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Labor Market Report for July 2021

The California Labor Market Information Division (LMID) released its July 2021 report earlier today, showing just about no meaningful change for Ventura County since the prior month. The County unemployment rate dropped just a bit, from 6.5% in June to 6.4% in July, mirroring a similar drop for California as a whole, which dropped from 8.0% to 7.9%. While Ventura County is well ahead of the statewide average, we trail the nation by a considerable margin, which dropped from 6.1% in June to 5.7% in July. Given the resurgence of COVID over the last month or two in California, we hadn't really expected to see much of an improvement in July's data, and that's what we got. For the detail go [here](#).

Industry Employment: While the overall unemployment rate changed little in Ventura County in July, there were several ups and downs in the industry data, some of it, as noted below a bit surprising:

- On total, Ventura County dropped a whopping 5,000 payroll jobs in July, putting us at 319,500. By comparison, in the months prior to the pandemic, we were at around 338,000, meaning we've got to gain still at least another 18,000 jobs for recovery. One way to think about "recovery" is we haven't yet gained back even half of the jobs lost to COVID-19.
- Farm dropped 3,500 jobs in July, though given the seasonal volatility of this sector that's not entirely alarming, though still, that puts us only even with one year ago and down 1,400 from pre-pandemic levels.
- Construction actually had a strong July, gaining 500 jobs, putting us up 400 from one year ago and just 200 jobs back from our pre-pandemic levels.
- Manufacturing gained 200 jobs, same as last month, is up 1,100 year-over-year and now down only 200 jobs from prior to pandemic.
- Retail Trade gained lost 200 jobs, up 500 year-over-year but still trailing pre-pandemic levels by 4,100 jobs.
- Financial Activities picked up 600 jobs in July, up 500 year-over-year and up 300 over pre-pandemic levels.
- Private Education and Health Services dropped 500 jobs in July, though is up 1,700 year-over-year and up by 200 since two years ago, pre-pandemic, July 2019.
- Leisure & Hospitality gained 700 jobs in July, a bit better than the 600 it added in June. But we need to recall that this is our hardest hit sector, still down 6,400 jobs from prior to the pandemic. Recovery here is steady but there's still a long way to go.
- Other Services added 100, up 200 year-over-year, but still also down 1,200 from pre-pandemic levels.
- Local Government Education showed the largest shake-up, dropping

2,800 jobs in July, we presume nearly all, or probably entirely all, a seasonal loss. That noted, this sector is still down 1,600 jobs from pre-pandemic levels. As noted in prior reports, we won't know what this sector really looks like in recovery until the September data is in with the October report.

Unemployment Rate in the Statewide Context: Looking at statewide standing, Ventura County fell another couple of slots in July, now at 21st among California's 58 counties.

- Looking at our neighboring counties, Santa Barbara County improved by one slot to 11th, now at 5.8%; San Luis Obispo improved by three slots to 7th at 5.7%, Los Angeles stayed at 53rd at 10.2% and Kern fell one slot, to 56th, at 10.7%.
- For the top placements, Marin remains number 1 and improved from 4.7% to 4.5%, San Mateo is tied with tiny Sierra County for 2nd at 4.8%, Santa Clara is 4th at 4.9%, San Francisco 5th at 5.2%, Placer 6th at 5.3%, Sonoma 7th at 5.6%, San Luis Obispo is tied with Lassen and Calaveras at 8th at 5.7%.

Unemployment rates by county are variously displayed in the state's [mapping resources](#). For the table display on January unemployment rates for all counties, go [here](#).

Questions, comments, please let us know, bruce@edcollaborative.com.

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