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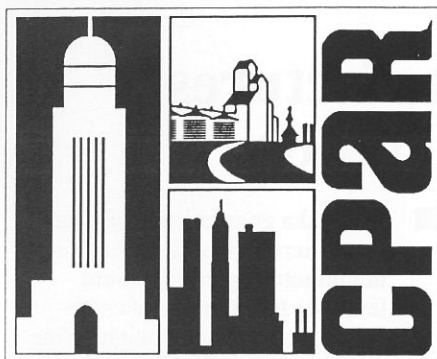
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UNO Center For Public Affairs Research

Review

January 1991

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Workshop Calls For Strong Leadership

M. Ross Boyle, president of the Washington, D.C. consulting firm that prepared an economic development plan for Omaha, spoke on the changing nature of economic development and emphasized the need for leadership to help improve the country's economic condition at a workshop on "Building Partnerships for Community Development" January 7-8 in Kearney.

More than 150 Nebraskans, including representatives from several S.T.A.R.T. communities, attended the workshop sponsored by CPAR and seven other organizations. Presentors included CPAR's Jerry Deichert who profiled Nebraska's population and David City's Rex Minert who told the audience how S.T.A.R.T. helped his community stimulate leadership.

5 MINUTE MANAGER'S MEMO

Final Census Count Shows 0.9% Growth

Nebraska's official 1990 Census count is 1,584,617 persons, according to figures released in December by the U.S. Census Bureau. This represents an increase of only 0.9 percent between 1980 and 1990, the slowest growth rate since the 1940-50 decade. Reasons for slower growth in the 1980s are increased net outmigration rates, lower birth rates and stable death rates.

The new Nebraska population figures will be profiled in an issue of *Focus: Nebraska* to be released in February.

Contact CPAR for the latest Census Bureau statistics.

Study Provides Model On Uninsurance Rate

A study of persons without health insurance in Nebraska reveals that counties with higher uninsurance rates are likely to have a higher percentage of workers employed in small firms, a higher percentage of self-employed workers and a higher percentage of workers in agriculture, construction, retail trade and services other than professional services.

This is one of several studies being conducted by University of Nebraska faculty for the Center for Health Services Research. This report on the uninsurance rate in Nebraska was prepared by CPAR's Jerry Deichert and James Schmidt, UNL Economics Department, and was discussed recently at the Western Risk and Insurance Association's annual meeting.

The "Access to Care Among the Medically Indigent in Nebraska" study is funded by the Agency on Health Care Policy and Research, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Project director is Keith J. Mueller of UNL.

CPAR Survey Looks At Underemployment in Nebraska

Nebraska's unemployment rate fell to 1.6 percent in November, the lowest in about 20 years.

As the number of unemployed Nebraskans declines, businesses must recruit workers from other population groups. One source is the "underemployed," which may include the part-time employee who wants to work full-time or the skilled individual who is forced to take a job below his or her level.

A Nebraska labor force survey conducted this summer by CPAR revealed an estimated 23,000 Nebraskans with jobs (2.8 percent) are underemployed in terms of hours. An

additional 151,000 (17.9 percent of employed Nebraskans) feel they had to settle for jobs for which they are overqualified. The survey found no significant variation by gender or age.

For more information about underemployment, contact David Fifer, CPAR Research Associate.

NEB-INDEX Electronic Bulletin Board

Nebraska Information Network and Data Exchange

Contact Tim Himberger, CPAR, 402-595-2311 (Omaha) or 1-800-227-4533

Eight Communities Ready for Action

Eight Nebraska communities recently completed the S.T.A.R.T. Economic Development program, and Task Forces are scheduling Town Hall meetings to present action plans. Town Hall meetings will be in Elgin on January 28, Blair on January 29 and Neligh on February 6. Meetings are planned for Clarkson, Gordon, Stanton, Syracuse and Yutan.

Study Uses Recent Census of Manufactures Data to Look at Manufacturing Trends

Nebraska's manufacturing employment is growing, while it is declining on the national level, according to a review made by CPAR of Nebraska data included in the five most recent Census of Manufactures.

The CPAR study was conducted to identify trends in Nebraska's manufacturing sector as reported in the recently released 1987 Census of Manufactures for Nebraska, as well as reports from 1967, 1972, 1977 and 1982. Information on the state is part of the Census of Manufactures which is conducted every five years by the U.S. Census Bureau. The 1987 report is the 32nd in the series.

Preliminary analysis also shows:

- Nebraska has a higher percentage than the nation of employees directly involved in the production process.
- Consumer Price Index adjusted hourly pay for production workers has decreased since 1977 in Nebraska, as well as in the nation.
- The number of manufacturing establishments in Nebraska peaked in 1977; nationally the number of establishments is at a 20-year high.

■ Nebraska's manufacturing sector is not capital intensive, and adjusted expenditures per business establishment is significantly less than national figures. However, Nebraska manufacturers are increasing their capital expenditures per establishment at a rate greater than the nation.

■ Nebraska has a higher rate of value added per dollar of production payroll than the national rate, but the gap is narrowing.

■ Nebraska generally has not had large increases or decreases in manufacturing employment levels or the number of establishments like many neighboring states or states in the west/north central region.

CPAR will publish a complete review of Nebraska manufacturing trends later this spring in a special *Focus* issue. For information or to reserve a copy, contact **Robert F. Blair**, CPAR Research Associate.

Data Collection Begins for Survey

CPAR will begin collecting data this month from approximately 800 residents for *The Omaha Conditions Survey: 1991*. Reports are expected by early April on conditions in Metro Omaha, including Douglas, Sarpy and Washington counties. This second annual survey will focus on three issues: health access and utilization, police-community relations and environment and recycling. For information, contact coordinator **Dr. Pallavi Chavda**, CPAR Senior Research Associate.

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