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Marie A. Falcone

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, marie.falcone@unlv.edu

Caitlin Saladino

The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West, caitlin.saladino@unlv.edu

William E. Brown

The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West, william.brown@unlv.edu

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**COVID-19: PROJECTED JOB LOSS IN
MOUNTAIN WEST STATES**

Economic Development & Workforce Fact Sheet No. 17 | April 2020
Prepared by: Marie A. Falcone, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet highlights Mountain West data from the *Economic Policy Institute (EPI)* report titled, “States are projected to lose more jobs due to the coronavirus: 14 million jobs could be lost by summer.”¹ The original data source provides figures on the estimated job loss from private sector employment in retail, leisure, and hospitality. This Fact Sheet examines the data for large metropolitan Mountain West states (including Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah) with projected job loss in the coming months due to the coronavirus.

ABOUT THE DATA:

The EPI released job loss projections in the United States on March 19, 2020. In this analysis, EPI projected 4.1% in national job losses for the private sector. On March 25, 2020, the EPI released a subsequent analysis with a projected national job loss of 10.9%. Projections of how many jobs will be lost are continuously evolving with new estimations by macroeconomic analyses. EPI will update projections as data evolves to provide accurate figures for job loss in the United States. This fact sheet utilizes the data offered by EPI on March 25, 2020.

The EPI expects that job losses will be felt more heavily in leisure, hospitality, and retail. For this reason, the data examines projected job loss based on private-sector and leisure, hospitality, and retail jobs across the states.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

1. Nevada, Montana, and Hawaii are projected to lose the highest percentage of their employment because of their large workforce in the leisure, hospitality, and retail sectors.
2. Nevada is projected to lose 14.2% of its total private sector employment by the summer of 2020.
3. The national economy can lose 14 million jobs by summer 2020.
4. The Mountain West is estimated to lose 1,085,428 jobs out of the nation’s 14 million projected job loss.

TERMS:

Private sector employment	The private sector employs workers through corporations, individual business owners, or other non-government agencies. Jobs in the private sector include those in manufacturing, financial services, hospitality, or other non-government positions. ²
Leisure, hospitality, and retail employment:	A part of the private sector employment. Leisure, hospitality, and retail employment include jobs working in hotels, restaurants, casinos, theme parks, cruise lines, and other facilities that satisfy leisure needs. ³

¹ Cooper, D. & Wolfe, J., *States are projected to lose more jobs due to the coronavirus: 14 million jobs could be lost by summer*, (Economic Policy Institute, 2020).

² Chappelow, J., *Private Sector*, (Investopedia, 2019).

³ Doyle, A., *Hospitality Careers: Options, Job Titles, and Descriptions*, (The Balance Careers, 2020).

Table 1 shows the projected job loss for the share of total private sector employment in Mountain West states and the share of leisure, hospitality, and retail employment. National statistics are also included for reference.

As shown in the table, Nevada holds the largest share of leisure, hospitality, and retail employment in the Mountain West (40.2% of total private sector employment in the state). Likewise, Nevada holds the highest projected job loss in the Mountain West, with an expected decrease of 14.2% in the total private sector employment.

TABLE 1: COVID-19 ESTIMATED JOB LOSS IN MOUNTAIN WEST STATES, SUMMER 2020

	Projected Job Loss			Leisure, hospitality and retail as a share of total private sector employment	Projected job loss as a share of total private sector employment
	Based on state share of total private employment	Based on state share of leisure, hospitality, and retail employment	Average of columns (1) and (2)		
<i>United States</i>	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000	25.1%	10.9%
<i>Arizona</i>	274,326	285,214	279,770	26.1%	11.1%
<i>Colorado</i>	254,189	268,007	261,098	26.5%	11.2%
<i>Nevada</i>	136,634	218,864	177,749	40.2%	14.2%
<i>New Mexico</i>	72,887	81,862	77,375	28.2%	11.6%
<i>Utah</i>	142,600	142,477	142,539	25.1%	10.9%

Source: Data originally reported in “States are projected to lose more jobs due to the coronavirus: 14 million jobs could be lost by summer” by Economic Policy Institute.¹

¹ Cooper, D. & Wolfe, J., *States are projected to lose more jobs due to the coronavirus: 14 million jobs could be lost by summer*, (Economic Policy Institute, 2020).