

Workforce Review

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

April 2014

Did you know?

California unemployment rate falls below 8% for first time since 2008

California employers added a net 56,100 jobs in April, helping push the unemployment rate below 8% for the first time in nearly six years, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday. The state's jobless rate fell from 8.1% in March to 7.8% last month. The last time the unemployment rate was below 8% was in September 2008, when it stood at 7.9%.

"It's a huge sign of progress," said Jordan Levine, an economist at consulting firm Beacon Economics. "That suggests we'll be back at pre-recession peaks in the next few months."

Friday's report showed that California now is just 25,200 jobs shy of its previous employment peak, set in July 2007 when the unemployment rate was a healthy 5.4%. California's population and labor force have grown since then time, accounting for the higher unemployment rate, economists said. Since July 2007, the labor force has grown by more than 760,000 people.

"There are still ongoing challenges, and that doesn't mean that everyone that was displaced will return to work The good news is that things are moving forward and it's a relatively broad-based recovery across sectors and geography."

April's surge in payroll employment occurred in at least six sectors, with education and health services posting the largest gain. The sector expanded by 19,400 jobs in April. Leisure and hospitality, which has rebounded strongly since the depths of the recession, posted the next highest gain of 13,400 jobs.

The professional and business services sector, which includes high-paying jobs such as accountants and lawyers, continued its strong growth, adding 11,900 jobs. The housing recovery also helped boost hiring in construction, which added 7,100 jobs last month.

Manufacturing was flat from March to April. The government sector posted a net decline of 1,600 jobs.

(Complete article available via link)

Source: LA Times (05/16/14)

<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-california-april-jobs-56100-20140516-story.html>

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

Unemployment Rate	April 2013	March 2014	April 2014	Percentage Point Change	
				Monthly	Annual
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	6.8%	6.3%	5.4%	- 0.9	- 1.4
California	8.7%	8.4%	7.3%	- 1.1	- 1.4
United States	7.1%	6.8%	5.9%	- 0.9	- 1.2

Labor Force	April 2013	March 2014	April 2014	Percentage Change	
				Monthly	Annual
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	943,600	964,800	953,400	- 1.2%	+ 1.0%
Civilian Employed	879,300	903,800	901,400	- 0.3%	+ 2.5%
Civilian Unemployed	64,300	61,000	51,900	-14.9%	-19.3%

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

Change in Employment	April 2013	March 2014	April 2014	Percentage Change	
				Monthly	Annual
Total Nonfarm	953,100	986,300	991,300	+ 0.5%	+ 4.0%
Mfg: Aerospace Products	6,800	6,400	6,300	- 1.6%	- 7.4%
Retail: Electronics Stores	4,900	4,700	4,600	- 2.1%	- 6.1%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	12,900	13,100	13,400	+ 2.3%	+ 3.9%
Social Assistance	31,100	33,700	34,500	+ 2.4%	+ 10.9%
Government: State	6,400	6,400	6,600	+ 3.1%	+ 3.1%

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 Metropolitan Statistical Area (U.S. high-tech regions)

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Unemployment Rate		
	April 2013	April 2014	Annual Change	April 2013	April 2014	Annual Change	April 2013	April 2014	Annual Change
United States	154,739,000	154,845,000	+ 0.1%	11,014,000	9,079,000	- 17.6%	7.1%	5.9%	- 1.2
California	18,520,100	18,497,800	- 0.1%	1,610,100	1,358,000	- 15.7%	8.7%	7.3%	- 1.4
Austin, TX	1,001,552	1,017,601	+ 1.6%	49,742	38,929	- 21.7%	5.0%	3.8%	- 1.2
Boston, MA	2,541,728	2,552,875	+ 0.4%	150,289	128,488	- 14.5%	5.9%	5.0%	- 0.9
Portland, OR	1,167,539	1,172,403	+ 0.4%	84,327	71,828	- 14.8%	7.2%	6.1%	- 1.1
San Diego	1,586,700	1,582,800	- 0.2%	114,400	95,300	- 16.7%	7.2%	6.0%	- 1.2
San Francisco	1,027,400	1,034,000	+ 0.6%	53,900	44,300	- 17.8%	5.2%	4.3%	- 0.9
Seattle, WA	1,513,850	1,562,360	+ 3.2%	73,740	69,310	- 6.0%	4.8%	4.4%	- 0.4
San José–Sunnyvale	943,600	953,400	+ 1.0%	64,300	51,900	- 19.3%	6.8%	5.4%	- 1.4

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity: April 2014

Company	WARN *	City	Affected	Cause	Layoff Summary	
Hewlett-Packard	Y	Palo Alto	77	RIF	Individuals Affected YTD †:	2,470
Lifescan	N	Milpitas	4	RIF	Events Current YTD †:	72
MEE Direct	Y	Milpitas	13	-	Events Previous YTD †:	54
Company confidential	Y	Mountain View	48	Closure		
			142			

* **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