

RESEARCH AND
ANALYSIS
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Average Weekly Wages PRESS RELEASE

December 18th, 2017

Average Weekly Wages at \$900 in 2017:IIQ, Highest Second Quarter Reading on Record

Statement from Jeremy Hays, Economist, Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation:

Weekly wages in Nevada averaged \$900 during the second quarter of 2017. Relative to the first quarter of the year, wages experienced a seasonal decline of \$31. This is part of the cyclical nature of wages throughout the year, and not indicative of the overall trend. When we compare this quarter's reading to the same quarter last year, we see that wages are up \$26, or three percent. This is the highest second quarter wage reading on record. Based on underlying trends in the labor market as a whole, wage growth in the Silver State is likely to continue at the modest pace observed over the past decade.

Please see the following page for more details and analysis.

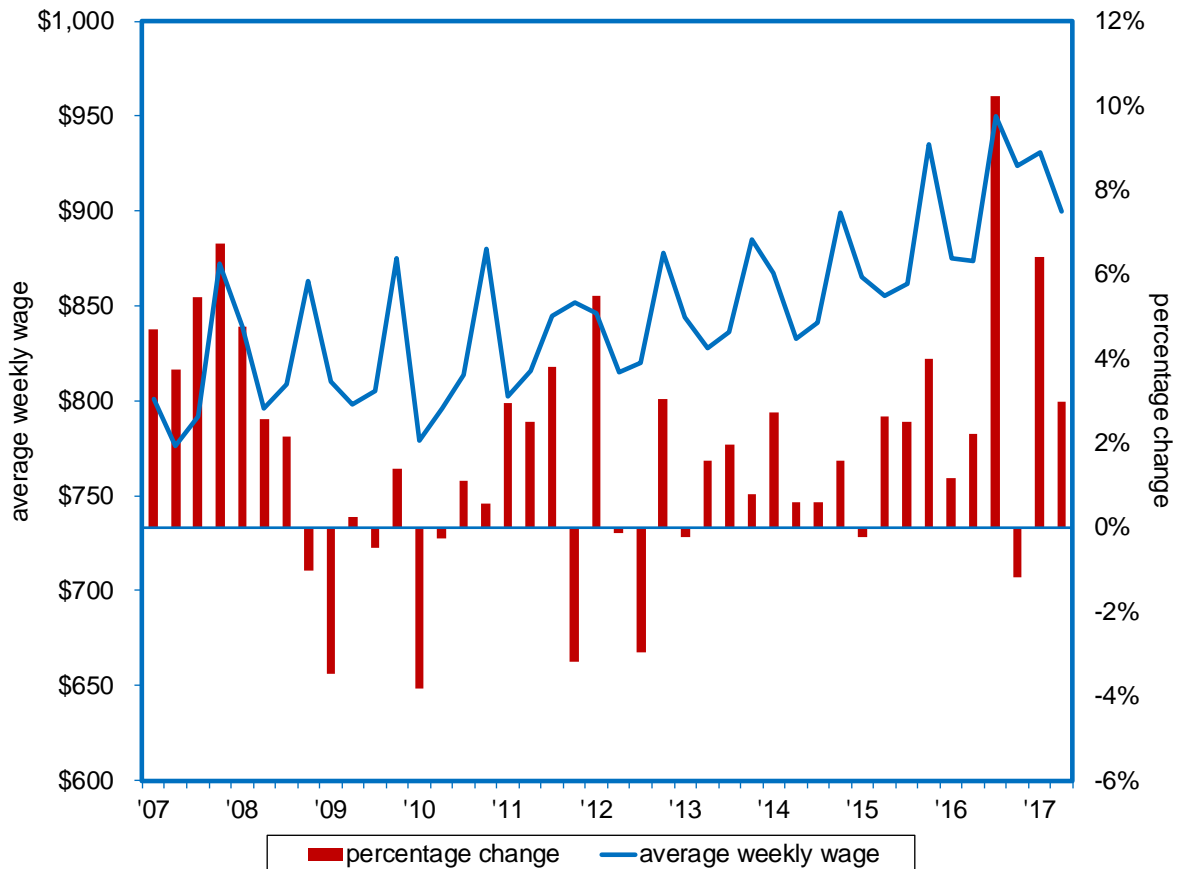
Research Notes



Average Weekly Wages
Jeremy Hays, Economist; Cody Lewallen, Economist

Note: 2017:149
December 14, 2017

Average Weekly Wages at \$900 in 2017:IIQ Highest Second Quarter Reading on Record



- Weekly wages in Nevada averaged \$900 during the second quarter of 2017. This compares to \$874 during the same period last year, an increase of \$26, or three percent, year-over-year.
- Wages have been trending up since 2011. Initially, gains were quite modest. However, gains have been recorded in 15 of the past 17 quarters, and are showing some signs of strengthening, as evidenced by this year's second quarter gain. At the height of the recession, wages declined in five of seven quarters.
- Underlying trends continue to improve as well, as wage growth is more than keeping up with inflation. During the second quarter of 2017, consumer prices rose 1.9 percent relative to a year ago according to the Consumer Price Index reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This suggests that wages are continuing to grow in "real" terms.
- As an aside, we have seen considerable volatility in wage gains of late. Over the past four quarters, year-over-year growth has ranged from -1.2 percent to 10.2 percent. However, we do believe that the most recent gain of three percent is fairly indicative of underlying trends.