

DIRECTOR  
Larry J. Mosley



GOVERNOR  
Jim Gibbons

## OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release  
October 19, 2007

Contact: Mae Flennoy  
Public Information Officer  
Phone: 702.486.7991  
Cell: 702.249.6324

### **Nevada's Unemployment Rate Hits 5.1 Percent in September**

Nevada's unemployment numbers continue to creep up with September's rate at 5.1 percent. Nevada's rate remains above the national average, which was 4.7 percent for September. Nevada's unemployment has not been this high since October 2003.

"On the surface Nevada's September labor market data painted a somewhat mixed picture, but a continuation of recent trends was evident," said Bill Anderson, chief economist for the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation. "The state added jobs at a modest pace, while unemployment rates remained on a slow upward climb."

The rise in the unemployment rate continues to be the result of the nationwide housing slump. Additionally, a large increase in the state's labor force contributed to a rise in unemployment in September.

"The labor force grew by more than 17,000 in September, and again the state's slowing economy could not absorb all of the new workers," Anderson said. "The statewide seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased by one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.1 percent. The unemployment rates in the state's three metropolitan areas each increased by two-tenths of a percentage point to 5.2 percent in Clark County, 4.6 percent in the Reno area, and 5.3 percent in Carson City."

With schools back in session, the Nevada economy added 9,000 jobs in September, but the nominal job gains masked weakness in two of the state's key industries. Government employment increased by 9,700 over the month, and most of those jobs were in local school districts, Anderson said. However, the construction and gaming sectors each dropped 1,200 jobs in September, and those two industries have lost a combined 7,700 workers since September 2006.

DETR Director Larry Mosley said while the rising unemployment rate is reason for concern, there is still positive activity taking place in the economy.

“Despite weakness in two major industries and the loss of a net 700 jobs in September, Nevada’s private sector as a whole has added more than 11,000 jobs in the past year,” Mosley said. “While the pace of job creation is well below recent norms, the private sector—excluding the gaming and construction industries—has produced jobs at a respectable 2.5 percent annual rate in the past 12 months. That rate compares favorably to the state’s overall 1.3 percent job growth during the same period.”



*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.*