

## Profile for Lincoln County, Nevada January 2004

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### Population

Lincoln County is a rural county bordered by the counties of White Pine, Nye, Clark, and Southern Utah. Located approximately 150 miles from Las Vegas, Lincoln County reported a population of 3,879 in 2002. Between 1985 and 2002, Lincoln County population increased 2.6 percent, while between 1995 and 2002 Lincoln County population decreased 1.8 percent. White Pine County to the north has also experienced similar population trends.

The Nevada State Demographer estimates that Lincoln County's 2005 population will be 3,824. It is estimated that Lincoln County population will decrease annually less than one percent through 2005. However, by the year 2006 Lincoln County population is estimated to stabilize and experience slight annual increases of less than one percent.

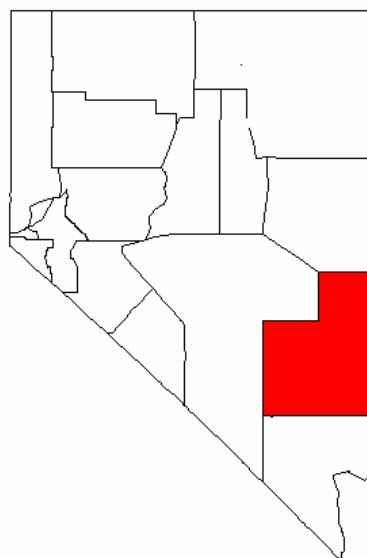
Future Lincoln County population trends can be influenced by specific proposed events including the development and operation of the National Nuclear Storage site at Yucca Mountain, BLM land sale north of Mesquite and Coyote Springs planned community.

Tables 1 & 2 provide population and age comparisons.

**Table 1. Population Trends**

County	2002	1995	1985
Nye	35,039	23,882	14,570
White Pine	8,863	9,609	7,710
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>3,879</b>	<b>3,951</b>	<b>3,780</b>
Nevada	2,206,022	1,611,593	955,810

Source: Nevada State Demographer



**Table 2. Age Distribution of Population (2002)**

	Lincoln County		Nevada	
	People	Percent	People	Percent
4 & Under	180	4.6	159,386	7.2
5-19	807	20.8	458,690	20.8
20-44	1,455	37.5	824,502	37.3
45-64	741	19.1	521,431	23.6
65+	696	18.0	246,635	11.2
Total	3,879	100.0	2,210,650	100.0

Source: Nevada State Demographer

An important component for understanding a community's population is its educational attainment. This provides insight into the type of workforce available and provides some indication of an area's educational system.

Table 3 shows the educational attainment levels for residents aged 25 and older in Lincoln County, Nevada, and the United States.

**Table 3. Educational Level Completed (2000)**

Adults 25 or Older	Lincoln Percent	Nevada Percent	U.S. Percent
0-8 Yrs. Elementary	4.0	6.4	7.5
1-3 Yrs. High School	13.0	12.9	12.1
4 Yrs. High School	37.8	29.3	28.6
1-3 Yrs. College	30.1	33.2	27.4
4+ Yrs. College	15.0	18.2	24.4

Total Population			
Age 25+	2,654	1,310,176	182,211,639

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Employment

In 2000, Lincoln County reported 2,017 jobs, a decrease of 16.6 percent or 403 jobs since 1990. Between 1990 and 2000 Lincoln County population slightly increased approximately one percent, while employment opportunities declined at a much greater rate.

Lincoln County distribution of employment shifted between 1990 and 2000 to resemble economic diversification. For example, Lincoln County's retail trade sector represents 10.4 percent of the total county jobs in 1990. In 2000 the retail trade sector represented over 16 percent of the total job base. These distribution shifts are also reported in the service, government, and miscellaneous sectors.

It is estimated that over 62 percent of Lincoln County's total job base is in service and government related

industries. The presence of the Nevada Test Site continues to significantly contribute to Lincoln County employment base.

When comparing to surrounding rural counties, White Pine County employment base is similar to Lincoln County. Both are very similar in terms of economic base diversification which has occurred in the last few years. As expected, the State of Nevada has a strong employment base in the service sector, with many of the jobs created in the entertainment area.

Table 4 reports the employment comparisons, by place of employment, by major economic sectors.

## Income

Personal income is created three ways: **earnings**, which are derived as compensation for personal employment; **dividends, interest, and rent**, which are received as payments for the use of resources such as capital stocks, money, and land; and **transfer payments**, for which no goods or services are supplied in return (e.g., retirement income maintenance, and other benefits).

Table 5 shows the 2001 distribution of income across these three sources for Lincoln County, adjacent rural counties, and the state of Nevada.

Nearly 20 percent of the total income generated by Lincoln County residents was through transfer payments or retirement incomes. A high percentage of transfer payments are common among rural counties, while larger metropolitan areas show smaller percentages. Although very similar, Clark County transfer payments were approximately 18 percent of their county total personal income.

**Table 4. Employment by Major Economic Sectors**

	1990 Jobs	Lincoln County 2000 Jobs	1990 Percent	2000 Percent	2000 Nye Percent	2000 White Pine Percent	2000 Nevada Percent
Farm	175	148	7.3	7.3	2.1	4.8	0.4
TPU*	88	64	3.6	3.2	3.3	2.4	4.9
Retail Trade	252	325	10.4	16.1	13.2	17.8	16.0
Service	1,205**	653**	49.8**	32.4**	40.3	24.2	41.8
Government	537	602	22.2	29.9	12.0	32.4	10.1
Other	163**	225**	6.7**	11.2**	29.1	18.4	26.8
Total	2,420	2,017	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis

\* Transportation and Public Utilities

\*\* Estimated

**Table 5. Percent Earnings by Source (2001)**

	Percent Earnings	Percent Dividends, Interest, Rents	Percent Transfer Payments
Nye	59.5	21.0	19.5
White Pine	63.0	19.4	17.6
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>63.3</b>	<b>17.9</b>	<b>18.8</b>
Nevada	68.3	21.3	10.4

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis

Similar to employment trends for Lincoln County, Real Earnings are concentrated in two major economic sectors: services and government. It is estimated that nearly 80 percent of the earnings in Lincoln County are in these two major sectors. Between 1990 and 2000 total real earnings decreased 28 percent while employment decreased 16 percent. Several factors may have contributed to Lincoln County's reduction in real earnings including net reduction in payroll at faster rate than jobs or replacement of higher wage jobs with lower wage jobs.

Table 6 shows the comparison of real earnings by place of employment by major economic sector.

Table 7 presents per capita income and income per job comparisons for 2001. Lincoln County per capita income was 77.9 percent of the state per capita income and 83.1 percent of the state income per job.

**Table 7. Per Capita Income and Income per Job**

2001	Per Capita Income	Percent Nevada	Income Per Job	Percent Nevada
Nye	24,968	82.9	32,836	92.1
White Pine	22,376	74.3	31,114	87.3
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>23,460</b>	<b>77.9</b>	<b>29,634</b>	<b>83.1</b>
Nevada	30,128	100.0	35,647	100.0

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis

## Retail

Retail sales are important to a county. They generate tax revenue, which is an important source of revenue for county and city government. Examining retail sales trends can provide valuable information when accessing the economy of a county.

Lincoln County taxable retail sales increased approximately 14.8 percent between 1995 and 2002. Similarly, the taxable retail sales per capita also increased approximately 16.9 percent. Although Lincoln County population, employment, and real earnings decreased between 1995 and 2002, the county taxable retail sales increase may indicate high rates of inflation, increase of Lincoln County resident local taxable retail spending, or the increase of taxable retail sales to non Lincoln County residents.

Table 8 presents the taxable retail sales for Lincoln County, adjacent counties, and Nevada.

**Table 6. Real Earnings by Major Economic Sector (Earnings in 1996 Dollars)**

	Lincoln County						
	1990 Earnings (\$000)	2000 Earnings (\$000)	1990 Percent	2000 Percent	2000 Nye Percent	2000 White Pine Percent	2000 Nevada Percent
Farm	2,297	1,638	2.9	2.9	2.1	1.6	0.2
TPU*	2,404	3,102	3.1	5.5	4.0	4.9	6.0
Retail Trade	2,504	3,169	3.2	5.6	6.8	9.2	10.0
Service	51,218**	22,521**	65.0**	40.0**	44.4	15.5	39.5
Government	17,644	21,586	22.4	38.3	16.6	48.1	14.4
Other	2,730**	4,287**	3.4**	7.6**	26.1	20.7	29.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>78,797</b>	<b>56,303</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis

\* Transportation Public Utilities

\*\* Estimated

**Table 8. Taxable Retail Sales (in 1996 dollars)**

Total Sales (\$000)	2002	1995	1990
Nye	265,923	202,146	223,195
White Pine	61,833	163,791	97,833
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>20,198</b>	<b>17,590</b>	<b>13,180</b>
Nevada	28,905,406	19,966,971	16,288,928
<b>Sales Per Capita</b>			
Nye	7,589	8,464	12,270
White Pine	6,977	17,046	10,397
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>5,207</b>	<b>4,454</b>	<b>3,459</b>
Nevada	13,103	12,390	13,177
<b>Pull Factor</b>			
Nye	0.93	0.68	0.57
White Pine	0.78	1.37	0.53
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>0.26</b>	<b>0.35</b>	<b>0.40</b>

Source: Nevada Department of Taxation

To determine how well a county is retaining consumer dollars, retail sales data can be used. The Pull Factor ratio is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Pull Factor Ratio} = \frac{\text{Per Capita County Retail Sales}}{\text{Per Capita State Retail Sales}}$$

Pull factors are based on values above and below 1.00. If the factor is less than one, the county is losing its fair share. That is, the county's residents are shopping away from home. If the value exceeds 1.00, it means the county is pulling in retail customers from outside the county.

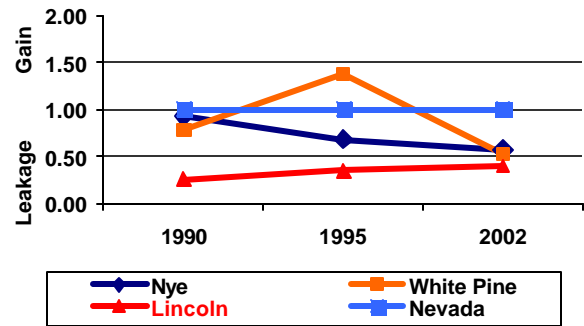
Lincoln County's pull factor ratio moderately improved between 1990 and 2002 (.26 vs. .40). This means that Lincoln County's trade-area capture is less than the population, and that the commercial sector is not capturing all the retail purchases of its own residents. In other words, Lincoln County has sales leakages.

To a lesser degree, adjacent counties Nye and White Pine are also experiencing sales leakages. However for a brief period in 1995, White Pine County had a gain where consumer's per capita taxable sales were greater at the county level when compared to the state level. Figure A illustrates Lincoln County retail sales gains/leakages.

In addition, published sales tax data can be studied by economic sector to further identify and explain where leakage is occurring. Both households and businesses need to be surveyed to identify where and why goods are being purchased outside the area. This information could be used to fill the gaps or needs of

residents by means of retail goods and services development.

**Figure A. Retail Sales Gains/ Leakage**



Source: Nevada Department of Taxation  
Nevada State Demographer

**REFERENCES**

State of Nevada State Demographer's Office. *Age, Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin Estimates from 1990 to 2001 and Projections from 2002 to 2022 for Nevada and its Counties.*

State of Nevada Department of Taxation.

United States Department of Commerce. *Regional Economic Information System.* Bureau of Economic Analysis: Washington D.C., 2002.

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