

DIRECTOR  
Terry Johnson



GOVERNOR  
Jim Gibbons

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release  
May 18, 2007

Contact: Mae Flennoy  
Public Information Officer  
Phone: 702.486.7991

### **Nevada's Unemployment Rate Up Slightly in April to 4.4 Percent**

Nevada's unemployment rate inched up for the month of April to 4.4 percent, according to the monthly report released by the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) Friday.

That's a small increase from March's 4.3 percent, and still below the national average of 4.5 percent, said Terry Johnson, DETR director.

Nevada's three metropolitan areas saw similar modest adjustments. Las Vegas saw a slight increase, from 4.2 percent in March to 4.3 percent in April. Conversely, Reno/Sparks dipped from 4.4 percent in March to 4.3 percent in April. Carson City's unemployment rate also registered a decrease from 5.2 percent in March to 5.1 percent in April, but remained above the national average.

Compared to April 2006's job growth of 4.8 percent, April 2007's job growth rate saw a significant drop to 2.7 percent, the weakest employment growth rate reported since May 2003.

"Current trends are certainly pointing to a softening of the economy," Johnson said. "Nevada has seen exceptional job growth and low unemployment rates, so it is expected that our economic momentum would slow a bit. Nevada's job growth continues to surpass most other regions. The economy is still expanding, allowing jobless individuals to quickly find gainful employment, while also absorbing the thousands of newcomers to the Silver State."

National trends, like gas prices hitting an all-time high, may be contributing to Nevada's economic slow-down as well, Johnson said. Additionally, the housing slump continues to play a major role, leaving a large number of construction workers unemployed.

“While the construction industry makes up 11 percent of Nevada’s workforce, it accounts for 25 percent of unemployment claims file through DETR,” Johnson said. “There is clearly a disproportionate number of workers in the construction sector becoming unemployed. It seems that the housing slump is signaling less of a need for workers in this industry. However, we must not ignore the tremendous amount of commercial building underway, which may provide jobs to some of these displaced workers.”



*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 connect businesses and workers.*