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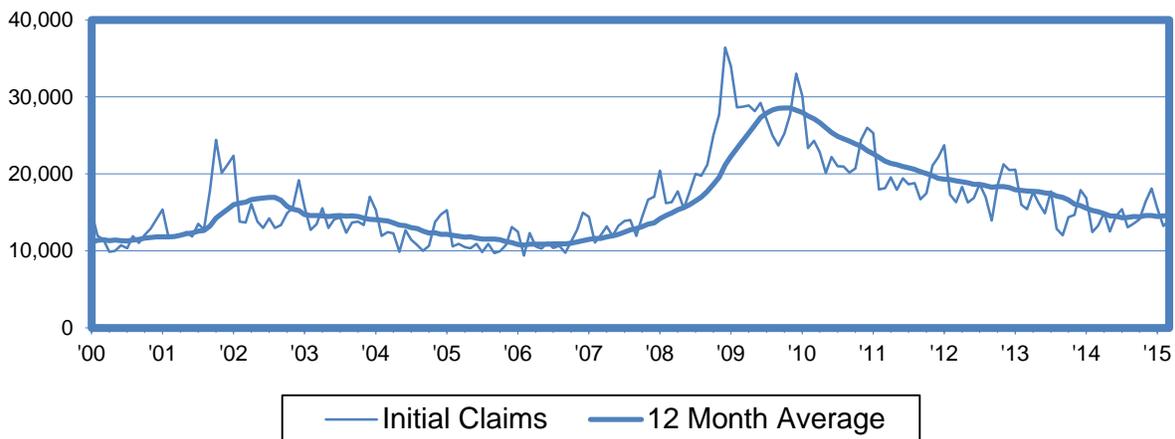
Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims Increase; Other Measures Improve

Carson City, NV —In March, 14,044 initial claims for unemployment insurance were filed in Nevada, up 5.9 percent from March 2014 when claims were 13,267. Despite new initial claims falling by almost 5 percent from last year, an increase in what is called additional initial claims caused the rise in the month's total. An additional claim refers to a claimant reopening a previously existing claim after not filing for a period of time due to at least one week of employment. The 12-month moving average, which captures the overall trend in claims, continues to remain steady, rising by 0.4 percent to 14,625 in March.

“Even with March’s increase over its comparable month in 2014, other claims measures continue to show improvement,” said Bill Anderson, chief economist for Nevada’s Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation. The exhaustion rate of unemployment insurance benefits, a measure showing the percentage of claimants who ran out of benefits before finding a job, fell to 41.4 percent in the month, the lowest since August of 2008. Also improving, the average length of time a person is on unemployment benefits, which dropped to 14.37 weeks. This is the lowest average benefit duration value in six years.”

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 12,037 in September 2013.

Initial Claims Activity



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