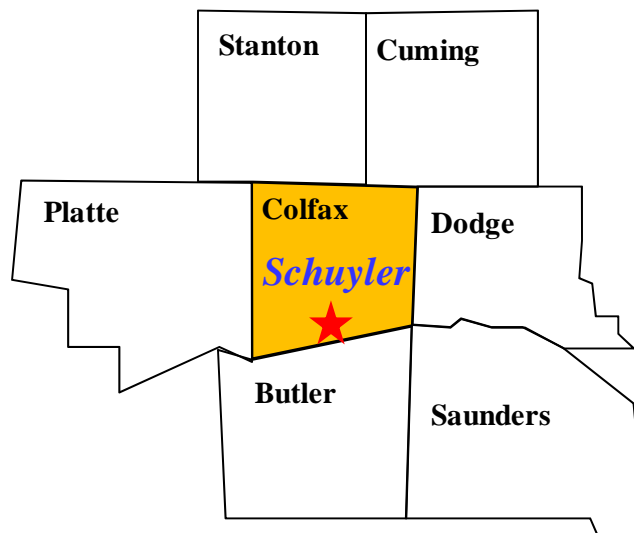


# Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Schuyler (Colfax County) Labor Area



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# **Labor Supply Factors and Labor Availability for the Schuyler (Colfax 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 Schuyler and the Colfax County Labor Area. The response to such employment opportunities, especially if they were in the Transportation and Warehousing Industry, would be substantial, and as this report shows, there is a sizeable labor force and population base living within the Schuyler Labor Area. Some of the pertinent findings of the report include:

- Population in the Schuyler Labor Area (Colfax County plus the six contiguous counties) totaled 122,387 people in 2009, with the Colfax County population totaling 10,332. Population in Colfax County declined by 1.0 percent during the 2000–2009 period, compared to a population decrease of 0.9 percent for the seven-county Schuyler Labor Area as a whole.
- The labor force for the Schuyler Labor Area totaled 67,224 in 2009, with 64,069 local residents employed in jobs either within or outside the area. A total of 50,401 persons were employed in nonfarm wage and salary jobs located within the area. These data suggest that a substantial number of residents of the Schuyler Labor Area were commuting out of the area for employment.
- The number of people who lived in Colfax County that were employed totaled 5,288 in 2009; yet, there were 4,401 persons employed in nonfarm wage and salary jobs within the county. This indicates residents of Colfax County are commuting to surrounding counties for employment opportunities.
- Average annual wages for all nonfarm wage and salary employees in the Schuyler Labor Area were \$5,470 less than the Nebraska average. Within the labor area, Stanton County had the highest average wage, \$48,020 or \$11,598 than the Nebraska average. In Colfax County, average annual salaries were \$4,922 less than the state average.
- Of the 2,039 primary jobs in the Transportation and Warehousing Industry held by Schuyler Labor Area residents in 2008, at least 804 (39.4 percent) are located outside the labor area.
- In 2009, average annual pay for Transportation and Warehousing Industry jobs in Colfax County is \$4,900 (13.9 percent) lower than the Nebraska average and average pay for Truck Transportation jobs is \$4,000 (11.3 percent) lower than the statewide value.

The basic conclusion of this report, which follows from the data and analysis presented, is that the Schuyler Labor Area and Colfax 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 Schuyler 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 Schuyler (Colfax County) Labor Area

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

In reviewing the data presented in this report, it will be evident that the Schuyler 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 Colfax County and for the surrounding counties that make up the potential laborshed area for Schuyler. Figure One includes a map outlining the geographic area which has been defined as the Schuyler Labor Area.

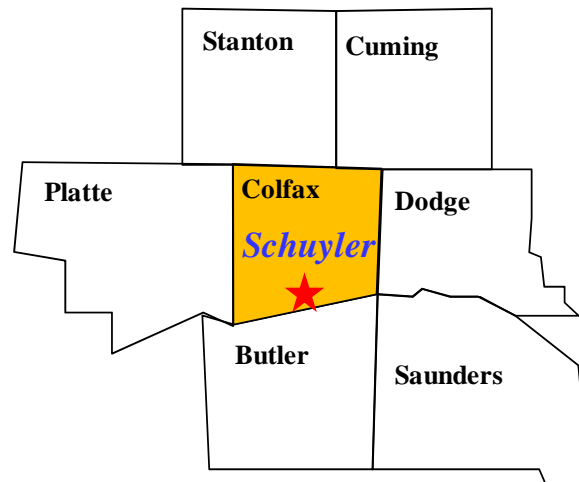
An important resource for new or expanding businesses is a readily available supply of workers. Whether an employer requires 5 or 500 workers, they need to have confidence there will be a sufficient number of workers available to meet their labor requirements. This report is provided as a key analytical tool to identify and quantify the number and selected characteristics of workers available in the Schuyler 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.

**Figure One**  
**Schuyler Labor Area**



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 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 Schuyler Labor Area and for Colfax County for selected years from 2004 to 2009. 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 Schuyler Labor Area (see Figure One). As these data indicate, both the total labor force and total employment for the laborshed area as a whole declined. The area labor force declined by 1.5 percent between 2004 and 2009 and total employment declined by 2.2 percent during the same period.

**Table One**  
**Labor Force and Employment, Schuyler Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2004–2009**

<b>Part A</b>							
<b>Labor Force and Employment</b>							
<b>Schuyler Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2004–2009</b>							
<b>(Place of Residence)</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>% Chg. 2004–2009</b>
<b>Labor Force<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>68,236</b>	<b>67,829</b>	<b>67,648</b>	<b>68,625</b>	<b>68,827</b>	<b>67,224</b>	<b>-1.5</b>
Unemployment (#)	2,755	2,598	2,026	1,889	2,189	3,156	14.6
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.0	3.8	3.0	2.8	3.2	4.7	(N/A)
Employment	65,481	65,232	65,623	66,735	66,637	64,069	-2.2
<b>(Place of Work)</b>							
<b>Nonfarm Employment<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>50,098</b>	<b>50,539</b>	<b>51,626</b>	<b>52,977</b>	<b>52,315</b>	<b>50,401</b>	<b>0.6</b>

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

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

(Place of Residence)	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	% Chg. 2004–2009
<b>Labor Force<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>5,993</b>	<b>5,867</b>	<b>5,730</b>	<b>5,680</b>	<b>5,694</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>-8.1</b>
Unemployment (#)	190	168	133	123	149	220	15.8
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.2	2.9	2.3	2.2	2.6	4.0	(N/A)
Employment	5,803	5,699	5,597	5,557	5,545	5,288	-8.9
<b>(Place of Work)</b>							
<b>Nonfarm Employment<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>4,811</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>4,593</b>	<b>4,583</b>	<b>4,401</b>	<b>-9.5</b>
Goods Producing	2,227	2,204	2,168	2,089	2,062	1,920	-13.8
Manufacturing	2,113	2,111	2,054	1,950	1,929	1,794	-15.1
Mining & Construction	114	93	114	139	133	126	10.5
Service Providing	2,638	2,608	2,500	2,504	2,520	2,481	-6.0
Total Trade	672	673	662	687	690	679	1.0
Wholesale Trade	318	324	329	338	354	346	8.8
Retail Trade	354	349	333	350	336	334	-5.6
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	243	228	212	214	212	198	-18.5
Information	22*	25*	18*	19*	16*	17*	-22.7
Financial Activities Professional & Business Services	132	142	129	129	132	127	-3.8
Services	257	246	215	222	226	207	-19.5
Education & Health Services	349	336	334	314	313	323	-7.4
Leisure and Hospitality	194	192	182	160	147	149	-23.2
Other Services, Except Public	87*	89	93	105	110	110	26.4
Total Government	682	677	655	654	674	671	-1.6
Federal Government	79	83	81	78	78	74	-6.3
State Government	12	11	12	12	23	24	100.0
Local Government	592	583	561	564	573	574	-3.0

<sup>(a)</sup> The Schuyler Labor Area includes Colfax County and the contiguous Nebraska counties (Butler, Cuming, Dodge, Platte, Saunders, and Stanton).

<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 Schuyler Labor Area, nonfarm wage and salary employment, grew from 50,098 in 2004 to 50,401 in 2009, an increase of 0.6 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 Colfax County (Table One, Part B) indicate that the total labor force in the county declined by 8.1 percent between 2004 and 2009, with total employment (of people residing in Colfax County, irrespective of their county of employment) declining by 8.9 percent during this period. It is also of interest to note that unemployment increased by 15.8 percent, from 190 in 2004 to 220 in 2009, recording an unemployment rate of 4.0 percent in 2009.

As previously noted, the second employment measure presented for Colfax 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 Colfax County declined by 9.5 percent between 2004 and 2009. Data presented in Table One, Part B show that the fastest growing employment sector in Colfax County during the 2004–2009 review period was the Other Services, Except Public sector, recording a 26.4 percent increase between 2004 and 2009. Other economic sectors experiencing growth in employment between 2004 and 2009 include the Mining & Construction sector (10.5 percent) and Total Trade (1.0 percent). In the case of the Total Government sector, employment in the State government sector grew by 100.0 percent while Federal employment declined by 6.3 percent and local government employment declined by 3.0 percent.

Further review of the employment data reported for the Schuyler Labor Area (Table One, Part A) and for Colfax 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 Schuyler Labor Area, nonfarm wage and salary employment was reported to be 50,401 in 2009, which was significantly less (13,668) than the reported total employment of persons living within the seven-county Schuyler 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 seven-county Schuyler Labor Area work outside of the area and commute to other areas for employment.

In the case of Colfax County, the same situation is evident. Total employment of persons living in Colfax County (irrespective of their county of employment) was 5,288 in 2009, which was 887 more than the 4,401 nonfarm wage and salary jobs within the county for the same year. These data suggest that a number of workers are commuting out of Colfax County for employment on a regular basis. The total number of reported employed people living in Colfax 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 (887) likely overstates the number of workers commuting out of Colfax County.

Included in Table Two are additional employment data for 2009, showing the deviations between total employment and nonfarm wage and salary employment for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole and for each county within the area. For the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole, the total employment of area residents (64,069), irrespective of their place of employment, is 13,668 greater than the nonfarm wage and salary employment working within the area. It appears that much of this difference could be accounted for by agricultural employment, which includes farm proprietors. Agricultural employment shown in the table shows that 5,846 people were employed in agriculture in 2008 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 possible 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,**  
**Schuyler Labor Area, 2009**

County	Labor Force (2009) <sup>(a)</sup>	Total Employment (2009) <sup>(a)</sup>	Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment (2009) <sup>(b)</sup>	Total Employment Minus NF W&S Employment	Agricultural Employment (2008) <sup>(c)</sup>
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>5,508</b>	<b>5,288</b>	<b>4,401</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>603</b>
Butler	4,778	4,572	2,409	2,163	768
Cuming	4,888	4,691	3,231	1,460	1,051
Dodge	19,834	18,788	16,432	2,356	743
Platte	17,539	16,773	17,648	-875	950
Saunders	11,161	10,591	5,056	5,535	1,117
Stanton	3,516	3,366	1,224	2,142	614
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>67,224</b>	<b>64,069</b>	<b>50,401</b>	<b>13,668</b>	<b>5,846</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 2008.

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: [www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/](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 Schuyler Labor Area. It appears persons from other counties are commuting into both Madison and Platte Counties 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 Saunders County, for example, the number of employed persons living in the county is 5,535 greater than the total nonfarm wage and salary employment within the county. In the case of Saunders, a significant number of the people commuting out of the county for employment are most likely commuting to Douglas County (Omaha) to work. Other counties where there are indications of significant commuting out of the county for employment include Colfax, Butler, Cuming, Dodge, and Stanton. Data presented in

Table Two suggest that the creation of additional jobs within the Schuyler Labor Area and Colfax 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 Schuyler 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**  
**Schuyler Labor Area, by County, 2009**

County	Manuf.	Constr. Mining	Trade Trans. & Utilities	Ed. & Health Svc.	Leisure & Hosp.	All Other Services	Govt.	Tot NF W. & S. Emp.
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>1,794*</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>4,275</b>
Butler	598	51	304*	341*	88	377	599	2,358
Cuming	402*	205	693	441	281	306	700	3,028
Dodge	3,121*	575	3,550	2,230	1,646	1,853	2,883	15,858
Platte	5,429	981	3,067	1,661	1,434	1,470	2,625	16,667
Saunders	480	476	962	577	436	222	1,428	4,581
Stanton	386*	57	184	69*	78	74	319	1,167
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>15,214</b>	<b>3,385</b>	<b>14,565</b>	<b>8,849</b>	<b>5,629</b>	<b>6,967</b>	<b>13,050</b>	<b>67,659</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>92,926</b>	<b>48,176</b>	<b>199,388</b>	<b>135,727</b>	<b>82,124</b>	<b>172,404</b>	<b>168,192</b>	<b>947,113</b>
Percent of Total Nonfarm Wage & Salary Employment								
	Manuf.	Constr. Mining	Trade Trans. & Utilities	Ed. & Health Svc.	Leisure & Hosp.	All Other Services	Govt.	Tot NF W. & S. Emp.
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>25.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* 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).

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 Schuyler Labor Area with the distribution for the State of Nebraska. As these data show, the industry distribution of employment for the Schuyler Labor Area is significantly different than that for Nebraska as a whole.

The most significant deviations between Nebraska and the Schuyler Labor Area occur in the manufacturing sector employment, with 25.5 percent of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Schuyler area employed in that sector, compared to 9.8 percent for Nebraska. Conversely, only 9.6 percent of nonfarm wage and salary workers in the Schuyler Labor Area are employed in the all other services sector, compared to 18.2 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 Schuyler 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 Table Four, Part A indicates that average annual salaries in Colfax County (\$31,140 for all wage and salary employees for all private industries) are slightly higher than for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole and four of the other counties that make up the area. Also, Colfax County average annual salaries are \$4,922 (13.6 percent) less than the state average. Average annual salaries for the Schuyler Labor Area (\$30,592) were \$5,470 (15.2 percent) less than the Nebraska average. These data suggest, of course, there would be a positive labor supply response in Colfax County to the creation of additional employment opportunities with competitive wages and benefits.

**Table Four**  
**Average Pay, Schuyler Labor Area & Nebraska, 2009**

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

County	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages	Average Annual Wages
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>4,028</b>	<b>\$597</b>	<b>\$31,140</b>
Butler	1,770	\$565	\$29,465
Cuming	2,863	\$560	\$29,215
Dodge	13,435	\$554	\$28,898
Platte	16,068	\$612	\$31,892
Saunders	3,301	\$513	\$26,774
Stanton	1,046	\$921	\$48,020
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>42,511</b>	<b>\$587</b>	<b>\$30,592</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>742,609</b>	<b>\$692</b>	<b>\$36,062</b>

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>Colfax</b>	<b>\$36,413</b>	---	---	<b>\$24,530</b>	<b>\$27,294</b>	<b>\$29,856</b>	<b>\$20,917</b>	<b>\$7,603</b>
Butler	\$33,906	\$35,466	\$28,992	\$25,673	\$24,601	\$34,140	\$40,718	\$7,433
Cuming	\$35,379	\$40,117	\$32,467	\$26,060	\$24,728	\$42,309	\$28,949	\$7,986
Dodge	\$36,730	\$36,789	\$36,030	\$25,544	\$29,151	\$33,807	\$31,091	\$10,677
Platte	\$39,573	\$40,434	\$40,898	\$25,796	\$26,639	\$35,484	\$27,944	\$10,418
Saunders	\$33,765	\$34,411	\$33,151	\$23,909	\$25,212	\$39,676	\$39,886	\$8,284
Stanton	\$65,582	---	---	\$23,944	\$27,957	\$37,087	\$12,763	\$6,904
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>\$39,680</b>	<b>\$40,363</b>	<b>\$40,875</b>	<b>\$35,131</b>	<b>\$31,418</b>	<b>\$47,795</b>	<b>\$47,997</b>	<b>\$12,475</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 [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/) and  
Nebraska Department of Labor, Labor Market Information [www.dol.state.ne.us/lmiindustry/index.asp](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 Schuyler 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 Stanton County. The average annual wage for all wage and salary workers (working) in Stanton County was \$48,020 in 2009 which was \$17,402 (56.8 percent) more than the average for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole, and \$11,958 (33.2 percent) greater than the Nebraska average. A review of the industry specific data for average annual wages for Platte County indicates that the high average annual wage results from the extremely high average wage in the Goods Producing Sector.

**Commuting Patterns**

Table Five provides data from the 2008 Census of Population showing commuting patterns for workers living in the Schuyler 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 for Colfax County indicate that 2,541, or 53.4 percent of the employed workers, commuted to other counties for employment. For three of the other counties in the Schuyler Labor Area, the percentage of commuters was greater than for Colfax County. In the case of Stanton County, 2,601, or 85.4 percent of employed workers commuted out of their county of residence for employment. Other counties with a high percentage of employed workers commuting to other counties for employment include Saunders (74.4 percent) and Butler (63.2 percent).

**Table Five**  
**Commuting Patterns, Schuyler Labor Area, 2008**

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

<b>County</b>	<b>Working Outside County</b>	
	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>2,541</b>	<b>53.4</b>
Butler	2,772	63.2
Cuming	2,281	46.9
Dodge	8,771	46.6
Platte	5,176	31.5
Saunders	7,376	74.4
Stanton	2,601	85.4

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

**Part B**  
**Schuyler and Colfax County Residents**  
**Employment by County, 2008**

<b>County Where Jobs are Located</b>	<b>Number of Jobs in County</b>		<b>Percent of All Jobs</b>	
	<b>Schuyler Residents</b>	<b>Colfax County Residents</b>	<b>Schuyler Residents</b>	<b>Colfax County Residents</b>
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>1,397</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>54.17%</b>	<b>46.60%</b>
Platte	441	920	17.10%	19.34%
Douglas	140	329	5.43%	6.91%
Dodge	123	298	4.77%	6.26%
Lancaster	73	128	2.83%	2.69%
All Other Locations	405	866	15.70%	18.20%
<b>Total Resident Jobs</b>	<b>2,579</b>	<b>4,758</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

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

Table Five, Part B provides further detail illustrating the willingness of workers in Schuyler and Colfax County to travel for employment. In 2008, residents of Colfax County worked at a total of 4,758 jobs; a resident could work at more than one job. Of these 4,758 jobs, the largest number, 2,217 or 46.6 percent, were located in Colfax County, while 920 or 19.34 percent were located in Platte County. Other counties with high numbers of workers from Colfax County were Douglas (329 jobs), Dodge (298 jobs), and Lancaster (128 jobs).

Also in 2008, residents of Schuyler worked at a total of 2,579 jobs with the largest number, 1,397 or 54.17 percent located in Colfax County. Other counties with high numbers of workers from Schuyler were Platte (441 jobs), Douglas (140 jobs), Dodge (123 jobs), and Lancaster (73 jobs).

## Population Trends

The data provided in Table Six show population trends for the Schuyler Labor Area, by county, and for Nebraska for the 1950–2009 period. As these data indicate, the population of the Schuyler Labor Area was 123,518 in 2000. The Schuyler Labor Area population grew by 18.9 percent from 1950 to 2000 and declined 0.9 percent from 2000 to 2009. Population in Colfax County totaled 10,441 in 2000 and had grown by 4.3 percent from 1950 to 2000. During the latest Census decade of the 1990s, the Colfax County population increased by 14.2 percent, compared to the increase for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole of 5.8 percent, and to the State rate of growth of 8.4 percent.

**Table Six**  
**Population in the Schuyler Labor Area, by County, and Nebraska**  
**Selected Years, 1950–2009**

COUNTY	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2009	% Chg. 1950–2000	% Chg. 2000–09
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>10,010</b>	<b>9,595</b>	<b>9,498</b>	<b>9,890</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>10,441</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>-1.0</b>
Butler	11,432	10,312	9,461	9,330	8,601	8,767	8,400	-23.3	-4.2
Cuming	12,994	12,435	12,034	11,664	10,117	10,203	9,132	-21.5	-10.5
Dodge	26,265	32,471	34,782	35,847	34,500	36,160	35,640	37.7	-1.4
Platte	19,910	23,992	26,508	28,852	29,820	31,662	32,515	59.0	2.7
Saunders	16,923	17,270	17,018	18,716	18,285	19,830	20,057	17.2	1.1
Stanton	6,387	5,783	5,758	6,549	6,244	6,455	6,311	1.1	-2.2
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>103,921</b>	<b>111,858</b>	<b>115,059</b>	<b>120,848</b>	<b>116,706</b>	<b>123,518</b>	<b>122,387</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>-0.9</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,325,510</b>	<b>1,411,330</b>	<b>1,483,493</b>	<b>1,569,825</b>	<b>1,578,385</b>	<b>1,711,263</b>	<b>1,796,619</b>	<b>29.1</b>	<b>5.0</b>

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Population, 1950-2000* and Annual Population Estimates, 2009.

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 Schuyler Labor Area. In 2009, there were 4,756 people in Colfax County between the ages of 25 and 64, which represented 46.0 percent of the total population, compared to 49.0 percent of the population for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole and 51.0 percent of the Nebraska population in this age range.

**Table Seven**  
**Age Characteristics of the Population, Schuyler Labor Area,**  
**by County, and Nebraska, 2009**

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>Colfax</b>	<b>2,831</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>1,499</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>2,217</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>2,539</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>1,246</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>34.2</b>
Butler	1,738	20.7	1,057	12.6	1,593	19.0	2,502	29.8	1,510	18.0	43.3
Cuming	1,870	20.5	1,180	12.9	1,644	18.0	2,587	28.3	1,851	20.3	43.8
Dodge	7,134	20.0	4,453	12.5	8,189	23.0	9,462	26.5	6,402	18.0	40.2
Platte	7,092	21.8	4,344	13.4	6,852	21.1	8,739	26.9	5,488	16.9	39.9
Saunders	4,070	20.3	2,613	13.0	4,353	21.7	5,988	29.9	3,033	15.1	41.5
Stanton	1,274	20.2	871	13.8	1,567	24.8	1,761	27.9	838	13.3	38.1
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>26,009</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>16,017</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>26,415</b>	<b>21.6</b>	<b>33,578</b>	<b>27.4</b>	<b>20,368</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>40.2</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>371,462</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>262,190</b>	<b>14.7</b>	<b>457,177</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>451,756</b>	<b>25.3</b>	<b>240,847</b>	<b>13.5</b>	<b>36.3</b>

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates, by Age, 2009*.

Table Eight provides information showing population, the natural increase (births minus deaths) and net migration for the 1990–1999 period for Nebraska, for Colfax County and for the Schuyler Labor Area. As these data show, the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole had a small rate of net out-migration during the Census decade of the 1990s, while Colfax, Butler, Dodge, and Saunders Counties experienced net in-migration. As indicated in the table, net out-migration for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole accounted for a population decline of 286 people during the decade, contributing to a population decrease equal to only 0.2 percent of the population. In the case of Colfax County, net in-migration during the 1990s totaled 1,272 people, or 13.9 percent of the 1990 population.

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

County	Population		1990–1999			Net Migration*, 1990–1999	
	1990	2000	Births	Deaths	Nat. Incr.	Number	% 1990 Pop.
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>9,139</b>	<b>10,691</b>	<b>1,277</b>	<b>997</b>	<b>280</b>	1,272	<b>13.9</b>
Butler	8,601	8,607	1,007	1,014	-7	13	0.2
Cuming	10,117	9,981	1,225	1,142	83	-219	-2.2
Dodge	34,500	35,201	3,980	3,582	398	303	0.9
Platte	29,820	30,378	4,291	2,188	2,103	-1,545	-5.2
Saunders	18,285	19,260	2,271	1,635	636	339	1.9
Stanton	6,244	6,100	745	440	305	-449	-7.2
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>116,706</b>	<b>120,218</b>	<b>14,796</b>	<b>10,998</b>	<b>3,798</b>	<b>-286</b>	<b>-0.2</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,578,417</b>	<b>1,666,028</b>	<b>217,510</b>	<b>139,754</b>	<b>77,756</b>	<b>9,855</b>	<b>0.6</b>

\* 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 2000–2009 period. As these data show, the Schuyler Labor Area experienced significant net out-migration during this more recent nine-year period. As indicated in the table, out-migration for the Schuyler Labor Area as a whole accounted for a population decline of 5,814 during the 2000–2009 period, contributing to a population decrease equal to 4.7 percent of the 2000 population. In the case of Colfax County, net out-migration during this nine-year period was 1,073, or 10.3 percent of the 2000 population.

**Table Nine**  
**Population, Births, Deaths, and Migration**  
**Nebraska and Schuyler Labor area, by County, 2000-2009**

County	Population		2000-2009			Net Migration, 2000-2009*	
	2000	2009	Births	Deaths	Nat. Incr.	Number	% 2000 Pop.
<b>Colfax</b>	<b>10,441</b>	<b>10,332</b>	<b>1,833</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>-1,073</b>	<b>-10.3</b>
Butler	8,767	8,400	887	932	-45	-322	-3.7
Cuming	10,203	9,132	1,134	1,082	52	-1,123	-11.0
Dodge	36,160	35,640	4,571	3,748	823	-1,343	-3.7
Platte	31,662	32,515	4,265	2,276	1,989	-1,136	-3.6
Saunders	19,830	20,057	2,306	1,700	606	-379	-1.9
Stanton	6,455	6,311	767	473	294	-438	-6.8
<b>Labor Area</b>	<b>123,518</b>	<b>122,387</b>	<b>15,763</b>	<b>11,080</b>	<b>4,683</b>	<b>-5,814</b>	<b>-4.7</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>1,711,263</b>	<b>1,796,619</b>	<b>241,832</b>	<b>139,626</b>	<b>102,206</b>	<b>-16,850</b>	<b>-1.0</b>

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

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Estimates, 2009, and Components of Population Change, 2000-2009*.

### **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 Schuyler Labor Area and in Colfax 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 Schuyler 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 Schuyler 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 Schuyler Labor Area and Colfax 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 Schuyler 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.

## **Appendix A**

### **Availability of Transportation Workers in the Schuyler Labor Area**

The information provided in this appendix presents labor-related data that provide insights into the ability of the Schuyler Labor Area to provide skilled labor to support development of a regional transloading facility. In reviewing these data, it is evident that the Schuyler Labor Area contains a substantial number of workers with transportation, especially trucking, related job skills. Furthermore, it appears many of these workers are currently commuting out of the Schuyler Labor Area to transportation related jobs in other counties.

Table A provides data for the Schuyler Labor Area showing the number of primary jobs (Workforce) and primary employment of residents (Labor Force Employment) by industry. A positive difference between Workforce and Labor Force Employment indicates the net number of jobs in the Schuyler Labor Area held by workers residing outside of the area and a negative value indicates the number of jobs held by area residents that are located outside the area. As these data indicate, residents of the Schuyler Labor Area were employed in 56,889 primary jobs in 2008, but there were only 47,754 primary jobs within the area. This indicates residents commuted to at least 9,135 primary jobs outside the labor area. It is important to note this is an estimate of net out-commuting and most certainly understates the actual number of primary jobs in other counties held by area residents.

The data in Table A also indicates that of the 2,039 primary jobs in the Transportation and Warehousing Industry held by Schuyler Labor Area residents, at least 804 (39.4 percent) are located outside the labor area. This indicates that a substantial number of area residents are commuting to transportation related jobs located outside the Schuyler Labor Area. A new transportation firm offering competitive wages and benefits might be able to draw a large number of workers from this substantial pool of out commuters.

**Table A**  
**Primary Jobs, Schuyler Labor Area<sup>(a)</sup>, 2008**  
**Resident Labor Force and Employers Workforce**

<b>Industry</b>	<b>Labor Force Employment (Employment of Area Residents)</b>	<b>Workforce (Area Jobs)</b>	<b>Net Number of Jobs Held by Workers Commuting Into Area<sup>(b)</sup></b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting	1,306	1,160	146
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	64	91	-27
Utilities	901	732	169
Construction	2,556	3,150	-594
Manufacturing	13,191	13,777	-586
Wholesale Trade	2,323	2,761	-438
Retail Trade	5,212	6,362	-1,150
Transportation and Warehousing	1,235	2,039	-804
Information	391	672	-281
Finance and Insurance	1,461	2,178	-717
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	260	415	-155
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	987	1,633	-646
Management of Companies and Enterprises	88	437	-349
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	1,969	2,314	-345
Educational Services	4,138	4,660	-522
Health Care and Social Assistance	5,416	6,791	-1,375
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	332	436	-104
Accommodation and Food Services	2,862	3,628	-766
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	1,248	1,432	-184
Public Administration	1,814	2,221	-407
<b>Total</b>	<b>47,754</b>	<b>56,889</b>	<b>-9,135</b>

<sup>(a)</sup> The Schuyler Labor Area includes Colfax County and the contiguous Nebraska counties (Butler, Cuming, Dodge, Platte, Saunders, and Stanton).

<sup>(b)</sup> A negative value indicates the net number of primary jobs outside of the area held by Schuyler Labor Area Residents.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Local Employment Dynamics*, <http://lehdmap4.did.census.gov/themap4/>.

A review of the data in Table B indicates the average pay for jobs in Transportation and Warehouse and the Truck Transportation industries for most of the counties in the Schuyler Labor Area are well below the statewide average for Nebraska. In Colfax County, annual pay for the Transportation and Warehousing Industry jobs are on average \$4,900 (13.9 percent) below the Nebraska average, while average pay for Truck Transportation jobs is \$4,000 (11.3 percent) lower than the statewide value.

**Table B**  
**Average Annual Pay, Nebraska and Selected Counties**  
**Transportation Related Industries, 2009**

County	Transportation & Warehouse	Truck Transportation
	---1,000 \$---	
Colfax	30.3	31.4
Butler	30.5	30.5
Cuming	27.9	----
Dodge	----	42.7
Platte	----	32.0
Saunders	----	30.4
Stanton	26.5	26.5
<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>35.4</b>

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, *Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages*, [www.bls.gov/cew/](http://www.bls.gov/cew/)

The data presented in Tables A and B suggest a new transportation firm offering competitive wages and benefits might be able to draw a large number of workers from a substantial pool of existing workers that are currently commuting outside the Schuyler Labor Area.

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

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