

2024

Nebraska Department of Economic Development – 6 Regions One Nebraska - Regional Development Initiative – Southeast Region

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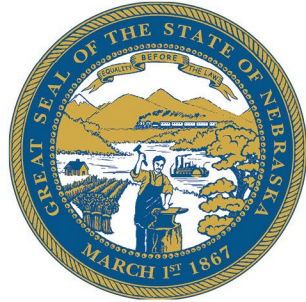
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6 REGIONS 
One Nebraska

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SOURCES

Administration for Children & Families. Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center. Head Start Center Locator. Multiple Years.

Nebraska Department of Education. County Membership by Grade. 2023-2024

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. Public Data Request & Licensing Roster. Multiple Years.

Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System. Analysis of data from NSWERS Data System. 2014-2023.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics. 2023.

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. Multiple Years.

UNL Bureau of Business Research. Monthly Survey of Nebraska Business. Jan. - Dec. 2023.

U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey. 5-Year Estimates. Multiple Years.

U.S. Census Bureau. Population Estimates. Multiple Years.

DEMOGRAPHICS



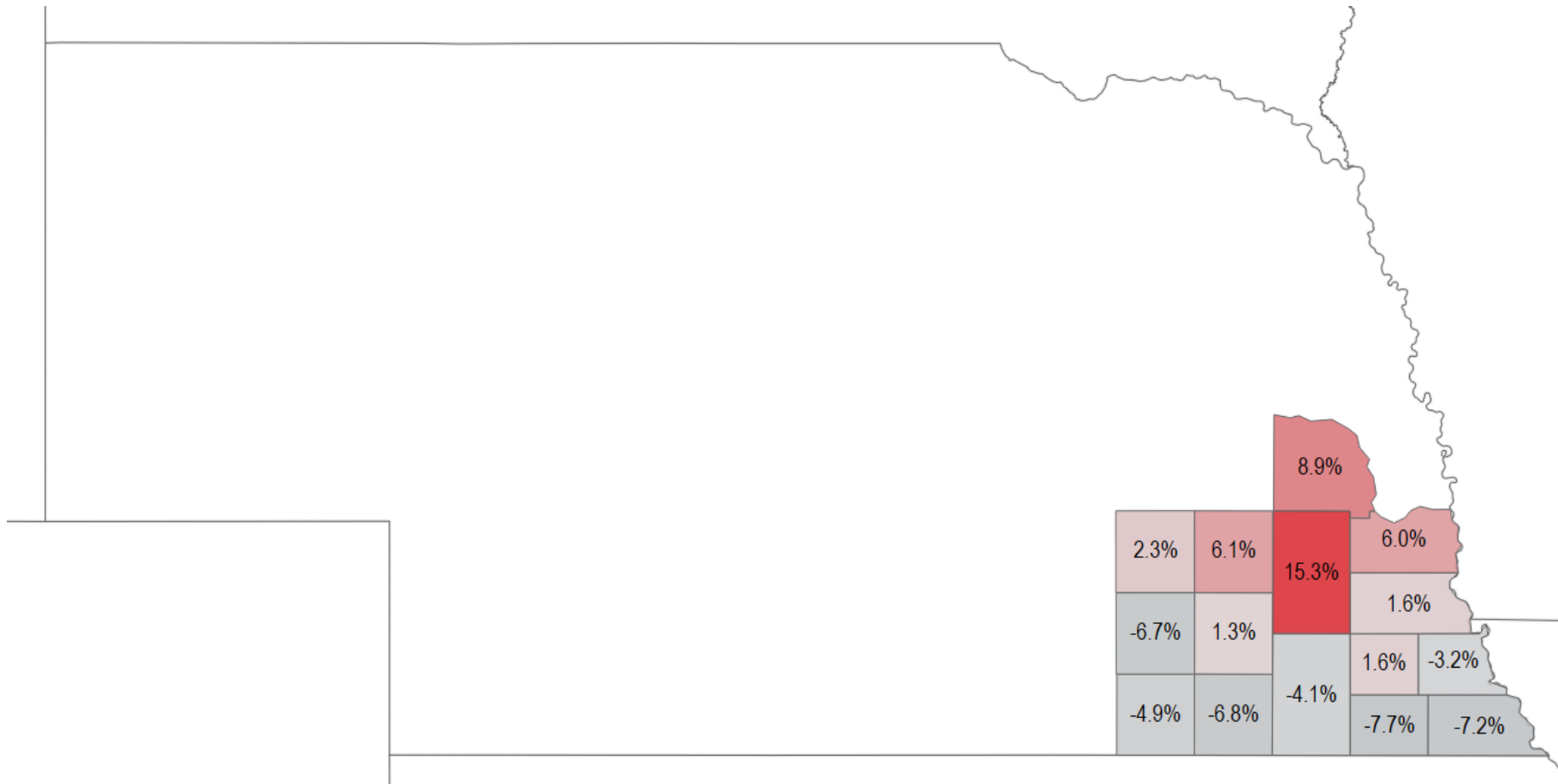
TOTAL POPULATION, 2022

The total population of the region is 495,430. The largest county is Lancaster, followed by Cass, Saunders, and Gage.

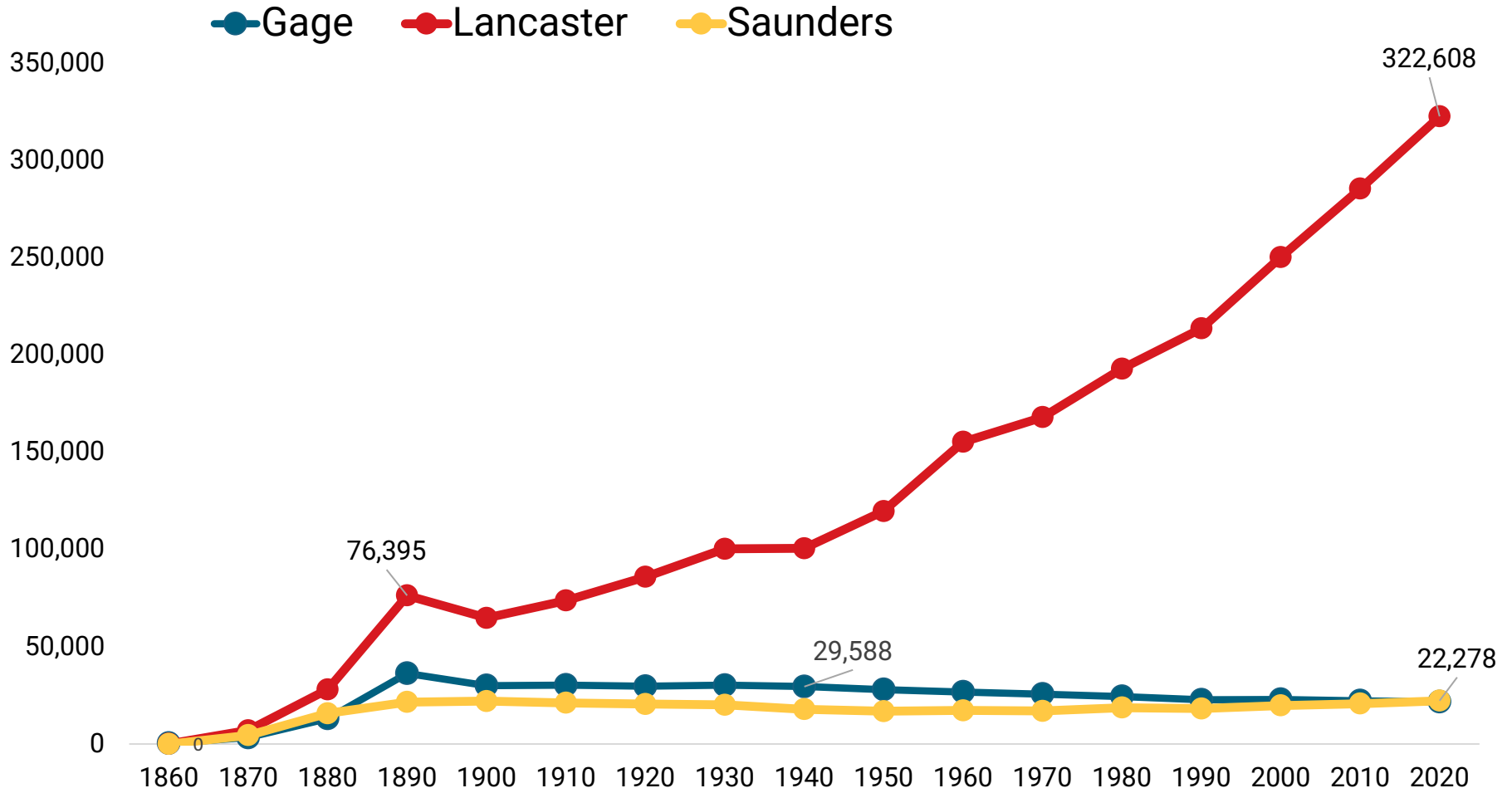


POPULATION CHANGE 2010 TO 2022

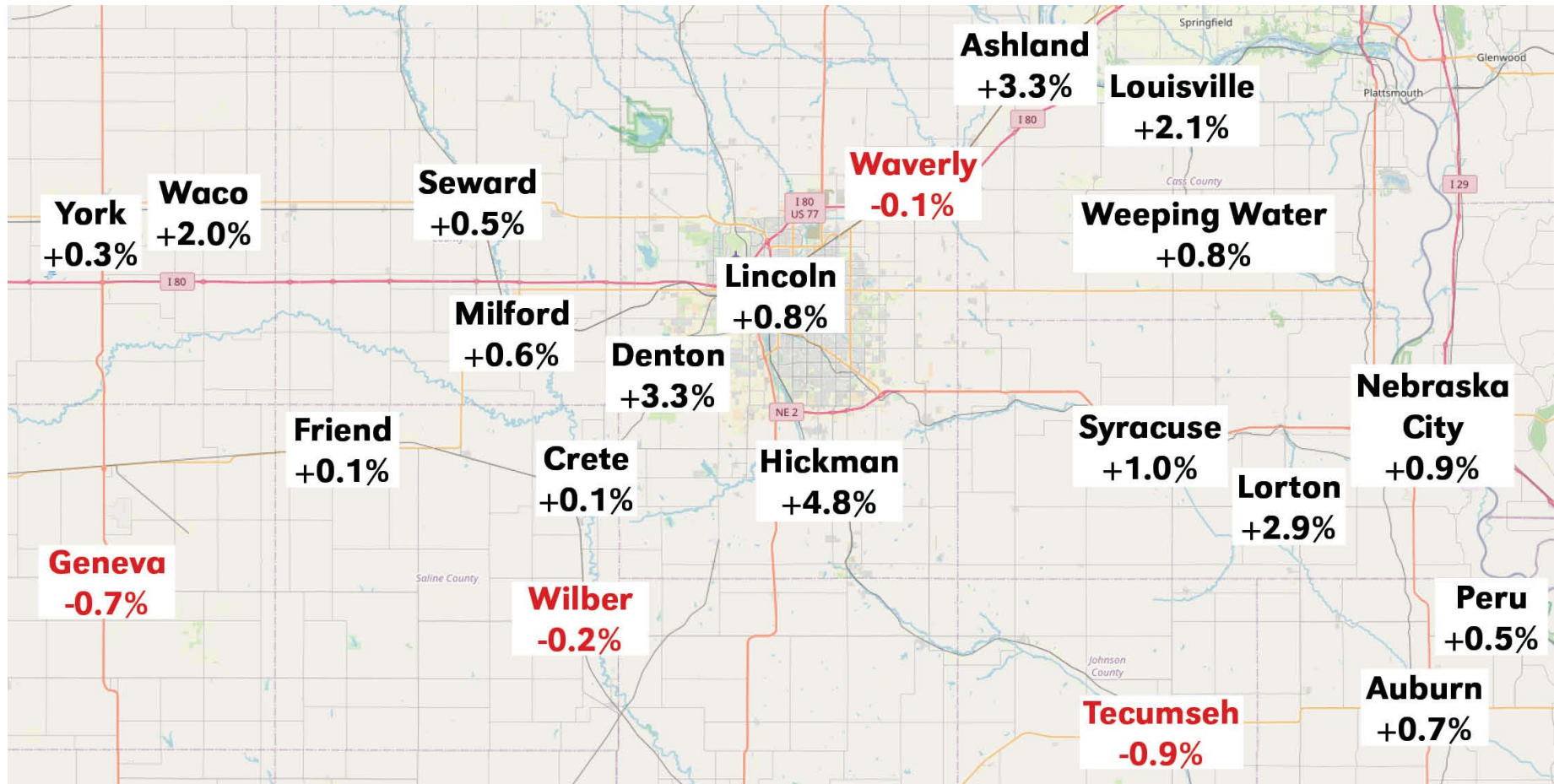
The southern counties in the region have experienced population loss, while the northern counties have gained population.



POPULATION CHANGE IN CONTEXT



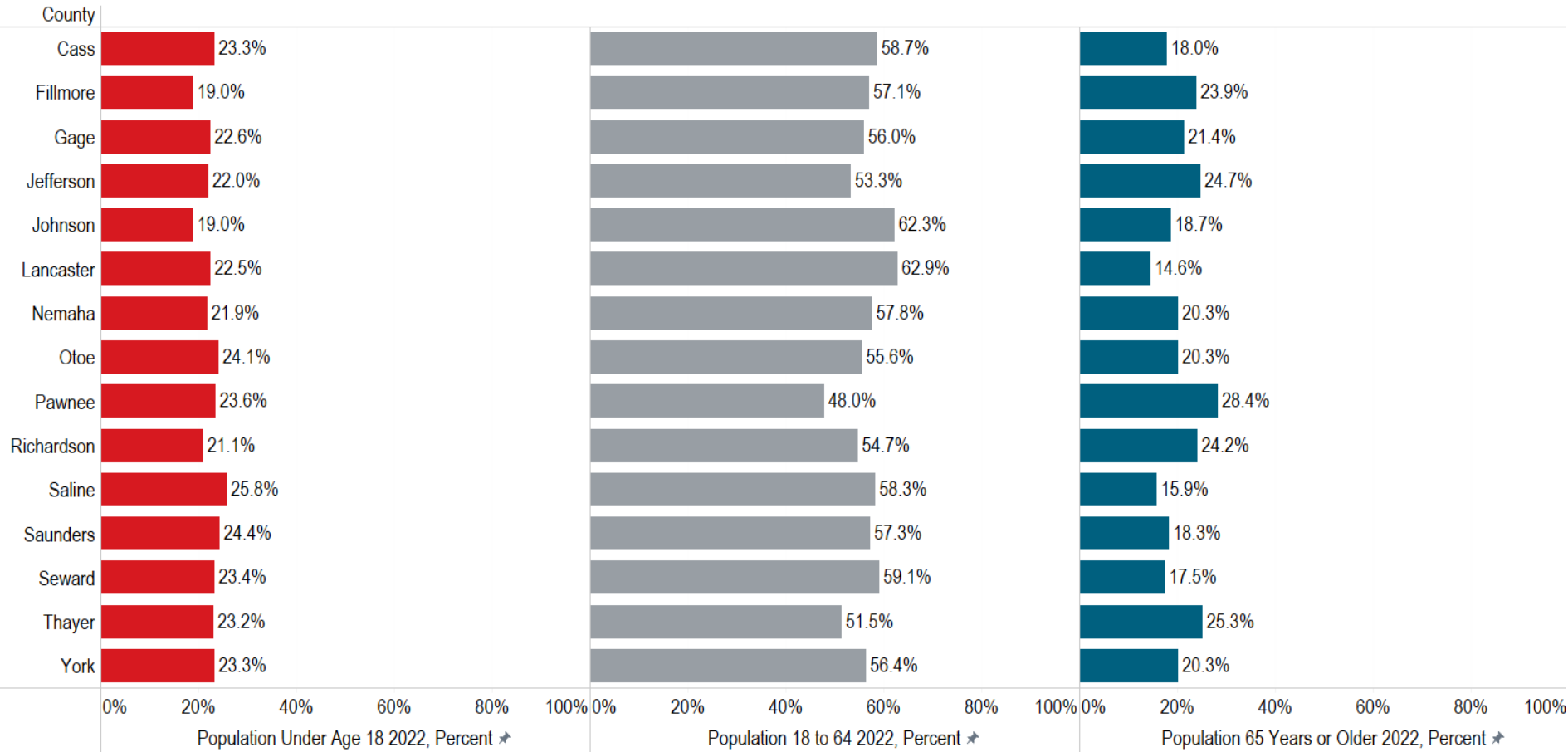
POPULATION CHANGE BY PLACE 2022 TO 2023



UNO CPAR analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau 2023 Population Estimates.
Map obtained from OpenStreetMap.

POPULATION BY AGE, 2022

Across all counties, the largest age group, as a percentage of the population, is 18 to 64.



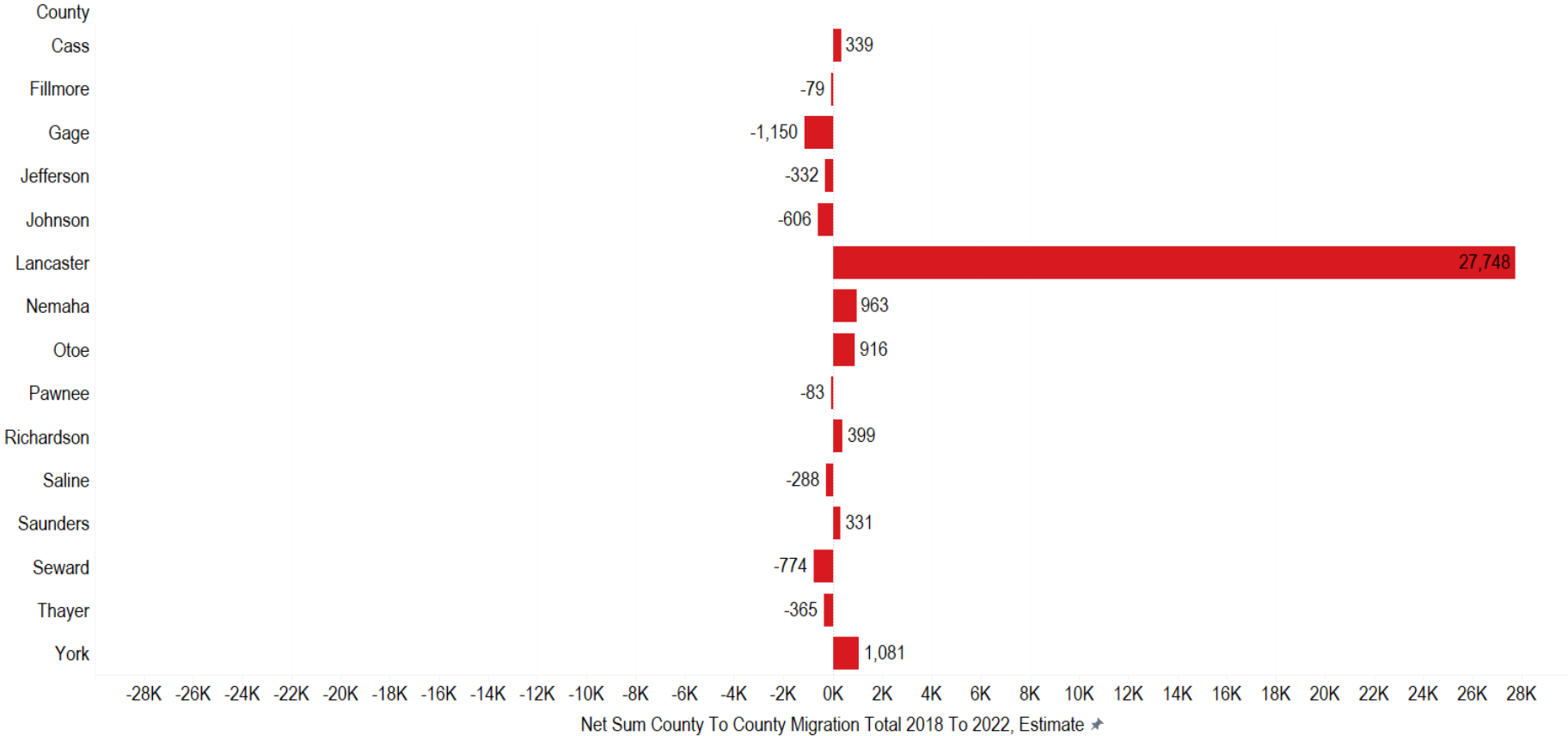
POPULATION BY AGE BY REGION, 2022

While all regions of Nebraska are aging, the Southeast Region is aging at a comparatively slower pace.

Region	Average of Population Under Age 18	Average of Population 18 to 64	Average of Population 65 Years or Over	Average Percent Change in Age 65 and Over 2012 to 2022
Central	23.5%	54.8%	21.7%	9.5%
Metropolitan	25.2%	59.0%	15.9%	38.6%
Mid-Plains	22.6%	52.9%	24.6%	16.7%
Northeast	24.1%	53.6%	22.3%	10.6%
Southeast	22.6%	56.6%	20.8%	13.0%
Western	21.7%	54.9%	23.4%	14.5%

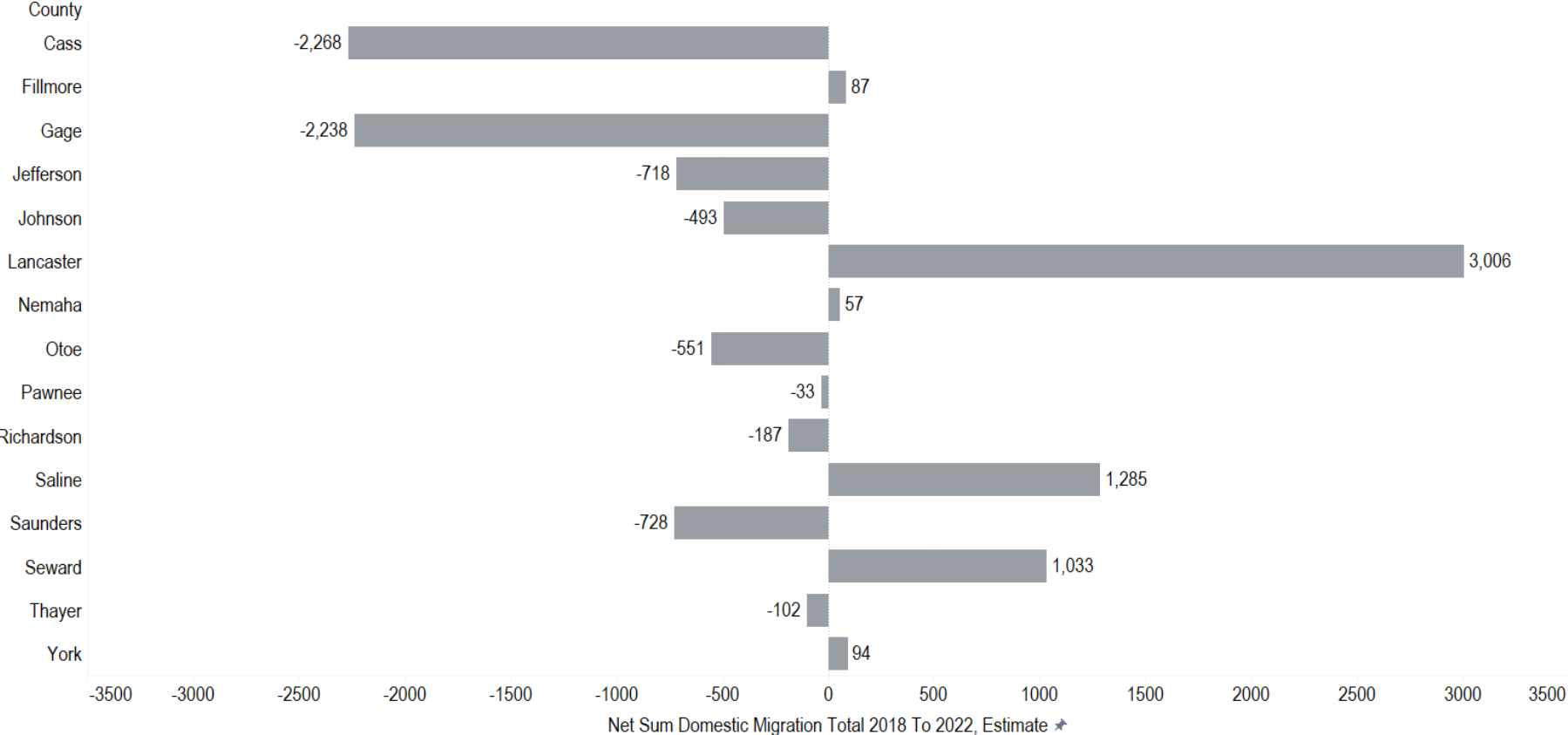
NET COUNTY-TO-COUNTY MIGRATION, 2018 TO 2022

As a general trend, Nebraskans are leaving non-metro counties and moving to metro counties.



NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION, 2018 TO 2022

Once in metro counties, Nebraskans are more likely to move to other states. This trend is less notable in the Southeast Region, where many people are both leaving for and coming from other states.

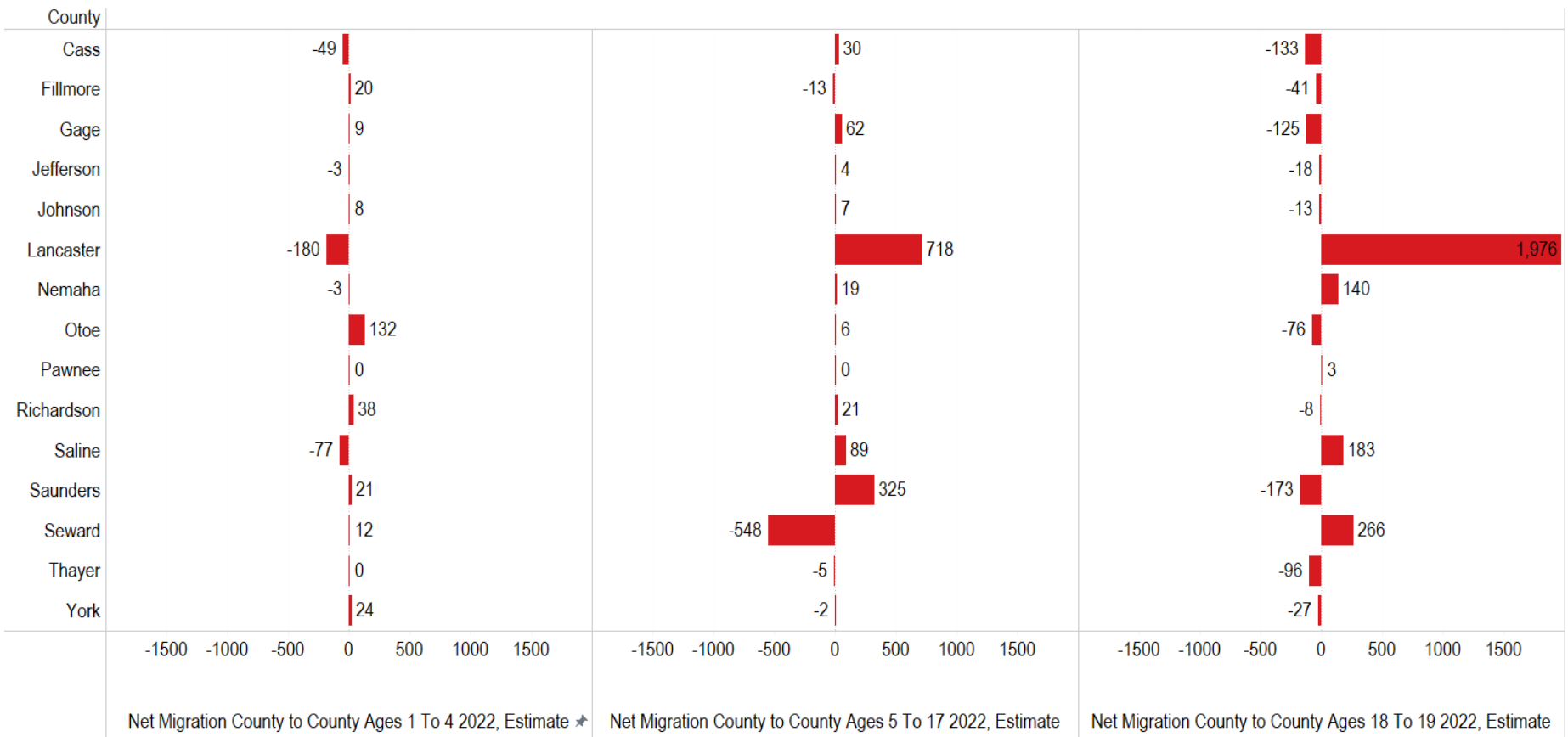


NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY REGION, 2018 TO 2022

Region	Net Domestic Migration
Central	-1,329
Metropolitan	-12,244
Mid-Plains	-603
Northeast	781
Southeast	-1,756
Western	-259

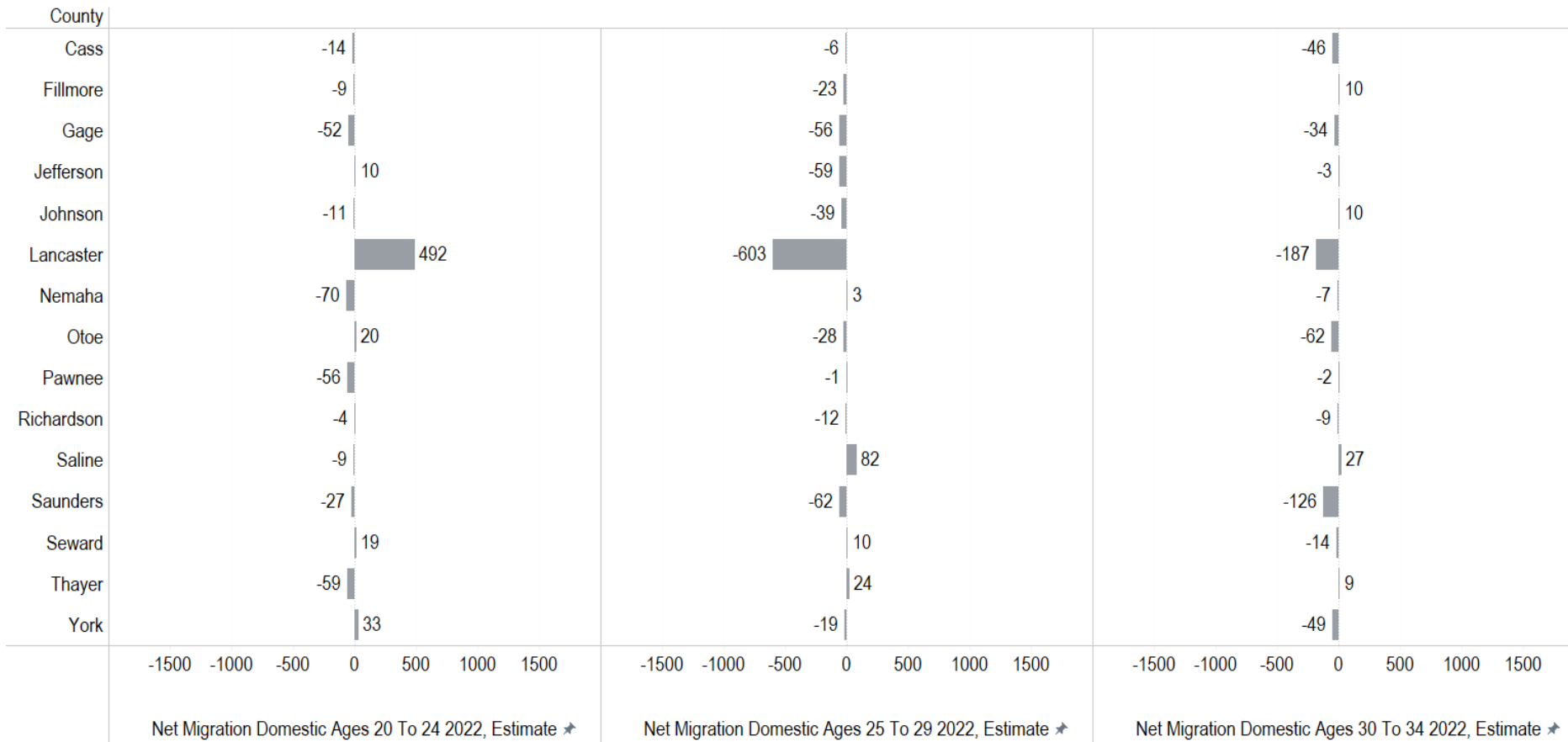
NET COUNTY-TO-COUNTY BY AGE, 2022

Lancaster gains a significant population among 18 to 19-year-olds and 20 to 24-year-olds (not pictured). All other county-to-county movements in the region, across all age groups, are minor, which contrasts with other regions.



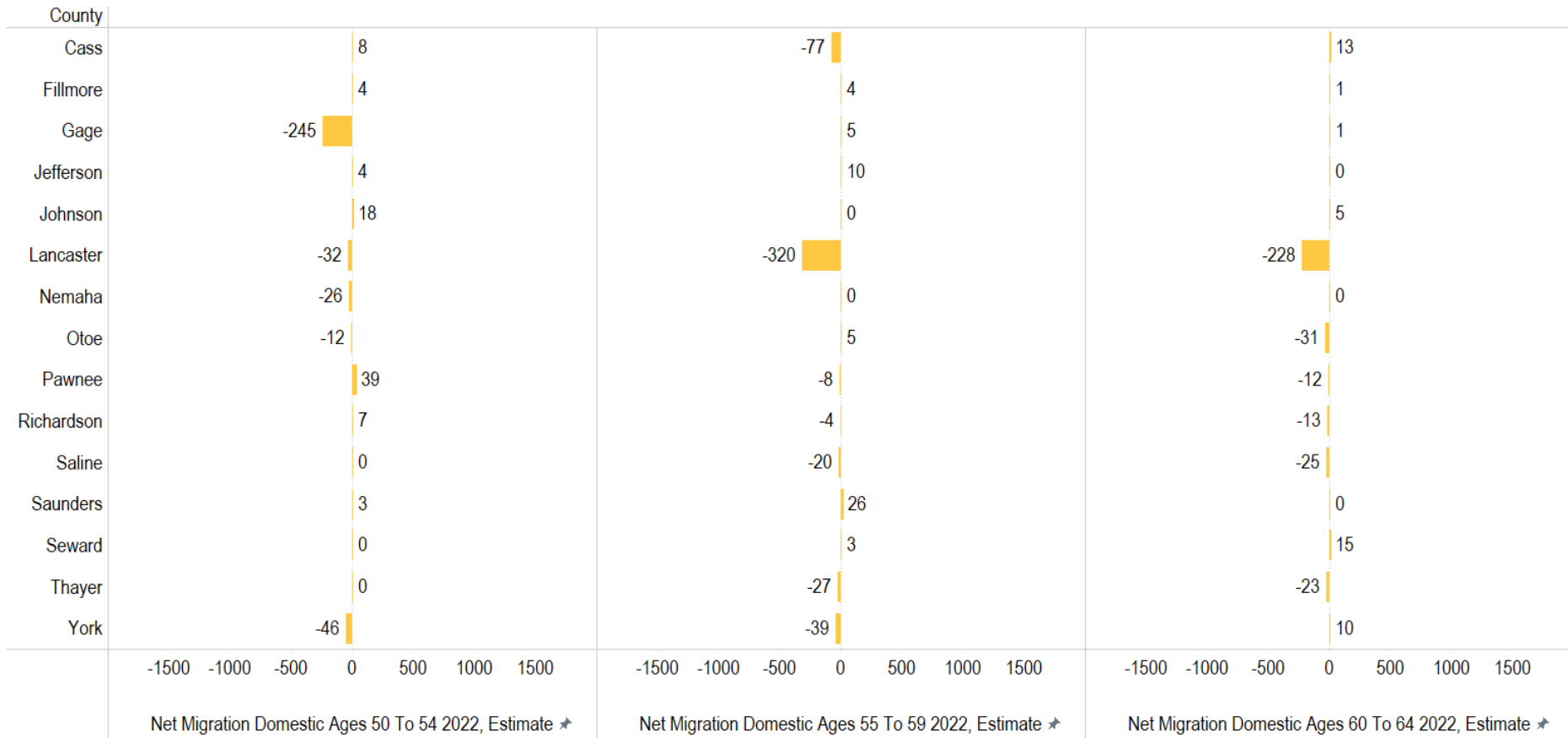
NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY AGE, 2022

The contrast between positive net domestic migration for 20 to 24-year-olds and net negative domestic migration for 25 to 29-year-olds in Lancaster County suggests that the region is seen as lacking workforce opportunities for college graduates.



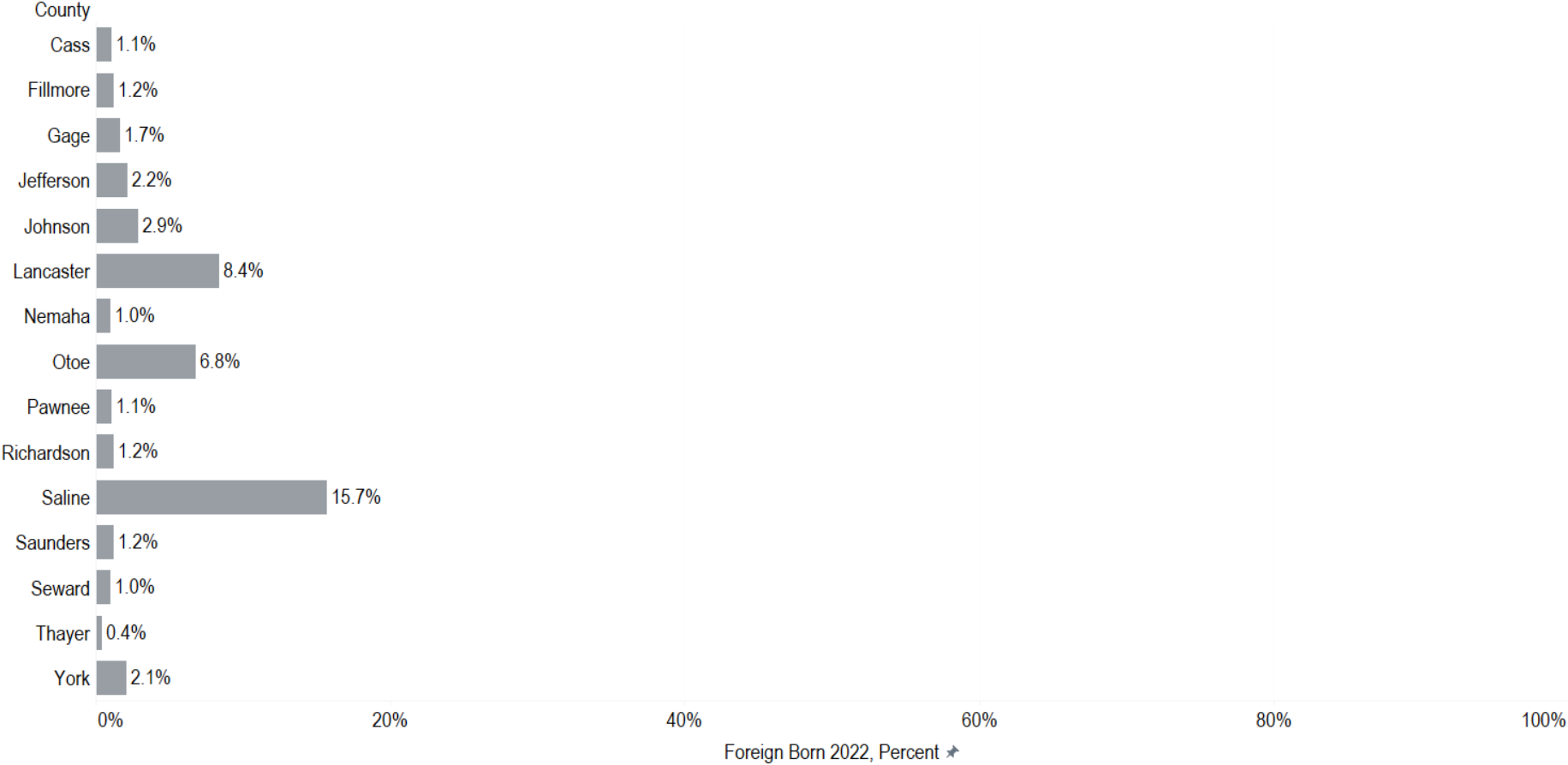
NET DOMESTIC MIGRATION BY AGE, 2022

Domestic migration usually lessens with age, especially in rural counties. However, in the Southeast Region migration continues after age 50, indicating the area's potential to attract retirees.



PERCENT FOREIGN BORN, 2022

The Southeast Region, like much of the state, is not particularly diverse, but several counties have a high percentage of the population that is foreign-born.

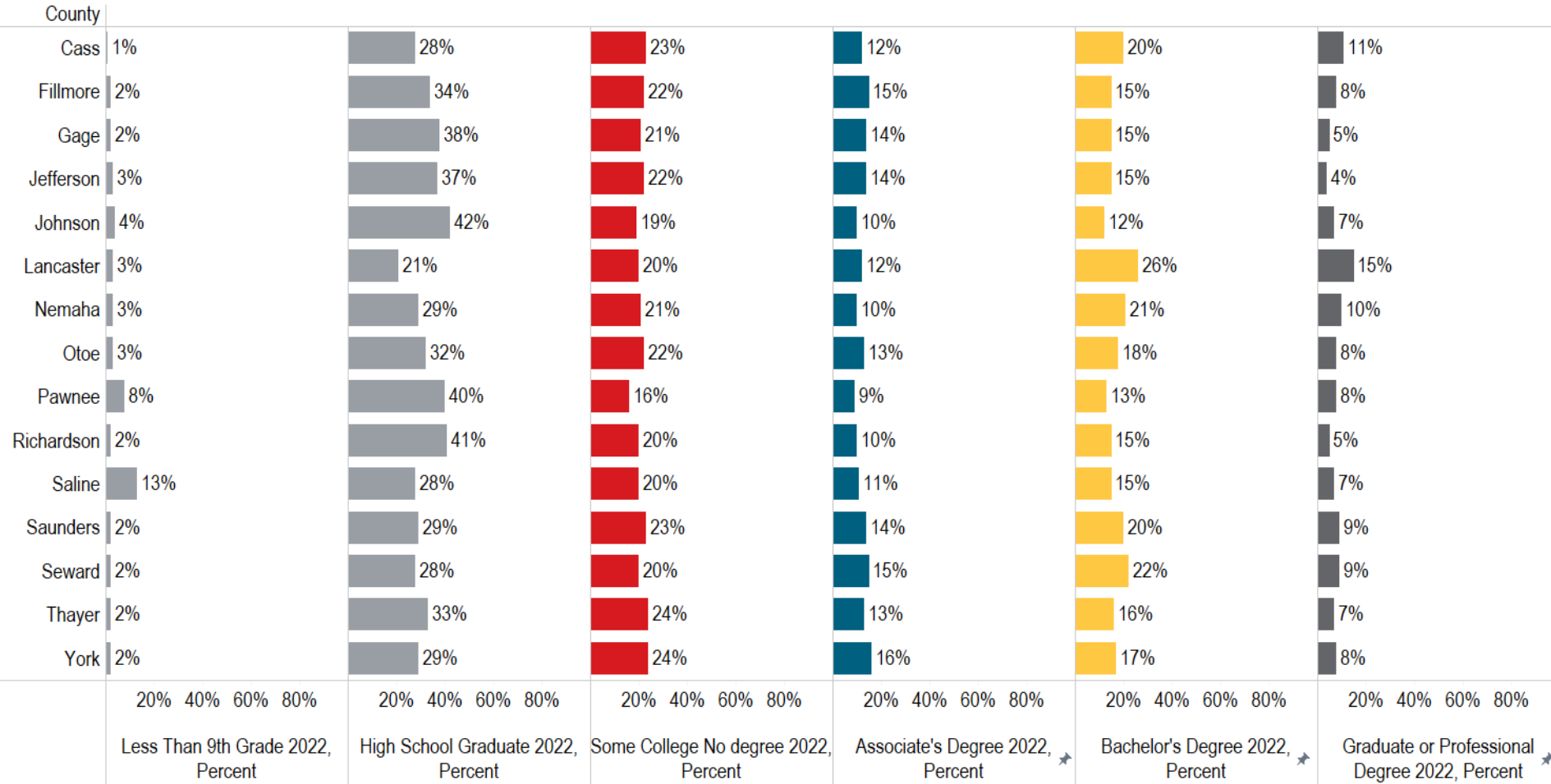


EDUCATION



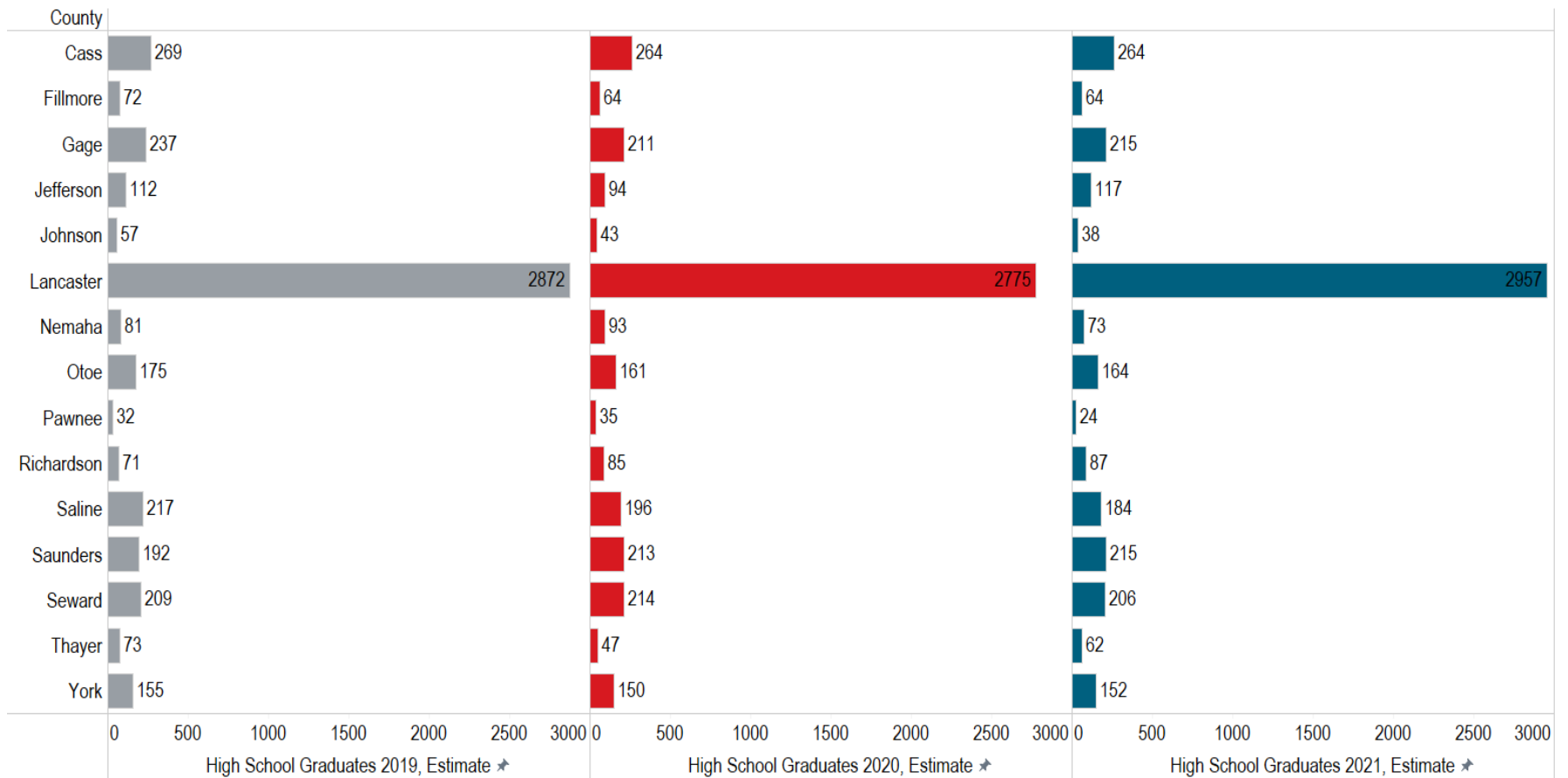
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, 2022

Lancaster County has the highest percentage of bachelor's degrees among those aged 25 and older. In contrast, most people in other counties have completed high school and some college without earning a degree, although many counties exceed the state average for associate degrees.

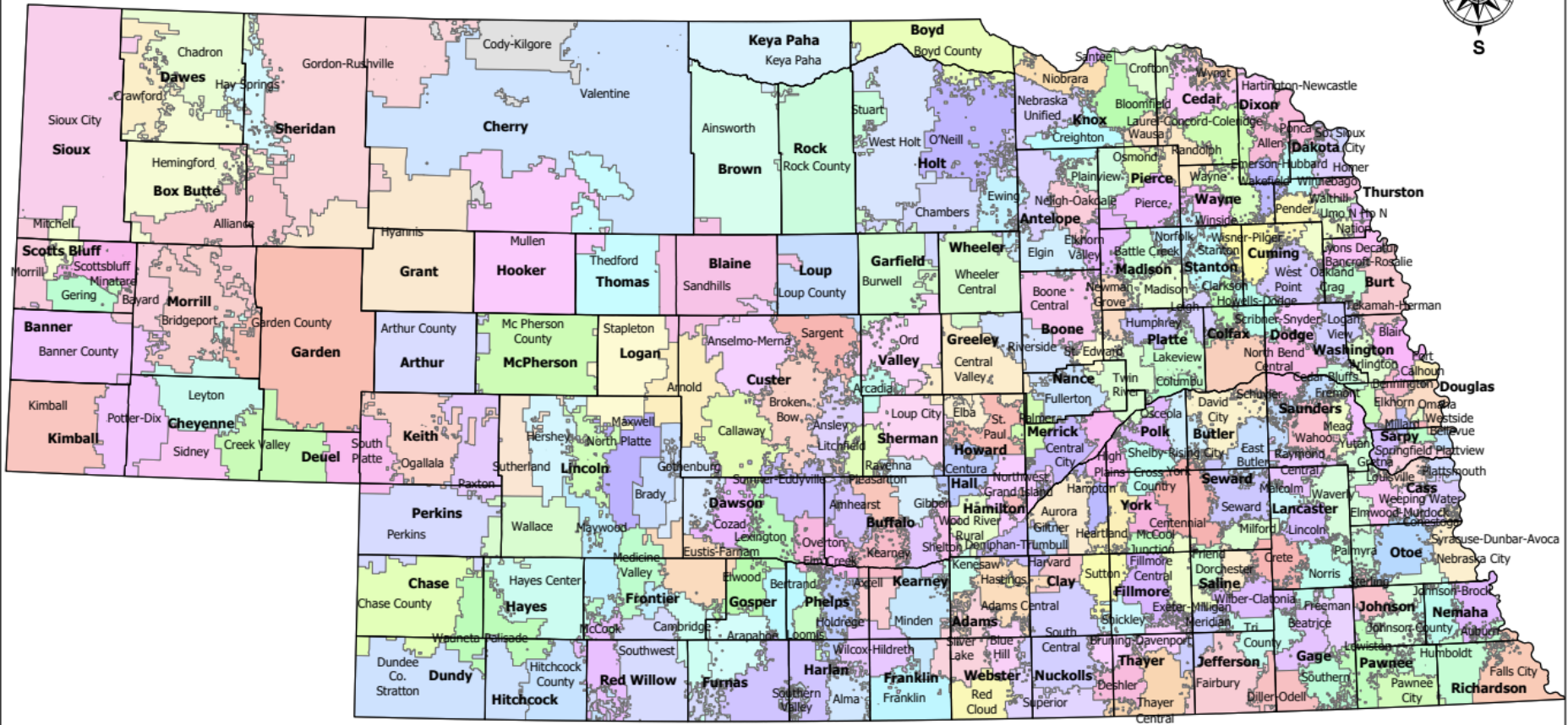


NUMBER OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, 2019, 2020, 2021

The number of high school graduates is consistent in recent years. In 2021, 4,822 students graduated.



Nebraska School Districts Boundaries with Counties



Map by Tim Erickson
 9/19/2019
 Sources: ESRI, OCIO,
 Neb. Dept. of Education
 US Census Bureau

COLLEGE GOING RATES, 2019, 2020, 2021

College-going rates are fairly high in most counties in the Southeast Region and are average compared to other regions.

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	76.5%	72.6%	73.6%
Metropolitan	71.1%	68.5%	69.3%
Mid-Plains	76.4%	74.8%	77.8%
Northeast	75.4%	75.0%	73.2%
Southeast	71.7%	68.9%	72.1%
Western	69.7%	65.7%	64.5%

STUDENTS MATRICULATING IN REGION

There are 16 post-secondary institutions in the NSWERS data for the Southeast Region. The largest institutions in the region are shown here.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Bryan College of Health Sciences	173	169	158	149	161	173	983
Concordia University-Nebraska	724	799	691	567	1,272	651	4,704
Doane University	228	259	854	804	689	641	3,475
Nebraska Wesleyan University	540	518	566	448	497	510	3,079
Peru State College	507	419	445	420	372	374	2,537
Southeast Community College Area	1,600	1,521	1,571	1,110	1,427	1,477	8,706
Union College	213	213	207	247	233	242	1,355
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	5,641	5,807	6,266	6,153	6,179	6,113	36,159
Total	9,980	10,072	11,080	10,240	11,154	10,674	63,200

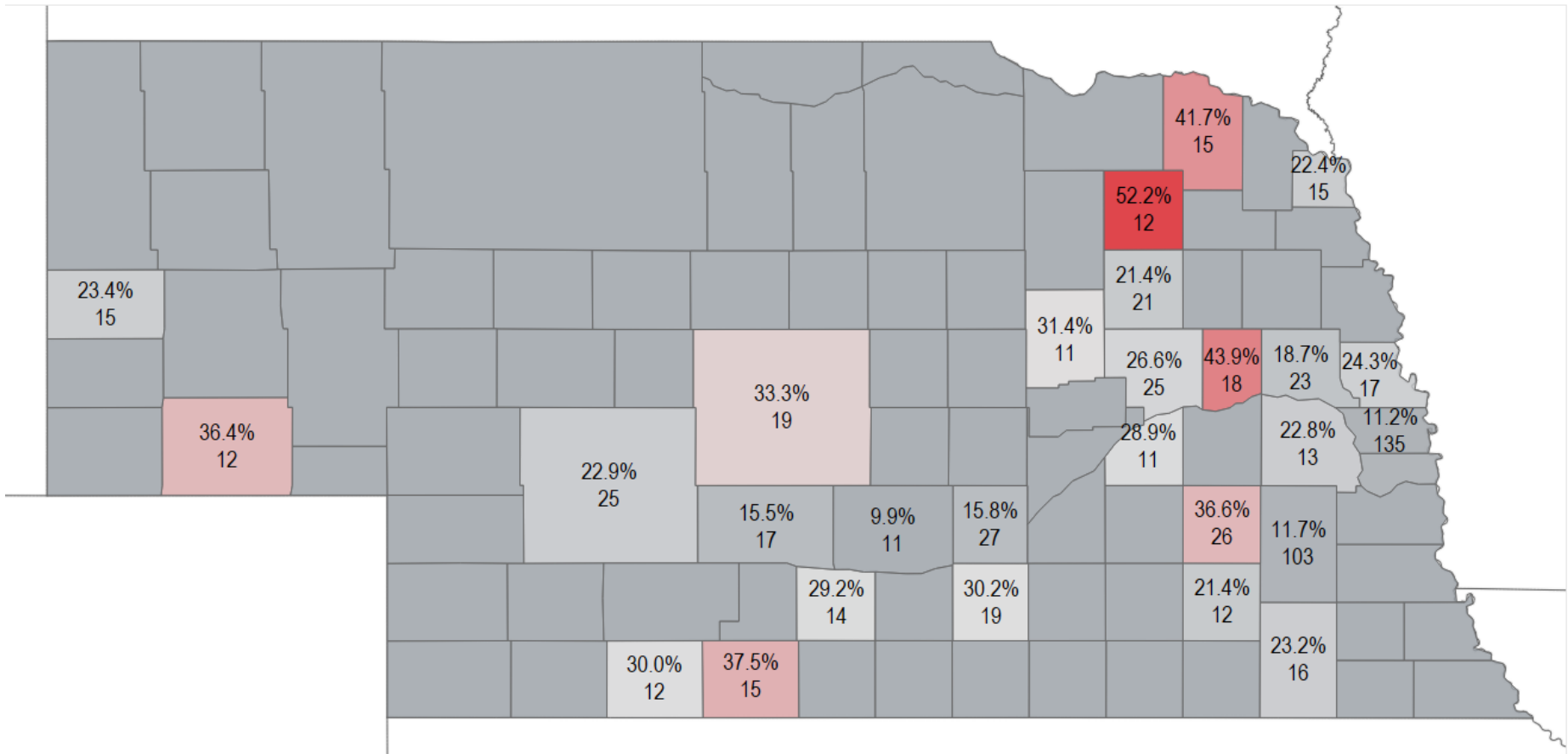
POST-SECONDARY PERSISTENCE RATES BY REGION, 2019, 2020, 2021

While postsecondary persistence rates are high throughout the state, those in the Southeast Region are generally a bit lower than in other regions.

Region	2019	2020	2021
Central	87.8%	87.4%	87.3%
Metropolitan	83.5%	84.1%	81.2%
Mid-Plains	84.4%	80.9%	79.7%
Northeast	78.7%	83.3%	86.3%
Southeast	81.7%	84.7%	79.8%
Western	84.6%	88.5%	84.6%

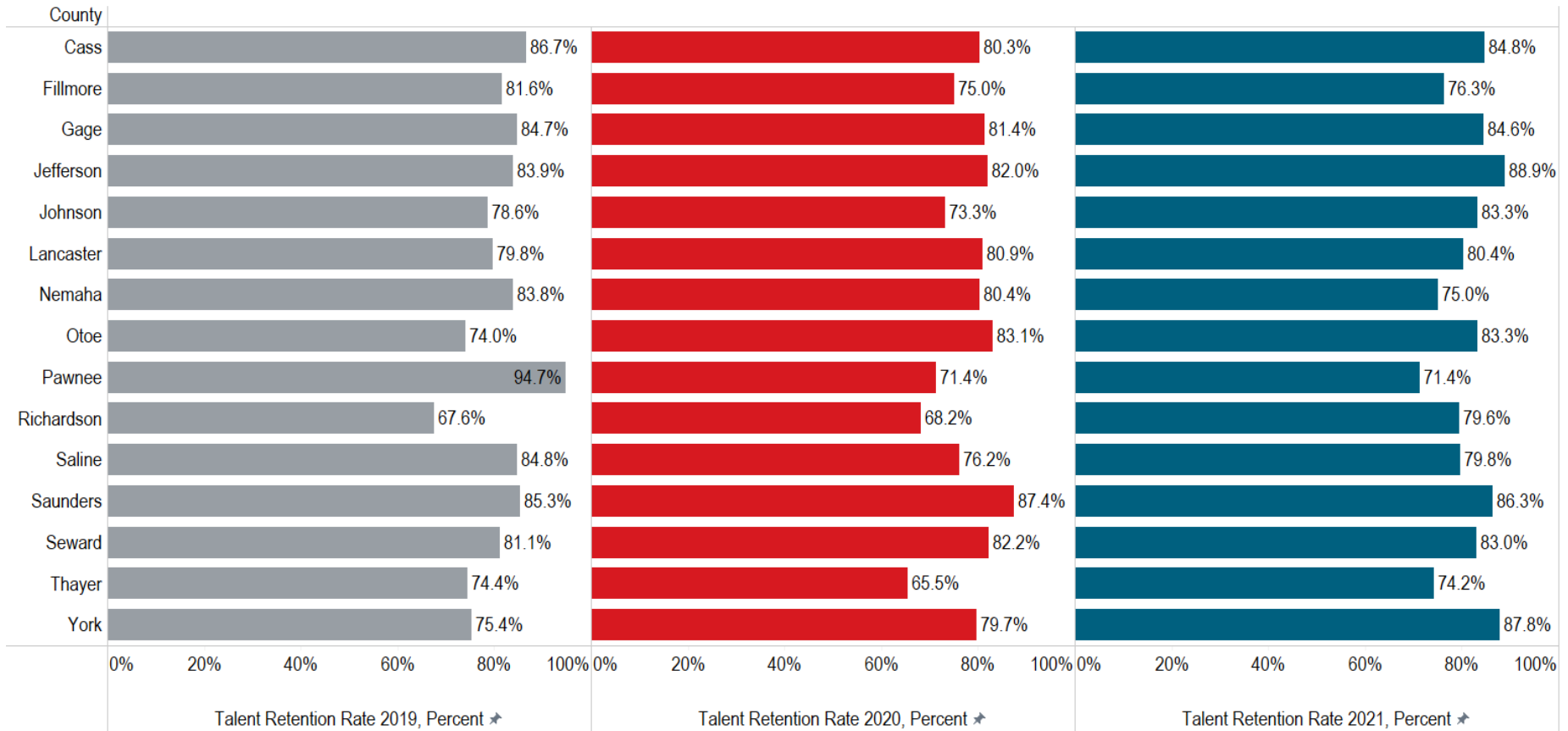
POST-SECONDARY GRADUATION RATES, 2020

Post-secondary graduation rates are low statewide.



TALENT RETENTION RATES, 2019, 2020, AND 2021

Talent retention by county in the region is high, but it includes individuals retained anywhere in the state.

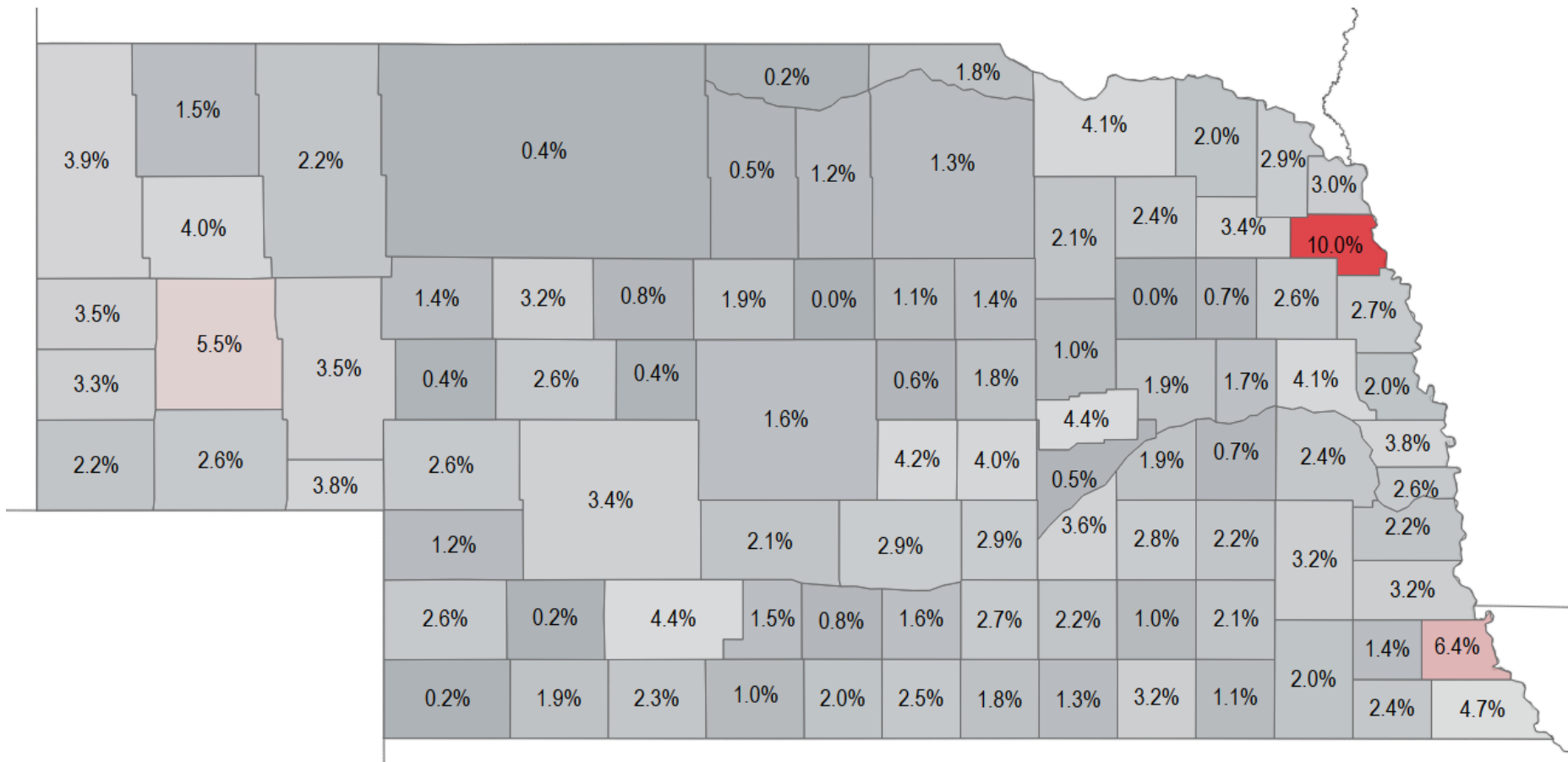


WORKFORCE



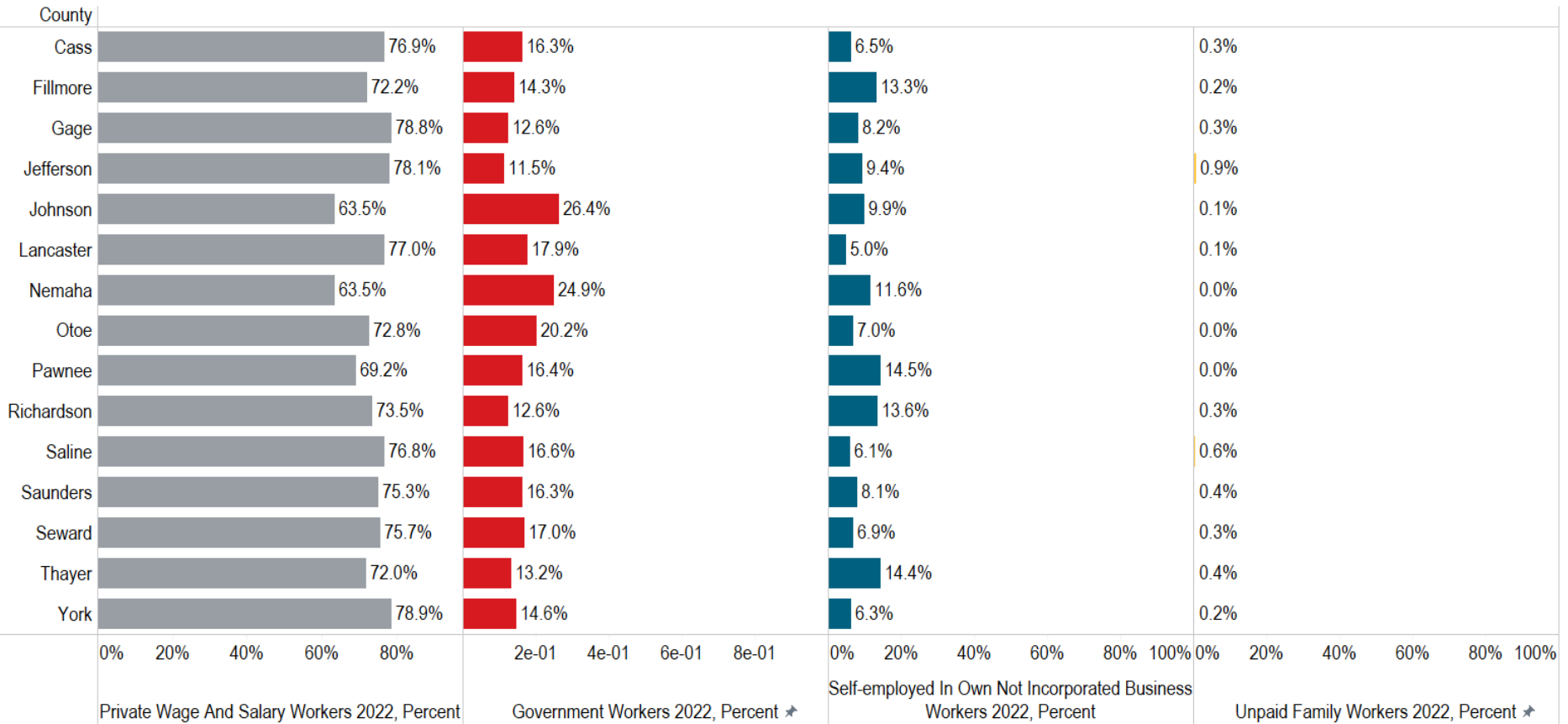
UNEMPLOYMENT RATES, 2022

The Southeast Region has some of the highest unemployment rates in the state, particularly in Nemaha and Richardson. Notably, despite low labor force participation rates in Johnson County, the unemployment rate remains low.



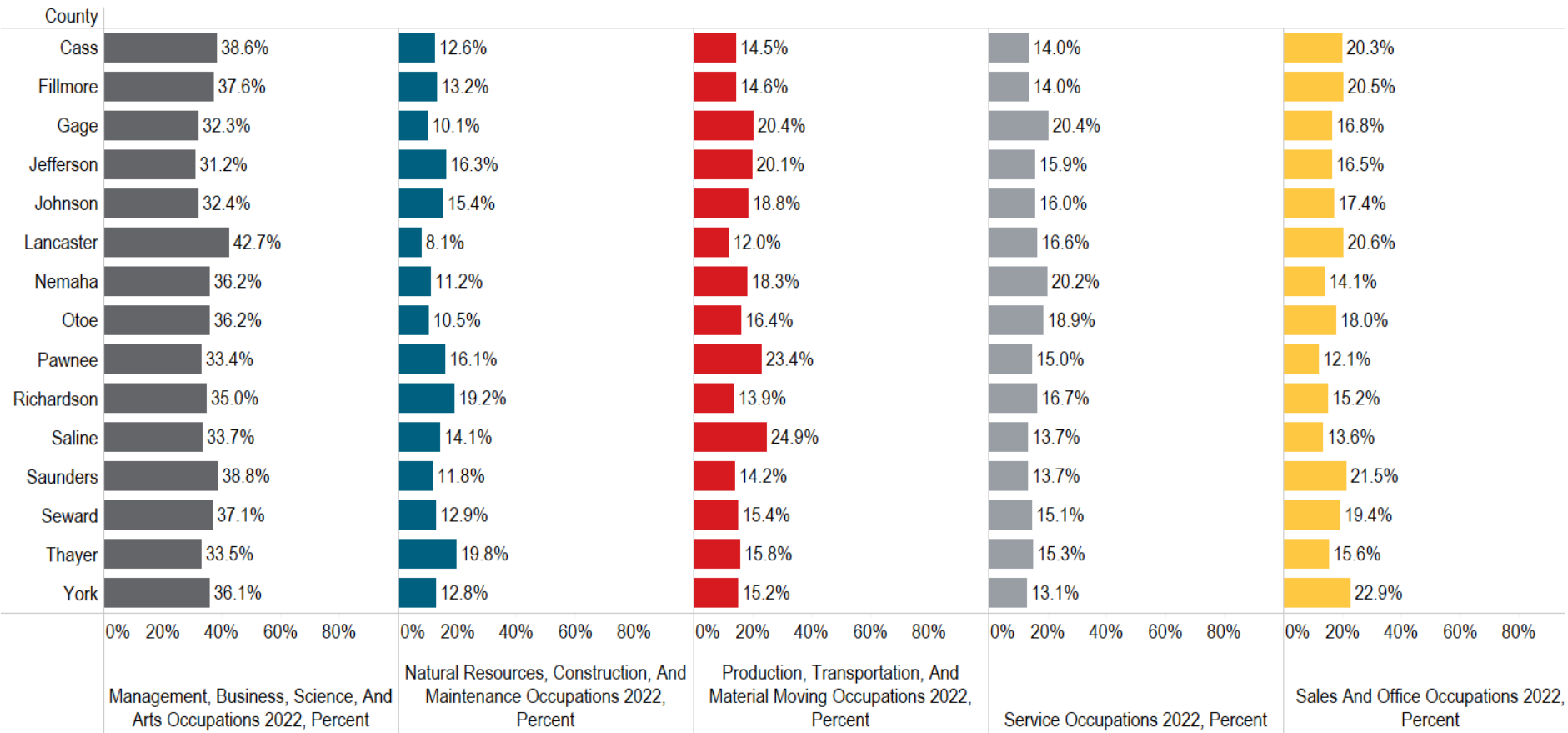
CLASS OF WORKER, 2022

Most workers in the Southeast Region are employed by private companies.



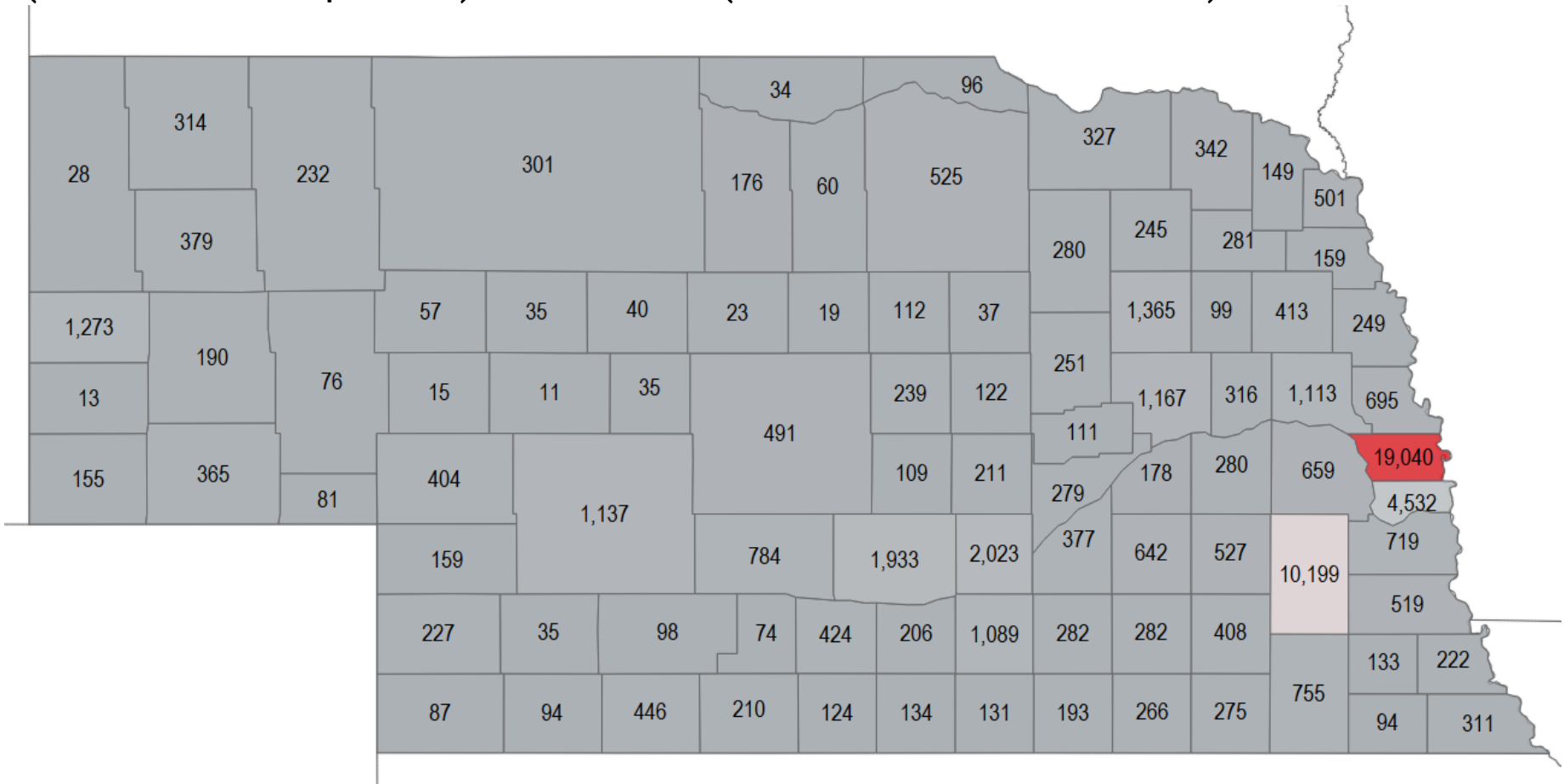
EMPLOYED IN OCCUPATIONS, 2022

Lancaster County has the highest percentage working in management, business, science, and arts occupations. Saline and Pawnee have high rates of production workers, with many counties in the region exceeding the state average. The region also has a relatively high percentage of service workers.

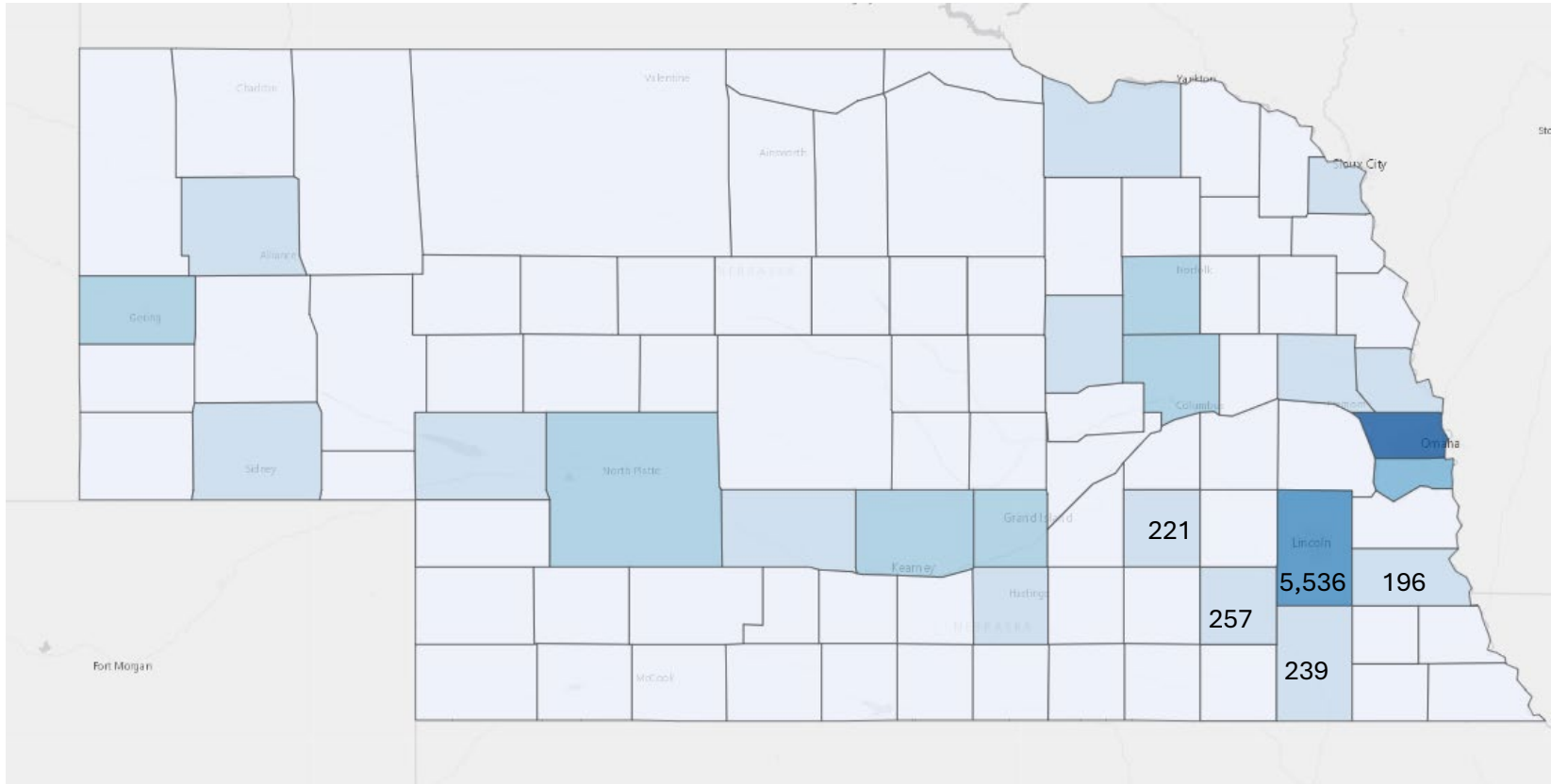


TOTAL ESTABLISHMENTS

While occupations describe the type of work people do, establishments and industries describe the places where people work. This can be equated to supply (workforce/occupations) and demand (establishments/industries)



JOB OPENINGS ON NETWORKS 6/11/24



Area Profile for Multiple Areas

Employers by Number of Job Openings Table

The table below shows the employers with the highest job openings advertised online in the areas selected on June 10, 2024 (Jobs De-duplication Level 2<i aria-hidden="true" class=" far fa-external-link-alt fa-fw"></i>Opens In New window).

Employer Name	Cass County	Gage County	Lancaster County	Saline County	Saunders County	Seward County
Bryan Health	N/A	N/A	604	14	5	N/A
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	N/A	N/A	240	N/A	5	N/A
Tabitha, Inc.	N/A	N/A	238	33	N/A	N/A
Nebraska State Government	N/A	9	219	N/A	4	N/A
Madonna Rehabilitation Hospitals	N/A	N/A	94	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lincoln Public Schools	N/A	N/A	92	N/A	N/A	N/A
Southeast Community College	N/A	13	78	N/A	N/A	16
CommonSpirit Health	N/A	N/A	76	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sandhills Global, Inc.	N/A	N/A	64	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vetter Equipment Company	N/A	N/A	63	N/A	N/A	N/A

Source: Online advertised jobs data
Downloaded: 06/11/2024 3:39 PM

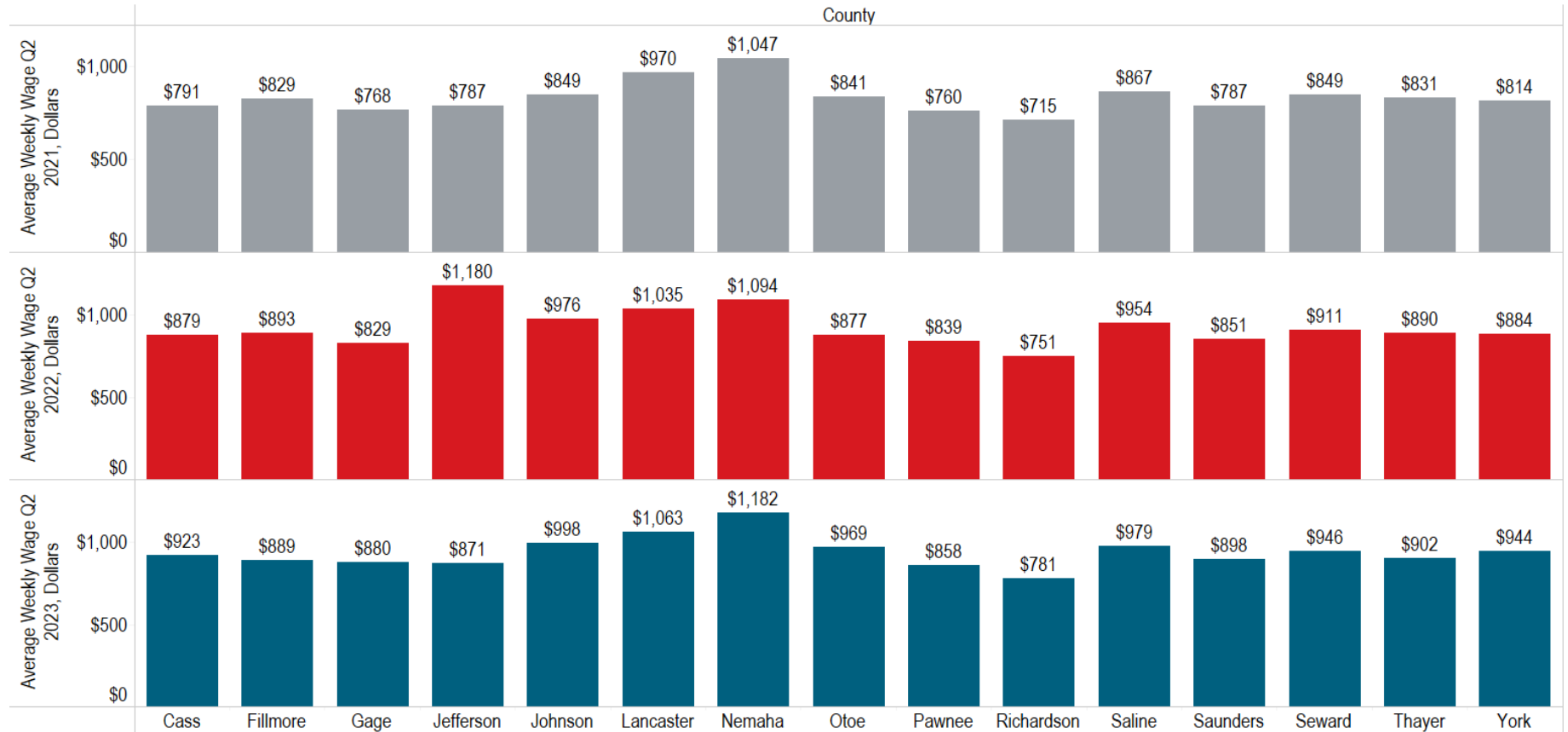
TOTAL WAGES PAID BY INDUSTRY BY REGION

Region	Natural Resources and Mining	Construction	Manufacturing	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	Other Services Except Public Administration
Central	\$2,676,888	\$4,769,281	\$21,664,316	\$14,712,472	\$1,517,780
Metropolitan	\$3,967,432	\$128,428,831	\$126,315,601	\$291,871,965	\$33,896,194
Mid-Plains	\$1,692,742	\$1,926,913	\$1,886,910	\$5,823,512	\$680,778
Northeast	\$1,799,712	\$2,740,747	\$11,786,420	\$9,540,554	\$844,916
Southeast	\$2,354,722	\$14,492,020	\$25,722,539	\$37,405,559	\$4,747,174
Western	\$1,304,640	\$2,442,610	\$2,607,338	\$7,324,819	\$642,243

Region	Information	Financial Activities	Professional and Business Services	Education and Health	Public Administration	Leisure and Hospitality	Total Wages by Industry Total Q2 2023, Dollars
Central	\$900,739	\$3,340,008	\$5,123,704	\$17,789,290	\$3,804,877	\$2,535,860	\$75,015,437
Metropolitan	\$47,770,002	\$176,461,221	\$359,723,489	\$398,297,039	\$64,379,318	\$74,918,632	\$1,706,029,722
Mid-Plains	\$636,042	\$1,422,699	\$1,368,624	\$8,758,985	\$2,024,278	\$1,328,862	\$23,074,781
Northeast	\$568,623	\$3,138,829	\$2,412,349	\$12,388,136	\$2,687,709	\$1,310,934	\$45,467,682
Southeast	\$6,034,161	\$13,079,577	\$24,379,514	\$54,519,043	\$21,003,466	\$8,171,839	\$210,962,992
Western	\$830,581	\$1,624,669	\$3,168,811	\$11,999,775	\$2,659,054	\$1,579,037	\$30,747,828

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGES

Average weekly wages have increased over time in the region; however, they still vary by county.



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY REGION

The Southeast Region has the second highest median household income of the regions and strong growth since 2018.

Region	Average Median Household Income 2022	Average Change in Median Household Income 2018 to 2022
Central	\$65,952	23.3%
Metropolitan	\$82,115	24.1%
Mid-Plains	\$59,170	19.5%
Northeast	\$62,649	17.9%
Southeast	\$67,609	22.1%
Western	\$57,023	18.5%

HOUSING



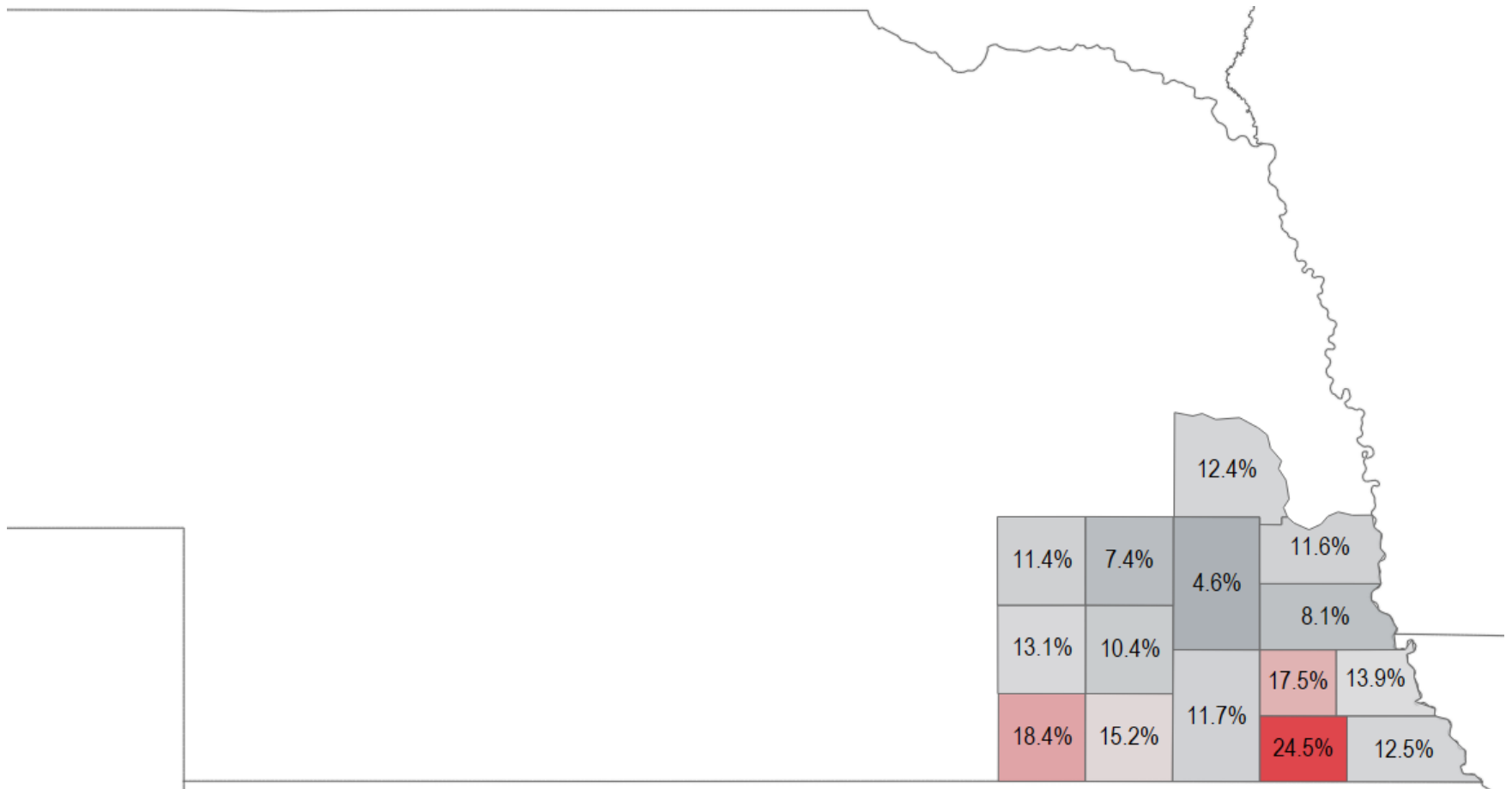
OCCUPANCY AND VACANCY, 2022

The Southeast Region has some of the highest occupancy rates and lowest vacancy rates in the state.

Region	Average Occupancy Rate	Percent Change Occupancy 2012 To 2022	Average Vacancy Rate	Average Change in Vacancy Rate 2012 To 2022
Central	77.2%	-3.6%	15.9%	-3.4%
Metropolitan	69.8%	9.8%	6.0%	-11.5%
Mid-Plains	71.1%	-5.9%	23.0%	8.8%
Northeast	74.4%	-5.4%	18.7%	-2.4%
Southeast	74.7%	-1.7%	12.8%	0.1%
Western	71.4%	-6.3%	20.6%	8.3%

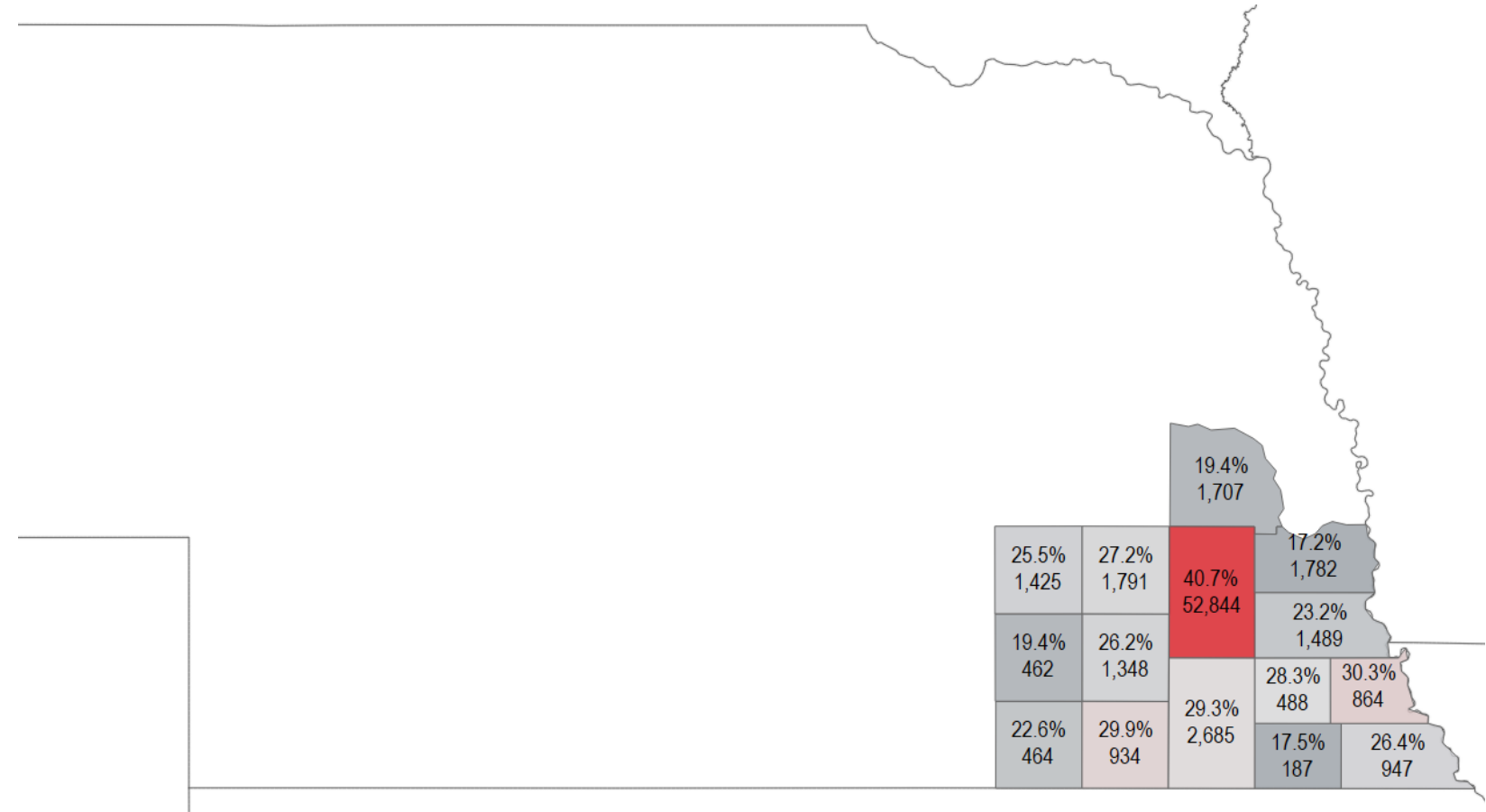
VACANT HOUSING UNITS, 2022

Pawnee and Thayer Counties have the highest vacancy rates.



PERCENT AND NUMBER OF RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS, 2022

The rental market is robust in the Southeast Region compared to other regions, driven by Lancaster County.



MEDIAN HOUSING AGE AND MEDIAN YEAR OWNERS AND RENTERS MOVED IN BY REGION, 2022

The Southeast Region has an older housing stock. A significant gap between when the housing stock was built and when people have moved in can suggest a need for new housing.

Region	Median Housing Age	Median Year Owner Moved into Housing Unit	Median Year Renter Moved into Housing Unit
Central	1962	2006	2016
Metropolitan	1978	2009	2017
Mid-Plains	1962	2004	2015
Northeast	1964	2004	2016
Southeast	1961	2006	2017
Western	1957	2005	2017

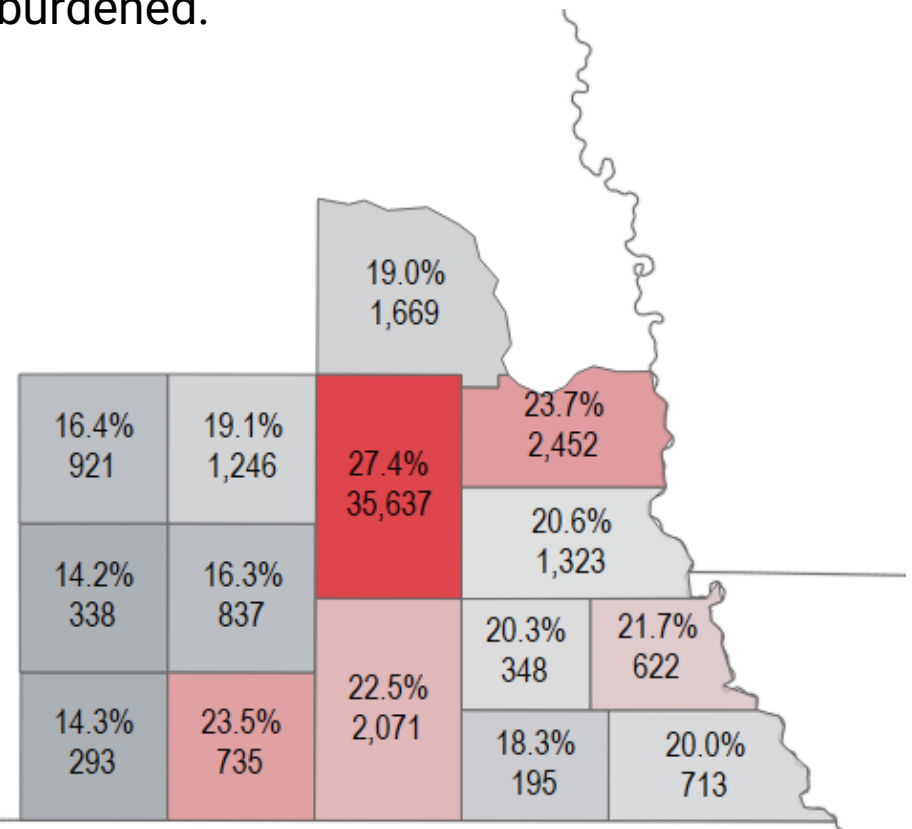
MEDIAN VALUE OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS, 2022

The median value of homes in the region by county further demonstrates the difference between the north and south of the region, with lower values in the southern counties.



PERCENTAGE AND NUMBER OF HOUSING COST BURDENED, 2022

Housing cost burdened refers to households that are paying 30% or more of their income on housing. Despite lower housing values in the southern counties of the region, many are still housing cost burdened, a function of lower income. Also, renters are more likely to be housing cost burdened.

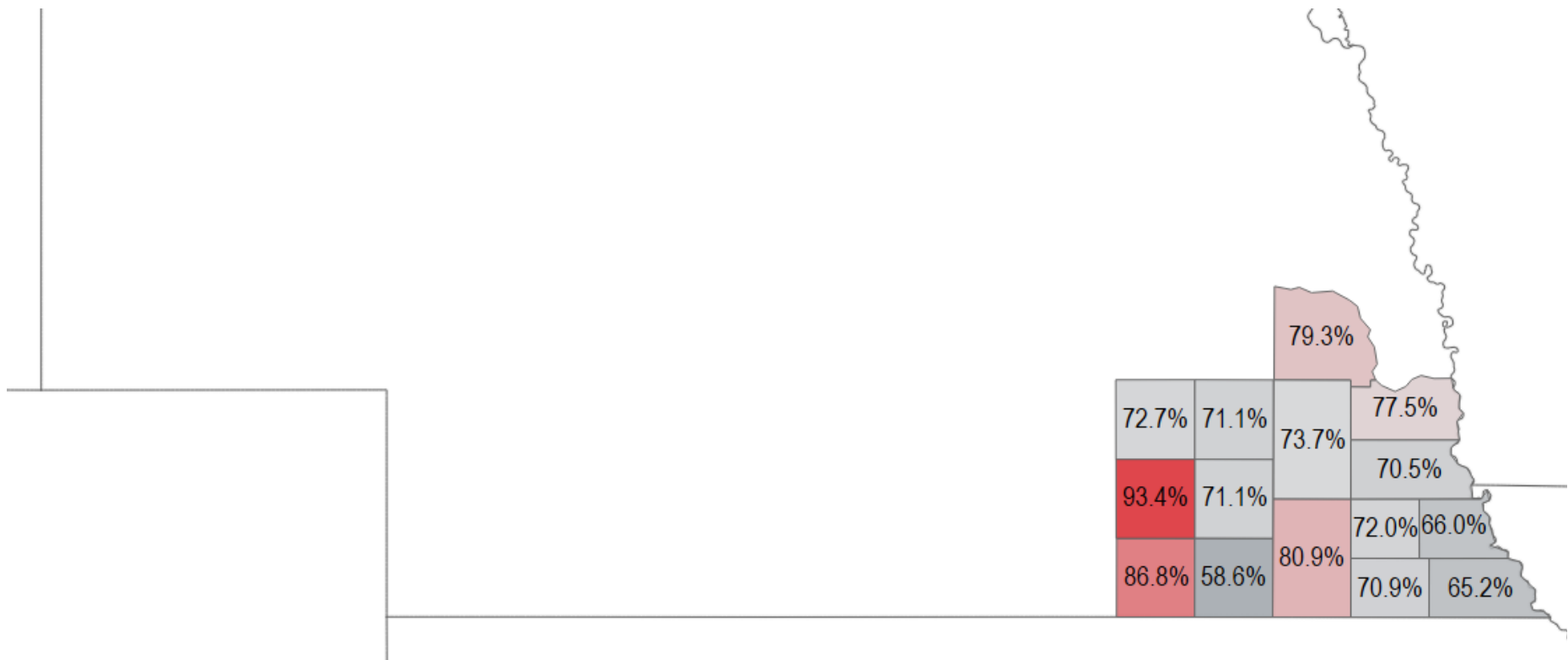


CHILDCARE



PERCENT OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 WITH ALL PARENTS IN THE LABOR FORCE, 2022

In the region, there are 34,589 children under the age of 6, with the majority having both parents in the labor force.



NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 6 AND CHILDCARE CAPACITY IN THE REGION, 2022 AND 2023

For the 34,589 children under age 6 in the region, there are only 29,334 spots available in licensed childcare facilities.

Region	Number of Children Under 6 2022	Licensed Provider Capacity 2023
Central	23,744	14,653
Metropolitan	69,077	68,196
Mid-Plains	6,254	3,017
Northeast	12,219	6,302
Southeast	34,589	29,334
Western	5,874	3,784

PUBLIC PRE-K PROGRAMS BY REGION, 2023/2024

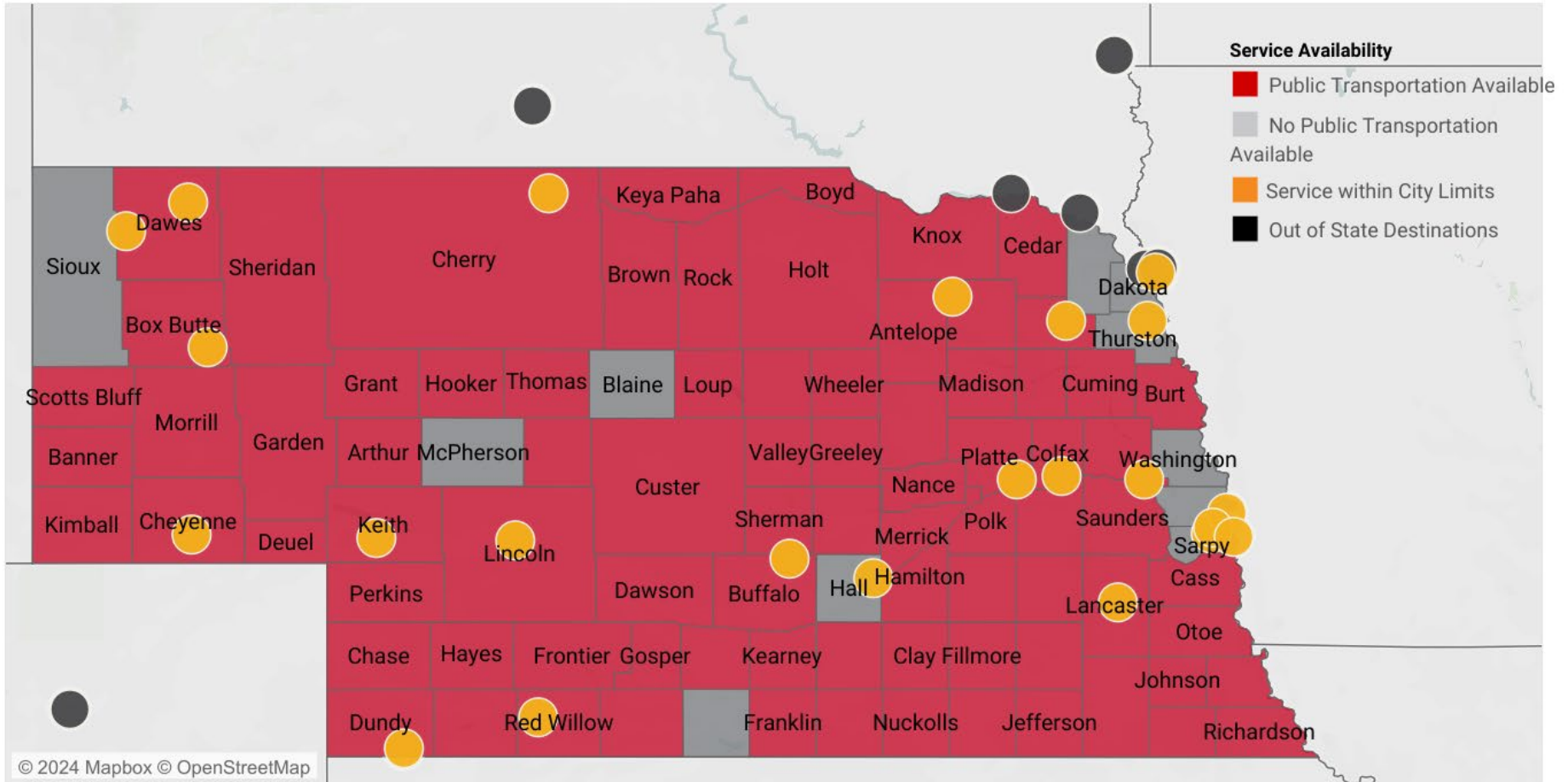
The Southeast Region's rate of enrollment in public pre-K programs is comparatively high but still does not reach maximum utilization.

Region	Number of Pre-K Programs	Number of Children Enrolled	Average Percent Children Enrolled
Central	119	4962	7.6%
Metropolitan	195	7092	6.7%
Mid-Plains	45	1022	6.0%
Northeast	70	2519	8.1%
Southeast	117	5424	8.1%
Western	35	1232	5.4%

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

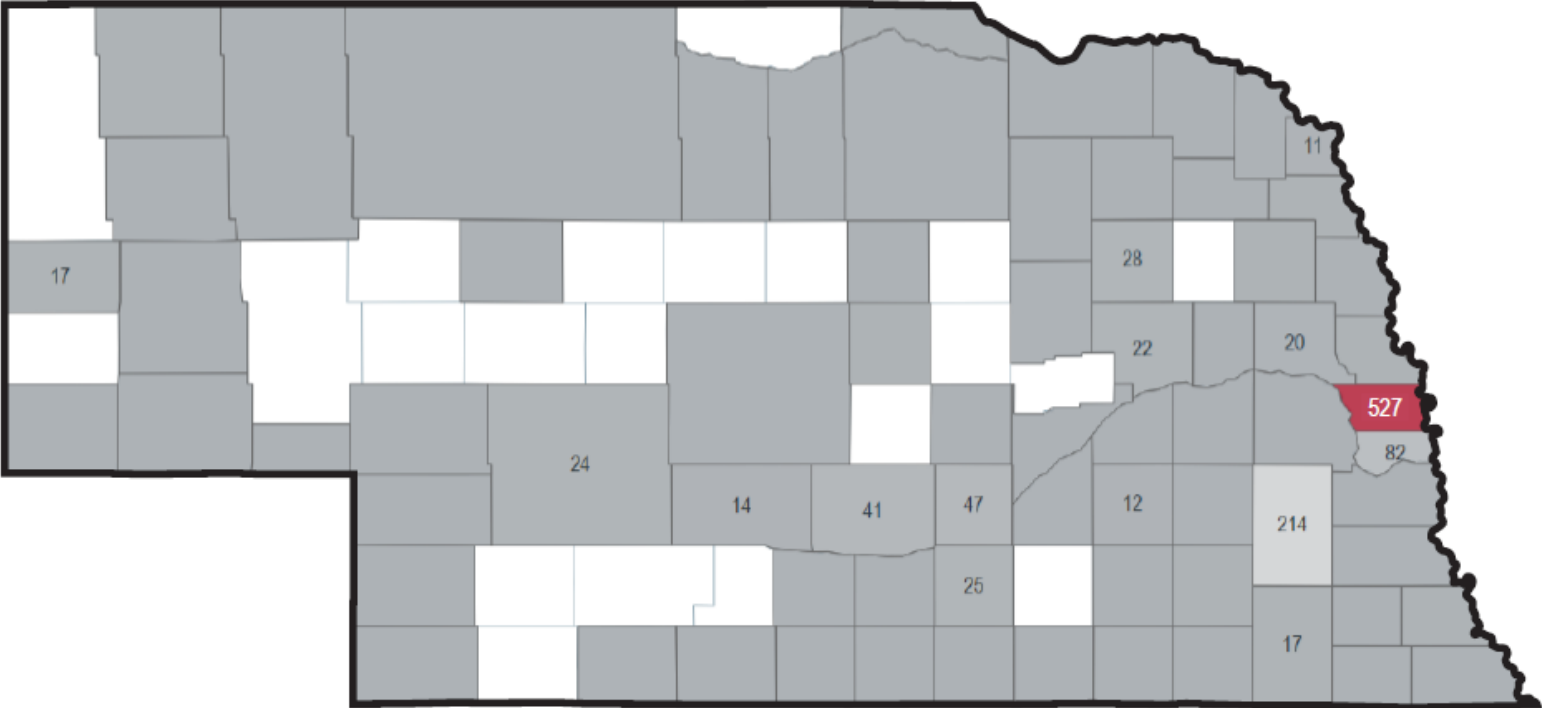


TRANSIT AGENCIES, NEBRASKATRANSIT.COM

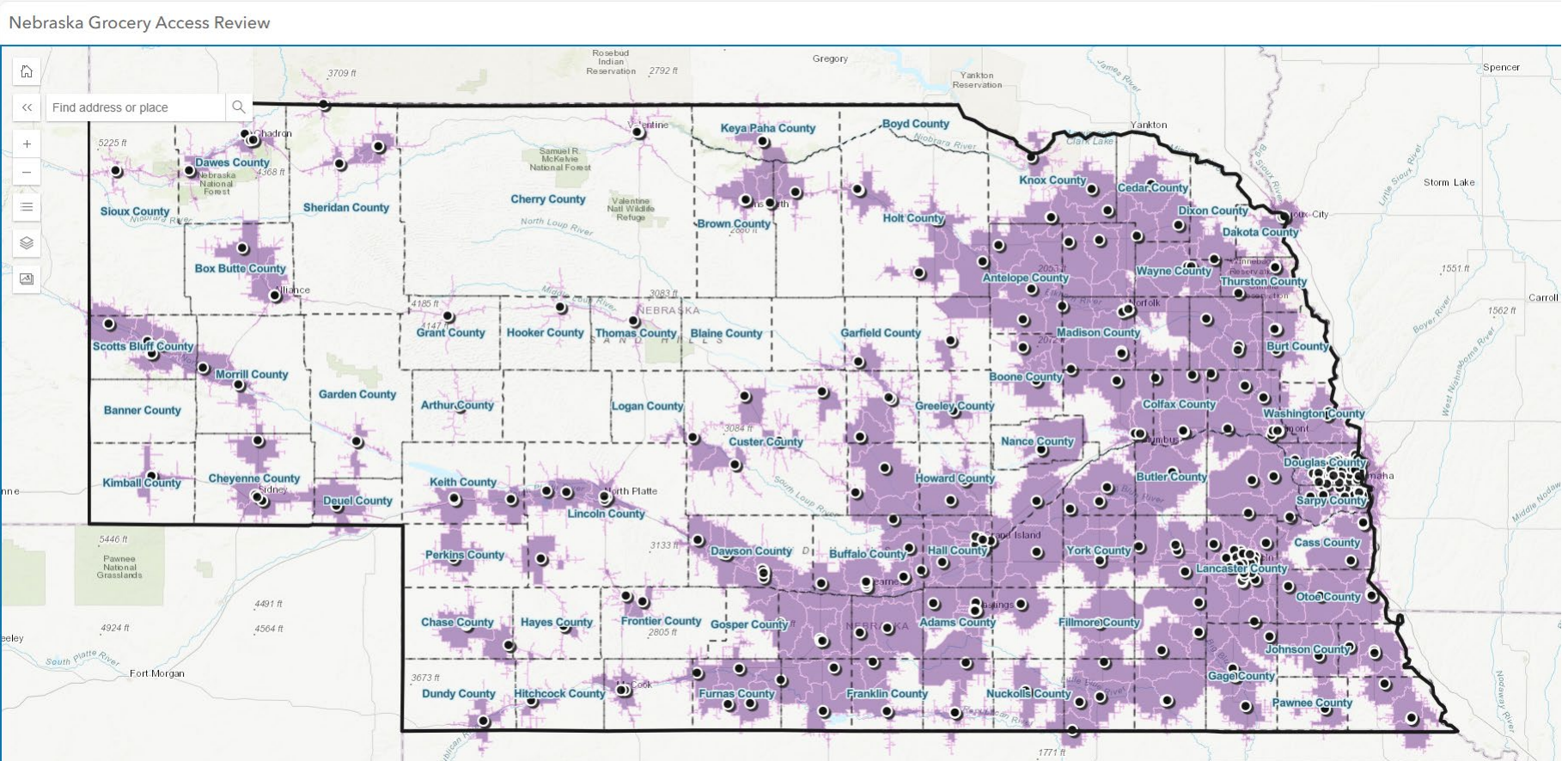


HEALTHCARE AVAILABILITY BY COUNTY, CPAR.UNOMAHA.EDU

Primary Care Physicians by County | 2023



GROCERY STORE LOCATIONS AND POPULATION WITHIN 15 MINUTES



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