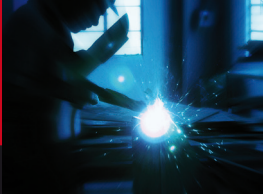


# For

THE STATE CHAMBER 

Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

# MANUFACTURERS Only



Fall 2016

## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT FEATURES NAM'S JAY TIMMONS

**T**he 2016 Federal Legislative Summit – hosted by the Nebraska Chamber, as well as the Lincoln and Greater Omaha Chambers – was held August 4, at the Strategic Air Command & Aerospace Museum near Ashland. Nearly 400 chamber members and business leaders attended the eighth annual summit.

The event opened with comments from Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, who discussed his efforts to reduce state spending, make government more efficient, and his plans to lower Nebraska's overall tax burden.

The morning's main event was a congressional update by U.S. Senators Deb Fischer and Ben Sasse, along with U.S. Congressmen Jeff Fortenberry, Adrian Smith and Brad Ashford. Utilizing a format similar to the longstanding Nebraska Breakfast held weekly on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., the congressional delegation updated attendees on key issues, including the federal debt, trade, long-term highway funding and defense operations.

Later in the morning, David Drozd from UNO's Center for Public Affairs Research provided an in-depth look at Nebraska's population trends and demographics -- and how they will impact the state's workforce trends. To see the slides presented by Drozd, click [here](#).

Drozd's presentation was followed by an



NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons discusses manufacturing in Nebraska with Governor Pete Ricketts during the Federal Legislative Summit on August 4.

Manufacturing is a vital component of the Nebraska economy. It also represents an essential segment of the membership within the Nebraska Chamber. The State Chamber Manufacturers Council evaluates and recommends policy positions to the State Chamber Board of Directors and serves as a forum for the exchange of views and information that the State Chamber manufacturing members wish to share.

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*(Continued on page 2)*



## FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT FEATURES NAM'S JAY TIMMONS

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update from Nebraska Department of Economic Development Director Courtney Dentlinger, who spoke about challenges and opportunities facing the state's communities and employers, including in the areas of jobs and business incentives.

Greater Omaha Chamber President & CEO David Brown updated attendees on efforts to retain Offutt Air Force Base and grow its mission. Offutt's estimated economic impact to our state is \$1.3 billion and the base is one of the state's largest employers, with approximately 10,000 military and civilian personnel.

The keynote speaker was Jay Timmons, President & CEO of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the country's largest manufacturing association.

In his remarks to attendees, Timmons highlighted the key issues in which his association has been involved. Timmons noted that American manufacturing is "still great" – despite the rhetoric of the presidential candidates. He noted that if U.S. manufacturing were its own country, it would be the ninth-largest economy in the world.

And in Nebraska, manufacturing adds almost \$14 billion to the state economy, which is nearly 13 percent of gross state product, according to Timmons. For every dollar invested in manufacturing, another \$1.81 is added to the economy, he said.

See Timmons' full remarks by clicking [http://www.nam.org/Newsroom/Speeches-Presentations/2016/Jay-Timmons--Keynote-Address-to-Nebraska-Chamber-of-Commerce-\(Ashland--NE\)/](http://www.nam.org/Newsroom/Speeches-Presentations/2016/Jay-Timmons--Keynote-Address-to-Nebraska-Chamber-of-Commerce-(Ashland--NE)/). 

**RIGHT:** All five members of Nebraska's federal congressional delegation updated attendees about their Capitol Hill activities.

**BELOW:** NAM President and CEO Jay Timmons met with Behlen Manufacturing's A.F. "TR" Raimondo and Phil Raimondo. A former chairman of the Nebraska Chamber, TR has served on NAM's board of directors since 1998.





## NEBRASKA CHAMBER'S MANUFACTURING SUMMIT IS OCT. 28 IN LINCOLN

**T**he Nebraska Chamber's annual Manufacturing and Distribution Executive Summit will be Thursday, October 27, in Lincoln at the Lancaster Event Center at 4100 North 84th Street.

There is no charge to attend the summit, which will coincide with the Nebraska Products Show for Business & Industry. This is one of the state's top events for those involved in manufacturing and related sectors.

Co-hosted by RSM – one of the world's top networks of audit, tax and consulting ex-

perts – the summit will begin at 9:00 a.m. (CT) and will conclude by 1:15 p.m. A free continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

The winners of the 2016 Nebraska Innovation in Manufacturing Award will be announced. In addition, the summit will feature expert analysis of actions by successful companies, as well as a brief review of noteworthy legislation in the Nebraska Legislature. Reservations can be made by calling (402) 474-4422. ☐



## Keeping HR Simple

### Nebraska 2016 Human Resources Library Now Available

**K**eeping up with federal and state employment regulations is complex work for any business -- but good human resources guidance can help employers steer clear of costly lawsuits. Fortunately, the [2016 Nebraska Human Resources Compliance Library](#) is available.

For years, the Nebraska Chamber HR Library has helped employers and HR personnel find answers quickly. The HR Manual is a comprehensive, plain English guide that helps you manage employees from pre-hire through termination.

Written in plain English, it is authored by top labor lawyers at the Knudsen Law Firm, so you know you can trust the guidance. The Nebraska HR Compliance Library allows users to download and customize hundreds of policies and forms; maintain proper employee personnel files; and create or bolster your employee handbook.

When a federal or state labor law or regulation changes, the library is updated -- and you'll receive an e-mail notice so you can easily determine what, if any, changes you need to make. Extra bones include the HR Update (a weekly newsletter with news and trends) and hrsimple.com webinars worth credit towards SHRM-CP/SCP and HRCI certifications.

Other topic-specific resources are also available, including: "Hiring, Firing and Discipline for Employers," "An Employer's Guide to FMLA and ADA," and "Employment Verification: Immigration, Form I-9, and E-Verify."

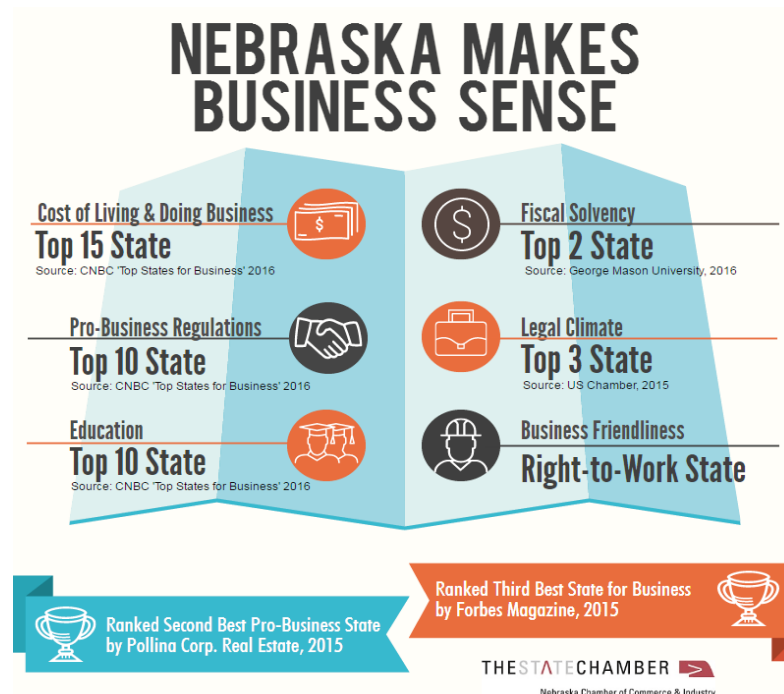
As a member of the Nebraska Chamber, you will save 20% off any publication. Visit [www.hrsimple.com/NE](http://www.hrsimple.com/NE) -- or call (855) 477-4675 -- to place your order. Be sure to use coupon code **NECweb16** to receive your 20% discount. ☐

# AT A GLANCE: NEBRASKA'S RANKINGS IN COMPETITIVENESS STUDIES

Over the decades, Nebraska's business leaders, chambers of commerce, state lawmakers and governors have worked hard to improve our state's economic competitiveness. While there is still much work to be done to make Nebraska even more competitive and maintain our current strengths, Nebraska has undeniably become recognized nationally and globally for its pro-business climate.

Below is a summary of comparisons published over the past 18 months in which Nebraska has performed extremely well:

- No. 1 - Employment Leaders Study (Business Facilities, 2015)
- 2nd Best - State Fiscal Solvency (George Mason University, 2016)
- 2nd Best - Top 10 Pro-Business States (Pollina Corporate Real Estate, 2015)
- 3rd Best - Top States For Millennials (MoneyRates.com, 2016)
- 3rd Best - Best States For Business (Forbes, 2015)
- 3rd Best - Legal Climate (U.S. Chamber Institute for Legal Reform, 2015)
- 3rd Best - Best State Job Markets & Hiring Climates (Gallup, 2015)
- 4th Best - Combined Business Climate Rankings (Ball State University, 2016)
- 5th Best - Business Incentives & Economic Development (Pollina, 2015)
- 6th Best - America's Happiest States (WalletHub.com, 2015)
- 7th Best - Overall Economic Freedom (Fraser Institute, 2015)
- 7th Best - Well-Being Index (Gallup-Healthways, 2015)
- 7th Best - Business Friendly Regulations (CNBC, 2016)
- 9th Best - Best Business Climates (Business Facilities, 2015)
- 9th Best - Best States In Which To Retire (Forbes, 2015)
- 9th Best - States for Growth & Innovation (U.S. Chamber, 2015)
- 9th Best - Education System (CNBC, 2016)
- 10th Best - America's Health Rankings (United Health Foundation, 2015)
- 10th Best - Retail Electricity Price For Residential Users (U.S. Dept. of Energy, 2015)
- 10th Best - Best States In Which To Retire (Bankrates.com, 2016)
- 11th Best - Top States For Business (CNBC, 2016)
- 11th Best - Best States For Purchasing Power (24/7 Wall St., 2016) 



## NEBRASKA ADVANTAGE: A DECADE OF SUCCESS

**N**ebraska's business incentives have yielded impressive results over the past decade. Without incentives, the Cornhusker State would often miss out on new jobs and investments due to the state's high tax climate. The [Nebraska Advantage Act](#) -- implemented in 2006 -- levels the playing field. In fact, Nebraska's business incentives were given a grade of "A" by Pollina Corporate Real Estate's 2015 study.


In the decade from 2006 through 2015, more than 58 percent of the incentives approved under the Nebraska Advantage Act have been for manufacturing businesses.

The Nebraska Advantage is performance based -- the state does not issue blank checks to qualified businesses. Instead, businesses can keep more of their own money through earned credits and refunds, but only if they meet specified levels of job creation or investment. Over the past decade, it's estimated

that Nebraska Advantage incentives have attracted tens of thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars in investments across the state.

A recent report by the state's Department of Revenue shows there were nearly 60 Nebraska Advantage agreements signed in 2015 alone. While some businesses may fall short of qualifying for incentives, it's worth noting that last year's Nebraska Advantage applications represented private-sector commitments of \$1.8 billion in investments and 33,978 new jobs statewide, according to the Department of Economic Development.

More than 30 of last year's applications were for projects located in Greater Nebraska communities -- surpassing the number of applications for projects in either the Omaha metro area or Lincoln.

For more information about the Nebraska Advantage Act, visit: <http://www.neded.org/business/tax-incentives>. 

## Nebraska Slips Out Of CNBC's Top 10 States For Business

**W**hile it is still a strong performer, Nebraska recently dropped four spots in the latest edition of CNBC's "Top States for Business" study, falling to No. 11 overall. Last year, the Cornhusker State finished seventh best; in 2014, Nebraska was No. 4.


This year marks the first time in six years that Nebraska finished outside the financial network's top 10.

The State Chamber's analysis found that one key reason for Nebraska's drop is CNBC's shift in methodology. While the study still considers more than 60 areas of competitiveness over 10 broad categories, the 2016 study placed a much heavier emphasis on workforce, a category in which Nebraska is ranked No. 19 -- eight spots lower than last year. In the area of workforce, CNBC considered worker education level, number of available employees, and retention of college-educated

workers, among other things.

Despite Nebraska's decline in CNBC's overall ranking, the state actually improved its standing in five of the study's 10 categories -- including a seven-spot jump in education (No. 9) and a five-spot improvement in access to capital (No. 31).

Since 2014, Nebraska has seen notable improvements in its rankings for education (No. 19 to 9), technology and innovation (No. 40 to 31), and cost of living (No. 21 to 15). Over the same two-year period, the state has slipped considerably in the heavily-weighted categories of cost of doing business (No. 10 to 15) and economy (No. 11 to 19).

Overall, Utah was No. 1 in CNBC's 2016 study, followed by Texas and Colorado. Coming in last was Rhode Island, followed by Hawaii and West Virginia. 



## TEN IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT MANUFACTURING

1. According to the most recent data, manufacturing contributes \$2.17 trillion to national GDP.
2. For every dollar invested in manufacturing, another \$1.81 is added to the economy. That is the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector.
3. The vast majority of manufacturing firms in the United States are quite small. In the most recent data, there were 256,363 firms in the manufacturing sector, with all but 3,626 firms considered to be small (e.g., having fewer than 500 employees). In fact, three-quarters of these firms have fewer than 20 employees.
4. Almost two-thirds of manufacturers are organized as pass-through entities. Looking at only manufacturing corporations and partnerships in the most recent data, 65.6 percent are either S-corporations or partnerships. The remainder are C-corporations. Note that this does not include sole proprietorships. If they were included, the percentage of pass-through entities rises to 83.4 percent.
5. There are 12.33 million manufacturing workers in the United States, accounting for 9 percent of the workforce. In addition, manufacturing supports an estimated 18.5 million jobs in the United States—about one in six private-sector jobs.
6. In 2014, the average manufacturing worker in the United States earned \$79,553 annually, including pay and benefits, far more than the average worker in all industries. Looking specifically at wages, the average manufacturing worker earned \$25.19 per hour, according to the latest figures, not including benefits.
7. Manufacturers have one of the highest percentages of workers who are eligible for health benefits provided by their employer. Indeed, 92 percent of manufacturing employees were eligible for health insurance benefits in 2015, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.
8. Manufacturers have experienced tremendous growth over the past few decades, making them more “lean” and helping them become more competitive globally. Output per hour for all workers in the manufacturing sector has increased by more than 2.5 times since 1987. Note that durable goods manufacturers have seen even greater growth, almost tripling their labor productivity over that time frame.
9. Over the next decade, nearly 3.5 million manufacturing jobs will likely be needed, and 2 million are expected to go unfilled due to the skills gap.
10. According to a recent report, 80 percent of manufacturers report a moderate or serious shortage of qualified applicants for skilled and highly skilled production positions. □

## STATE CHAMBER'S LEGISLATIVE FORUMS BEGIN SOON

**A**utumn is just around the corner and the Nebraska Chamber will soon hit the road for its fall legislative forums.

For more than three decades, the Nebraska Chamber – in coordination with local chambers across the state – has held its community forums to inform chamber members on state legislative activities and to gather input from the business community on issues of concern.

Members of the State Chamber, as well as members of local chambers and the news media, are invited to participate. State senators and candidates for the Legislature will also be invited to the forums.

At the end of this issue is the 2016 schedule of the Nebraska Chamber's fall forum tour. If you have questions regarding the forums, please contact the individual listed for the legislative forum nearest you. □

# 2016 Fall Legislative Forums

## Monday, Aug. 29

**Aurora** (Lunch), noon  
Bremer Center  
*Contact: Barb Ernst, (402) 694-6911*

## Tuesday, Aug. 30

**Scottsbluff** (Lunch), noon  
Scotts Bluff Country Club  
*Contact: Karen Anderson, (308) 632-2133*

## Wednesday, Aug. 31

**Sidney** (Breakfast), 7 a.m.  
Dude's Steakhouse  
*Contact: Denise Wilkinson, (308) 254-5851*

**Ogallala** (Lunch), noon  
Front Street  
*Contact: Lori Wortman, (308) 284-4066*

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## Thursday, Sept. 1

**North Platte** (Breakfast), 7 a.m.  
Holiday Inn Express  
*Contact: Kathy Swain, (308) 532-4966*

**York** (Lunch), noon  
Chances R  
*Contact: Madonna Mogul, (402) 362-5531*

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## Wednesday, Sept. 7

**Wahoo** (Lunch), noon  
Heritage Inn  
*Contact: Doug Watts, (402) 443-4001*

## Thursday, Sept. 8

**Hebron** (Lunch), noon  
Stastny Center  
*Contact: Chris Roth, (402) 365-7251*

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## Tuesday, Sept. 20

**Broken Bow** (Breakfast), 7:30 a.m.  
Bonfire Grill (509 S. 9th Ave.)  
*Contact: Donnis Bullock, (308) 872-5691*

**Holdrege** (Lunch), noon  
Holdrege Country Club  
*Contact: Carol Rapstine, (308) 995-4444*

## Wednesday, Sept. 21

**McCook** (Breakfast), 7:30 a.m.  
Weeth Theater, Tipton Hall, McCook Community College  
*Contact: Dee Spicer, (308) 345-3200*

**Gothenburg** (Lunch), noon  
Walker's Steakhouse & Lounge  
*Contact: Heather Combs Platter, (308) 537-3505*

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## Monday, Sept. 26

**Blair** (Lunch), noon  
Memorial Community Hospital (810 North 22nd St.)  
*Contact: Jordan Rishel, (402) 533-4455*

## Tuesday, Sept. 27

**Kearney** (Breakfast), 8 a.m.  
Kearney Chamber Conference Room  
*Contact: Elizabeth Roetman, (308) 237-3110*

**St. Paul** (Lunch), noon  
St. Paul Area Civic and Recreational Center  
*Contact: Mike Feeken, (308) 754-4661*

**Hastings**, 5 p.m. (Social) and 6 p.m. (Dinner)  
Pastime Lanes Family Fun Center  
*Contact: Tom Hastings, (402) 461-8400*

## Wednesday, Sept. 28

**Columbus** (Breakfast) 7 a.m.  
Columbus Chamber (753 33rd Ave.)  
*Contact: Sharyle Sands, (402) 564-2769*

**Fremont** (Lunch), noon  
Midland University (Private Dining Room)  
*Contact: Tara Lea, (402) 721-2641*

## Thursday, Sept. 29

**West Point** (Breakfast) 8 a.m.  
Nielsen Center  
*Contact: Tina Biteghe Bi Ndong, (402) 372-2981*

**Sarpy County/Bellevue** (Lunch), noon  
Tiburon  
*Contact: Annisa Visty, (402) 339-3050*

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## Monday, Oct. 10

**Norfolk** (Lunch), noon  
Norfolk Chamber  
*Contact: Mark Zimmerer, (402) 371-4862*

## Wednesday, Oct. 12

**Beatrice** (Lunch), noon  
TBA  
*Contact: Lora Young, (402) 223-2338*

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## Tuesday, Oct. 18

**Omaha** (Lunch), noon  
Goodwill (4805 N. 72 St.)  
*Contact: Cheryl Lawson, (402) 978-7922*

## Wednesday, Oct. 19

**Nebraska City** (Lunch), noon  
Eagles Club  
*Contact: Amy Allgood, (402) 873-6654*

## Thursday, Oct. 20

**Wayne** (Lunch), noon  
TBA  
*Contact: Wes Blecke, (402) 369-1188*

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## Tuesday, Oct. 25

**Grand Island** (Lunch), noon  
Riverside Golf Club  
*Contact: Cindy Johnson, (308) 382-9210*

## Wednesday, Oct. 26

**Lincoln** (Breakfast), 7:30 a.m.  
The Nebraska Club (233 S 13th St., #1708)  
*Contact: Jaime Henning, (402) 436-2366*

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## Monday, Nov. 28

**Henderson** (Lunch), noon  
TBA  
*Contact: Kelsey Bergen, (402) 723-4228*

## Nebraska Chamber of Commerce & Industry

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