

11-19-2020

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Repository Citation

Grema, P., Booth, V., Saladino, C. J., Brown, W. E. (2020). Visualizing Vulnerable Jobs in Nevada. *Economic Development & Workforce Fact Sheet No. 28* 1-4.

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VISUALIZING VULNERABLE JOBS IN NEVADA

Economic Development & Workforce Fact Sheet No. 28 | November 2020

Prepared by: Peter Grema, Vanessa M. Booth, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet summarizes data on Nevada and its metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) from the national report “Visualizing Vulnerable Jobs Across America,” by Marcela Escobari, Natalie Geismar, and Dhruv Gandhi of the Brookings Institution.¹ Data from the original report and accompanying database are used to highlight the total number and share of vulnerable jobs in the Silver State during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ABOUT THE DATA:

The authors of the original study define vulnerable jobs as those that “(1) pay low wages (less than the median wage, adjusted for location), and (2) [are] not covered by employer-sponsored health care benefits.” In all, “19 percent of U.S. jobs were vulnerable in 2018.”²

When considering the Nevada economy, we focus on jobs in the hospitality, arts/entertainment, retail, administrative, logistics, and manufacturing sectors. Data from the interactive visualization tool on the Brookings Institution website are included for the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA; Reno, NV MSA; and Carson City, NV MSA. State-level data for Nevada are compared to national averages for each of the industries. Of the 17 job sectors included in the original, national-level report, only six of these sectors are included in this summary.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. The Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA has the highest total number of vulnerable jobs in the state for all categories, including over 78,000 vulnerable hospitality jobs, and nearly 35,000 vulnerable retail jobs.
2. As a share of vulnerable jobs, the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA fares better than the national average in four out of six job categories analyzed. The two sectors where vulnerable jobs are higher in the Las Vegas metropolitan area than the national average are in retail and manufacturing.
3. There is a higher share of vulnerable job exposure in the hospitality and arts/entertainment sectors of the Reno, NV and Carson City, NV MSAs than in the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA.

SHARE OF VULNERABLE JOBS:

Figure 1 shows the share of vulnerable jobs in the hospitality, arts/entertainment, retail, administrative, logistics, and manufacturing sectors at the national level and for the three MSAs in Nevada. Across the board, the hospitality sector has the greatest share of vulnerable jobs, leaving Nevada’s key industry in a precarious position. However, the hospitality sector is less vulnerable in the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise MSA than in the U.S. as a whole.

¹ See the Brookings Institution, “Visualizing Vulnerable Jobs Across America,” 2020 ([https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/07/28/visualizing-vulnerable-jobs-across-america-a-tool-to-understand-your-local-economy-and-inform-its-recovery/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CVisualizing%20Vulnerable%20Jobs%20Across%20America,on%20the%20scale%20and%20dispersion\).](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/07/28/visualizing-vulnerable-jobs-across-america-a-tool-to-understand-your-local-economy-and-inform-its-recovery/#:~:text=%E2%80%9CVisualizing%20Vulnerable%20Jobs%20Across%20America,on%20the%20scale%20and%20dispersion).)

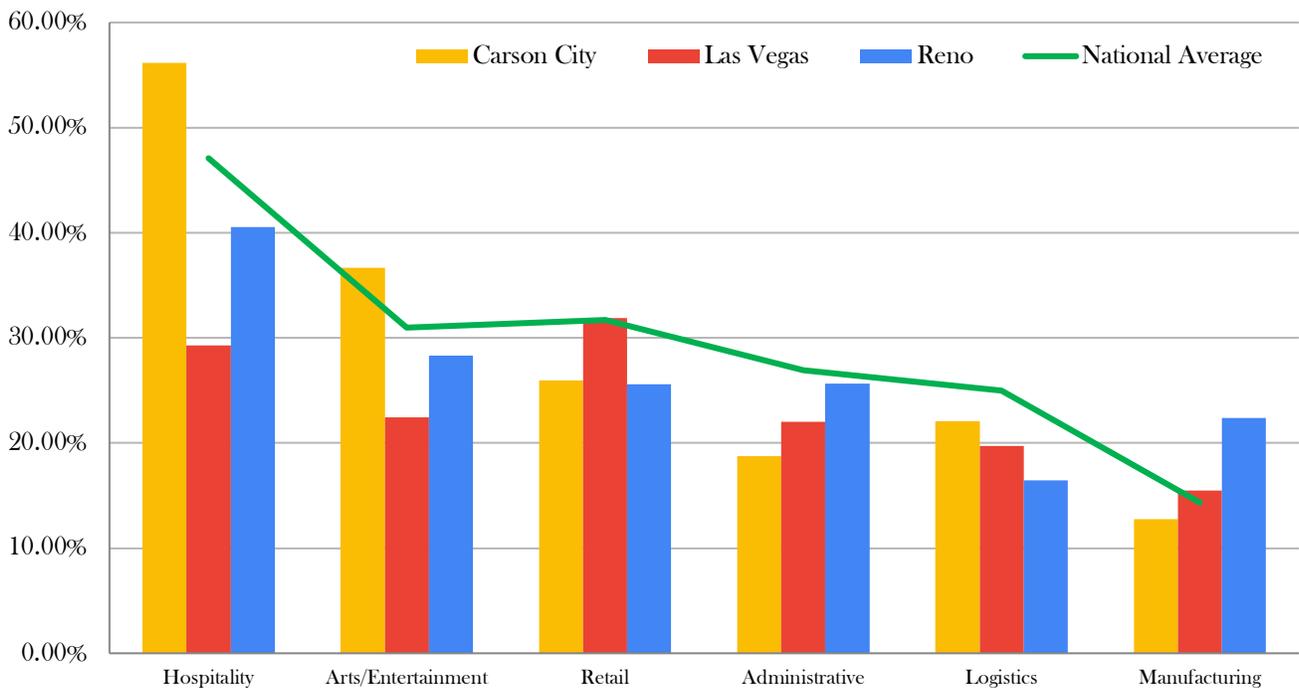
² Ibid.

As explained by the authors of the original report, hospitality workers in the Las Vegas metro “have been able to preserve health care benefits, secure recall rights to bring laid-off workers back once the industry recovers, and advocate for safe and equitable reopening procedures.” In other words, “strong worker protections drive down vulnerability in Las Vegas compared to peers.”³

The national average of vulnerable jobs in the hospitality sector is 47 percent, yet only 29 percent of these jobs are vulnerable in the Las Vegas metro. The “share of local employment in hospitality” is less than 10 percent nationally, but over 25 percent in the Las Vegas metropolitan area.

The Carson City metro area experiences vulnerable job exposure exceeding national averages in the hospitality and arts/entertainment sectors. The Reno, NV MSA exceeds the national average of vulnerable jobs only in manufacturing, and it has a greater share of vulnerable jobs than the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA in all categories except for logistics and retail. The Las Vegas metro exceeds the national average of vulnerable jobs only in the retail sector.

Figure 1: Percent of Vulnerable Jobs in Nevada MSAs



^{*} Adapted from Escobari, Marcela. (2020). “Workforce of the Future initiative,” The Brookings Institution.

Table 1 shows the percent vulnerable jobs for the nation and Nevada MSAs. Vulnerable jobs are above the national average in Carson City metropolitan area for the hospitality (8.07 percent) and arts/entertainment (5.71 percent) sectors. Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA is above the national average for share of vulnerable jobs in retail and manufacturing by 4.99 percent and 1.13 percent, respectively, while Reno, NV MSA is above the national average in manufacturing by 8.06 percent.

³ Ibid.

Table 1: Percent Vulnerable Jobs in the U.S. and Nevada MSAs

| National Average / MSA | % Hospitality | % Arts/ Entertainment | % Retail | % Administrative | % Logistics | % Manufacturing |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| U.S. Average | 47.09 | 30.97 | 26.92 | 26.92 | 25.01 | 14.33 |
| Carson City, NV | 56.16 | 36.68 | 25.97 | 18.78 | 22.06 | 12.77 |
| Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV | 29.29 | 22.46 | 31.91 | 22.04 | 19.72 | 15.46 |
| Reno, NV | 40.54 | 28.34 | 25.61 | 25.65 | 16.44 | 22.39 |

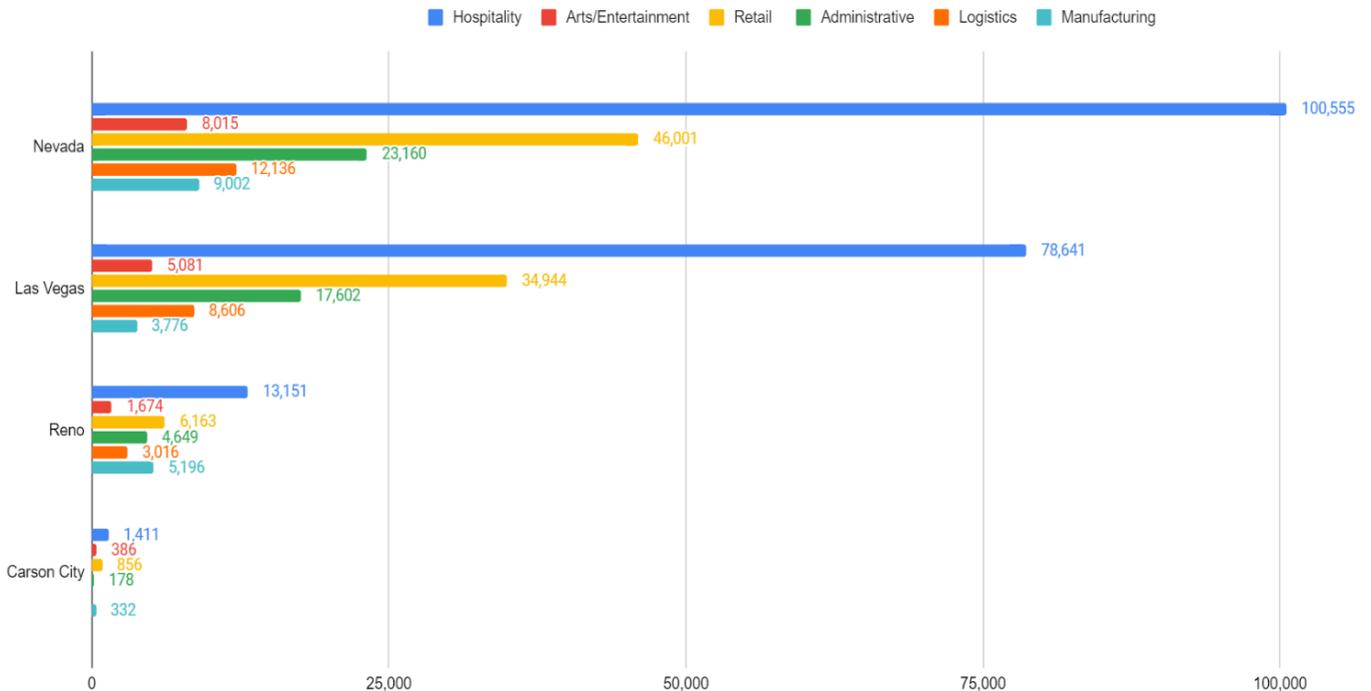
*Adapted from Escobari, Marcela. (2020). "Workforce of the Future initiative," The Brookings Institution.

NUMBER OF VULNERABLE JOBS:

Figure 2 shows the number of vulnerable jobs in Nevada across each MSA. The raw number of vulnerable jobs in each sector in the Las Vegas metro exceeds all those of the Carson City, NV MSA and the Reno, NV MSA, with the exception of manufacturing. Across six out of 17 sectors analyzed from the original report, Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA has a total of 140,044 vulnerable jobs; Reno, NV MSA has 30,833 and Carson City, NV MSA has 3,163. The State of Nevada has 198,869 vulnerable jobs in the six sectors.

Among the six sectors included, over 50.5 percent of vulnerable jobs in Nevada are in the hospitality industry and approximately 23 percent are in retail. Administrative jobs represent 11.7 percent of those considered vulnerable, while logistics, manufacturing, and arts/entertainment comprise 6.1 percent, 4.5 percent, and 4 percent, respectively.

Figure 2: Number of Vulnerable Jobs in Nevada MSAs



*Adapted from Escobari, Marcela. (2020). "Workforce of the Future initiative," The Brookings Institution.

Table 2 lists the number of vulnerable jobs for the hospitality, arts/entertainment, retail, administrative, logistics, and manufacturing sectors in Nevada and for each MSA. The hospitality sector statewide has the highest total for vulnerable jobs at 100,555. Additionally, the least vulnerable job sector in Nevada is the arts/entertainment industry at 8.015 percent statewide.

Table 2: Number Vulnerable Jobs in the U.S. and Nevada MSAs

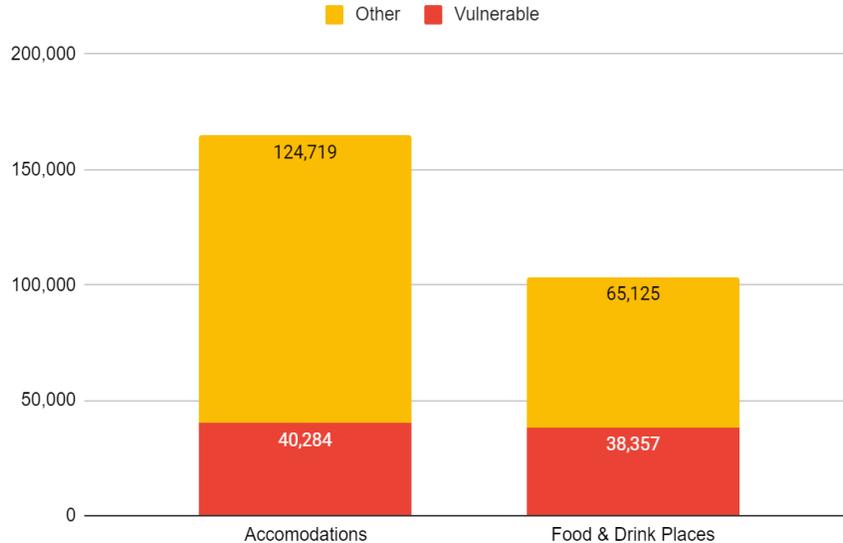
| State / MSA | Hospitality | Arts/ Entertainment | Retail | Administrative | Logistics | Manufacturing |
|----------------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Nevada | 100,555 | 8,015 | 46,001 | 23,160 | 12,136 | 9,002 |
| Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV | 78,641 | 5,081 | 39,944 | 17,602 | 8,606 | 3,776 |
| Reno, NV | 13,151 | 1,674 | 6,163 | 4,649 | 3,016 | 5,196 |
| Carson City, NV | 1,411 | 386 | 856 | 178 | N/A | 332 |

*Adapted from Escobari, Marcela. (2020). "Workforce of the Future initiative," The Brookings Institution.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR IN LAS VEGAS:

Figure 3 presents the breakdown of hospitality jobs within the Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV MSA categorized as vulnerable or "other." The accommodations sector has a total of 165,003 jobs whereas the food & drinks sector has a total of 103,482. Of these totals, the accommodations sector has 40,284 vulnerable jobs while the food & drinks sector has 38,357.

Figure 3: Vulnerability of Hospitality Jobs in Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, MSA



*Adapted from Escobari, Marcela. (2020). "Workforce of the Future initiative," The Brookings Institution.