

The Economics of Spring Break: An Analysis of the Booming Season in Las Vegas

By Tao Chen

As a student at ASU, I've always been fascinated by the real-world applications of the knowledge I learned in the classroom. When my economics professor Dr. Leepsa assigned us a classroom activity to analyze the economic impact of a specific event, I instantly thought of my recent trip to Las Vegas during Spring Break. This annual tradition, embraced by millions of college students and families, has become a significant driver of economic activity, particularly in popular vacation destinations like Las Vegas. In this article, I will take you to go through my amazing Spring Break in Las Vegas, exploring both its positive and negative effects on the city, and reflecting on how my classroom learning has allowed me to view this phenomenon through a more informed lens.

Surge in Demand for Hotels, Transportation Services, Restaurants, and Entertainment

During my visit to Las Vegas, I noticed that the city was bustling with tourists eager to enjoy the break. This influx of visitors creates a surge in demand for various services, including hotels, transportation, restaurants, and



entertainment. In response, businesses often increase their capacities and extend operating hours to accommodate the growing number of tourists. This increased demand not only generates higher revenues for local businesses but also helps to support the overall

economy of Las Vegas.

Employment Opportunities for Locals

Spring Break also creates numerous employment opportunities for locals. During my trip, I saw individuals in cartoon costumes walking the streets, seeking to take pictures with tourists and earn tips. These temporary positions, though unconventional, offer a source of income for many residents who might otherwise struggle to find work. The seasonal boom also leads to an increased need for workers in hotels, restaurants, and other businesses, providing a much-needed boost to the local job market.



Price Inflation

While the economic benefits of Spring Break are undeniable, it also leads to some negative consequences. One of the most noticeable during my trip was price inflation.



The cost of living, including accommodation, food, and transportation, was significantly higher than in other seasons. Since I had booked the hotel a month in advance, the hotel rate was still in a more reasonable range, about \$120 a night. However, on the day of Spring Break, I checked the hotel room price again and it had shot up to about \$250. This surge in prices may deter some potential visitors from choosing Las Vegas as their Spring Break destination, which could eventually have a negative impact on the city's long-term economic prospects.

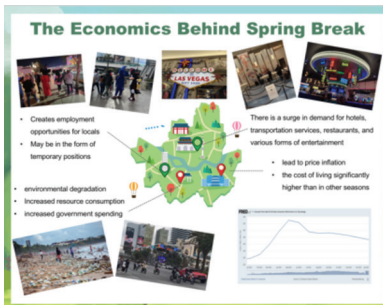
Environmental Degradation and Increased Government Spending

Another downside to the Spring Break boom is the increased strain on the environment and public resources. With the influx of tourists comes an inevitable increase in resource consumption, including water, energy, and waste generation. This added burden puts pressure on Las Vegas' infrastructure and can lead to environmental degradation if not managed responsibly.



Additionally, the city must invest more in maintaining law and order and managing traffic during this busy season. This increased government spending may strain the city's budget, potentially diverting funds from other essential services and projects.

My experience in the economics classroom has enabled me to analyze the economic implications of Spring Break in Las Vegas in a more nuanced way. This seasonal event brings with it a surge in demand for various services and provides employment opportunities for locals. However, the negative effects, such as price inflation and environmental degradation, should not be overlooked. To ensure the long-term sustainability of Las Vegas' economy and environment, city officials and businesses must work together to balance the benefits and drawbacks associated with this seasonal boom.



As a testament to the value of my economics education, I created a poster summarizing my findings and experiences from this classroom activity. I am grateful for the platform provided by ASU and the rich knowledge I gained in the economics class, which has allowed me to examine economic phenomena

in greater depth. This class activity has also shown me the importance of relating classroom knowledge to real-life experiences, as it helps to solidify our understanding of complex economic concepts and prepares us to make informed decisions in the future.