

# RESEARCH NOTES



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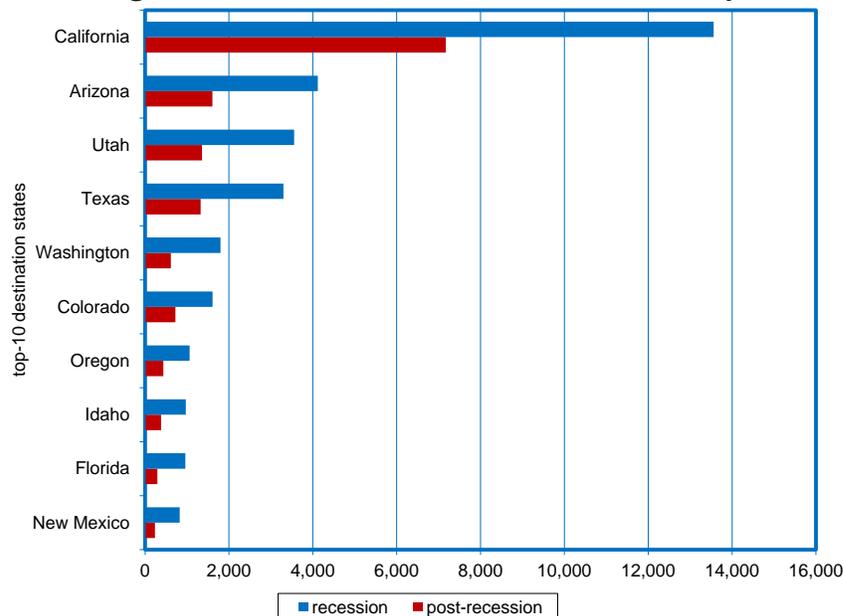
Nevada's Premier Source of Workforce & Economic Information and Analysis



Where Do Nevada's Construction Workers Tend to Move To?  
Marianne Segurson, Economist

Note: 2017:99  
July 21, 2017

## Nevada Construction Workers Tend to Move to Our Western Neighbors; Out-Migration has Slowed Considerably Post-Recession



- Utilizing Job-to-Job Flows derived from the Census Bureau's Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LED), we are able to look at which states Nevada's construction workforce has moved to over the course of the business cycle.
- Previously, we examined the extent to which Nevada's construction workers left/entered the State. We found that outflows of workers exceeded inflows during the recession. As the recovery has unfolded, net migration turned positive.
- All told, as the recession's impacts hit the construction sector over the 2006-2011 period, about 43,000 workers migrated to other states. (This is a "gross" figure. There may be some "double-counting," as some workers may have moved multiple times, including back to Nevada.)
- Nearly 14,000 Silver State construction workers went to, and worked in, California during the recession. Other states to which a large number of Nevada's construction workforce moved during the recession were Arizona (4,100), Utah (3,600) and Texas (3,300).

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- As the construction sector emerged from the recession, out-migration slowed considerably. Since 2012, just 18,000 construction workers have moved elsewhere, less than half of the recessionary level. (In an open labor market, there will always be some worker movement.) For instance, gross out-migration to California fell to just 7,200 during the recovery period analyzed.
- The results as they pertain to North Dakota, arguably the fastest growing state during the first few years of the recovery period, are of special interest. About 300 Nevada construction workers left for North Dakota during the recession. However, even as conditions have improved since 2011, out-migration to the State more than doubled to 600 during the early recovery period, reflecting boom-like conditions in the upper Midwest. Out-migration has eased significantly since mid-2015, likely due to the slowing building boom in North Dakota.