

RESEARCH NOTES



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Part-Time Workers for Economic Reasons
Jolie Daugherty, Economist

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Part-Time Workers for Economic Reasons Peaked at 105,400 in 2011; Now at 75,800

(Current Population Survey, 12-month moving average)



- The Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) estimate of the number of part-time workers for economic reasons is designed to capture those individuals who are working less than full time (1- 34 hours in a week) for reasons such as unfavorable business conditions, seasonal declines in demand, or an inability to find full time work. The number of part-time workers for economic reasons is a measure of labor underutilization.
- Information from the Current Population Survey (CPS) suggests that before the recession part-time workers for economic reasons in Nevada averaged about 28,100 per month.
- By mid-2011, the number of part-time workers for economic reasons hit a peak, totaling nearly 105,400 Nevadans, as the recession took hold on the Silver State. Since that time the State has seen a decline in the number these workers.
- Over the past 12 months, part-time workers for economic reasons have averaged about 75,800. This represents a decline of nearly 30 percent from the peak. Part-time workers for economic reasons have declined 16.3 percent, down 14,800 persons, from the same period last year.
- While not part of the official unemployment rate estimate, the BLS captures part-time workers for economic reasons in its Alternative Measures of Labor Underutilization. Specifically, adding these workers into the equation adds about 5.6 percentage points to the official rate. (In technical terms, as we move from the U-3 Alternative Measure to U-6.)