

RESEARCH NOTES



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Unemployment Rate Ranking
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During the Recession, Nevada Had the Highest Unemployment Rate in the Nation; As of May 2017, 13 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 an improving labor market in the State. With an unemployment rate of 4.7 percent in May 2017, Nevada has the 14th highest unemployment rate in the nation. 13 states have higher unemployment rates.
- Taken as a whole, these trends are very consistent with other barometers of the labor market's health in Nevada. The State was hit extremely hard by the recession. The ensuing recovery has been quite robust, and Nevada has made up considerable ground, both in absolute terms and relative to other states.