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Where Nebraska Workers Live Brief

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Where Nebraska Workers Live

The United States Census Bureau collects data on the origin and destination of employees. Using the data, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination-Employment Statistics (LODES), we can identify those that **live in Nebraska but commute to another state to work and those that work in Nebraska but live in another state**. The most recently available data is for 2021.

The first table reports the count and percentages of workers who are employed in Nebraska by where they live. In this data, it is best to focus on percentages compared to actual counts.

WHERE WORKERS LIVE WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN NEBRASKA

	Count	Percentage
Nebraska	887,371	93.1%
Iowa	38,163	4.0%
Kansas	3,943	0.4%
South Dakota	3,062	0.3%
Colorado	2,570	0.3%
Missouri	2,263	0.2%
Texas	1,779	0.2%
Florida	1,235	0.1%
Illinois	1,231	0.1%
Wyoming	1,200	0.1%
All Other Locations	10,226	1.1%

Most workers in Nebraska live in Nebraska, 93%. Another 4% live in Iowa. Select other states with Nebraska workers that live in another state are shown.

Source: UNO CPAR Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2021) [computer file]. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program [distributor], accessed at <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>. LODES 8.1 [version]

Considering the notable percentage of Nebraska workers that live in Iowa, we examine where workers in Iowa live.

WHERE WORKERS LIVE WHO ARE EMPLOYED IN IOWA

	Count	Percentage
Iowa	1,391,418	93.1%
Illinois	40,631	2.7%
Nebraska	23,049	1.5%
Minnesota	7,607	0.5%
Wisconsin	7,563	0.5%
Missouri	6,266	0.4%
South Dakota	5,501	0.4%
California	1,357	0.1%
Texas	1,200	0.1%
Kansas	1,045	0.1%
All Other Locations	8,539	0.6%

Among those that work in Iowa, 93% live in Iowa. Of those that work in Iowa, 1.5% live in Nebraska. The rate of those that work in Iowa and live in Nebraska is lower than the rate that work in Nebraska and live in Iowa. This suggests living conditions in Iowa are preferred for Nebraska workers that have the option to commute. This finding is consistent with another UNO CPAR report, that was focused on remote workers: <https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-public-affairs-and-community-service/center-for-public-affairs-research/documents/remote-work.pdf>

Considering the proximity of the City of Omaha to Iowa and that Omaha is a major area of employment in the state, we can also examine commuter patterns among workers in Omaha. Among those employed in Omaha 91.6% live in Nebraska; 6.7% live in Iowa. Among those that live in Omaha, 94.6% work in Nebraska; 4.1% work in Iowa. More people choose to live in Iowa and work in Omaha, than choose to live in Omaha and work in Iowa.

Source: UNO CPAR Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau. (2024). LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (2021) [computer file]. Washington, DC: U.S. Census Bureau, Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program [distributor], accessed at <https://onthemap.ces.census.gov>. LODS 8.1 [version]