

Research Notes



Industry/Wage Comparison: Las Vegas and Similar Cities
 Tim Wilcox, Economist; Michele Novosel, Economist

Note: 2019:15
 January 30, 2019

Accommodation and Food Services Highest in Share of Total Private Employment While Having Highest Average Weekly Wage Amongst Similar Cities

Industry	Las Vegas Employment Share	Las Vegas	Austin	Boston	Portland	Sacramento
Accommodation and Food Services	30.9%	\$660	\$430	\$490	\$390	\$390
Retail Trade	13.0%	\$600	\$670	\$670	\$540	\$630
Health Care and Social Assistance	9.9%	\$1050	\$1020	\$1140	\$800	\$1060
Administrative and Waste Services	8.9%	\$620	\$880	\$950	\$670	\$850
Construction	6.8%	\$1110	\$1170	\$1560	\$1020	\$1250
Transportation and Warehousing	4.9%	\$890	\$860	\$1020	\$970	\$850
Professional and Technical Services	4.7%	\$1430	\$1900	\$2610	\$1360	\$1470
Finance and Insurance	3.1%	\$1380	\$1820	\$3220	\$1350	\$1650
Other Services (except Public Administration)	2.9%	\$680	\$810	\$740	\$590	\$720
Manufacturing	2.7%	\$990	\$1900	\$1910	\$1070	\$1290

Top 10 Largest Industries by Employment Share

- In the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program, the Research and Analysis Bureau collects and compiles employment and wage data for workers covered by Nevada unemployment insurance laws, and federal civilian workers covered by Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees. Data for this comparison is taken from the QCEW program for each state.
- These cities were chosen on the basis of being of similar population (2017) to the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise Metropolitan Statistical Area (Las Vegas MSA). The table above is a comparison of average weekly wages paid by the 10 most prominent (in terms of employment share) in the Las Vegas MSA. The rankings are based on that industry's (2-Digit NAICS) share of total private employment in the respective MSA.
- Accommodation and Food Services is number one in the Las Vegas area in terms of employment share. The average weekly wage in this industry exceeds the other metro areas by an average of \$170 or approximately 34 percent. Accommodations (NAICS 721) pays an average of \$798 per week while employing 62 percent of the total for the greater sector, Accommodation and Food Services. In the other metros listed, the same share ranges from 9 percent to 47 percent. This mostly explains the relatively high wages in the Las Vegas MSA for this industry.
- The only two industries in which Las Vegas has a lower average weekly wage than the other metros are Manufacturing paying 36 percent less on average and Administrative and Waste Services paying 26 percent less.

Research Notes



Industry (Las Vegas Employment Share)	Las Vegas	Austin	Boston	Portland	Sacramento
Management of Companies (2.4%)	1 (\$2330)	8 (\$1605)	2 (\$2630)	5 (\$1290)	2 (\$1770)
Utilities (0.3%)	2 (\$2100)	5 (\$1850)	4 (\$2590)	1 (\$2040)	1 (\$2490)
Wholesale Trade (2.6%)	3 (\$1490)	4 (\$1860)	6 (\$1960)	6 (\$1290)	7 (\$1320)
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (4.7%)	4 (\$1400)	3 (\$1900)	3 (\$2600)	3 (\$1360)	5 (\$1470)
Finance and Insurance (3.1%)	5 (\$1380)	6 (\$1820)	1 (\$3220)	4 (\$1350)	3 (\$1650)
Information (1.3%)	6 (\$1250)	7 (\$1800)	5 (\$2330)	2 (\$1400)	6 (\$1370)
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (0.1%)	7 (\$1230)	1 (\$2670)	11 (\$1350)	12 (\$900)	4 (\$1630)
Construction (6.8%)	8 (\$1110)	9 (\$1170)	9 (\$1560)	8 (\$1020)	9 (\$1250)
Health Care and Social Assistance (9.9%)	9 (\$1050)	11 (\$1020)	13 (\$1140)	14 (\$800)	10 (\$1060)
Manufacturing (2.7%)	10 (\$990)	2 (\$1900)	7 (\$1910)	7 (\$1070)	8 (\$1290)

Comparison of the highest average weekly wages by industries (2-digit NAICS level) in the Las Vegas MSA and how those industries fare in the similar metro areas.

- The industry with the highest average weekly wage for the Las Vegas MSA is Management of Companies at an estimated \$2330 per week. In most of the other metros, this industry is of similar stature. However, Management of companies (NAICS code 55) only accounts for 2.4 percent of total private employment. Wholesale Trade and Health Care/Social Assistance are other industries where Las Vegas' wages compare favorably. The top ten industries by average weekly wage account for 33.9 percent of total private employment.
- The only industry of these top ten in which Las Vegas pays the least is Manufacturing. Food Manufacturing (NAICS 311) and Printing and Related Support Activities (NAICS 323) are two industries that pay relatively less than the other metro areas.
- Of Las Vegas' ten highest industries by share of employment (share) there are five which are represented in the top ten by average weekly wage (wage). Health Care/Social Assistance ranks 3rd in share and 8th by wage. Construction is 5th in share and 8th by wage. Professional/Technical Services is 7th in share and 4th in wage. Finance/Insurance is 8th in share and 5th in wage. And Manufacturing is 10th in both employment and wages.
- Las Vegas' top ten industries by highest average weekly wage are basically the same for the metro areas in this comparison though not in the same rank order. The two industries represented in Las Vegas' top 10 that do not show up consistently in the other top 10 are Health Care/Social Assistance and Mining/Quarrying/Oil and Gas Extraction

This workforce product was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The product was created by the recipient and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The U.S. Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership. This product is copyrighted by the institution that created it. Internal use by an organization and/or personal use by an individual for non-commercial purposes is permissible. All other uses require the prior authorization of the copyright owner.

Research Notes

