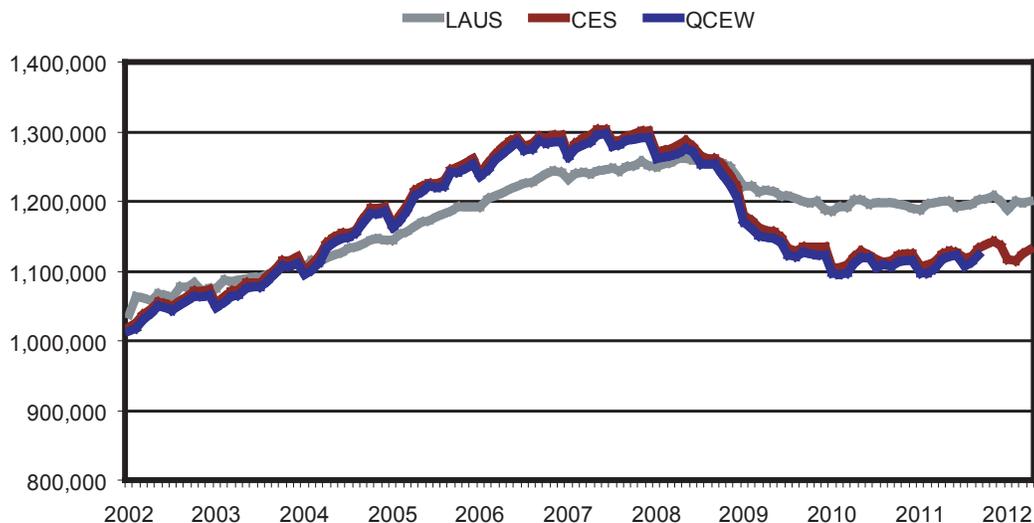




Nevada Employment Estimate Comparison

May 21, 2012; Matthew van Den Berg, Economist



LAUS (local area unemployment statistics) estimates primarily use a household based survey to measure the number of *employed people*.

CES (current employment statistics) and QCEW (quarterly census of employment and wages) estimates use establishment data to measure the number of *jobs*.

QCEW uses the tax records required of all employers, while CES uses a sample of establishments. Therefore, QCEW is more accurate but is not as current as CES estimates.

CES, QCEW and LAUS employment estimates vary in several ways.

- Since LAUS measures employed people and CES and QCEW measure jobs, people with more than one job are only counted once in LAUS but account for multiple jobs in CES and QCEW.
- LAUS counts proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family, farm, and domestic workers, as well as workers on strike and on unpaid leave. CES and QCEW do not count these types of workers.
- CES and QCEW estimate employment based on the location of the job, while LAUS estimates are based on the residential location of the worker. Therefore, estimates differ due to workers commuting to/from different areas. This difference is minimal at the state level, but more notable at the county level.
- Small differences may also arise due to differences in definitions, sources, data collection methods, and estimation procedures.