

# Nevada

## Tech companies bet big on the Silver State

After unemployment in Reno peaked at 14 percent in 2011, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval signed a bill to diversify the state economy, which has historically relied heavily on gambling and tourism. Now Reno is putting Nevada on the technological map and proving to be an attractive host for high-tech companies. In 2013, electric automobile manufacturer Tesla began construction there on what will become the largest factory in the world, employing approximately 6,500 people.

Welcoming Tesla into the western half of the state has spurred changes for local college students, too. At the company's request, the University of Nevada at Reno created two new minors: battery engineering and manufacturing quality. College administrators hope the new programs will keep students in the area after graduation by preparing them for work at the Tesla plant.

Statewide, however, there's still work to be done to boost Nevada's Grants Advanced Degrees score. Less than eight percent of the state population over the age of 24 has an advanced degree — one of the lowest proportions of any state.

In 2017, Google bought more than 1,200 acres at the Tahoe Reno Industrial Center to develop a future data center. Panasonic, which already operates in a space at the Industrial Center, was on track to hire 3,000 new workers in 2017.

Sources: (Bloomberg) (NNBW)

### WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Nevada is one of only a handful of states with both a Right-to-Work law and a law protecting workers from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

### WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

The state can encourage students to pursue advanced degrees.

### WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

A state bill defined self-driving vehicle terms and allows the use of driver-assistive platooning systems.

Best & Brightest	A
Fast Internet	B+
Grants Advanced Degrees	F
Tech Workforce	D-
Tax Friendly	A-
Attracts Investment	D-
Entrepreneurial Activity	A
Ridesharing	A-
Short-Term Rentals	B-
Sustainable Policies	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	B-



### Fast Internet

At 70 percent, the proportion of Nevada households with internet connections of at least 10 mbps is higher than most other states, and 53 percent enjoy speeds of 25 mbps or more.



### Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals operate throughout Nevada but face some restrictions in Las Vegas, a major market.



### Entrepreneurial Activity

From Q2/2011 to Q4/2016, Nevada created 92 net jobs per 1,000 residents, for a total net of 269,257 jobs.



### Tax Friendly

Nevada has largely business-friendly income and property tax policies and levies a Gross Receipts Tax in place of a corporate income tax.

## Tech Companies Stake Their Claim with Northern Nevada Gigafactory



Northern Nevada is fast becoming a magnet for tech jobs. Electric car company Tesla chose the area for its \$5 billion "Gigafactory" and as of late 2017 hired roughly 1,400 people to work there. The company hopes to bring that to an estimated 6,500 employees by 2024.

The need to fill those jobs has spurred training programs in the area. Truckee Meadows Community College, with a campus just north of Reno, has partnered with Tesla and Panasonic to prepare students to work at the Gigafactory. Students there will learn robotics and other skills to meet the growing demand for advanced manufacturing workers.

In addition, a new apprenticeship program at Truckee Meadows will help train workers in fields ranging from manufacturing to healthcare. Employment development board Workforce Connections is sponsoring the program, which will give apprenticeship opportunities to more than 600 students. The initiative has already garnered private-sector buy in, with a promise from Panasonic to hire 500 apprentices.

PHOTO CREDIT: Planet Labs, Wikimedia Commons | Sources: (Las Vegas Review-Journal) (KLNR) (Las Vegas Review-Journal)