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FACT SHEET 08-25

Inter-County Commuting Patterns in Lincoln County: Implications for Lincoln County's Economy

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The majority of working Americans commute to and from work on a daily basis. And while many of these trips are made within the same city or county limits, a number of commuters travel outside their county of residence. While this activity is of little importance to an individual worker, inter-jurisdictional commuting can impact a city's or county's revenue base or its required level of public services, both positively and negatively. This fact sheet will discuss the presence of "incommuters" and "outcommuters" in Lincoln County and in the State of Nevada in general. The potential impacts of these commuting patterns might have possible implications on county revenues and public services.

Each of Nevada's counties experiences some level of inter-county commuting. Some county residents travel outside the county for work. These people are called **outcommuters**. Others travel into that same county from other counties to work. These workers are called **incommuters**.

Lincoln County

Lincoln County is located in southeastern Nevada, directly west of Utah and north of Clark County, Nevada (see Figure 1). The

only urban area designated a city in Lincoln County is the city of Caliente with a population slightly over 1,000. Other major towns in Lincoln County include Pioche, Panaca and Alamo, all with populations less than 1,000. Most of Lincoln County's major towns are located along State Highway 93, the major highway connecting Las Vegas with the rest of eastern Nevada.

From the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Lincoln County was home to 1,661 jobs in 2001. The major employment industries were government jobs (578), nonfarm proprietors' employment (431) and retail trade (230).



Figure 1: Lincoln County.

Lincoln County Incommuters

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Lincoln County was home to 1,657 jobs in 2000. Of those 1,657 jobs, 1,303 (79%) were filled by Lincoln County residents, with the remaining 354 (21%) of the county's jobs filled by incommuters (see Table 1). Lincoln County's largest source of incommuters is Clark County. In fact,

282 of Lincoln County's 354 incommuters (80%) are from Clark County.

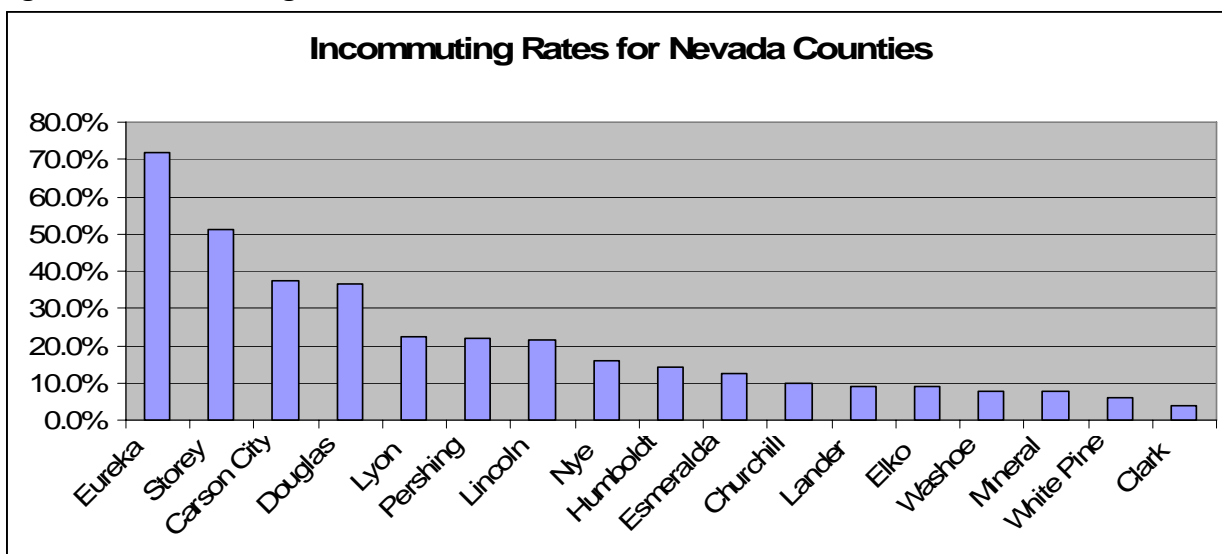
Figure 2 shows Lincoln County's incommuting rate in relation to other Nevada counties. While not the highest, Lincoln County has a higher-than-average incommuting rate, ranking Lincoln County seventh highest among Nevada's seventeen counties.

Table 1: Lincoln County Workers' Place of Residence.

Residence State- County Name	Workplace State-County Name	Count	%
Lincoln Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	1,303	78.64%
Clark Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	282	17.02%
Salt Lake Co. UT	Lincoln Co. NV	16	0.97%
Nye Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	12	0.72%
Iron Co. UT	Lincoln Co. NV	10	0.60%
Elko Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	7	0.42%
Washington Co. UT	Lincoln Co. NV	7	0.42%
Washoe Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	6	0.36%
White Pine Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	6	0.36%
Inyo Co. CA	Lincoln Co. NV	5	0.30%
Esmeralda Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	3	0.18%
		1,657	100.00%
	Incommuters	354	21.36%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2003.

Figure 2: Incommuting Rates for all Nevada Counties.



Source: United States Census Bureau, 2003.

Lincoln County Outcommuters

Table 2 shows the commuting patterns of Lincoln County's resident workers. In total, there were 1,453 resident workers in Lincoln County in 2000. The number of residents that worked within county borders was 1,303, leaving 150 Lincoln County resident workers outcommuting to

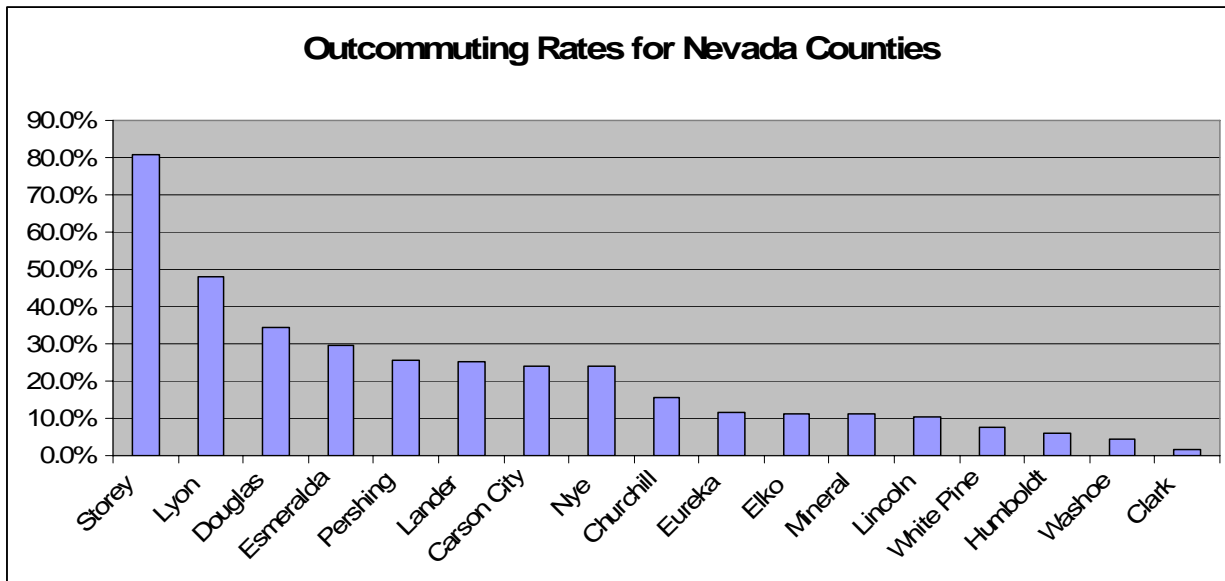
neighboring counties. Again, most of the inter-county commuting was between Lincoln County and Clark County, with 113 of the 150 outcommuters (75%) traveling to Clark County. However, as Figure 3 shows, Lincoln County has one of the lowest outcommuting rates in the state of Nevada at just over 10%.

Table 2: Lincoln Residents' Place of Work.

Residence State-County Name	Workplace State-County Name	Count	%
Lincoln Co. NV	Lincoln Co. NV	1,303	89.68%
Lincoln Co. NV	Clark Co. NV	113	7.78%
Lincoln Co. NV	Washington Co. UT	12	0.83%
Lincoln Co. NV	Nye Co. NV	9	0.62%
Lincoln Co. NV	White Pine Co. NV	8	0.55%
Lincoln Co. NV	Los Angeles Co. CA	6	0.41%
Lincoln Co. NV	Salt Lake Co. UT	2	0.14%
		1,453	100.00%
	Outcommuters	150	10.32%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2003.

Figure 3: Outcommuting Rates for all Nevada Counties.



Source: United States Census Bureau, 2003.

Conclusion: Local and Regional Implications for Lincoln County

Tables 1 and 2 indicate a strong flow of labor between Lincoln County and Clark County. Of the total number of jobs in Lincoln County, 282 (17%) were filled by Clark County labor force while 113 (8%) of Lincoln County residents worked in Clark County. This indicates that a net outflow of funds from Lincoln County occurs by incommuters from Clark County.

With new economic development efforts such as Coyote Springs and Toquop Power Plant occurring in Lincoln County, economic development practitioners need to be aware that new jobs will not necessarily be filled by residents in Lincoln

County. While Lincoln County economic development practitioners can strive to become more “self-sufficient” by attracting jobs which meet the employment demands of local residents, they must cooperate regionally to create jobs.

Benefits from employment tend to be regional, but Lincoln County decision makers must be aware of employment commuting impacts and how these impacts affect the local economy. Commuting impacts such as where commuters shop, the expense of commuting, the loss of community sense of place and well-being due to commuting and the environmental and energy impacts of commuting are questions that should be investigated.

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