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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Initial Unemployment Claims Continue Steady Downward Trend**

Carson City, NV —In March, 13,267 initial claims for unemployment insurance were filed in Nevada, a 14 percent drop compared to March 2013, and a drop of 64 percent compared to the worst month of the recession. Initial claims have fallen compared to the previous year for 16 straight months and in 49 of the past 52 months.

“In the two years prior to the beginning of the recession, the average monthly level of initial claims was 12,500, so the overall level of initial claims is very close to the level of claims we would expect to see in a stable job market,” said Bill Anderson, chief economist for Nevada’s Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. “Combined with increases in the overall number of jobs in the state, this suggests that the labor market in Nevada is firmly on the mend.”

An initial claim represents the first stage of filing for unemployment benefits, and is therefore most closely related to the number of people who have recently lost their jobs, not the overall level of unemployment. Initial claims tend to increase on a seasonal basis during the fall and winter months, and then fall during the spring and summer.

Initial claims peaked during the recession at 36,414 in December 2008, and the low point for initial claims was 11,985 in September 2013.

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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.