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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Unemployment Claims Continue to Decline in July**

After a significant decline in June, 17,764 initial claims for unemployment insurance were filed in July, a 4.95 percent decrease when compared to July 2012, and the eighth straight month that initial claims have been lower than in the prior year.

From March through June, the average decline in claims compared to the same months in 2012 has been 5.45 percent so July's decline is in line with recent trends, and continues to suggest that the number of job losses in the state is slowly declining. At the same time, the share of unemployment benefit recipients who exhaust their regular benefits also continues to improve, falling from 53 percent in July 2012 to 47 percent in July 2013.

"These figures suggest that it is becoming easier for the unemployed to return to work," said Bill Anderson, chief economist for Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR). Together, these figures indicate a labor market that continues a slow but steady recovery."

While these statistics are positive, the overall level of initial claims still remains higher than prior to the recession. From 2003 through 2007, initial claims averaged less than 13,000 per month while over the last 12 months claims are averaging 17,500 per month. This pattern is very similar to the overall level of unemployment in the state, which sharply increased during the recession and has only slowly been falling over the years since.

Initial claims peaked during the recession at 36,414 in December 2008, and since then, the low point for initial claims was 13,932 in September 2012. Initial claims typically peak each year in December and January, with seasonal low points around June and September of each year.

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**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 provide training and job placement services to job seekers and to assist employers in hiring practices.**