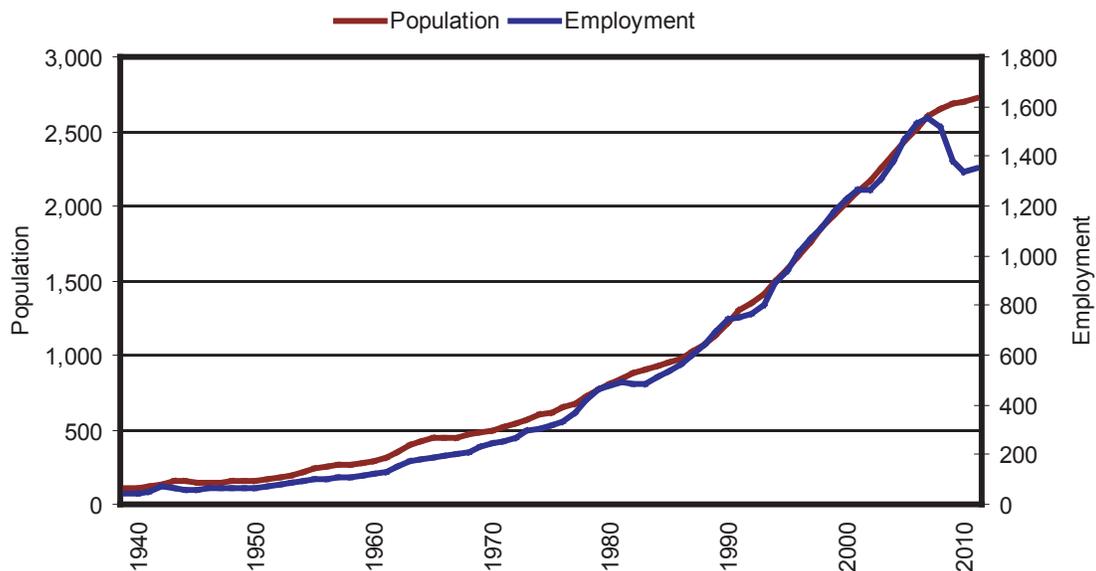




Nevada Employment Vs. Population

May 14, 2012; Jered McDonald, Economist



- Nevada's population and employment base grew at a near exponential rate since the 1940's and up until the most recent recession. In that time, population grew from 107,000 people to 2.7 million.
- Employment growth matched population growth until recently. After reaching 1.6 million jobs in 2007, Nevada has since lost over 200,000 jobs. As a result, the gap between population and employment is the largest it has been. Without enough jobs to support the population, the unemployment rate sky rocketed, leaving Nevada with the highest unemployment rate in the nation.
- Though both population and employment are growing again, it will take a significant amount of time to narrow the gap and drive unemployment down. With weak to moderate employment growth projected for the next couple of years, the unemployment rate will likely remain above historical norms for a number of years to come.