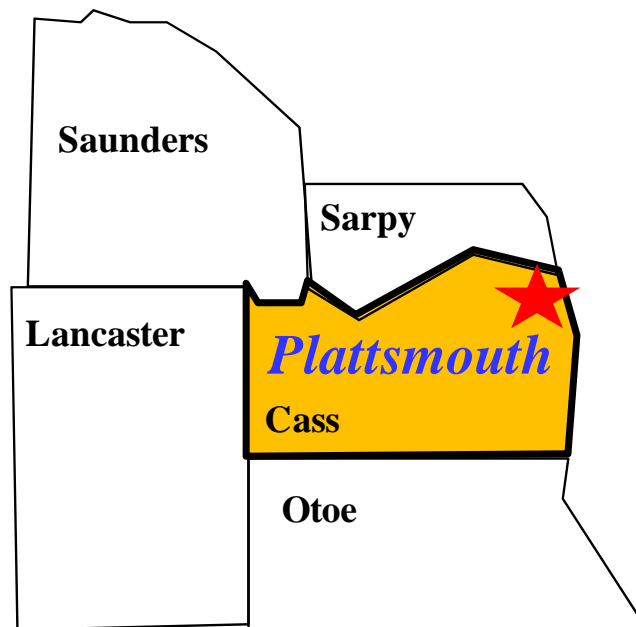


# Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Plattsmouth (Cass County) Labor Area Fall 2009



Prepared by:

**Kenneth M. Lemke, Ph.D.**  
Economist  
Nebraska Public Power District  
1414 15<sup>th</sup> Street - P.O. Box 499  
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499  
(800) 282-6773, Ext. 5535  
E-Mail: [kmlemke@nppd.com](mailto:kmlemke@nppd.com)  
Web Site: [sites.nppd.com](http://sites.nppd.com)

# **Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Plattsmouth (Cass County) Labor Area**

## **Executive Summary**

The information provided in this report indicates that a prospective new employer providing job opportunities with competitive wages and benefits and offering career opportunities would be a welcome addition to the employment base in Plattsmouth and Cass County. The response to such employment opportunities would be substantial, and as this report shows, there is a sizeable labor force and population base living within the Plattsmouth Labor Area. Some of the pertinent findings of the report include:

- Population in the Plattsmouth Labor Area (Cass County plus the four contiguous Nebraska counties) totaled 490,376 people in 2008, with the Cass County population totaling 25,598. Population in Cass County grew by 5.2 percent during the 2000–2008 period, compared to a population increase of 13.4 percent for the five-county Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole.
- The labor force for the Plattsmouth Labor Area totaled 272,065 in 2008, with 263,327 local residents employed in jobs either within or outside the area. A total of 250,497 persons were employed in nonfarm wage and salary jobs located within the area. These data suggest that a substantial number of residents of the Plattsmouth Labor Area were commuting out of the area for employment.
- The number of people who lived in Cass County that were employed totaled 13,896 in 2008; yet, there were 5,677 persons employed in nonfarm wage and salary jobs within the county. This indicates Cass County residents are commuting to surrounding counties for employment opportunities.
- In 2006, only 25.7 percent of jobs held by Cass County residents and 31.2 percent of jobs held by Plattsmouth residents were located in Cass County. In the same year, 33.9 percent of jobs held by Cass County residents and 39.7 percent of jobs held by Plattsmouth residents were in Douglas County (primarily Omaha), Nebraska. This confirms a large number of Cass County residents are commuting to jobs in other counties.
- Average annual wages for all nonfarm wage and salary employees in the Plattsmouth Labor Area were \$1,928 less than the Nebraska average. Within the labor area, Lancaster County had the highest average wage, \$34,356 or \$1,434 lower than the Nebraska average. In Cass County, average annual salaries were \$8,474 less than the state average.

The basic conclusion of this report, which follows from the data and analysis presented, is that the Plattsmouth Labor Area and Cass County would be able to provide a significant number of dedicated and skilled workers to meet the needs of additional employers in the area. While this report has not estimated a precise number of people that

may be available for a prospective new employer in the Plattsmouth area, it is anticipated that if attractive working conditions with competitive wages and employee benefits were offered, a prospective new employer would be able to select their workforce from a substantial pool of applicants.

## Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Plattsmouth (Cass County) Labor Area

This report presents selected labor-related and demographic data that provide insights into the labor supply situation in Plattsmouth (Cass County) and the surrounding area.

In reviewing the data presented in this report, it will be evident that the Plattsmouth Labor Area has a sizeable pool of labor to provide for the labor requirements of additional employers in the area, both in the near term and over the long run. Data presented in this report includes tables on labor force, employment, and population for Cass County and for the surrounding Nebraska counties that make up the potential laborshed area for Plattsmouth. Figure One includes a map outlining the geographic area which has been defined as the Plattsmouth Labor Area.

An important resource for new or expanding businesses is a readily available supply of workers. Whether an employer requires 10, 100, or 1,000 workers, they need to have confidence there will be a sufficient number of workers available to meet their labor requirements. This report is provided as a key analytical tool to identify and quantify the number and selected characteristics of workers available in the Plattsmouth Labor Area.

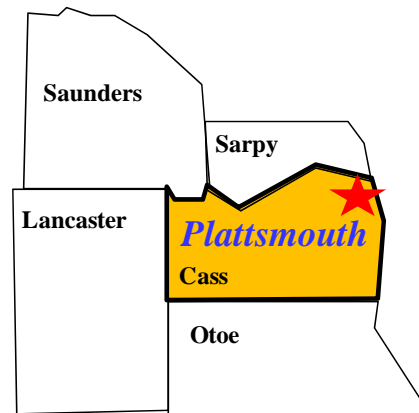
Available labor supply is defined as the number of persons who would potentially apply for employment when a job becomes available. Potential workers are categorized into two groups; those currently employed who would consider other employment opportunities and those who do not currently have a job.

One factor contributing to the available supply of workers is the willingness of workers already employed to change jobs. Factors influencing this decision are related to wages, fringe benefits, hours, and working conditions. Generally, workers are more inclined to change jobs when the wages and benefits for the potential new job are better and/or when they are optimistic about the economy.

Factors contributing to the available supply of people without jobs include the unemployment rate, labor force participation, and migration. To be classified as unemployed, an individual must have been actively looking for work in the last four weeks, unless they were expecting recall from a layoff or waiting to start a job within 30 days.

There are also potential workers that are classified as not presently in the labor force. These individuals may not be participating in the labor force as employed or unemployed

**Figure One**  
**Plattsmouth Labor Area**



workers for various reasons. They may be unable to work because of school or family responsibilities or they may have an illness that has prevented them from becoming part of the labor force. There may also be workers who have not been able to find employment in the past and have become discouraged or who are no longer actively seeking employment because they perceive there are no attractive job opportunities available in the area. Retired persons are also classified as not in the labor force, although this population group often can provide substantial labor resources for selected business operations. Within the group of persons not currently in the labor force, and therefore not actively seeking employment, are many individuals who would accept a job with attractive working conditions, competitive wages, and employee benefits if one became available.

Population migration is another factor that affects the available labor supply of potential workers who are not presently employed (and may not be seeking work within the local labor market). Persons without jobs and who perceive that there are no job opportunities available locally are the most likely to leave (migrate out) the area for employment opportunities elsewhere.

### Labor Force and Employment

Table One provides data showing labor force and employment trends for the Plattsburgh Labor Area and for Cass County for selected years from 2003 to 2008. Data in Table One (Part A and Part B) provide two alternate measures of employment for two distinct areas. Data presented in Table One Part A include labor force, unemployment, employment, and nonfarm wage and salary employment data for the entire Plattsburgh Labor Area (see Figure One). As these data indicate, both the total labor force and total employment for the laborshed area as a whole increased, with the area labor force growing by 5.2 percent between 2003 and 2008 and total employment growing by 5.6 percent during the same period.

**Table One**  
**Labor Force and Employment, Plattsburgh Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2003–2008**

**Part A**  
**Labor Force and Employment**  
**Plattsburgh Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2003–2008**

(Place of Residence)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Chg. 2003–2008
<b>Labor Force<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>258,678</b>	<b>262,284</b>	<b>263,820</b>	<b>264,943</b>	<b>268,989</b>	<b>272,065</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Unemployment (#)	9,308	9,292	9,536	7,631	7,801	8,740	-6.1
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.6	3.5	3.6	2.9	2.9	3.2	(N/A)
Employment	249,370	252,991	254,284	257,313	261,187	263,327	5.6
<b>(Place of Work)</b>							
<b>Nonfarm Employment<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>230,455</b>	<b>235,166</b>	<b>237,428</b>	<b>243,599</b>	<b>251,857</b>	<b>255,460</b>	<b>10.9</b>

Table One continued on following page; notes and sources on following page.

**Table One -- Continued**  
**Part B**  
**Labor Force and Employment by Industry**  
**Cass, NE**

(Place of Residence)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	% Chg. 2003–2008
<b>Labor Force<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>13,957</b>	<b>14,106</b>	<b>14,065</b>	<b>14,054</b>	<b>14,253</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>3.4</b>
Unemployment (#)	567	587	588	460	453	529	-6.7
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.3	3.2	3.7	(N/A)
Employment	13,389	13,519	13,477	13,593	13,800	13,896	3.8
<b>(Place of Work)</b>							
<b>Nonfarm Employment<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>5,588</b>	<b>5,640</b>	<b>5,563</b>	<b>5,760</b>	<b>5,645</b>	<b>5,677</b>	<b>1.6</b>
Goods Producing	939	910	899	829	834	849	-9.6
Manufacturing	501	464	422*	369*	363*	361	-27.9
Mining & Construction	438	446	477	460	471	488	11.4
Service Providing	4,649	4,730	4,664	4,932	4,810	4,827	3.8
Total Trade	865	894	910	914	925	927	7.2
Wholesale Trade	150	177	183	190	192	193	28.7
Retail Trade	715	717	727	723	734	734	2.7
Trans., Warehousing & Utilities	399	417	236	467	479	470	17.8
Information	18*	21*	18*	22	22	22	22.2
Financial Activities Professional & Business Services	334	338	338	343	307	307	-8.1
Education & Health Services	167	144	136	146	139	143	-14.4
Leisure and Hospitality	739	732	760	757	684	693	-6.2
Other Services, except Public	529	595	623	650	568	582	10.0
Total Government	315*	319*	309	327	316	334	6.0
Federal Government	1,283	1,270	1,334	1,306	1,371	1,349	5.1
State Government	81	78	77	76	73	70	-13.6
Local Government	72	74	115	111	113	115	59.7
Local Government	1,130	1,118	1,142	1,120	1,184	1,165	3.1

<sup>(a)</sup> The Plattsmouth Labor Area includes Cass and the contiguous Nebraska counties (Lancaster, Otoe, Sarpy, and Saunders)

<sup>(b)</sup> The labor force data are measured based on the county of residence, irrespective of the county of employment.

<sup>(c)</sup> The Nonfarm Employment data are for wage and salary employment and are based on the place (county) where the individual is employed, irrespective of the the county of residence.

\* Estimated values provided by Ken Lemke, Nebraska Public Power District.

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, [ftp.dol.state.ne.us/lmi/laborforce\\_workforce](http://ftp.dol.state.ne.us/lmi/laborforce_workforce).

The second employment measure presented for the Plattsmouth Labor Area, nonfarm wage and salary employment, grew from 230,455 in 2003 to 255,460 in 2008, an increase of 10.9 percent. In the case of the labor force data (labor force, unemployment, and employment), the respective measures are based on the county of residence. The

nonfarm wage and salary employment data are measured based on the county of employment, irrespective of the place of residence of the workers.

The labor force and employment measures presented for Cass County (Part B of Table One) indicate that the total labor force in the county grew by 3.4 percent between 2003 and 2008, with total employment (of people residing in Cass County, irrespective of their county of employment) growing by 3.8 percent during this period. It is also of interest to note that unemployment decreased by 6.7 percent, from 567 in 2003 to 529 in 2008, recording an unemployment rate of 3.7 percent in 2008.

As previously noted, the second employment measure presented for Cass County, nonfarm wage and salary employment, is based on the county where the person is employed irrespective of their county of residence. Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Cass County grew by 1.6 percent between 2003 and 2008. Data presented in Part B of Table One show that the fastest growing employment sector in Cass County during the 2003–2008 review period was the Information sector, recording a 22.2 percent increase between 2003 and 2008. Other economic sectors experiencing significant growth in employment between 2003 and 2008 include the Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities sector (17.8 percent), Mining & Construction sector (11.4 percent), and the Leisure and Hospitality sector (10.0 percent). In the case of the Total Government sector, employment in the State Government sector grew by 59.7 percent and Local Government sector employment grew by 3.1 percent, while Federal Government sector employment declined by 13.6 percent.

Further review of the employment data reported for the Plattsmouth Labor Area (Table One Part A) and for Cass County (Table One Part B) indicates that for both areas there were differences between the nonfarm wage and salary employment reported in the areas and the total employment of persons living in the respective areas. In the case of the entire Plattsmouth Labor Area, nonfarm wage and salary employment was reported to be 255,460 in 2008, which was 7,867 less than the reported total employment of persons living within the five-county Plattsmouth Labor Area. Recalling that nonfarm wage and salary employment is based on the county of employment while the total employment data is based on the county of residence helps explain how this can occur. It is obvious that a number of persons living within the five-county Plattsmouth Labor Area work outside of the area and commute to other areas for employment.

In the case of Cass County, the same situation is evident. Total employment of persons living in Cass County (irrespective of their county of employment) was 13,896 in 2008, which was 8,219 more than the 5,677 nonfarm wage and salary jobs within the county for the same year. These data indicate that a large number of workers are commuting out of Cass County for employment on a regular basis. The total number of reported employed people living in Cass County includes those who are self employed as well as those employed in agriculture. This means the difference between total employment and nonfarm wage and salary jobs (8,219) likely overstates the number of workers commuting out of Cass County.

Included in Table Two are additional employment data for 2008, showing the deviations between total employment and nonfarm wage and salary employment for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole and for each county within the area. For the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole, the total employment of area residents (263,327), irrespective of their place of employment, is 12,830 greater than the nonfarm wage and salary employment working within the area. It appears that some of this difference could be accounted for by agricultural employment, which includes farm proprietors. Agricultural employment shown in the table shows that 4,767 people were employed in agriculture in 2007, the last year that agricultural employment data were available. It is important to note, however, that for Nebraska as a whole, approximately 32 percent of farm operators also have a full-time job off the farm and 49 percent work off the farm, either in full or part-time employment. Therefore, it is likely that a significant number of people are commuting out of the area for employment.

**Table Two**  
**Labor Force, Employment, and Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment,**  
**Plattsmouth Labor Area, 2008**

County	Labor Force (2008) <sup>(a)</sup>	Total Employment (2008) <sup>(a)</sup>	Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment (2008) <sup>(b)</sup>	Total Employment Minus NF W&S Employment	Agricultural Employment (2007) <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>Cass</b>	<b>14,425</b>	<b>13,896</b>	<b>714</b>	<b>8,219</b>	<b>714</b>
Lancaster	160,614	155,715	173,714	-17,999	1,529
Otoe	9,188	8,861	6,842	2,019	850
Sarpy	76,509	73,935	63,936	9,999	377
Saunders	11,329	10,920	5,291	5,629	1,297
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>272,065</b>	<b>263,327</b>	<b>250,497</b>	<b>12,830</b>	<b>4,767</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Labor force and employment data are measured based on the county of residence.

<sup>(b)</sup> Nonfarm Employment data are for wage and salary employment and are based on the place (county) where the individual is employed, irrespective of the the county of residence.

<sup>(c)</sup> Agricultural employment data are for 2007.

Sources: Labor Data - Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information,

[ftp://dol.state.ne.us/lmi/laborforce\\_workforce](ftp://dol.state.ne.us/lmi/laborforce_workforce). Farm Employment Data - U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data website: <http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/>.

Further review of the data presented in Table Two provides an indication of the commuting patterns for the counties within the Plattsmouth Labor Area. It appears that a large number of persons from other counties are commuting into Lancaster County for employment. For the other counties within the area, however, a significant percentage of the employed people are commuting out of the counties for employment. In the case of Sarpy County, for example, the number of employed persons living in the county is 9,999 greater than total nonfarm wage and salary employment within the county. In the case of Sarpy County, a significant number of the people commuting out of the county for employment are commuting to Douglas County (Omaha) to work. Other counties where there are indications of significant commuting out of the county for employment are Otoe and Saunders. Data presented in Table Two suggest that the creation of

additional jobs within the Plattsmouth Labor Area and Cass County would provide opportunities for area residents to work closer to their places of residences instead of having to commute to other areas for employment.

The number of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Plattsmouth Labor Area is shown by major industry sector and by county in Table Three. The reader is reminded that nonfarm wage and salary workers are counted in the county where they are employed. Individuals with more than one job are counted at each establishment (and in each county) where they work. Table Three provides information about the number of workers in the labor area, by county and major industry category.

**Table Three**  
**Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, by Industry Sector**  
**Plattsmouth Labor Area, by County, 2008**

County	Manuf.	Constr.	Trade	Finc. Activ.	Prof. & Bus. Svc.	Ed. & Health Svc.	All Other Services	Govt.	Tot NF W. & S. Emp.
		Mining			Svc.	Svc.			
<b>Cass</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>927</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>1,409</b>	<b>1,349</b>	<b>5,677</b>
Lancaster	14,257	7,654	21,188	12,591	19,188	23,655	34,311	40,869	173,713
Otoe	1,491	351	1,186	253	347	886	1,152	1,176	6,842
Sarpy	2,443	4,559	8,984	4,489	7,432	5,980	20,875	9,174	63,936
Saunders	524	547	768	277	199	702	946	1,327	5,290
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>19,076</b>	<b>13,599</b>	<b>33,053</b>	<b>17,917</b>	<b>27,309</b>	<b>31,916</b>	<b>58,693</b>	<b>53,895</b>	<b>255,458</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>100,485</b>	<b>51,270</b>	<b>150,230</b>	<b>70,305</b>	<b>107,906</b>	<b>135,034</b>	<b>193,508</b>	<b>163,874</b>	<b>972,612</b>
Percent of Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment									
	Manuf.	Constr.	Trade	Finc. Activ.	Prof. & Bus. Svc.	Ed. & Health Svc.	All Other Services	Govt.	Tot NF W. & S. Emp.
		Mining			Svc.	Svc.			
Labor Area	7.5	5.3	12.9	7.0	10.7	12.5	23.0	21.1	100.0
Nebraska	10.3	5.3	15.4	7.2	11.1	13.9	19.9	16.8	100.0

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information, [ftp.dol.state.ne.us/lmi/laborforce\\_workforce](http://ftp.dol.state.ne.us/lmi/laborforce_workforce).

In addition to displaying the number of workers by major industry sector, Table Three also compares the percentage distribution of workers by industry in the Plattsmouth Labor Area with the distribution for the State of Nebraska. As these data show, the industry distribution of employment for the Plattsmouth Labor Area is significantly different than that for Nebraska as a whole.

The most significant deviations between Nebraska and the Plattsmouth Labor Area occur in the government sector employment, with 21.1 percent of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Plattsmouth area employed in that sector, compared to 16.8 percent for Nebraska. The high proportion of workers employed in the government sector is due to the presence of the state capital in Lancaster County. Conversely, only 7.5 percent of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Plattsmouth Labor Area are employed in the manufacturing sector, compared to 10.3 percent for Nebraska as a whole.

Part A of Table Four provides data showing labor cost comparisons, by county, for all private wage and salary workers for the Plattsmouth Labor Area. It is important to remember that the wage and salary employment is reported by county of employment,

and does not provide an indication of the average weekly and annual wage for residents of the respective counties. Obviously, labor cost is an important consideration in any analysis of the labor availability in an area. Pay data for workers covered by unemployment insurance laws in Nebraska are the source of the labor cost information. Average annual pay is calculated by dividing the total payroll for wage and salary workers by the average annual number of employees.

A review of the data in Part A of Table Four indicates that average annual salaries in Cass County (\$27,316 for all wage and salary employees for all private industries) are lower than for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole and most of the other counties that make up the area. Also, Cass County average annual salaries are \$8,474 (23.7 percent) less than the state average. Average annual salaries for the Plattsmouth Labor Area (\$33,862) were \$1,928 (5.4 percent) less than the Nebraska average. These data suggest, of course, there would be a positive labor supply response in Cass County to the creation of additional employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits.

**Table Four**  
**Average Pay, Plattsmouth Labor Area & Nebraska, 2008**

**Part A**  
**Average Annual Pay and Average Weekly Wages**  
**All Covered<sup>(a)</sup> Wage and Salary Workers, All Industries**

<b>County</b>	<b>Average Employment</b>	<b>Average Weekly Wages</b>	<b>Average Annual Wages</b>
<b>Cass</b>	<b>3,555</b>	<b>\$525</b>	<b>\$27,316</b>
Lancaster	125,600	\$661	\$34,356
Otoe	5,443	\$511	\$26,594
Sarpy	53,215	\$659	\$34,294
Saunders	3,476	\$528	\$27,469
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>191,289</b>	<b>\$649</b>	<b>\$33,862</b>
Nebraska	766,883	\$688	\$35,790

Table Four continued on following page; notes and sources on following page.

**Table Four -- Continued  
Part B**

**Average Annual Pay All Covered<sup>(a)</sup> Wage and Salary Workers  
By Selected Industry Groups**

County	All Goods Producing	Manuf.	Construction	All Service Providing	Trade Trans & Util	Financial Services	Bus & Prof Services	Leisure & Hospitality
<b>Cass</b>	<b>\$42,544</b>	<b>\$45,699</b>	<b>\$28,645</b>	<b>\$22,610</b>	<b>\$25,850</b>	<b>\$31,007</b>	<b>\$32,821</b>	<b>\$10,491</b>
Lancaster	\$42,069	\$44,305	\$38,500	\$32,765	\$31,158	\$44,047	\$38,709	\$11,852
Otoe	\$33,211	\$33,939	\$32,825	\$22,757	\$21,642	\$32,165	\$36,941	\$12,299
Sarpy	\$42,667	\$48,586	\$39,250	\$32,998	\$28,795	\$43,840	\$53,366	\$11,908
Saunders	\$35,470	\$37,655	\$33,691	\$23,569	\$24,898	\$38,661	\$37,389	\$7,567
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>\$39,685</b>	<b>\$40,534</b>	<b>\$40,253</b>	<b>\$34,742</b>	<b>\$49,352</b>	<b>\$47,475</b>	<b>\$46,295</b>	<b>\$12,259</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> Includes employers that are subject to Nebraska Employment Security Laws.

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages <http://www.bls.gov/cew/> and  
Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information <http://www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiindustry/index.asp>.

Part B of Table Four provides average annual wages, by county and by major industry sector, for the counties that make up the Plattsmouth Labor Area. As the data in Table Four indicate, the highest overall average annual wages in the area are for wage and salary workers employed in Lancaster County. The average annual wage for all wage and salary workers (working) in Lancaster County was \$34,356 in 2008 which was \$494 (1.5 percent) more than the average for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole, and \$1,434 (4.0 percent) less than the Nebraska average. A review of the industry specific data for average annual wages for Lancaster indicates that the high average annual wage results from the high average wage in the manufacturing and financial services industries.

### **Commuting Patterns**

Table Five provides 2006 estimates from the Bureau of the Census Local Employment Dynamics program showing commuting patterns for workers living in the Plattsmouth Labor Area. Data in Table Five Part A indicate, a significant number (and percentage) of workers in the area commuted outside of their county of residence for employment. Data in Part A indicate that 8,788 jobs or 74.3 percent of all jobs held by Cass County residents are located in other counties. For all of the other counties in the Plattsmouth Labor Area, the percentage of commuters was smaller than for Cass County. In the case of Sarpy County, 48,673 or 72.7 percent of jobs held by county residents were in other counties. Other counties with a high percentage of employed workers commuting to other counties for employment include Saunders (70.7 percent) and Otoe (50.6 percent).

**Table Five**  
**Commuting Patterns, Plattsmouth Labor Area, 2006**

**Part A**  
**Jobs Outside County of Residence, 2006**

<b>County</b>	<b>Working Outside County</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Cass</b>	<b>8,788</b>	<b>74.3</b>
Lancaster	20,537	14.7
Otoe	4,460	50.6
Sarpy	48,673	72.7
Saunders	6,641	70.7

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Local Employment Dynamics*.

**Part B**  
**Plattsmouth and Cass County Residents**  
**Employment by County, 2006**

<b>County Where Jobs are Located</b>	<b>Number of Jobs in County</b>		<b>Percent of All Jobs</b>	
	<b>Plattsmouth Residents</b>	<b>Cass County Residents</b>	<b>Plattsmouth Residents</b>	<b>Cass County Residents</b>
Douglas, NE	1,342	4,016	39.7%	33.9%
<b>Cass, NE</b>	<b>1,087</b>	<b>3,043</b>	<b>32.2%</b>	<b>25.7%</b>
Sarpy, NE	489	1,474	14.5%	12.5%
Pottawattamie, IA	123	268	3.6%	2.3%
Lancaster, NE	98	2,044	2.9%	17.3%
All Other Locations	241	986	7.1%	8.3%
Total Resident Jobs	3,380	11,831	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Local Employment Dynamics*.

Table Five Part B provides further detail illustrating the willingness of workers in Plattsmouth and Cass County to travel for employment. In 2006, residents of Cass County worked at a total of 11,831 jobs; a resident could work at more than one job. Of these 11,831 jobs, the largest number, 4,016 or 33.9 percent, were located in Douglas County (primarily Omaha), while 3,043 or 25.7 percent were located in Cass County. Other counties with high numbers of workers from Cass County were Lancaster (2,044 jobs), Sarpy (1,474 jobs), and Pottawattamie County in Iowa (268 jobs).

Also in 2006, residents of Plattsmouth worked at a total of 3,380 jobs with the largest number, 1,342 or 39.7 percent located in Douglas County (primarily Omaha) and 1,087 or 32.2 percent located in Cass County. Other counties with high numbers of workers from Plattsmouth were Sarpy (489 jobs), Lancaster (98 jobs), and Pottawattamie County in Iowa (123 jobs).

## Population Trends

The data provided in Table Six show population trends for the Plattsmouth Labor Area, by county, and for Nebraska for the 1950–2008 period. As these data indicate, the population of the Plattsmouth Labor Area was 432,446 in 2000. The Plattsmouth Labor Area population grew by 132.8 percent from 1950 to 2000 and grew 13.4 percent from 2000 to 2008. Population in Cass County totaled 24,334 in 2000 and had grown by 48.7 percent from 1950 to 2000. During the latest Census decade of the 1990’s, the Cass County population increased by 14.1 percent, compared to the increase for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole of 16.9 percent, and to the State rate of growth of 8.4 percent.

**Table Six**  
**Population in the Plattsmouth Labor Area, by County, and Nebraska**  
**Selected Years, 1950–2008**

COUNTY	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008	% Chg. 1950–2000	% Chg. 2000–08
<b>Cass</b>	<b>16,361</b>	<b>17,821</b>	<b>18,076</b>	<b>20,297</b>	<b>21,318</b>	<b>24,334</b>	<b>25,598</b>	<b>48.7</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Lancaster	119,742	155,272	167,972	192,884	213,641	250,291	278,728	109.0	11.4
Otoe	17,056	16,503	15,576	15,183	14,252	15,396	15,549	-9.7	1.0
Sarpy	15,693	31,281	63,696	86,015	102,583	122,595	150,467	681.2	22.7
Saunders	16,923	17,270	17,018	18,716	18,285	19,830	20,034	17.2	1.0
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>185,775</b>	<b>238,147</b>	<b>282,338</b>	<b>333,095</b>	<b>370,079</b>	<b>432,446</b>	<b>490,376</b>	<b>132.8</b>	<b>13.4</b>
Nebraska	1,325,510	1,411,330	1,483,493	1,569,825	1,578,385	1,711,263	1,783,432	29.1	4.2

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 1950-2000* and Annual Population Estimates, 2008.

Table Seven shows the age distribution of the resident population. Obviously, the age distribution of the population is important when evaluating the potential labor supply in an area. A key variable is the number of people in the working age populations of the counties making up the Plattsmouth Labor Area. In 2008, there were 13,954 people in Cass County between the ages of 25 and 64, which represented 54.5 percent of the total population, compared to 52.3 percent of the population for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole and 51.0 percent of the Nebraska population in this age range.

**Table Seven**  
**Age Characteristics of the Population, Plattsmouth Labor Area,**  
**by County, and Nebraska, 2008**

COUNTY	0-14		15-24		25-44		45-64		65-Older		Median Age
	Number	% <sup>(a)</sup>	Number	% <sup>(a)</sup>	Number	% <sup>(a)</sup>	Number	% <sup>(a)</sup>	Number	% <sup>(a)</sup>	
<b>Cass</b>	5,163	20.2	3,315	13.0	6,721	26.3	7,233	28.3	3,166	12.4	<b>38.2</b>
Lancaster	56,531	20.3	48,794	17.5	80,226	28.8	64,277	23.1	28,900	10.4	32.7
Otoe	2,967	19.1	1,885	12.1	3,585	23.1	4,161	26.8	2,951	19.0	41.7
Sarpy	36,239	24.1	22,204	14.8	45,095	30.0	34,503	22.9	12,426	8.3	31.7
Saunders	3,884	19.4	2,672	13.3	4,723	23.6	5,770	28.8	2,985	14.9	40.5
<b>Labor Area</b>	104,784	21.4	78,870	16.1	140,350	28.6	115,944	23.6	50,428	10.3	33.3
Nebraska	371,462	20.8	262,190	14.7	457,177	25.6	451,756	25.3	240,847	13.5	36.2

<sup>(a)</sup> Percent of total population for each respective area.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates, by Age, 2008*.

Table Eight provides information showing population, the natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration for the 1990–1999 period for Nebraska, for Cass County and for the Plattsmouth Labor Area. As these data show, all the counties in the Plattsmouth Labor Area experienced net in-migration during the Census decade of the 1990s. As indicated in the table, net in-migration for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole accounted for a population growth of 18,367 people during the decade, contributing to a population increase equal of 5.0 percent of the population. In the case of Cass County, net in-migration during the same period totaled 2455 people, or 11.5 percent of the 1990 population.

**Table Eight**  
**Population, Births, Deaths and Migration, Plattsmouth Labor Area,**  
**by County, 1990–1999**

County	Population		1990–1999			Net Migration*, 1990–1999	
	1990	2000	Births	Deaths	Nat. Incr.	Number	% 1990 Pop.
<b>Cass</b>	<b>21,318</b>	<b>24,841</b>	<b>2,918</b>	<b>1,850</b>	<b>1,068</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>11.5</b>
Lancaster	213,641	237,657	29,673	14,365	15,308	8,708	4.1
Otoe	14,252	14,803	1,587	1,807	-220	771	5.4
Sarpy	102,583	122,495	18,016	4,198	13,818	6,094	5.9
Saunders	18,285	19,260	2,271	1,635	636	339	1.9
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>370,079</b>	<b>419,056</b>	<b>54,465</b>	<b>23,855</b>	<b>30,610</b>	<b>18,367</b>	<b>5.0</b>
Nebraska	1,578,417	1,666,028	217,510	139,754	77,756	9,855	0.6

\* Net Migration from the Bureau of the Census estimates, includes residual component not shown separately.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *County Population Estimates for July 1, 1999 and Population Change for April 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999*.

Table Nine provides information showing population, the natural increase (births minus deaths), and net migration for the 2000–2008 period. As these data show, the Plattsmouth Labor Area experienced significant net in-migration during this more recent eight-year period. As indicated in the table, in-migration for the Plattsmouth Labor Area as a whole accounted for population growth of 22,502 during the 2000–2008 period, contributing to a population increase equal to 5.2 percent of the 2000 population. In the case of Cass County, net in-migration during this eight-year period was 339, or 1.4 percent of the 2000 population. These data suggest that as job growth has occurred in the area, people have continued to move to Cass County, as well as to the other counties that comprise the Plattsmouth Labor Area

**Table Nine**  
**Population, Births, Deaths, and Migration, Plattsmouth Labor area,**  
**by County, 2000-2008**

County	Population		2000-2008			Net Migration, 2000-2008*	
	2000	2008	Births	Deaths	Nat. Incr.	Number	% 2000 Pop.
<b>Cass</b>	<b>24,334</b>	<b>25,598</b>	<b>2,655</b>	<b>1,730</b>	<b>925</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Lancaster	250,291	278,728	33,290	14,028	19,262	9,175	3.7
Otoe	15,396	15,549	1,557	1,498	59	94	0.6
Sarpy	122,595	150,467	19,783	5,164	14,619	13,253	10.8
Saunders	19,830	20,034	2,048	1,485	563	-359	-1.8
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>432,446</b>	<b>490,376</b>	<b>59,333</b>	<b>23,905</b>	<b>35,428</b>	<b>22,502</b>	<b>5.2</b>
Nebraska	1,711,263	1,783,432	214,642	124,319	90,323	-18,154	-1.1

\* Net Migration from the Bureau of the Census estimates, includes residual component not shown separately.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates, 2008, and Components of Population Change, 2000-2008*.

### **Competitive Employment and Career Opportunities**

An employer providing jobs with competitive wages and benefits and offering career opportunities would be a welcome addition to the employment base in the Plattsmouth Labor Area and in Cass County. The expected response to such employment opportunities would be significant, and it is anticipated that there would be an adequate labor supply response for a prospective new employer offering competitive wages and benefits in the Plattsmouth area. The labor force, employment, and demographic data presented in this report illustrate quite clearly that there is a sufficiently large labor force and population base living within the Plattsmouth Labor Area, and that significant numbers of persons living in the area are commuting to other areas for employment.

In conclusion, the data and analysis presented in this report indicate that the Plattsmouth Labor Area and Cass County would be able to provide a significant number of dedicated and skilled workers to meet the needs of additional employers in the area. While this report has not estimated a precise number of people that might be available to a prospective new employer in the Plattsmouth area, it is anticipated that if attractive working conditions with competitive wages and employee benefits were offered, a

prospective new employer would be able to select their workforce from a substantial pool of applicants.

Questions concerning this report and the supporting data should be addressed to:

Kenneth M. Lemke, Ph.D.  
Economist  
Nebraska Public Power District  
P.O. Box 499  
Columbus, Nebraska 68602-0499  
(402) 563-5535 or (800) 282-6773, Ext. 5535  
E-Mail: [kmlemke@nppd.com](mailto:kmlemke@nppd.com)