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ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

HOLDREGE, PHELPS COUNTY AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

PREPARED BY:

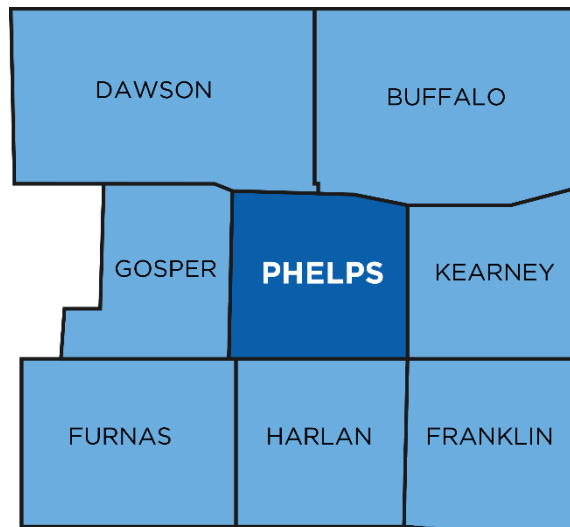
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ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN Holdrege, Phelps County AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



This study provides data on labor force, employment, commuting patterns, population, migration, retail sales, and income for Phelps County. For select measures, comparable data are provided for the surrounding area (selected counties and communities). The map featured above shows the general area for which selected comparable data are shown. In addition to Phelps County, other counties included in this area are Buffalo, Dawson, Franklin, Furnas, Gopher, Harlan and Kearney. The retail sales section also compares retail growth between Holdrege and eight other similarly sized Nebraska communities.

LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Table 1 and Chart 1 (next page) present nonfarm wage and salary data for Phelps County for the period 2012–2022. Nonfarm employment is broken down into 11 sectors as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and which are compliant with the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

Nonfarm wage and salary employment consists of the following 11 sectors:

- Natural Resources & Mining
- Construction
- Manufacturing
- Trade, Transportation & Utilities
- Information
- Financial Activities
- Professional & Business Services
- Education & Health Services
- Leisure & Hospitality
- Other Services (except Public)
- Government

The measure of employment reported in Table 1 is data on the number of people employed in the Nonfarm Wage and Salary (W&S) sector in Phelps County (regardless of their county of residence). These data indicate total nonfarm wage and salary employment in Phelps County increased 1.6 percent (75 jobs) between 2012 and 2022.

Table 1 and Chart 1 also provide employment data for Phelps County by major economic sector for years 2012–2022. The Natural Resources & Mining sector recorded the largest percentage increase in employment between 2012 and 2022 (33.4 percent or 101 jobs). The Natural Resources & Mining sector also recorded the largest actual employment increase between 2012 and 2022 (101 jobs or 33.4 percent).

TABLE 1
Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment Trends • 2012–2022
 Phelps County, Nebraska

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2012-2022	# Change 2012-2022
Nonfarm W&S Employment	4,599	4,691	4,769	4,755	4,734	4,750	4,719	4,740	4,545	4,583	4,674	1.6	75
Total Private Industries	3,851	3,917	3,989	3,972	3,954	3,979	3,954	3,973	3,814	3,843	3,947	2.5	96
Goods Producing	1,322	1,345	1,396	1,384	1,350	1,393	1,395	1,390	1,259	1,340	1,449	9.6	127
Natural Resources & Mining	302	320	347	360	389	389	385	377	384	378	403	33.4	101
Construction	196*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	229	-	212	8.2	16
Manufacturing	824*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	647	-	835	1.3	11
Service Providing	2,529	2,572	2,593	2,588	2,605	2,586	2,559	2,583	2,555	2,503	2,498	-1.2	-31
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	949	976	983	982	968	916	926	938	945	965	963	1.5	14
Information	41	40	40	39	34	33	33	27	24	12	23	-43.9	-18
Financial Activities	204	194	182	164	165	172	175	175	177	178	169	-17.2	-35
Professional & Business Services	142	139	146	164	193	252	281	276	279	157	159	12.0	17
Education & Health Services	764	803	815	802	787	745	689	668	659	730	719	-5.9	-45
Leisure & Hospitality	344	354	358	371	382	384	368	404	360	365	362	5.2	18
Other Services, except Public	86	67	70	67	75	84	87	96	111	97	103	19.8	17
Government	748	774	780	783	780	771	765	767	731	740	727	-2.8	-21
Federal	42	53	57	58	57	57	53	56	57	61	55	31.0	13
State	37	41	42	42	42	41	41	40	38	38	40	8.1	3
Local	669	681	680	683	681	674	670	671	636	641	632	-5.5	-37

Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Annual Data, released June 2023

Labor Force & Work Summary, 2012-2022, Annual, Phelps County, Nebraska (June 2023 data)

* Estimates provided by Dr. Melissa Trueblood, Economist, Nebraska Public Power District

CHART 1
Employment by Industry • 2012–2022
 Phelps County, Nebraska

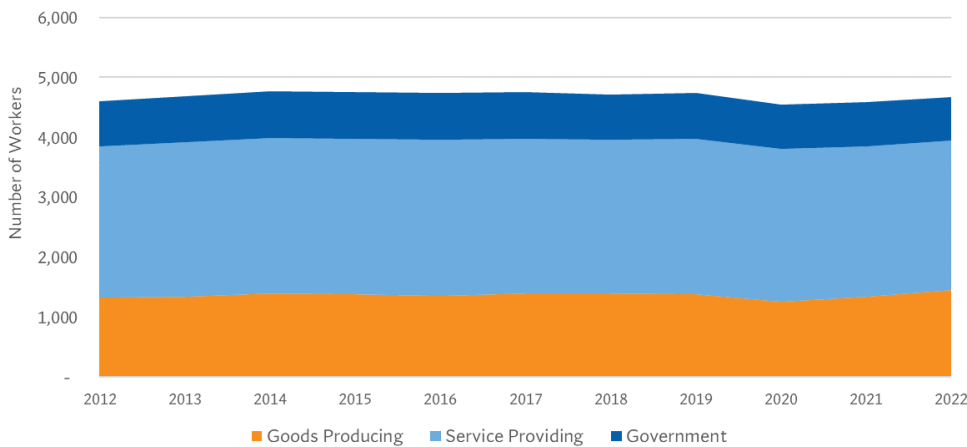


Chart 2 compares total nonfarm wage and salary employment growth in Phelps County with metropolitan, non-metropolitan and Nebraska as a whole for the review period 2012–2022. Non-metropolitan Nebraska is defined as Nebraska minus the seven Lincoln and Omaha metropolitan counties of Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington.

As this chart indicates, total nonfarm wage and salary employment in Phelps County increased 1.6 percent (75 jobs) from 2012 to 2022, compared to a 6.80 percent increase for Nebraska as a whole, a 8.00 percent increase in metropolitan Nebraska and a 17.00 percent increase in non-metropolitan Nebraska.

CHART 2
Nonfarm W&S Employment • 2012–2022

Phelps County, Nebraska, Metro and Non-Metro Nebraska

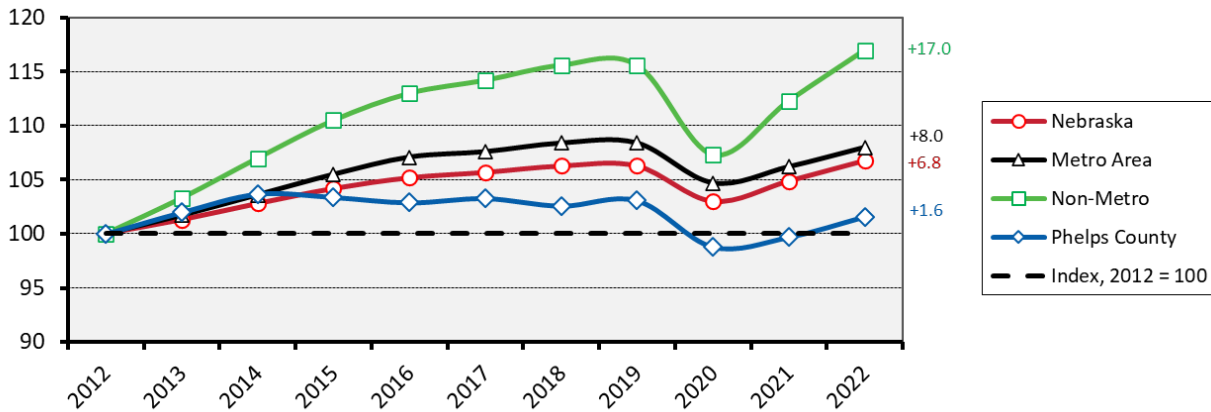
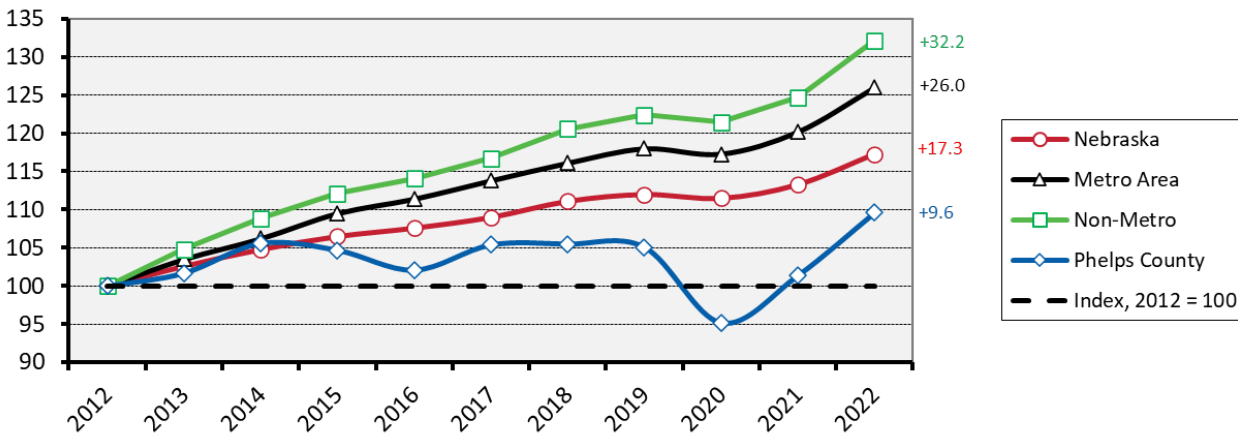


Chart 3 presents data on Goods Producing wage and salary employment growth for Phelps County, Nebraska, metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. The Goods Producing sector for Phelps County recorded a 9.6 percent increase in employment (127 jobs) between 2012 and 2022. This compares to a 32.2 percent increase in employment for non-metropolitan Nebraska; a 26.0 percent increase for metropolitan Nebraska, and a 17.3 percent increase for Nebraska as a whole over the same period.

CHART 3
Goods Producing W&S Employment • 2012–2022

Phelps County, Nebraska, Metro and Non-Metro Nebraska



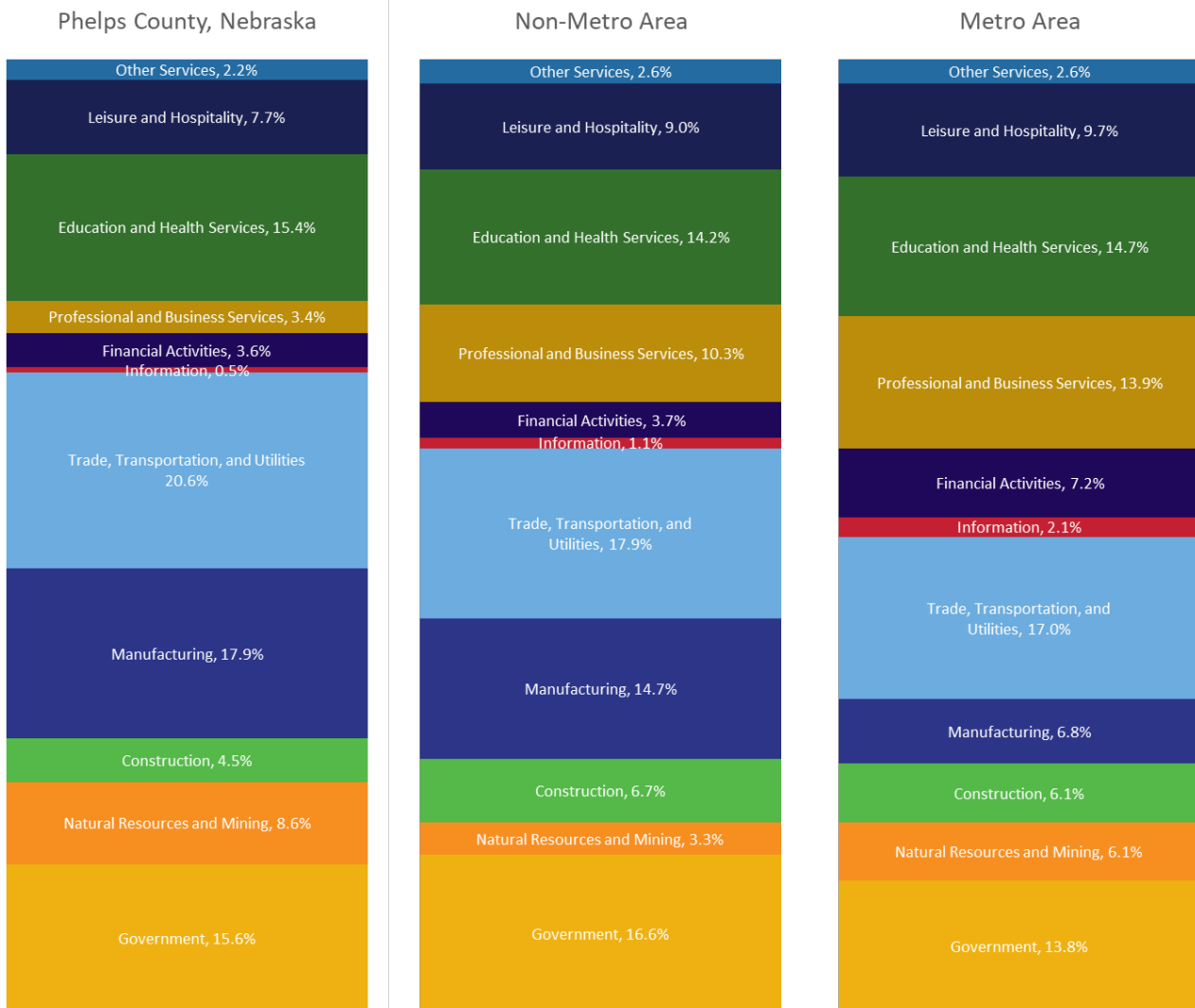
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages (QCEW), released June 2023

The next series of charts (Charts 4, 5 and 6) displays the distribution of nonfarm wage and salary (W&S) employment by major economic sector in Phelps County compared to the non-metropolitan and metropolitan distributions.

When comparing the Phelps County employment sectors to non-metropolitan Nebraska, the largest deviation occurs in the Professional and Business Services sector, which makes up 3.4 percent of the county workforce (159 employees) compared to 10.3 percent for non-metropolitan Nebraska, a difference of 6.9 percent. Comparing Phelps County to the overall metropolitan distribution, the largest deviation is found in the Manufacturing sector (17.9 percent Phelps County vs. 6.8 percent metropolitan Nebraska; a difference of 11.1 percent).

CHART 4, 5 & 6

Nonfarm W&S Employment by Major Economic Sector · 2021



U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The next table (Table 2) shows labor force information for Phelps County for the time period 2012–2022. Labor force data (labor force, unemployment, and total employment) are measured based on the county of residence of the labor force participants (regardless of where they work). As the labor force and total employment data indicate, there was a decrease in the number of Phelps County residents participating in the labor force between 2012 and 2022 (0.1 percent or 3 people).

The number of those unemployed in Phelps County decreased by 32.0 percent (47 people) between 2012 and 2022. Persons are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The Phelps County unemployment rate was 2.0 percent in 2022, below that for metropolitan Nebraska (4.6 percent), below Nebraska as a whole (4.3 percent), and below non-metropolitan Nebraska (3.6 percent).

TABLE 2
Labor Force & Employment Trends · 2012–2022

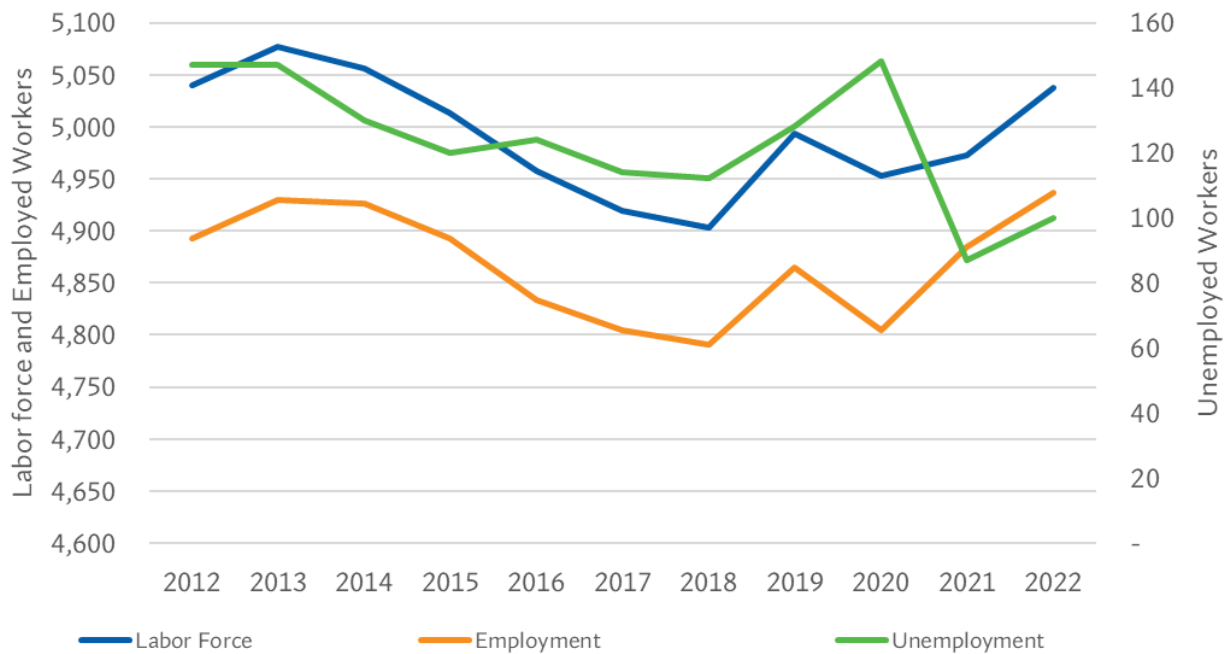
Phelps County, Nebraska

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2012-2022	# Change 2012-2022
Labor Force	5,040	5,077	5,056	5,013	4,957	4,919	4,903	4,993	4,953	4,972	5,037	-0.1	-3
Employment	4,893	4,930	4,926	4,893	4,833	4,805	4,791	4,865	4,805	4,885	4,937	0.9	44
Unemployment	147	147	130	120	124	114	112	128	148	87	100	-32.0	-47
Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.3	2.6	3.0	1.7	2.0	N/A	N/A

(N/A) - Data not available

CHART 7
Labor Force & Employment Trends · 2012–2022

Phelps County, Nebraska



Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Annual Data, released April 2023
 The right axis on Chart 7 refers to Unemployed Workers

RESIDENCE AND WORK FLOW PATTERNS

The next series of tables show residence (Work Destination) and workflow (Home Destination) patterns for Phelps County. A Work Destination report looks at where residents in a selected area are working (where they are commuting to work). A Home Destination Report looks at the area from which a county is pulling employees to fill positions. These data are estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) program. This program uses a variety of statistical and computing techniques to combine federal and state administrative data on employers and employees with core Census Bureau censuses and surveys while protecting the confidentiality of people and firms that provide the data. The most current data available for Phelps County are from 2021.

Table 3 (pages 6–7) examines the Work Destination area for Phelps County from three perspectives: by state, by county, and by place (city). In Table 3, the Census identified 4,075 county labor force participants holding primary jobs. As Table 3 shows, 98.2 percent of Phelps County’s labor force participants are employed within the state of Nebraska. Approximately 55.7 percent of Phelps County workers remain within Phelps County for employment with 44.3 percent leaving the county borders for work (next page). The top ten incorporated places where Phelps County labor force participants are employed are also shown on the following page.

TABLE 3

Work Destination Report • 2021

Where Workers are Employed Who Live in the Selection Area

	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	4,075	100.0%

By States

	Count	Share
Nebraska	4,000	98.2%
Kansas	28	0.7%
Colorado	7	0.2%
Wyoming	7	0.2%
Iowa	6	0.1%
South Dakota	5	0.1%
Florida	4	0.1%
Missouri	2	0.0%
New Jersey	2	0.0%
North Carolina	2	0.0%
All Other Locations	12	0.3%



U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2021).

By Counties

	Count	Share
Phelps County, NE	2,271	55.7%
Buffalo County, NE	517	12.7%
Lancaster County, NE	165	4.0%
Dawson County, NE	136	3.3%
Kearney County, NE	109	2.7%
Hall County, NE	107	2.6%
Douglas County, NE	101	2.5%
Adams County, NE	76	1.9%
Gosper County, NE	49	1.2%
Furnas County, NE	39	1.0%
All Other Locations	505	12.4%



By Places *Top 10 Cities, CDPS, etc.*

	Count	Share
Holdrege city, NE	1,464	35.9%
Kearney city, NE	408	10.0%
Atlanta village, NE	234	5.7%
Lincoln city, NE	162	4.0%
Bertrand village, NE	106	2.6%
Grand Island city, NE	97	2.4%
Omaha city, NE	97	2.4%
Hastings city, NE	58	1.4%
Lexington city, NE	58	1.4%
Minden city, NE	38	0.9%
All Other Locations	1,353	33.2%



U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2021).

People also travel from other locations to work in Phelps County—this is the Home Destination Report or the labor shed area. Table 4 (pages 8–9) depicts the home locations of those employed within Phelps County. The Census identified 4,173 primary jobs within Phelps County. As Table 4 indicates, 96.7 percent of these jobs are held by Nebraska residents. Approximately 54.4 percent of Phelps County workers live within the county borders and the top localities show the distribution of employee residents around the area (next page).

TABLE 4

Home Destination Report • 2021

Where Workers Live Who are Employed in the Selection Area

	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	4,173	100.0%

By States

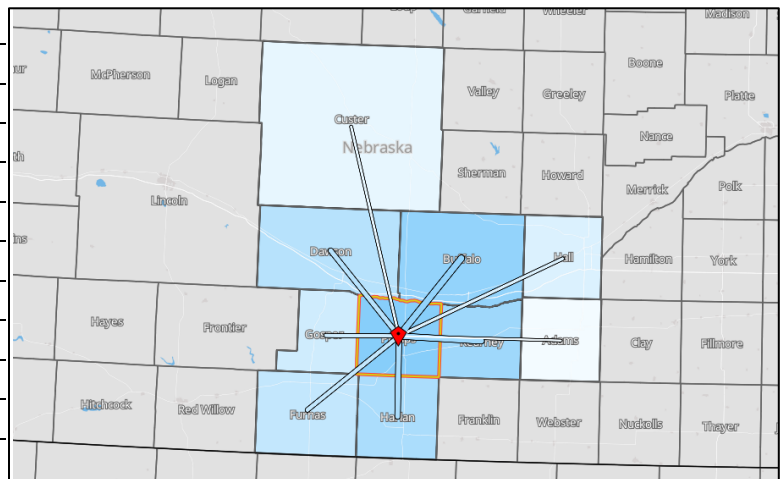
	Count	Share
Nebraska	4,036	96.7%
Kansas	56	1.3%
Colorado	15	0.4%
California	8	0.2%
Texas	8	0.2%
South Dakota	7	0.2%
Connecticut	4	0.1%
Georgia	4	0.1%
North Carolina	4	0.1%
Oklahoma	4	0.1%
All Other Locations	27	0.6%



U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2021).

By Counties

	Count	Share
Phelps County, NE	2,271	54.4%
Buffalo County, NE	302	7.2%
Kearney County, NE	182	4.4%
Harlan County, NE	180	4.3%
Dawson County, NE	176	4.2%
Furnas County, NE	123	2.9%
Gosper County, NE	79	1.9%
Hall County, NE	67	1.6%
Custer County, NE	57	1.4%
Adams County, NE	52	1.2%
All Other Locations	684	16.4%



U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2021).

By Places *Top 10 cities, CDPS, etc.*

	Count	Share
Holdrege city, NE	1,529	36.6%
Kearney city, NE	183	4.4%
Bertrand village, NE	149	3.6%
Loomis village, NE	80	1.9%
Alma city, NE	70	1.7%
Lexington city, NE	65	1.6%
Grand Island city, NE	55	1.3%
Funk village, NE	43	1.0%
Minden city, NE	42	1.0%
Lincoln city, NE	35	0.8%
All Other Locations	1,922	46.1%



U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application and LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (Beginning of Quarter Employment, 2nd Quarter of 2002-2021).

The next table and charts (Table 5, page 9, Charts 8–16, pages 10–12) show an inflow/outflow report for the Phelps County labor force. The data show labor force and employment size, efficiency and other characteristics. These data were also obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau’s Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) section and help identify characteristics of labor force movement for Phelps County. More detailed figures can also be found in Tables 6–8 (pages 10–12).

TABLE 5

Inflow/Outflow Report

Phelps County, Primary Jobs

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Primary Jobs)	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	4,173	100.0%	4,319	100.0%	4,372	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area	4,075	97.7%	3,946	91.4%	4,014	91.8%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	98	-	373	-	358	-

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Primary Jobs)	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	4,075	100.0%	3,946	100.0%	4,014	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	2,271	55.7%	2,353	59.6%	2,409	60.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	1,804	44.3%	1,593	40.4%	1,605	40.0%

In-Area Employment Efficiency (Primary Jobs)	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	4,173	100.0%	4,319	100.0%	4,372	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	2,271	54.4%	2,353	54.5%	2,409	55.1%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	1,902	45.6%	1,966	45.5%	1,963	44.9%

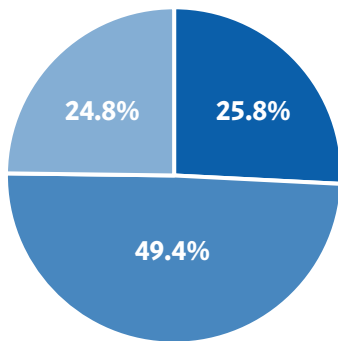
TABLE 6

Worker Outflow by Job Characteristic

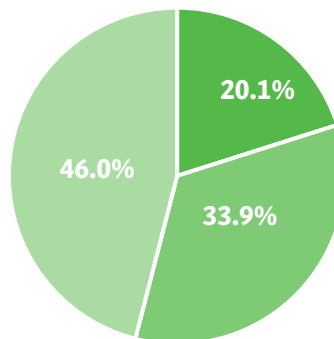
Phelps County

Outflow Job Characteristics	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
External Jobs Filled by Residents	1,804	100.0%	1,593	100.0%	1,605	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	466	25.8%	416	26.1%	424	26.4%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	891	49.4%	749	47.0%	789	49.2%
Workers Aged 55 or older	447	24.8%	428	26.9%	392	24.4%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	363	20.1%	347	21.8%	355	22.1%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	612	33.9%	546	34.3%	567	35.3%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	829	46.0%	700	43.9%	683	42.6%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	383	21.2%	319	20.0%	317	19.8%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	487	27.0%	396	24.9%	421	26.2%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	934	51.8%	878	55.1%	867	54.0%

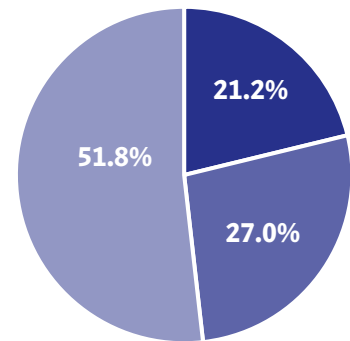
CHART 8, 9 & 10



- Workers Aged 29 or younger
- Workers Aged 30 to 54
- Workers Aged 55 or older



- Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less
- Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month
- Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month



- Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class
- Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class
- Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class

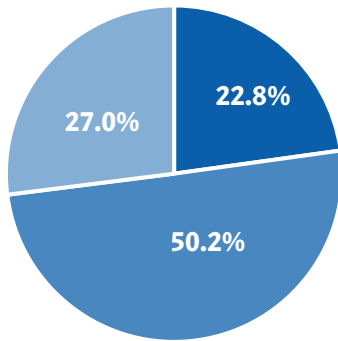
TABLE 7

Worker Inflow by Job Characteristic

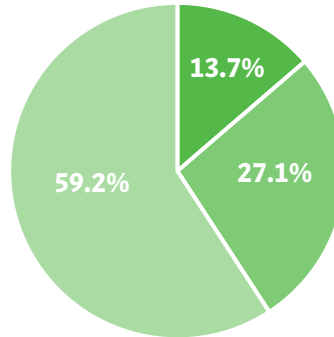
Phelps County

Inflow Job Characteristics	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	1,902	100.0%	1,966	100.0%	1,963	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	434	22.8%	493	25.1%	420	21.4%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	955	50.2%	971	49.4%	1,033	52.6%
Workers Aged 55 or older	513	27.0%	502	25.5%	510	26.0%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	260	13.7%	337	17.1%	299	15.2%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	516	27.1%	521	26.5%	574	29.2%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	1,126	59.2%	1,108	56.4%	1,090	55.5%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	562	29.5%	695	35.4%	713	36.3%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	566	29.8%	516	26.2%	532	27.1%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	774	40.7%	755	38.4%	718	36.6%

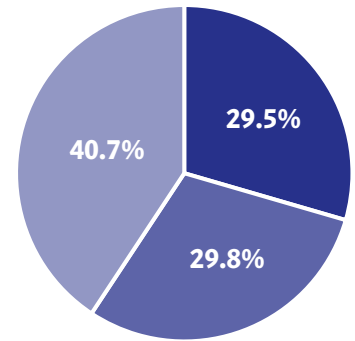
CHART 11, 12 & 13



- Workers Aged 29 or younger
- Workers Aged 30 to 54
- Workers Aged 55 or older



- Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less
- Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month
- Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month



- Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class
- Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class
- Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class

TABLE 8

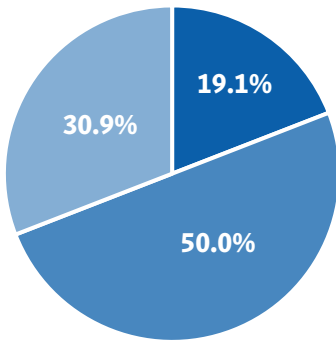
Worker Interior by Job Characteristic

Phelps County

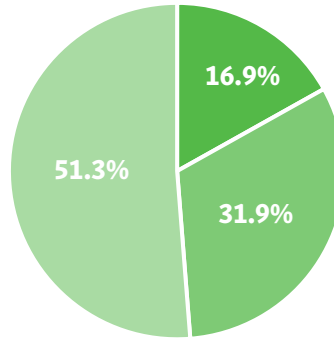
Interior Flow Job Characteristics

	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	2,271	100.0%	2,353	100.0%	2,409	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	434	19.1%	425	18.1%	490	20.3%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	1,135	50.0%	1,172	49.8%	1,137	47.2%
Workers Aged 55 or older	702	30.9%	756	32.1%	782	32.5%
Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less	383	16.9%	442	18.8%	482	20.0%
Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	724	31.9%	763	32.4%	828	34.4%
Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month	1,164	51.3%	1,148	48.8%	1,099	45.6%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	559	24.6%	627	26.6%	627	26.0%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	400	17.6%	422	17.9%	395	16.4%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	1,312	57.8%	1,304	55.4%	1,387	57.6%

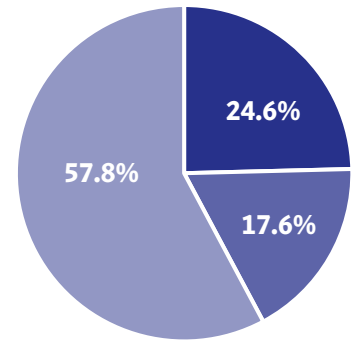
CHART 14, 15 & 16



- Workers Aged 29 or younger
- Workers Aged 30 to 54
- Workers Aged 55 or older



- Workers Earning \$1,250 per month or less
- Workers Earning \$1,251 to \$3,333 per month
- Workers Earning More than \$3,333 per month



- Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class
- Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class
- Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class

The Distance/Direction Report depicted in Table 9 and Figure 1 shows the number (count) and percentage (share) of primary job holders living in Phelps County and the distance they travel to work. Looking at Table 9, the count of primary job holders living within Phelps County is greater in 2021 compared to 2019. The distribution of miles traveled to work has also increased since 2019. Figure 1 shows the location and concentration of these workplaces.

TABLE 9 & FIGURE 1

Distance/Direction Report · Home to Work Census Block

Live within study area – distance to work

Job Counts in Work Blocks	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	4,075	100.0%	3,946	100.0%	4,014	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	1,886	46.3%	1,958	49.6%	2,005	50.0%
10 to 24 miles	924	22.7%	822	20.8%	838	20.9%
25 to 50 miles	382	9.4%	311	7.9%	342	8.5%
Greater than 50 miles	883	21.7%	855	21.7%	829	20.7%

U.S. Census Bureau, Labor Area Dynamics, OnTheMap, February 2023

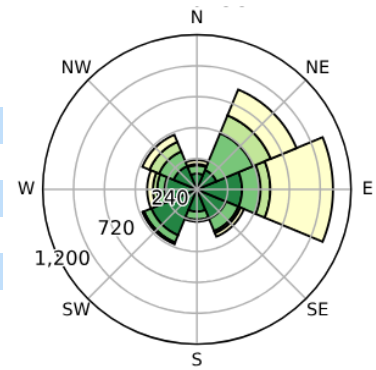


Table 10 and Figure 2 show the number (count) and percentage (share) of people employed within Phelps County and the distance to their homes. Looking at Table 10, the number of primary jobs held within Phelps County has decreased since 2019. The data also show the majority of Phelps County employees continue to travel less than 10 miles from work to home. Figure 2 shows the concentration of job counts by distance and direction.

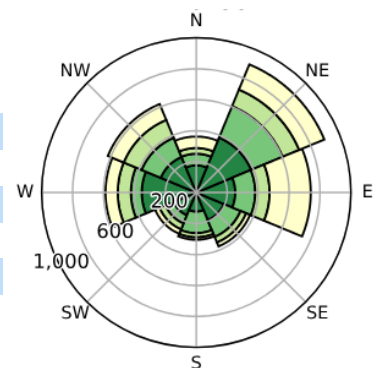
TABLE 10 & FIGURE 2

Distance/Direction Report · Work to Home Census Block

Work within study area – distance to home

Job Counts in Work Blocks	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Total Primary Jobs	4,173	100.0%	4,319	100.0%	4,372	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	1,889	45.3%	1,971	45.6%	2,008	45.9%
10 to 24 miles	941	22.5%	1,020	23.6%	984	22.5%
25 to 50 miles	563	13.5%	586	13.6%	583	13.3%
Greater than 50 miles	780	18.7%	742	17.2%	797	18.2%

U.S. Census Bureau, Labor Area Dynamics, OnTheMap, February 2023



POPULATION AND MIGRATION TRENDS

The following tables (Tables 11 and 12) present population trend data for Phelps County and the surrounding area. As Table 11 indicates, Phelps County’s population experienced an average annual decrease of 0.1 percent between 1970 and 2010 for a total decrease of 3.8 percent or 365 people. This population decrease compares to an average annual increase of 0.5 percent, 23.0 percent total, for Nebraska as a whole. Phelps County reported an average annual decrease of 0.2 percent in population from 2000 to 2022 (2.2 percent or 200 people total). This compares to an average annual increase of 0.6 percent, 7.8 percent total for Nebraska as a whole.

TABLE 11

County Population • 1970–2022

Phelps County and the Surrounding Area

Location	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022	Avg. Annual	Avg. Annual
								% Change	% Change
								1970-2010	2010-2022
Nebraska	1,485,333	1,569,825	1,578,417	1,711,265	1,826,341	1,962,642	1,967,923	0.5	0.6
Phelps County	9,553	9,769	9,715	9,747	9,188	8,972	8,988	-0.1	-0.2
Buffalo County	31,222	34,797	37,447	42,259	46,102	50,195	50,586	1.0	0.8
Dawson County	19,771	22,304	19,940	24,365	24,326	24,086	23,884	0.5	-0.2
Franklin County	4,566	4,377	3,938	3,574	3,225	2,890	2,873	-0.9	-1.0
Furnas County	6,897	6,486	5,553	5,324	4,959	4,626	4,575	-0.8	-0.7
Gosper County	2,178	2,140	1,928	2,143	2,044	1,895	1,808	-0.2	-1.0
Harlan County	4,357	4,292	3,810	3,786	3,423	3,057	3,054	-0.6	-0.9
Kearney County	6,707	7,053	6,629	6,882	6,489	6,681	6,690	-0.1	0.3

Table 12 data reveals the population of Phelps County’s incorporated places as a whole experienced an average annual population increase of 0 percent from 1970 to 2010 and an average annual decrease of 0.1 percent from 2010 to 2022 for a total increase of 0.3 percent (18 people) from 1970 to 2022. Holdrege, the county’s largest city, reported a 2.3 percent decrease in population (129 people) between 1970 and 2022. The unincorporated areas outside of the selected communities experienced a 21.7 percent decrease (583 people) during the period 1970–2022.

TABLE 12

Population • 1970–2022

Phelps County Communities/Rural Populations

Location	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022	Avg. Annual	Avg. Annual
								% Change	% Change
								1970-2010	2010-2022
Nebraska	1,485,333	1,569,825	1,578,417	1,711,265	1,826,341	1,962,642	1,967,923	0.5	0.6
Phelps County	9,553	9,769	9,715	9,747	9,188	9,141	8,988	-0.1	-0.2
Atlanta	101	102	114	130	131	129	103	0.7	-2.0
Bertrand	662	775	708	786	750	742	710	0.3	-0.5
Funk	143	189	198	204	194	192	174	0.8	-0.9
Holdrege	5,635	5,624	5,637	5,636	5,495	5,467	5,506	-0.1	0.0
Loomis	323	447	376	397	382	378	389	0.4	0.2
Total Incorporated Places	6,864	7,137	7,033	7,153	6,952	6,908	6,882	0.0	-0.1
Unincorporated Areas	2,689	2,632	2,682	2,594	2,236	2,233	2,106	-0.5	-0.5

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Incorporated Places in the United States: April 2020 to July 1, 2022, May 2023

The next table and chart (Tables 13 and Chart 17, next page) provide details on migration patterns. Data reported in these tables are 2018-2022 five-year estimates, which are the latest multiyear estimates available. Multiyear estimates from the American Community Survey are “period” estimates that represent data collected over a period of time (as opposed to “point-in-time” estimates, such as the decennial census, that approximate the characteristics of an area on a specific date). Employment opportunities, cost-of-living and quality-of-life influence migration patterns.

Table 13 shows the current population one year or older is 127 less than the number of people living in Phelps County one year ago. This indicates Phelps County experienced a net decrease in its population age one and older, and in-migration was less than out-migration plus the number of deaths.

TABLE 13
5-Year Estimate Population Change
Due to Migration and Mortality · 2018-2022

Phelps County, Nebraska

Current population one-year or older	8,781
Number of people living in the area one-year ago	8,908
Population change due to migration and mortality	-127

American Community Survey, Geographic Mobility By Selected Characteristics In The United States & Geographical Mobility In The Past Year By Age For Residence 1 Year Ago In The United States

The 2018-2022 five-year estimates in Chart 17 reveal a net loss of 64 people from other Nebraska counties and a net loss of 63 people from other states for a total net loss of 127 people one year or older. As shown in Chart 17, net gains occurred in the age groups Age 65 and over (gain of 19), and net losses in age groups Age 1 to 17 (loss of 7), Age 18 to 24 (loss of 68), Age 25 to 44 (loss of 50), Age 45 to 64 (loss of 21).

Chart 17 also shows the net gains and losses by educational attainment for persons ages 25 and older. There was a gain in residents with a HS diploma or less, (gain of 34), graduate or professional degree (gain of 2) and a loss of residents with a bachelor’s degree, associate’s degree, or some college (loss of 88).

CHART 17
Population Change Due to Migration and Mortality
Five-Year Estimate · 2018-2022

Phelps County

-- Part A: By Age Group --							
	Moved to Different Nebraska County	Moved From Different Nebraska County	Net Gain From Nebraska Counties	Moved to Different State	Moved From Different State	Net Gain From Other States	Net Gain From Nebraska Counties and Other States
Age 1 to 17	85	27	-58	0	51	51	-7
Age 18 to 24	175	128	-47	68	47	-21	-68
Age 25 to 44	105	96	-9	80	39	-41	-50
Age 45 to 64	49	80	31	63	11	-52	-21
Age 65 and over	43	62	19	0	0	0	19
Total	457	393	-64	211	148	-63	-127
-- Part B: By Educational Attainment --							
	Moved to Different Nebraska County	Moved From Different Nebraska County	Net Gain From Nebraska Counties	Moved to Different State	Moved From Different State	Net Gain From Other States	Net Gain From Nebraska Counties and Other States
HS diploma or less	69	72	3	7	38	31	34
Bachelor's or some college	116	152	36	136	12	-124	-88
Grad. or Prof. degree	12	14	2	0	0	0	2
Total	197	238	41	143	50	-93	-52

Source: American Community Survey, *Geographic Mobility By Selected Characteristics In The United States & Geographical Mobility In The Past Year By Age For Residence 1 Year Ago In The United States*; *Geographical Mobility In The Past Year By Educational Attainment For Current Residence In The United States & Geographical Mobility In The Past Year By Educational Attainment For Residence 1 Year Ago In The United States*; accessed December 2023.

The following chart and table (Chart 18; Table 14) compare the U.S. Census Bureau’s age distribution of population for Nebraska as a whole and Phelps County. The population of Phelps County is older than Nebraska as a whole. The median age for Phelps County residents in 2022 was 40.4 years of age compared to 37.3 years of age for residents of Nebraska as a whole.

CHART 18

Age Distribution of the Population • 2022

Phelps County and Nebraska

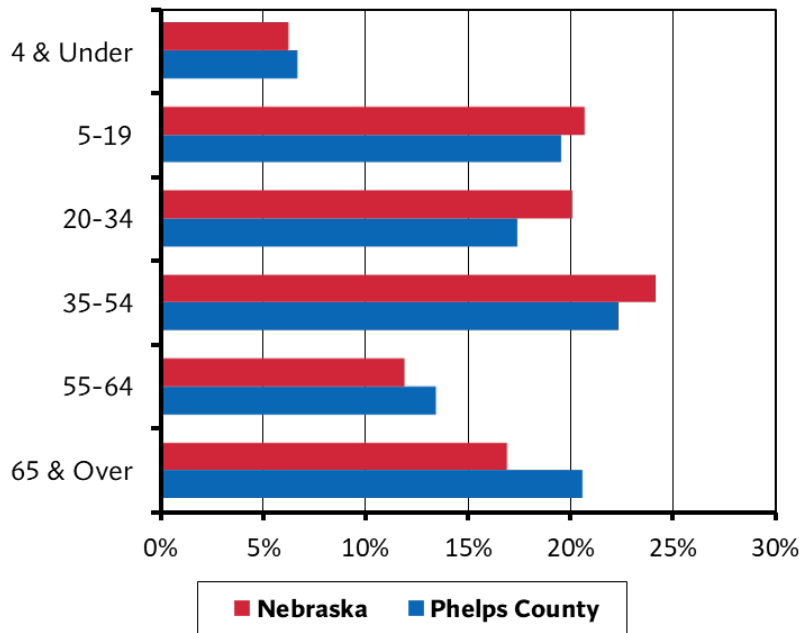


TABLE 14

	2022 Population		Percent	
	Nebraska	Phelps County	Nebraska	Phelps County
4 & Under	123,837	602	6.3%	6.7%
5-19	406,957	1,756	20.7%	19.5%
20-34	395,053	1,564	20.1%	17.4%
35-54	474,870	2,010	24.1%	22.4%
55-64	234,150	1,207	11.9%	13.4%
65 & Over	333,056	1,849	16.9%	20.6%
Total	1,967,923	8,988	100%	100%
Median Age	37.3	40.4		

U.S. Census Bureau, “Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex,” April 2023

Table 15 shows additional median ages as estimated by the American Community Survey for communities within Phelps County and the surrounding counties both as a total and by gender. These five-year estimates differ from the U.S. Census Bureau’s single-year distributions. Chart 19 graphically depicts the median age distribution for the study area.

TABLE 15

Median Age by Location and Gender · 2018-2022

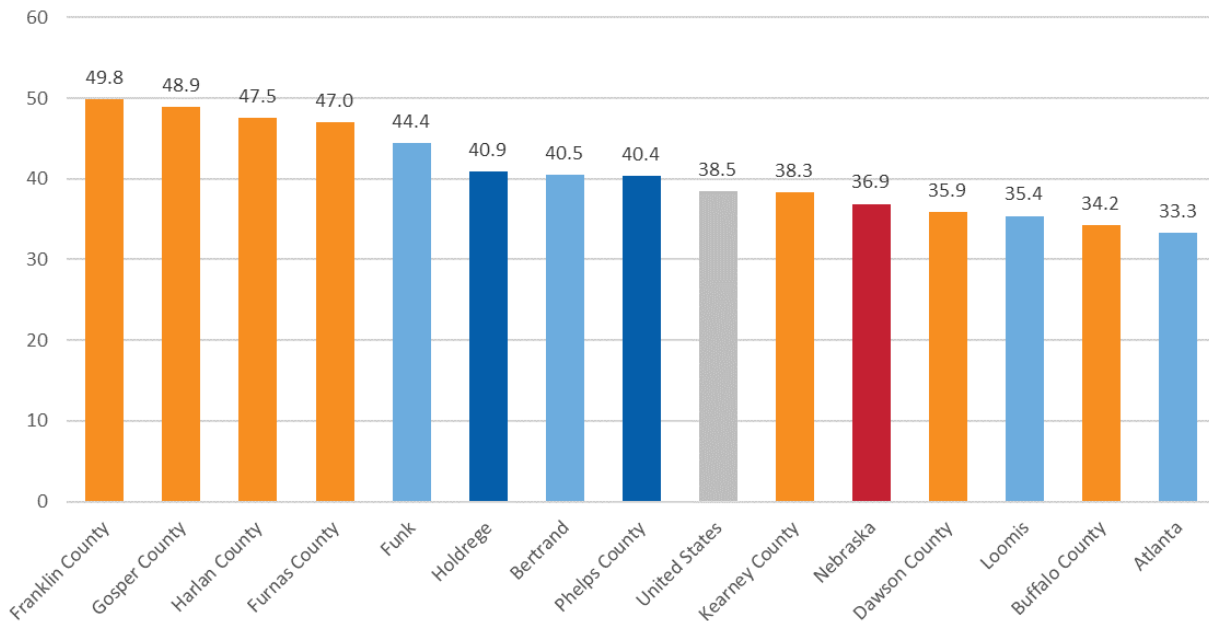
Phelps County and the Surrounding Area

	Median Age		
	Total	Male	Female
United States	38.5	37.4	39.7
Nebraska	36.9	36.1	37.7
Phelps County	40.4	37.7	42.2
Atlanta	33.3	35.5	32.0
Bertrand	40.5	38.9	42.0
Funk	44.4	41.5	54.1
Holdrege	40.9	37.5	46.5
Loomis	35.4	31.7	38.5
Buffalo County	34.2	33.5	35.2
Dawson County	35.9	35.6	36.4
Franklin County	49.8	48.6	51.9
Furnas County	47.0	45.1	47.8
Gosper County	48.9	48.5	50.4
Harlan County	47.5	45.6	49.3
Kearney County	38.3	37.8	38.7

CHART 19

Median Age by Location · 2018-2022

Phelps County and the Surrounding Area



U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey, April 2023

RETAIL SALES

Table 16 and Chart 20 show the retail sales (non-motor vehicle) pull factors for Phelps County and the surrounding area for 2022. The pull factor is computed by dividing the per capita taxable, non-motor vehicle (NMV) retail sales by the state average per capita NMV retail sales. A pull factor of one indicates an area has per capita NMV retail sales equal to the state. A value greater than one indicates an area is drawing retail sales from other areas. Conversely, a pull factor with a value less than one indicates the subject area is losing potential retail activity to other places or, in other words, is experiencing retail sales leakage. This simple calculation does not factor in income levels or purchasing power within an area.

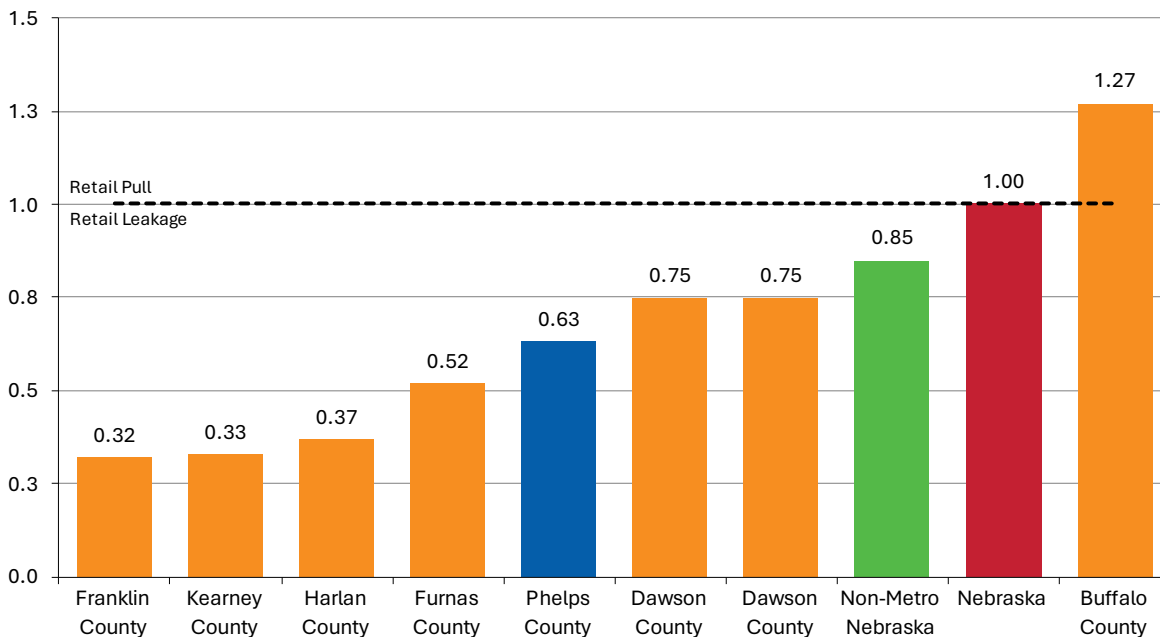
TABLE 16

Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors · 2022

Nebraska, Phelps County and Surrounding Counties

	2022 Population	2022 Retail Sales (x \$1,000)	2022 Per Cap Sales (\$)	2022 Pull Factor
Nebraska	1,967,923	30,977,448	15,741	1.00
Non-Metro Nebraska	771,188	10,279,275	13,329	0.85
Phelps County	8,988	89,384	9,945	0.63
Buffalo County	50,586	1,012,728	20,020	1.27
Dawson County	23,884	281,356	11,780	0.75
Franklin County	2,873	14,461	5,034	0.32
Furnas County	4,575	37,686	8,237	0.52
Gosper County	1,808	9,155	5,064	0.32
Harlan County	3,054	17,964	5,882	0.37
Kearney County	6,690	34,767	5,197	0.33

CHART 20



U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Department of Revenue, June 2022

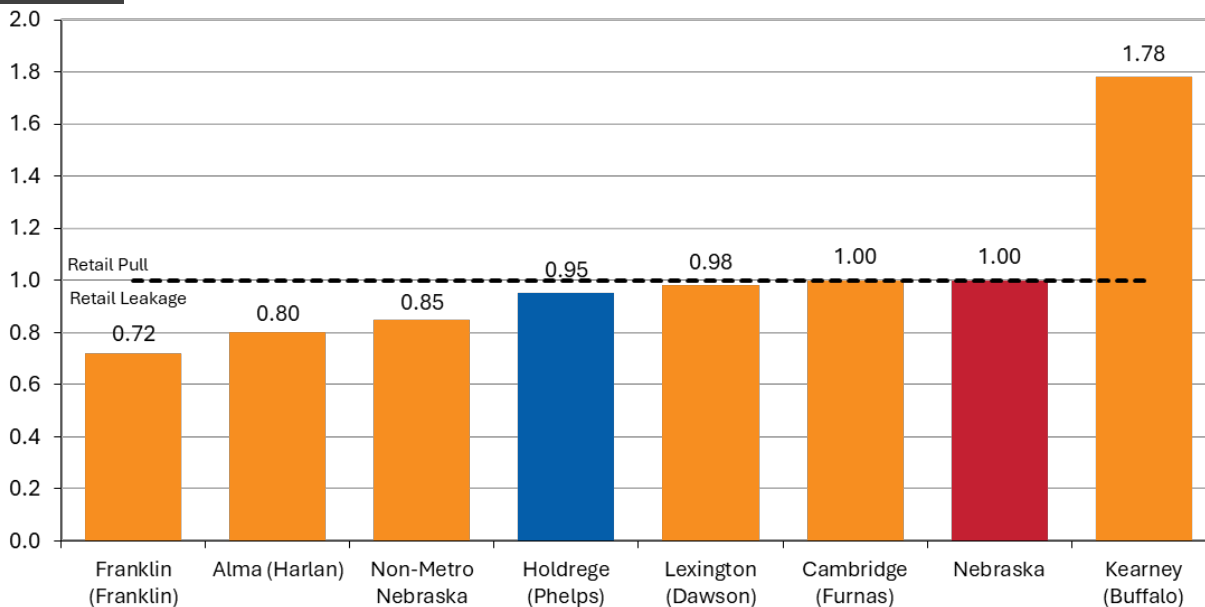
Reviewing the pull factors at the county level indicates Phelps County experiences net retail leakages. The 2022 pull factor of 0.63 indicates, on a per capita basis, that retail sales in Phelps County are less than the state’s average per capita sales. Distance from other large trade centers plays a major role in this phenomenon. The comparison of the pull factor for Phelps County (0.63) with the pull factor for the non-metropolitan area of Nebraska (0.85) indicates per capita retail sales in Phelps County are 25.4 percent below the average per capita retail sales in the non-metropolitan area of Nebraska.

Table 17 and Chart 21 compare the 2022 pull factors for selected area communities. The Phelps County community of Kearney’s pull factor of 1.78 indicates that, on a per capita basis, non-motor vehicle retail sales in Holdrege are approximately 77.7 percent greater than the state’s average per capita sales.

TABLE 17
Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors • 2022
 Nebraska and Selected Study Area Cities

	2022 Population	2022 Retail Sales (x \$1,000)	2022 Per Cap Sales (\$)	2022 Pull Factor
Nebraska	1,967,923	30,977,448	15,741	1.00
Non-Metro Nebraska	771,188	10,279,275	13,329	0.85
Phelps County	8,988	89,384	9,945	0.63
Holdrege (Phelps)	5,506	82,443	14,973	0.95
Kearney (Buffalo)	34,277	959,014	27,978	1.78
Lexington (Dawson)	10,725	166,117	15,489	0.98
Franklin (Franklin)	927	10,552	11,383	0.72
Cambridge (Furnas)	1,081	17,001	15,727	1.00
Elwood (Gosper)	626	6,977	11,145	0.71
Alma (Harlan)	1,026	12,966	12,637	0.80
Minden (Kearney)	3,101	30,298	9,770	0.62

CHART 21



U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Department of Revenue, June 2023

Table 18 (sorted by population) and Chart 22 (sorted by pull factor) further break down the 2022 pull factors into the communities reporting retail sales figures within Phelps County. As this table indicates, the community of Holdrege had the strongest pull factor (.95) compared to the other communities reporting in the county. Together, these communities contributed to an overall pull factor of 0.63 for Phelps County in 2022.

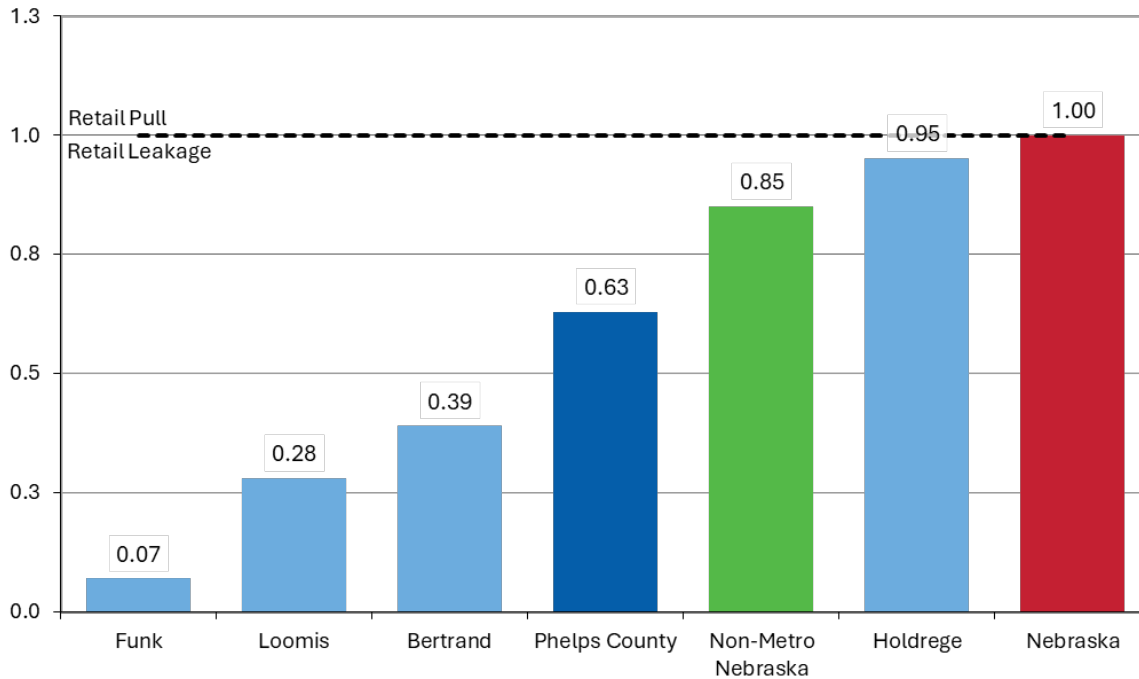
TABLE 18

Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors · 2022

Nebraska and Available Phelps County Communities

	2022 Population	2022 Retail Sales (x \$1,000)	2022 Per Cap Sales (\$)	2022 Pull Factor
Nebraska	1,967,923	30,977,448	15,741	1.00
Non-Metro Nebraska	771,188	10,279,275	13,329	0.85
Phelps County	8,988	89,384	9,945	0.63
Holdrege	5,506	82,443	14,973	0.95
Bertrand	710	4,398	6,195	0.39
Loomis	389	1,698	4,366	0.28
Funk	174	179	1,029	0.07

CHART 22



U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Department of Revenue, June 2023

Table 19 (sorted by population) and Chart 23 (sorted by pull factor) show the 2022 pull factors for Nebraska, Holdrege, and eight other similarly sized communities selected from around the state. Ogallala’s pull factor of 1.64 leads the group for 2022, thus indicating it has greater retail pull.

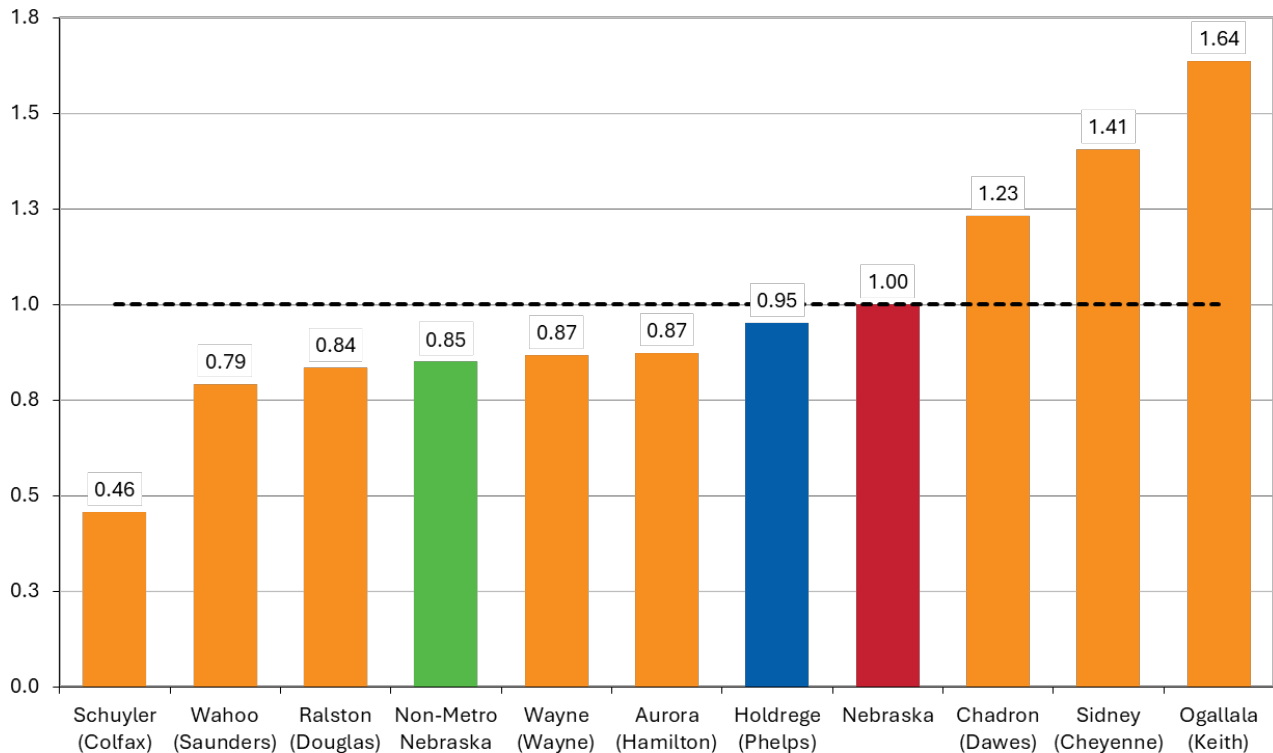
TABLE 19

Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors • 2022

Holdrege & Other Similarly Sized Nebraska Communities

	2022 Population	2022 Retail Sales (x \$1,000)	2022 Per Cap Sales (\$)	2022 Pull Factor
Nebraska	1,967,923	30,977,448	15,741	1.00
Non-Metro Nebraska	771,188	10,279,275	13,329	0.85
Holdrege (Phelps)	5,506	82,443	14,973	0.95
Schuyler (Colfax)	6,456	46,394	7,186	0.46
Ralston (Douglas)	6,424	84,405	13,139	0.83
Sidney (Cheyenne)	6,423	142,032	22,113	1.40
Wayne (Wayne)	6,133	83,779	13,660	0.87
Chadron (Dawes)	5,223	101,195	19,375	1.23
Wahoo (Saunders)	4,940	61,553	12,460	0.79
Ogallala (Keith)	4,796	123,609	25,773	1.64
Aurora (Hamilton)	4,648	63,939	13,756	0.87

CHART 23

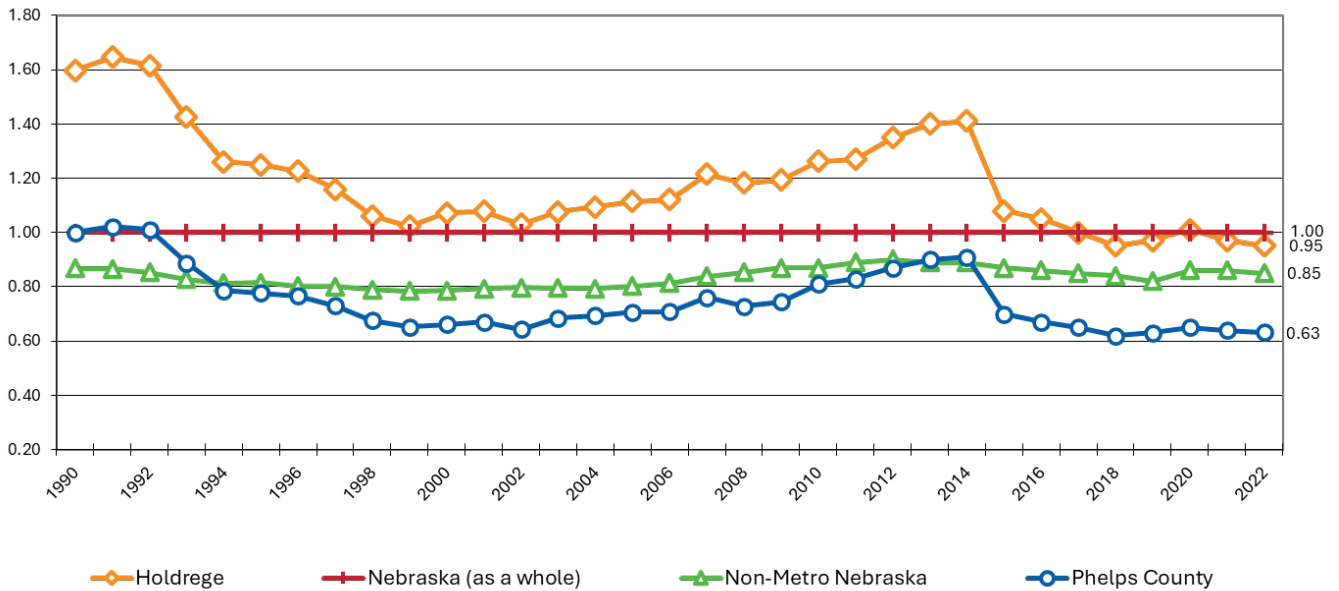


U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Department of Revenue, June 2023

Chart 24 illustrates the pull factor trend for Holdrege, Phelps County, non-metropolitan Nebraska, and Nebraska as a whole from 1990 to 2022. In examining the timeline, the city of Holdrege shows retail pull fluctuating above the state average until 2018, when it dipped to .95. Data within Phelps County (as a whole) also shows the pull factor below the non-metropolitan county average and the Nebraska (as a whole) average throughout the time period.

CHART 24
Pull Factors · 1990–2022

Holdrege
 , Phelps County, Non-Metro & Nebraska (as a whole)



U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Department of Revenue, June 2023

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

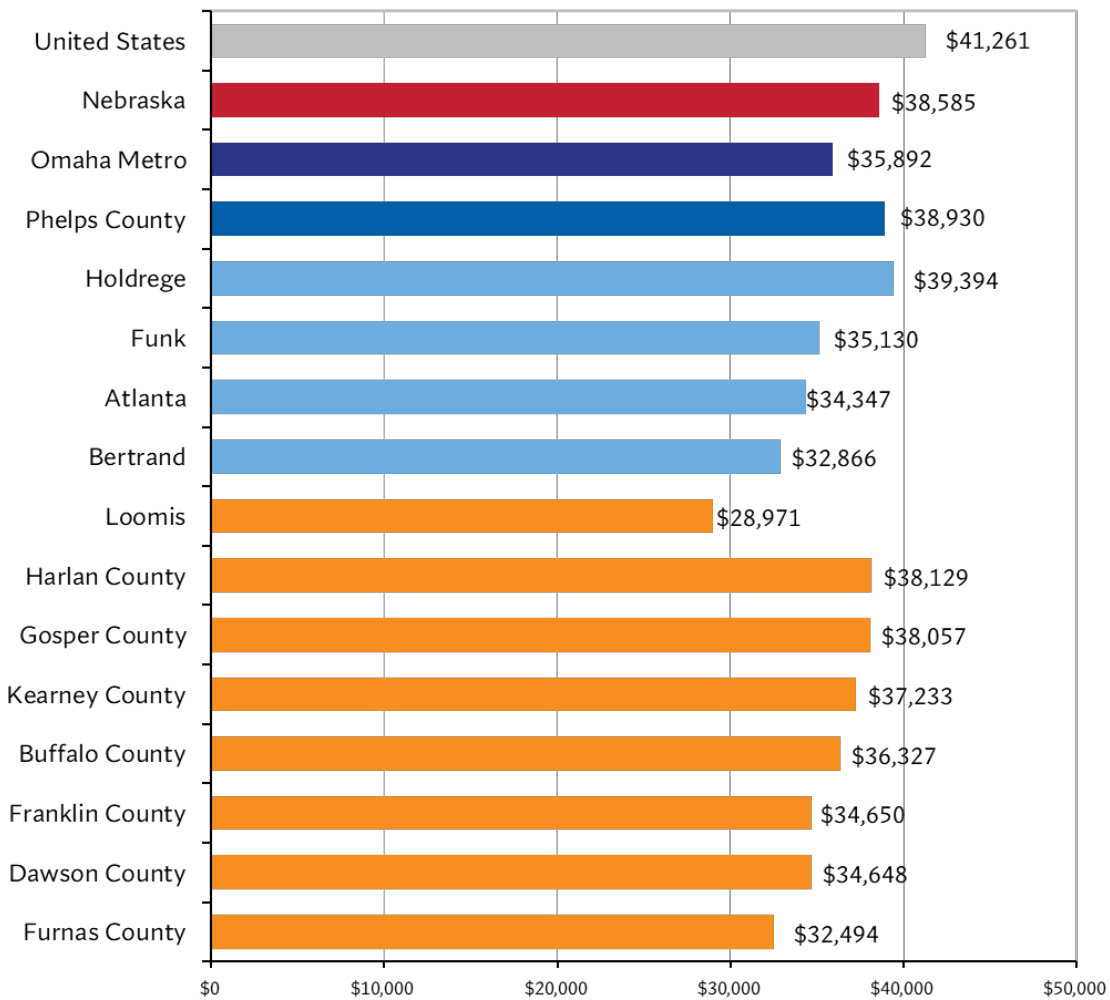
Chart 27 examines the per capita personal income levels within the study area. The American Community Survey data allows us to look more closely at non-metropolitan areas in Nebraska. Information on income distribution comes from various sources, including earnings, retirement income, and public assistance.

The 2018-2022 five-year estimates show that per capita personal income for Phelps County is estimated to be \$38,930 compared to \$38,585 for Nebraska as a whole.

CHART 27

Per Capita Personal Income • 2018-2022

Nebraska, Phelps County & Surrounding Counties



U.S. Census Bureau 2018–2022 American Community Survey, accessed March 2023

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

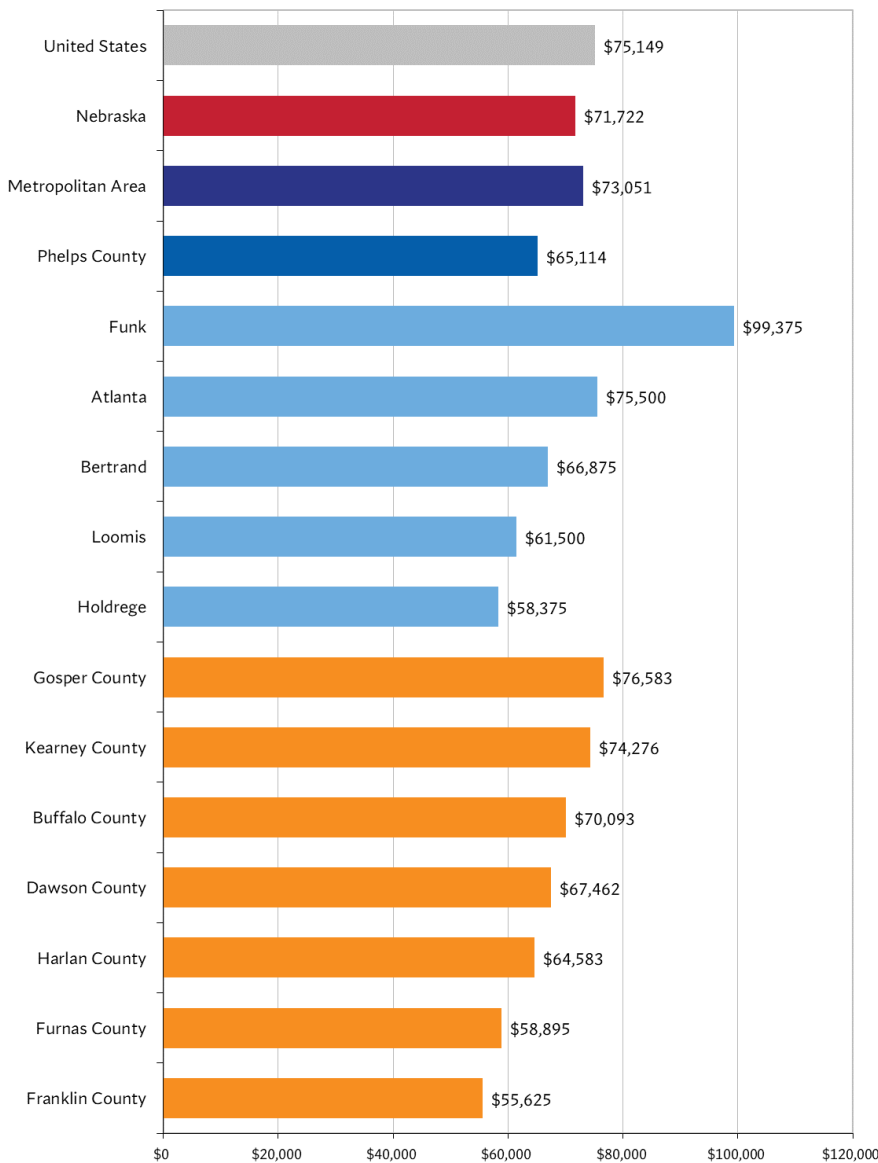
Median household income provides a different perspective of income levels than median family or per capita income. Family income is defined as having two or more related people in a household. Household income (used in this study) can consist of multiple family members or can be represented by a single person.

The 2018-2022 five-year estimates show median household income for Phelps County is estimated to be \$65,114 compared to \$71,722 for Nebraska as a whole.

CHART 28

Median Household Income • 2018-2022

Nebraska, Phelps County & Surrounding Counties



U.S. Census Bureau 2018–2022 American Community Survey, accessed March 2023