

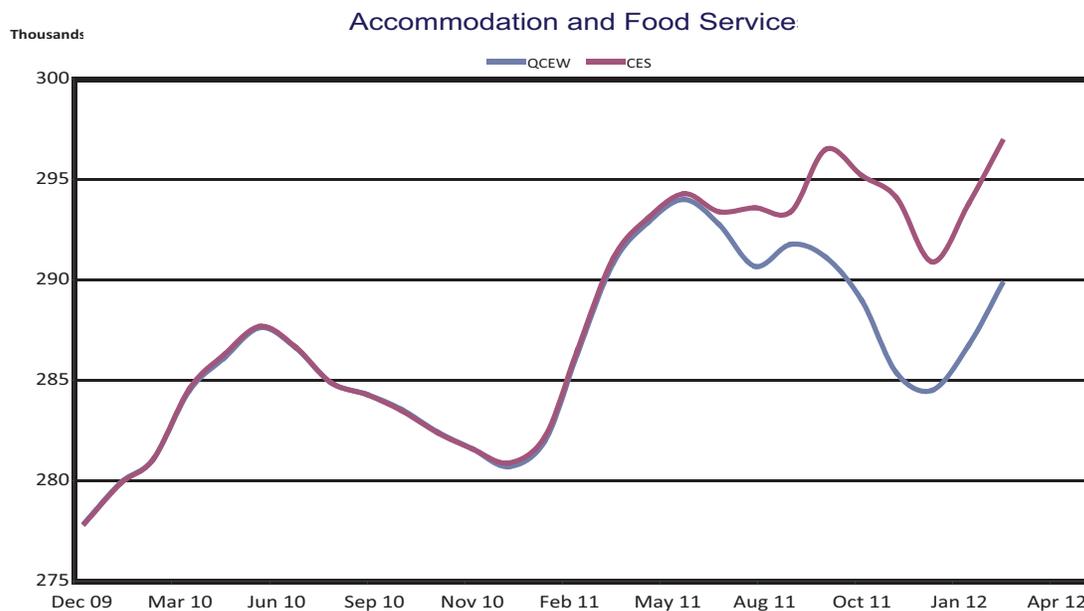


CES vs QCEW In Nevada

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Comparison of Current Employment Statistics to Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Jan 2010 – Mar 2012



- The Current Employment Statistics program provides the most current information on employment levels, hours, and earnings. This level of timeliness can only be achieved by relying on a sample. Because the program relies on a sample, the estimates are not 100 percent accurate. Fortunately, Research and Analysis in partnership with the Bureau of Labor Statistics has a complementary program called Quarterly Census on Employment and Wages (QCEW), which provides a nearly complete picture of what the CES program is estimating.
- At the beginning of each calendar year the CES estimates are revised to reflect employment levels in the QCEW program in a process called benchmarking. Instead of waiting until year's end, we can check the accuracy of the CES models by comparing them to QCEW data as they become available. The latest QCEW data have recently been released for the first quarter 2012.
- During the first quarter of 2012, the CES program underestimated overall employment levels by about 7,400 jobs, or 0.7 percent. Typically the CES program will be within plus or minus one percent of actually employment levels.
- Chart 1 provides a visual example of the CES and QCEW comparison for the accommodation and food services sector, which accounts for over 90 percent of the leisure and hospitality sector. The accommodation and food services sector has been reported as a sector that has been rebounding nicely. However, in light of the CES versus QCEW comparison, we see that it has not been performing as well as first thought. In fact, CES over reported employment levels by about 7,600 jobs. According to QCEW information, the over the year employment growth for accommodation and food services was 1.1 percent, not the 3.8 percent CES first reported.