

2015

Is Las Vegas the Next Silicon Valley? A First Look at Brookings Top 100 Metro Data on Advanced Industries

Robert E. Lang

Brookings Mountain West, robert.lang@unlv.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/brookings_lectures_events



Part of the [Economic Policy Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Lang, R. E. (2015). Is Las Vegas the Next Silicon Valley? A First Look at Brookings Top 100 Metro Data on Advanced Industries.

Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/brookings_lectures_events/102

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the Brookings Mountain West at Digital Scholarship@UNLV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Lectures/Events (BMW) by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.



ADVANCED INDUSTRIES ACCELERATOR PROGRAMS

Colorado
Office of Economic
Development and
International
Trade



Is Las Vegas the Next Silicon Valley? A First Look at Brookings Top 100 Metro Data on Advanced Industries

ROBERT LANG, PH.D. | PROFESSOR AND DIRECTOR
THE LINCY INSTITUTE | BROOKINGS MOUNTAIN WEST
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

First: What's a Location Quotient?

From the Bureau of Labor Statistics:

“If an LQ is equal to 1, then the industry has the same share of its area employment as it does in the reference area. An LQ greater than 1 indicates an industry with a greater share of the local area employment than is the case in the reference area. For example (assuming the U.S. as the reference area), Las Vegas will have an LQ greater than 1 in the Leisure and Hospitality industry because this industry makes up a larger share of the Las Vegas employment total than it does for the country as a whole.”

Location Quotients: Las Vegas 2014

Industry Name	Las Vegas LQ 2 nd Q 2014
Construction	1.17
Education	0.53
Finance & Insurance	0.66
Health Services	0.64
Information	0.56
Leisure and Hospitality	3.01
Manufacturing	0.28
Professional and Business Services	1.00
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	1.00

Behind the Location Quotient Numbers



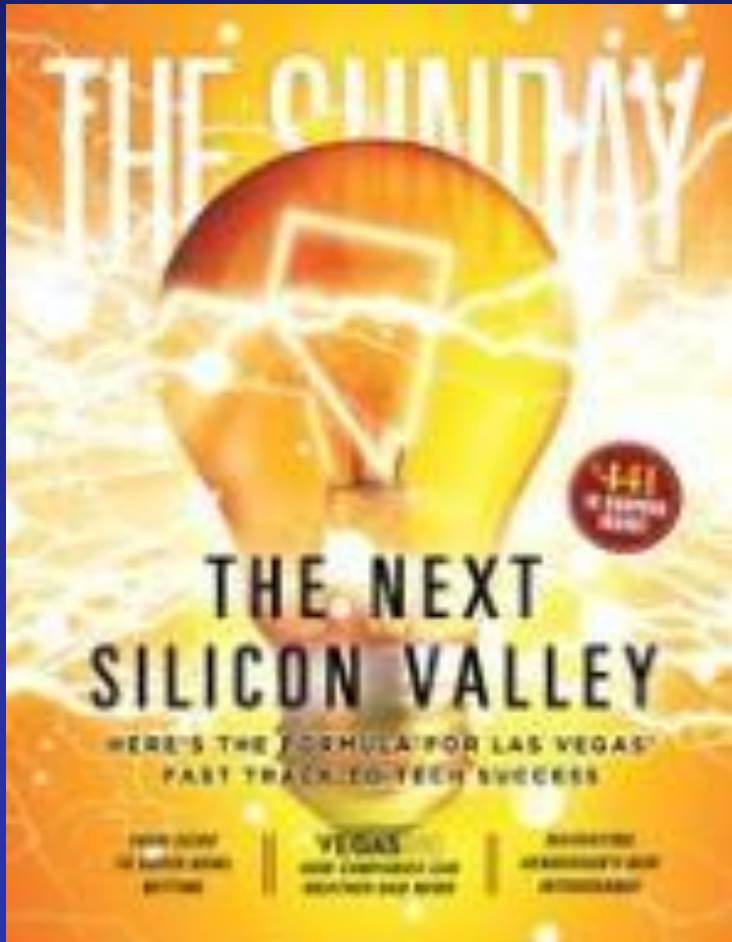
Las Vegas Posts Solid LQ Numbers in Trade and Business Services; Both Sectors Have Helped in the Job Recovery

The Las Vegas 0.53 LQ in Education is a Very Low Employment Share for a Big Metro and Reflects an Under Investment in K-16 by State

The Las Vegas 0.64 LQ in Health is Last Among the Top 100 U.S. Metros—A Shortage of \$6 Billion Per Year in GRP



Las Vegas as the Next Silicon Valley?



Despite the Buzz, Las Vegas is Not on Track to be the Next Silicon Valley—Based on the Low LQ Numbers in Information and Manufacturing

According to Brookings, Las Vegas is Ranked 97 out of 100 in Share of Advanced Tech Workers

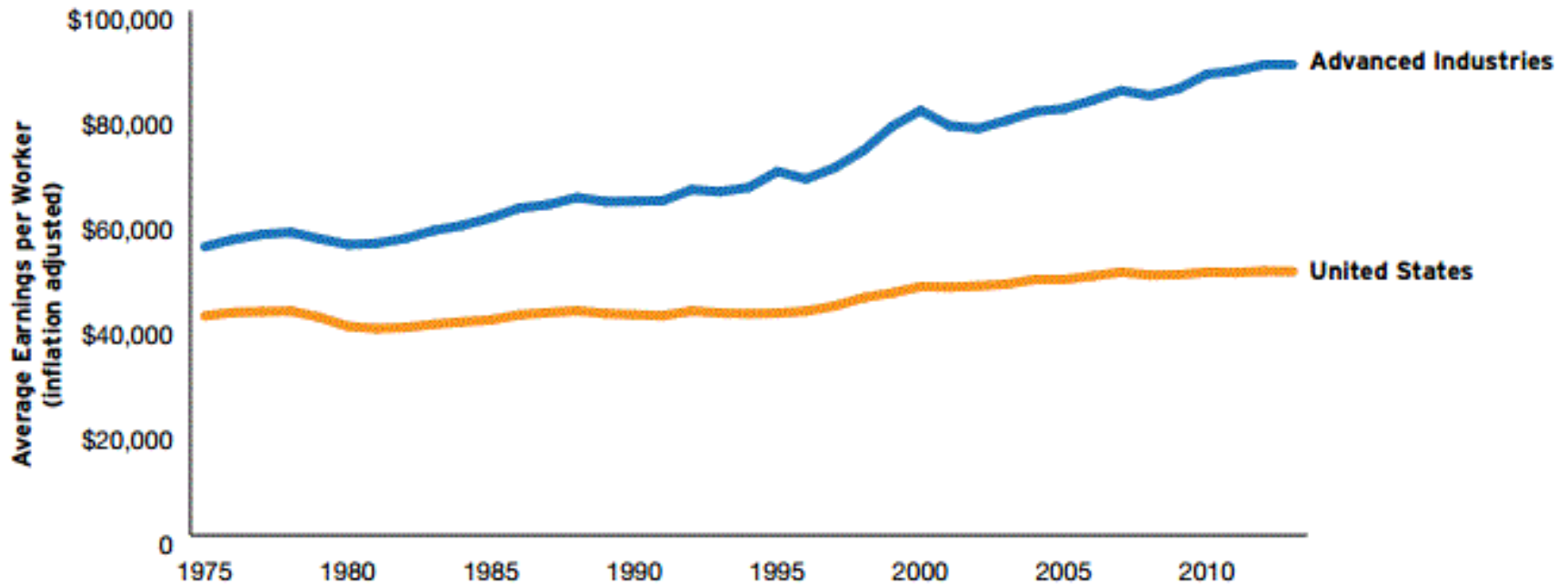
Brookings Advanced Industry Super Cluster

The 50 Industries That Constitute the Advanced Industries Sector

MANUFACTURING		ENERGY
Aerospace Products and Parts	Motor Vehicles	Electric Power Generation, Trans., and Distribution
Agr., Construction, and Mining Machinery	Navigation, Measurement, and Control Instruments	Metal Ore Mining
Aluminum Production and Processing	Other Chemical Products	Oil and Gas Extraction
Audio and Video Equipment	Other Electrical Equipment and Components	SERVICES
Basic Chemicals	Other General Purpose Machinery	Architecture and Engineering
Clay Products	Other Miscellaneous Manufacturing	Cable and Other Subscription Programming
Commercial and Service Industry Machinery	Other Nonmetallic Mineral Products	Computer Systems Design
Communications Equipment	Other Transportation Equipment	Data Processing and Hosting
Computers and Peripheral Equipment	Pesticides, Fertilizers, and Other Agr. Chemicals	Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories
Electric Lighting Equipment	Petroleum and Coal Products	Mgmt., Scientific, and Technical Consulting
Electrical Equipment	Pharmaceuticals and Medicine	Other Information Services
Engines, Turbines, and Power Trans. Equipment	Railroad Rolling Stock	Other Telecommunications
Foundries	Resins and Synthetic Rubbers, Fibers, and Filaments	Satellite Telecommunications
Household Appliances	Semiconductors and Other Electronic Components	Scientific Research and Development
Industrial Machinery	Ship and Boat Building	Software Publishers
Iron, Steel, and Ferroalloys	Medical Equipment and Supplies	Wireless Telecommunications Carriers
Motor Vehicle Bodies and Trailers	Reproducing Magnetic and Optical Media	
Motor Vehicle Parts		

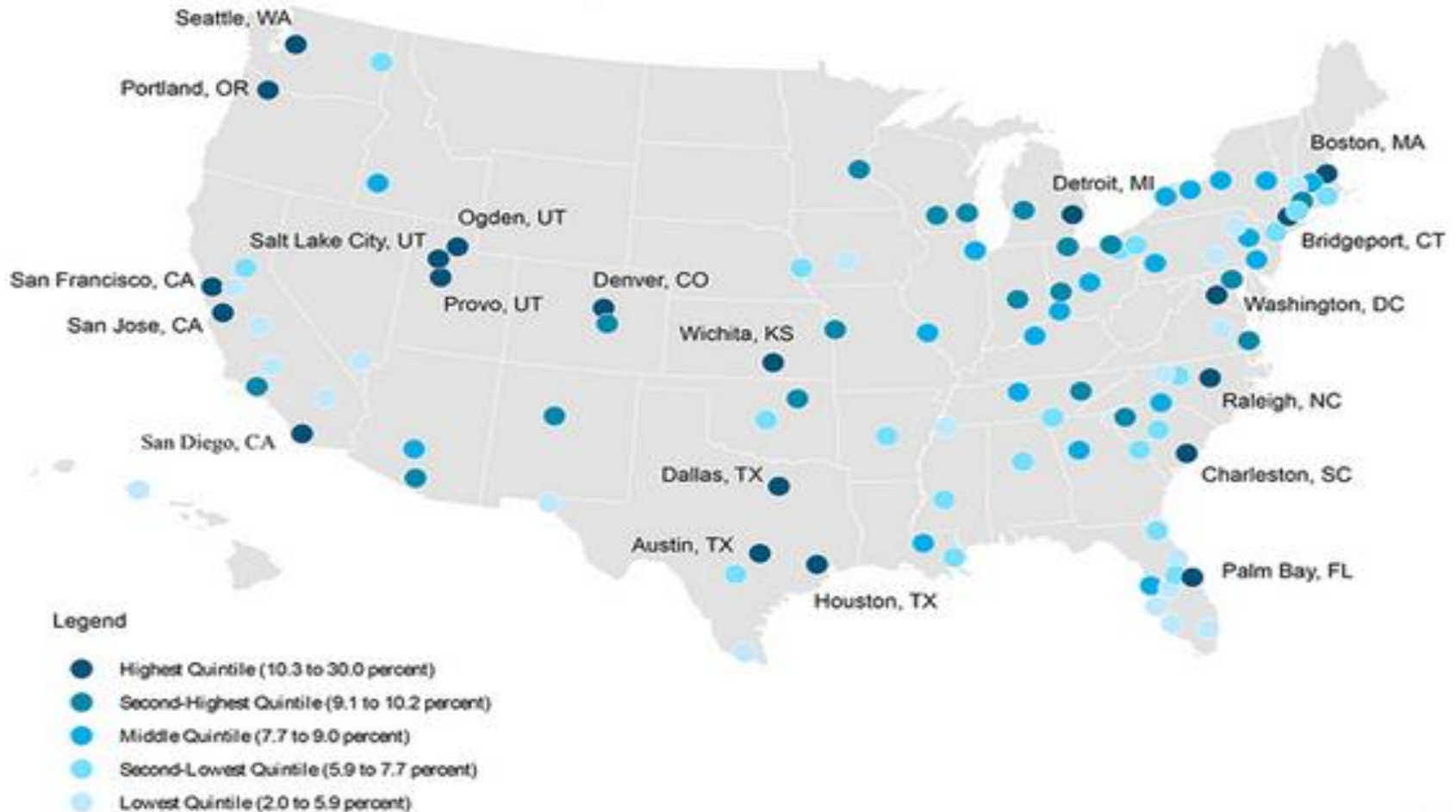
Brookings Metro Policy: Advanced Industry

Since 1975, average earnings in advanced industries have increased almost five times as fast as those in the overall economy



Brookings Metro Policy: Advanced Industry

**Advanced Industry Share of Total Employment
100 Largest Metro Areas, 2013**



Advanced Industries: Mountain West States

Mountain State	2014 Population	A.I. Rank for U.S.	A.I. Rank for M.W.	Total State Emp.	Total State Output
Arizona	6,731,484	24	4	210,970	\$41.6
Colorado	5,355,866	10	2	241,230	\$55.5
Idaho	1,634,464	37	5	47,530	\$8.1
Nevada	2,839,009	49	6	61,030	\$16.1
New Mexico	2,085,572	21	3	70,840	\$15.3
Utah	2,942,902	6	1	137,400	\$24.0

Source: Brookings Metro Policy Program. Note: Rank for Advance Industry is Based on the Share of Total Employment. Output Figures are in Billions

Advanced Industries: Top Ten Metros in MW

Region/Metro	State	2013 POP	Rank US	Rank MW	Emp.	Output
Sun Corridor	AZ	5,395,306	-	-	187,050	\$ 35.3
Phoenix	AZ	4,398,762	50	8	152,920	\$ 28.6
Tucson	AZ	996,544	35	7	34,130	\$ 6.7
Front Range	CO	3,375,795	-	-	162,600	\$ 35.7
Denver	CO	2,697,476	20	4	134,760	\$ 30.0
Col Springs	CO	678,319	33	6	27,840	\$ 5.7
Boise	ID	650,288	56	9	22,900	\$ 4.3
Las Vegas	NV	2,027,868	97	10	30,810	\$ 6.0
Albuquerque	NM	902,797	25	5	37,460	\$ 6.6
Wasatch Front	UT	2,324,302	-	-	123,210	\$ 20.1
SLC	UT	1,140,483	15	3	71,590	\$ 11.1
Ogden	UT	621,580	14	2	26,530	\$ 4.6
Provo	UT	562,239	12	1	25,090	\$ 4.4

Advanced Industries: Top Ten Metros in MW

Region/Metro	State	% AI Emp. Reg./Metro	% AI Output Reg./Metro	Average AI Pay 2013	Average Pay 2013
Sun Corridor	AZ	8.5%	15.7%	\$88,495	\$48,757
Phoenix	AZ	8.3%	15.2%	\$91,960	\$49,800
Tucson	AZ	9.2%	18.1%	\$73,230	\$44,160
Front Range	CO	10.1%	19.9%	\$101,056	\$57,216
Denver	CO	10.3%	19.8%	\$100,250	\$59,630
Col Springs	CO	9.3%	20.5%	\$104,280	\$47,560
Boise	ID	8.0%	17.1%	\$81,320	\$40,790
Las Vegas	NV	3.6%	7.1%	\$81,320	\$46,090
Albuquerque	NM	9.9%	17.5%	\$76,190	\$44,570
Wasatch Front	UT	11.4%	19.2%	\$67,895	\$44,336
SLC	UT	11.1%	16.5%	\$70,410	\$48,780
Ogden	UT	11.3%	20.5%	\$60,580	\$40,180
Provo	UT	12.0%	23.2%	\$70,990	\$39,940

Advanced Industry: Albuquerque, NM

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
R&D Services	11,130	6.56
Semiconductors	4,910	4.89
Architecture & Engineering	4,220	1.17
Wireless Telecom Carriers	3,640	8.82
Computer Systems Design	2,440	0.53

Advanced Industry: Boise, ID

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Semiconductors	7,500	9.95
Architecture & Engineering	2,880	1.06
Computer Equipment	2,230	7.02
Management Consulting	2,090	0.88
Computer Systems Design	1,780	0.52

Advanced Industry: Colorado Springs

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Computer Systems Design	8,060	2.26
Architecture & Engineering	4,780	1.69
Management Consulting	2,080	0.84
Semiconductors	1,670	2.12
R&D Services	1,640	1.23

Advanced Industry: Denver, CO

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Architecture & Engineering	27,830	2.24
Computer Systems Design	27,410	1.74
Management Consulting	15,250	1.39
Oil & Gas Extraction	6,600	3.61
Aircraft Product & Parts	6,080	1.32

Advanced Industry: Las Vegas, NV

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Architecture & Engineering	6,780	0.83
Misc. Manufacturing	4,780	2.85
Computer Systems Design	4,100	0.39
Management Consulting	2,900	0.40
Medical and Diagnostic Laboratories	2,550	1.70

Advanced Industry: Ogden, UT

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Motor Vehicle Parts	3,880	4.61
Aircraft Products & Parts	3,570	4.34
Management Consulting	2,860	1.46
Architecture & Engineering	2,570	1.16
Misc. Manufacturing	2,250	4.96

Advanced Industry: Phoenix, AZ

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Semiconductors	22,390	4.62
Computer Systems Design	20,460	0.93
Architecture & Engineering	18,340	1.05
Management Consulting	16,320	1.06
Aircraft Products & Parts	14,930	2.32

Advanced Industry: Provo, UT

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Computer Systems Design	6,070	2.42
Software Products	3,560	8.08
Semiconductors	1,830	3.31
Web Search Portals and Internet Publishing	1,660	5.74
Data Processing & Hosting	1,640	4.14

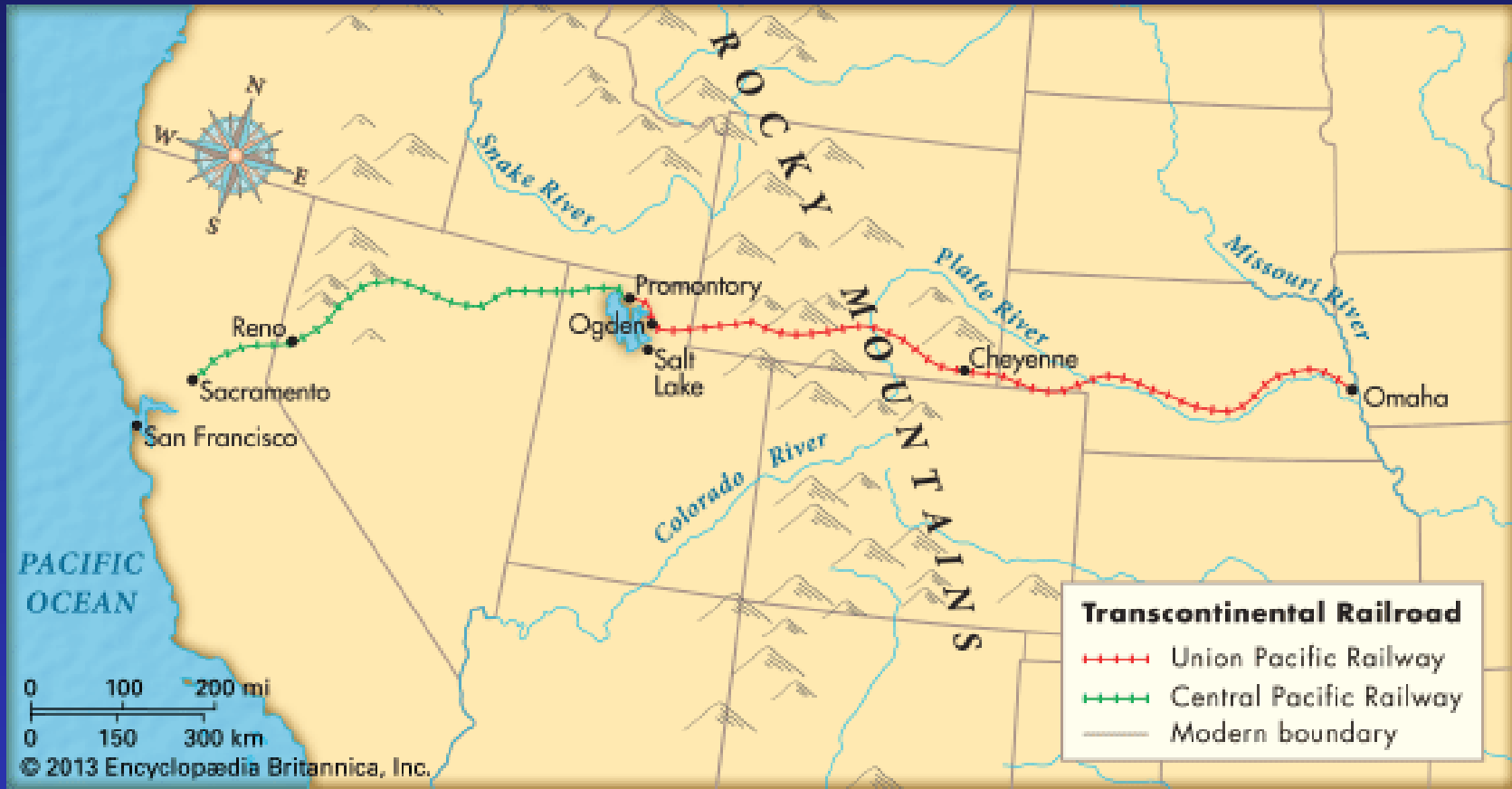
Advanced Industry: Salt Lake City, UT

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Computer Systems Design	10,320	1.33
Architecture & Engineering	7,990	1.31
Medical Equipment & Supplies	7,870	5.68
Precision Instruments	6,170	3.45
Management Consulting	4,910	0.91

Advanced Industry: Tucson, AZ

Leading Sector	Number of Jobs	Location Quotient
Aircraft Products & Parts	11,130	8.54
Architecture & Engineering	3,850	1.09
Computer Systems Design	3,380	0.76
R&D Services	2,140	1.29
Management Consulting	1,960	0.63

Past Connectivity Has Not Helped Nevada



The Advent of the First Transcontinental Railroad did Little to Lift Nevada—In Fact, in Some Ways it Hurt

**Thank
You**