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PRESS RELEASE

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Unemployment Claims Continued to Decline in April

In April, 17,661 initial unemployment claims were filed in Nevada, compared to 18,327 in April 2012. That is a 3.6 percent decrease over the year, and the fifth consecutive month that claims have fallen, said Bill Anderson, chief economist for Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). Additionally, in 38 of the past 41 months claims have been lower than the year before. However, this was also the smallest decline of the past five months.

While December, January, and February all saw claim levels fall by more than 7 percent, both March and April have had declines of less than 6 percent, Anderson said.

"This continues the ongoing multi-year pattern, with claim activity increasingly reflecting a stabilizing job market instead of one dominated by the extreme swings experienced in the worst years of the recession," Anderson said. "However, the overall level of initial claims still remains higher than prior to the recession. From 2003 through 2007, initial claims averaged less than 13,000 per month while over the last twelve months claims are averaging just fewer than 18,000 per month. This continues to suggest that while Nevada's economy is on the road to recovery, significant room for improvement remains."

Initial claims peaked during the recession at 36,414 in December 2008, and since then, the low point for initial claims was 13,932 in September 2012. Initial claims typically peak each year in December and January, then fall heading into the spring and summer months, so the level of claims is expected to fall from the current levels over the next several months.

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DETR is comprised of the Employment Security Division, Equal Rights Commission, Rehabilitation Division, the Information Development and Processing Division and the Research and Analysis Bureau. DETR works in partnership with the Nevada JobConnect System to provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices.