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Notes from the September 20, 2012 Data Release of 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) data from the U.S. Census Bureau

Data based off household interviews conducted in each month of calendar year 2011

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This information is under embargo until 12:01 a.m. on Thursday September 20, 2012. The information cannot be shared with anyone not certified by the Census Bureau's embargo policy. No stories can run on this topic until Thursday morning. Feel free to contact me for comment during the embargo period.

Here are a few things I noted when looking through the annual data for 2011 and in comparison to other years. They are not necessarily in any order, although I will organize them by topic area.

Median Household Income

1. Nebraska was among the nation's leaders in the change in real household incomes between 2010 and 2011. The median household income increased by more than \$500 or 1.1 percent from \$49,770 in 2010 to \$50,296 in 2011 (both in 2011 dollar terms). Nebraska's income gain ranked 9th best among the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Other states in the region also placed in the top 10 for real income growth: North Dakota (2nd), South Dakota (3rd), and Wyoming (6th). See page 4.

2. Only 13 states and the District of Columbia had increases in their median incomes between 2010 and 2011. Iowa and Minnesota were able to attain minimal gains of 0.1 and 0.03 percent respectively (ranking 13th and 14th respectively). Eight states had real income declines of 3.0 percent or more, led by Nevada's 6.0 percent loss.

3. Overall for the United States real median incomes declined 1.3 percent from \$51,144 in 2010 to \$50,502 in 2011. Nebraska's median income in 2011 was not statistically different from the U.S. average.

4. Nebraska ranked as having the 23rd highest median income in 2011, up three spots from ranking 26th in 2010, and gaining 8 places from ranking 31st in 2009. Nebraska's income gain coupled with declines in Nevada, Texas, and Pennsylvania allowed Nebraska to pass those states regarding the level of median household income. See page 5. Nebraska had ranked about 30th in each of the four years of annual ACS information prior to 2009 (2005-2008); thus, this marks the first time of ranking in the low 20s on this measure. NOTE: this ranking does not take into account higher costs of living that are associated with higher nominal incomes in certain parts of

the United State – if cost of living were factored in, Nebraska would rank better regarding what “income can buy”.

4a. Nebraska’s income increase came in contrast to a decline of -1.5 percent in Kansas and Iowa’s small 0.1 percent gain (our best states to compare with Nebraska). Neighboring states Colorado and Missouri also declined, but by less than one percent.

5. Nebraska’s income gains were driven by improvements in Nebraska’s rural areas, presumably due to increased commodity prices and a relatively strong and profitable agricultural sector. The state’s nonmetropolitan portion saw incomes increase 1.1 percent while the metropolitan portion actually had a decline of -0.4 percent. Dissecting the nonmetropolitan gains, incomes improved by 0.9 percent in the state’s regional centers containing cities of 10,000 or more people (called micropolitan areas), while the states most rural counties (not metropolitan nor micropolitan) led the state’s growth by increasing 2.6 percent. See table on page 6.

Fertility items

6. The Census Bureau released for the first time a ranking table regarding the total fertility rate of women age 15 to 50 years old. The total fertility rate can be viewed as the number of children the average woman would have over the course of her child-bearing years. Demographers consider 2.1 births per woman the key level to replace the current population (to replace the mother and father while also incorporating infant/child deaths). Nebraska was right at the replacement level, with 2.14 births per woman in 2011. Nebraska tied with Colorado for having the 11th highest total fertility rate, and only 15 states had a rate above the 2.1 replacement level. Idaho, Alaska, Hawaii, Utah, and North Dakota comprised the top 5 states, all with a total fertility rate of 2.35 births per woman or higher. See page 8.

7. Nebraska’s general fertility rate stood at 60 births per 1,000 women aged 15 to 50 in 2011, tying for the 9th highest rate among the states. Idaho and Utah had the highest fertility rates, while Vermont and the District of Columbia had the lowest. See page 8. There were about 25,800 births to Nebraska residents in 2011.

Foreign Born

8. The number of Nebraska residents born outside the United States is estimated to have continued rising. There were slightly more than 116,000 foreign born Nebraska resident in 2011, representing 6.3 percent of the state’s population. The number of foreign born is estimated to have increased about 4,000 since 2010 and nearly 18,000 persons or 18 percent since 2007.

Additional Information on the Source of the Data

The ACS is the Census Bureau’s new approach to providing timely information that decision makers can benefit from. It replaces the sample survey portion of the decennial census, and Census 2010 was entirely a headcount for apportionment purposes. The ACS is sent to a sample of about one in 40 households annually, and covers the same key information and subject areas as the long form in Census 2000 (income, poverty, educational attainment, etc.).

Areas having 65,000+ persons receive annual ACS information, with the first data for such areas beginning in 2005. In Nebraska, there are not that many geographies having 65,000 people, but data are released for the state, 3 counties (Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy), 2 cities (Lincoln, Omaha), 3 metropolitan areas (Omaha, Lincoln, Sioux City), the Grand Island micropolitan area, the 3 Congressional Districts, as well as “geographic components” such as all metropolitan counties and all nonmetropolitan counties combined as a group. Data for areas that have at least 20,000 people will be released in October using a combined 3-year period of survey results from 2009 to 2011.

The 2011 ACS had a sampling rate increase nationally starting in June 2011. This means that 2011 data are based on more completed interviews in 2011 versus prior years (about 21,300 in 2011 versus 17,700 in 2010 for Nebraska). This will tend to make the 2011 data more accurate versus prior years. Like all sample surveys, the ACS is subject to both sampling and non-sampling error, and all conclusions should be drawn with caution.

Real Median Household Income: 2010 and 2011 with Percent Changes

Source: 2010 and 2011 American Community Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau

Area	2010 MHI (2011\$)		2011 MHI (2011\$)		2010-11 % Change	
	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	MOE	Estimate	Rank
U.S.	51,144	65	50,502	73	-1.3	n/a
Vermont.	50,707	1405	52,776	1,420	4.1	1
North Dakota	50,026	1361	51,704	1,260	3.4	2
South Dakota	46,993	1261	48,321	1,598	2.8	3
Delaware.	57,289	1592	58,814	1,586	2.7	4
Alaska.	66,311	1952	67,825	1,948	2.3	5
Wyoming.	55,213	1785	56,322	1,890	2.0	6
District of Columbia	62,009	1713	63,124	2,407	1.8	7
Indiana.	45,898	435	46,438	455	1.2	8
Nebraska.	49,770	755	50,296	687	1.1	9
Kentucky.	40,948	504	41,141	464	0.5	10
Wisconsin	50,293	394	50,395	428	0.2	11
Montana.	44,145	1131	44,222	1,078	0.2	12
Iowa.	49,401	577	49,427	693	0.1	13
Minnesota.	56,936	512	56,954	488	0.03	14
Oklahoma	43,239	541	43,225	607	-0.03	15
Alabama	41,459	518	41,415	550	-0.1	16
New Hampshire	62,770	1360	62,647	1,415	-0.2	17
Connecticut.	65,883	942	65,753	854	-0.2	18
Colorado.	55,580	703	55,387	605	-0.3	19
Rhode Island	53,879	1441	53,636	1,699	-0.5	20
Virginia.	62,173	552	61,882	507	-0.5	21
Pennsylvania.	50,548	340	50,228	292	-0.6	22
Utah.	56,227	610	55,869	805	-0.6	23
Washington.	57,201	542	56,835	569	-0.6	24
Missouri.	45,600	489	45,247	529	-0.8	25
New York	55,712	349	55,246	398	-0.8	26
Ohio.	46,275	301	45,749	319	-1.1	27
Texas.	50,010	281	49,392	391	-1.2	28
Maryland.	70,976	934	70,004	804	-1.4	29
Kansas.	49,687	797	48,964	756	-1.5	30
Michigan	46,692	347	45,981	330	-1.5	31
Arkansas.	39,375	576	38,758	761	-1.6	32
Massachusetts.	63,967	550	62,859	902	-1.7	33
Tennessee.	42,453	499	41,693	423	-1.8	34
North Carolina	44,726	347	43,916	519	-1.8	35
South Carolina	43,311	526	42,367	559	-2.2	36
Maine.	47,069	1008	46,033	802	-2.2	37
Mississippi.	37,838	824	36,919	583	-2.4	38
West Virginia	39,444	971	38,482	875	-2.4	39
Oregon.	47,989	621	46,816	711	-2.4	40
Illinois.	54,644	414	53,234	511	-2.6	41
Florida.	45,609	285	44,299	406	-2.9	42
Arizona	48,108	635	46,709	554	-2.9	43
New Mexico	43,326	1011	41,963	803	-3.1	44
New Jersey	69,829	755	67,458	721	-3.4	45
Idaho.	44,867	997	43,341	1,320	-3.4	46
Georgia.	47,659	563	46,007	454	-3.5	47
California.	59,540	328	57,287	279	-3.8	48
Louisiana.	43,804	813	41,734	528	-4.7	49
Hawaii.	65,191	1514	61,821	1,035	-5.2	50
Nevada	52,045	901	48,927	1,020	-6.0	51

Ranking of 2011 Median Household Income for States

Source: 2011 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Ranking	Area	2011 MHI (2011\$)	MOE
n/a	United States	50,502	+/-73
1	Maryland	70,004	+/-804
2	Alaska	67,825	+/-1,948
3	New Jersey	67,458	+/-721
4	Connecticut	65,753	+/-854
5	District of Columbia	63,124	+/-2,407
6	Massachusetts	62,859	+/-902
7	New Hampshire	62,647	+/-1,415
8	Virginia	61,882	+/-507
9	Hawaii	61,821	+/-1,035
10	Delaware	58,814	+/-1,586
11	California	57,287	+/-279
12	Minnesota	56,954	+/-488
13	Washington	56,835	+/-569
14	Wyoming	56,322	+/-1,890
15	Utah	55,869	+/-805
16	Colorado	55,387	+/-605
17	New York	55,246	+/-398
18	Rhode Island	53,636	+/-1,699
19	Illinois	53,234	+/-511
20	Vermont	52,776	+/-1,420
21	North Dakota	51,704	+/-1,260
22	Wisconsin	50,395	+/-428
23	Nebraska	50,296	+/-687
24	Pennsylvania	50,228	+/-292
25	Iowa	49,427	+/-693
26	Texas	49,392	+/-391
27	Kansas	48,964	+/-756
28	Nevada	48,927	+/-1,020
29	South Dakota	48,321	+/-1,598
30	Oregon	46,816	+/-711
31	Arizona	46,709	+/-554
32	Indiana	46,438	+/-455
33	Maine	46,033	+/-802
34	Georgia	46,007	+/-454
35	Michigan	45,981	+/-330
36	Ohio	45,749	+/-319
37	Missouri	45,247	+/-529
38	Florida	44,299	+/-406
39	Montana	44,222	+/-1,078
40	North Carolina	43,916	+/-519
41	Idaho	43,341	+/-1,320
42	Oklahoma	43,225	+/-607
43	South Carolina	42,367	+/-559
44	New Mexico	41,963	+/-803
45	Louisiana	41,734	+/-528
46	Tennessee	41,693	+/-423
47	Alabama	41,415	+/-550
48	Kentucky	41,141	+/-464
49	Arkansas	38,758	+/-761
50	West Virginia	38,482	+/-875
51	Mississippi	36,919	+/-583

Comparison of Median Household Income Values for Various Nebraska Areas: 2010 vs. 2011

Source: 2011 Comparison Profiles, American Community Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Dollar values are inflation adjusted (real dollars) and in 2011 dollar terms

Compiled by David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research

Area (Number of counties)	2010	2011	Change	% Change
Nebraska (93)	49,770	50,296	526	1.1
NE: Metro portion (9)	53,844	53,607	-237	-0.4
NE: Nonmetro portion (84)	44,796	45,301	505	1.1
NE: Metro portion (9)	53,844	53,607	-237	-0.4
NE: Micro portion (20)*	46,323	46,746	423	0.9
NE: Not in metro or micro (64)	43,041	44,177	1,136	2.6
NE: In metro or in micro (29)	51,342	51,796	454	0.9
NE: Not in metro or micro (64)	43,041	44,177	1,136	2.6
Congress District 1 (Lincoln area)	50,735	51,522	787	1.6
Congress District 2 (Omaha)	53,940	53,553	-387	-0.7
Congress District 3 (rest of state)	45,134	44,898	-236	-0.5
Omaha metro area (8)	55,826	55,089	-737	-1.3
Lincoln metro area (2)	50,940	49,315	-1,625	-3.2
Sioux City metro area (4)	45,788	46,431	643	1.4
Grand Island micro area (3)**	48,051	45,590	-2,461	-5.1
Douglas County	51,018	51,694	676	1.3
Lancaster County	50,856	48,642	-2,214	-4.4
Sarpy County	71,559	64,043	-7,516	-10.5
Hall/Howard/Merrick counties**	48,051	45,590	-2,461	-5.1
Pottawattamie County, Iowa	49,145	48,850	-295	-0.6
Woodbury County, Iowa	43,516	42,435	-1,081	-2.5
United States	51,144	50,502	-642	-1.3
Iowa	49,401	49,427	26	0.1
Kansas	49,687	48,964	-723	-1.5

* Micropolitan counties are nonmetro areas that contain a city of at least 10,000 people. Nebraska has 10 such counties as well as 10 additional counties that are economically tied and considered micropolitan.

** The Grand Island micropolitan area consists of Hall, Howard, and Merrick counties.

Comparison of Median Household Income Values for Various Nebraska Areas: 2010 vs. 2011

Source: 2011 Comparison Profiles, American Community Surveys, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Dollar values are inflation adjusted (real dollars) and in 2011 dollar terms

Compiled by David Drozd, UNO Center for Public Affairs Research

Area (Number of counties)	2010	2011	Change	% Change
United States	51,144	50,502	-642	-1.3
Iowa	49,401	49,427	26	0.1
Kansas	49,687	48,964	-723	-1.5
IA: Metro portion	52,204	52,001	-203	-0.4
IA: Nonmetro portion	46,107	45,515	-592	-1.3
IA: Metro portion	52,204	52,001	-203	-0.4
IA: Micro portion	45,213	45,886	673	1.5
IA: Not in metro or micro area	46,770	45,317	-1,453	-3.1
IA: In metro or micro area	50,401	50,844	443	0.9
IA: Not in metro or micro area	46,770	45,317	-1,453	-3.1
KS: Metro portion	53,237	52,587	-650	-1.2
KS: Nonmetro portion	42,850	42,013	-837	-2.0
KS: Metro portion	53,237	52,587	-650	-1.2
KS: Micro portion	43,447	41,491	-1,956	-4.5
KS: Not in metro or micro area	42,346	42,750	404	1.0
KS: In metro or micro area	51,049	50,377	-672	-1.3
KS: Not in metro or micro area	42,346	42,750	404	1.0

Total Fertility Rate of Women Age 15-50 who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months (per 1,000 women)

Source: 2011 ACS (RT 1304), U.S. Census Bureau

Rank	Geographical Area	Rate	MOE
	United States	1,976	+/-18
1	Idaho	2,682	+/-308
2	Alaska	2,590	+/-439
3	Hawaii	2,566	+/-251
4	Utah	2,417	+/-163
5	North Dakota	2,350	+/-372
6	Kansas	2,326	+/-174
7	South Carolina	2,232	+/-140
8	New Mexico	2,210	+/-245
9	Alabama	2,188	+/-152
10	South Dakota	2,148	+/-362
11	Colorado	2,140	+/-147
11	Nebraska	2,140	+/-182
13	Minnesota	2,137	+/-117
14	Texas	2,123	+/-69
15	Oklahoma	2,107	+/-105
16	Indiana	2,083	+/-105
17	North Carolina	2,067	+/-109
18	Montana	2,048	+/-255
19	Louisiana	2,019	+/-129
20	Tennessee	2,004	+/-115
21	Washington	2,001	+/-105
22	Arizona	1,998	+/-152
23	Virginia	1,994	+/-104
24	Maryland	1,985	+/-120
25	Missouri	1,982	+/-121
26	Georgia	1,981	+/-98
27	Michigan	1,974	+/-86
28	Kentucky	1,971	+/-132
29	California	1,964	+/-48
30	Ohio	1,950	+/-78
31	Iowa	1,945	+/-154
32	Rhode Island	1,929	+/-274
33	Wisconsin	1,915	+/-103
34	New Jersey	1,908	+/-92
35	Nevada	1,906	+/-181
36	Arkansas	1,904	+/-196
37	Oregon	1,903	+/-160
38	Wyoming	1,894	+/-369
39	Pennsylvania	1,859	+/-71
40	New Hampshire	1,847	+/-283
41	Illinois	1,842	+/-82
42	Mississippi	1,841	+/-155
43	New York	1,831	+/-58
44	Maine	1,814	+/-217
45	Massachusetts	1,809	+/-106
46	Connecticut	1,800	+/-143
47	Florida	1,755	+/-85
48	Delaware	1,697	+/-261
49	Vermont	1,666	+/-273
50	West Virginia	1,627	+/-196
51	District of Columbia	1,251	+/-270

Fertility Rate for Women Age 15-50 who had a Birth in the Past 12 Months (per 1,000 women)

Source: 2011 ACS (RT 1303), U.S. Census Bureau

Rank	Geographical Area	Rate	MOE
	United States	54	+/-1
1	Idaho	74	+/-9
2	Utah	73	+/-5
3	Alaska	72	+/-12
3	Hawaii	72	+/-7
5	North Dakota	65	+/-10
6	Kansas	64	+/-5
7	New Mexico	62	+/-7
8	South Carolina	61	+/-4
9	Alabama	60	+/-4
9	Colorado	60	+/-4
9	Nebraska	60	+/-5
9	Oklahoma	60	+/-3
9	South Dakota	60	+/-10
14	Texas	59	+/-2
15	Louisiana	58	+/-4
15	Minnesota	58	+/-3
17	Indiana	57	+/-3
18	Montana	56	+/-7
18	North Carolina	56	+/-3
20	Arizona	55	+/-4
20	Tennessee	55	+/-3
20	Washington	55	+/-3
23	California	54	+/-1
23	Georgia	54	+/-3
23	Kentucky	54	+/-4
23	Missouri	54	+/-3
23	Virginia	54	+/-3
23	Wyoming	54	+/-10
29	Arkansas	53	+/-5
29	Iowa	53	+/-4
29	Maryland	53	+/-3
29	Nevada	53	+/-5
29	Oregon	53	+/-4
34	Michigan	52	+/-2
34	Ohio	52	+/-2
36	Illinois	51	+/-2
36	Rhode Island	51	+/-7
36	Wisconsin	51	+/-3
39	Mississippi	50	+/-4
39	New Jersey	50	+/-2
39	New York	50	+/-2
42	Pennsylvania	49	+/-2
43	Massachusetts	48	+/-3
44	Florida	47	+/-2
45	Connecticut	46	+/-4
45	Delaware	46	+/-7
45	Maine	46	+/-6
48	New Hampshire	45	+/-7
49	West Virginia	43	+/-5
50	Vermont	42	+/-7
51	District of Columbia	37	+/-8