

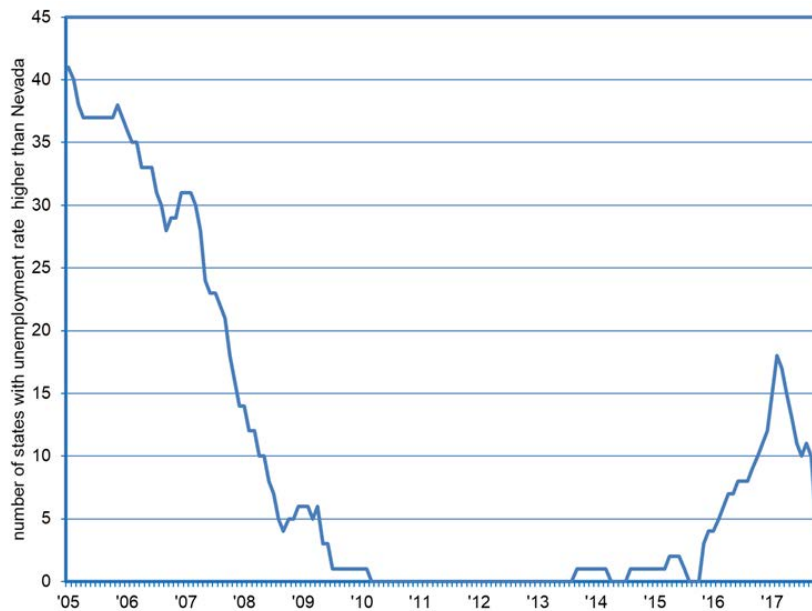
Research Notes



Unemployment Rate Ranking
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Note: 2018:07
January 10, 2018

During the Recession, Nevada Had the Highest Unemployment Rate in the Nation; As of November 2017, Five States Have a Higher Unemployment Rate than the Silver State



- Information from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Program allows us to assess Nevada's unemployment rate relative to that for other states.
- Prior to the recession, Nevada's unemployment rate dipped just below four percent. In January 2005, 40 states, plus the District of Columbia, had higher jobless rates than the Silver State.
- As the recession unfolded, Nevada's unemployment rate increased non-stop to a peak of 13.7 percent. Over the course of the 2010-2013 period, the Silver State's jobless rate was the highest in the nation.
- Since that time, the situation has improved, reflecting a strengthening labor market in the State, although we have given back some ground of late. In early-2017, Nevada's unemployment rate was exceeded by 18 other states. With an unemployment rate of five percent in November 2017, Nevada had the sixth-highest unemployment rate in the nation. Four states (plus Washington, DC) had higher unemployment rates.
- Some of the deterioration of late is surely due to rapid growth in the labor force, which, although a positive sign, limits downward pressure on the unemployment rate. Improving labor market conditions are attracting job-seekers into the labor force in search of work.