

Unemployment Rates Increase in Southeast Nebraska Counties

(KTNC) - Unemployment rates were generally higher in southeast Nebraska counties in May than they were in April, according to figures from the Nebraska Department of Labor.

The only area county that did not see an increase in the percentage of unemployed residents was Johnson County, where the 4.1-percent May rate matched the rate in April. All other counties saw increases.

Nemaha County's unemployment rate saw the biggest jump, from 4.9-percent in April to 5.8-percent in May. In Richardson County, the unemployment rate crept up to 5.1-percent in May, up from 4.7-percent in April. The rate in Pawnee County was 3.2-percent in May, compared to 2.9-percent in April.

The unemployment rate in Gage County rose slightly to four-percent, compared to 3.8-percent in April, and Otoe County's unemployment rate rose to 4.1-percent in May from 3.9-percent in April. Nebraska's preliminary unemployment rate increased a tenth of a percent to 3.8 percent in May.

The Labor Department said in its report released Friday that the rate was two-tenths of a point lower than the 4 percent in May 2012.

The national unemployment rate also rose a tenth of a point last month, to 7.6 percent from 7.5 percent in April.

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