

College students across Nevada are heading back to campus this month to pursue their higher education goals. Many of them will go into debt to finance their tuition, rent and other expenses of attending college. These costs are considered an investment toward realizing the greater employment and economic opportunities provided by a college degree. Yet for many college graduates across the nation,

especially those who finished school during the nation's worst economic crisis in eight decades, student loan debt has instead served as a roadblock to establishing financial independence in early adulthood. However, in Nevada the student debt trends run counter to the national narrative, as Silver State students leave college with far less debt than most of their peers around the country.

Across the United States, the collegiate class of 2014 graduated with an average student loan debt balance of \$28,950 (a 2 percent increase from 2013), according to an analysis by The Institute for College Access and Success of student debt for graduates of public and private nonprofit four-year institutions. Nevada student debt averaged \$20,211, which ranked as the third-lowest in the country behind only Utah and New Mexico. On the high end of the student debt spectrum were East Coast states Delaware, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania, each of which carried average student debt loads of more than \$33,000. Nevada also performed well in terms of the proportion of students graduating with college debt. Nationally, seven in 10 graduates had loans to pay off, while in

Nevada less than half of the 2014 class (46 percent) graduated with debt. That rate tied with Wyoming for lowest in the country.

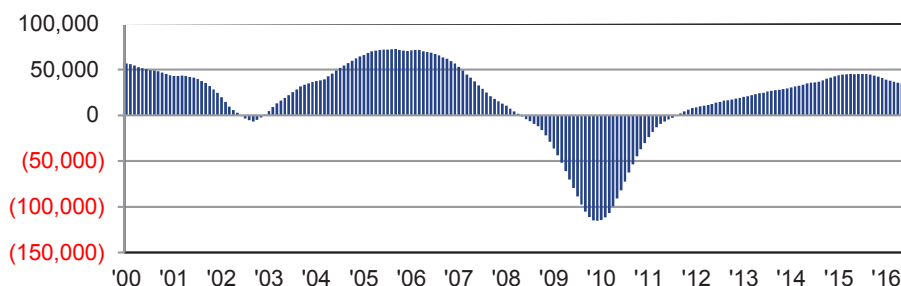
Historically, the rise in average student debt has far outpaced the rate of inflation. On a national level, college debt between 2004 and 2014 increased 56 percent, from \$18,550 to \$28,950, more than twice the inflation rate during that time. Since 2014, Delaware and Maryland saw the greatest increases in graduating class debt as their totals more than doubled, while Idaho, Louisiana and Iowa reported the smallest 10-year increases at less than 25 percent. In Nevada, average student debt load increased by 43 percent (from \$14,144 to \$20,211), which ranked as the 11th-lowest increase over the decade.

Nevada's low student debt totals can be attributed to a combination of factors. For one, Nevada offers the seventh most affordable in-state college tuition and fees. In addition, Nevada offers the Millennium Scholarship to college entrants who meet certain GPA, testing and course requirements in high school.

Within Nevada, the state's two flagship universities recorded noticeable differences in average student debt balances. While the

Continued on Back Cover >>

NEVADA EMPLOYMENT GROWTH TRAILING 12-MONTH AVERAGES



Economic Briefing

AUGUST 2016

ISSUE EIGHT | VOLUME NINE

MONTHLY Employment Indicators

Nevada Employment		Jun-16
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
1,293,900	1,288,600	1,257,200
GROWTH RATE	0.4% ▲	2.9% ▲

Nevada Private Average Weekly Hours Worked		Jun-16
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
34.0	34.1	33.6
GROWTH RATE	-0.3% ▼	1.2% ▲

Nevada Unemployment Rate		Jun-16
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
6.4%	6.1%	6.8%
GROWTH RATE	0.3% ▲	-0.4% ▼

TRAILING 12-MONTH Employment Indicators

Nevada Employment ⁽¹⁾		Jun-16
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
1,273,317	1,270,258	1,239,017
GROWTH RATE	0.2% ▲	2.8% ▲

Nevada Private Average Weekly Hours Worked ⁽¹⁾		Jun-16
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
33.7	33.6	33.5
GROWTH RATE	0.1% ▲	0.5% ▲

Nevada Unemployment Rate ⁽¹⁾		Jun-16
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
6.3%	6.3%	7.2%
GROWTH RATE	0.0% ◊	-0.9% ▼

Notes: (1) Trailing 12-month/4-quarter averages.
(2) Trailing 12-month/4-quarter totals.

MONTHLY & QUARTERLY
Economic Indicator Series

Nevada Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims

Jun-16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
11,144	10,650	13,185
GROWTH RATE	4.6% ▲	-15.5% ▼

Nevada Residential Housing Units Permitted

Apr-16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
1,507	1,306	1,073
GROWTH RATE	15.4% ▲	40.4% ▲

Nevada Taxable Retail Sales

May-16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
\$4,413,202,682	\$4,358,636,583	\$4,344,308,139
GROWTH RATE	1.3% ▲	1.6% ▲

Nevada Gross Gaming Revenue

May-16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
\$958,055,897	\$876,138,288	\$1,003,479,007
GROWTH RATE	9.3% ▲	-4.5% ▼

Las Vegas/Reno-Tahoe Enplaned and Deplaned Passengers

May-16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
4,438,276	4,185,823	4,269,119
GROWTH RATE	6.0% ▲	4.0% ▲

Clark/Washoe County Visitor Volume

Jun-16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
4,431,190	4,260,535	4,233,736
GROWTH RATE	4.0% ▲	4.7% ▲

Nevada New Business Creation

Q3 '15

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
524	688	455
GROWTH RATE	-23.8% ▼	15.2% ▲

Nevada Housing Price Index

(Q1 1991 = 100)

Q4 '15

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
199.3	193.4	176.6
GROWTH RATE	3.0% ▲	12.8% ▲

Clark County Office Market

Vacancy Rate

Q2 '16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
21.0%	21.5%	22.5%
GROWTH RATE	-0.5% ▼	-1.5% ▼

Nevada Hotel/Motel Occupancy

Q4 '15

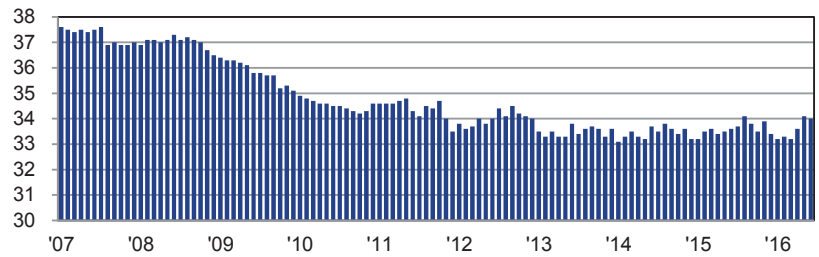
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
79.2%	85.3%	77.0%
GROWTH RATE	-6.1% ▼	2.2% ▲

State of Nevada Personal Income

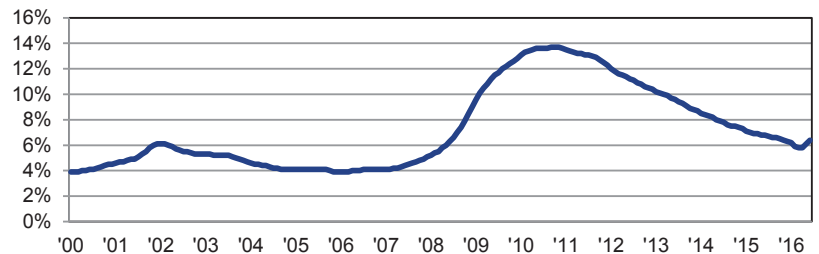
Q1 '16

Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period Prev. Yr.
\$31,409,544,000	\$31,121,000,000	\$29,818,203,500
GROWTH RATE	0.9% ▲	5.3% ▲

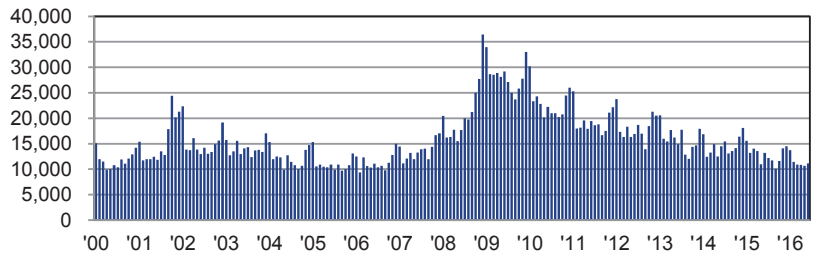
NEVADA PRIVATE AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS WORKED
MONTHLY SERIES



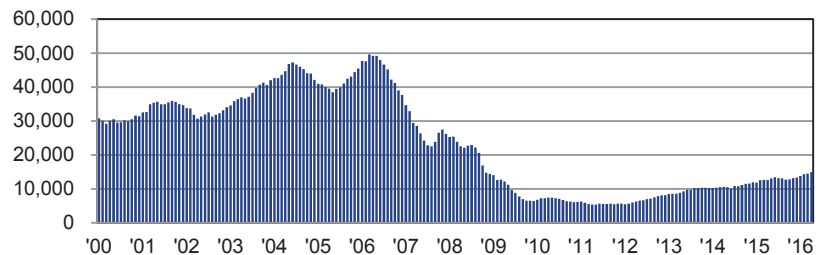
NEVADA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
MONTHLY SERIES



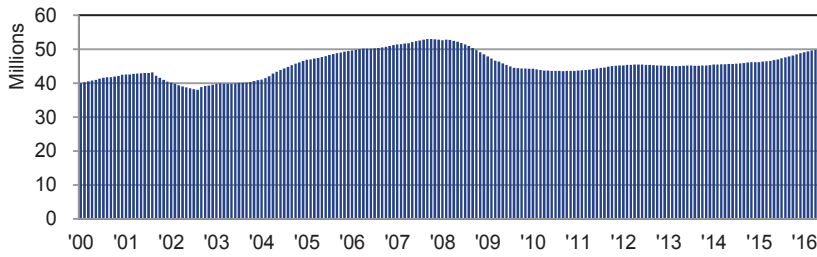
NEVADA UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS
MONTHLY SERIES



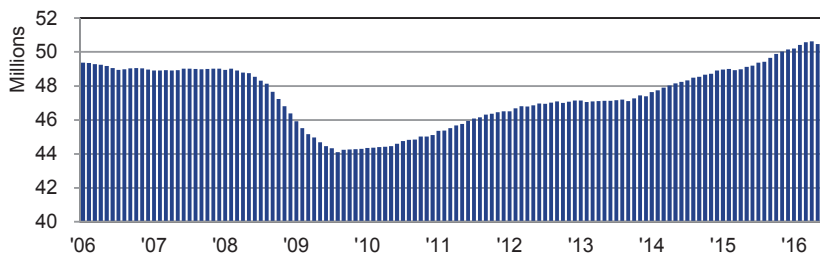
NEVADA RESIDENTIAL UNITS PERMITTED
TRAILING 12-MONTH TOTALS



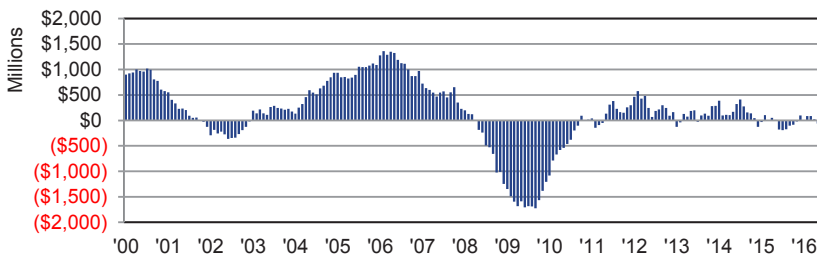
LAS VEGAS/RENO-TAHOE AIRPORT PASSENGER COUNTS
TRAILING 12-MONTH TOTALS



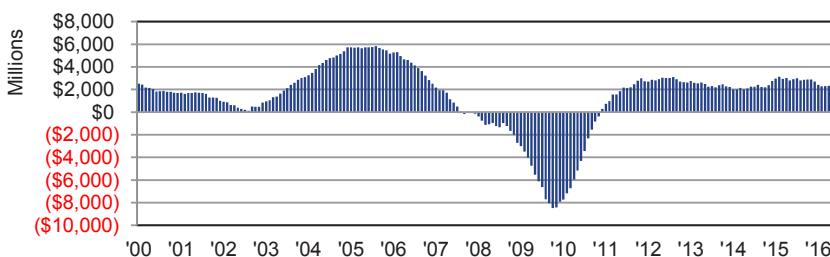
CLARK/WASHOE COUNTY VISITOR VOLUME
TRAILING 12-MONTH TOTALS



GROWTH IN NEVADA GROSS GAMING REVENUE
TRAILING 12-MONTH TOTALS



GROWTH IN NEVADA TAXABLE RETAIL SALES
TRAILING 12-MONTH TOTALS



TRAILING 12-MONTH
Economic Indicator Series

Nevada Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims ⁽²⁾

		Jun-16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
143,051	145,092	171,242	
GROWTH RATE	-1.4% ▼	-16.5% ▼	

Nevada Residential Housing Units Permitted ⁽²⁾

		Apr-16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
14,926	14,492	12,655	
GROWTH RATE	3.0% ▲	17.9% ▲	

Nevada Taxable Retail Sales ⁽²⁾

		May-16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
\$52,361,164,659	\$52,292,270,116	\$50,051,713,558	
GROWTH RATE	0.1% ▲	4.6% ▲	

Nevada Gross Gaming Revenue ⁽²⁾

		Jun-16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
\$10,234,027,562	\$11,064,936,467	\$11,048,285,414	
GROWTH RATE	-7.5% ▼	-7.4% ▼	

Las Vegas/Reno-Tahoe Enplaned and Deplaned Passengers ⁽²⁾

		May-16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
49,951,103	49,781,946	46,772,887	
GROWTH RATE	0.3% ▲	6.8% ▲	

Clark/Washoe County Visitor Volume ⁽²⁾

		Jun-16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
50,668,823	50,471,369	49,187,572	
GROWTH RATE	0.4% ▲	3.0% ▲	

Nevada New Business Creation ⁽²⁾

		Q3 '15	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
2,694	2,625	1,711	
GROWTH RATE	2.6% ▲	57.5% ▲	

Nevada Housing Price Index ⁽¹⁾

		Q4 '15	
<i>(Q1 1991 = 100)</i>			
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
191.1	185.4	170.8	
GROWTH RATE	3.1% ▲	11.9% ▲	

Clark County Office Market Vacancy Rate ⁽¹⁾

		Q2 '16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
21.7%	22.1%	22.9%	
GROWTH RATE	-0.4% ▼	-1.2% ▼	

Nevada Hotel/Motel Occupancy ⁽¹⁾

		Q4 '15	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
82.2%	81.6%	81.2%	
GROWTH RATE	0.6% ▲	1.0% ▲	

State of Nevada Personal Income ⁽²⁾

		Q1 '16	
Current Period	Prev. Period	Same Period	Prev. Yr.
\$125,638,176,000	\$124,484,000,000	\$119,272,814,000	
GROWTH RATE	0.9% ▲	5.3% ▲	

Notes: (1) Trailing 12-month/4-quarter averages. (2) Trailing 12-month/4-quarter totals.

« Continued From Cover

University of Nevada, Reno and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas had comparable yearly in-state tuition and fees (\$6,610 at UNR and \$6,690 at UNLV), the average debt carried by UNR grads was \$22,500, 21 percent higher than the \$18,540 for UNLV graduates. At each college, 46 percent of students graduated with debt, matching the statewide average. Part of the difference might be attributed to UNLV students being 6 percent more likely to receive Pell Grants, the federally-funded scholarships awarded based on financial need. Overall, the average UNLV freshman received a financial aid package of \$11,030 in grants, loans, scholarships and work-study in the first year in college, which was 33 percent higher than the \$8,280 received by the average incoming UNR student.

In today's economy, a college degree is key for long-term employment and financial security. In 2014, high school graduates with no college experience were twice as likely to be unemployed compared to the portion of the labor force equipped with a bachelor's degree or higher, and college graduates also earn more over their working lifetimes than workers with high school diplomas or less. Despite these benefits, the financial costs of pursuing a higher education can feel more like a burden than an investment for many Americans. In Nevada, however, low costs and widely accessible scholarship programs have helped students graduate with a degree in hand, but without the high student debt balances of their peers in most other states.

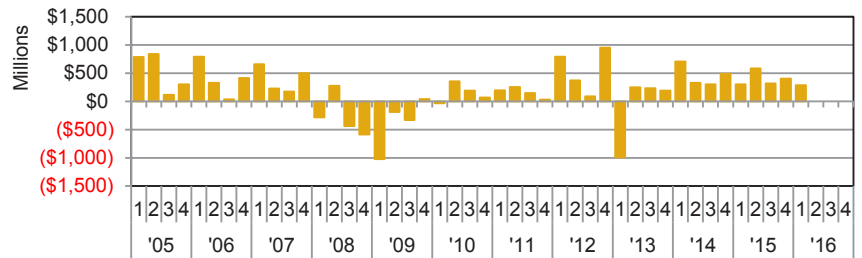
Prepared by:



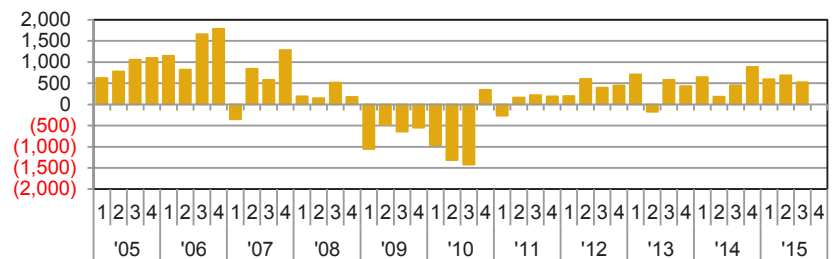
appliedanalysis.com

Methodology: Applied Analysis ("AA") was retained by Nevada State Bank to summarize and analyze a series of key economic indicators on a recurring basis. Relevant data were obtained from AA's internal databases as well as national, regional and local data providers, including, without limitation, state and local governments. While we have no reason to doubt the accuracy of any of the data reported, we have not performed an audit or assurance procedures on these data, and as such, we cannot attest to their completeness. Generally speaking, data reported are for Nevada, Clark County, Washoe County, or the metropolitan areas therein. Please note that these geographies may differ slightly between data providers.

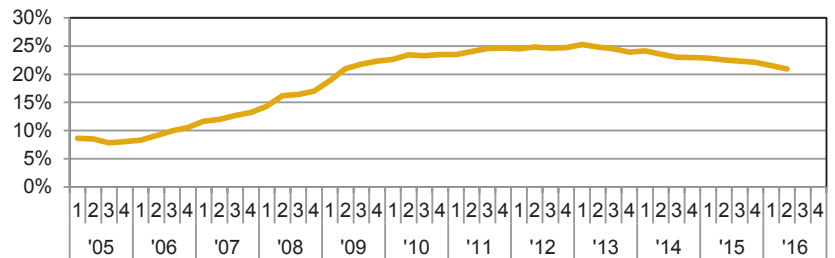
NEVADA PERSONAL INCOME GROWTH
QUARTER-OVER-QUARTER



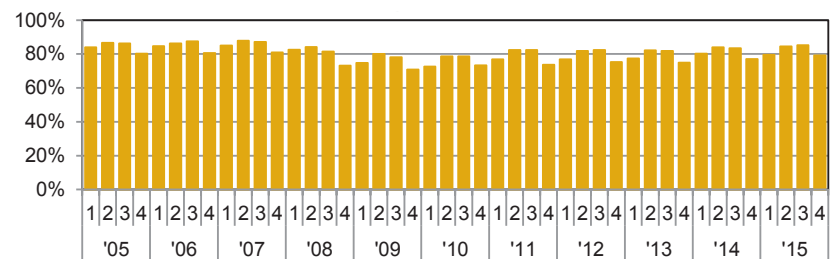
NEVADA NEW BUSINESS CREATION
QUARTER-OVER-QUARTER



LAS VEGAS OFFICE MARKET VACANCY RATE
QUARTERLY SERIES



NEVADA HOTEL/MOTEL OCCUPANCY
QUARTERLY SERIES



NEVADA STATE BANK

THE DOOR TO YOUR FUTURE

A division of ZB, N.A. Member FDIC

