

Nevada Adult Education

Participant Wage and Education Trends

Nevada's Adult Education (AE) system offers courses to adult learners that allow them to:



Pass high school equivalency exams.



Gain basic skills in reading, writing, and math.



Learn English as a second language.



Complete additional career training.

From 2017 to 2024, nearly

25,000

individuals **enrolled** in an Adult Education course in Nevada

and

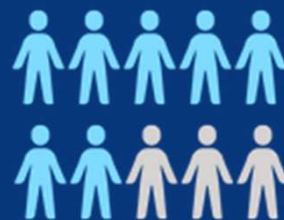
11,516

participants **improved** their skills, **advanced** their grade level, or **enrolled** at a college or university.



Over half of participants (61%) were **women**.

Over half of participants (53%) were 25–44 years old.



After Adult Education, Wages Increased

Wages were **11%** higher 1 year after completing the program.

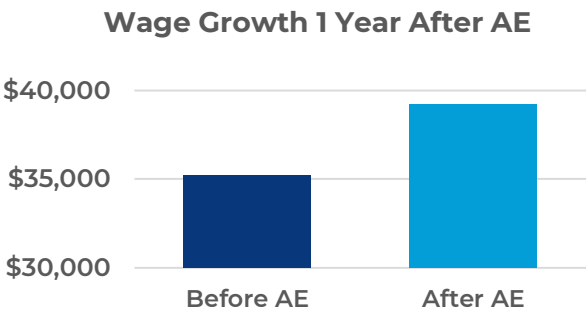
Wages were **33%** higher 5 years after completing the program.

How Do Participants' Wages Change Over Time?

One goal of Adult Education is to give participants the skills they need to be successful in the labor force. For some participants, that may mean increasing wages over time. For others, it may be a shift from irregular to consistent labor force participation.

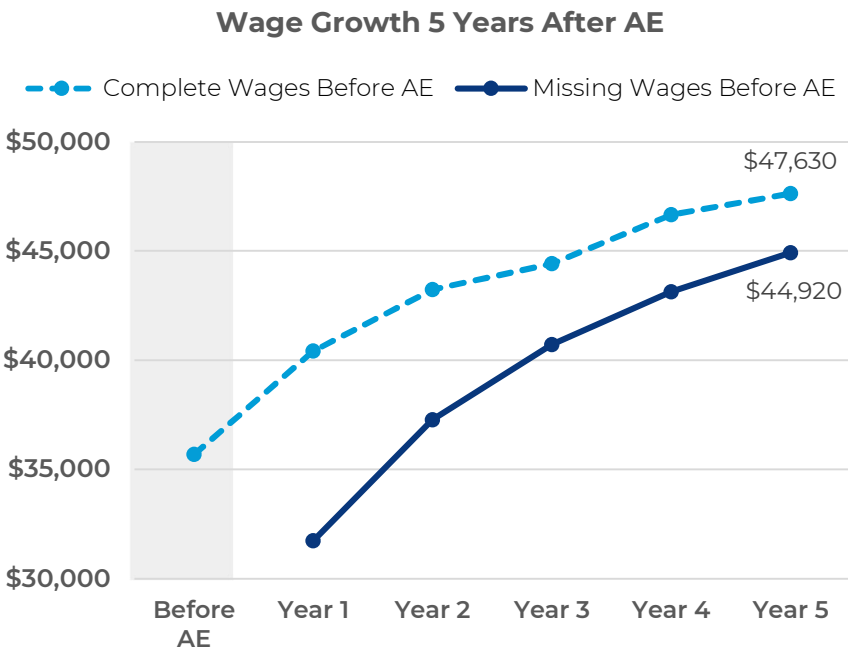
Short-Term Wage Trends

- **One year after Adult Education, participants' wages were 11% higher.** Wage growth was even higher (13.9%) for participants that measurably improved their skills, advanced their grade level, or enrolled at a college or university during or after adult education.



Long-Term Wage Trends

- **Five years after Adult Education, participants' wages were 33% higher than before their program.** By this time, participants earned \$22.90 per hour, which is more than both the median wage in Nevada (\$21.54)¹ and the hourly wage needed to meet basic needs in a one-adult household in Nevada (\$22.46).²
- **5.8% of participants were not in the Nevada workforce before they enrolled in Adult Education, but they started working in Nevada after their program.** Their wages grew by 42% in 5 years.



1. The median Nevada wage is based on BLS estimates from May 2023 (https://www.bls.gov/oes/2023/may/oes_nv.htm).
2. The basic needs wage is from the MIT Living Wage Calculator 2024 (<https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/32>).

Our results are estimated using NPWR data (<https://mynpwr.nv.gov/>) from multiple state agencies: Nevada Adult Education (2017 Q3–2024 Q1), the Nevada Department of Education (NDE, 2009–2024), the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE, 2016 Q2–2023 Q2), and the Nevada Department of Employment, Training, and Rehabilitation (DETR, 2016 Q3–2023 Q2). Wages were adjusted for inflation to 2023 wages using CPI. Short-term wage statistics are based on data from 2,316 participants who had data 1 year before and 1 year after Adult Education. Long-term wage statistics are based on data from 3,122 participants who had data in all possible follow-up years (1,691 of these participants also had data 1 year before Adult Education). We examine participants' earnings before and after Adult Education; however, we cannot definitively say whether Adult Education coursework caused any wage changes.