

Monthly Economic Indicator Report

February 2026



Employment	Dec-25	Dec-24	% Change
Labor Force - Buffalo Co.	29,625	28,819	2.8%
Employed - Buffalo Co.	28,911	28,221	2.4%
Unemployed - Buffalo Co.	714	598	19.4%
Unemployment Rate - Buffalo Co.	2.4%	2.1%	0.30%
Nebraska	3.0%	2.6%	0.40%

Source: Nebraska Department of Labor

Taxable Retail Sales	Nov-25	Nov-24	% Change
Buffalo County	\$83,812,645	\$87,793,289	-4.53%
Kearney	\$79,263,828	\$82,690,473	-4.14%
Nebraska - Taxable Retail Sales	\$3,827,492,463	\$3,613,952,045	5.91%
Motor Vehicle Sales - Buffalo Co.	\$10,321,382	\$12,783,454	-19.26%
Nebraska - Motor Vehicle Sales	\$426,822,118	\$465,557,457	-8.32%

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Hospitality Sales	Dec-25	Dec-24	% Change
Lodging Tax - Buffalo Co.	\$127,341	\$116,549	9.3%

Source: Nebraska Department of Revenue

Enplanements	Jan-26	Jan-25	% Change
Kearney Regional Airport	2,106	1,977	6.5%

Source: City of Kearney

Building Permits	Jan-26	Permits	Feb-25 to Jan 26
Single Family	\$4,227,340	8	\$41,433,594
Multi Family (permits unit)	\$2,804,023	14 14	\$10,942,625
Commercial	\$6,105,200	5	\$39,186,197
Com. Remodel/Additions	\$1,600,000	4	\$35,845,494

Source: City of Kearney