

# **Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation Research and Analysis Bureau**

## **Annual Performance Report Workforce Information Grants to States Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024)**

### **Introduction**

Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation was awarded a Department of Labor-Employment and Training Administration grant support the labor market information work of the Research and Analysis Bureau. The grant covers the 2023 program year from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

Grant recipients are required to submit an annual performance report summarizing a variety of activities funded via the grant. This report satisfies this requirement for the Research and Analysis Bureau, and is supplemented by a consolidated 2024 Annual Economic Report. This performance report consists of two sections:

- I. a summary of the Research and Analysis Bureau's accomplishments and activities, measured (where appropriate) against required work deliverables
- II. recommendations to ETA for changes and improvements to the WIGS program

### **I. Activities, Publications and Accomplishments**

- a. **Workforce Information Database (WID)**
- b. **Industry and Occupational Employment Projections**
- c. **LMI Training and Service Delivery**
- d. **Economic Analysis and Other Reports**

#### **a. Workforce Information Database (WID)**

Nevada is currently operating on the WID version 2.8. We maintain this database both internally and on our public facing data website at the following locations- <http://nevadaworkforce.com/Home/Available-Data-Topics>

Nevada continued to populate the Workforce Information Database with state and local data. The Research and Analysis Bureau continued to maintain and populate the most current version of the workforce information database (WID 2.8) with all core table and a variety of non-core additional tables. Updates to the database included current data releases, as well as revisions to historical information. Information from the various BLS-State cooperative programs (Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, and the Occupational Employment Statistics Program) was populated in the database. Other information sources were also incorporated into the database-short- and long-term industry and occupational projections, State Demographer population estimates, taxable sales, consumer prices, and unemployment insurance claim information, and occupational licensing.

## **Website**

Usage of the Bureau's web site ([www.nevadaworkforce.com](http://www.nevadaworkforce.com)), which provides public access to the workforce information database and other publications, had 14,597 website visits this year. Please note, due to a change in the methodology used to track website traffic, total visits are not directly comparable to prior years.

### **b. Projections**

Nevada produced and disseminated our industry and occupational employment projections. The Research and Analysis Bureau satisfied all requirements associated with this work deliverable. Methodologies, software tools, and guidelines developed by the Projections Workgroup and the Projections Managing Partnership were utilized. Projections staff received required training via both in-person and webinar-based environments. Statewide short-term industrial and occupational projections were produced, published, and disseminated. State and sub-state long term projections were also produced, published, and disseminated.

State projections can be accessed through our data search tool/WID database here  
<https://nevadaworkforce.com/Home/DS-Results-Projections2>

### **c. Staff Training Provided**

The Chief Economist held meetings with WIOA staff during the program year to help build awareness of the labor market information offered by the state and how it can be applied to their work.

### **Trainings/Meetings Attended**

The Bureau is engaged in significant public outreach, and is working to expand its participation in local outreach. During the program year, the Bureau began to engage in "EmployNV Business Briefings" working with business services offices to provide both outreach to local businesses across the state in providing labor market information as well as working to provide an opportunity for business services representatives to connect with employers and share the services they offer. These briefings are focused on reaching the four quadrants of the state – North and South, Urban and Rural, which included our first-ever visit to Mesquite Nevada, in conjunction with the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce.

The Bureau is highly engaged with the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), working with the WLMI Committee, engaged in presenting to the Winter Policy Forum and Summit, and leading a R

User Group through NASWA to help train other states in the opportunities to leverage R and RStudio to improve the quantity, quality, and accessibility of labor market information.

Bureau staff are engaged with the state workforce development board, including participation on board subcommittees to provide labor market information to the strategic planning subcommittee, barriers and underserved populations subcommittee, and child care subcommittee. A report developed by the Bureau pursuant to a legislative mandate continues to be a useful tool connecting unemployment and demographic data at a local level to help drive decisions about areas of priority for the workforce board, state plan, and delivery of workforce services.

Various meetings and trainings were attended to ensure staff are up to date on local and national economic trends. Some of the various meetings and trainings include the Nevada Perspective outlook conference, CEBR Economic Outlook conference, regional economic development conferences, meetings with economic staff from across state agencies, research and training webinars from various groups such as Lightcast, EMSI, Tableau and others. We participate in trips to visit rural offices in the state and to help meet and provide economic data and analysis for local government officials across the state. Virtual meetings continue to be a significant help for a geographically large state with a number of virtual meetings have been attended, including western states LMI directors' meetings and WIAC meetings. The Chief Economist as a member of the WIAC also attended virtual meetings as a subcommittee chair and writing group member to help develop draft recommendations.

#### **d. Economic Analysis and Reports**

The Research and Analysis Bureau provides a variety of reports. Our most visible publications are our monthly state/sub-state economic overviews. These provide a regular comprehensive overview of economic conditions throughout the State of Nevada, including sub-state regions. In addition to Bureau of Labor Statistics information from the various Federal-State cooperative programs, these analyses also include:

- unemployment insurance (claims, duration, and exhaustions) information from the State of Nevada Employment Security Division
- labor market/demographic information from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and Local Employment Dynamics Program and American Community Survey
- analysis of microdata from the CPS Basic monthly survey and ACS microdata
- taxable sales information from the Nevada Department of Taxation
- Las Vegas and Reno visitor volume information from the northern and southern visitors' authorities
- Nevada gaming win from the Nevada Gaming Control Board
- personal income data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis
- business license information from the Secretary of State's Office
- residential housing permit information from the Census Bureau
- economic data from the St. Louis Federal Reserve Economic Database (FRED)

Targeted audiences include the business community, Nevada residents (especially the unemployed searching for work/growth opportunities), policymakers (including the State and local workforce development boards), researchers, etc. The monthly reports are published solely with WIG resources, are posted on our website and disseminated via our e-mail subscription list (approximately 250).

Beginning in January 2020, the Research & Analysis Bureau began to shift the means and mode of publication to incorporate more automation of routine processes, incorporating the WID database structure and publicly-available information to allow more staff time to be used for analysis of economic data, and less time generating publications. This has resulted in a temporary decrease in the number of raw publications, but is expected to increase the number, quality, and sustainability of reports in the long term while allowing staff to focus more on additional research and analysis and less time on the maintenance of existing reports as sufficient skills are developed.

These activities continued in PY 2023 with staff becoming more proficient in the use of R and R Markdown to produce automated, sustainable reports, and state staff have become involved in training other state agencies in these techniques through the NASWA R User Group. In the next program year, we hope to build on these successes to begin developing common tools for use in accessing, analyzing, and publishing LMI data.

## Monthly LMI Reports

State Labor Market Overview

[https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Labor-Market-Overview/Current\\_Release.pdf](https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Labor-Market-Overview/Current_Release.pdf)

Sub-State Labor Market Overview

[https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Labor-Market-Overview/Current\\_Sub-State\\_Release.pdf](https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Labor-Market-Overview/Current_Sub-State_Release.pdf)

Old versions are available by request but not published to ensure that preliminary data is not used in place of more current or revised data.

## Dashboards

Current Employment Statistics

<https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Dashboards/CES-Dashboard>

<https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Dashboards/CES-Industry-Dashboard>

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

<https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Dashboards/LAUS-Dashboard>

Area Profiles

<https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles>

- State of Nevada: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Nevada>

- Las Vegas MSA: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Las-Vegas-Paradise-MSA>
- Reno-Sparks MSA: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Reno-Sparks-MSA>
- Carson City MSA: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Carson-City-MSA>
- Carson City: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Carson-City>
- Churchill County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Churchill-County>
- Clark County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Clark-County>
- Douglas County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Douglas-County>
- Elko County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Elko-County>
- Esmeralda County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Esmeralda-County>
- Eureka County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Eureka-County>
- Humboldt County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Humboldt-County>
- Lander County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Lander-County>
- Lincoln County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Lincoln-County>
- Lyon County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Lyon-County>
- Mineral County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Mineral-County>
- Nye County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Nye-County>
- Pershing County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Pershing-County>
- Storey County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Storey-County>
- Washoe County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/Washoe-County>
- White Pine County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/Area-Profiles/White-Pine-County>

## Occupational Licensing Information

We are working with Analyst Resource Center to produce an updated Licensing database, with the goal of a comprehensive review of statutes and regulations to ensure that this data product is up-to-date and consistently applied. This is available at the ARC (<https://www.widcenter.org/supported-activities/licenses/> ) and is also available on our website at <http://nevadaworkforce.com/Home/Available-Data-Topics> (select Licenses and Training). Progress has been made to automate the scraping of license data reported to the state legislature, as well as pulling contact information and board information to make more progress updating and maintaining this database.

## Demographics Reports

Pursuant to state law requiring reports on demographic groups meeting certain thresholds of high unemployment in their individual counties, Nevada produces a quarterly report on unemployment demographics, posted on its website:

[https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Other-Publications/Demographics-Report/Current Release.pdf](https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Other-Publications/Demographics-Report/Current%20Release.pdf)

Building on the foundation provided by this report, the same data from the ACS is provided to other entities in the state looking to get a profile of detailed areas within the state where they are looking to provide education or training services. Further, this analysis has been shared with other states so they can replicate the work using ACS data in their own regions.

## Top Employers Reports

<https://nevadaworkforce.com/CAFR>

State of Nevada: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/State-of-Nevada>

- Carson City: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Carson-City>
- Churchill County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Churchill-County>
- Clark County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Clark-County>
- Douglas County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Douglas-County>
- Elko County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Elko-County>
- Esmeralda County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Esmeralda-County>
- Eureka County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Eureka-County>
- Humboldt County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Humboldt-County>
- Lander County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Lander-County>
- Lincoln County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Lincoln-County>
- Lyon County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Lyon-County>
- Mineral County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Mineral-County>
- Nye County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Nye-County>
- Pershing County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Pershing-County>
- Storey County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Storey-County>
- Washoe County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/Washoe-County>
- White Pine County: <https://nevadaworkforce.com/docs/Top-Employers/2022/White-Pine-County>

## WIG Partners

Our office strives to nurture partnerships throughout our community and to foster the knowledge and use of labor market data. These partnerships come from a variety of backgrounds and serve a diverse array of people.

In 2021, the state's Chief Economist joined the Workforce Information Advisory Council (WIAC) to help support the federal workforce information system, and in 2022 has served as chair for a subcommittee exploring recommendations related to worker experiences and skill needs. In July, he was invited to join the next cycle of the WIAC as a representative of labor market information directors.

We work with our Workforce Investment boards, American Job Centers, and their training partners to provide staff and their customers with data as they assist job seekers in finding work. During the current program year, we worked with the chair of the Governor's Workforce Development Board to create a dashboard of workforce outcomes built on the PIRL file to help build greater transparency and visibility into the participants and outcomes in local workforce board areas to assist the GWDB. This dashboard is expected to transition to a Power BI tool that will make outcome data more transparent and accessible to the public, while protecting confidential participant data.

We participate with the NASWA Workforce and Labor Market Information Committee, and regularly present at both WLMI committee meetings and in panel discussions at NASWA events to share our efforts to automate and streamline some of our publications and analysis in order to share our successes, our experience, and our code with other states so that we can provide mutual support and peer learning.



We work frequently with our state and local economic development authorities providing data support and assisting in grant applications, trainings, etc. We partner with our state Treasurer's Office on a variety of projects including economic analysis and presentations for various financial bonds.

We serve on a variety of boards and committees such as the BLS OEWS Policy Council, the Analyst Resource Center (which maintains the Workforce Information Database and other support services), the Projections Managing Partnership, the University Center for Economic Development and a state economic advisory group, a group of economists from a variety of government agencies ranging from the Department of Health, taxation, tourism boards, universities, to the Department of Employment.

Other partners we have assisted include SNAPPE, Nevada System of Higher Education, Nevada Department of Transportation, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, Department of Business and Industry, the Small Business Development Center, the Economic Forum and Technical Advisory Council, Vocational Rehabilitation, and the Governor's Office of Workforce Innovation.

## **II. Recommendations to ETA for Changes and Improvements**

The Research and Analysis Bureau will continue to strive to meet the needs of our customers. Our priorities will remain supporting the Workforce Development Board community, economic development entities, employers, job seekers, and public policymakers.

As for suggested improvements, we stress the importance of financial support for the overall labor market information infrastructure. Tools such as the Local Employment and Wage Information System (LEWIS) and the work of the Analyst Resource Center (ARC) and the Projections Managing Partnership (PMP) are critical to the overall LMI infrastructure. Going forward, solid funding for these, and other, tools/activities is critical.

In addition, we would request that utilizing the resources and participating in the Census Bureau's Local Employment Dynamics Program be specifically mentioned as an "allowable" or "encouraged" activity under the Grant. This is particularly important because support from the Department of Labor would assist in justifying supplying data under state law to a federal agency not charged with the administration of the unemployment insurance program.

With diminishing resources, it is essential that states have reliable access to data both within and outside the Department of Labor. Coordinating across federal agencies to ensure uniform, accessible, machine-readable data sets to allow for analysis of economic activity would aid the development of reports that could be shared across states. Data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Internal Revenue Service, Department of Transportation, and more could help to enhance the capabilities of state labor market information offices.

As it currently stands, the occupational licensing database deliverable is not entirely clear – with a prior gap in this activity being rigorously performed, upkeep and renewal of this database is a challenging effort. Training or technical assistance with this component of the WIGS deliverable would be beneficial and may be useful to other states, particularly involving processes or tools to augment manual review of statutes and regulations to help identify licensed occupations in a consistent manner across states.

Data about labor force participation is a critical need in the current environment, specifically being able to determine when individuals are facing barriers that keep them from participating in the workforce, compared to those individuals truly disengaged from the labor market. Given limited funding, the CPS data and survey structure is insufficient to meet the task at hand, and WIGS resources are not sufficient to allow local surveys to try to capture this data. Additional investment in the foundation of labor market information is critical as the administration works to build out the nation's infrastructure, but investment without information is ineffective. Labor market information is critical to the success of such initiatives.