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**PRESS RELEASE**



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**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS PRESS RELEASE**

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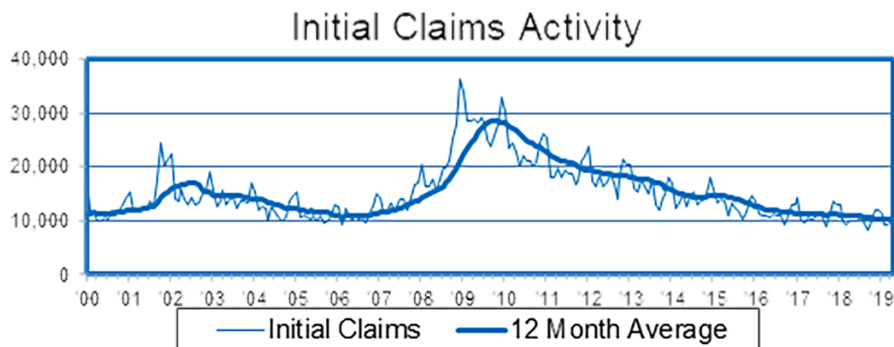
**Uptick in initial claims for unemployment insurance noted for second consecutive month**

CARSON CITY, NV - April initial claims for unemployment insurance (UI) benefits are up on a year-over-year basis for the second consecutive month. The last time that two consecutive annual increases were recorded was during the fourth quarter of 2017. This is according to the latest initial claims data from the Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation.

April Claims Highlights:

- Initial claims totaled nearly 10,100 in April, up almost 700 claims, or 7.4 percent compared to March.
- Initial claims increased one percent year-over-year, or 100 claims.
- The relative trend, expressed in the 12-month moving average of the series, held relatively steady with a reading of 10,180 this month.
- Average unemployment duration fell by two tenths of a week over the year, at 13.2 weeks.
- The exhaustion rate (the number of people who have used up their UI benefits) stands at 32.7 percent, 2.2 percentage points lower than last April.

“It is worth noting that the increases recorded this month (one percent) and last month (0.5 percent) are both much lower than those annual increases experienced in October 2017 (3.8 percent) and November 2017 (5.1 percent). Also, these increases are coming after a very large decline in claims activity in January, when year-over-year claims were down nearly twelve percent. As such, this may just be a correction that is balancing this activity over the past 4 months,” said Jeremy Hays, Economist at the Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation.



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