

Research Notes



Sub-State Labor Force Change
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Labor Force Growing in Urban Areas; Up in Half Rural Counties 2018 Year-to-Date (through September) Change vs. 2017

County	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
Clark	30,990	34,090	-3,100	-0.4%
Washoe	8,670	9,640	-970	-0.5%
Eureka	-10	-7	-4	-0.3%
Mineral	30	30	-1	-0.1%
Elko	-220	-90	-130	-0.4%
Pershing	-70	-50	-15	-0.4%
Lincoln	-20	-20	-1	0.0%
White Pine	40	50	-10	-0.4%
Storey	70	80	-7	-0.6%
Esmeralda	-50	-50	3	0.9%
Lander	20	40	-20	-0.9%
Carson City	810	860	-50	-0.3%
Nye	280	360	-80	-0.6%
Douglas	370	490	-120	-0.6%
Humboldt	-230	-160	-70	-0.7%
Churchill	100	140	-40	-0.4%
Lyon	-50	60	-110	-0.4%

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- The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program, produced by State agencies in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, allows us to assess growth/decline in each county's labor force, employment, unemployment and the unemployment rate (unemployment-labor force ratio). Figures in this research note are not seasonally adjusted. Labor force includes those actively involved in the labor market, either employed or actively looking for work.
- For the purpose of this research note, an urban area is defined as a metropolitan area, and all other areas are considered rural areas. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) defines metropolitan statistical areas as an area that has at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more population, plus adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting ties.
- Over-the-year estimates through September 2018 show that labor force growth is concentrated in the State's urban areas: Clark County, Reno-Sparks (includes Washoe County and Storey County), and Carson City.

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¹ Numbers might not add due to rounding.

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- Urban areas in Nevada have been experiencing strong employment increases. Despite the decrease in the other component of labor force, unemployment, this strong employment growth led to an overall labor force growth. This likely reflects that unemployed Nevadans are finding jobs.
- Clark County's labor force is up 30,990, Washoe's has increased 8,670, Storey is up 71, and Carson City's is up 810 in 2018 through September, compared to the first nine months of last year. These urban areas show an increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment. Washoe's unemployment rate is down by 0.5 percentage points relative to the first nine months of 2017, Storey's rate is down 0.6 percentage points, Clark County rate decline registered at 0.4 percentage points, while Carson City rate declined 0.3 percentage points.
- Similarly, half of the rural counties are showing the same pattern as the urban areas during this period. All six counties had an increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment. Although these areas have fewer industries compared to the urban area, they still have a broad distribution. On the other hand, the remaining seven rural counties had a reduction in labor force. Five experienced decreases in employment and unemployment, while Esmeralda had a decrease in employment and an increase in unemployment. These areas have a smaller number of industries and a higher concentration in mining.
- Over this period, only Esmeralda County saw an increase in unemployment. This increase reflects an increase in unemployment claims in the construction industry and in the mining industry. The largest declines in the unemployment rate are found in Lander (down 0.91 percentage points), followed by Humboldt with a decline of 0.69 and Nye with a decline of 0.64 percentage points.