive full-scope Medicaid and may qualify only for Emergency Medicaid (Emergency Medical Services for Aliens) for qualifying emergency conditions (e.g., labor and delivery, emergency stabilization).

~Enroll Nebraska, 2016



Part 13: Childcare and Early Childhood Education

13.1 Workforce Contributions

Immigrants contribute to Nebraska's early childhood education workforce at critical points of shortage. Foreign-born workers constitute approximately **5% of Nebraska's early care and education workforce** (including child care and preschool educators) (CSCCE, 2025). The early childhood workforce in Nebraska faces significant challenges, with average wages for child care workers at \$13.07 per hour (2025) and annual earnings averaging \$27,186, well below the living wage. (CSCCE, 2025).

13.1 Workforce Contributions

Nebraska's early childhood sector experiences high turnover rates, with over three-quarters of child care centers reporting turnover of lead or assistant teachers annually (UN Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Summary. 2020). The state's childcare challenges result in an estimated \$706.9 million in annual economic losses (First Five Years Fund, 2025). Eleven Nebraska counties lack any licensed child care facilities, and 84% of counties with childcare facilities lack sufficient slots to meet family needs (UN Buffett Early Childhood Institute, Full Report. 2020).



Part 14: Integration and Community Participation

14.1 Cultural Contributions

Immigrants have reshaped the cultural landscape of cities and small towns, opening restaurants, grocery stores, and service businesses that introduce new foods, arts, and traditions to local main streets. Latino, African, and Asian community organizations regularly host festivals, heritage celebrations, and cultural fairs that draw diverse audiences and foster a shared sense of place and identity.

14.2 Barriers to Social Integration

Despite these contributions, many immigrants—especially in rural or meat-processing communities—face barriers such as limited English proficiency, transportation constraints, and a lack of interpretation or bilingual services in schools, clinics, and government offices. These obstacles can lead to social isolation, under-utilization of public services, and slower progress in educational and economic integration.

14.3 Civic Engagement

Long-term immigrants and U.S.-born children of immigrants engage increasingly in volunteering, advisory boards, and local civic initiatives, helping shape education and neighborhood policies (Urban Institute, 2020). Despite federal voting restrictions, many immigrants participate in school councils, cultural committees, and community planning forums. Programs such as Elevate Grand Island offer new U.S. citizens leadership training covering voting rights, access to services, and civic volunteering, with participants becoming poll workers, volunteers, and community leaders in local governance (Nebraska Public Media, 2024).

Part 15: Policy and Political Impact

15.1 Coalition Advocacy

A coalition of more than 60 entities—including hospitals, universities, businesses, and agricultural interests—formally advocated for updates to immigration laws and policies to address Nebraska's critical labor shortage of up to 80,000 unfilled jobs, emphasizing that workforce needs are driving policy reconsideration (Nebraska Examiner, 2024).

15.2 Public Services Usage

Immigrants—including undocumented individuals—utilize public education, healthcare, and safety services. Research indicates that immigrants' fiscal contributions through taxes and spending significantly exceed their use of public services (Decker, 2021), although policy restrictions limit access to benefits such as Medicaid and unemployment insurance for undocumented residents (NIWAP, 2025).

Appendix

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Table A1: Business Characteristics by Ethnicity in Nebraska, 2018-2023

Ethnicity	Year	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Change 2018-2023	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	Average Payroll per Employee
Total	2023	196,718	338,336,232	155,000	8,802,565		41,718	329,533,667	885,225	50,403,210	\$56,938
Hispanic	2023	14,142	2,217,345	12,500	717,774		1,642	1,499,571	9,956	395,830	\$39,758
Non-Hispanic	2023	176,752	146,436,559	140,000	7,566,995		36,752	138,869,564	464,474	23,794,565	\$51,229
Total	2022	191,185	391,162,502	150,000	8,511,101		41,185	382,651,401	883,320	48,714,492	\$55,149
Hispanic	2022	12,925	1,934,196	11,500	663,184		1,425	1,271,012	8,735	309,257	\$35,404
Non-Hispanic	2022	171,306	132,917,451	135,000	7,315,191		36,306	125,602,260	431,028	21,616,927	\$50,152
Total	2021	187,391	\$5 billion or more	146,000	7,464,173		41,391	\$5 billion or more	828,056	44,610,114	\$53,873
Hispanic	2021	11,850	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	10,500	542,521		1,350	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	8,385	318,346	\$37,966
Non-Hispanic	2021	168,669	\$5 billion or more	132,000	6,428,706		36,669	\$5 billion or more	436,496	21,605,650	\$49,498
Total	2020	180,740	\$5 billion or more	140,000	6,693,259		40,740	\$5 billion or more	835,364	39,702,835	\$47,528
Hispanic	2020	10,422	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	9,500	450,696		Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	n.a.
Non-Hispanic	2020	163,624	\$5 billion or more	127,000	5,763,158		36,624	\$5 billion or more	441,529	18,630,376	\$42,195
Total	2019	183,990	\$5 billion or more	141,000	6,531,663		42,990	\$5 billion or more	839,188	38,956,504	\$46,422
Hispanic	2019	9,466	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	8,500	394,039		966	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	4,587	136,284	\$29,711
Non-Hispanic	2019	167,774	\$5 billion or more	129,000	5,716,967		38,774	\$5 billion or more	464,532	19,837,296	\$42,704
Total	2018	182,189	\$5 billion or more	139,000	6,305,787		43,189	\$5 billion or more	855,009	38,441,262	\$44,960
Hispanic	2018	8,508	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	7,700	361,443		808	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	5,166	133,920	\$25,923
Non-Hispanic	2018	166,968	\$5 billion or more	128,000	5,548,258		38,968	\$5 billion or more	451,250	18,466,791	\$40,924
Ethnicity		Change 2018-2023		Change 2018-2023	Change 2018-2023		Change 2018-2023		Change 2018-2023	Change 2018-2023	Change 2018-2023
Total		8.0%		11.5%	39.6%		-3.4%		3.5%	31.1%	26.6%
Hispanic		66.2%		62.3%	98.6%		103.2%		92.7%	195.6%	53.4%
Non-Hispanic		5.9%		9.4%	36.4%		-5.7%		2.9%	28.9%	25.2%

Data Sources: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Annual Business Survey: Statistics for Employer Firms by Ethnicity for the U.S.: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Annual Business Survey Company Summary, Table AB00MYCSA01B. Retrieved January 28, 2026, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ABSCS2023.AB00MYCSA01B?q=AB00MYCSA01B&g=040XX00U531>. Note: Data from 2018 and 2022 are available at the highlighted link.

Table A2: Business Characteristics by Ethnicity by County in Nebraska, 2023

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Adams	Total	3,291	4,036,001	2,500	134,603	791	3,901,398	10,213	451,316			53.8
Adams	Hispanic	252	23,214	250	19,472	2	3,742	41	732	99%	8%	77.9
Antelope	Total	S	S	650	51,413	S	S	S	S			
Arthur	Total	68	8,226	40	3,425	28	4,801	80	1,516			
Banner	Total	S	S	60	3,769	S	S	S	S			
Blaine	Total	S	S	50	2,111	S	S	S	S			
Boone	Total	763	670,346	550	35,034	213	635,312	817	41,244			
Box Butte	Total	955	583,347	700	39,361	255	543,986	1,738	89,849			56.2
Box Butte	Hispanic	S	S	90	7,391	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	82.1
Boyd	Total	S	S	200	11,197	S	S	S	S			
Brown	Total	534	363,179	350	17,207	184	345,972	918	39,609			
Buffalo	Total	5,622	6,974,103	4,400	252,946	1,222	6,721,157	18,796	986,197			57.5
Buffalo	Hispanic	S	S	250	11,518	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	46.1
Burt	Total	S	S	500	34,689	S	S	S	S			
Butler	Total	821	926,171	650	37,389	171	888,782	1,595	93,447			57.5
Butler	Hispanic	S	S	30	1,917	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	63.9
Cass	Total	S	S	2,200	109,071	S	S	S	S			49.6
Cass	Hispanic	S	S	70	3,885	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	55.5
Cedar	Total	1,175	765,373	850	54,133	325	711,240	2,090	89,044			

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Chase	Total	834	873,460	500	40,388	334	833,072	1,565	60,099			80.8
Chase	Hispanic	50	3,661	50	3,661	X	X	X	X	100%	6%	73.2
Cherry	Total	872	212,159	650	37,938	222	174,221	1,070	36,756			
Cheyenne	Total	928	763,189	750	45,595	178	717,594	1,751	97,720			60.8
Cheyenne	Hispanic	S	S	30	1,967	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	65.6
Clay	Total	657	739,201	500	32,611	157	706,590	1,129	39,743			
Colfax	Total	869	3,942,795	650	45,721	219	3,897,074	4,125	224,967			70.3
Colfax	Hispanic	S	S	150	12,988	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	86.6
Cuming	Total	1,119	775,508	850	70,230	269	705,278	2,261	101,307			82.6
Cuming	Hispanic	S	S	30	2,206	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	73.5
Custer	Total	1,422	809,044	1,200	67,558	222	741,486	2,011	88,045			56.3
Custer	Hispanic	S	S	20	997	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	49.9
Dakota	Total	1,757	8,615,196	1,400	107,111	357	8,508,085	10,397	619,054			76.5
Dakota	Hispanic	362	56,863	350	22,416	S	S	S	S	97%	21%	64.0
Dawes	Total	954	404,378	650	34,800	304	369,578	1,685	64,810			
Dawson	Total	2,471	5,855,301	1,800	104,468	671	5,750,833	9,590	468,027			58.0
Dawson	Hispanic	363	23,604	350	21,619	13	1,985	42	718	96%	15%	61.8
Deuel	Total	157	185,327	150	7,142	7	178,185	125	5,524			
Dixon	Total	S	S	500	25,254	S	S	S	S			50.5
Dixon	Hispanic	20	1,820	20	1,820	X	X	X	X	100%	n.a.	91.0

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Dodge	Total	3,149	5,826,533	2,400	197,433	749	5,629,100	12,590	627,926			82.3
Dodge	Hispanic	S	S	250	10,589	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	42.4
Douglas	Total	58,115	126,005,933	45,500	2,661,665	12,615	123,344,268	348,272	22,155,714			58.5
Douglas	Hispanic	5,199	855,267	4,400	257,522	799	597,745	4,321	152,571	85%	9%	58.5
Dundy	Total	179	88,091	150	6,701	29	81,390	127	5,883			
Fillmore	Total	628	860,787	550	35,024	78	825,763	694	29,823			
Franklin	Total	296	161,729	250	14,228	46	147,501	264	5,861			
Frontier	Total	259	24,267	250	16,861	9	7,406	27	1,142			
Furnas	Total	497	309,826	400	27,973	97	281,853	671	27,116			
Gage	Total	2,046	2,299,823	1,600	86,670	446	2,213,153	5,644	222,559			54.2
Gage	Hispanic	30	1,066	30	1,066	X	X	X	X	100%	1%	35.5
Garden	Total	204	12,461	200	11,435	4	1,026	2	130			
Garfield	Total	S	S	200	8,306	S	S	S	S			
Gosper	Total	207	48,979	200	16,584	7	32,395	37	1,684			
Grant	Total	85	7,894	80	5,223	5	2,671	5	232			
Greeley	Total	335	116,685	300	21,616	35	95,069	128	3,863			
Hall	Total	6,189	18,268,498	4,400	261,036	1,789	18,007,462	36,709	1,889,978			59.3
Hall	Hispanic	S	S	1,200	65,041	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	54.2
Hamilton	Total	1,042	1,966,635	850	46,509	192	1,920,126	2,198	140,725			
Harlan	Total	441	195,048	350	18,762	91	176,286	235	14,626			
Hayes	Total	95	14,767	90	6,621	5	8,146	10	399			

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Hitchcock	Total	293	275,338	250	12,791	43	262,547	271	12,851			
Holt	Total	S	S	1,300	103,566	S	S	S	S			79.7
Holt	Hispanic	S	S	20	1,695	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	84.8
Hooker	Total	S	S	100	6,289	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S			
Howard	Total	671	369,155	550	26,849	S	S	S	S			
Jefferson	Total	S	S	500	22,087	S	S	S	S			
Johnson	Total	342	328,385	300	11,532	42	316,853	367	15,268			
Kearney	Total	671	757,364	600	32,900	71	724,464	1,046	45,467			
Keith	Total	980	744,946	750	50,154	230	694,792	1,654	78,598			
Keith	Hispanic	S	S	40	1,968	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S			
Keya Paha	Total	143	185,271	100	5,653	43	179,618	197	5,593			
Kimball	Total	S	S	250	14,437	S	S	S	S			
Knox	Total	S	S	650	32,132	S	S	S	S			
Lancaster	Total	32,805	45,955,198	25,500	1,317,169	7,305	44,638,029	140,109	7,459,787			51.7
Lancaster	Hispanic	1,631	245,613	1,400	72,971	231	172,642	779	36,149	86%	5%	52.1
Lincoln	Total	3,152	2,835,638	2,500	135,995	652	2,699,643	9,615	494,876			54.4
Lincoln	Hispanic	S	S	100	3,431	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	34.3
Logan	Total	S	S	80	6,317	S	S	S	S			
Loup	Total	84	5,944	80	4,207	4	1,737	4	203			
McPherson	Total	S	S	40	2,561	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S			

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Madison	Total	3,928	9,076,300	2,800	185,655	1,128	8,890,645	17,955	883,151			66.3
Madison	Hispanic	S	S	300	16,900	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	56.3
Merrick	Total	994	912,885	700	41,658	S	S	S	S			59.5
Merrick	Hispanic	S	S	30	1,979	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	66.0
Morrill	Total	460	260,868	400	21,905	60	238,963	276	15,080			54.8
Morrill	Hispanic	40	3,382	40	3,382	X	X	X	X	100%	9%	84.6
Nance	Total	404	198,665	300	15,176	104	183,489	192	6,789			
Nemaha	Total	693	259,734	550	27,875	143	231,859	1,089	38,689			
Nuckolls	Total	429	533,613	300	18,432	129	515,181	828	48,261			
Otoe	Total	1,715	2,032,855	1,300	64,945	415	1,967,910	4,815	185,913			50.0
Otoe	Hispanic	40	2,543	40	2,543	X	X	X	X	100%	2%	63.6
Pawnee	Total	288	726,665	250	15,891	38	710,774	464	31,683			
Perkins	Total	417	288,953	300	22,523	117	266,430	303	14,869			
Phelps	Total	1,374	1,316,217	850	49,539	524	1,266,678	3,178	144,460			58.3
Phelps	Hispanic	S	S	30	752	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	25.1
Pierce	Total	S	S	650	41,874	S	S	S	S			
Platte	Total	3,600	6,633,723	2,700	159,710	900	6,474,013	16,669	861,374			59.2
Platte	Hispanic	S	S	500	18,721	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	37.4
Polk	Total	S	S	500	25,198	S	S	S	S			
Red Willow	Total	1,253	1,082,321	900	43,297	353	1,039,024	4,415	153,858			48.1

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Red Willow	Hispanic	30	1,255	30	1,255	X	X	X	X	100%	2%	41.8
Richardson	Total	839	553,633	600	25,380	239	528,253	1,578	56,501			
Rock	Total	203	23,550	200	14,326	3	9,224	11	593			
Saline	Total	1,234	4,068,339	950	53,458	284	4,014,881	4,543	239,122			56.3
Saline	Hispanic	214	18,733	200	11,925	S	S	S	S	93%	17%	59.6
Sarpy	Total	17,132	22,551,878	13,500	646,673	3,632	21,905,205	65,056	3,498,497			47.9
Sarpy	Hispanic	1,377	204,441	1,200	76,519	177	127,922	730	37,626	87%	8%	63.8
Saunders	Total	2,791	1,830,474	2,100	120,984	691	1,709,490	6,472	230,819			57.6
Saunders	Hispanic	S	S	30	966	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	32.2
Scotts Bluff	Total	3,319	3,662,560	2,600	151,322	719	3,511,238	10,021	425,992			58.2
Scotts Bluff	Hispanic	403	33,156	400	28,785	S	S	S	S	99%	12%	72.0
Seward	Total	1,792	1,617,765	1,500	65,045	292	1,552,720	3,897	173,850			43.4
Seward	Hispanic	S	S	20	549	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	27.5
Sheridan	Total	562	200,835	450	21,826	112	179,009	686	18,813			
Sherman	Total	S	S	250	13,802	S	S	S	S			
Sioux	Total	S	S	100	3,843	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S			
Stanton	Total	700	1,555,299	500	30,317	200	1,524,982	1,454	102,332			60.6
Stanton	Hispanic	30	772	30	772	X	X	X	X	100%	4%	25.7
Thayer	Total	S	S	450	24,055	S	S	S	S			
Thomas	Total	104	10,824	100	8,121	4	2,703	6	143			

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Thurston	Total	S	S	300	22,743	S	S	S	S			
Valley	Total	674	655,314	450	26,246	224	629,068	1,797	72,166			
Washington	Total	2,331	4,142,769	1,700	92,459	631	4,050,310	5,429	307,784			54.4
Washington	Hispanic	S	S	30	2,871	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	95.7
Wayne	Total	856	527,408	600	35,060	256	492,348	2,730	82,710			
Webster	Total	324	80,303	300	15,584	24	64,719	208	7,979			
Wheeler	Total	S	S	100	7,168	S	S	S	S			
York	Total	1,646	2,187,112	1,100	58,025	546	2,129,087	6,892	318,237			52.8
York	Hispanic	S	S	40	1,125	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	28.1

Data Sources: National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, U.S. National Science Foundation, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics series (NES-D): Statistics for Employer and Nonemployer Firms by Industry and Ethnicity for the U.S., States, Metro Areas, Counties, and Places: 2023. Economic Surveys, ECNSVY Nonemployer Statistics by Demographics Company Summary, Table AB00MYNESD01B. Retrieved December 17, 2025, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ABSNESSD2023>.

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Table A3: Business Characteristics by Ethnicity by County in Nebraska, 2021

County	Ethnicity	Total number of employer and nonemployer firms	Total sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer and nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of nonemployer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of nonemployer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employer firms	Sales, value of shipments, or revenue of employer firms (\$1,000)	Number of employees	Annual payroll (\$1,000)	% Hispanic Nonemployer Firms	% Hispanic Total Firms	Average Revenue nonemployer firms
Adams	Total	3,140	\$5 billion or more	2,200	111,337	940	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	11,371	586,637			50.6
Adams	Hispanic	229	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	200	11,765	S	S	S	S	87%	7%	58.8
Antelope	Total	834	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	650	39,851	184	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	1,168	48,211			
Arthur	Total	S	S	40	4,961	S	S	S	S			
Banner	Total	50	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	50	2,452	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable			
Blaine	Total	S	S	50	1,740	S	S	S	S			
Boone	Total	706	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	550	27,384	156	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	736	35,276			
Box Butte	Total	S	S	700	34,092	S	S	S	S			48.7
Box Butte	Hispanic	S	S	100	9,834	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	98.3
Boyd	Total	229	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	200	9,823	29	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	150	4,988			
Brown	Total	328	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	300	15,612	28	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	329	10,662			
Buffalo	Total	5,606	\$5 billion or more	4,100	216,352	1,506	\$5 billion or more	24,860	1,387,360			52.8
Buffalo	Hispanic	S	S	200	6,719	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	33.6
Burt	Total	653	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	500	26,018	153	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	770	26,333			
Butler	Total	836	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	650	37,099	186	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	845	33,217			57.1

Butler	Hispanic	23	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	20	1,759	S	S	S	S	S	87%	3%	88.0
Cass	Total	2,559	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	2,000	97,845	559	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	3,531	143,632				48.9
Cass	Hispanic	S	S	60	2,625	S	S	S	S		n.a.	n.a.	43.8
Cedar	Total	1,044	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	800	45,090	244	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	1,525	48,436				
Chase	Total	611	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	500	29,485	111	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	501	26,313				59.0
Chase	Hispanic	S	S	40	2,551	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S		n.a.	n.a.	63.8
Cherry	Total	S	S	600	29,287	S	S	S	S				
Cheyenne	Total	879	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	750	37,149	129	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	1,793	92,867				49.5
Cheyenne	Hispanic	20	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	20	1,081	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		100%	2%	54.1
Clay	Total	S	S	500	29,293	S	S	S	S				58.6
Clay	Hispanic	20	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	20	1,138	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		100%	n.a.	56.9
Colfax	Total	927	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	600	39,945	327	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	3,939	213,123				66.6
Colfax	Hispanic	S	S	100	10,912	S	S	S	S		n.a.	n.a.	109.1
Cuming	Total	1,136	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	800	53,879	336	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	2,273	92,995				67.3
Cuming	Hispanic	30	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	30	2,133	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable		100%	3%	71.1
Custer	Total	1,453	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	1,100	59,769	353	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	2,716	101,689				54.3
Custer	Hispanic	S	S	20	659	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S		n.a.	n.a.	33.0
Dakota	Total	1,696	\$5 billion or more	1,300	91,730	396	\$5 billion or more	11,214	509,201				70.6
Dakota	Hispanic	S	S	300	14,347	S	S	S	S		n.a.	n.a.	47.8

Dawes	Total	914	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	650	25,529	264	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	1,716	52,120			
Dawson	Total	S	S	1,600	95,471	S	S	S	S			59.7
Dawson	Hispanic	S	S	300	15,813	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	52.7
Deuel	Total	291	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	200	7,893	91	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	384	22,746			
Dixon	Total	619	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	450	22,856	169	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	1,471	36,884			50.8
Dixon	Hispanic	S	S	20	841	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	42.1
Dodge	Total	S	S	2,300	118,167	S	S	S	S			51.4
Dodge	Hispanic	208	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	200	10,207	S	S	S	S	96%	n.a.	51.0
Douglas	Total	54,632	\$5 billion or more	42,000	2,294,494	12,632	\$5 billion or more	312,689	18,350,612			54.6
Douglas	Hispanic	S	S	4,000	202,499	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	50.6
Dundy	Total	195	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	150	7,661	45	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	346	9,458			
Fillmore	Total	S	S	550	30,829	S	S	S	S			
Franklin	Total	348	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	250	11,155	98	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	271	7,943			
Frontier	Total	S	S	250	13,700	S	S	S	S			
Furnas	Total	S	S	450	22,856	S	S	S	S			
Gage	Total	S	S	1,500	68,851	S	S	S	S			
Garden	Total	243	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	200	10,924	43	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	59	826			
Garfield	Total	S	S	200	8,285	S	S	S	S			
Gosper	Total	S	S	200	15,890	S	S	S	S			
Grant	Total	S	S	90	3,413	S	S	S	S			

Greeley	Total	372	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	250	16,924	122	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	461	13,764				
Hall	Total	5,675	\$5 billion or more	4,100	235,027	1,575	\$5 billion or more	28,940	1,326,710				57.3
Hall	Hispanic	915	\$50 million to less than \$75 million	900	52,424	S	S	S	S	98%	16.1%		58.2
Hamilton	Total	1,043	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	850	36,768	193	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	2,227	106,847				
Harlan	Total	432	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	300	13,691	132	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	383	13,933				
Hayes	Total	94	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	90	5,503	4	Less than \$1 million	6	166				
Hitchcock	Total	307	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	200	11,706	107	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	328	12,940				
Holt	Total	1,659	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	1,300	83,408	359	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	2,149	105,015				64.2
Holt	Hispanic	S	S	20	1,347	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.		67.4
Hooker	Total	108	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	100	5,104	8	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	19	199				
Howard	Total	701	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	550	25,216	151	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	556	17,599				
Jefferson	Total	S	S	500	21,971	S	S	S	S				
Johnson	Total	370	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	300	16,708	70	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	832	26,369				
Kearney	Total	S	S	500	25,959	S	S	S	S				
Keith	Total	1,082	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	850	48,192	232	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	1,587	66,386				56.7
Keith	Hispanic	45	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	40	1,886	5	Less than \$1 million	12	191	89%	4%		47.2
Keya Paha	Total	S	S	100	4,970	S	S	S	S				

Kimball	Total	290	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	250	12,603	40	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	556	24,925			
Knox	Total	903	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	700	30,554	203	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	1,433	30,078			
Lancaster	Total	30,173	\$5 billion or more	23,500	1,128,211	6,673	\$5 billion or more	137,952	7,508,850			48.0
Lancaster	Hispanic	1,245	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	1,100	58,492	S	S	S	S	88%	4%	53.2
Lincoln	Total	3,313	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	2,400	113,827	913	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	11,596	592,969			47.4
Lincoln	Hispanic	S	S	100	3,883	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.	38.8
Logan	Total	74	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	70	4,123	4	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	17	691			
Loup	Total	100	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	80	3,463	S	S	S	S			
McPherson	Total	S	S	50	2,413	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S			
Madison	Total	3,747	\$5 billion or more	2,700	148,856	1,047	\$5 billion or more	13,788	687,258			55.1
Madison	Hispanic	S	S	200	7,697	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	38.5
Merrick	Total	908	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	700	37,666	208	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	1,599	50,449			53.8
Merrick	Hispanic	S	S	30	2,313	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	77.1
Morrill	Total	S	S	350	18,381	S	S	S	S			52.5
Morrill	Hispanic	S	S	40	4,049	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	101.2
Nance	Total	268	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	250	13,788	18	\$75 million to less than \$150 million	146	5,854			
Nemaha	Total	S	S	500	18,164	S	S	S	S			
Nuckolls	Total	S	S	300	13,890	S	S	S	S			
Otoe	Total	1,849	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	1,300	56,158	549	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	4,868	187,916			43.2

Otoe	Hispanic	S	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	40	1,991	S	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.	49.8
Pawnee	Total	299	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	250	10,733	49	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	142	3,615				
Perkins	Total	S	S	300	16,789	S	S	S	S				
Phelps	Total	S	S	850	41,477	S	S	S	S				
Pierce	Total	855	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	650	35,402	205	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	632	24,318				
Platte	Total	3,283	\$5 billion or more	2,400	130,977	883	\$5 billion or more	14,206	870,199				54.6
Platte	Hispanic	306	\$15 million to less than \$50 million	300	11,299	6	\$1 million to less than \$5 million	12	989	98%	9%		37.7
Polk	Total	644	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	500	21,187	144	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	415	16,444				
Red Willow	Total	1,251	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	950	43,662	301	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	3,960	121,140				46.0
Red Willow	Hispanic	20	Less than \$1 million	20	824	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100%	2%		41.2
Richardson	Total	S	S	600	22,011	S	S	S	S				
Rock	Total	S	S	200	11,287	S	S	S	S				
Saline	Total	1,156	\$5 billion or more	850	44,796	306	\$5 billion or more	6,575	403,113				52.7
Saline	Hispanic	163	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	150	9,737	S	S	S	S	92%	14%		64.9
Sarpy	Total	15,789	\$5 billion or more	12,500	530,613	3,289	\$5 billion or more	51,447	2,551,039				42.4
Sarpy	Hispanic	S	S	1,100	56,199	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.		51.1
Saunders	Total	2,546	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	2,100	106,000	446	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	2,674	102,362				50.5
Saunders	Hispanic	S	S	30	870	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.		29.0
Scotts Bluff	Total	3,345	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	2,600	129,149	745	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	9,840	413,277				49.7
Scotts Bluff	Hispanic	S	S	400	19,322	S	S	S	S	n.a.	n.a.		48.3

Seward	Total	1,784	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	1,400	60,258	384	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	5,806	207,490				
Sheridan	Total	S	S	450	21,921	S	S	S	S				
Sherman	Total	S	S	300	12,574	S	S	S	S				
Sioux	Total	S	S	90	3,669	S	S	S	S				
Stanton	Total	512	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	450	27,402	62	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	852	86,438				
Thayer	Total	S	S	400	23,641	S	S	S	S				
Thomas	Total	S	S	90	4,715	S	S	S	S				
Thurston	Total	440	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	300	18,161	140	\$500 million to less than \$1 billion	2,413	160,913				
Valley	Total	532	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	400	20,165	132	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	1,495	28,848				
Washington	Total	2,201	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	1,600	77,572	601	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	5,294	307,141				48.5
Washington	Hispanic	S	S	30	1,330	S	S	0 to 19 employees	S	n.a.	n.a.		44.3
Wayne	Total	763	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	600	31,579	163	\$150 million to less than \$500 million	2,045	65,727				
Webster	Total	S	S	300	12,043	S	S	S	S				
Wheeler	Total	143	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	100	3,811	43	\$5 million to less than \$15 million	46	715				
York	Total	1,574	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	1,100	51,168	474	\$1 billion to less than \$5 billion	4,773	192,549				46.5
York	Hispanic	30	Less than \$1 million	30	702	Not Applicable	Not applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	100%	2%		23.4



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Fax: (402) 471-4381



latino.info@nebraska.gov



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Prepared by:

Juan Paulo Ramirez, PH.D
GIS & Human Dimensions LLC