

Small Nev. businesses struggle to find qualified workers

By Bailey Schulz, Las Vegas Review-Journal

Small-business owners in Nevada have hit a wall finding employees with the right skill sets. A 2018 survey by Nevada State Bank and Applied Analysis found more than two-thirds of businesses find it somewhat or very difficult to recruit qualified candidates. The state's education system and a lack of economic diversification may be at fault, experts say.

Jeff Grace, chief executive officer of information technology service company NetEffect, said it's been increasingly difficult to hire qualified candidates in recent years amid a robust economy. His company currently has 23 employees and three job openings.

Nevada had the nation's highest job growth rate in 2017, according to the U.S. Labor Department. While this is a sign of a burgeoning economy, it can lead to a disproportionate labor market – one with more job openings than qualified candidates.

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