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ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

KNOX COUNTY
AND THE SURROUNDING AREA

2024

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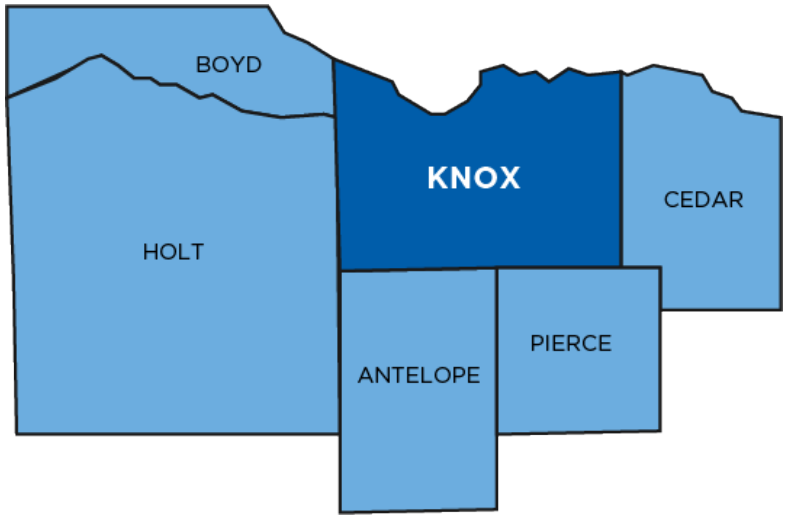
ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN

Knox County
AND THE SURROUNDING AREA



This study provides data on labor force, employment, commuting patterns, population, migration, retail sales, and income for Knox 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 Knox County, other counties included in this area are Antelope, Boyd, Cedar, Holt and Pierce. The retail sales section also compares retail growth between Creighton 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 Knox 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 Knox County (regardless of their county of residence). These data indicate total nonfarm wage and salary employment in Knox County decreased 1.8 percent (53 jobs) between 2012 and 2022.

Table 1 and Chart 1 also provide employment data for Knox 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 (37.3 percent or 38 jobs). The Government sector recorded the largest actual employment increase between 2012 and 2022 (53 jobs or 4.9 percent).

TABLE 1

Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment Trends · *2012–2022*

Knox County, Nebraska

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2012-2022	# Change 2012-2022
Nonfarm W&S Employment	2,905	2,911	2,921	2,950	2,966	2,949	2,923	2,894	2,864	2,863	2,852	-1.8	-53
Total Private Industries	1,820	1,827	1,824	1,830	1,820	1,812	1,813	1,772	1,767	1,748	1,714	-5.8	-106
Goods Producing	377	364	369	397	409	395	412	437	503	443	420	11.4	43
Natural Resources & Mining	102	97	93	116	119	118	139	143	161	140	140	37.3	38
Construction	94	93	102	115	116	121	120	124	147	123	120	27.7	26
Manufacturing	182	174	173	166	174	156	154	170	195	180	161	-11.5	-21
Service Providing	1,443	1,462	1,455	1,433	1,411	1,417	1,400	1,336	1,264	1,305	1,294	-10.3	-149
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	607	598	579	587	572	566	545	527	520	522	532	-12.4	-75
Information	21*	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18*	-14.3	-3
Financial Activities	109	110	115	115	113	112	110	110	90	86	89	-18.3	-20
Professional & Business Services	135	133	143	153	131	130	146	138	127	112	100	-25.9	-35
Education & Health Services	340	360	357	340	352	357	363	323	317	321	307	-9.7	-33
Leisure & Hospitality	161	195	202	195	201	206	189	184	156	202	194	20.5	33
Other Services, except Public	70*	46	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54*	-22.9	-16
Government	1,085	1,084	1,097	1,120	1,146	1,137	1,110	1,122	1,097	1,115	1,138	4.9	53
Federal	48	48	50	46	49	48	46	48	54	49	50	4.2	2
State	54	57	58	57	56	54	54	63	56	57	60	11.1	6
Local	983	980	990	1,017	1,041	1,035	1,011	1,011	988	1,009	1,028	4.6	45

* Estimates provided by Dr. Melissa Trueblood, Economist, Nebraska Public Power District
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Annual Data, released June 2023
Labor Force & Work Summary, 2012-2022, Annual, Knox County, Nebraska (June 2023 data)

CHART 1

Employment by Industry · *2012–2022*

Knox County, Nebraska

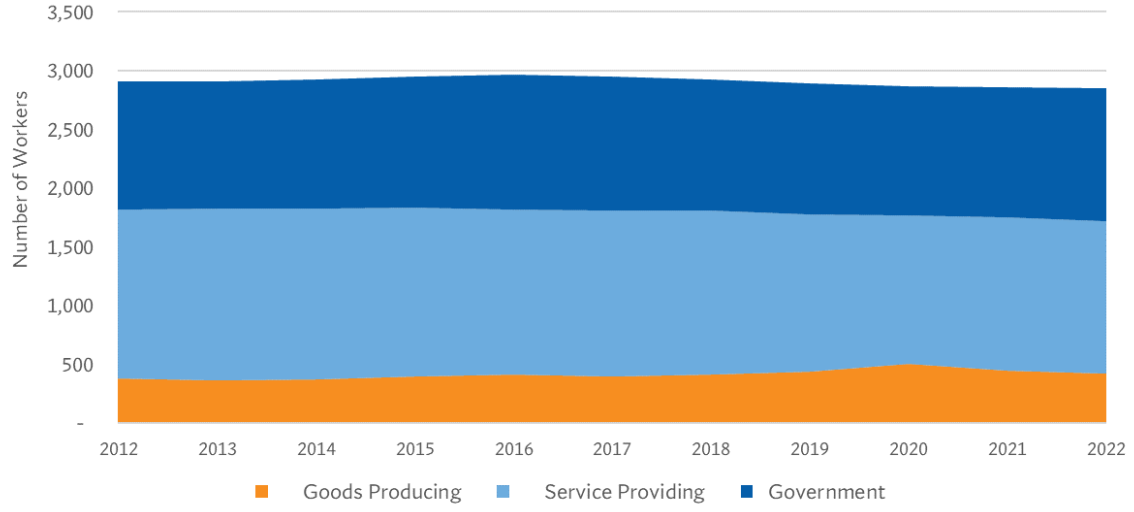


Chart 2 compares total nonfarm wage and salary employment growth in Knox County with metropolitan, non-metropolitan and Nebraska as a whole for the review period 2012−2022. Non-metropolitan Nebraska is defined as Nebraska minus the seven Lincoln and Omaha metropolitan counties of Cass, Douglas, Lancaster,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

As this chart indicates, total nonfarm wage and salary employment in Knox County decreased 1.8 percent (53 jobs) from 2012 to 2022, compared to a 6.80 percent increase for Nebraska as a whole, an 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*

Knox County, Nebraska, Metro and Non-Metro Nebraska

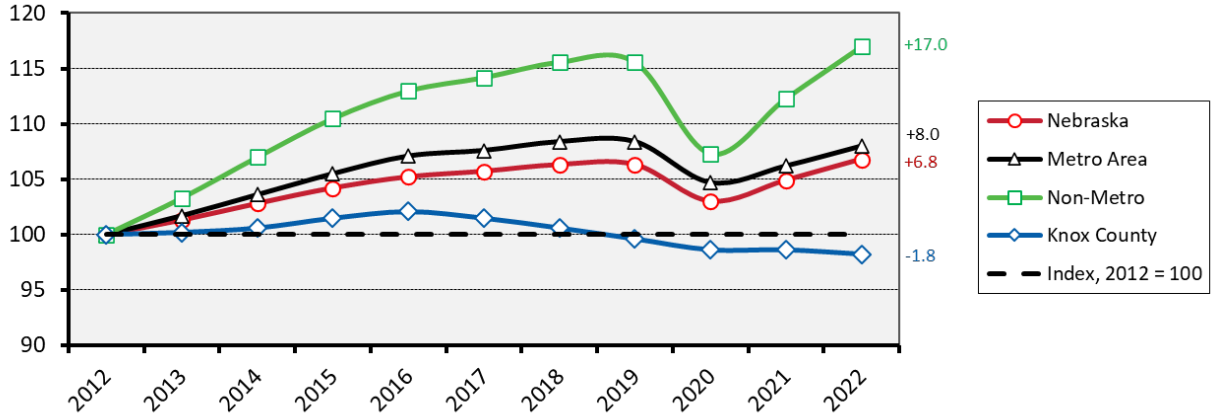
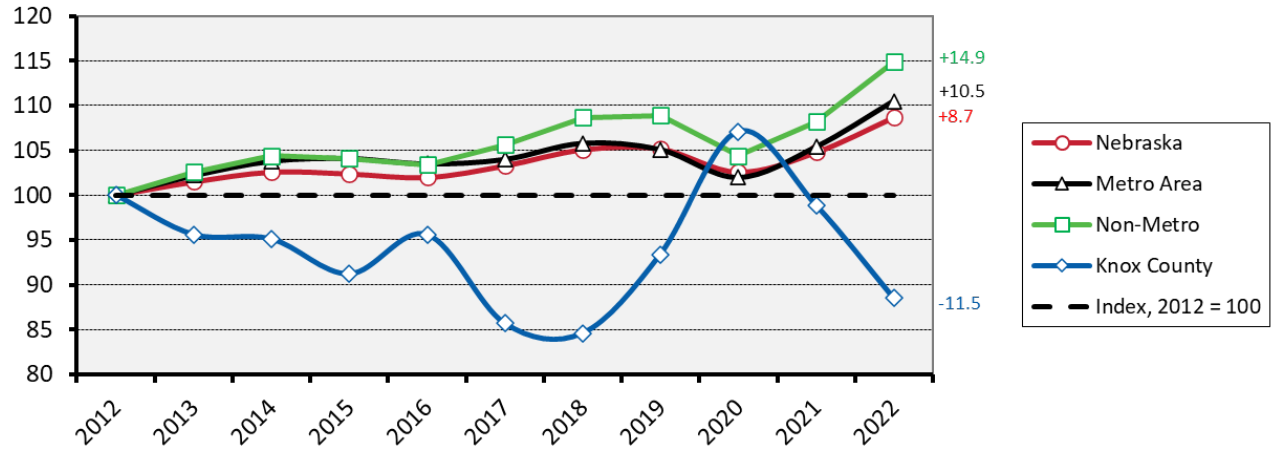


Chart 3 presents data on manufacturing wage and salary employment growth for Knox County, Nebraska, metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas. The Manufacturing sector for Knox County recorded an 11.50 percent decrease in employment (21 jobs) between 2012 and 2022. This compares to a 14.90 percent increase in employment for non-metropolitan Nebraska; an 8.70 percent increase for Nebraska as a whole; and a 10.50 percent increase for metropolitan Nebraska over the same period.

CHART 3

Manufacturing W&S Employment · *2012–2022*

Knox 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) display the distribution of nonfarm wage and salary (W&S) employment by major economic sector in Knox County compared to the non-metropolitan and metropolitan distributions.

When comparing the Knox County employment sectors to non-metropolitan Nebraska, the largest deviation occurs in the Government sector which makes up 39.9 percent of the county workforce (1,138 employees) compared to 16.6 percent for non-metropolitan Nebraska; a difference of 23.3 percent. Comparing Knox County to the overall metropolitan distribution, the largest deviation is found in the Government sector (39.9 percent Knox County vs. 13.8 percent metropolitan Nebraska; a difference of 26.1 percent).

CHART 4, 5 & 6

Nonfarm W&S Employment by Major Economic Sector

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The next table (Table 2) shows labor force information for Knox 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 Knox County residents participating in the labor force between 2012 and 2022 (2.4 percent or 113 people).

Knox County unemployment decreased by 37.2 percent (58 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 Knox County unemployment rate was 2.1 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*

Knox County, Nebraska

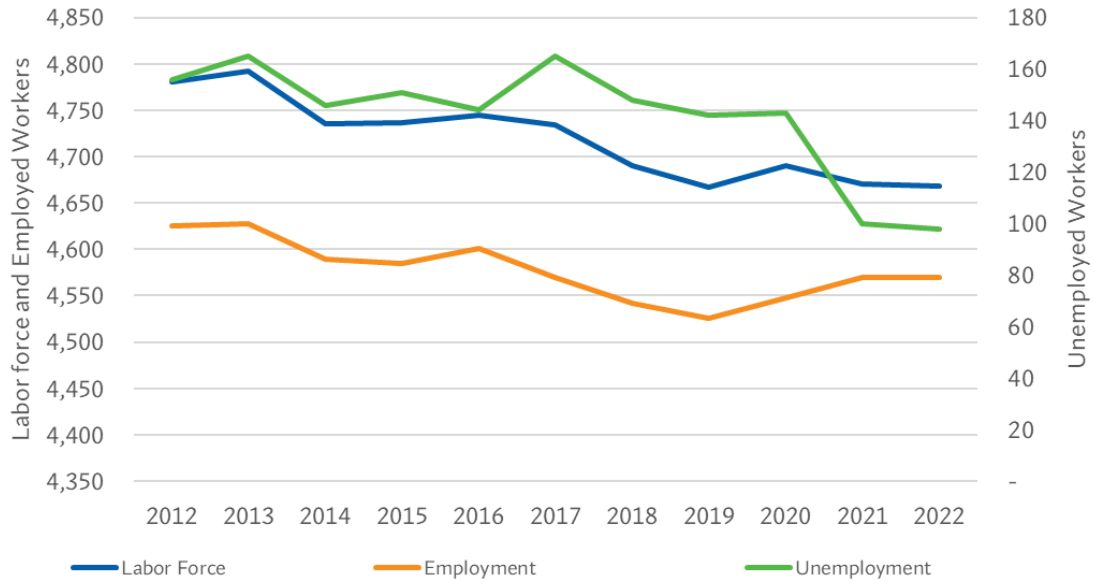
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	% Change 2012-2022	# Change 2012-2022
Labor Force	4,781	4,792	4,735	4,736	4,745	4,734	4,690	4,667	4,690	4,670	4,668	-2.4	-113
Employment	4,625	4,627	4,589	4,585	4,601	4,569	4,542	4,525	4,547	4,570	4,570	-1.2	-55
Unemployment	156	165	146	151	144	165	148	142	143	100	98	-37.2	-58
Unemployment Rate	3.3	3.4	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.5	3.2	3.0	3.0	2.1	2.1	N/A	N/A

(N/A) - Data not available

CHART 7

Labor Force & Employment Trends · *2012–2022*

Knox 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 shows residence (Work Destination) and workflow (Home Destination) patterns for Knox County. A Work Destination report looks at where residents in a selected area work (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 various 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 Knox County are from 2021.

Table 3 (pages 6–7) examines the Work Destination area for Knox County from three perspectives: by state, by county, and by place (city). In Table 3, the Census identified 2,568 county labor force participants holding primary jobs. As Table 3 shows, 86.6 percent of Knox County's labor force participants are employed within Nebraska. Approximately 50.4 percent of Knox County workers remain within Knox County for employment, with 49.6 percent leaving the county borders for work (next page). The top ten incorporated places where Knox 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	3,197	100.0%

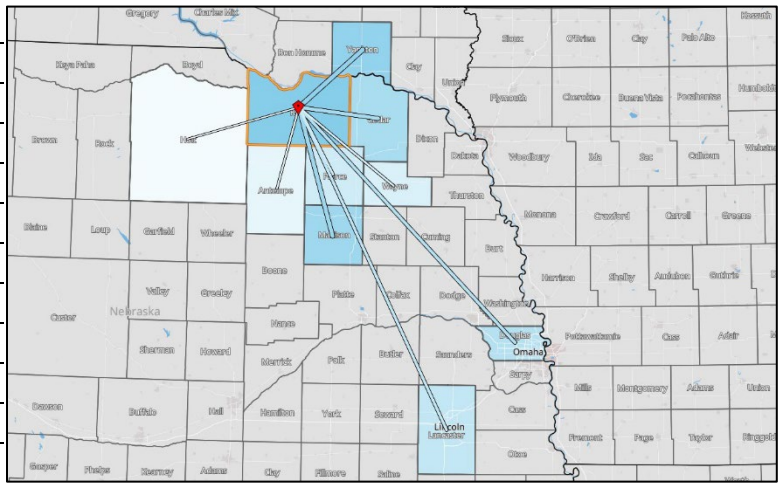
By States

	Count	Share
Nebraska	2,770	86.6%
South Dakota	354	11.1%
Iowa	50	1.6%
Kansas	11	0.3%
Illinois	4	0.1%
Colorado	2	0.1%
Texas	2	0.1%
Maryland	1	0.0%
Missouri	1	0.0%
New Jersey	1	0.0%
All Other Locations	1	0.0%

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

By Counties

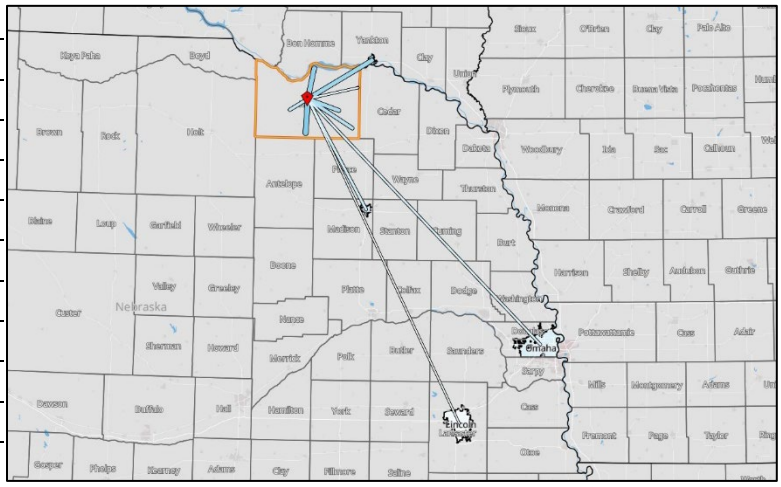
	Count	Share
Knox County, NE	1,610	50.4%
Yankton County, SD	280	8.8%
Madison County, NE	151	4.7%
Cedar County, NE	119	3.7%
Douglas County, NE	111	3.5%
Lancaster County, NE	91	2.8%
Pierce County, NE	90	2.8%
Wayne County, NE	83	2.6%
Antelope County, NE	77	2.4%
Holt County, NE	60	1.9%
All Other Locations	525	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
Creighton city, NE	350	10.9%
Santee village, NE	287	9.0%
Yankton city, SD	243	7.6%
Bloomfield city, NE	202	6.3%
Wausa village, NE	152	4.8%
Verdigre village, NE	129	4.0%
Norfolk city, NE	119	3.7%
Omaha city, NE	103	3.2%
Crofton city, NE	92	2.9%
Lincoln city, NE	87	2.7%
All Other Locations	1,433	44.8%



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 Knox 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 Knox County. The Census identified 3,808 primary jobs within Knox County. As Table 4 indicates, 90.4 percent of these jobs are held by Nebraska residents. Approximately 62.7 percent of Knox 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	2,568	100.0%

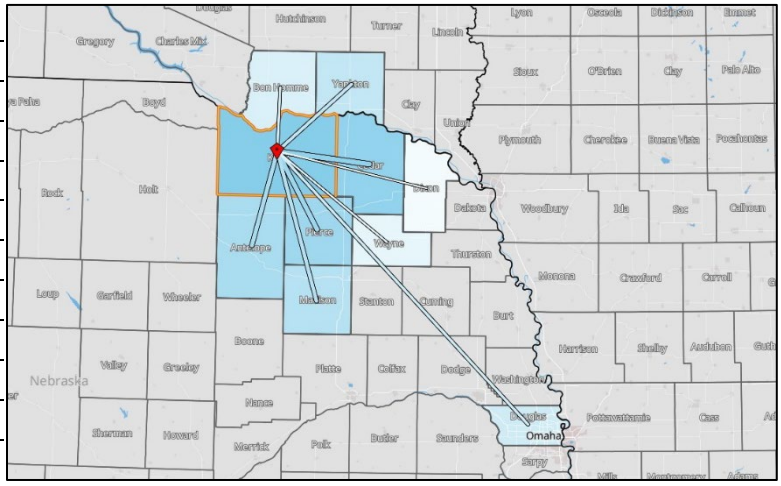
By States

	Count	Share
Nebraska	2,321	90.4%
South Dakota	191	7.4%
Iowa	21	0.8%
Minnesota	10	0.4%
California	4	0.2%
Kansas	3	0.1%
Mississippi	3	0.1%
Georgia	2	0.1%
Maryland	2	0.1%
Missouri	2	0.1%
All Other Locations	9	0.4%

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

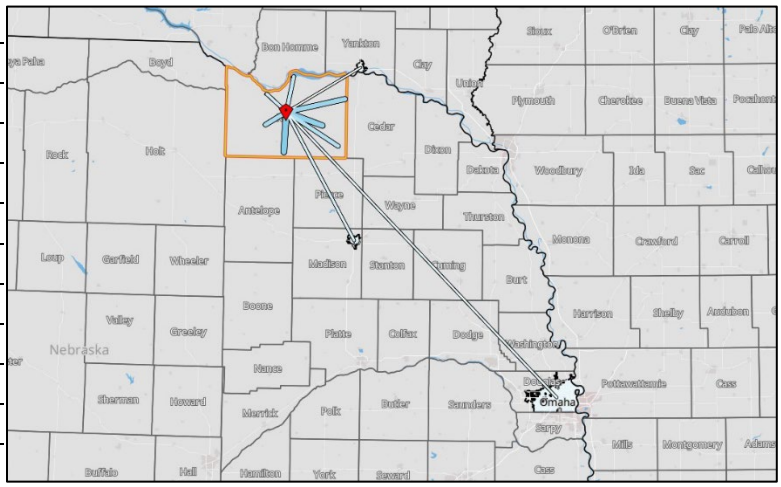
By Counties

	Count	Share
Knox County, NE	1,610	62.7%
Cedar County, NE	122	4.8%
Pierce County, NE	98	3.8%
Antelope County, NE	67	2.6%
Madison County, NE	64	2.5%
Yankton County, SD	56	2.2%
Douglas County, NE	46	1.8%
Bon Homme County, SD	44	1.7%
Wayne County, NE	36	1.4%
Dixon County, NE	28	1.1%
All Other Locations	397	15.5%



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

	Count	Share
Creighton city, NE	229	8.9%
Bloomfield city, NE	184	7.2%
Crofton city, NE	144	5.6%
Verdigre village, NE	135	5.3%
Wausa village, NE	109	4.2%
Santee village, NE	103	4.0%
Niobrara village, NE	54	2.1%
Norfolk city, NE	46	1.8%
Omaha city, NE	40	1.6%
Yankton city, SD	32	1.2%
All Other Locations	1,492	58.1%



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 Knox 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 the labor force movement for Knox County. More detailed figures can also be found in Tables 6–8 (pages 10–12).

TABLE 5

Inflow/Outflow Report

Knox County, Primary Jobs

Selection Area Labor Market Size (Primary Jobs)	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	2,568	100.0%	2,512	100.0%	2,561	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area	3,197	124.5%	3,172	126.3%	3,271	127.7%
Net Job Inflow (+) or Outflow (-)	-629	-	-660	-	-710	-

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (Primary Jobs)	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	3,197	100.0%	3,172	100.0%	3,271	100.0%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	1,610	50.4%	1,567	49.4%	1,582	48.4%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	1,587	49.6%	1,605	50.6%	1,689	51.6%

In-Area Employment Efficiency (Primary Jobs)	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	2,568	100.0%	2,512	100.0%	2,561	100.0%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	1,610	62.7%	1,567	62.4%	1,582	61.8%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	958	37.3%	945	37.6%	979	38.2%

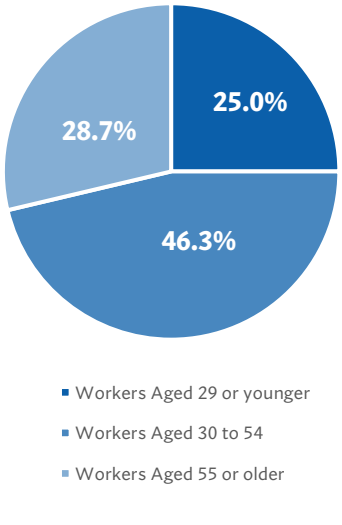
TABLE 6

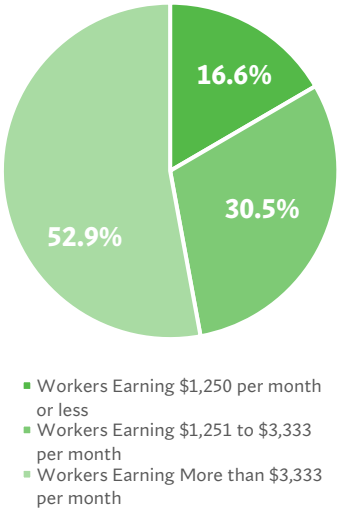
Worker Outflow by Job Characteristic

Knox County

Outflow Job Characteristics	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
External Jobs Filled by Residents	1,587	100.0%	1,605	100.0%	1,689	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	397	25.0%	397	24.7%	391	23.1%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	735	46.3%	729	45.4%	764	45.2%
Workers Aged 55 or older	455	28.7%	479	29.8%	534	31.6%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	264	16.6%	313	19.5%	327	19.4%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	484	30.5%	577	36.0%	566	33.5%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	839	52.9%	715	44.5%	796	47.1%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	405	25.5%	385	24.0%	421	24.9%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	367	23.1%	380	23.7%	362	21.4%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	815	51.4%	840	52.3%	906	53.6%

CHART 8, 9 & 10





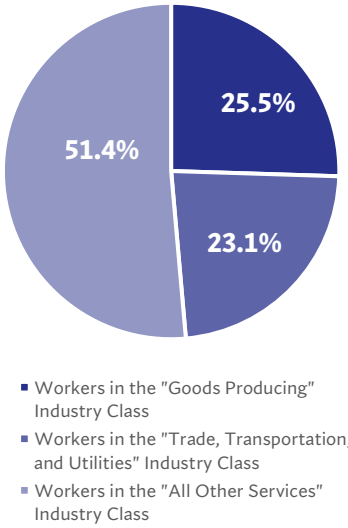


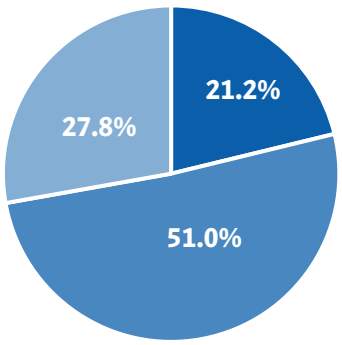
TABLE 7

Worker Inflow by Job Characteristic

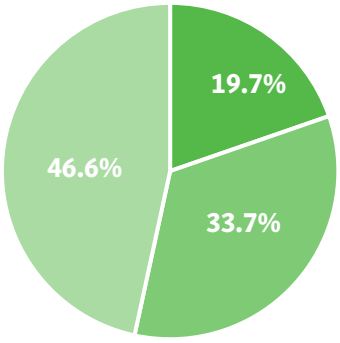
Knox County

Inflow Job Characteristics	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Internal Jobs Filled by Outside Workers	958	100.0%	945	100.0%	979	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	203	21.2%	193	20.4%	202	20.6%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	489	51.0%	471	49.8%	496	50.7%
Workers Aged 55 or older	266	27.8%	281	29.7%	281	28.7%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	189	19.7%	167	17.7%	171	17.5%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	323	33.7%	328	34.7%	387	39.5%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	446	46.6%	450	47.6%	421	43.0%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	141	14.7%	146	15.4%	114	11.6%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	203	21.2%	212	22.4%	232	23.7%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	614	64.1%	587	62.1%	633	64.7%

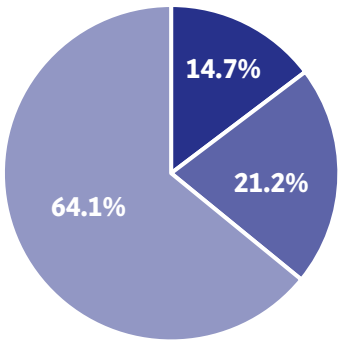
CHART 11, 12 & 13



- 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

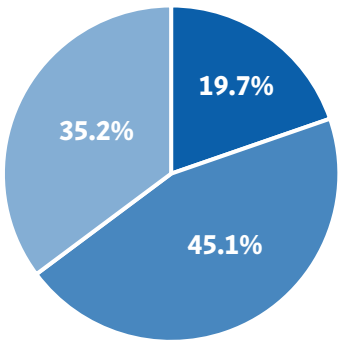
TABLE 8

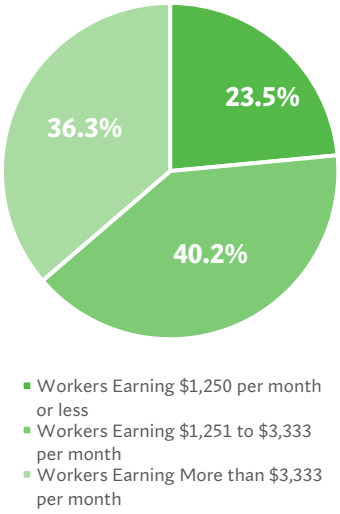
Worker Interior by Job Characteristic

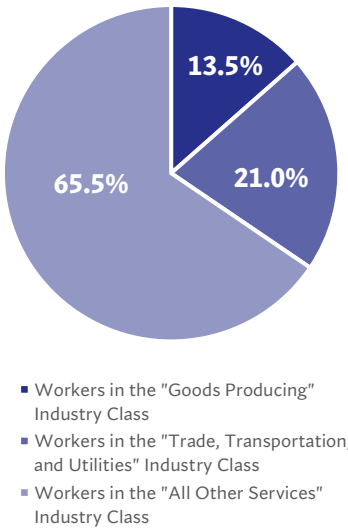
Knox County

Interior Flow Job Characteristics	2021		2020		2019	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Internal Jobs Filled by Residents	1,610	100.0%	1,567	100.0%	1,582	100.0%
Workers Aged 29 or younger	317	19.7%	306	19.5%	336	21.2%
Workers Aged 30 to 54	726	45.1%	714	45.6%	675	42.7%
Workers Aged 55 or older	567	35.2%	547	34.9%	571	36.1%
Workers Earning $1,250 per month or less	378	23.5%	353	22.5%	411	26.0%
Workers Earning $1,251 to $3,333 per month	648	40.2%	674	43.0%	666	42.1%
Workers Earning More than $3,333 per month	584	36.3%	540	34.5%	505	31.9%
Workers in the "Goods Producing" Industry Class	218	13.5%	231	14.7%	235	14.9%
Workers in the "Trade, Transportation, and Utilities" Industry Class	338	21.0%	321	20.5%	317	20.0%
Workers in the "All Other Services" Industry Class	1,054	65.5%	1,015	64.8%	1,030	65.1%

CHART 14, 15 & 16







The Distance/Direction Report depicted in Table 9 and Figure 1 shows the number (count) and percentage (share) of primary job holders living in Knox County and the distance they travel to work. Looking at Table 9, the number of primary job holders living within Knox County is fewer in 2021 than in 2019. The distribution of miles traveled to work has shifted slightly since 2019, with workers traveling fewer miles to work. 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	3,197	100.0%	3,172	100.0%	3,271	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	899	28.1%	866	27.3%	877	26.8%
10 to 24 miles	976	30.5%	942	29.7%	977	29.9%
25 to 50 miles	552	17.3%	608	19.2%	599	18.3%
Greater than 50 miles	770	24.1%	756	23.8%	818	25.0%

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

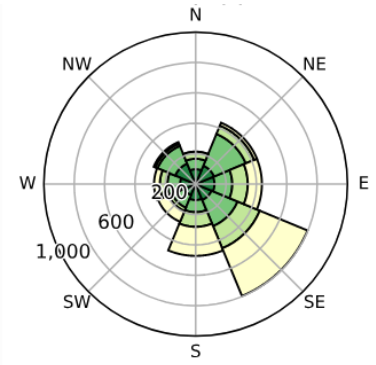


Table 10 and Figure 2 show the number (count) and percentage (share) of people employed within Knox County and the distance to their homes. Looking at Table 10, the number of primary jobs held within Knox County has increased slightly since 2019. The data also show the majority of Knox County employees continue to travel less than 24 miles from work to home. Figure 2 shows the concentration of job counts by distance and direction.

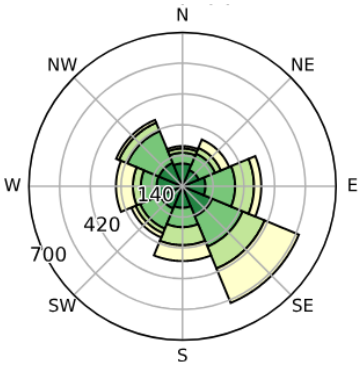
TABLE 10 & FIGURE 2

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	2,568	100.0%	2,512	100.0%	2,561	100.0%
Less than 10 miles	878	34.2%	865	34.4%	851	33.2%
10 to 24 miles	830	32.3%	829	33.0%	846	33.0%
25 to 50 miles	422	16.4%	386	15.4%	368	14.4%
Greater than 50 miles	438	17.1%	432	17.2%	496	19.4%

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 Knox County and the surrounding area. As Table 11 indicates, Knox County's population experienced an average annual decrease of 0.7 percent between 1970 and 2010, for a total decrease of 25.8 percent, or 3,022 people. This population decrease compares to an average annual increase of 0.5 percent, 23 percent total, for Nebraska as a whole. Knox County reported an average annual decrease of 0.4 percent in population from 2000 to 2022 (365 people total).

TABLE 11

County Population · *1970–2022*

Knox County and the Surrounding Area

Location	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022	Avg. Annual % Change 1970-2010	Avg. Annual % Change 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**
Knox County	**11,723**	**11,457**	**9,534**	**9,374**	**8,701**	**8,396**	**8,336**	**-0.7**	**-0.4**
Antelope County	9,047	8,675	7,965	7,452	6,685	6,278	6,293	-0.8	-0.5
Boyd County	3,752	3,331	2,835	2,438	2,099	1,805	1,741	-1.4	-1.5
Cedar County	12,192	11,375	10,131	9,615	8,852	8,372	8,371	-0.8	-0.5
Holt County	12,933	13,552	12,599	11,551	10,435	10,113	10,043	-0.5	-0.3
Pierce County	8,493	8,481	7,827	7,857	7,266	7,340	7,332	-0.4	0.1

Table 12 data reveals the population of Knox County's incorporated places as a whole experienced an average annual population decrease of 0.3 percent from 1970 to 2010 and an average annual decrease of 0.2 percent from 2010 to 2022 for a total decrease of 10.2 percent (576 people) from 1970 to 2022. Creighton, the county's largest city, reported a 23.0 percent decrease in population (336 people) between 1970 and 2022. The unincorporated areas outside of the selected communities experienced a 44.4 percent decrease (2,704 people) during the period 1970−2022.

TABLE 12

Population · *1970–2022*

Knox County Communities/Rural Populations

Location	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022	Avg. Annual % Change 1970-2010	Avg. Annual % Change 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**
Knox County	**11,723**	**11,457**	**9,534**	**9,374**	**8,701**	**8,575**	**8,336**	**-0.7**	**-0.4**
Bazile Mills	44	54	34	26	29	28	24	-1.0	-1.6
Bloomfield	1,287	1,393	1,182	1,126	1,028	1,012	961	-0.6	-0.6
Center	111	123	112	90	94	94	76	-0.4	-1.8
Creighton	1,461	1,341	1,230	1,270	1,154	1,136	1,125	-0.6	-0.2
Crofton	677	948	827	754	726	713	764	0.2	0.4
Niobrara	602	419	406	379	370	363	363	-1.2	-0.2
Santee	0	388	365	302	346	333	421	-0.3*	1.6
Verdel	74	72	59	58	30	29	41	-2.2	2.6
Verdigre	570	617	607	519	575	567	538	0.0	-0.6
Wausa	720	647	601	636	634	628	582	-0.3	-0.7
Winnetoon	84	82	59	70	68	67	52	-0.5	-2.2
Total Incorporated Places	**5,630**	**6,084**	**5,482**	**5,230**	**5,054**	**4,970**	**4,947**	**-0.3**	**-0.2**
Unincorporated Areas	**6,093**	**5,373**	**4,052**	**4,144**	**3,647**	**3,605**	**3,389**	**-1.3**	**-0.6**

*The Village of Santee was incorporated in 1974.

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). Migration patterns are influenced by employment opportunities, cost-of-living and quality-of-life.

Table 13 shows that the current population one year or older is 84 fewer than the number of people living in Knox County one year ago. This indicates Knox 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*

Knox County, Nebraska

Current population one-year or older	8,338
Number of people living in the area one-year ago	8,422
Population change due to migration and mortality	-84

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 65 people from other Nebraska counties and 168 people from other states for a total net loss of 233 people one year or older. As shown in Chart 17, net gains occurred in the age groups Age 25 to 44 (gain of 6), Age 45 to 64 (gain of 1), Age 45 to 64 (gain of 1), and net losses in age groups Age 1 to 17 (loss of 46), Age 18 to 24 (loss of 128), and Age 65 and over (loss of 66).

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 bachelor's degree, associate's degree, or some college (gain of 8), graduate or professional degree (gain of 8) and a loss of residents with a HS diploma or less (loss of 75).

CHART 17

Population Change Due to Migration and Mortality

Five-Year Estimate · *2018-2022*

Knox County and Nebraska

- - 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	128	106	-22	43	19	-24	-46
Age 18 to 24	33	52	19	157	10	-147	-128
Age 25 to 44	68	72	4	31	33	2	6
Age 45 to 64	58	37	-21	6	28	22	1
Age 65 and over	70	25	-45	35	14	-21	-66
Total	**357**	**292**	**-65**	**272**	**104**	**-168**	**-233**
- - 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	103	38	-65	44	34	-10	-75
Bachelor's or some college	89	88	-1	24	33	9	8
Grad. or Prof. degree	4	8	4	4	8	4	8
Total	**196**	**134**	**-62**	**72**	**75**	**3**	**-59**

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 Knox County. The population of Knox County is significantly older than Nebraska as a whole. The median age for Knox County residents in 2022 was 44.3 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*

Knox County and Nebraska

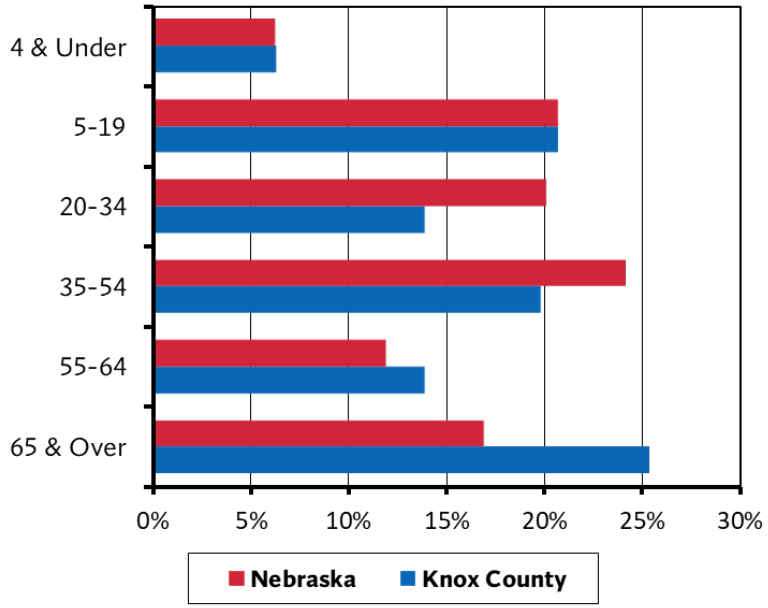


TABLE 14

	2022 Population		Percent	
	Nebraska	Knox County	Nebraska	Knox County
4 & Under	123,837	527	6.3%	6.3%
5-19	406,957	1,726	20.7%	20.7%
20-34	395,053	1,157	20.1%	13.9%
35-54	474,870	1,651	24.1%	19.8%
55-64	234,150	1,159	11.9%	13.9%
65 & Over	333,056	2,116	16.9%	25.4%
Total	**1,967,923**	**8,336**	**100%**	**100%**
Median Age	**37.3**	**44.3**		

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 Knox County and the surrounding counties both as a total and by gender. These are five-year estimates and 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*

Knox County and the Surrounding Area

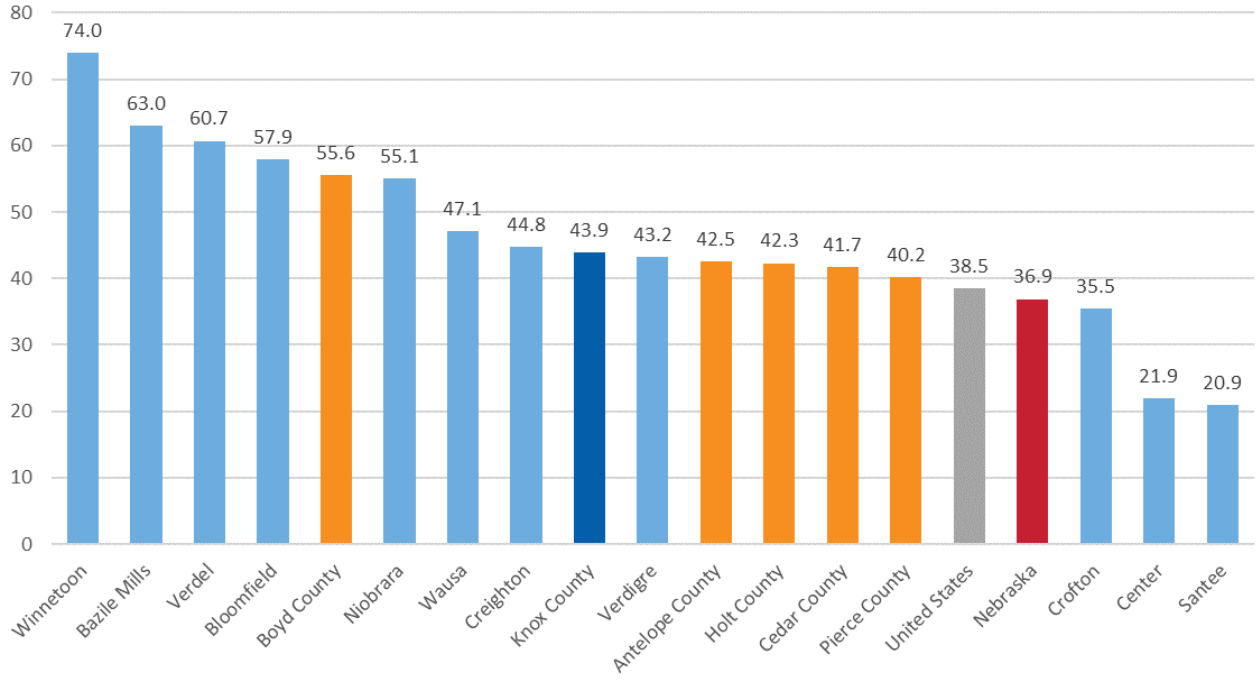
	Median Age		
	Total	Male	Female
United States	**38.5**	**37.4**	**39.7**
Nebraska	**36.9**	**36.1**	**37.7**
Knox County	**43.9**	**42.0**	**45.9**
Bazile Mills	63.0	62.0	66.5
Bloomfield	57.9	53.6	61.8
Center	21.9	23.3	21.8
Creighton	44.8	35.1	57.3
Crofton	35.5	35.7	33.5
Niobrara	55.1	60.2	50.7
Santee	20.9	18.3	27.0
Verdel	60.7	60.5	64.5
Verdigre	43.2	40.5	44.8
Wausa	47.1	44.0	51.5
Winnetoon	74.0	68.5	74.8

Antelope County	42.5	41.3	44.7
Boyd County	55.6	52.2	57.8
Cedar County	41.7	39.7	44.4
Holt County	42.3	41.4	43.3
Pierce County	40.2	40.4	39.9

CHART 19

Median Age by Location · *2018-2022*

Knox 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 Knox 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.

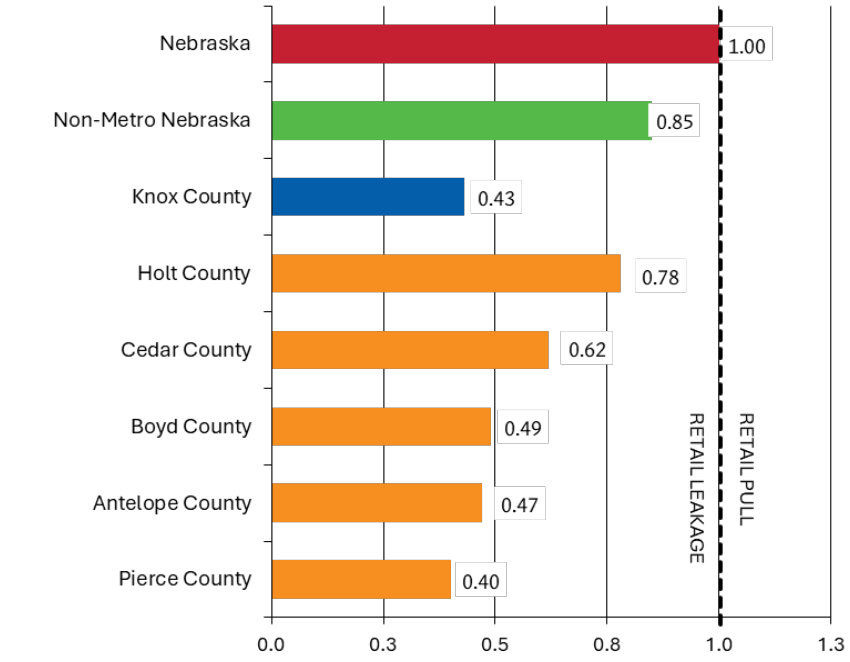
TABLE 16

Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors · *2022*

Nebraska, Knox 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
Knox County	**8,336**	**56,057**	**6,725**	**0.43**
Antelope County	6,293	46,679	7,418	0.47
Boyd County	1,741	13,434	7,716	0.49
Cedar County	8,371	81,356	9,719	0.62
Holt County	10,043	123,269	12,274	0.78
Pierce County	7,332	46,700	6,369	0.40

CHART 20



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

Reviewing the pull factors at the county level indicates Knox County experiences net retail leakages. The 2022 pull factor of 0.43 indicates, on a per capita basis, that retail sales in Knox County are less than the state's average per capita sales. Distance from other large trade centers plays a significant role in this phenomenon. The comparison of the pull factor for Knox County (0.43) with the pull factor for the non-metropolitan area of Nebraska (0.85) indicates per capita retail sales in Knox County are 49.5 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 Knox County community of Creighton's pull factor of 1.06 indicates that, on a per capita basis, non-motor vehicle retail sales in Creighton are approximately 6.0 percent greater than the state's average per capita sales.

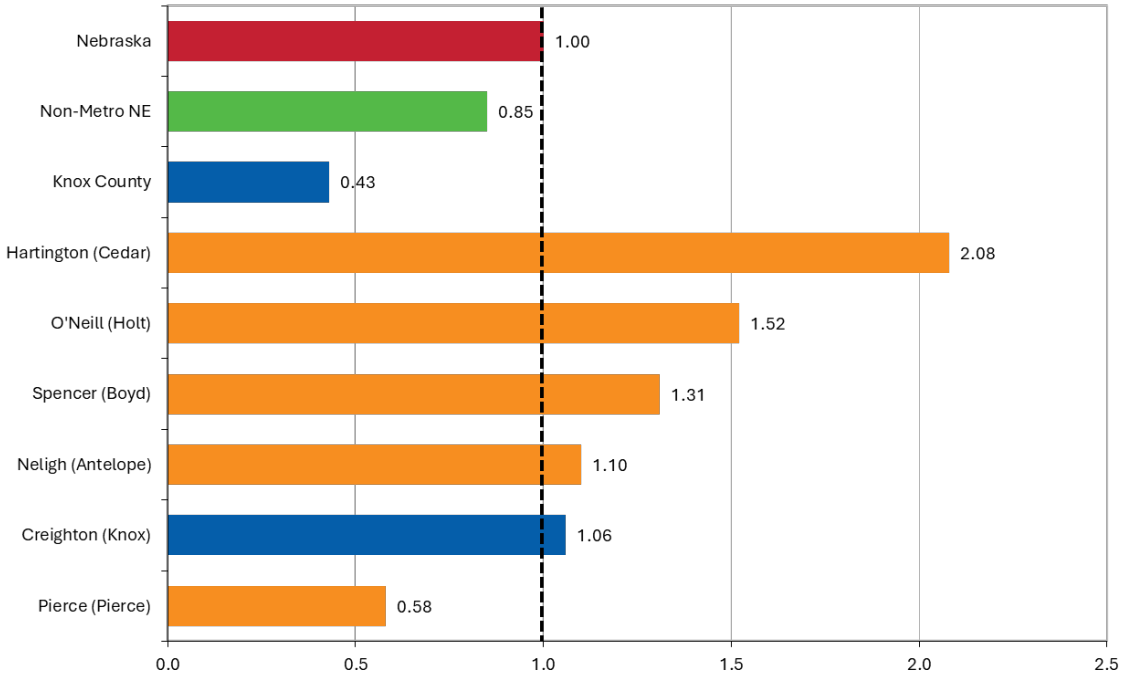
TABLE 17

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
Knox County	**8,336**	**56,057**	**6,725**	**0.43**
Creighton (Knox)	1,125	18,771	16,685	1.06
Neligh (Antelope)	1,518	26,256	17,296	1.10
Spencer (Boyd)	389	8,038	20,663	1.31
Hartington (Cedar)	1,512	49,411	32,680	2.08
O'Neill (Holt)	3,551	84,974	23,930	1.52
Pierce (Pierce)	1,823	16,614	9,114	0.58

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 Knox County. As this table indicates, the community of Creighton had the strongest pull factor (1.06) compared to the other communities reporting in the county. Together, these communities contributed to an overall pull factor of 0.43 for Knox County in 2022.

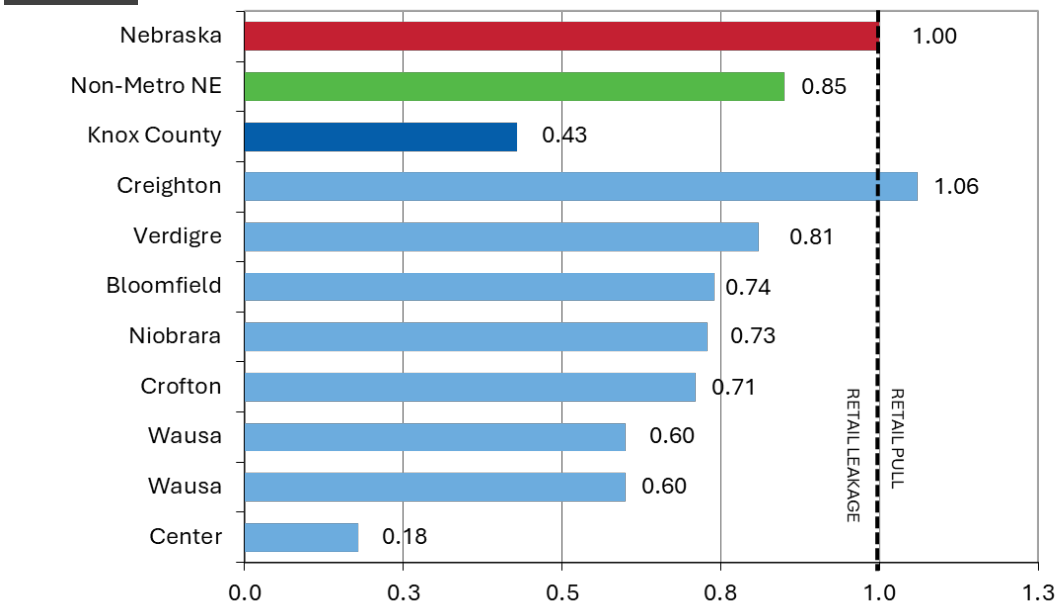
TABLE 18

Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors · *2022*

Nebraska and Available Knox 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
Knox County	**8,336**	**56,057**	**6,725**	**0.43**
Creighton	1,125	18,771	16,685	1.06
Bloomfield	961	11,205	11,660	0.74
Crofton	764	8,542	11,181	0.71
Wausa	582	5,513	9,472	0.60
Verdigre	538	6,829	12,693	0.81
Niobrara	363	4,191	11,546	0.73
Center	76	217	2,857	0.18

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, Creighton, and eight other similarly sized communities selected from around the state. Fort Calhoun's pull factor of 2.40 leads the group for 2022, thus indicating that Fort Calhoun has a greater retail pull.

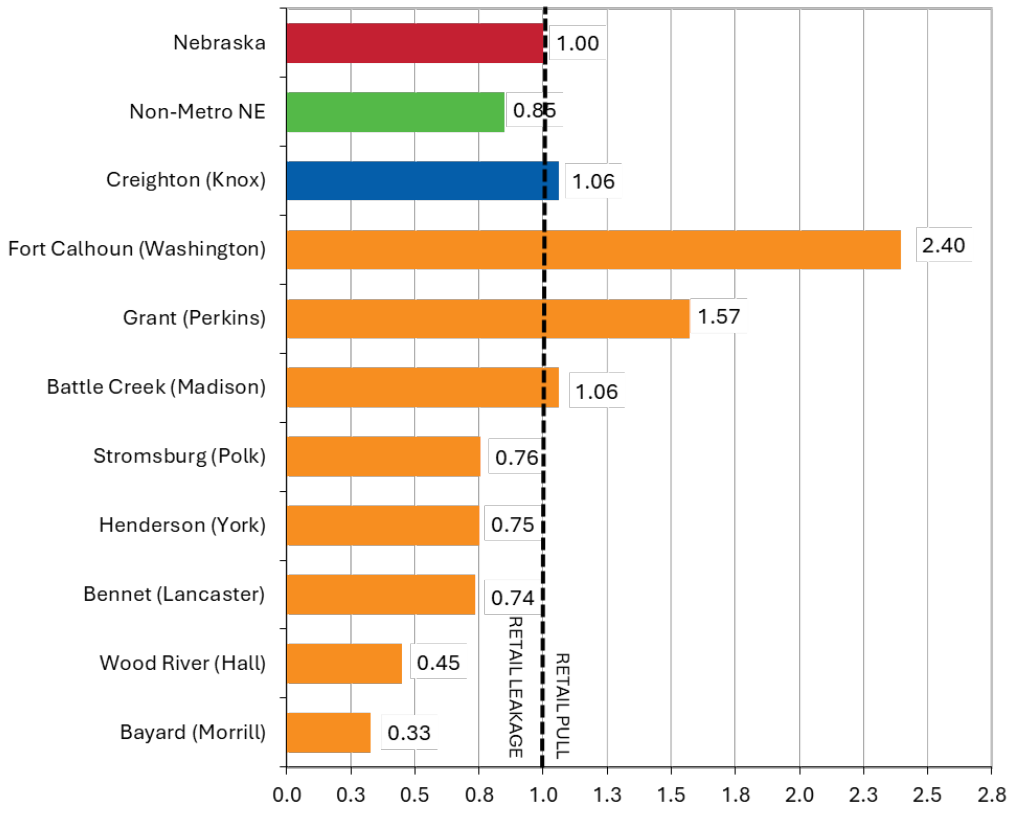
TABLE 19

Retail Sales Non-Motor Vehicles Pull Factors · *2022*

Creighton & 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
Creighton (Knox)	**1,125**	**18,771**	**16,685**	**1.06**
Battle Creek (Madison)	1,175	19,625	16,702	1.06
Grant (Perkins)	1,172	24,554	20,951	1.57
Wood River (Hall)	1,155	8,626	7,469	0.45
Stromsburg (Polk)	1,144	14,464	12,643	0.76
Bayard (Morrill)	1,123	7,728	6,882	0.33
Fort Calhoun (Washington)	1,115	19,951	17,893	2.40
Henderson (York)	1,098	10,409	9,480	0.75
Bennet (Lancaster)	1,083	5,492	5,071	0.74

CHART 23



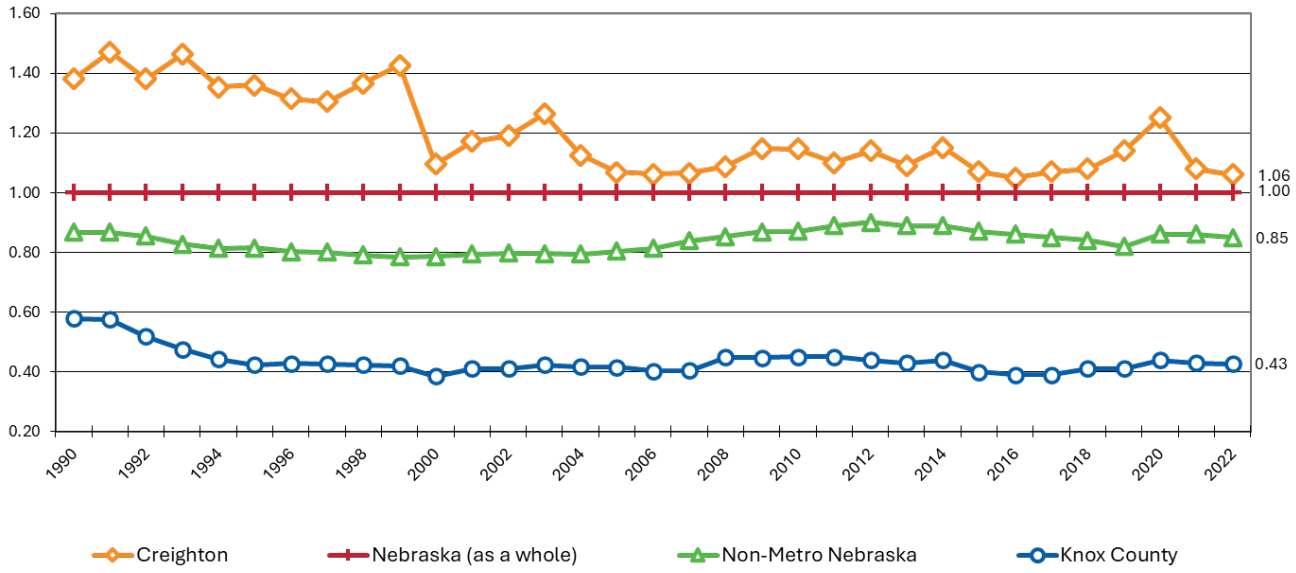
U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Department of Revenue, June 2023

Chart 24 illustrates the pull factor trend for Creighton, Knox County, non-metropolitan Nebraska, and Nebraska as a whole from 1990 to 2022. In examining the timeline, the city of Creighton shows retail pull fluctuating above the state average throughout the entire study period. Data within Knox County (as a whole) 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*

Creighton, Knox County, Non-Metro & Nebraska (as a whole)



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

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

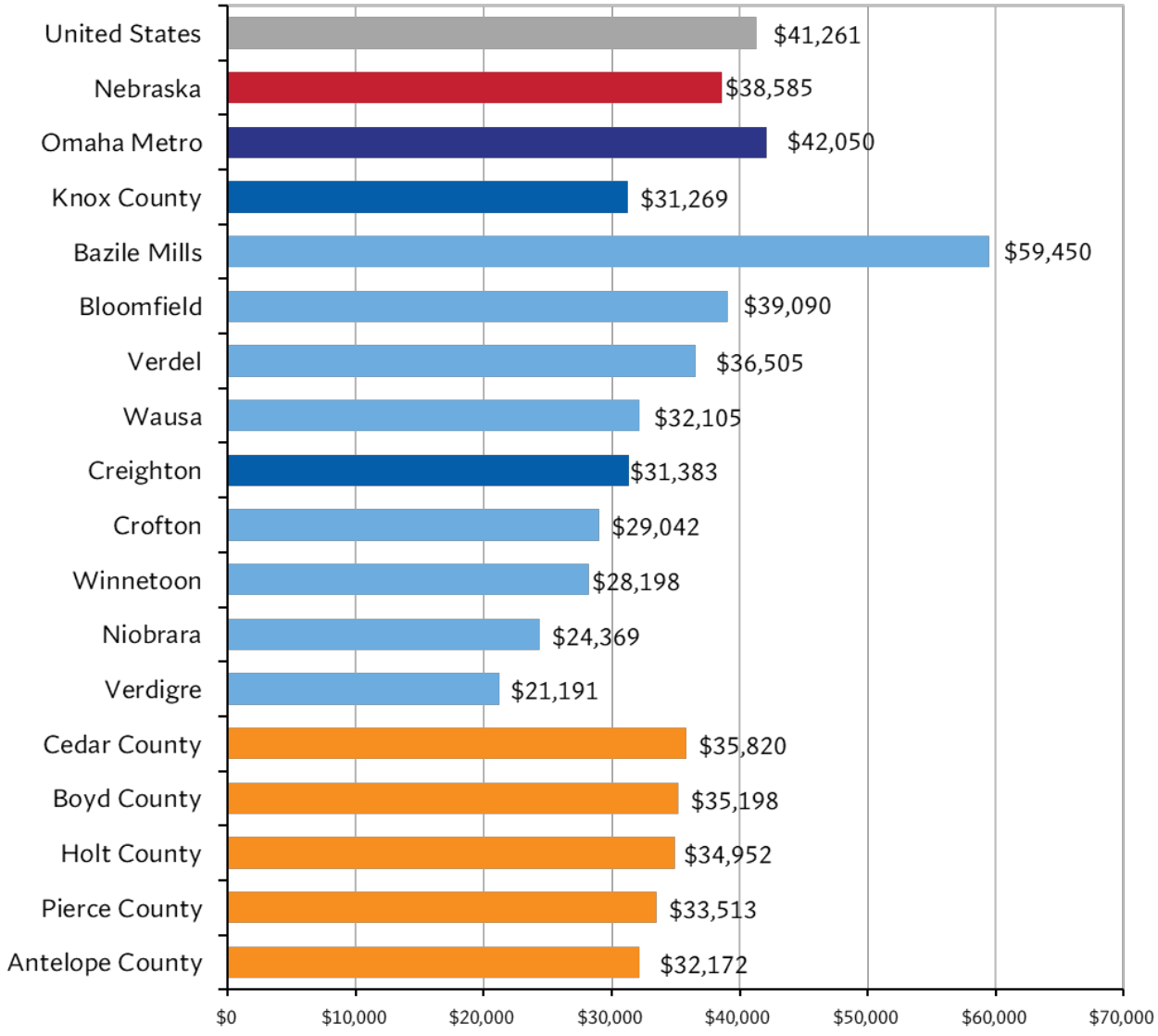
Chart 27 examines the per capita personal income levels within the study area. The American Community Survey data allows us to look more closely at non-metropolitan areas in Nebraska. Information on income distribution comes from various sources, including earnings, retirement income, and public assistance.

The 2018-2022 five-year estimates show per capita personal income for Knox County is estimated to be $31,269 compared to $38,585 for Nebraska as a whole.

CHART 27

Per Capita Personal Income · *2018-2022*

Nebraska, Knox County & Surrounding Counties



U.S. Census Bureau 2018–2022 American Community Survey, accessed March 2024

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

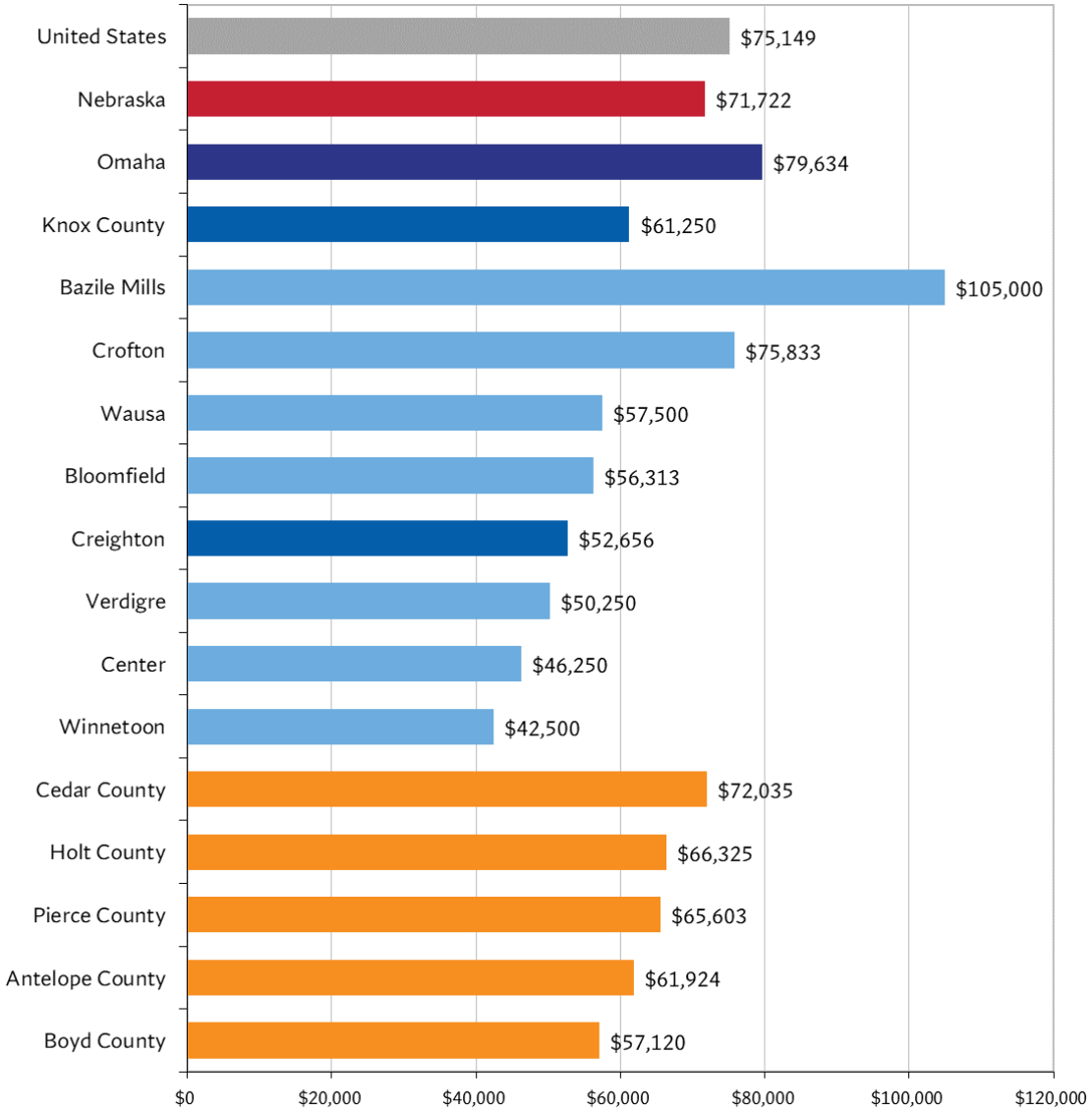
Median household income provides a different perspective of income levels than median family or per capita income. Family income is defined as having two or more related people in a household. Household income (used in this study) can consist of multiple family members or can be represented by a single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

The 2018-2022 five-year estimates show median household income for Knox County is estimated to be $61,250 compared to $71,722 for Nebraska as a whole.

CHART 28

Median Household Income · *2018-2022*

Nebraska, Knox County & Surrounding Counties



U.S. Census Bureau 2016–2020 American Community Survey, accessed March 2024