



Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation  
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
[www.NVDETR.org](http://www.NVDETR.org)

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### **Low Unemployment Rates Means Greater Need for Employees**

*Las Vegas, NV*—After two months of escalating unemployment rates, Nevada's economy performed just as officials had expected. Figures released by the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation show the unemployment rate for August dropped to 4.2 percent, maintaining its historical lead over the rest of the nation. The national unemployment rate for August was at 4.7 percent.

"Anytime employment exhibits a slowdown we are going to pay close attention, but we are not surprised to see Nevada's unemployment rate bounce back to a lower percentage," said Terry Johnson, DETR director. "Employment figures are typically affected by the volatility of the summer labor market. The September and October figures will provide a much more accurate picture of our economic status."

While this is good news for workers, Johnson said the low unemployment yields one challenge in particular for employers, a shortage of skilled workers. Around August, summer job seekers have secured employment and in September, most of them will return to their usual jobs in government and education. Additionally, young people who may have been counted in the unemployment rate will return to school and college full time.

In Nevada, the private sector added 6,100 new jobs in August. The U.S. Department of Labor recently released figures that show Nevada remains first in employment growth in the country, even during the two months of increasing unemployment. Nevada is adding jobs at a rate of 5.3 percent, while the national growth rate is 1.3 percent. As we head into the holiday season, employers will have an even greater need for employees.

"The low unemployment rate is of course positive news, but that also means businesses are increasingly faced with the challenge of attracting skilled workers," Johnson said. "DETR, in partnership with Nevada JobConnect, has a variety of programs to help connect employers with willing and able workers. Employers should be open-minded in seeking employees and consider some non-traditional sources, like workers with disabilities."

DETR's Rehabilitation Division has extensive programs to train individuals with disabilities to become vital members of Nevada's workforce. Within the Rehabilitation Division, vocational rehabilitation services are provided by the Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation and by the Bureau of Services to the Blind and Visually Impaired to help get jobs for persons with disabilities.

The Rehabilitation Division also works with employers to help make the workplace functional for individuals with disabilities. This may include putting into place certain technologies that a person may need to perform the job.

“I encourage employers to utilize DETR programs to help secure qualified workers who will help their businesses excel and keep Nevada’s economy flourishing,” said Gov. Kenny Guinn. “The state is committed to supporting programs that can ensure all citizens have an opportunity to live independent and productive lives.”

Services available to qualified people may include:

- assessment for determining eligibility and vocational rehabilitation needs;
- vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance;
- physical and mental restoration services related to vocational rehabilitation goals and objectives, possibly including corrective surgery or therapeutic treatment for disabilities that present a substantial barrier to employment;
- and other medical devices, training materials and tools.

There are many advantages to hiring persons with disabilities, Johnson said. By the time a person with disabilities has been hired, they have received extensive training, evaluation, and testing to be sure they can succeed on the job. This is often more than what can be said of non-disabled workers.

“Businesses are continuing to add more jobs to the economy, which is evidenced by Nevada’s constant low unemployment rate,” Johnson said. “We need to prepare as many workers as possible to fill the gaps. We want to dispel any misconceptions that employers may have about hiring people with disabilities. They are just as qualified, trainable and dependable as employees without disabilities. In many cases, they are more dependable and more determined because they want to prove to themselves and to employers that they can do the job.”

For more information about vocational rehabilitation, visit [www.nvdetr.org](http://www.nvdetr.org) or call (702) 486-7991.

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The unemployment and labor force figures are based on a survey of households in Nevada to measure the employment status of the state’s citizens. The industrial employment figures in the attached data pages are calculated from a survey of businesses to measure the number of jobs in the state.

*Data provided by:* Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation



*DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division and the Information Development and Processing Division. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to connect businesses and workers.*