



Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
DIRECTOR'S OFFICE
www.NVDETR.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Las Vegas, NV — For the second consecutive month, Nevada's unemployment rate crept up, hitting 4.5 percent in July, the highest since August 2004, according to statistics released Friday by the Nevada Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). The report shows an increase in unemployment across the state for the month of July, with a national rate of 4.8 percent. In June, the unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in Nevada and 4.6 percent nationwide.

An indicator affecting the unemployment rate is the loss of government jobs during the summer. Summer data is distorted by the school calendar, with high school and college graduates and school employees hitting the summer job market, just as they did in June, DETR Director Terry Johnson said. The full impact of a slowdown will not be apparent until the fall when these groups return to or begin work.

"While there's no reason to be alarmed, we'll be watching the numbers closely in the coming months," Johnson said. "We have been fortunate with our remarkable growth and unparalleled unemployment rate. It only stands to reason that we would eventually experience some stabilization in the economy."

Governor Kenny Guinn said he does not find this news distressing because all economic indicators still point to an overall robust economy statewide.

The economic growth in Nevada is maintaining its strong momentum, just at a slower pace than what we've become accustomed to over the last few years," Gov. Guinn said. "While Nevada may be experiencing a slowdown this summer, we have billions of dollars of new investments planned that will create new employment opportunities, including power plants in White Pine County, expanded mining operations in several rural counties, and hotel and condo projects in Las Vegas and Reno."

Gaming revenues were a record \$12.2 billion in Nevada for the fiscal year that ended in June and taxable sales will set a new record when the fiscal year data is finalized, Johnson said. Home sales were at record levels and are still operating at historically high levels, despite the recent slowdown.

"What we are witnessing is an economy that is more close to ordinary than the extraordinary recent turn of events that placed Nevada in the national spotlight," he said. "You can't just look at the unemployment rate, you have to take all factors into consideration, and when you do that you see that the economic outlook for Nevada remains excellent."

Even though the unemployment rate rose slightly, DETR has not experienced a significant increase in the number of people filing unemployment claims, said Employment Security Division Administrator Cindy Jones.

“Not only is it the division's mission to serve workers seeking unemployment insurance benefits, but also to assist them in returning to work. Nevada JobConnect offices throughout the state offer workers — free of charge — a variety of employment, training and job placement services and assist businesses in meeting their recruitment and workforce development needs. For more information visit www.nvdetr.org or www.nevadajobconnect.com.

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The unemployment and labor force figures are based on a survey of households in Nevada to measure the employment status of the state’s citizens. The industrial employment figures in the attached data pages are calculated from a survey of businesses to measure the number of jobs in the state.

Data provided by: Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation



...DETR, a proud member of the Nevada JobConnect system