

STATEWIDE POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

The U.S. Census Bureau projects the population of Nevada to be over 4 million for 2030. The projection was based on growth from the 2000 population. The population projections of the Nevada State Demographer for future years are shown in Table 7.

The data projections shown in Table 7 are based on a 2010 estimate. The current economic slowdown that started in 2008 adversely affected the state's employment outlook. In fact, the 2010 unemployment rate of 14.9 percent in the state was the highest in the United States. The economic slowdown also resulted in the reversal of the unprecedented population growth that the state has experienced during the past two decades; according to the State Demographer, Nevada experienced a drop in population of 10,654 from 2009 to 2010. In addition, the State Demographer anticipates a relatively flat growth rate (0.0 to 0.3 percent) until 2014.

Table 7. Population Projections for Nevada (based on a 2010 estimate)

2016	2023	2030
2,949,178	3,156,394	4,282,102

Sources: Nevada State Demographer (October 1, 2011)

Figures 16 and 17 (pages 70 and 71) show the state's population density for 2010 and 2060, respectively. Figures 18 and 19 (pages 72 and 73) show the state's employment density for 2010 and 2060, respectively.

Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI), projected employment for Nevada with a low job growth rate, as shown in Table 8. The model used for the projections covers Nevada's 17 counties. The model has a 30-year history and is used as a tool for conducting projections as well as looking at economic impacts of specific projects. The REMI model allows the user to look at how regional economies interact with each other and with the nation as a whole. The current model was created with federal data beginning in 2001 using the North American Industrial Classification System, which was implemented at that time. The data goes back through 2007, and the years from 2008 forward are modeled. This short data history coincides with a period when some of Nevada's counties had record population growth and mining recovery from the downturn of the late 1990s.

Table 8. Employment Projections for Nevada with Low Job Growth

2016	2023	2030
1,587,134	1,620,222	1,669,181

Source: Nevada State Demographer

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, which is a part of Nevada Workforce Informer, produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for census regions and divisions, states, counties, metropolitan areas, and many cities, by place of residence. The program provides labor force data (employment and unemployment rates) for each state and substate area (metropolitan areas, counties, and cities with populations larger than 25,000). Long-term industry projections are produced every 2 years for Nevada, Las Vegas metropolitan statistical area (MSA), Reno MSA, Carson City MSA, and the two “balance of state” areas. The statewide employment projection for 2018 (based on 2008 employment) is 1.4 million (Nevada Workforce Informer 2010).

Populations for Nevada’s counties are shown in Table 9, page 74, and are derived from the Nevada State Demographer. This information was published in October 2011, and the projections are based on the 2010 population. The majority of the population resides in Clark and Washoe Counties.

Figure 16. 2010 Estimated Population Density

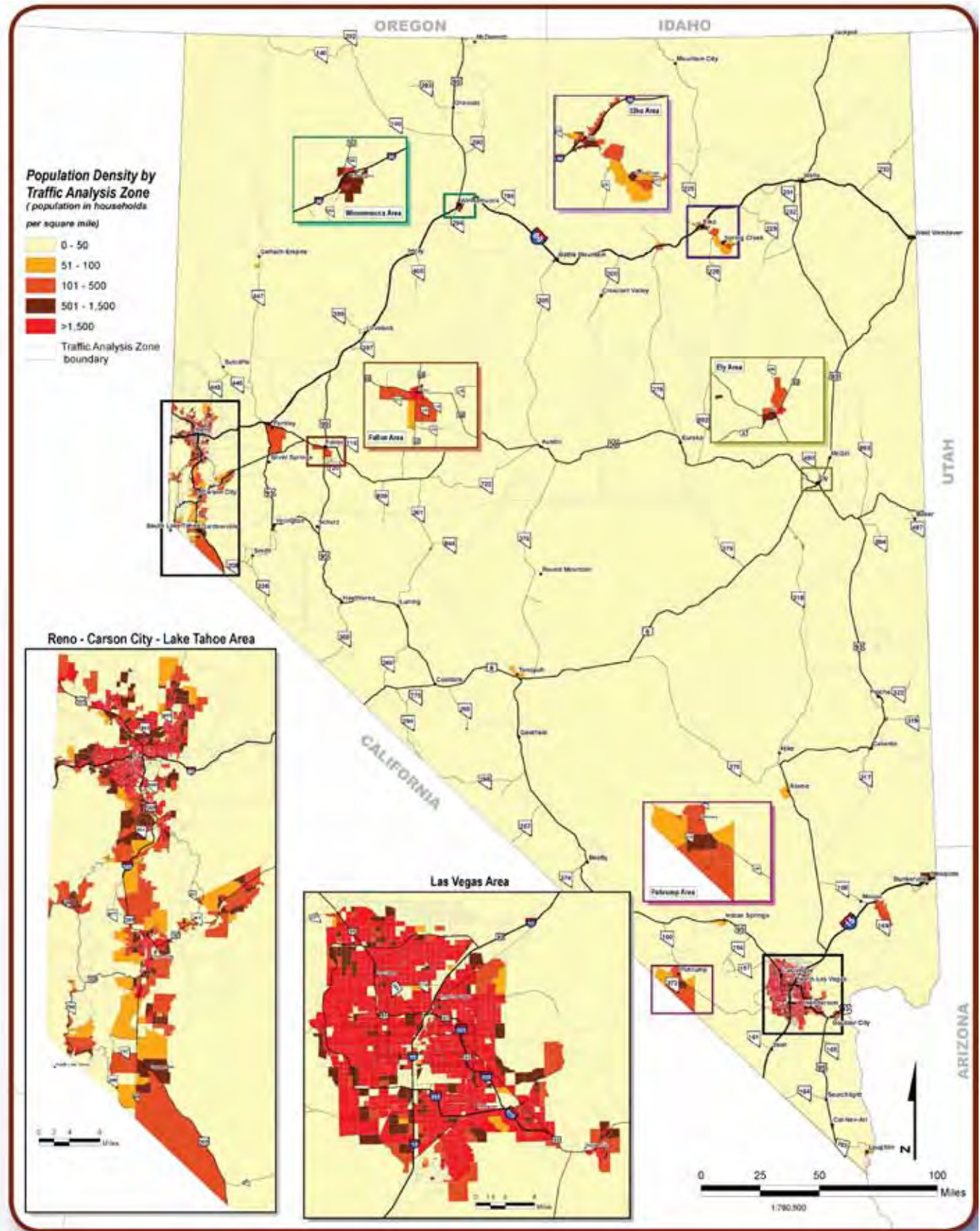


Figure 17. 2060 Projected Population Density

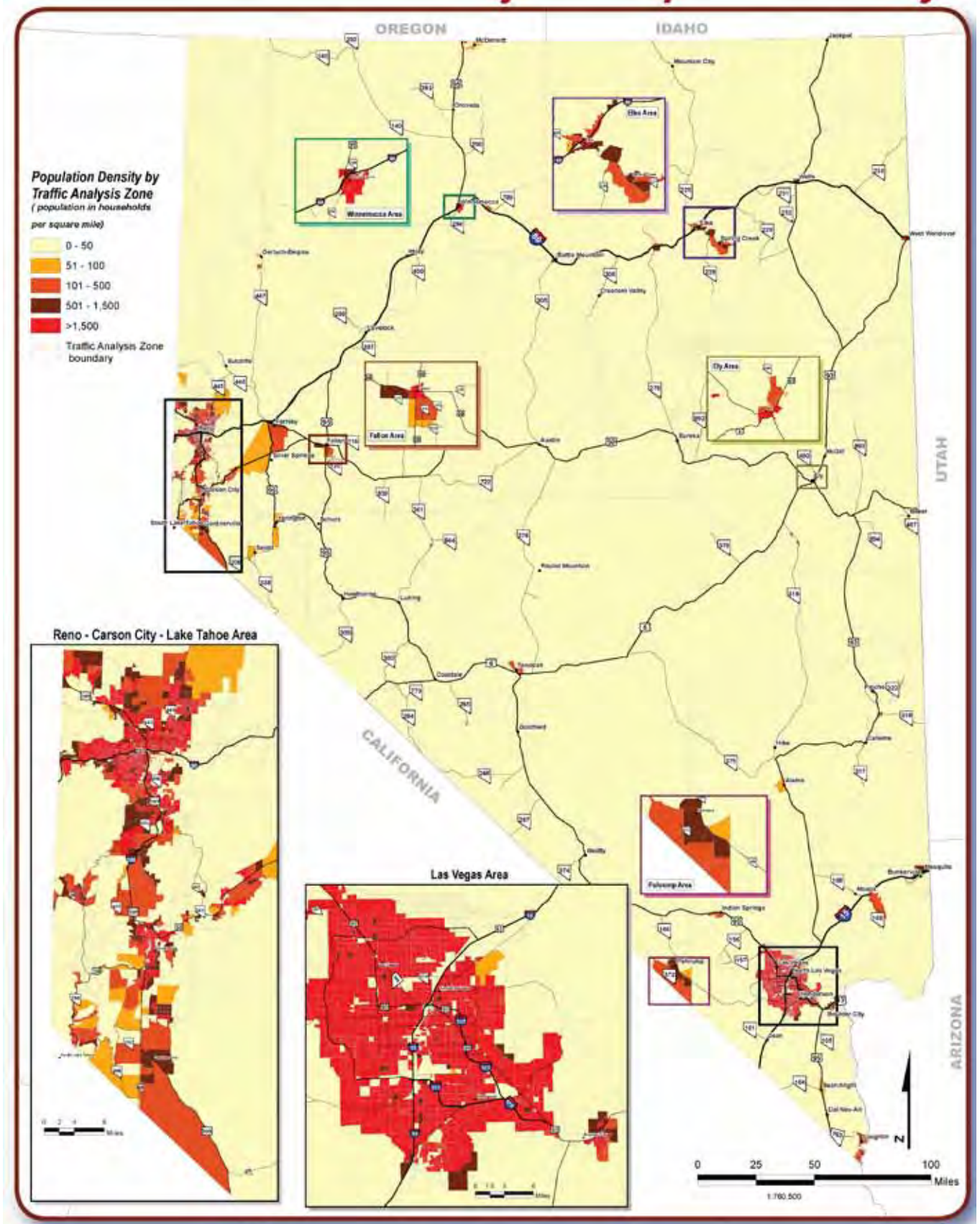


Figure 18. 2010 Estimated Employment Density

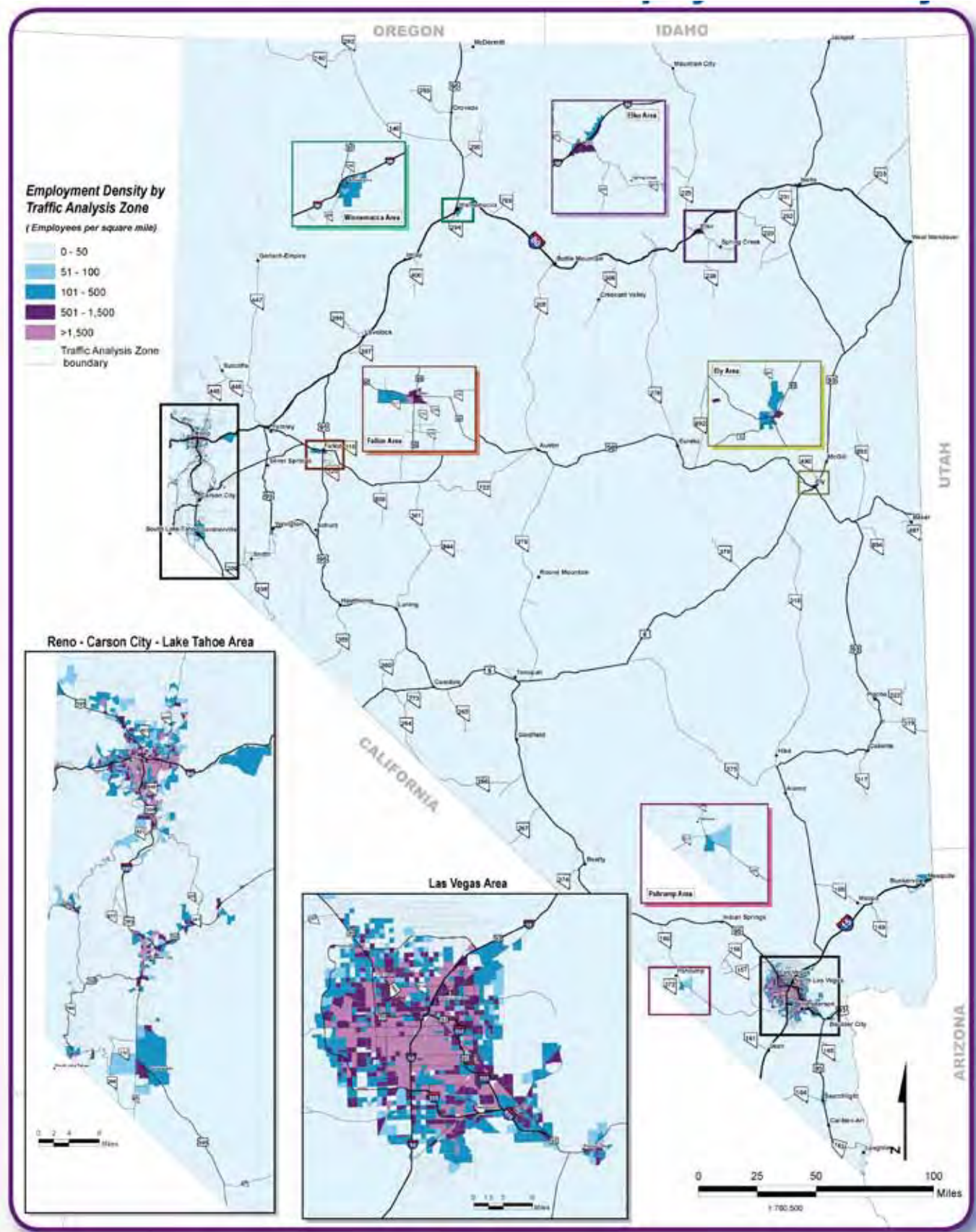


Figure 19. 2060 Projected Employment Density

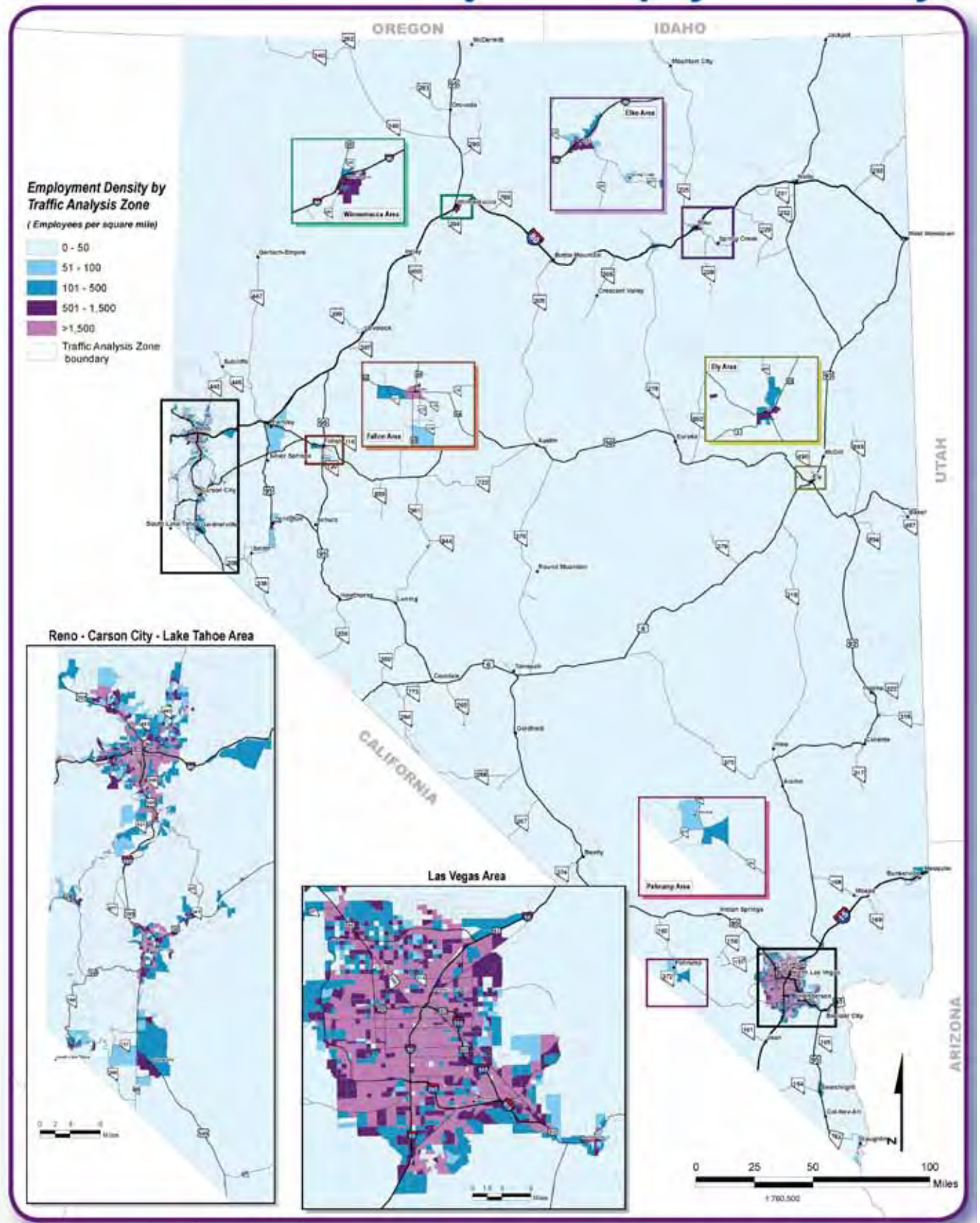


Table 9. Nevada Counties Future Employment Growth Trends

Area	EMPLOYMENT			
	2010	2020	2030	2060
Carson City County	24,814	28,143	33,183	44,712
Churchill County	7,527	8,291	9,029	11,867
Clark County	811,933	983,563	1,149,089	1,984,353
Douglas County	16,973	18,174	19,383	22,634
Elko County	20,868	22,114	26,161	36,713
Esmeralda County	618	628	634	660
Eureka County	3,482	4,028	4,562	6,834
Humboldt County	6,936	8,650	10,327	18,732
Lander County	1,956	2,020	2,070	2,254
Lincoln County	1,382	1,547	1,694	2,304
Lyon County	11,917	13,179	14,749	22,044
Mineral County	1,529	1,698	1,848	2,457
Nye County	8,392	9,336	10,237	13,782
Pershing County	1,153	1,213	1,256	1,425
Storey County	2,572	2,815	3,052	3,943
Washoe County	184,685	220,247	261,293	436,757
White Pine County	3,500	3,862	4,207	5,553
Nevada Total	1,110,237	1,329,508	1,552,774	2,617,024

Source: HDR (2012).

Neighboring States Growth Projections

Projections of the population are estimates that illustrate plausible courses of future population change based on assumptions about future births, deaths, net international migration, and domestic migration. Projected numbers are typically based on an estimated population consistent with the most recent decennial census. In some cases, several alternative series of projections are produced based on alternative future assumptions. Nevada's neighboring states are shown in Figure 20.

Figure 20. Nevada's Neighboring States



Table 10, next page, shows a comparison of population and employment data for the base and projected year for surrounding states. The state projections are based on the general assumption that recent demographic trends will continue in the future. The projections represent the results of incorporating these assumptions in a mathematical projection model and are not forecasts of what future population trends will be.

This demographic information will serve as the framework for developing a statewide comprehensive multimodal transportation planning effort that will identify transportation projects that best respond to transportation needs in Nevada. It is important to make sure that these transportation projects provide connectivity to adjacent states to ensure Nevada's economic vitality.

Table 10 Population and Employment Projections of Neighboring States

State	Population				Employment			
	2010	2020	2030	2060	2010	2020	2030	2060
Arizona	6,391,851	7,661,813	8,931,726	14,190,137	2,369,699	2,999,315	3,628,993	6,689,917
California	37,253,410	40,712,730	44,171,960	54,785,831	14,382,349	15,621,576	16,880,604	20,635,094
Colorado	5,029,196	6,021,722	7,014,248	11,553,271	2,141,264	2,563,850	2,986,434	4,919,000
Idaho	1,567,582	1,768,604	1,969,624	2,774,041	604,372	681,880	759,373	1,069,508
Nevada	2,664,397	3,226,632	3,589,898	5,675,183	1,110,237	1,329,508	1,552,774	2,617,024
Oregon	3,831,074	4,359,555	4,888,031	7,077,767	1,594,368	1,816,571	2,038,760	2,960,798
Utah	2,763,885	3,575,862	4,387,831	6,840,187	1,141,014	1,469,499	1,797,960	2,782,366
Regional Totals	59,501,395	67,326,918	74,953,318	102,896,417	23,343,303	26,482,199	29,644,898	41,673,707

Sources:

- Arizona, ADOT Statewide Travel Demand Model (May, 2012) through 2050;
- California, Department of Finance (2012) through 2050;
- Colorado, Colorado Dept. of Local Affairs (2012) through 2030;
- Idaho, U.S. Census (2005) through 2030;
- Nevada (rural areas), Nevada State Demographer [2011], HDR (July, 2012);
- New Mexico, U.S. Census (2005) through 2030;
- Oregon, Oregon Office of Economic Analysis (2004) through 2030;
- Utah, UT Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (2011) through 2060;
- Washington, State Office of Financial Management (2011) through 2030;
- Wyoming, WY Department of Administration and Analysis (2011) through 2030. All forecasts beyond state projection horizons, HDR (2012).

Economics

All economies are intricately linked with the transportation network. Tourism relies on the transportation network to distribute people to destinations throughout the state. In addition, multimodal transportation systems in Nevada support mining, agriculture, manufacturing, and warehousing and distribution centers.

Nevada's unemployment rate fell to 11.8 percent in September 2012, according to an October 19, 2012, press release from the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (http://detr.state.nv.us/Press/UI_Rate_Releases/2012/September_2012.pdf). In July 2010, the Clark County unemployment rate hit a high of 15.7 percent.

The University of Nevada College of Business Center for Business and Economic Research noted in April 2011 that the Nevada economy is showing initial signs of recovery, more than 18 months after the U.S. economy began its recovery.

Partners in economic development in western Nevada adapted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Stronger Economies Together (SET) program to prepare an Economic Development Blueprint for Western Nevada. Stronger SET is a strategic planning program designed to help communities in rural America work together on a regional basis to create economic development plans based on current and emerging economic strengths in each region. Over 200 individuals participated in the western Nevada SET workshops, the results of which were released in November 2012.

The primary industry in the urban counties is tourism and gaming services. In the comparatively rural or slower growing areas, the primary industries are mining and agriculture, with some local dependence on tourism, recreation, service, and government sector employment. Mining of resources such as gold, silver, and molybdenum fluctuates depending on national or international demand and resource availability. Agriculture provides a relatively stable economic base; however, there are natural and physical resource limitations on agricultural potential.

The following sections provide a brief overview of some of the existing and emerging economic activities in the state that are intrinsically linked to the transportation system.

Freight

According to the Long-range Transportation Plan, truckers are the third-largest motorist group using state highways, after commuters and tourists. I-15 and I-80 are among the busiest truck-freight corridors in the nation (LRTP, 2008). The I-15 Mobility Alliance—a cooperative alliance of the California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah DOTs formed to develop a long-range multimodal transportation system master plan for the I-15 corridor—reported in 2011 that average truck traffic on I-15 in Nevada is 20 percent. The percentage of truck traffic on I-80 through the northern portion of the state is twice this amount.

Nevada is the western region transportation link. With a market area of 51 million people within one day's drive, firms can take advantage of Nevada's low costs of taxation and operation and still easily ship to a multitude of states including California, the world's sixth-largest marketplace.

More than 150 carriers serve Nevada, offering transcontinental, fast-freight, and van-line shipping to all major markets.

Union Pacific Railroad is the largest freight railroad serving Nevada, operating more than 1,200 miles of line. As noted previously, Union Pacific Railroad crosses both Northern and Southern Nevada.

Gaming

Nevada's economy is overwhelmingly based on tourism, especially gaming, (legalized in 1931) and resort industries centered in Las Vegas and, to a lesser degree, in Reno and Lake Tahoe. In Nevada, gaming taxes accounting for 34 percent of general fund tax revenues. The service sector employs approximately one-half of Nevada's workers either directly or indirectly.

Tourism and Recreation

Tourism and recreation are essential to Nevadans' quality of life. In addition to the tourism-driven economies of Las Vegas, and to a lesser extent Reno, much of the recreation in the state occurs on public land. The value of and need for recreation and open space should be clearly recognized and provided for in the future. Nongaming recreation has helped diversify the state's economy.

Mining

With a calculated value of nearly \$5 billion, Nevada's mineral industry is a major economic driver in the state. The state is the nation's leading producer of gold, barite, lithium, and copper, as well as other minerals. Gold production in Nevada accounts for 72 percent of the total gold produced in the United States. Nevada's gold production by itself would make it the fourth-largest producer in the world. The BLM Nevada State Office records 49 percent of all the mining claims filed on public land in the United States.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy industries have grown at a rate of 20 percent or more over the last two decades. Wind, geothermal energy, biomass, and the potential hydrogen economy will continue to grow rapidly for the foreseeable future. Nevada's natural renewable resources place Nevada at the forefront of these emerging economies.

Nevada is rich in geothermal resources and is second only to California in the production of geothermal power. Unlike fossil fuel plants, which use transportable fuel sources, renewable energy plants use resources that cannot be moved. To develop a renewable energy resource, the power plant must be built at the source; to develop Nevada's renewable resources means improving and expanding the state's transmission grid to reach each resource center.

Ranching

There are about 45 million acres of public rangelands in Nevada. According to the BLM website, there are 550 operators, or permittees, with a total of 635 permits to graze livestock. The state's leading agricultural industry is raising and selling beef cattle. Crops consist mainly of hay, alfalfa, seed, barley, wheat, and potatoes.

Page intentionally left blank

Page intentionally left blank