



THE LATEST ECONOMIC 411

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Labor Market Report for June 2020

The California Labor Market Information Division released its June 2020 report earlier today, showing 9,200 jobs recovered, mostly by attracting workers back into the labor force, less so by reducing the number of unemployed. **The County's unemployment rate improved marginally, from 13.7% in May to 12.6% in June, though 52,000 remain unemployed.** That's an improvement over the 55,400 unemployed a month ago, but for context, consider that one year ago the number was 15,200.

The June data—particularly in job recovery, addressed in more detail below—reveals a bit of progress, though as stated last month, the recovery remains a long way off. Considering our local, state and national trajectory of health outcomes, we don't anticipate seeing significant improvement in the economy and labor market until into 2021. For the June data, go to [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/vent\\$pds.pdf](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/vent$pds.pdf).

Industry Data: While industry and employment data are calculated by completely separate systems, a close look at the industry data tells us a lot about the impacts of COVID-19.

- Ventura County is down 36,600 jobs year-over-year, even after gaining back 9,200 jobs in June. Those gains occurred primarily in the industry sectors that were hardest hit by COVID-19.
- Trade, Transportation & Utilities gained back 2,000 jobs in June, though is still down year-over-year by 7,900.
- Professional & Business Services gained back 700 jobs in June, though is down by 2,000 year-over-year.
- Private Education & Health Services gained back 1,300 jobs, but still down by 1,800.
- Leisure & Hospitality gained back a whopping 6,100 jobs, but is still down by 8,900.
- Other Services—a relatively small sector, with a total of 7,200 jobs—gained back 500 jobs but remains down by 2,100. And given the recent re-closure of several business types in this sector, we can assume these gains will be lost at least for a while going forward.
- Two major sectors also lost more jobs in June:
 - Farm dropped 700 jobs, now down year-over-year by 4,800;
 - Government dropped 800 jobs, down year-over-year by 6,200.

The gains notwithstanding, our lower wage jobs remain our most

vulnerable. National data shows that workers of color are more than three times as likely than white workers to be unemployed owing to COVID-19.

Unemployment Rate in the Statewide Context: As noted last month, this feature of our monthly report has become less of a useful indicator of our economic condition during the pandemic era. The list of top-performing counties has long been dominated by the Bay Area. Under COVID-19, they've mostly been replaced in the top seeding by smaller, more isolated counties, that typically ran at best in the middle of the pack and usually even further back from the lead. The result of that is to push Ventura County deeper toward the middle of the 58 counties. That noted, our regional comparatives remain useful.

- Looking at the total 58 counties in California, at 12.6% unemployment we currently rank 23rd, down from 21st in May.
- Ventura County's 12.6% places us ahead of California's unadjusted rate of 15.1% though now behind the national unadjusted rate of 11.2%.
- Looking regionally, Santa Barbara County is in 15th at 11.6%, San Luis Obispo is 12th at 11.5%, Los Angeles—still California's hardest hit county by COVID-19—is in the 53rd slot and at 19.5%, and Kern is 53rd at 17.5%.
- For the unusual, tiny in number Lassen County (a labor force of only 8,700 in total) remains in first at 9.5%.
- Like last month, only three Bay Area counties are in the top ten, compared to the usual seven counties, with Marin tied for 3rd at 10.0%, Santa Clara in 6th at 10.7% and San Mateo in 7th at 10.8%.
- Further in the shake-up, Trinity and Modoc follow Lassen for 2nd and 3rd, at 9.8% and 10.0%, respectively. Yolo is 5th followed by Inyo in 8th, Calaveras in 9th and Sierra 10th. Several of these counties don't reach 10,000 workers in their labor forces.

Unemployment rates by county are variously displayed in the state's mapping tool at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/lf_geomaps_color.pdf.

For the table display on June unemployment rates, go to www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/2006pcou.pdf.

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