

2018

Rainy Day Fund Changing Demographics Brief

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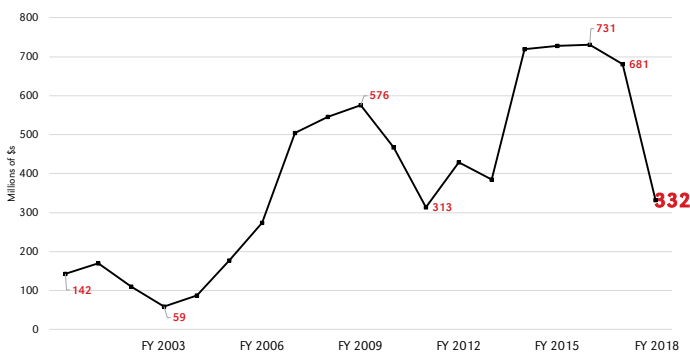
This brief examines two pressing concerns of the Planning Committee of the 105th Nebraska Legislature: 1. Rainy day fund balance and 2. Changing demographics of Nebraska

Rainy Day Fund Balance

Over the past several years, Nebraska has had lower than expected revenues. One response to budgeting during periods of fiscal distress is to draw down fiscal reserves, or “rainy-day” funds. Such a draw down of funds can be seen in the balance of Nebraska’s rainy day fund in fiscal year 2018.

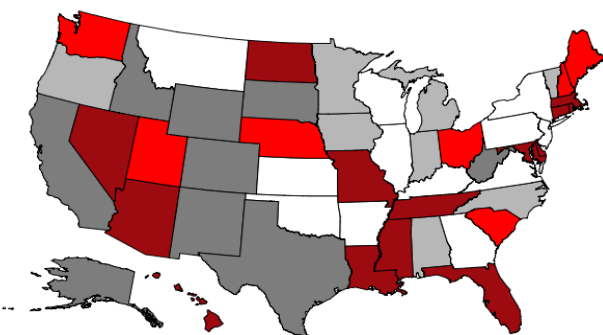
Nebraska rainy day fund balance

Millions of \$s

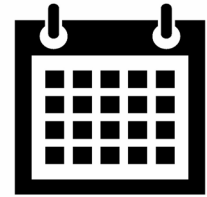


In Fiscal Year 2018, the rainy day fund balance as a percent of general fund expenditures is close to the U.S. median. However, the rainy day fund balance is critical for Nebraska because of constitutional limitations on debt.

□ 2% or less ■ 3% - 4% ■ 5% - 7% ■ 8 - 9% ■ 10% and above



Source: Pew Research Center “Fiscal 50: State Trends and Analysis, Reserves and Balances”



7.6%

Nebraska rainy day fund balance as % of general expenditures
 Iowa = 8.6%
 U.S. Median = 5.5%

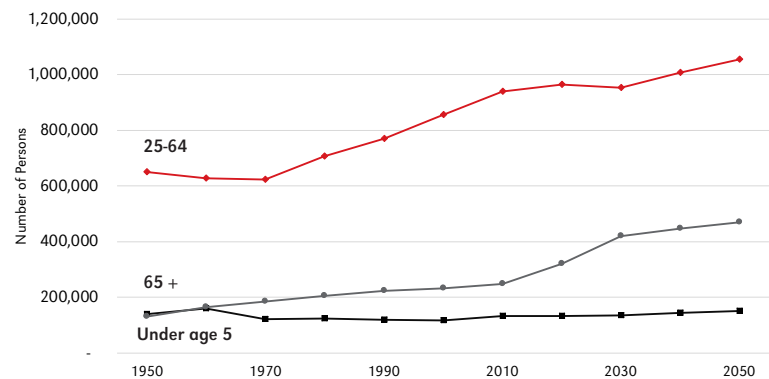
27.6

Number of days Nebraska could run on rainy day funds
 Iowa = 31.5
 U.S. Median = 20.2

The Changing Demographics of Nebraska

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Population projections by Center for Public Affairs Research

The ratio of working age to aging adults was 6:1 in 1950, **5:1** in 2010 and is expected to be 3:1 by 2050



Racial and Ethnic Minority Populations in Nebraska

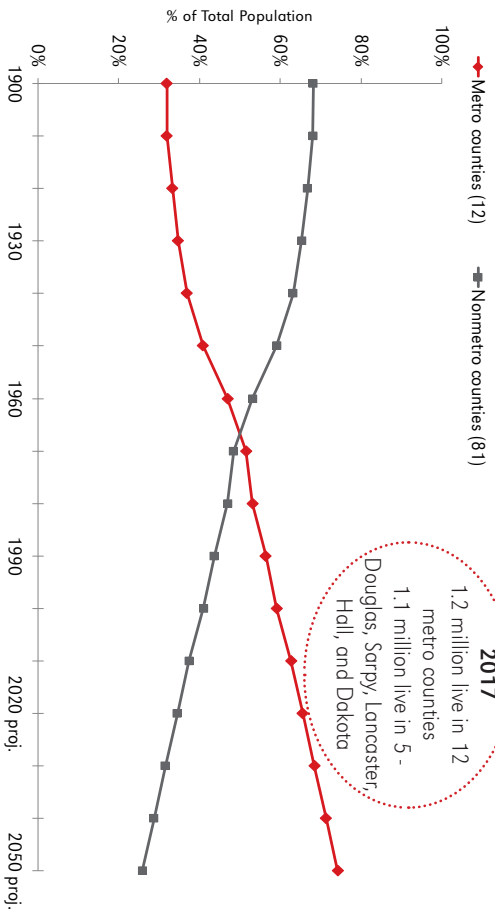
% of total Nebraska population, 2017 break down



The Changing Demographics of Nebraska

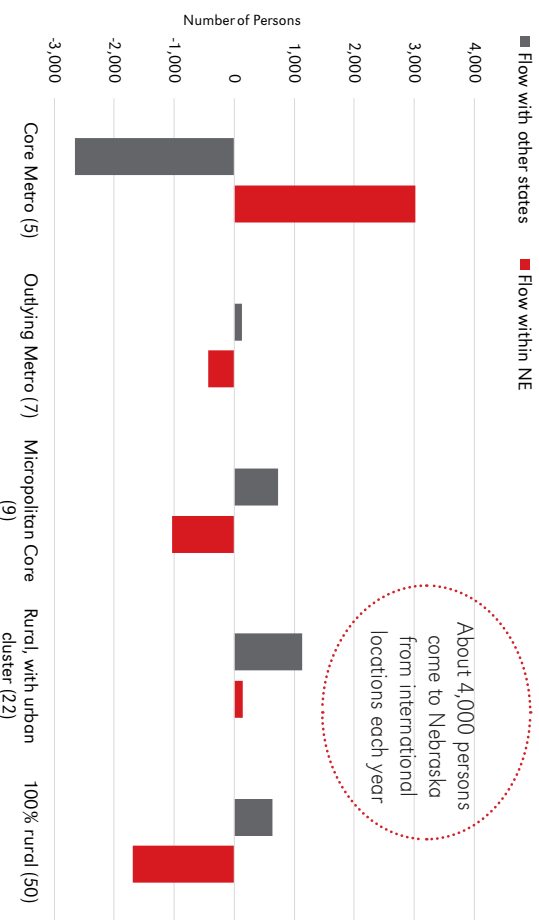
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; Population projections by Center for Public Affairs Research

65% of Nebraskans will live in a metro county by 2020



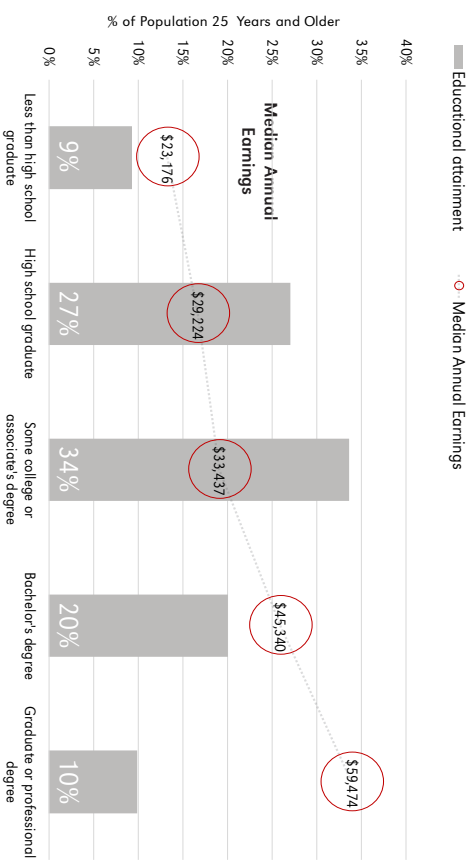
Nebraska is losing about 2,000 people a year to other states

Persons age 1 and older by area (no. of counties)



64% of Nebraskans have some higher education which results in higher salaries

Persons 25 years and older, educational attainment and earnings



Nebraska mean household income for the two lowest quintiles is above the U.S. means. The 3rd through highest quintiles are below the U.S. means.

Mean household income by quintile for region and U.S.

