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**DETR's RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS BUREAU**  
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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Unemployment in Nevada Falls to 11.6 Percent in May**

Nevada's unemployment rate fell to 11.6 percent in May, the lowest it has been in three years. The decline marks the ninth consecutive month that the rate has shown improvement, said Chief Economist Bill Anderson with Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR).

Governor Brian Sandoval acknowledged that Nevada's unemployment rate remains significantly high, with 158,300 Nevadans who are currently unemployed, but said he is optimistic about improvement in the job market.

"I am encouraged by this month's jobs report," Governor Brian Sandoval said. "With another month of positive news, we are beginning to see several sectors of our economy grow. While these are strong signs, we must continue to help our economy strengthen by cultivating new businesses and expanding those already here."

While not directly comparable to the state's seasonally adjusted figure, the unemployment rate in each of the state's three metropolitan areas held relatively steady, in May, Anderson said. Las Vegas has the highest jobless rate amongst the state's three population centers, at 11.8 percent, with Carson City's rate slightly lower at 11.7 and Reno at 11.5 percent. Seven counties, all of them rural, have single-digit unemployment rates on a year-to-date basis, with the lowest rates in Lander, Eureka, and Esmeralda. Lyon (16.3 percent so far this year) and Nye (14.9 percent) have the highest jobless rates.

"Nevada is experiencing some welcomed improvement in the jobless outlook, but it's important to note that the decline is partly due to the diminishing labor force," Anderson said. "Fewer people are looking for work as they continue to find it difficult to obtain employment in the current market. Nevertheless, trends do indicate that Nevada's labor market is slowly rebounding."

Statewide April job estimates have been revised upward by 700, and a seasonally adjusted 5,900 jobs were added to payrolls in May, the second-strongest month-to-month gain this year. At a seasonally adjusted 1.14 million, job readings stand at their second-highest level in nearly three years and are up 12,700 from a year ago, Anderson said.

Nearly all industries in Nevada reported positive results in May, but year-to-date results helps to shed light on underlying trends, Anderson said. Through the first five months of 2012, nonfarm job levels in Nevada stand 9,000 higher than a year ago. As for some of the state's major industries, leisure/hospitality has added 10,000 payroll jobs so far this year. Recent trends in the trade/transportation/utilities industries have been fairly strong, leaving job levels in the first five months of the year up by 2,300 compared to 2011. Professional/business services establishments have added 1,800 jobs over the same period. Mining-related jobs have averaged 15,500 so far this year, up by 2,300 (or 17.4 percent) from 2011. Strong underlying fundamentals in this industry have certainly contributed to the relatively low unemployment rates in several of the State's rural counties.

DETR Director Frank R. Woodbeck said that with the unemployment rate improving, the agency will continue to support Governor Sandoval's efforts to attract new businesses and build a workforce to support the state's improving economy.

"We are working diligently to further develop Nevada's workforce system through strengthened partnerships with the business community and greater alignment with higher education, Woodbeck said. "We are exploring every opportunity to continue preparing individuals for careers that will be in higher demand as employers gain confidence to add more jobs and see the benefits of locating operations in Nevada."

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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.