

Nebraska Labor Report

**(KLZA)-- A story by Paul Hammel in the Nebraska Examiner about the annual Nebraska Labor Report, indicates just how hard it is for employers to find workers.**

**In surveys of businesses in the Omaha area and northeast and southeast Nebraska, up to 94% of businesses responding to a “labor availability” survey said they had hiring difficulties.**

**In the Omaha area, 84% of the businesses surveyed reported hiring difficulties, with the biggest problem (82.5%) being a lack of applicants.**

**Of the areas surveyed, Falls City, Fairbury and Nebraska City had the most trouble hiring new employees, with difficulties being reported by between 90% and 92% of all businesses.**

**The head of the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce, Bryan Slone, recently stated that with 52,000 vacant jobs in Nebraska, the lack of labor is the “number one, two, three, four and five” issues facing the state’s business community.**

**The annual “labor availability” report was done for the Nebraska Department of Labor.**

**In 2016, the Nebraska Legislature passed a law allowing the Labor Department and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to conduct labor availability studies to determine the state’s needs and gaps in skill sets.**

**More than 3,000 businesses responded to the most recent survey, which focused on three regions: Southeast Nebraska, including Beatrice, Fairbury, Falls City, and Nebraska City, the greater Omaha area, and northeast Nebraska which included Columbus, Fremont, Norfolk, and Wayne.**

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