

## RCG NEVADA JOBS FLASH REPORT April 29, 2014



### Nevada

Nevada's economy added **13,200** establishment-based jobs in March reaching a total of **1,205,500**. With the exception of a small loss of jobs in January, the state has seen positive job growth over the past **8 months**. Despite this increase, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at **8.5%** in March. During the past 12 months, the employment-to-population ratio fell to **44.1%** or by 0.1 percentage points. The 12-month rolling average was 44.1%. The peak month for the ratio during the last 12 months was November, 2013 at 44.3%, and the lowest point was this February when it was 43.6%.

Nevada added **45,600** private-sector jobs during the past 12 months. Excluding Construction sector job gains, **39,900** establishment-based jobs were added during the period.

The **Top 3 sectors** in Nevada with the most job gains during the year were Leisure & Hospitality (**12,900 jobs**), Professional & Business Services (**10,600 jobs**), and Trade, Transportation & Utilities (**10,200 jobs**). The Natural Resources & Mining (-300 jobs) sector

was the only sector that experienced job losses during the 12-month period.

The **Top 3 sectors** in the state with the most recent consecutive months of job gains were Professional & Business Services (**6 months**), Manufacturing (**4 months**), and Leisure & Hospitality (**3 months**). Only the Construction sector had job losses in March.

### Las Vegas MSA

The Las Vegas MSA economy added a total of **8,500** establishment-based jobs in March resulting in a total of **870,000** jobs. This is an increase of **30,600** jobs compared to March 2013. Including March, Las Vegas has had 2 months of consecutive job growth, and **6 months** of job growth occurring during the past 8 months.

The **highest month** of job gains in the past 12 months was August with 10,000 jobs followed by this month, again, with 8,500 jobs. The highest month of job losses was July at 10,300, followed by December with 2,700 jobs.

The Las Vegas MSA private sector added **28,600** establishment-based jobs from March 2013 to March 2014. Excluding the job gains in the Construction sector, the private sector added **27,300** jobs during the same period.

The March 2014 unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage points to **8.7%** from 8.6% in February 2014. Additionally, it has fallen from 9.8% in March 2013 or by 1.1%. Compared to March 2013, the employment-to-population ratio decreased by 0.1 percentage points, to **39.2%** from 39.3%. The 12 month rolling monthly average was 39.1%. The peak month for the ratio during the last 12 months was this past November when it was 39.4%, and the lowest point was in January when it was 38.7%.

Most of Southern Nevada's major employment sectors saw a rise in jobs. The **Top 3 sectors** in jobs gains during the past 12 months were Trade, Transportation & Utilities (**8,900 jobs**), Leisure & Hospitality (**8,300 jobs**) and Professional & Business Services (**6,200**). All other job sectors posted job gains besides the Natural Resources & Mining and Financial Activities sectors, which were flat over the year.

The top sectors in Las Vegas with the most recent consecutive months of job gains were Manufacturing (**4 months**), Construction, Professional & Business Services, and Leisure & Hospitality all had **three months** of consecutive job gains. Only the Information sector had job losses in March.

#### **Reno-Sparks MSA**

Reno-Sparks area's economy added **300** jobs in March culminating in total of **200,000** jobs. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive month of job gains. Compared to March, 2013 this increase led to a drop in the unemployment rate of 1.3 percentage points from 10.0% to **8.7%**. Also compared to March, 2013, the employment-to-population ratio rose to **33.7%** or by 0.4 percentage points. The 12-month rolling average was 33.8%. The peak month for the ratio during the last 12 months was December, 2013 at 34.2%; the lowest point was January, 2014 when it was 33.3%.

The Reno-Sparks MSA private sector added **8,400** establishment-based jobs from March 2013 to March 2014. When excluding Construction sector job gains, the private sector only added **7,500** jobs.

For Reno-Sparks, 8 sectors posted job gains over the year. The **Top 3 sectors** for job growth were Professional & Business Services (**2,800 jobs**), Trade, Transportation & Utilities (**2,200 jobs**), and Leisure and Hospitality (**1,500 jobs**).

The Other Services and Natural Resources & Mining (-100) sectors were the only sectors that saw job losses.

In Reno-Sparks the Professional & Business Services sector had job growth for the past 8 consecutive months. The Leisure & Hospitality and Government sectors both had two months of consecutive job gains. Only the Construction (-1,100) sector had job losses in March.

#### **Conclusion**

The March data continue to showing a growing job market recovery in Nevada and its two metro areas – Las Vegas and Reno. The leading sectors in all three areas are Trade, Transportation & Utilities, Professional & Business Services and Lodging & Hospitality. We look forward to the improving job numbers translating into higher real wages and average hours worked per week, both of which have lagged but start should begin to follow in 2014. Our job forecasts still point a two-year timeframe before Nevada and its metros see 5%-6% unemployment indicating full employment.

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