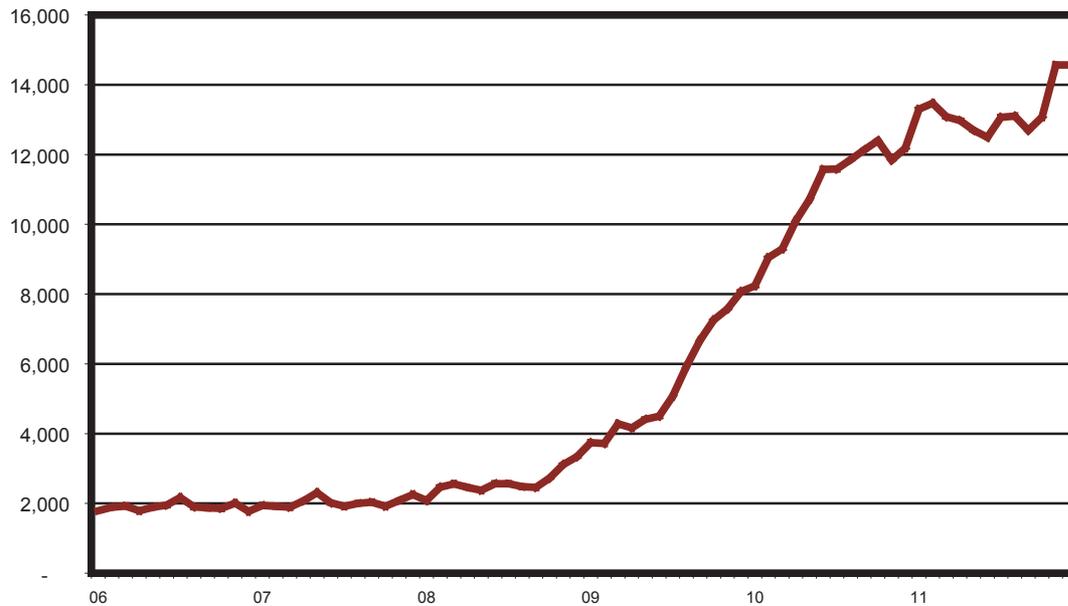




## Discouraged Workers

January 24, 2012; Leandra Copeland, Economist

### 12 Month Moving Average Jan-2006 to Dec-2011



- A review of recent trends in discouraged worker estimates from the Current Population Survey illuminate the conundrum of falling unemployment rates in a stagnant job market. Once a person becomes discouraged, they no longer look for work; therefore, they are no longer counted as unemployed under the BLS definition.
- The unemployment rate has been falling in part because more and more people have become discouraged. Based on a 12 month moving average, there are over 14,500 Nevadans who would rather not look for work because they think no jobs are available for them.
- After rising significantly over the 2008-2010 period, more recent trends suggest that the number of discouraged workers is leveling off, but it is still considerably higher than the pre-recession period when, on average, there were about 2,000 discouraged workers per month.