

Research Notes



Reno MSA Comparison to other MSA's; Employment, Wages, and Cost of Living
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Reno MSA Compares Favorably to Others in terms of Private Sector Employment Growth: Has Average Wages, High Cost of Living

Metropolitan Area	Employment Growth: 2018 to 2019 ¹	Growth Rank ² : 2018 to 2019	Employment Growth: 2014 to 2019 ³	Growth Rank: 2014 to 2019
Reno-Sparks, NV	4.0%	16	27.4%	5
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	0.9%	232	3.5%	294
Anchorage, AK	0.7%	248	-0.9%	357
Asheville, NC	2.8%	56	17.5%	44
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	3.2%	35	16.6%	54
Provo-Orem, UT	4.2%	13	34.5%	1
Boise, ID	4.2%	12	23.3%	10
Stockton-Lodi, CA	1.6%	146	18.8%	35

- Information obtained through the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program provides a nearly complete job count based upon quarterly wage records submitted by employers whose employees are covered under the Unemployment Insurance System. As a result, historical information is subject to minimal, if any, revisions. This data encompasses jobs in all fifty states plus the District of Columbia. Because generating this information is a time-consuming process, it is only available with a 4-5 month lag.
- These cities were chosen on the basis of being of similar population (2018) and/or geography to the Reno-Sparks Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The table above is a comparison of private sector job growth during the periods; first quarter of 2018 to first quarter of 2019 and first quarter of 2014 to first quarter of 2019.
- The Reno MSA grew by four percent from first quarter of 2018 to first quarter of 2019 which ranks relatively high in comparison to other MSA's nationally. From first quarter of 2014 to first quarter of 2019, Reno ranks fifth suggesting an overall trend of strong growth.
- For the period, first quarter of 2014 to first quarter of 2019, eight of the ten fastest growing MSA's are located in the Western United States.
- From first quarter of 2014 to first quarter of 2019, the fastest growing industries in the Reno MSA were Natural Resources/Mining and Manufacturing.

(Continued on Next Page)

¹ 2018 first quarter to 2019 first quarter.

² The rank is based on the current number of 381 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA)

³ 2014 first quarter to 2019 first quarter

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Area	Average Weekly Wage (2019:IQ)	Wage Rank (Highest to Lowest)	Cost of Living Index ⁴	Cost of Living Rank ⁵ (Highest to Lowest)
Reno-Sparks, NV	\$980	111	114.4	38
Beaumont-Port Arthur, TX	\$1172	37	95.2	110
Anchorage, AK	\$1087	66	122.6	23
Asheville, NC	\$798	282	99.6	80
Pensacola-Ferry Pass-Brent, FL	\$864	208	94.4	120
Provo-Orem, UT	\$964	123	98.0	86
Boise, ID	\$904	172	97.5	90
Stockton-Lodi, CA	\$857	217	117.3	31

- The table above shows the average weekly wage for private sector employment as of first quarter of 2019, how it ranks amongst the 381 MSA's, and how it ranks when it comes to cost of living. The average weekly wage for the Reno MSA saw an 3.3% increase over the same period in 2018. Reno ranks 111th of 381 which places it in the top one third. The highest wage level is found in the San Jose MSA at \$2839 and the lowest in Brownville, TX at \$582.
- Reno is 38th highest in terms of cost of living and 40th in housing cost. All eight MSA's are in the bottom half of the rankings which suggests a relatively high cost of living. The highest cost of living is found in New York (Manhattan), NY at 242.5 and the lowest in Harlingen, TX at 73.8. When one compares the rankings above with respect to wages and cost of living, the spread between the two rankings ranges from +202 (Asheville, NC) to -73 (Beaumont, TX) with Reno coming in at 73.

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⁴ All cost of living data sourced from C2ER (C2ER.org). The Cost of Living Index measures relative price levels for consumer goods and services in participating areas. The average for all participating places, both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan, equals 100, and each participant's index is read as a percentage of the average for all places.

⁵ Rank is out of 255 possible MSA's listed in the C2ER Cost of Living Index for second quarter of 2019.