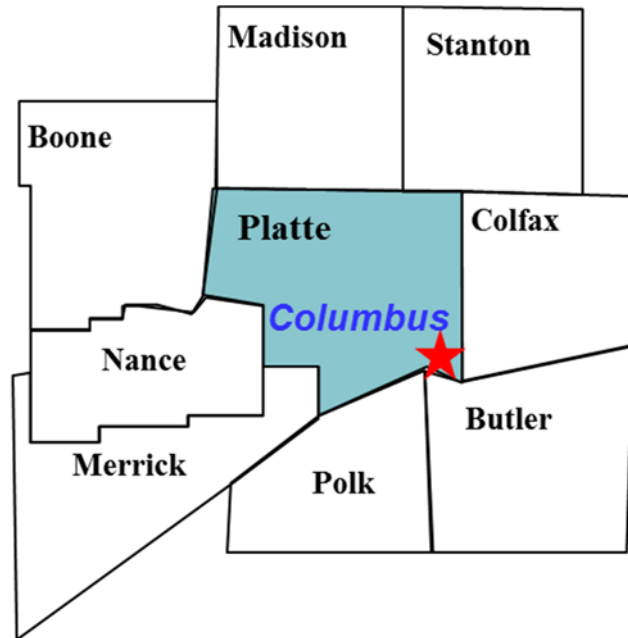


# Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Columbus (Platte County) Labor Area



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# **Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Columbus (Platte County) Labor Area**

## **Executive Summary**

The information provided in this report indicates that a prospective new employer providing job opportunities with competitive wages and benefits and offering career opportunities would be a welcome addition to the employment base in Columbus and the Platte County Labor Area. The response to such employment opportunities would be substantial, and as this report shows, there is a sizeable labor force and population base living within the Columbus Labor Area. Pertinent findings of the report include:

- Population in the Columbus Labor Area (Platte County plus the eight contiguous counties) totaled 115,114 people in 2017, with the Platte County population totaling 33,175. Population in Platte County grew by 2.9 percent during the period 2010--2017, compared to a population increase of 0.4 percent for the nine-county Columbus Labor Area.
- The Columbus Labor Area labor force totaled 61,727 in 2016, with 59,761 local residents employed in jobs either within or outside the area. A total of 56,245 persons were employed in nonfarm wage and salary jobs<sup>1</sup> within the area.
- In 2015, 3,861 primary jobs (33.7 percent) held by Columbus residents and 5,584 primary jobs (35.1 percent) held by Platte County residents were located outside Platte County. This confirms many Platte County residents are commuting to jobs in other counties.
- Average annual wages for all nonfarm wage and salary employees in the Columbus Labor Area were \$4,477 less than the Nebraska average. Within the labor area, Stanton County, Nebraska had the highest average wage, \$55,720 or \$12,114 higher than the Nebraska average. In Platte County, average annual salaries were \$3,121 less than the state average.

The basic conclusion of this report, which follows from the data and analysis presented, is that the Columbus Labor Area and Platte County would be able to provide a significant number of dedicated and skilled workers to meet the needs of additional employers in the area. While this report has not estimated a precise number of people that may be available for a prospective new employer in the Columbus area, it is anticipated that if attractive working conditions with competitive wages and employee benefits were offered, a prospective new employer would be able to select their workforce from a substantial pool of applicants.

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<sup>1</sup> Nonfarm wage and salary employment data are derived from businesses subject to State unemployment insurance laws and from Federal agencies subject to the Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees Program. Nonfarm wage and salary employment data includes 99.7 percent of wage and salary civilian employment. Self-employed workers, unpaid family workers, workers in certain not-for-profit organizations, and several other small (primarily seasonal) worker categories are not included.

## Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Columbus (Platte County) Labor Area

This report presents selected labor-related and demographic data that provide insights into the labor supply situation in Columbus (Platte County) and the surrounding area.

In reviewing the data presented in this report, it will be evident that the Columbus Labor Area has a sizeable pool of labor to provide for the labor requirements of additional employers in the area, both in the near term and over the long run. Data presented in this report includes tables on labor force, employment, and population for Platte County and for the surrounding counties that make up the potential laborshed area for Columbus. Figure One includes a map outlining the geographic area which has been defined as the Columbus Labor Area.

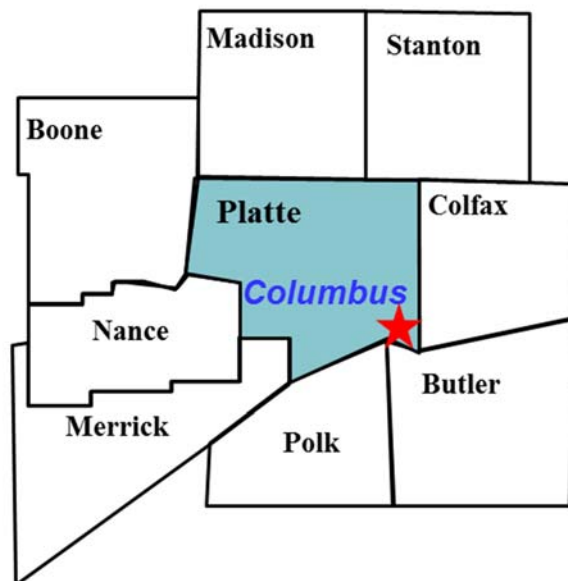
An important resource for new or expanding businesses is a readily available supply of workers. Whether an employer requires 50 or 1,000 workers, they need to have confidence there will be a sufficient number of workers available to meet their labor requirements. This report is provided as a key analytical tool to identify and quantify the number and selected characteristics of workers available in the Columbus Labor Area.

Available labor supply is defined as the number of persons who would potentially apply for employment when a job becomes available. Potential workers are categorized into two groups; those currently employed who would consider other employment opportunities and those who do not currently have a job.

One factor contributing to the available supply of workers is the willingness of workers already employed to change jobs. Factors influencing this decision are related to wages, fringe benefits, hours, and working conditions. Generally, workers are more inclined to change jobs when the wages and benefits for the potential new job are better and/or when they are optimistic about the economy.

Factors contributing to the available supply of people without jobs include the unemployment rate, labor force participation, and migration. To be classified as unemployed, an individual must have been actively looking for work in the last

**Figure One**  
**Columbus Labor Area**



four weeks, unless they were expecting recall from a layoff or waiting to start a job within 30 days.

There are also potential workers that are classified as not presently in the labor force. These individuals may not be participating in the labor force as employed or unemployed workers for various reasons. They may be unable to work because of school or family responsibilities or they may have an illness that has prevented them from becoming part of the labor force. There may also be workers who have not been able to find employment in the past and have become discouraged or who are no longer actively seeking employment because they perceive there are no attractive job opportunities available in the area. Retired persons are also classified as not in the labor force, although this population group often can provide substantial labor resources for selected business operations. Within the group of persons not currently in the labor force, and therefore not actively seeking employment, are many individuals who would accept a job with attractive working conditions, competitive wages, and employee benefits if one became available.

Population migration is another factor that affects the available labor supply of potential workers who are not presently employed (and may not be seeking work within the local labor market). Persons without jobs and who perceive that there are no job opportunities available locally are the most likely to leave (migrate out) the area for employment opportunities elsewhere.

### Labor Force and Employment

Table One provides data showing labor force and employment trends for the Columbus Labor Area and for Platte County for selected years from 2011 to 2016. Data in Table One (Part A and Part B, next page) provide two alternate measures of employment for two distinct areas. Data presented in Table One, Part A include labor force, unemployment, employment, unemployment rate, and nonfarm wage and salary employment data for the entire Columbus Labor Area (see Figure One). As these data indicate, the total labor force and total employment for the laborshed area moved in opposite directions, with the area labor force declining by 2.4 percent between 2011 and 2016 and total employment growing by (2.2) percent during the same period.

**Table One**  
**Labor Force and Employment, Columbus Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2011–2016**  
**Part A**  
**Labor Force and Employment**  
**Columbus Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2011–2016**

(Place of Residence)	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	% Chg. 2011–2016
<b>Labor Force<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>63,251</b>	<b>63,705</b>	<b>63,563</b>	<b>62,971</b>	<b>62,198</b>	<b>61,727</b>	<b>-2.4</b>
Employment	60,730	61,438	61,348	61,079	60,422	59,761	-1.6
Unemployment (#)	2,521	2,267	2,215	1,892	1,776	1,966	-22
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.0	2.9	3.2	(N/A)
<b>(Place of Work)</b>							
<b>Nonfarm Employment<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>55,021</b>	<b>56,161</b>	<b>56,359</b>	<b>56,666</b>	<b>56,587</b>	<b>56,245</b>	<b>2.2</b>

Table One continued on following page; notes and sources on following page.

**Table One — Continued**  
**Part B**  
**Labor Force and Employment by Industry**  
**Platte County, NE**

<b>(Place of Residence)</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>% Chg.</b> <b>2011–2016</b>
<b>Labor Force <sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>17,825</b>	<b>18,047</b>	<b>17,751</b>	<b>17,309</b>	<b>17,154</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>-4.9</b>
Employment	17,083	17,387	17,131	16,791	16,636	16,332	-4.4
Unemployment (#)	742	660	620	518	518	621	-16.3
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.2	3.7	3.5	3.0	3.0	3.7	(N/A)
<b>(Place of Work)</b>							
<b>Nonfarm Employment <sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>18,694</b>	<b>19,196</b>	<b>18,964</b>	<b>18,686</b>	<b>18,614</b>	<b>18,430</b>	<b>-1.4</b>
Goods Producing	6,831	6,978	6,958	6,916	6,976	6,988	2.3
Manufacturing	5,537	5,628	5,517	5,487	5,518	5,464	-1.3
Natural Resources	417	477	483	466	412	464	11.3
Construction	877	873	958	963	1,047	1,060	20.9
Service Providing	9,245	9,637	9,457	9,242	9,035	8,810	-4.7
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	3,316	3,332	3,291	3,258	3,328	3,354	1.1
Information	129	127	120	115	92	94	-27.1
Financial Activities	636	649	650	642	655	664	4.4
Professional & Business Services	1,628	1,817	1,636	1,501	1,301	1,007	-38.1
Education & Health Services	1,648	1,659	1,829	1,837	1,848	1,858	12.7
Leisure and Hospitality	1,408	1,416	1,370	1,421	1,424	1,435	1.9
Other Services, except Public	480	637	561	469	388	398	-17.1
Total Government	2,618	2,581	2,549	2,528	2,603	2,632	0.5
Federal Government	83	83	83	85	86	86	3.6
State Government	120	122	125	124	130	131	9.2
Local Government	2,415	2,377	2,341	2,320	2,388	2,415	0.0

<sup>(a)</sup> The Labor Area includes Platte County, Nebraska and the contiguous Nebraska counties (Boone, Butler, Colfax, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Polk, and Stanton).

<sup>(b)</sup> The labor force data are measured based on the county of residence, irrespective of the county of employment.

<sup>(c)</sup> The Nonfarm Employment data are for wage and salary employment and are based on the place (county) where the individual is employed, irrespective of the county of residence.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/).

The second employment measure presented for the Columbus Labor Area, nonfarm wage and salary employment increased from 55,021 in 2011 to 56,245 in 2016, an increase of 2.2 percent. In the case of the labor force data (labor force, unemployment, and employment), the respective measures are based on the county of residence. The nonfarm wage and salary employment data are measured based on the county of employment, irrespective of the place of residence of the workers.

The labor force and employment measures presented for Platte County (Table One, Part B) indicate that the total labor force in the county declined by 4.9 percent between 2011 and 2016, with total employment (of people residing in Platte County, irrespective of their county of employment) declining by 4.4 percent during this period. It is also of interest to note that unemployment decreased by 16.3 percent, from 742 in 2011 to 621 in 2016.

As previously noted, the second employment measure presented for Platte County, nonfarm wage and salary employment, is based on the county where the person is employed irrespective of their county of residence. Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Platte County declined by 1.4 percent between 2011 and 2016. Data presented in Table One, Part B show that the fastest growing employment sector in Platte County during the 2011–2016 review period was the Construction sector, recording a 20.9 percent increase between 2011 and 2016. Other economic sectors experiencing significant growth in employment between 2011 and 2016 include Education and Health Services (12.7 percent), Natural Resources (11.3 percent), and Financial Activities (4.4 percent). In the case of the Total Government sector, Federal Government sector employment grew by 3.6 percent, while employment in the State Government sector grew by 9.2 percent and Local Government sector employment was unchanged.

A review of the employment data reported for the Columbus Labor Area (Table Two) indicates differences between the nonfarm wage and salary employment reported in each of the counties and the total employment of persons living in these respective areas. In the case of the entire Columbus Labor Area, nonfarm wage and salary employment was reported to be 56,245 in 2016, which was significantly less (3,516) than the reported total employment of persons living within the nine-county Columbus Labor Area.

**Table Two**  
**Labor Force, Employment, and Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment,**  
**Columbus Labor Area, 2016**

County	Labor Force 2016 <sup>(a)</sup>	Total Employment 2016 <sup>(a)</sup>	Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment 2016 <sup>(b)</sup>	Total Employment Minus NF W&S Employment	Agricultural Employment 2016
<b>Platte</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>16,332</b>	<b>18,430</b>	<b>-2,098</b>	<b>1,093</b>
Boone	3,005	2,922	2,371	551	745
Butler	4,659	4,503	2,557	1,946	884
Colfax	5,559	5,394	5,153	241	719
Madison	19,186	18,629	21,674	-3,045	789
Merrick	4,026	3,873	2,263	1,610	565
Nance	2,009	1,952	1,053	899	397
Polk	2,879	2,799	1,460	1,339	525
Stanton	3,451	3,357	1,284	2,073	617
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>61,727</b>	<b>59,761</b>	<b>56,245</b>	<b>3,516</b>	<b>6,334</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Labor force and employment data are measured based on the county of residence.

<sup>(b)</sup> Nonfarm Employment data are for wage and salary employment and are based on the place (county) where the individual is employed, irrespective of the county of residence.

Sources: Labor Data - U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov/lau/#data](http://www.bls.gov/lau/#data).

Farm Employment Data - U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data, [www.bea.gov/regional/reis/](http://www.bea.gov/regional/reis/).

There are two major reasons for differences in the total employment and nonfarm employment values. First, nonfarm wage and salary employment excludes self-employed workers, unpaid family workers, workers in certain not-for-profit organizations, and several other small (primarily seasonal and farm) worker categories—these workers are

included in estimates of total employment. Second estimates of nonfarm wage and salary employment are based on the area where the jobs (businesses) are located while estimates of total employment are based on the area where workers live.

Table Two also includes information on agricultural employment, which includes farm proprietors. As shown in Table Two, 6,334 people in the Columbus Labor Area were employed in agriculture in 2016. It is important to note, that for Nebraska as a whole, approximately 56.6 percent of principal farm operators reported at least some off-farm employment and approximately 37.9 percent reported they worked more than 200 days off the farm.

The number of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Columbus Labor Area is shown by major industry sector and by county in Table Three. The reader is reminded that nonfarm wage and salary workers are counted in the county where they are employed. Individuals with more than one job are counted at each establishment (and in each county) where they work. Table Three provides information about the number of workers in the labor area by county and major industry category.

**Table Three**  
**Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Industry Sector**  
**Columbus Labor Area, by County, 2016**

County	Nat. Res. & Mine	Constr.	Manuf.	Trade, Trans. & Utilities	Ed. & Health Svc.	Fin. Act.	All Other Services	Govt.
<b>Platte,</b>	<b>464</b>	<b>1,060</b>	<b>5,464</b>	<b>3,354</b>	<b>1,858</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>2,934</b>	<b>2,632</b>
Boone,	323	73	191	572	244	94	202	672
Butler,	196	106	574	448	295	93	196	649
Colfax,	357	2,221*	71*	974	247	108	2,747	720
Madison,	180	895	3,156	5,156	3,567	957	4,041	3,722
Merrick,	123	162	235	438	237	106	355	607
Nance,	139	27*	9*	196	142	53	131	392
Polk,	167	59	9	331	173	52	124	545
Stanton	128	52*	525*	153	17	36	659	291
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>2,077</b>	<b>2,655*</b>	<b>10,234*</b>	<b>11,622</b>	<b>6,780</b>	<b>2,163</b>	<b>11,389</b>	<b>10,230</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>15,250</b>	<b>50,583</b>	<b>96,874</b>	<b>192,843</b>	<b>135,522</b>	<b>65,442</b>	<b>251,064</b>	<b>161,045</b>

**Percent of Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment**

	Nat. Res. & Mine	Constr.	Manuf.	Trade, Trans. & Utilities	Ed. & Health Svc.	Fin. Act.	All Other Services	Govt.
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>20.7</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>20.2</b>	<b>18.2</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>16.6</b>

\* Values are estimates by Dr. Ken Lemke, Nebraska Public Power District.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/).

In addition to displaying the number of workers by major industry sector, Table Three also compares the percentage distribution of workers by industry in the Columbus Labor Area with the distribution for the State of Nebraska. As these data show, the industry distribution of employment for the Columbus Labor Area is significantly different than that for Nebraska.

The most significant deviations between Nebraska and the Columbus Labor Area occur in the Manufacturing sector employment, with 18.2 percent of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Columbus area employed in that sector, compared to 10.0 percent for Nebraska. Conversely, only 20.2 percent of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Columbus Labor Area are employed in the All Other Services sector, compared to 25.9 percent for Nebraska.

Table Four, Part A provides data showing labor cost comparisons, by county, for all private wage and salary workers for the Columbus Labor Area. It is important to remember that the wage and salary employment is reported by county of employment, and does not provide an indication of the average weekly and annual wage for residents of the respective counties. Obviously, labor cost is an important consideration in any analysis of the labor availability in an area. Pay data for workers covered by unemployment insurance laws in Nebraska are the source of the labor cost information. Average annual pay is calculated by dividing the total payroll for wage and salary workers by the average annual number of employees.

A review of the data in Table Four, Part A indicates that average annual salaries in Platte County (\$40,485 for all wage and salary employees for all private industries) are slightly higher than for the Columbus Labor Area and all but two of the other counties that make up the area. Also, Platte County average annual salaries are \$3,121 (7.2 percent) less than the state average. Average annual salaries for the Columbus Labor Area (\$39,129) were \$4,477 (10.3 percent) less than the Nebraska average. These data suggest, of course, there would be a positive labor supply response in Platte County to the creation of additional employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits.

**Table Four**  
**Average Pay by Industry Groups, Columbus Labor Area & Nebraska, 2016**

<b>Part A</b>			
<b>Average Annual Pay and Average Weekly Wages by Industry Groups</b>			
<b>All Covered<sup>(a)</sup> Wage and Salary Workers, All Industries</b>			
<b>County</b>	<b>Average Employment</b>	<b>Average Weekly Wages</b>	<b>Average Annual Wages</b>
<b>Platte</b>	<b>18,430</b>	<b>\$779</b>	<b>\$40,485</b>
Boone	2,371	\$663	\$34,495
Butler	2,557	\$732	\$38,065
Colfax	5,153	\$799	\$41,567
Madison	21,674	\$730	\$37,985
Merrick	2,263	\$700	\$36,378
Nance	1,053	\$636	\$33,074
Polk	1,460	\$650	\$33,814
Stanton	1,284	\$1,072	\$55,720
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>56,245</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$39,129</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>968,623</b>	<b>\$839</b>	<b>\$43,606</b>

Table Four continued on following page; notes and sources on following page.



**Table Four — Continued**

**Part B  
Average Annual Pay All Covered<sup>(a)</sup> Wage and Salary Workers  
By Selected Industry Groups**

<b>County</b>	<b>Goods-producing</b>	<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>Construction</b>	<b>Service-providing</b>	<b>Trade, transportation, and utilities</b>	<b>Financial activities</b>	<b>Professional and business services</b>	<b>Leisure and hospitality</b>
<b>Platte</b>	<b>\$49,097</b>	<b>\$50,150</b>	<b>\$48,273</b>	<b>\$32,296</b>	<b>\$31,436</b>	<b>\$50,151</b>	<b>\$39,233</b>	<b>\$12,722</b>
Boone	\$43,139	\$51,348	\$43,717	\$29,049	\$31,936	\$44,542	\$35,450	\$12,125
Butler	\$42,502	\$43,946	\$42,100	\$33,183	\$34,266	\$46,318	\$43,994	\$10,492
Colfax	\$45,250	N/A	N/A	\$38,355	\$45,009	\$37,063	\$32,722	\$15,422
Madison	\$47,638	\$48,144	\$46,110	\$34,331	\$34,988	\$45,688	\$34,999	\$14,098
Merrick	\$44,092	\$43,690	\$48,070	\$33,163	\$37,165	\$52,991	\$77,935	\$9,975
Nance	\$43,509	N/A	N/A	\$28,498	\$27,063	\$43,842	\$42,205	\$14,001
Polk	\$39,934	\$32,442	\$37,618	\$31,005	\$36,177	\$42,395	\$27,168	\$7,856
Stanton	\$73,675	N/A	N/A	\$33,180	\$35,056	\$42,483	N/A	\$9,968
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>\$46,964</b>	<b>\$47,504</b>	<b>\$48,300</b>	<b>\$42,132</b>	<b>\$37,481</b>	<b>\$61,146</b>	<b>\$57,364</b>	<b>\$15,871</b>

N/A - Not Available.

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes employers that are subject to Nebraska Employment Security Laws.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/).

Table Four, Part B provides average annual wages, by county and by major industry sector, for the counties that make up the Columbus Labor Area. As the data in Table Four, Part A indicate, the highest overall average annual wages in the area are for wage and salary workers employed in Stanton County, Nebraska. The average annual wage for all wage and salary workers (working) in Stanton County, Nebraska was \$55,720 in 2016 which was \$16,591 (42.4 percent) higher than the average for the Columbus Labor Area, and \$12,114 (27.8 percent) greater than the Nebraska average. A review of the industry specific data for average annual wages for Stanton County, Nebraska indicates that the high average annual wage results from the extremely high average wage in the Goods Producing industries, primarily the Manufacturing industry group.

Table Five, on the next page, provides information on entry, average, and experienced wages for selected occupations across all industry groups for businesses located in the Northeast Region of Nebraska. Entry level and experienced wage rates represent the means of the lower third and upper two-thirds of the wage distribution, respectively. Additional estimates of wages by occupation for the Columbus Zip Code Tabulation Area<sup>2</sup> and Platte County are provided in Appendix A of this report.

<sup>2</sup> A Zip Code Tabulation Area is a geographic location similar to but not necessarily the same as a postal zip code area. In rural areas both Zip Code Tabulation Areas and postal zip code areas often extend beyond the corporate limits of an incorporated area.

**Table Five**  
**Entry, Average, and Experienced Hourly Wage Levels, Selected Occupations**  
**Northeast Region, Nebraska, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter, 2017**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Average (\$/hour)</b>	<b>Entry Level (\$/hour)</b>	<b>Experienced (\$/hour)</b>
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	23.42	11.94	29.17
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	32.92	17.60	40.58
Registered Nurses	27.72	20.94	31.10
Protective Service Occupations	20.54	12.61	24.51
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	27.60	14.91	33.96
Construction and Extraction Occupations	18.33	12.79	21.10
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	21.04	13.74	24.69
Production Occupations	17.09	12.43	19.42
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	29.29	20.31	33.79
Team Assemblers	16.34	12.28	18.38
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	18.34	15.04	19.98
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	18.74	14.91	20.66
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	17.96	12.00	20.95
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	21.14	15.29	24.07
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	15.20	11.78	16.91

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Office of Labor Market Information, Occupational Employment Statistics, February 2018.

## Commuting Patterns

Table Six provides data from the 2015 U.S. Census, Local Employment Dynamics Program showing commuting patterns for workers living in the Columbus Labor Area. Data in Table Six indicate, a significant number (and percentage) of workers in the area commuted outside of their county of residence for employment.

Data for Platte County indicate that 5,584, or 35.1 percent of the employed workers, commuted to other counties for employment. For seven of the other counties in the Columbus Labor Area, the percentage of commuters was greater than for Platte County, and in most cases substantially greater. In the case of Stanton County, 2,500, or 88.1 percent of employed workers commuted out of their county of residence for employment. Other counties with a high percentage of employed workers commuting to other counties for employment include Polk (69.4 percent), Merrick (69.3 percent), Butler (64.1 percent), Nance (60.0 percent), Colfax (49.8 percent), and Boone with 49.4 percent of employed workers commuting out of their county of residence for employment.

**Table Six**  
**Commuting Patterns, Columbus Labor Area**  
**Jobs Outside County of Residence, 2015**

County	County Residents	
	Number	Percent
<b>Platte</b>	<b>5,584</b>	<b>35.1%</b>
Boone	1,177	49.4%
Butler	2,531	64.1%
Colfax	2,563	49.8%
Madison	5,346	31.7%
Merrick	2,288	69.3%
Nance	775	60.0%
Polk	1,662	69.4%
Stanton	2,500	88.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics*, [onthemap.ces.census.gov/](http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/).

Table Seven provides further detail illustrating the willingness of workers in Columbus and Platte County to travel for employment. In 2015, residents of Platte County worked at a total of 15,916 jobs; a resident could work at more than one job. Of these 15,916 jobs, the largest number, 10,332 or 64.9 percent, were located in Platte County, while 1,094 or 6.9 percent were located in Douglas County. Other counties with high numbers of workers from Platte County were Colfax (1,058 jobs), Madison (571 jobs), and Lancaster (415 jobs).

Also in 2015, residents of Columbus worked at a total of 11,454 jobs with the largest number, 7,593 or 66.3 percent located in Platte County. Other counties with workers from Columbus include Colfax (842 jobs), Douglas (790 jobs), Madison (303 jobs), and Lancaster (291 jobs).

**Table Seven**  
**Commuting Patterns, Columbus Labor Area**  
**Location of Jobs Held by Columbus and Platte County Residents, 2015**

County Where Jobs are Located	Primary Jobs Held by Columbus Residents	% Columbus Residents' Primary Jobs	Primary Jobs Held by Platte County Residents	% Platte County Residents' Primary Jobs
<b>Platte</b>	<b>7,593</b>	<b>66.3%</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>64.9%</b>
Douglas	790	6.9%	1,094	6.9%
Colfax	842	7.4%	1,058	6.6%
Madison	303	2.6%	571	3.6%
Lancaster	291	2.5%	415	2.6%
All Other Locations	1,635	14.3%	2,446	15.4%
<b>Total Resident Jobs</b>	<b>11,454</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>15,916</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics*, [onthemap.ces.census.gov/](http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/).

Table Eight provides data showing the willingness of workers in other counties to commute to Columbus and Platte County for employment. In 2015, 4,820 or 38.5 percent of the 12,506 primary jobs in Columbus were held by residents of other counties. Colfax County was home to the greatest number of workers commuting into Columbus from outside Platte County, 593 or 4.7 percent. Other counties with large numbers of workers commuting into Columbus for their primary jobs included Butler, 468 or 3.7 percent; Douglas, 298 or 2.4 percent; Polk, 293 or 2.3 percent; Madison, 287 or 2.3 percent; and Lancaster, 271 or 2.2 percent.

Data in Table Eight indicate 6,931 (40.1 percent) of the 17,263 primary jobs in Platte County were held by workers commuting from other counties. In 2015, Colfax County was home to the greatest number of workers commuting into Platte County for primary jobs, 852 or 4.9 percent. Other counties with large numbers of workers commuting into Platte County for their primary jobs included, Butler, 656 or 3.8 percent; Madison, 650 or 3.8 percent; Polk, 419 or 2.4 percent; Douglas, 382 or 2.2 percent; and Lancaster, 332 or 1.9 percent.

**Table Eight**  
**Commuting Patterns, Columbus Labor Area**  
**Sources of Columbus and Platte County Workers, 2015**

County Where Workers Live	Primary Jobs in Columbus	% Primary Jobs in Columbus	Primary Jobs in Platte County	% Primary Jobs in Platte County
<b>Platte</b>	<b>7,686</b>	<b>61.5%</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>59.9%</b>
Colfax	593	4.7%	852	4.9%
Butler	468	3.7%	656	3.8%
Madison	287	2.3%	650	3.8%
Polk	293	2.3%	419	2.4%
Douglas	298	2.4%	382	2.2%
Lancaster	271	2.2%	332	1.9%
<b>All Other Locations</b>	<b>2,610</b>	<b>20.9%</b>	<b>3,640</b>	<b>21.1%</b>
<b>Total Primary Jobs</b>	<b>12,506</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>17,263</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics*, [onthemap.ces.census.gov/](http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/).

Table Nine provides data for Platte County showing the number of primary jobs (Workforce) located in the county and the number of primary jobs held by county residents (Labor Force Employment) by industry in 2015. When the Workforce for an industry exceeds the Labor Force (positive values in the last column of Table Nine), the difference between these values represents the net number of jobs in Platte County held by workers commuting into the county from other areas. If the Workforce is less than the Labor Force (negative values in the last column of Table Nine), the difference represents the net number of jobs held outside of Platte County by county residents.

As data in Table Nine indicate, residents of Platte County were employed in 15,916 primary jobs in 2015, but there were 17,263 primary jobs within the area. This indicates workers from counties outside the study area commuted to at least 1,347 primary jobs within the study area. It is important to note this is an estimate of net in-commuting and most certainly understates the actual number of primary jobs within the area held by residents from outside the study area.

**Table Nine**  
**Primary Jobs, Platte County, 2015**  
**Resident Labor Force and Employers Workforce**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Labor Force Employment (Employment of Area Residents)</b>	<b>Workforce (Area Jobs)</b>	<b>Net Number of Jobs Held by Workers Commuting Into Platte County<sup>(a)</sup></b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	389	453	64
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	34	0	-34
Utilities	400	646	246
Construction	903	1,054	151
Manufacturing	4,921	5,800	879
Wholesale Trade	628	662	34
Retail Trade	1,573	1,797	224
Transportation and Warehousing	400	339	-61
Information	120	76	-44
Finance and Insurance	406	393	-13
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	114	144	30
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	440	392	-48
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	663	775	112
Management of Companies and Enterprises	82	7	-75
Educational Services	1,139	1,136	-3
Health Care and Social Assistance	1,678	1,627	-51
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	127	118	-9
Accommodation and Food Services	937	946	9
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	304	295	-9
Public Administration	658	603	-55
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,916</b>	<b>17,263</b>	<b>1,347</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> A negative value indicates the net number of primary jobs outside of the area held by Columbus Labor Area residents.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics*, [onthemap.ces.census.gov/](http://onthemap.ces.census.gov/).

## Population Trends

The data provided in Table Ten show population trends for the Columbus Labor Area, by county, and for Nebraska for the period 1960-2017. As these data indicate, the population of the Columbus Labor Area was 114,643 in 2010. The Columbus Labor Area population grew by 9.0 percent from 1960 to 2010 and grew 0.4 percent from 2010 to 2017.

Population in Platte County totaled 32,237 in 2010 and had grown by 34.4 percent from 1960 to 2010. During the latest Census decade from 2010 to 2015, the Platte County population increased by 2.9 percent, compared to the increase for the Columbus Labor Area as a whole of 0.4 percent, and to the state rate of growth of 5.1 percent.

**Table Ten**  
**Population in the Columbus Labor Area, by County, and Nebraska**  
**Selected Years, 1960–2017**

County	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017	% Chg. 1960–2010	% Chg. 2010–2017
<b>Platte</b>	<b>23,992</b>	<b>26,508</b>	<b>28,852</b>	<b>29,820</b>	<b>31,662</b>	<b>32,237</b>	<b>33,175</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>2.9</b>
Boone	9,134	8,190	7,391	6,667	6,259	5,505	5,352	-39.7	-2.8
Butler	10,312	9,461	9,330	8,601	8,767	8,395	8,053	-18.6	-4.1
Colfax	9,595	9,498	9,890	9,139	10,441	10,515	10,585	9.6	0.7
Madison	25,145	27,402	31,382	32,655	35,226	34,876	35,144	38.7	0.8
Merrick	8,363	8,751	8,945	8,042	8,204	7,845	7,882	-6.2	0.5
Nance	5,635	5,142	4,740	4,275	4,038	3,735	3,607	-33.7	-3.4
Polk	7,210	6,468	6,320	5,675	5,639	5,406	5,328	-25.0	-1.4
Stanton	5,783	5,758	6,549	6,244	6,455	6,129	13,665	6.0	-2.3
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>105,169</b>	<b>107,178</b>	<b>113,399</b>	<b>111,118</b>	<b>116,691</b>	<b>114,643</b>	<b>115,114</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,411,330</b>	<b>1,483,493</b>	<b>1,569,825</b>	<b>1,578,385</b>	<b>1,711,230</b>	<b>1,826,341</b>	<b>1,920,076</b>	<b>29.4</b>	<b>5.1</b>

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 1960-2010* and *Population Estimates 2017*.

Table Eleven shows the age distribution of the resident population. Obviously, the age distribution of the population is important when evaluating the potential labor supply in an area. A key variable is the number of people in the working age populations of the counties making up the Columbus Labor Area. In 2016, there were 16,159 people in Platte County between the ages of 25 and 64, which represented 49.2 percent of the total population, compared to 49.2 percent of the population for the Columbus Labor Area as a whole and 50.0 percent of the Nebraska population in this age range.

**Table Eleven**  
**Age Characteristics of the Population, Columbus Labor Area,**  
**by County, and Nebraska, 2016**

County	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-Older		Median
	Number	% (a)	Number	% (a)	Number	% (a)	Number	% (a)	Number	% (a)	Age
<b>Platte</b>	<b>7,204</b>	<b>21.9</b>	<b>4,156</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>7,787</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>8,372</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>5,342</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>37.6</b>
Boone	1,040	19.5	630	11.8	1,051	19.7	1,480	27.8	1,131	21.2	43.9
Butler	1,487	18.5	985	12.2	1,618	20.1	2,275	28.3	1,687	21.0	44.2
Colfax	2,727	26.2	1,343	12.9	2,525	24.2	2,451	23.5	1,368	13.1	33.7
Madison	7,304	20.9	4,710	13.5	8,427	24.1	8,974	25.6	5,600	16.0	37.1
Merrick	1,482	18.9	935	11.9	1,752	22.4	2,159	27.6	1,500	19.2	42.3
Nance	668	18.7	408	11.4	741	20.7	1,034	28.9	725	20.3	44.3
Polk	948	18.2	617	11.9	1,013	19.5	1,527	29.3	1,098	21.1	45.3
Stanton	1,231	20.7	722	12.1	1,347	22.7	1,695	28.5	949	16.0	39.7
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>24,091</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>14,506</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>26,261</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>29,967</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>19,400</b>	<b>17.0</b>	<b>38.8</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>396,601</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>269,442</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>483,474</b>	<b>25.4</b>	<b>470,855</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>286,744</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>36.3</b>

(a) Percent of total population for each respective area.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates* 2016.



Information in Table Twelve shows recent changes in the racial (“White Alone” and “Not-White Alone”) and ethnic (“Hispanic” and “Non-Hispanic”) composition for the resident populations of Platte County, the Platte County Labor Area, and Nebraska statewide. As shown in Table Twelve, total Platte County population increased by 4.1 percent during the sixteen-year period while the Hispanic population increased by 190.8 percent and the Not-White Alone and Non-Hispanic population increased by 92.0 percent. Over the same period, Columbus Labor Area population decreased 2.1 percent while the while the Hispanic population increased by 103.2 percent and the Not-White Alone and Non-Hispanic population increased by 105.3 percent. Statewide, population increased by 11.4 percent from 2000 to 2016, while the Hispanic population increased by 115.3 percent and the Not-White Alone and Non-Hispanic population increased by 55.6 percent.

**Table Twelve**  
**Population by Selected Race and Ethnic Origin Characteristics**  
**Platte County, Columbus Labor Area, and Nebraska Statewide, 2000–2016**

Category	2000		2016		Change 2000-2016	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
<b>-- Platte County --</b>						
Total Population	31,574	100.0	32,861	100.0	1,287	4.1
Hispanic origin	2,071	6.6	6,022	18.3	3,951	190.8
White Alone, Non-Hispanic Origin	29,068	92.1	26,004	79.1	-3,064	-10.5
Not-White Alone & Non-Hispanic	435	1.4	835	2.5	400	92.0
<b>-- Columbus Labor Area --</b>						
Total Population	116,691	100.0	114,225	100.0	-2,466	-2.1
Hispanic origin	8,461	7.3	17,195	15.1	8,734	103.2
White Alone, Non-Hispanic Origin	106,366	91.2	93,203	81.6	-13,163	-12.4
Not-White Alone & Non-Hispanic	1,864	1.6	3,827	3.4	1,963	105.3
<b>-- Nebraska Statewide --</b>						
Total Population	1,711,230	100.0	1,907,116	100.0	195,886	11.4
Hispanic origin	94,419	5.5	203,320	10.7	108,901	115.3
White Alone, Non-Hispanic Origin	1,497,082	87.5	1,517,526	79.6	20,444	1.4
Not-White Alone & Non-Hispanic	119,729	7.0	186,270	9.8	66,541	55.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates 2000 & 2016*.

Table Thirteen provides information showing population, the natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration for the period 2000–2010 for Nebraska, for Platte County, and for the Columbus Labor Area. As these data show, every county in the Columbus Labor Area experience net out-migration during the Census decade of the 2000s. As indicated in the table, net out-migration for the Columbus Labor Area as a whole accounted for a population decline of 7,515 people during the decade, contributing to a population decrease equal to 6.4 percent of the population. In the case of Platte County, net out-migration during 2000s totaled 1,594 people, or 5.0 percent of the 2000 population.

**Table Thirteen**  
**Population, Births, Deaths, and Migration**  
**Nebraska and Columbus Labor Area by County, 2000–2010**

County	Population		2000–2010			Net Migration*, 2000–2010	
	2000	2010	Births	Deaths	Nat. Incr.	Number	% 2000 Pop.
<b>Platte</b>	<b>31,662</b>	<b>32,237</b>	<b>4,673</b>	<b>2,504</b>	<b>2,169</b>	<b>-1,594</b>	<b>-5.0</b>
Boone	6,259	5,505	594	686	-92	-662	-10.6
Butler	8,767	8,395	964	1,007	-43	-329	-3.8
Colfax	10,441	10,515	2,034	902	1,132	-1,058	-10.1
Madison	35,226	34,876	5,551	3,461	2,090	-2,440	-6.9
Merrick	8,204	7,845	861	815	46	-405	-4.9
Nance	4,038	3,735	413	535	-122	-181	-4.5
Polk	5,639	5,406	618	634	-16	-217	-3.8
Stanton	6,455	6,129	809	506	303	-629	-9.7
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>116,691</b>	<b>114,643</b>	<b>16,517</b>	<b>11,050</b>	<b>5,467</b>	<b>-7,515</b>	<b>-6.4</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,711,263</b>	<b>1,826,341</b>	<b>262,095</b>	<b>150,343</b>	<b>111,752</b>	<b>3,326</b>	<b>0.2</b>

\* Net Migration from the Bureau of the Census estimates, includes residual component not shown separately.  
Sources: Population (2000, 2010) - U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 2000, 2010*;  
Births, Deaths, and Natural Increase – Nebraska Department of Health Vital Statistics Data;  
Migration - computed using population and natural increase.

Table Fourteen provides information showing population, the natural increase (births minus deaths), and net migration for the 2010–2016 period. As these data show, the Columbus Labor Area continued to experience net out-migration during this more recent six-year period. As indicated in the table, out-migration for the Columbus Labor Area as a whole accounted was 2,998 during the 2010–2017 period, contributing to a population decrease equal to 2.6 percent of the 2010 population. In the case of Platte County, net out-migration during this six-year period was 533, or 1.7 percent of the 2010 population.

**Table Fourteen**  
**Population, Births, Deaths, and Migration**  
**Nebraska and Columbus Labor Area, by County, 2010–2017**

County	Population		2010–2017			Net Migration, 2010–2017*	
	2010	2017	Births	Deaths	Nat. Incr.	Number	% 2010 Pop.
<b>Platte</b>	<b>32,237</b>	<b>33,175</b>	<b>3,387</b>	<b>1,916</b>	<b>1,471</b>	<b>-533</b>	<b>-1.7</b>
Boone	5,505	5,352	434	451	-17	-136	-2.5
Butler	8,395	8,053	622	681	-59	-283	-3.4
Colfax	10,515	10,585	1,283	574	709	-639	-6.1
Madison	34,876	35,144	3,682	2,505	1,177	-909	-2.6
Merrick	7,845	7,882	649	555	94	-57	-0.7
Nance	3,735	3,607	291	323	-32	-96	-2.6
Polk	5,406	5,328	369	440	-71	-7	-0.1
Stanton	6,129	5,988	500	303	197	-338	-5.5
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>114,643</b>	<b>115,114</b>	<b>11,217</b>	<b>7,748</b>	<b>3,469</b>	<b>-2,998</b>	<b>-2.6</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,826,341</b>	<b>1,920,076</b>	<b>183,729</b>	<b>110,088</b>	<b>73,641</b>	<b>20,094</b>	<b>1.1</b>

\* Net Migration from the Bureau of the Census estimates, includes residual component not shown separately.

Sources: Population (2010) - U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 2010*;

Population (2015) - U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates 2016*.

### **Competitive Employment and Career Opportunities**

An employer providing jobs with competitive wages and benefits and offering career opportunities would be a welcome addition to the employment base in the Columbus Labor Area and in Platte County. The expected response to such employment opportunities would be significant, and it is anticipated that there would be an adequate labor supply response for a prospective new employer offering competitive wages and benefits in the Columbus area. The labor force, employment, and demographic data presented in this report illustrate quite clearly that there is a sufficiently large labor force and population base living within the Columbus Labor Area, and that significant numbers of persons living in the area are commuting to other areas for employment.

In conclusion, the data and analysis presented in this report indicate that the Columbus Labor Area and Platte County would be able to provide a significant number of dedicated and skilled workers to meet the needs of additional employers in the area. While this report has not estimated a precise number of people that might be available to a prospective new employer in the Columbus area, it is anticipated that if attractive working conditions with competitive wages and employee benefits were offered, a prospective new employer would be able to select their workforce from a substantial pool of applicants.

APPENDICES:

A: Average Hourly Wage, Selected Occupations, Columbus & Platte County, 2018.

B: Workforce and Labor Force Employment by Occupation, Selected Occupations, Columbus Zip Code Tabulation Area & Platte County, 2018.

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**Table A-1**  
**Average Hourly Wage, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings
11-1000	Top Executives	383	13.07	42.56	56.02	519	12.84	42.05	55.20
11-2000	Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	49	26.96	45.59	52.84	64	26.64	45.21	52.52
11-3000	Operations Specialties Managers	249	28.90	40.94	49.76	339	28.73	40.82	49.50
11-9000	Other Management Occupations	820	12.50	21.95	24.06	1,454	12.32	20.25	20.12
13-1000	Business Operations Specialists	416	21.18	29.19	35.04	554	21.05	29.13	34.88
13-2000	Financial Specialists	275	20.73	30.65	38.04	371	20.68	30.61	37.93
15-1100	Computer Occupations	184	21.09	30.27	38.32	228	20.90	30.07	38.10
17-2000	Engineers	297	29.75	37.94	46.14	350	29.63	37.79	45.95
17-3000	Drafters, Engineering Technicians, and Mapping Technicians	141	17.89	22.46	26.77	169	17.88	22.48	26.83
19-1000	Life Scientists	35	18.50	32.60	41.78	55	18.22	32.16	41.18
19-2000	Physical Scientists	30	23.18	33.80	43.28	38	23.06	33.60	43.27
19-3000	Social Scientists and Related Workers	19	25.50	32.79	38.31	27	24.88	32.34	38.18
19-4000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians	58	13.63	20.43	25.65	77	13.42	20.25	25.30
21-1000	Counselors, Social Workers, and Other Community and Social Service Specialists	248	15.06	20.55	24.67	334	14.74	20.25	24.39
21-2000	Religious Workers	97	16.06	21.10	26.22	136	15.90	20.85	25.90
23-1000	Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	32	28.88	40.29	43.48	51	28.41	39.06	41.81
25-1000	Postsecondary Teachers	91	18.99	29.79	36.28	102	19.32	30.43	37.09
25-2000	Preschool, Primary, Secondary, and Special Education School Teachers	723	21.15	26.25	30.25	1,092	21.12	26.29	30.38
25-3000	Other Teachers and Instructors	141	11.86	16.56	18.23	203	11.96	16.55	18.17
25-4000	Librarians, Curators, and Archivists	61	11.09	16.74	19.05	86	10.87	16.35	18.68
25-9000	Other Education, Training, and Library Occupations	308	10.34	12.49	12.81	449	10.32	12.45	12.81
27-1000	Art and Design Workers	52	11.93	16.99	21.07	73	11.65	16.64	20.66
27-2000	Entertainers and Performers, Sports and Related Workers	66	9.92	16.06	18.93	97	9.90	15.94	18.78
27-3000	Media and Communication Workers	51	12.52	18.47	23.40	71	12.32	17.97	22.47
27-4000	Media and Communication Equipment Workers	17	10.98	14.87	17.54	23	10.94	14.80	17.41

Source at end of table.

**Table A-1 Continued**  
**Average Hourly Wage, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings
29-1000	Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners	619	24.78	38.55	43.01	852	24.47	38.13	42.23
29-2000	Health Technologists and Technicians	384	15.64	21.49	25.52	531	15.82	21.16	24.71
29-9000	Other Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	28	19.11	26.98	33.53	38	19.04	26.82	33.30
31-1000	Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides	303	10.97	13.17	15.11	527	10.98	13.16	15.11
31-2000	Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides	35	12.10	18.67	24.70	50	12.49	19.18	25.31
31-9000	Other Healthcare Support Occupations	141	11.92	15.50	18.69	176	11.77	15.29	18.35
33-1000	Supervisors of Protective Service Workers	20	23.16	28.87	33.02	29	22.51	28.20	32.37
33-2000	Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers	14	20.19	23.91	27.81	20	19.51	23.17	27.17
33-3000	Law Enforcement Workers	86	16.73	22.04	26.62	127	16.29	21.45	25.93
33-9000	Other Protective Service Workers	57	11.02	14.58	17.48	75	10.89	14.39	17.18
35-1000	Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	131	11.03	15.02	17.69	167	10.97	14.93	17.59
35-2000	Cooks and Food Preparation Workers	435	9.82	11.52	12.62	586	9.78	11.51	12.73
35-3000	Food and Beverage Serving Workers	1,020	9.41	10.10	10.34	1,259	9.40	10.12	10.36
35-9000	Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers	69	9.55	10.26	10.61	87	9.55	10.29	10.65
37-1000	Supervisors of Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Workers	38	14.88	19.23	22.53	49	14.88	19.09	22.21
37-2000	Building Cleaning and Pest Control Workers	616	9.55	11.95	13.63	778	9.54	11.92	13.62
37-3000	Grounds Maintenance Workers	131	11.72	13.81	15.25	186	11.56	13.65	15.04
39-1000	Supervisors of Personal Care and Service Workers	23	11.66	17.86	22.37	30	11.36	17.53	21.90
39-2000	Animal Care and Service Workers	45	10.72	12.54	13.85	69	10.65	12.46	13.71
39-3000	Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers	45	9.19	10.26	10.39	54	9.18	10.24	10.37
39-4000	Funeral Service Workers	25	13.42	19.26	24.33	36	13.42	19.25	24.32
39-5000	Personal Appearance Workers	129	9.82	11.52	11.28	155	9.90	11.41	11.23
39-9000	Other Personal Care and Service Workers	522	9.13	10.65	11.23	713	9.00	10.52	11.24
41-1000	Supervisors of Sales Workers	261	13.56	19.72	20.81	350	13.51	19.87	21.14
41-2000	Retail Sales Workers	1,254	9.28	11.41	11.78	1,571	9.30	11.45	11.83

Source at end of table.

**Table A-1 Continued**  
**Average Hourly Wage, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings
41-3000	Sales Representatives, Services	144	14.15	26.15	29.03	209	14.09	25.90	28.65
41-4000	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	264	17.32	28.38	33.12	397	17.10	27.78	32.44
41-9000	Other Sales and Related Workers	81	12.58	21.05	24.78	106	12.30	20.36	24.23
43-1000	Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	148	16.58	22.12	26.22	199	16.37	21.91	26.01
43-2000	Communications Equipment Operators	15	9.66	11.58	13.39	21	9.59	11.49	13.25
43-3000	Financial Clerks	582	11.86	15.16	17.63	807	11.71	15.02	17.48
43-4000	Information and Record Clerks	543	11.11	14.86	17.51	721	11.15	14.87	17.47
43-5000	Material Recording, Scheduling, Dispatching, and Distributing Workers	662	10.45	15.28	18.37	880	10.57	15.48	18.55
43-6000	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	572	12.77	15.82	18.06	770	12.57	15.62	17.86
43-9000	Other Office and Administrative Support Workers	568	10.11	13.72	15.76	761	10.04	13.61	15.65
45-1000	Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	18	18.89	23.74	28.69	32	18.98	23.88	28.85
45-2000	Agricultural Workers	537	11.10	14.34	16.65	996	11.11	14.33	16.60
47-1000	Supervisors of Construction and Extraction Workers	126	20.70	25.87	30.65	178	19.82	25.02	29.66
47-2000	Construction Trades Workers	957	13.81	17.13	19.74	1,347	13.70	16.92	19.40
47-3000	Helpers, Construction Trades	14	11.45	13.44	15.16	19	11.35	13.32	15.05
47-4000	Other Construction and Related Workers	157	16.08	19.12	21.26	228	15.52	18.54	20.70
49-1000	Supervisors of Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers	89	24.42	31.60	37.76	125	23.96	31.11	37.18
49-2000	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	115	19.82	24.24	28.32	141	19.66	23.98	27.92
49-3000	Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	384	14.09	19.84	24.77	588	14.02	19.47	24.12
49-9000	Other Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	586	15.35	19.88	23.87	813	15.18	19.62	23.55
51-1000	Supervisors of Production Workers	275	21.76	27.87	32.29	360	21.78	27.95	32.42
51-2000	Assemblers and Fabricators	597	12.68	15.56	17.98	799	12.92	15.87	18.43
51-3000	Food Processing Workers	1,480	12.22	14.78	17.15	2,169	11.43	14.05	16.33
51-4000	Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	850	14.39	17.34	20.14	1,152	14.59	17.56	20.39
51-5100	Printing Workers	18	11.59	14.90	17.94	21	11.65	14.97	18.01

Source at end of table.

**Table A-1 Continued**  
**Average Hourly Wage, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Pct. 25 Hourly Earnings	Avg. Hourly Earnings	Pct. 75 Hourly Earnings
51-6000	Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers	44	9.46	12.12	14.07	57	9.42	11.88	13.61
51-7000	Woodworkers	14	11.02	13.48	15.57	31	11.61	13.89	15.78
51-8000	Plant and System Operators	93	17.33	22.53	26.21	115	16.86	21.96	25.80
51-9000	Other Production Occupations	1,419	13.14	17.04	20.60	1,855	12.96	16.84	20.38
53-1000	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers	76	18.55	25.11	31.24	115	18.42	24.89	30.97
53-2000	Air Transportation Workers	10	29.64	36.85	44.08	14	29.40	38.08	47.16
53-3000	Motor Vehicle Operators	746	13.38	18.38	22.65	1,191	13.69	18.59	22.75
53-4000	Rail Transportation Workers	42	24.63	27.61	30.79	54	24.60	27.57	30.73
53-6000	Other Transportation Workers	20	12.56	23.76	31.96	32	12.98	23.13	30.70
53-7000	Material Moving Workers	943	11.33	14.40	16.78	1,384	11.40	14.40	16.75
55-9000	Military occupations	184	18.19	21.31	23.76	339	18.23	21.34	23.80

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) / [www.economicmodeling.com](http://www.economicmodeling.com). 2018.2 – QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed.



**Table B-1**  
**Workforce and Labor Force Employment by Occupation, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters	Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters
11-1000	Top Executives	42.56	383	356	27	42.05	519	544	-25
11-2000	Advertising, Marketing, Promotions, Public Relations, and Sales Managers	45.59	49	50	-1	45.21	64	69	-5
11-3000	Operations Specialties Managers	40.94	249	228	21	40.82	339	334	5
11-9000	Other Management Occupations	21.95	820	804	16	20.25	1,454	1,460	-6
13-1000	Business Operations Specialists	29.19	416	419	-3	29.13	554	621	-67
13-2000	Financial Specialists	30.65	275	248	27	30.61	371	373	-2
15-1100	Computer Occupations	30.27	184	213	-29	30.07	228	300	-72
17-2000	Engineers	37.94	297	249	48	37.79	350	313	37
17-3000	Drafters, Engineering Technicians, and Mapping Technicians	22.46	141	118	23	22.48	169	134	35
19-1000	Life Scientists	32.60	35	37	-2	32.16	55	53	2
19-2000	Physical Scientists	33.80	30	25	5	33.60	38	30	8
19-3000	Social Scientists and Related Workers	32.79	19	18	1	32.34	27	20	7
19-4000	Life, Physical, and Social Science Technicians	20.43	58	51	7	20.25	77	60	17
21-1000	Counselors, Social Workers, and Other Community and Social Service Specialists	20.55	248	248	0	20.25	334	375	-41
21-2000	Religious Workers	21.10	97	85	12	20.85	136	146	-10
23-1000	Lawyers, Judges, and Related Workers	40.29	32	35	-3	39.06	51	61	-10
25-1000	Postsecondary Teachers	29.79	91	110	-19	30.43	102	161	-59
25-2000	Preschool, Primary, Secondary, and Special Education School Teachers	26.25	723	689	34	26.29	1,092	1,139	-47
25-3000	Other Teachers and Instructors	16.56	141	132	9	16.55	203	202	1
25-4000	Librarians, Curators, and Archivists	16.74	61	55	6	16.35	86	83	3
25-9000	Other Education, Training, and Library Occupations	12.49	308	303	5	12.45	449	483	-34
27-1000	Art and Design Workers	16.99	52	50	2	16.64	73	70	3
27-2000	Entertainers and Performers, Sports and Related Workers	16.06	66	58	8	15.94	97	90	7
27-3000	Media and Communication Workers	18.47	51	48	3	17.97	71	64	7
27-4000	Media and Communication Equipment Workers	14.87	17	14	3	14.80	23	17	6

Source at end of table.

**Table B-1 Continued**  
**Workforce and Labor Force Employment by Occupation, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters	Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters
29-1000	Health Diagnosing and Treating Practitioners	38.55	619	632	-13	38.13	852	985	-133
29-2000	Health Technologists and Technicians	21.49	384	386	-2	21.16	531	587	-56
29-9000	Other Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	26.98	28	25	3	26.82	38	30	8
31-1000	Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides	13.17	303	350	-47	13.16	527	619	-92
31-2000	Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides	18.67	35	31	4	19.18	50	44	6
31-9000	Other Healthcare Support Occupations	15.50	141	137	4	15.29	176	191	-15
33-1000	Supervisors of Protective Service Workers	28.87	20	17	3	28.20	29	25	4
33-2000	Fire Fighting and Prevention Workers	23.91	14	13	1	23.17	20	23	-3
33-3000	Law Enforcement Workers	22.04	86	89	-3	21.45	127	155	-28
33-9000	Other Protective Service Workers	14.58	57	69	-12	14.39	75	97	-22
35-1000	Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	15.02	131	133	-2	14.93	167	193	-26
35-2000	Cooks and Food Preparation Workers	11.52	435	442	-7	11.51	586	663	-77
35-3000	Food and Beverage Serving Workers	10.10	1,020	1,000	20	10.12	1,259	1,435	-176
35-9000	Other Food Preparation and Serving Related Workers	10.26	69	82	-13	10.29	87	115	-28
37-1000	Supervisors of Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Workers	19.23	38	37	1	19.09	49	50	-1
37-2000	Building Cleaning and Pest Control Workers	11.95	616	582	34	11.92	778	847	-69
37-3000	Grounds Maintenance Workers	13.81	131	139	-8	13.65	186	210	-24
39-1000	Supervisors of Personal Care and Service Workers	17.86	23	25	-2	17.53	30	33	-3
39-2000	Animal Care and Service Workers	12.54	45	45	0	12.46	69	72	-3
39-3000	Entertainment Attendants and Related Workers	10.26	45	39	6	10.24	54	43	11
39-4000	Funeral Service Workers	19.26	25	18	7	19.25	36	26	10
39-5000	Personal Appearance Workers	11.52	129	127	2	11.41	155	169	-14
39-9000	Other Personal Care and Service Workers	10.65	522	547	-25	10.52	713	824	-111
41-1000	Supervisors of Sales Workers	19.72	261	243	18	19.87	350	379	-29
41-2000	Retail Sales Workers	11.41	1,254	1,195	59	11.45	1,571	1,801	-230

Source at end of table.

**Table B-1 Continued**  
**Workforce and Labor Force Employment by Occupation, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters	Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters
41-3000	Sales Representatives, Services	26.15	144	145	-1	25.90	209	235	-26
41-4000	Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing	28.38	264	271	-7	27.78	397	465	-68
41-9000	Other Sales and Related Workers	21.05	81	94	-13	20.36	106	120	-14
43-1000	Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	22.12	148	148	0	21.91	199	234	-35
43-2000	Communications Equipment Operators	11.58	15	14	1	11.49	21	21	0
43-3000	Financial Clerks	15.16	582	511	71	15.02	807	806	1
43-4000	Information and Record Clerks	14.86	543	577	-34	14.87	721	873	-152
43-5000	Material Recording, Scheduling, Dispatching, and Distributing Workers	15.28	662	627	35	15.48	880	940	-60
43-6000	Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	15.82	572	539	33	15.62	770	845	-75
43-9000	Other Office and Administrative Support Workers	13.72	568	523	45	13.61	761	801	-40
45-1000	Supervisors of Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Workers	23.74	18	18	0	23.88	32	32	0
45-2000	Agricultural Workers	14.34	537	511	26	14.33	996	1,003	-7
47-1000	Supervisors of Construction and Extraction Workers	25.87	126	95	31	25.02	178	153	25
47-2000	Construction Trades Workers	17.13	957	729	228	16.92	1,347	1,166	181
47-4000	Other Construction and Related Workers	19.12	157	135	22	18.54	228	206	22
49-1000	Supervisors of Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Workers	31.60	89	82	7	31.11	125	126	-1
49-2000	Electrical and Electronic Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	24.24	115	89	26	23.98	141	105	36
49-3000	Vehicle and Mobile Equipment Mechanics, Installers, and Repairers	19.84	384	351	33	19.47	588	585	3
49-9000	Other Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	19.88	586	530	56	19.62	813	765	48
51-1000	Supervisors of Production Workers	27.87	275	248	27	27.95	360	328	32
51-2000	Assemblers and Fabricators	15.56	597	556	41	15.87	799	737	62
51-3000	Food Processing Workers	14.78	1,480	1,257	223	14.05	2,169	1,582	587
51-4000	Metal Workers and Plastic Workers	17.34	850	775	75	17.56	1,152	1,013	139
51-5100	Printing Workers	14.90	18	21	-3	14.97	21	27	-6
51-6000	Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers	12.12	44	43	1	11.88	57	61	-4

Source at end of table.

**Table B-1 Continued**  
**Workforce and Labor Force Employment by Occupation, Selected Occupations,**  
**Within Twenty and Forty-Minutes of Columbus, Nebraska 2018**

SOC	Description	20 Minutes				40 Minutes			
		Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters	Avg. Hourly Earnings	2017 Jobs	Res. Employed in Occ.	Net Out-Commuters
51-7000	Woodworkers	13.48	14	19	-5	13.89	31	31	0
51-8000	Plant and System Operators	22.53	93	82	11	21.96	115	103	12
51-9000	Other Production Occupations	17.04	1,419	1,256	163	16.84	1,855	1,603	252
53-1000	Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers	25.11	76	75	1	24.89	115	122	-7
53-3000	Motor Vehicle Operators	18.38	746	779	-33	18.59	1,191	1,332	-141
53-4000	Rail Transportation Workers	27.61	42	52	-10	27.57	54	85	-31
53-6000	Other Transportation Workers	23.76	20	19	1	23.13	32	23	9
53-7000	Material Moving Workers	14.40	943	907	36	14.40	1,384	1,358	26
55-9000	Military occupations	21.31	184	124	60	21.34	339	310	29

Source: Economic Modeling Specialists International (EMSI) / [www.economicmodeling.com](http://www.economicmodeling.com). 2018.2 – QCEW Employees, Non-QCEW Employees, and Self-Employed.