

Kearney MC Quick Look

A brief look into the Kearney Micropolitan Statistical Area (MC) labor market.



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The Kearney Micropolitan Statistical Area (MC) is comprised of Buffalo and Kearney Counties and is located in the Central Economic Region. The Kearney MC population increased by 255 individuals between 2007 and 2008, resulting in a 2008 population of 51,833.

Population change of 5.3% occurred between 2000 and 2008, with a large increase in the population age 50 to 69 and decrease of those age 40 to 49. While the number of people in the labor force continues to increase, the labor force will constitute a lower percentage of the population in the future as Baby Boomers age and 20 to 59 year olds shrink proportionately.

Population

2008	51,833
2007	51,578

Area

Land Area (Sq. Miles)	1,484.0
Persons Per Sq. Mile (2008)	34.9
Largest City	Kearney

Characteristics

Avg Age (2007)	38.2
Labor Force (2008)	32,057
Industry Empl. (2008)	28,202

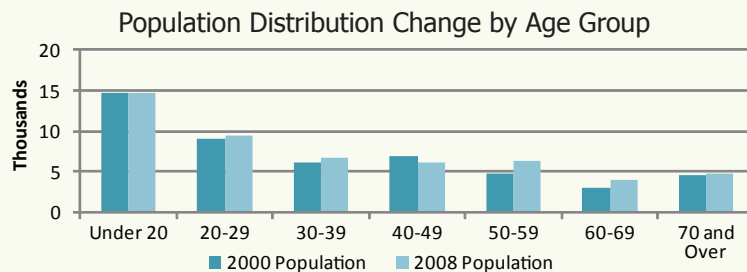
Largest Private Industry (2008)

Trade, Transportation & Utilities
5,835 Jobs

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and Nebraska Workforce Development - DOL

Population Growth by Age Group

	2000 Population	2008 Population	Change
Under 20	14,790	14,656	-134 (-0.9%)
20-29	9,057	9,405	348 (3.8%)
30-39	6,144	6,746	602 (9.8%)
40-49	6,906	6,144	-762 (-11%)
50-59	4,789	6,262	1,473 (30.8%)
60-69	2,972	3,904	932 (31.4%)
70 and Over	4,578	4,716	138 (3%)
Total	49,236	51,833	2,597 (5.3%)

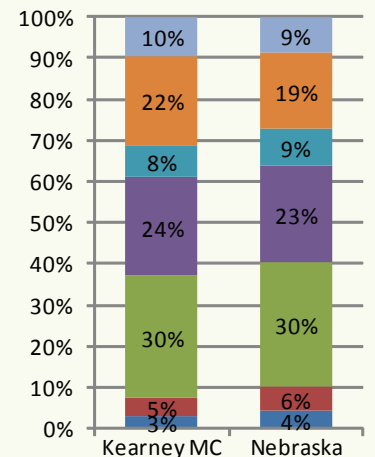


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Nebraska's residents are well-educated, a characteristic valued by businesses seeking to locate within the state. Roughly 93% of persons age 25 and older in the Kearney MC have a high school diploma, GED or higher level of education. More than half of the Kearney MC residents have post high school education, and almost one-third of the MC's residents have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

The MC's education levels have improved since 2000, with visible increases in post-secondary degrees, especially in Bachelor Degree attainment. The high school graduation rates have also increased between 2000 and 2008.

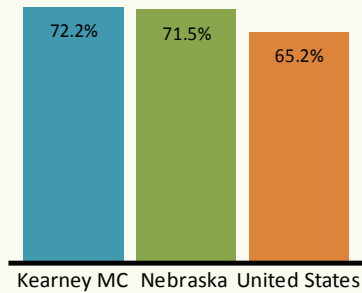
Educational Attainment: Population Age 25 and Older



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 to 2009 Aggregate

All data elements are from Nebraska Workforce Development - DOL unless otherwise noted.

Labor Force Participation Rate



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2009 Aggregate

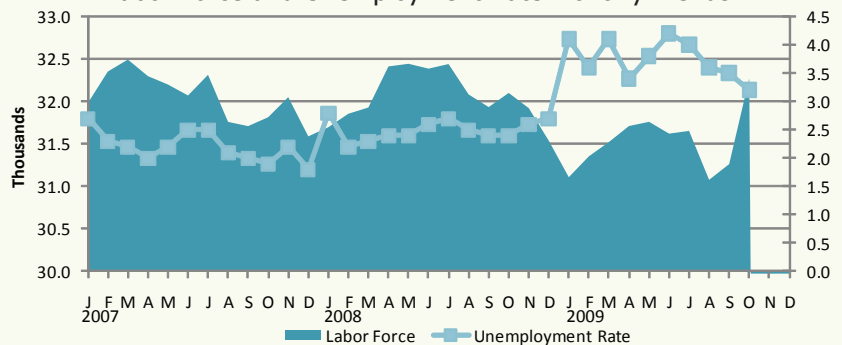
Labor Force Estimates

	Labor Force	Empl.	Unempl.	Unemployment Rate	
				Kearney MC	Nebraska
2000	28,793	28,142	651	2.3	2.8
2001	28,995	28,302	693	2.4	3.1
2002	30,035	29,246	789	2.6	3.7
2003	30,501	29,652	849	2.8	4.0
2004	30,873	29,971	902	2.9	3.9
2005	31,007	30,130	877	2.8	3.9
2006	31,504	30,793	711	2.3	3.0
2007	32,047	31,341	706	2.2	2.9
2008	32,057	31,258	799	2.5	3.3

The labor force is the total of all civilians, employed or unemployed, excluding those who are under 16 years of age, inmates of institutions, or members of the Armed Forces. The unemployment rate is calculated by taking the unemployed divided by the total labor force.

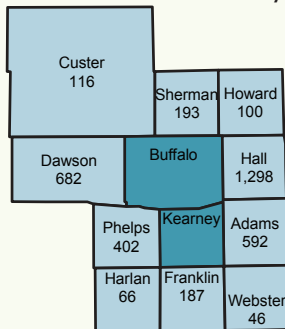
This data has not been seasonally adjusted, and shows seasonal events and fluctuations.

Labor Force and Unemployment Rate Monthly Trends*

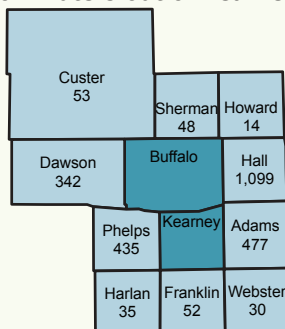


Kearney MC Commuters

Commuters into Kearney MC



Commuters out of Kearney MC



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006

Between 2000 and 2008, the Kearney MC labor force increased by 3,264 individuals, or 11.3%. Employment of the labor force rose by 11.1%, while unemployment rose by 22.7%. The MC's unemployment rate has been about one-half to one percent lower than the statewide rate throughout the 2000 to 2008 period.

The Kearney MC's 2008 unemployment rate is significantly below the national level, 5.8%. The MC also has a higher participation rate than the national average. These two indicators point to a strong and stable area economy, which is a critical factor in recruiting both employers and employees to the area.

Labor force trends show that the number of people in the labor force did not change significantly between 2007 and 2008 in the Kearney MC. Seasonal fluctuations are visible in the labor force and unemployment rate monthly trends. In both 2007 and 2008, the labor force was largest during the month of July. The 2008 annual labor force constitutes 61.8% of the area population, 51,833.

There were 24,417 total primary jobs in the Kearney MC in 2006 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Of those workers, 6,774, or 28%, commuted into the Kearney MC from other counties. Commuters from contiguous counties constituted 54% of the total in-commuters; 22% of in-commuters commuted from the Grand Island MC. There were 168 commuters (2.5%) from other states, where 1.4% of total commuters commuted into the Kearney MC from Kansas.

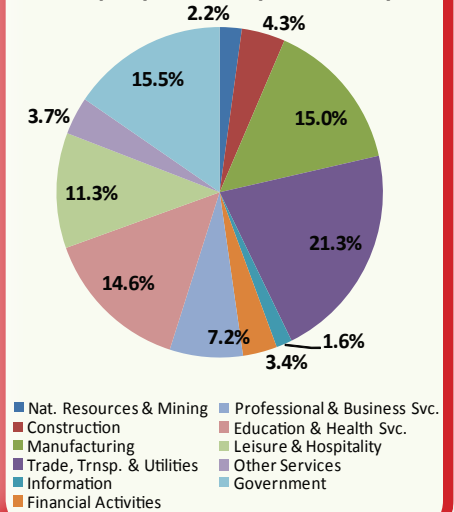
There were 22,378 workers living in the Kearney MC in 2006. Of those workers, 4,735 individuals, or 21%, commuted out of the Kearney MC for work, resulting in a net loss of 2,039 workers due to commuting. Over one-fifth (22%) of commuters are going to the Grand Island MC for work.

*Data is not seasonally adjusted; 2007 and 2008 data benchmarked in 2008; 2009 data is not benchmarked; October 2009 data is preliminary.

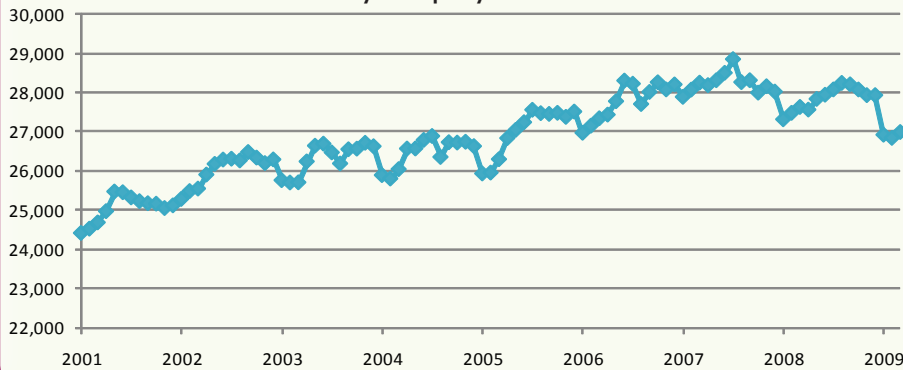
Industry Employment and Wages

	2007 Empl.	2008 Empl.	Empl. Change	2008 Avg Wage
Natural Resources & Mining	521	606	85 (16.3%)	\$29,328
Construction	1,355	1,201	-154 (-11.4%)	\$34,810
Manufacturing	4,453	4,164	-289 (-6.5%)	\$40,818
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	5,835	5,929	94 (1.6%)	\$25,077
Information	433	439	6 (1.4%)	\$28,899
Financial Activities	948	944	-4 (-0.4%)	\$35,494
Professional & Business Services	2,195	2,016	-179 (-8.2%)	\$50,606
Education & Health Services	4,046	4,062	16 (0.4%)	\$38,125
Leisure & Hospitality	3,171	3,142	-29 (-0.9%)	\$11,052
Other Services	983	1,031	48 (4.9%)	\$19,207
Total Government	4,262	4,308	46 (1.1%)	\$35,779
Total, All Industries	28,202	27,842	-360 (-1.3%)	\$31,964

Employment by Industry



Industry Employment Trends



Industry employment represents the number of workers covered by unemployment insurance who worked during, or received pay for, the pay period including the 12th of the month.

Industry employment decreased by 1.3% between 2007 and 2008. There were 1,640 total private establishments in the Kearney MC in 2008, which employed 23,534 individuals, or roughly 85% of the MC's workforce. Trade, Transportation and Utilities employed the greatest percentage of area workers in 2008.

There are 23 major occupation groups, and more than 750 detailed occupations. Occupational employment in the Kearney MC remained stable between 2007 and 2008. Employment Personal Sales and Related Occupations increased by the greatest amount, with an addition of 200 jobs; Office & Administrative Support Occupations employs the largest number of people, with 3,980 jobs and 14% of employment in the Kearney MC.

The MC's average annual wage for all occupations in 2009, at \$31,713 is below the state's by \$4,845.

Occupational Employment and Wages

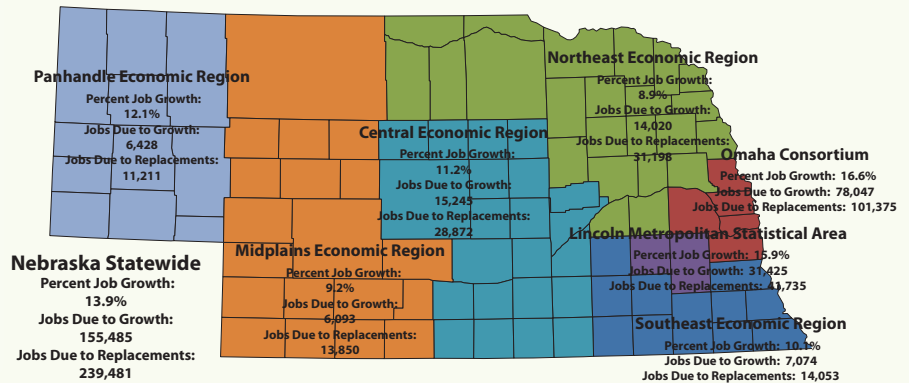
	2007 Empl.	2008 Empl.	Empl. Change	2009 Avg Wage*
Management Occupations	690	710	20 (3%)	\$71,158
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	640	580	-60 (-9%)	\$50,364
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	210	210	0 (0%)	\$52,174
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	230	180	-50 (-22%)	\$47,593
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	230	230	0 (0%)	\$42,883
Community and Social Services Occupations	440	600	160 (36%)	\$28,634
Legal Occupations	100	90	-10 (-10%)	\$82,984
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	1,670	1,550	-120 (-7%)	\$44,680
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occs.	440	450	10 (2%)	\$27,732
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	1,570	1,740	170 (11%)	\$60,911
Healthcare Support Occupations	870	1,050	180 (21%)	\$24,011
Protective Service Occupations	310	320	10 (3%)	\$34,464
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	3,040	3,220	180 (6%)	\$18,677
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occs.	960	890	-70 (-7%)	\$20,631
Personal Care and Service Occupations	420	620	200 (48%)	\$17,762
Sales and Related Occupations	3,490	3,170	-320 (-9%)	\$26,112
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	4,360	3,980	-380 (-9%)	\$25,859
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	180	220	40 (22%)	\$26,423
Construction and Extraction Occupations	1,310	1,280	-30 (-2%)	\$31,909
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	1,120	1,210	90 (8%)	\$35,318
Production Occupations	3,160	3,260	100 (3%)	\$30,212
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	2,220	2,160	-60 (-3%)	\$27,327
Total all occupations	27,670	27,700	30 (0%)	\$31,713

*2nd Quarter 2009 Annual Average Wage

Projected Employment Change by Education Level: Central Economic Region

	2006 Est. Empl.	2016 Proj. Empl.	Annual Openings
First Professional Degree	1,343	1,585	25
Doctoral Degree	810	988	16
Master's Degree	2,231	2,618	38
Bachelor's or Higher, Plus Work Experience	5,749	6,281	54
Bachelor's Degree	10,530	12,187	165
Associate's Degree	3,587	4,417	84
Postsecondary Vocational Training	6,381	7,121	76
Work Experience in Related Occupation	9,411	10,383	98
Long Term OJT	7,312	8,165	85
Moderate OJT	28,830	32,883	405
Short Term OJT	50,883	54,618	371

Long-term Occupation Projections by Economic Region



Employment projections are based on historical, statistical and subjective analysis of industry and occupational trends. The Central Economic Region is expected to see a job change of 11.2% by 2016, which includes over 15,000 growth openings. All major group occupations are projected to see an increase in employment between 2006 and 2016. Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations are anticipated to see the largest employment percent change, at 24.4% in the Region.

Occupational projections data can be measured by education and training. There are more annual openings for jobs that require lower levels of education and training than for jobs that require higher degrees. However, when the growth rate is considered, jobs requiring higher degrees are expected to grow more rapidly. This shows that employers are expected to require a higher skilled workforce in the future.

Long-term Occupation Projections: Central Economic Region

	2006 Empl.	2016 Proj. Empl.	Growth Openings	Replacement Openings	Total Openings	Empl. Change 2006-2016
Management Occupations	6,339	6,919	611	990	1,601	580 (9%)
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	3,258	3,808	556	543	1,099	550 (17%)
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	727	878	151	176	327	151 (21%)
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	1,036	1,190	162	237	399	154 (15%)
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	899	1,079	183	217	400	180 (20%)
Community and Social Services Occupations	2,843	3,412	569	457	1,026	569 (20%)
Legal Occupations	341	370	30	62	92	29 (9%)
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	8,418	9,473	1,059	1,676	2,735	1,055 (13%)
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	1,279	1,363	114	320	434	84 (7%)
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	5,276	6,565	1,290	1,004	2,294	1,289 (24%)
Healthcare Support Occupations	2,307	2,845	546	257	803	538 (23%)
Protective Service Occupations	1,557	1,707	152	531	683	150 (10%)
Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations	8,480	9,515	1,035	2,980	4,015	1,035 (12%)
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	4,415	4,881	467	757	1,224	466 (11%)
Personal Care and Service Occupations	4,931	5,491	589	1,337	1,926	560 (11%)
Sales and Related Occupations	13,017	13,788	870	4,134	5,004	771 (6%)
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	18,114	19,480	1,676	3,802	5,478	1,366 (8%)
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	9,103	9,493	394	2,234	2,628	390 (4%)
Construction and Extraction Occupations	5,979	6,759	784	1,092	1,876	780 (13%)
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	5,501	5,978	507	897	1,404	477 (9%)
Production Occupations	13,507	15,604	2,444	3,057	5,501	2,097 (16%)
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	9,740	10,648	1,056	2,112	3,168	908 (9%)
Total Central Economic Region	127,067	141,246	15,245	28,872	44,117	14,179 (11%)