

Workforce Review

A monthly review of labor market information for Northern Santa Clara County

March 2013

Did you know?

U.S. Job Openings Rose in February to Almost Five-Year High but Hiring Stays Sluggish

U.S. employers advertised the most job openings in nearly five years in February, but they boosted hiring at a much slower pace. The figures suggest that companies remain too cautious about the economy to quickly fill open jobs.

The number of openings rose 8.7 percent in February from January to a seasonally adjusted 3.93 million, the Labor Department said Tuesday. That was the most since May 2008.

At the same time, companies hired a seasonally adjusted 4.4 million people, just 2.8 percent more than in January. And hiring remains lower than it was a year ago, when it reached 4.49 million.

Economists point to several likely reasons for the disparity between a surge in job openings but only a modest rise in hiring. Many unemployed workers may lack the skills employers want. Some companies may not be offering enough pay.

And recruiting and staffing firms say some employers seem reluctant to fill jobs until they find what they regard as perfect candidates.

U.S. hiring slowed sharply in March, despite the increase in job openings the previous month. Employers added only 88,000 jobs last month, the government reported Friday. That was the fewest in nine months and nearly half the pace of the previous six months.

Some companies may also have slowed hiring after steep government spending cuts began taking effect March 1. Those cuts are expected to shave about a half-point from economic growth this year.

There were 3.1 unemployed people, on average, for each opening in February. That exceeds the roughly 2-to-1 ratio typical of a healthy economy. But it's down sharply from a peak of 6.7 in July 2009, the highest in the 12 years the government has tracked the data.

Still, until employers start filling jobs more quickly, the ratio of unemployed people to openings may overstate the health of the job market.

Source: Moneynews (04/09/13)
<http://bit.ly/12HZ9E5>

Labor Force Statistics (San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara MSA)

Unemployment Rate	March 2012	February 2013	March 2013	Percentage Point Change	
				Monthly	Annual
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	9.1%	7.6%	7.3%	- 0.3	- 1.8
California	11.1%	9.7%	9.4%	- 0.3	- 1.7
United States	8.4%	8.1%	7.6%	- 0.5	- 0.8

Labor Force	March 2012	February 2013	March 2013	Percentage Change	
				Monthly	Annual
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	937,500	954,200	951,800	- 0.3%	+ 1.5%
Civilian Employed	852,500	881,600	882,100	+ 0.1%	+ 3.5%
Civilian Unemployed	85,000	72,600	69,800	- 3.9%	- 17.9%

Industry Statistics (San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara MSA)

Change in Employment	March 2012	February 2013	March 2013	Percentage Change	
				Monthly	Annual
Total Nonfarm	893,800	917,600	922,700	+ 0.6%	+ 3.2%
Construction	32,400	35,500	36,400	+ 2.5%	+ 12.3%
Mfg: Computer, et al	36,100	38,900	39,000	+ 0.3%	+ 8.0%
Transportation & Warehousing	10,700	11,500	11,600	+ 0.9%	+ 8.4%
Publishing: Newspaper, et al	1,300	1,200	1,200	0.0%	- 7.7%
State Government	6,600	6,100	6,400	+ 4.9%	- 3.0%

NOTE: San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) = Santa Clara and San Benito Counties

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Labor Force by County (Nine-county San Francisco Bay Area)

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate		
	March 2012	March 2013	Annual Change (%)	March 2012	March 2013	Annual Change (%)	March 2012	March 2013	Annual Change (%age point)
California	18,473,100	18,557,700	+ 0.5%	2,045,400	1,740,500	- 14.9%	11.1%	9.4%	-1.7
Alameda County	773,900	779,100	+ 0.7%	72,700	60,200	- 17.2%	9.4%	7.7%	-1.7
Contra Costa County	535,500	538,700	+ 0.6%	51,200	42,100	- 17.8%	9.6%	7.8%	-1.8
Marin County	139,500	141,600	+ 1.5%	9,500	7,400	- 22.1%	6.8%	5.2%	-1.6
Napa County	76,800	77,900	+ 1.4%	6,700	5,300	- 20.9%	8.7%	6.7%	-2.0
San Francisco County	474,900	480,900	+ 1.3%	36,900	28,900	- 21.7%	7.8%	6.0%	-1.8
San Mateo County	391,900	398,100	+ 1.6%	28,100	22,600	- 19.6%	7.2%	5.7%	-1.5
Solano County	216,700	218,400	+ 0.8%	23,600	19,400	- 17.8%	10.9%	8.9%	-2.0
Sonoma County	253,900	257,700	+ 1.5%	23,900	18,900	- 20.9%	9.4%	7.3%	-2.1
Santa Clara County	909,900	924,300	+ 1.6%	80,200	65,900	- 17.8%	8.8%	7.1%	-1.7

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity: Month

Company	WARN *	City	Affected	Cause	Layoff Summary	
Abbott Laboratories	Yes	Santa Clara	76	RIF	Individuals Affected YTD †:	1,978
Beacon Lighting	No	Sunnyvale	10	Closure	Events Current YTD †:	47
HP	Yes	Palo Alto	102	RIF	Events Previous YTD †:	69
188						

* **WARN: Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification** (notice of mass layoff or closure)
 † **YTD: Year to Date** (Program year: July 1–June 30)

NOTE: Layoff data are reported by NOVA staff responding to layoff events and should be considered only an estimate of regional activity

Source: NOVA's internal Rapid Response database