

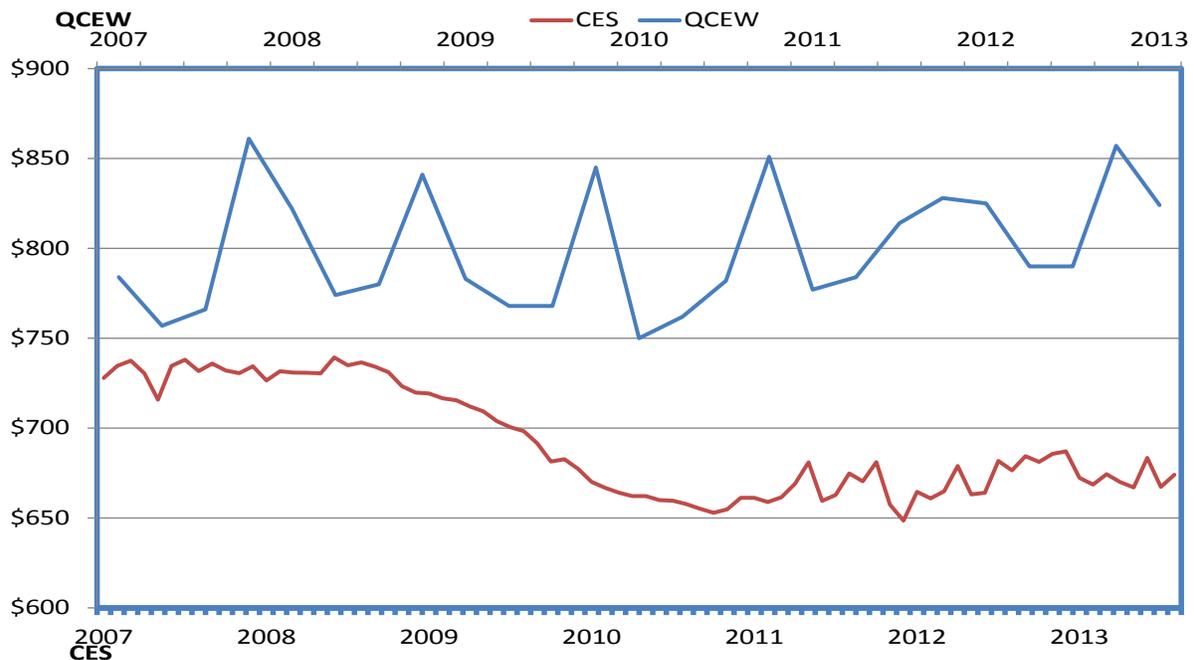


QCEW and CES Average Weekly Wage In Nevada

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QCEW and CES Average Weekly Wage-Private Industries



- There are two sources of average weekly wage information for Nevada: the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) and the Current Employment Statistics (CES) Programs.
- As the name suggests, the QCEW data is available quarterly and provides a summation of wages employers actually paid to workers in Nevada. However, this data series has a 4-5 month delay in availability. QCEW is the benchmark to which all other employment data is compared as it is a complete count of the universe, not a sample.
- Alternatively, CES sample data is available monthly and is current. The drawback to using this series is that it is based solely on a sample of less than 1,000 establishments. Also, this wage data is never re-evaluated against QCEW information, unlike CES employment data wherein the sample is compared to the actual QCEW figures and benchmarked yearly.
- As shown above, there is some disparity between the average wages across these two programs. QCEW reports an average weekly wage of \$824 per week in this year's first quarter, while CES estimates that wages averaged \$675 per week in August. QCEW data includes income from bonus and stock options; hence the seasonal fourth quarter spike in wages. Bonus and stock option wages are not included in the CES estimates.
- QCEW information provides a more comprehensive, accurate, and reliable measure of average weekly wages. So, while CES estimates suggest that wages are still 8% below pre-recessionary readings, the QCEW measure shows average weekly wage readings in this year's first quarter actually stand 5% higher than in the same period in 2007.