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COVID-19 and Nevada Counties: Employment Data, May 2019 and May 2021

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COVID-19 AND NEVADA COUNTIES: EMPLOYMENT DATA, MAY 2019 and MAY 2021 Economic Development & Workforce Fact Sheet No. 40 | September 2021 Prepared by: Joshua Padilla, Katie M. Gilbertson, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This fact sheet displays county-level employment data and unemployment rates for 17 counties in Nevada, as reported by The Daily Yonder article “Rural Employment Grew in May, but Fewer People Are Seeking Jobs” in July 2021.¹ Bill Bishop and Tim Marema compiled data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for each county in the United States for May 2019 and May 2021.

ABOUT THE DATA:

Authors Bishop and Marema gathered data from the BLS for 2019 and 2021, specifically looking at the number of employed individuals and unemployment rates per county across the United States. The original source provides information for each county in the nation.²

The BLS data places Nevada counties in two categories: metropolitan counties and nonmetropolitan (rural) counties. The four metropolitan counties are Carson City, Clark, Washoe, and Storey. The thirteen nonmetropolitan counties are Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Lyon, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and White Pine. First, employment data and unemployment rates are presented for the metropolitan counties, followed by the information for the nonmetropolitan counties. Each county is assigned a growth status of “rapidly gaining, gaining, above average, below average, or lagging,” to represent the level of economic growth relative to employment growth. This ranking is included in the employment tables for metropolitan and nonmetropolitan counties.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. Clark County is the only county in Nevada to be classified with “Below Average” growth in the number of employed people. Both Clark and Douglas counties saw a decrease in employment from May 2019 to May 2021.
2. Five Nevada counties experienced a decrease in their unemployment rate from May 2019 to May 2021: Pershing, Churchill, Lincoln, Mineral, and Eureka.
3. Nine Nevada nonmetropolitan counties earned “Rapidly Gaining” status, based on increases in the number of employed people from May 2019 to May 2021
4. Five Nevada counties that experienced a decrease in their unemployment rate from May 2019 to May 2021 also earned a “Rapidly Gaining” status for the same time period: Churchill, Eureka, Lincoln, Mineral, and Pershing.

¹ The Daily Yonder, “Rural Employment Grew in May, but Fewer People Are Seeking Jobs,” July 2021 (www.dailyyonder.com/rural-employment-grew-in-may-but-fewer-people-are-seeking-jobs/2021/07/07/)

² Ibid

Table 1 displays the number of people employed in Nevada’s four metropolitan counties for May 2019 and May 2021. Washoe County witnessed the largest increase in the number of people employed, 5,902, from 2019 to 2021. Carson City and Storey County enjoyed smaller increases in the number of people employed, yet still earned a “Gaining” status. Clark County was the only metropolitan county to decrease the number of people employed with 64,783 fewer employees in May 2021 than May 2019. Clark County received the sole “Below Average” ranking in the state.

Table 1: Employment Data for Metropolitan Counties, May 2019 and May 2021

County	Number of People Employed		Status
	May 2019	May 2021	
Carson City	25,670	25,690	Gaining
Clark	1,097,127	1,032,344	Below Average
Washoe	249,809	255,711	Gaining
Storey	1,999	2,037	Below Average

* Adapted from Bishop and Merema (2021), “Rural Employment Grew in May, but Fewer People Are Seeking Jobs,” The Daily Yonder.

Table 2 presents the unemployment rate in Nevada’s four metropolitan counties for May 2019 and May 2021. Carson City exhibited the smallest increase in the unemployment rate between the two years at a 1.2 percent increase. Washoe and Storey counties had the same increase in unemployment rates at 1.4 percent. Clark County witnessed the highest unemployment rate increase at 4.9 percent.

Table 2: Unemployment Rate for Metropolitan Counties, May 2019 and May 2021

County	Unemployment Rate	
	May 2019	May 2021
Carson City	3.8%	5.0%
Clark	4.0%	8.9%
Washoe	3.1%	4.5%
Storey	3.5%	4.9%

* Adapted from Bishop and Merema (2021), “Rural Employment Grew in May, but Fewer People Are Seeking Jobs,” The Daily Yonder.

Table 3 represents the number of people employed in Nevada’s 13 nonmetropolitan (rural) counties for May 2019 and May 2021. Each nonmetropolitan county, with the exception of Douglas County, had an increase in the number of people employed from 2019 to 2021. Nine of the 13 nonmetropolitan counties earned a status of “Rapidly Gaining,” three were “Gaining,” and one was “Above Average.” Churchill County had the highest increase in the number of people employed with 1,102 additional employees in May 2021.

Table 3: Employment for Nonmetropolitan (Rural) Counties, May 2019 and May 2021

County	Number of People Employed		Status
	May 2019	May 2021	
Churchill	10,690	11,792	Rapidly Gaining
Douglas	22,353	21,693	Above Average
Elko	27,071	27,944	Gaining
Esmeralda	397	452	Rapidly Gaining
Eureka	1,029	1,278	Rapidly Gaining
Humboldt	7,997	8,510	Rapidly Gaining
Lander	3,136	3,333	Rapidly Gaining
Lincoln	1,964	2,164	Rapidly Gaining
Lyon	22,177	22,965	Gaining
Mineral	1,947	2,082	Rapidly Gaining
Nye	16,557	17,128	Gaining
Pershing	2,422	2,776	Rapidly Gaining
White Pine	4,503	4,826	Rapidly Gaining

* Adapted from Bishop and Merema (2021), “Rural Employment Grew in May, but Fewer People Are Seeking Jobs,” The Daily Yonder.

Table 4 shows the unemployment rates for Nevada’s 13 nonmetropolitan (rural) counties for May 2019 and May 2021. Five counties, Churchill, Eureka, Lincoln, Mineral, and Pershing witnessed a decrease in their unemployment rates between May 2019 and May 2021. The remaining eight counties had an increase in the unemployment rate, with Lander, Lyon, and Nye counties achieving the highest increases in unemployment rates.

Table 4: Unemployment Rate for Nonmetropolitan (Rural) Counties, May 2019 and May 2021

County	Unemployment Rate	
	May 2019	May 2021
Churchill	3.40%	3.20%
Douglas	3.90%	4.50%
Elko	2.70%	3.10%
Esmeralda	2.90%	3.60%
Eureka	2.30%	2.20%
Humboldt	2.70%	3.40%
Lander	2.70%	3.50%
Lincoln	3.80%	3.20%
Lyon	4.50%	5.50%
Mineral	4.20%	3.80%
Nye	5.10%	6.10%
Pershing	3.70%	3.60%
White Pine	2.90%	3.0%

* Adapted from Bishop and Merema (2021), “Rural Employment Grew in May, but Fewer People Are Seeking Jobs,” The Daily Yonder.