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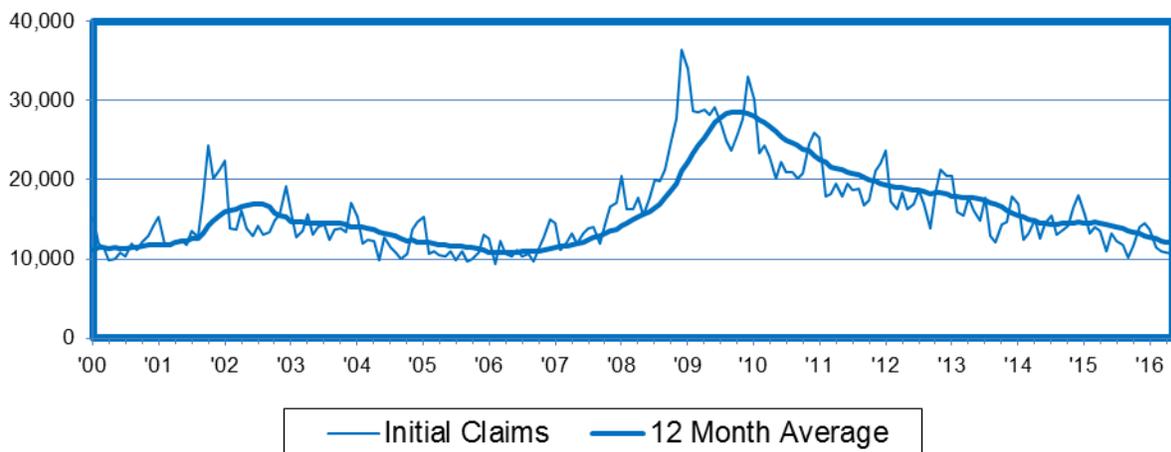
Initial Claims for Unemployment Insurance Decreased Slightly in May

CARSON CITY, NV —In May, 10,650 initial claims for unemployment insurance were filed in Nevada, which is a 1.8 percent decrease from April and a 2.9 percent decline from May 2015. The 12-month average, which captures the overall trend in claims, declined to 12,091, the lowest it's been since mid-2007. Looking forward to the next couple of months, expected seasonal increases are likely to push up the level of initial claims, said Bill Anderson, chief economist for Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

“While initial claims were down from April’s total in May, the decline was much smaller than the 10-percent average drop seen over the last 20 years,” Anderson said. “This, along with the relative stability seen thus far in 2016, may indicate that initial claims levels are beginning to settle after a fairly long period of general decline. Through the first five months of 2016, initial claims averaged 11,517, virtually the same level Nevada saw in 2005.”

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 10,650 in May 2016.

Initial Claims Activity



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