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## **DETR Forecasts Strong Job Market for 2007**

The Nevada Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation (DETR) labor economists are predicting the New Year will bring new opportunities for the state's job market and infuse job seekers and business owners with renewed energy as well.

DETR is forecasting a 5 percent job growth for Nevada in 2007, slightly lower than 2006's labor market growth of 5.3 percent, which equated to about 60,000 new jobs being added to the labor economy. Between 60,000 and 65,000 new jobs are expected to be added by industries in 2007, Johnson said.

"In analyzing last year's figures, we can surmise that 2007 will be another strong year for Nevada's job market," said Terry Johnson, DETR director. "Businesses are adding jobs at a staggering rate, offering many opportunities for job seekers looking to improve their job situation or change careers altogether."

In 2007, certain careers will be in high demand in all skill levels. For high skills occupations, the demand will be for elementary school teachers, general managers/operations managers, and accountants. For moderate skills occupations, the demand will be for gaming dealers, carpenters, and registered nurses. Nevada's leading occupations for basic skill requirements include waiters, cashiers and retail salespersons.

Looking at the market by industry, leisure and hospitality, construction, and professional services are expected to see the greatest amount of growth. Leisure and hospitality is forecasted to add about 17,000 new jobs. Typical jobs of these industries include housekeepers, gaming dealers, and waiters.

The construction industry is expected to add about 10,000 new jobs, which include positions like heavy equipment operators, carpenters, electricians and other craftsmen.

“Nevada’s job growth has been running three to four times the national average in the past several years,” Johnson said. “We expect the state to remain among the nation’s leaders in job creation. Last year we heard a lot about what’s on the horizon. In 2007, we’ll actually see some of those endeavors come to fruition.”

Industries like hospitality and construction get a lot of attention in Nevada, but there are many other industries with strong growth potential, Johnson said. A major and very broad industry category is professional business services. That category includes any type of service sought by other businesses, such as architecture, accounting, engineering, legal services and more. That industry is expected to see an increase of about 10,000 jobs, equal to construction growth.

“Job seekers who are hoping to break into other industries can go into 2007 with a great deal of optimism, because the opportunities will be there,” Johnson said. “To prepare for the opportunities ahead, I encourage workers and businesses to take advantage of services provided by Nevada JobConnect. These include skills assessment and training, job placement, vocational rehabilitation and more. Nevada JobConnect can help job seekers explore new career avenues and help employers find much-needed help during this time of tremendous growth.”

More information is available at [www.NevadaJobConnect.com](http://www.NevadaJobConnect.com).

Additionally, Johnson said, there’s good news for the rural areas of Nevada in 2007. Areas such as White Pine County will see major construction projects with the development of two power plants. This is predicted to require thousands of construction workers over the next few years.

The mining industry is also forecasting continued success, as Nevada continues to be one of the world’s top miners of gold. Gold is currently trading at \$625 per ounce, whereas five years ago, it was trading at about \$300 per ounce. Mining is important for Nevada’s rural areas, as it is a high-paying industry.

There are still questions about how the housing market will perform, but with all the commercial construction planned, there’s no major threat to the Nevada job market.

Las Vegas will add several thousand hotel rooms in 2007 led by The Venetian, which is building a new hotel adjacent to its existing facilities.

Meanwhile, the most expensive construction project in the state’s history will continue in 2007, with completion expected in 2009. MGM Mirage’s \$7 billion Project City Center is underway on the Las Vegas Strip. According to MGM Mirage reports, plans call for seven high-rise towers that will provide 7,800 hotel and condominium units and considerable retail and entertainment space. An estimated 7,200 workers will be on site at the peak of construction, and the project is expected to provide about 12,000 permanent jobs.

Additionally, a renewed interest in the Reno-Sparks area will contribute to job growth. This can be attributed to the revitalization of Reno's downtown area, spearheaded by several new condominium projects, and Station Casinos plans to enter the Reno market.

"Overall 2007 is expected to be a good year for Nevada's workforce," Johnson said. "The people of Nevada should be very optimistic."



*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.*