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Experts Eye Fewer Jobless Claims with Nervous Anticipation

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National ongoing jobless claims dropped for the first time since January. Nationwide, 15,000 fewer people are filing unemployment claims, but no one is popping out the Champagne yet.

When business at Millennium Staffing Services picks up, everyone needs to take notice. Sure, more people have been filling out applications, but over the past six weeks, more of those applications have been accepted by employers.

Company president Donna Lattanzio says she started to place more temps with convention related companies, project support employees, and general laborers. "They cut their staff so drastically that the time came that you cannot expect 30-percent of the workforce to do 100-percent of the work," she said.

Lattanzio says it's too early to toast the end of job losses in Las Vegas. "I would be very hard pressed to say that we are at the bottom of the well. I don't think we are out of the woods yet. I don't think we will be out of the woods until sometimes next year," she said.

Still, Lattanzio's partner Jennifer DeHaven says the last six weeks of hiring's cannot be ignored. "Companies start to hire in temporaries before they bring in full time employees," she said.

Economist John Restrepo says the spike could just be for summer jobs. He believes it will be late 2010 before we see full time job hires increase month after month. "Because of the depth of the downturn relative to the other parts of the country, we are probably going to come out of this later. We are going to see job growth at a slower pace," he said.

Millennium Staffing Services has placed more workers over the past two months than in the first three months of the year.

It's still far less than two years ago. In 2007, Millennium found 8,000 people jobs in Las Vegas. Last year that number dropped to 5,000. This year is expected to be less, but the last six weeks have been encouraging.



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