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### **Unemployment Insurance Initial Claims Decline Slightly in April**

CARSON CITY, NV —In April, 10,842 initial claims for unemployment insurance were filed in Nevada, a slight decline from March's total. This April's total is the fewest seen in the month since 2006, said Bill Anderson, chief economist for Nevada's Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

“The general trend in claims, best represented by the 12-month average, continues to decline, falling to 12,117,” Anderson said. “Over the next several months, initial claims levels are likely to remain mostly stable with some seasonal increases in June and July. Comparing 2016 initial claims year-to-date totals to years' past provides some perspective to the significant swings in Nevada's unemployment insurance activity.”

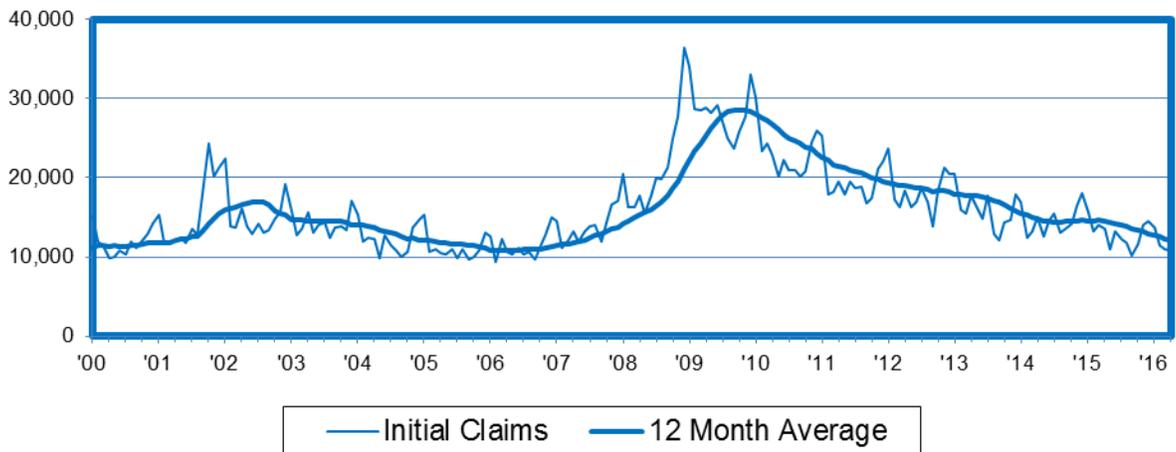
The state's worst year for claims, 2009, saw 120,000 initial claims in the first four months of the year. Thus far, 2016 has seen fewer than 47,000 initial claims, just 39 percent of 2009's total. Additionally, for the first time since 2006, there were fewer than 50,000 initial claims in the first four months of a year.

“Other areas of unemployment insurance activity are showing small, but consistent improvement,” Anderson said. “Fewer claimants, fewer benefits exhaustions, and shorter benefit durations have resulted in a drop in the amount of benefits paid each month. This decline in benefits has led to improvement in the Nevada Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, which still needs approximately \$500 million more than its current balance in order to weather an economic downturn.”

An initial claim represents the first stage of filing for unemployment benefits and is therefore most closely related to the number of people who have recently lost their jobs, not the overall level of unemployment. Initial claims tend to increase on a seasonal basis during the fall and winter months, and then fall during the spring and summer. Initial claims peaked during the recession at 36,414 in December 2008, and the low point for initial

claims was 10,842 in April 2016.

### Initial Claims Activity



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