



Welcome to Arnold, Nebraska!

Arnold is a vibrant, progressive community brimming with family values and an outstanding quality of life. Our school system is among the top in the state, combining traditional learning with innovative programs and new-age technology that has been recognized by the State School Board of Education as well as the Nebraska Commissioner of Education. Our volunteer fire and EMT personnel are second to none in providing urgent health and safety services—they recently received a national EMS Gold Award recognizing their outstanding volunteer work. Employers in Arnold and Custer County find the area’s unique Midwestern work ethic to be impressive and of immeasurable value in their businesses.

Arnold is a community with strong leadership where great things happen. A new community center has recently been completed and six new businesses have opened. Arnold is host to two unique events that have gained nationwide attention. The Sandhills Open Road Challenge is held every August; it is one of only three events of its kind in the United States, and has drawn participants from 44 states so far. This nonprofit event has generated over \$240,000 in nine years, which has been given back to the community of Arnold and the surrounding area. Arnold’s South Loup River Blues Festival also gains nationwide attention by bringing the nation’s top blues musicians and over 2,000 fans to Arnold for a weekend of entertainment each July.

Arnold has a strong plan for growth. The Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) has been aggressive in working to improve the quality and diversity of industry and businesses in the community. The AEDC has implemented a comprehensive plan, an economic development strategic plan for 2006-2021, and a blight study for tax increment financing. A 1% local option sales tax for economic development efforts is also in effect.

Arnold is a town of opportunity and is poised for growth and prosperity into the next century.

Additional information can be found at www.arnoldne.org.



Location

Arnold is located in the west central side of Custer County in central Nebraska. Highway 92 runs east and west through Arnold and Highway 40 runs south. Interstate 80 is 35 minutes south at Gothenburg.

City	Miles From Arnold
North Platte, NE	40
Broken Bow, NE	35
Gothenburg, NE	35
Omaha, NE	264
Lincoln, NE	211
Denver, CO	306
Kansas City, MO	402
Chicago, IL	728
Dallas, TX	749
Los Angeles, CA	1,317
New York, NY	1,502

Population

General

	Last Census 2000	Latest Year 2008
Arnold	630	586
Custer County	11,793	10,842
Labor Market Population	125,714	127,694

Custer County Age Distribution

	0-17	18-24	25-44	45-64	65+	85+	Total
Male	1,308	433	1,059	1,590	955	142	5,345
Female	1,179	400	1,018	1,568	1,332	322	5,497
Total	2,487	833	2,077	3,158	2,287	464	10,842

Median age in Custer County (2008): 45.1 years
 Median age in Nebraska (2008): 36.2 years



Labor

	State 2008	County 2008	Area Labor Force 2008
Labor Force	995,635	6,093	76,066
Unemployment	33,217	145	2,209
Unemployment as % of Labor Force	3.3%	2.4%	2.9%
Total Employment	962,418	5,947	73,856

Wages Sample of hourly wage rates in manufacturing occupations (production and/or clerical).

Job Title	10 th Percentile	Median	90 th Percentile
Assemblers/Fabricators	\$9.55	\$11.89	\$15.62
Data Entry Keyers	\$8.25	\$10.38	\$15.23
Laborers, Helpers, Material Movers	\$7.17	\$10.85	\$15.49
Lathe Tool Setters	\$10.86	\$16.24	\$18.54
Machinists	\$10.87	\$14.40	\$18.88
Secretaries, exc. Legal and Medical	\$7.84	\$11.42	\$15.67
Welders and Cutters	\$11.15	\$14.95	\$20.56
Welding Machine Operators	\$16.59	\$18.42	\$20.28

Transportation

Number of improved two-lane highways: 3
 State Highways 40, 70, and 92 serve the Arnold area
 Distance to nearest interstate: 35 minutes (I-80)

Nebraska has more than 8,000 licensed motor freight carriers with global connections throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Transit Time for Carload or Truckload Lots

Destination	Days by Railroad	Days by Motor Freight
Chicago	N/A	1-2 days
Dallas	N/A	2-3 days
Denver	N/A	1-2 days
Kansas City	N/A	1-2 days
Los Angeles	N/A	2-3 days
Minneapolis	N/A	1-2 days
New York	N/A	3-5 days
St. Louis	N/A	2-3 days

Distance to closest public airport: 35 minutes
 Elevation: 2,547 feet
 Length of longest runway: 4,203 feet
 Runway is lighted
 Private aircraft storage is available
 Private aircraft maintenance is available
 Distance to nearest commercial air transportation: 45 minutes
 Nearest railroad: Bailey Yard, Union Pacific (world's largest yard)
 Distance to nearest railroad: 40 minutes



Tax Valuation

Real Property Tax Rates for 2008

Item	Levy Rate (\$ per \$100 of actual value)
Village	\$0.437155
Custer County	\$0.294473
School/ESU #10	\$1.084678
Other	\$0.290093
Total Real Property	\$2.106399

Arnold's tax valuation for 2009: \$17,074,939

Arnold's tax levy for 2009: \$0.437132

Custer County's tax valuation for 2008-2009: \$1,321,600,228

Actual county taxes levied: \$3,891,760.23 through a tax levy of .294473



Municipal Services

Type of government: Village board

City engineer

County zoning ordinance in effect

Garbage service provided by village

Public library

Volunteer fire department personnel: 35

Fire insurance class within Arnold: 7

Fire insurance class outside Arnold: 9



Utilities

Electric system provider: Village of Arnold
Wholesale supplier: Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN)
Regulated by state authority
Distribution capacity (KW): 12.470
Peak demand (KW): 1744
General capacity (MW): 1
Number of customers systemwide: 520

Water treatment provider: Village of Arnold
Major source: Wells
Average depth in feet: 150
Rated capacity (MGD): .5
Average capacity (MGD): .5

Peak demand (MGD): .4
Storage capacity (gallons): 35,000
Treated: No
Temperature range (degrees Fahrenheit): 55-58
Water connecting fee: Yes
Cost per 1,000 gallons: \$12.00 base fee, \$.60 per 1,000

Sewer treatment provider: Village of Arnold
Rate capacity: .06
Average daily demand: .02
Sewer connection fee: .02
Cost per 1,000 gallons: Base \$8.50, \$.65 per 1,000



Housing

Avg. cost/square foot of single unit built in last two years: \$100

Avg. monthly rental for 3-bedroom house: \$325

Avg. monthly rental for 2-bedroom house: \$250

Avg. cost of houses sold in last two years: \$42,059

1- and 2-bedroom apartments

Low-income housing complex



Health Care

Medical services are provided locally at the Arnold Medical Clinic conveniently located downtown on Hwy 92. The facility is affiliated with Callaway District Hospital and Callaway Medical Clinic just 20 minutes from Arnold.

Medical doctors: 2

Physician assistants: 2

RNs, LPNs, and other medical staff

Educational Facilities

Arnold Public Schools is a Class III type K-12 school and has North Central Accreditation. Recently recognized as one of the top 25 schools in the state of Nebraska by the NE Commissioner of Education, Arnold Public School is truly an example of excellence in education. For two consecutive years, Arnold High School had the second highest cumulative ACT scores of all schools in Nebraska. Arnold was also recently recognized as a leader in technology integration in schools by Apple Computers with its One-to-One Initiative where every student grades K-12 has his or her own laptop computer. Nicole Badgley, a teacher and district technology coordinator, was recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educator for her work on this program.

The school also provides numerous innovative class projects such as School House Graphic Products, a sign business maintained and operated by high school students under the direction of Nebraska's 2004 Teacher of the Year, Clay Mohr. The students in School House Graphic Products recently completed a summer internship where they worked for Custer County making and installing the 911 road signs for the entire county. They also bid and were awarded a project assembling trophies for the National American Miss pageant. Construction Tech Class also offers real-life experience by building new structures within the community.

Arnold has a state-of-the-art distance learning program and has academic and vocational partnerships with Nebraska colleges and universities for dual-credit college courses. The facilities include two gymnasiums, an all-weather track, and fully equipped library and media center. High school sports programs include football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, track, golf, and cheerleading.

AIMS-web testing is completed for students grades K-8 in both reading and math. State writing and reading tests are utilized, as well as Nebraska STARS tests and Terra Nova achievement tests. The elementary classes use the AR reading program to build a solid reading foundation. Arnold elementary students recently received an award for their recycling program, the 4th grade class completed a project using Skype, they have hands-on learning about various topics with monthly enrichment days, and all elementary classes participate in plays.



Educational Facilities

	Number of Schools	Enrollment	Teacher/Student Ratio
Elementary	1	67	1:9
Middle / Jr. High	1	13	1:3
Senior High	1	56	1:5

Preschool

Learning Tree Preschool is a licensed and accredited preschool in Arnold that brings in students ages 3-6 from a wide area, including surrounding communities, because of its reputation for quality instruction and excellent curriculum.



Commercial Services

Financial Institutions

Pinnacle Bancorp, Inc.
Assets: \$5.3 billion

Churches

Protestant: 5
Catholic: 1

Community Center

Capacity: 300
Built in 2006
Meeting room, kitchen, full-size gym

Lodging

Number of local motels: 2
Total number of rooms combined: 14
Local camping facilities available
Nearby towns with motels/hotels:
 Broken Bow: 35 minutes
 Gothenburg: 35 minutes
 North Platte: 40 minutes

Other Local Services

Grocery store
Convenience store
Hardware store
Restaurants, bar and grill
Antique stores
Full-service gas station

New and used clothing, accessories
Cellular phones and service
Gift/card shop
Hair salons
Floral services
Monogramming
Attorney

Mail delivery and overnight shipping
Bookkeeping service
Insurance companies
Veterinary services
Pet grooming
Taxidermy

Funeral home
Auction service
Custom signs, banners, engraving
Telecommunications services
Audio/lighting design, installation
Medical service, fire and rescue

Auto dealership
Car wash
Machine shop, welding
Tool and die services
Tractor, truck, and auto repair
Trucking companies

Agriculture services
Landscaping and lawn care
Tree farm/nursery
Heating and cooling sales/service
Appliance sales/service
Propane

Irrigation services
Sand and gravel
Construction companies
Heavy equipment operators
Electricians
Carpenters

Economic Development

Arnold is a focal point of opportunity for business and industry. Since 2002, the sole purpose of the Arnold Economic Development Corporation (AEDC) is the creation, retention, and expansion of jobs in Arnold. We have the land and the infrastructure, transportation avenues, an unbeatable work ethic, government relationships that expedite development, and a supportive population that ensures an efficient and effective venture for your business.

In 2006, an overwhelming 90% of Arnold citizens approved a 1% city sales tax (LB840). Proceeds from the sales tax are used solely for economic development projects in and around Arnold. Possible uses for the sales tax funds include business recruitment, business expansions or startups, purchase of real estate for development, and much more.

The Village of Arnold also has the ability to use Tax Increment Financing to assist a new or expanding business. Recent progress includes the development of a new motel complex, the expansion of Mills Hardware, and the addition of four new businesses in downtown Arnold.

Also in place to assist Arnold businesses is a revolving loan fund. Businesses can use this money to purchase or lease real estate, remodel or construct a new building, purchase equipment, job training, technical assistance, use as working capital, and more. Loans from this fund have a low interest rate, and there is a possibility of receiving accompanying funds in the form of a grant to help you complete your project.

The AEDC is eager to assist Arnold's existing and potential businesses in any manner possible. This might be in the form of providing loans or grants, hosting periodic business classes on a wide variety of topics, offering technical assistance, communications with the public, promotion on the community web site and other marketing materials, real estate location assistance, and more.



Economic Development

The Arnold Economic Development Corporation has put together these statements to help guide the community in taking the necessary actions to reach our goals for a healthy future.

Mission Statement

“The mission of the Arnold Economic Development Corporation (501c3) is to generate economic health and vitality in the Arnold community for the well-being of our citizens through activities directed at employers, employees, and business activities that can be correlated to creating and retaining good jobs, increasing population, and enhancing opportunity and prosperity.”

Vision Statement

“Our vision of Arnold by the year 2020 is to have a productive, thriving, and sustainable economy within Arnold’s small but vibrant and progressive community, contributing to improved community resources and wealth for residents.”

Telecommunications

Telecommunications

Telecommunications provider: Great Plains Communications Inc.

Types of service: Telephone, Internet, cable TV, long distance

Fiber optics available

DSL available

Switch services: Digital

Number of customers systemwide: 650

Number of customers statewide: 77 communities in Nebraska

Web address: www.gpcom.com

Number of TV channels without cable: 3

Maximum number of cable channels available: 72 analog, 118 digital, 20 HD

Newspaper

Weekly local newspaper: *The Arnold Sentinel*

Weekly county newspaper: *Custer County Chief*



Organizations

Arnold is a vibrant community full of concerned citizens who take an active volunteer role in the betterment of Arnold. There is a tremendous sense of pride and dedication to the community that transcends across several generations.

Active Arnold Area Organizations

Arnold Chamber of Commerce
Arnold Economic Development Corporation
Rotary Club of Arnold
American Legion/Auxiliary Unit 130
Arnold Alumni Association
Arnold Golf Association
Rialto Theater Board
Boy Scouts
Christian Youth Group
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Good News Club (K-6th grades)
Arnold Education Association
Finch Memorial Library
Arnold Ministerial Association
Volunteer Fire Department
Volunteer EMTs
Cardinal Booster Club
Sandhills Open Road Challenge
Arnold Housing Committee
Arnold Township Board
Arnold Planning Commission
Citizen's Advisory Committee
Arnold Food Pantry
Western Riders 4-H Club
Arnold Gun Club
Arnold Roping Club
Arnold Billiards Club
Various Bible Study/Prayer Groups

Recreation

A beautiful golf course, the South Loup River, and the rural areas surrounding Arnold offer plenty of recreation options. Outdoorsmen enjoy excellent deer, turkey, and pheasant hunting; and several nearby ponds and small lakes are perfect for fishing.

- Public 9-hole grass greens golf course with men's and women's leagues
- Public tennis court
- Public swimming pool
- Public parks with playground, softball complex, tennis court, sand volleyball
- Public camp grounds
- Bowling alley with men's and women's leagues
- Nearest public access to lake or river: 1 mile
- Camping
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Biking
- Youth football program
- Youth federation wrestling program
- Youth T-ball program
- Gymnastics
- Children's story hour
- Youth basketball
- Youth volleyball
- Junior cheerleading camp
- Vacation bible school
- Aerobics