

Research Notes



Sub-State Labor Force Change
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Labor Force Growing in Urban Areas; Down in Most Rural Counties

Year-to-Date (through June) Change vs. 2017				
County	labor force	employment	unemployment	unemployment rate
Clark	29,440	32,185	-2,745	-0.4%
Washoe	9,170	10,245	-1,075	-0.6%
Eureka	-17	-13	-5	-0.4%
Mineral	27	33	-6	-0.3%
Elko	-310	-160	-150	-0.5%
Pershing	-91	-80	-11	-0.2%
Lincoln	-36	-35	-1	0.0%
White Pine	-18	-3	-15	-0.3%
Storey	75	85	-10	-0.7%
Esmeralda	-45	-48	3	0.9%
Lander	-8	20	-28	-0.9%
Carson City	920	960	-40	-0.4%
Nye	174	269	-95	-0.6%
Douglas	455	595	-140	-0.7%
Humboldt	-315	-245	-70	-0.7%
Churchill	-120	-70	-50	-0.4%
Lyon	-172	-60	-112	-0.5%

- 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.
- Over-the-year estimates through June 2018 show that labor force growth is concentrated in the State's urban areas. On the other hand, most rural counties experienced declines in the labor force during this period.
- 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 29,440, while Washoe's has increased 9,170 compared to the first six months of last year. Both areas show an increase in employment and a decrease in unemployment. Washoe's unemployment rate is down by 0.6 percentage point relative to the first six months of 2017, while Clark County rate decline registered at 0.4 percentage point.

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- The majority of rural areas in the Silver State show a reduction in employment. At the same time these areas experienced a reduction in unemployment leading to an overall decline in labor force. This decline in the labor force is explained in part by population/commuter patterns and industry distributions prevalent in these areas. Population estimates from the U.S. Census indicate that population declined in almost half of these rural counties from 2015 to 2016. Additionally, many of these areas have a smaller distribution of industries and a higher concentration in mining.
- Over this period, nine out of 14 small counties saw a reduction in employment. One county saw an increase in unemployment and 13 experienced a reduction in unemployment. The largest declines in the jobless rate are found in Esmeralda (down 0.95 percentage points), followed by Lander with a decline of 0.85 and Douglas with a decline of 0.72 percentage points.