For the state of Nevada, 2018 was a good year. And according to Stephen Miller, Ph.D., director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, 2019 is looking to follow suit.

“We raked up some of the fastest employment growth in the country,” Miller said of 2018. “Our population, once again, is growing quite rapidly.”

Prior to the economic crash in 2007-08, Nevada was growing at “a little bit over 4 percent a year in population, which is a crazy, crazy number,” Miller said. He recalled when he moved to Las Vegas in 2001, 12 new public schools were being built each year. “That’s hard to keep up with,” he said.

Since the crash, the population stopped growing for a number of years but has now come back at an increase of about 3 percent per year, Miller said.

He attributed the growth to Baby Boomers who are retiring and moving to the Southwest or Florida.

“We’re picking up our share,” he said. “We get a lot from Southern California. They sell their house and cash in their equity and then they buy a house in Las Vegas, of equal quality, and they take money out because of the differential in housing prices. People are going to Phoenix, coming to Las Vegas, and then on the East Coast they’re going south to the Florida area.”

Another sector that is booming in Nevada, particularly the Las Vegas area, is sports entertainment. Miller said with the Golden Knights hockey team playing second in its division in 2018 and an NFL team in Las Vegas Raiders—coming to the state in 2020, the area of sports entertainment is growing.

A new Raider stadium is being built on the west side of I-15, near the Las Vegas strip—a $1.9 billion project, Miller said.

Miller said the population growth and economic boom in the state, the housing market is in a crunch, “There are bound to go up in construction.”

It is not only the Las Vegas area that is seeing growth, Reno—in northwest Nevada—also is booming, Miller said.

“It’s not gaming that’s booming up there; it’s diversification of their economy,” he said. “They have the Tesla Gigafactory, they have all kinds of project going on in there.”

One of the main industries, Eilen Musk’s Tesla Gigafactory, “is huge,” Miller said.

All this growth of the population growth and economic boom in the state, the housing market is in a crunch, Miller said.

Rental prices are going up,” he said. “We’re experiencing this in Las Vegas, but Reno is ahead of us in that game.”

The retail industry also is doing well and is being supplemented by the sale of marijuana, which was legalized about a year ago, Miller said.

More industry, population increase food demand

As far as the grocery industry, more people mean an increase in demand for food, and several companies either opened new stores or remodeled existing locations in 2018 or are planning to do so this year.

In 2018, Raley’s purchased five Scolari’s Food and Drug locations and one Sak ‘N Save in northern Nevada.

“I am pleased that Raley’s will reach and serve even more customers. Making healthy and affordable food more accessible is an important part of our commitment to serve and support people to live life fully and vibrant,” said Michael Teel, chairman and CEO of West Sacramento, Calif.-based Raley’s Food Group.

Raley’s has operated grocery stores in Nevada since 1959. It currently operates 11 Raley’s banner stores and one Food Source in Nevada.

Eataly in Las Vegas is the brand’s first 24/7 store

Eataly Las Vegas opened Dec. 27, marking the brand’s first 24-hour culinary destination.

Located at the main entrance of the Strip’s newest resort—Park MGM—Eataly Las Vegas is a 40,000-s.f. “culinary destination” that features two restaurants, one open-counter-to-table concept, six take-out counters, a café, fireplaces, an educational chef’s table and 5,000-plus retail products. Executive Chef Nicola Brison leads the operation.

Eataly Las Vegas will introduce several new experiences for the retailer, including Cucina del Mercato, or “Kitchen of the Market,” an open, counter-to-table space that removes the barrier between retailers and the store—a first for an Eataly in the U.S.

The fresh counters include: La Macelleria Butcher & Kitchen; La Salmunira Cheesemonger & Kitchen; La Pescheria Fishmonger & Kitchen; Italian Street Food Il Fritto; La Rosticeria and Mozzarella Bar; and La Pasta Fresca Market & Kitchen.

Eataly Las Vegas also will feature three new venues that showcase iconic Italian cocktails and spirits, as well as one of the largest selections of Italian wines in the U.S.

“We created Eataly Las Vegas with possibility in mind because anything can happen in Las Vegas,” said Nicola Farinetti, CEO of Eataly USA. “With this store, we have evolved our ideas for how to deliver authentic Italian cuisine, and we are excited to join the destination with so many new venues and concepts.”

“The network of Scolari’s stores offers great synergies in a market we already operate,” said Raley’s CFO Ken Mueller at the time of the acquisition.

“Raley’s added new stores or remodeled existing locations to the Raley’s banner. The Sak ‘N Save kept its name and is operating as part of the Food Source division of Raley’s, which comprises warehouse-format stores focused on savings,” Raley’s said.

Raley’s completed the stores’ transition in June 2018.

The stores were remerchandised with Raley’s products, including enhanced offerings in fresh meat, produce and deli service.

In the Reno area, the Raley’s in Mira Loma saw its product offerings expanded, while the store on Caughlin Parkway expanded its product offerings in addition to getting a new décor package.

The investment in the two locations also included new shelving that created more shelf space on each aisle. The Mira Loma store increased its center-store offerings with more than 8,000 new products, many of which were customer requests.

Raley’s on Caughlin Parkway’s refresh included new décor, new bakery and deli cases, new checkstands (including self-checkout), an expanded liquor department and more than 9,000 new center-store items.

Both redesigned stores offer products in a format tailored to complement the local community.

“We are excited to share our improved shopping experience with our customers,” said Paul Gianetto, SVP of sales and merchandising. “From the newly added products to our freshly prepared food, we hope these changes make Raley’s the food destination for the Reno community.”

Raley’s e-Cart service is available as well, allowing customers to shop online and pick up at the store. Raley’s e-Cart customers can specify their produce/shopping preferences for their orders, which are hand-selected by a Raley’s personal shopper.

The Raley’s on Caughlin Parkway was set to hold a customer appreciation weekend to celebrate the new remodel.

Raley’s also has plans to remodel three of the former Scolari’s locations on the outskirts of Reno—in Fernley, Tonopah and Yerington, Nevada—this spring.

Sprouts Farmers Markets opened new stores in Nevada in 2018, including three in Las Vegas and one in Sparks.

The Nevada stores were part of several new Sprouts stores opened across the country in 2018.

A new Sprouts store also is scheduled to open in Las Vegas in March. The more than 30,000-s.f. store, located at 771 South Rainbow Boulevard, will open at 7 a.m. Wednesday, March 20. Sprouts announced the new store will include a fresh produce and deli department, a tea bar, a pharmacy, a visitor center and an enclosed children’s area.

“With the arrival of new Sprouts stores in the state, the healthy food community is growing in Nevada,” said Keelin Cashman, store manager of the new Sprouts store.

“ASprouts store brings a fresh, new organic and natural food option to a community that needs it,” Cashman said.

Sprouts Farmers Markets opened new stores in Nevada in 2018, including three in Las Vegas and one in Sparks. The Nevada stores were part of several new Sprouts stores opened across the country in 2018.

As for as the grocery industry, more people mean an increase in demand for food, and several companies either opened new stores or remodeled existing locations in 2018 or are planning to do so this year.

As part of the healthy grocer’s commitment to “zero waste,” new Las Vegas Sprouts locations will donate unsold and edible groceries to Three Square Food Bank through the grocer’s Food Rescue program.

The Sprouts in Sparks will donate unsold and edible groceries to Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

In 2017, Sprouts stores and distribution centers donated 23 million pounds of product, equivalent to 19 million meals. The stores are focused on providing local cattle farms and composting facilities. Sprouts’ evolving “zero waste” initiatives help minimize food waste while reducing the impact of dumping food waste on the environment.

Smith’s Marketplace, a banner of The Kroger Co., opened a new store in June 2018 in Skye Canyon, according to a story in the Las Vegas Review-Journal. The store is approximately 50,000 square feet and features three times the size of Smith’s traditional footprint, and employs 250 people.

A Smith’s store in Warm Springs also opened in June, replacing longtime independent grocer Glazier’s, the Review-Journal reported.

Both stores offer online shopping with curbside pickup or home delivery. The Warm Springs location allows customers to use scanners or a cellphone app to scan and bag products to pick up later.

In June 2018, Walmart announced its intention to remodel four stores across Nevada. According to a report from Las Vegas News 4, several in-store and online innovations were to be added to make shopping faster and easier for customers across the state.

“At Walmart, we’re consistently looking to invest in new technology and innovations that will improve the retail experience,” said Brad Hodsen, VP and regional GM for Walmart in Nevada, in the News 4 report.

“As we continue to enter new markets, we’re pleased with the customer response to Sprouts’ unique combination of value and quality,” said Sprints Chief Development Officer Ted Frumin.

Each store brings approximately 140 new career opportunities to its local neighborhood. Sprouts continues to accelerate investments in team members, including enhanced pay, benefits, leadership development and recognition.

As part of the healthy grocer’s commitment to “zero waste,” new Las Vegas Sprouts locations will donate unsold and edible groceries to Three Square Food Bank through the grocer’s Food Rescue program.

The Sprouts in Sparks will donate unsold and edible grocery to Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

As part of the healthy grocer’s commitment to “zero waste,” new Las Vegas Sprouts locations will donate unsold and edible groceries to Three Square Food Bank through the grocer’s Food Rescue program.

The Sprouts in Sparks will donate unsold and edible groceries to Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

As part of the healthy grocer’s commitment to “zero waste,” new Las Vegas Sprouts locations will donate unsold and edible groceries to Three Square Food Bank through the grocer’s Food Rescue program.

The Sprouts in Sparks will donate unsold and edible groceries to Food Bank of Northern Nevada.

As for as the grocery industry, more people mean an increase in demand for food, and several companies either opened new stores or remodeled existing locations in 2018 or are planning to do so this year.

As part of the healthy grocer’s commitment to “zero waste,” new Las Vegas Sprouts locations will donate unsold and edible groceries to Three Square Food Bank through the grocer’s Food Rescue program.

The Sprouts in Sparks will donate unsold and edible groceries to Food Bank of Northern Nevada.