



NEVADA BUSINESS CONDITIONS

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AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

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Real gross domestic product (GDP) decreased at an annualized rate of 0.5 percent in the first quarter of 2025. This decline was primarily due to a surge in imports ahead of anticipated tariffs and a decrease in government spending, which was partially offset by increased investment and consumer spending. Seasonally adjusted U.S. nonfarm employment increased by 1.1 percent compared to a year ago, with 147,000 jobs added in June. Growth was supported by gains in health care and state government, while federal government employment continued to decline. The unemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percent from last month.

Inflationary pressures remained moderate. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose 2.4 percent year-over-year in May, while the core CPI, which excludes food and energy, increased 2.8 percent. Retail sales declined 0.9 percent month over month, led by a 9.3 percent drop in auto and truck sales, highlighting a slowdown in larger purchases. The Federal Reserve held interest rates steady at 4.25 to 4.5 percent at their June meeting as officials awaited more data with looming tariff deal deadlines. Now the Fed needs to evaluate the potential effects of the “big, beautiful bill.”

Nevada showed weak economic performance. Statewide seasonally adjusted employment rose in May by 500 jobs, and went up 0.6 percent from the prior year, reaching 1.58 million jobs. The unemployment rate declined to 5.5 percent but remained the highest in the nation. Gaming revenue totaled \$1.29 billion, down 2.2 percent from last May. Air passenger volume in May fell to 5.39 million, a 3.6 percent year-over-year decline. Taxable sales in March also plummeted by 5.6 percent year over year.

Clark County’s economy generally registered unfavorable signals, with employment inching up 0.1 percent in May and the unemployment rate edging down to 5.7 percent. Gaming revenue declined 2.5 percent to \$1.12 billion, largely reflecting a 3.8 percent drop on the Las Vegas Strip and an 11.4 percent decline downtown. Both visitor volume and air passengers experienced year-over-year losses, down 6.0 and 3.9 percent, respectively.

Residential permits also fell 3.4 percent from last year.

Washoe County posted stronger trends. Employment rose 0.1 percent in May and was up 1.4 percent from a year earlier. Gaming revenue reached \$90.6 million, a 0.2 percent year-over-year increase. Air passenger volume rose 1.1 percent from last year, and visitor volume climbed 1.5 percent over the same period. Still, residential permits fell 57.7 percent.

The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas or the Nevada System of Higher Education.

	Date	Units	Data			Growth		Comments
Nevada			Latest	Previous	Year Ago	Recent	Year Ago	
Employment	2025M05	000s, SA	1580.4	1579.9	1570.5	0.0%	0.6%	Weak Year-Over-Year Growth
Unemployment Rate*	2025M05	%, SA	5.5	5.6	5.5	-0.1%	0.0%	Slight Recent Decrease
Taxable Sales	2025M03	\$billion	7.662	6.442	8.119	18.9%	-5.6%	Down From Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2025M05	\$million	1291.73	1234.21	1320.41	4.7%	-2.2%	Down From Year Ago
Air Passengers	2025M05	million persons	5.390	5.096	5.589	5.8%	-3.6%	Down From Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2025M04	million gallons	100.90	101.53	100.90	-0.6%	0.0%	Flat Year-Over-Year
Clark County			Latest	Previous	Year Ago	Recent	Year Ago	
Employment	2025M05	000s, SA	1150.5	1149.9	1148.4	0.1%	0.2%	Weak Year-Over-Year Growth
Unemployment Rate*	2025M05	%, Smoothed SA	5.7	5.8	5.7	-0.1%	0.0%	Slight Recent Decrease
Taxable Sales	2025M03	\$billion	5.702	4.824	6.001	18.2%	-5.0%	Down From Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2025M05	\$million	1119.54	1067.46	1148.23	4.9%	-2.5%	Down From Year Ago
Residential Permits	2025M05	units permitted	1308	1914	1354	-31.7%	-3.4%	Down From Year Ago
Air Passengers	2025M05	million persons	4.989	4.716	5.191	5.8%	-3.9%	Down From Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2025M04	million gallons	68.64	68.85	68.63	-0.3%	0.0%	Flat Year-Over-Year
Visitor Volume	2025M05	million persons	3.624	3.538	3.853	2.4%	-6.0%	Down From Year Ago
Washoe County			Latest	Previous	Year Ago	Recent	Year Ago	
Employment**	2025M05	000s, SA	283.8	283.6	280.0	0.1%	1.4%	Up From Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2025M05	%, Smoothed SA	4.5	4.5	4.9	0.0%	-0.4%	Flat Month-Over-Month
Taxable Sales	2025M03	\$billion	1.128	0.934	1.288	20.7%	-12.4%	Down From Year Ago
Gaming Revenue	2025M05	\$million	90.60	86.37	90.43	4.9%	0.2%	Slight Year-Over-Year Increase
Residential Permits	2025M05	units permitted	161	184	381	-12.5%	-57.7%	Down From Year Ago
Air Passengers	2025M05	million persons	0.391	0.371	0.386	5.4%	1.1%	Up Over Year Ago
Gasoline Sales	2025M04	million gallons	15.04	14.82	14.77	1.5%	1.8%	Up Over Year Ago
Visitor Volume	2025M05	million persons	0.319	0.318	0.315	0.5%	1.5%	Up Over Year Ago
United States			Latest	Previous	Year Ago	Recent	Year Ago	
Employment	2025M06	million, SA	159.724	159.577	157.915	0.1%	1.1%	Up Over Year Ago
Unemployment Rate*	2025M06	%, SA	4.1	4.2	4.1	-0.1%	0.0%	Slight Recent Decrease
Consumer Price Index	2025M05	82-84=100, SA	320.6	320.3	313.1	0.1%	2.4%	Slight Recent Increase
Core CPI	2025M05	82-84=100, SA	326.9	326.4	318.1	0.1%	2.8%	Slight Recent Increase
Employment Cost Index	2025Q1	05.12=100, SA	171.8	170.5	166.2	0.8%	3.4%	Recent Increase
Productivity Index	2025Q1	2017=100, SA	115.5	116.0	114.1	-0.4%	1.2%	Slight Recent Decrease
Retail Sales	2025M05	\$billion, SA	715.4	722.0	692.6	-0.9%	3.3%	Up Over Year Ago
Auto and Truck Sales	2025M05	million, SA	15.65	17.26	15.83	-9.3%	-1.1%	Down From Year Ago
Housing Starts	2025M05	million, SA	1.256	1.392	1.316	-9.8%	-4.6%	Down From Year Ago
Real GDP***	2025Q1	2017\$billion, SA	23512.7	23542.3	23053.5	-0.5%	2.0%	Quaterly Decline
Dollar Exchange Rate	2025M05	97.01=100	122.687	124.456	122.244	-1.4%	0.4%	Up Over Year Ago
Trade Balance	2025M05	\$billion, SA	-71.517	-60.257	-74.456	18.7%	-3.9%	Recent Deficit increase
S and P 500	2025M06	monthly close	6204.95	5911.69	5460.48	5.0%	13.6%	Up Strongly
Real Short-term Rate*	2025M06	%, NSA	1.43	1.65	2.14	-0.2%	-0.7%	Down
Treasury Yield Spread*	2025M06	%, NSA	0.15	0.17	-0.93	0.0%	1.1%	Up Over Year Ago

Note: NSA = Not Seasonally Adjusted, SA = Seasonally Adjusted

*Growth data represent change in the percentage rate

**Reflects the Reno-Sparks MSA which includes Washoe and Storey Counties

***Recent growth is an annualized rate

Sources: Nevada Department of Taxation; Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation; UNR Bureau of Business and Economic Research; UNLV Center for Business and Economic Research; McCarran International Airport; Reno/Tahoe International Airport; Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority; Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority; U.S. Department of Commerce; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; U.S. Census Bureau; U.S. Federal Reserve System.