

Research Notes

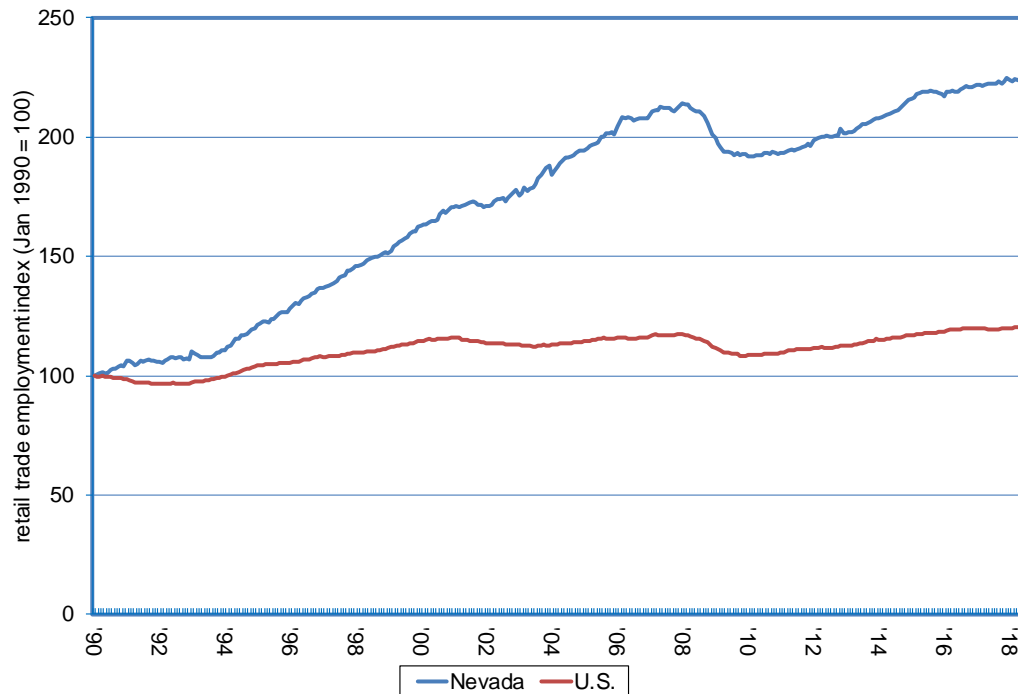


Retail Trade Employment Index
Hayley Smith-Kirkham, Economist

Note: 2018:76
June 11, 2018

Nevada's Retail Employment More than Doubles since 1990, as National Employment Sees Modest Growth

Retail Trade Growth: Nevada vs. U.S.



- The Current Employment Statistics program produces monthly estimates of nonfarm payroll employment for all 50 states and 450 metropolitan areas. These estimates are both timely and detailed, allowing us to examine trends in employment by industry.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently released a report showing that Nevada saw the largest increase in retail trade employment of any state between 1990 and 2018¹. The chart above shows an index of retail trade employment for both Nevada and the U.S. as a whole, showing that Nevada's retail trade increased by almost 125 percent from January, 1990 through May, 2018. Nationally, retail trade employment only increased by 20 percent over the same period.
- Using information from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages program, which produces more complete but less timely information, we can gain additional insight by examining which categories of retailers have seen the largest growth. Ten out of twelve retail subsectors saw growth over the fifteen year period from 2002 to 2017, ranging from eight

¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, The Economics Daily, "Nevada retail trade employment more than doubles since April 1990"

Research Notes



percent to over ninety percent (see table below).

Industry Code	Retail Subsector	Jobs, 2002	Jobs, 2017	Employment Change	Percent Growth
448	Clothing and Clothing Accessories Stores	11,307	21,577	10,270	90.8%
443	Electronics and Appliance Stores	3,306	4,831	1,525	46.1%
446	Health and Personal Care Stores	6,486	9,300	2,814	43.4%
453	Miscellaneous Store Retailers	7,938	10,489	2,551	32.1%
445	Food and Beverage Stores	17,914	23,552	5,638	31.5%
452	General Merchandise Stores	20,278	26,418	6,140	30.3%
451	Sporting Goods/Hobby/Book/Music Stores	4,195	4,773	578	13.8%
444	Building Material & Garden Supply Stores	8,014	8,925	911	11.4%
447	Gasoline Stations	8,150	8,853	703	8.6%
441	Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	15,528	16,842	1,314	8.5%
442	Furniture and Home Furnishings Stores	5,094	4,527	-567	-11.1%
454	Nonstore Retailers	7,050	5,581	-1,469	-20.8%

- Clothing and accessories stores saw the largest increase, almost doubling employment after adding 10,300 jobs over the period. The largest retail sector by total employment, general merchandise stores, grew by more than 30 percent. The second-largest sector, food and beverage stores, grew by over 30 percent as well.
- The only retail sub-sectors to see a decline in jobs from 2002 to 2017 were furniture/home furnishing stores (-11 percent, or 570 jobs) and nonstore retailers (-21 percent, or 1,470 jobs).
- Nonstore retailers include electronic shopping and mail-order houses, which we would have expected to grow with the rise of online shopping. However, even as the number of firms in this group has expanded from 130 to 500, employment has declined by 1,780 jobs. This may reflect structural change in the retail sector, as fewer jobs may be required due to increasing productivity, digitization, automation, or other forces. It is also important to note that related activities, such as warehousing and distribution for online retailers, would fall under separate industry codes.