



The Manpower Workforce Report: A San Diego Labor Market Snapshot Workforce Edition

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- Local unemployment rate drops in October.
- Several economic indicators drop indicating a “stalling” of the economic recovery.
- Updated green occupational information available through the EDD – LMID.

Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)

	October 2010	September 2010 (revised)	August 2010
San Diego County	10.2%	10.7%	10.6%
State of California	12.0%	12.4%	12.4%
United States	9.0%	9.5%	9.5%

Source: EDD Monthly Press Release, Nov. 19, 2010.

- **In San Diego County, the unadjusted unemployment rate** dipped one-half of a percent to 10.2% from the revised-rate, 10.7%, of the prior month. The statewide rate dipped four-tenths of a percent to 12.0% and the national rate declined half of a percent to 9.0%. The local rate is four-tenths percent below the rate of October 2009 and one and eight-tenths percent below the current state-wide rate but and one and two-tenths percent above the national rate. The number of unemployed persons in the county in October decreased by just 7,100 to 160,500 from 167,600. Marin County had the lowest rate in the state at 8.0% and two other counties had rates below 9%. Twenty counties had rates between 9 and 12%, three fewer than prior month; thirty two counties had rates between 12 and 18%, two more than last month. Imperial County was the only county with a rate above 18% at 29.3% which was the highest rate in the state. Within the county, National City had the highest rate at 19.4%, followed by Imperial Beach - 16.3%, while Valley Center registered the lowest local rate at 5.0% followed by Del Mar - 5.3%, and Poway - 6.1%. View the list of sub-region rates. (EDD Monthly Press Release, Nov. 19, 2010; EDD Monthly Report 400 C, Nov. 19, 2010)
- The **University of San Diego’s Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County** was unchanged in October, despite the fact that five of the six index-components were positive. The outlook for the national economy was up sharply, initial claims for unemployment and local stock prices were moderately positive, and consumer confidence and help wanted advertising also increased however, just slightly. These gains were offset by a huge drop in building permits leaving the Index unchanged for the third consecutive month, which could be a signal the recovery of the local economy has stalled. However, the local economic-outlook is for slow but positive growth through the first half of 2011. The labor market has been improving though the local unemployment rate has been above 10 percent for 17 straight months with the annual -1,100 job decline from October '09 to October 2010 the best year-over-year comparison since April 2008. With signs of a strong retail holiday-shopping season, it is likely that the year-over-year comparisons for November and December could turn positive. (University of San Diego Release, Nov. 30, 2010)
- **Construction backlog fell slightly in September across the United States and in the Western region of the country**, according to the latest Associated Builders and Contractors’ Construction Backlog Indicator. Nationally, September’s backlog stood at 6.7 months, down from 6.9 months in August and down from this year’s high of 7.4 months in April. In the West, the backlog at 6.9 months in September, is down from 7.2 months in August and from its 2010 high of 7.9 months in May. In San Diego, the backlog seems to run parallel to the national direction, according to Scott Crosby, president and CEO of the ABC San Diego chapter. Crosby the local backlog is about 6.7 months with the backlog consisting mainly of military, schools, and public works infrastructure projects. Looking beyond the first half of 2010, Crosby said the local members are worried about the second half of 2011 and the beginning of 2012. “Public works projects are drying up and there is a concern that the private sector won’t be ready to pick up the slack,” said Cosby adding that it could be another 18-24 months before office and commercial construction picks up. (The Daily Transcript, Nov. 22, 2010)
- Following its highest reading since January 2008, **the Architecture billings Index dropped nearly two points and dipped below 50 in October**. The October Billings Index, reported by the American Institute of Architects, displayed a reading of 48.7, down from 50.4 in September. A reading above 50 indicates an increase in demand for services. The Index reflects the approximately nine to 12-month lag time between architecture billings and construction spending. October’s reading was a bit disappointing, but not all that

shocking, according to Kermit Baker, chief economist for the Institute. As far as the regions of the United States are concerned, the Northeast reported a score of 54.5, the third straight month with a posting above 50. The West reported a score of 44.3 in October and has been in the 40 for much of this year. "What's hurting the West is the overbuilt the residential market," said Baker, "and this is holding the West down." (The Daily Transcript, Nov. 22, 2010)

- The **EDD's Labor Market Information Division (LMID)** recently published six new **Occupational Guides** (Aerospace Engineers; Energy Auditors; Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians; Roofers; Urban and Regional Planners; and Wind Turbine Service Technicians). Four of the occupations (Energy Auditors; Roofers; Urban and Regional Planners; and Wind Turbine Service Technicians) contain descriptions regarding their role in the emerging "Green" Economy and are located in the [Green Occupational Guides](#) section of [Understanding the "Green" Economy](#). These occupations perform job duties or contain aspects that are related to LMID's [GREEN](#) definition. All of these new guides are located in the [California Occupational Guides](#) section of EDD's [LMI Web site](#). (LMI e-newsletter, Nov. 19, 2010)

Pluses:

- **During October**, non-farm employment increased by 5,600 to reach 1,214,800 jobs. The most significant employment gain came in the government sector, primarily in the education sub-sector which added 4,900 jobs as schools continued hiring after the summer recess. Education and health services added 2,200 jobs, with most occurring in private education. Professional & business services added 700 jobs. (EDD Press Release, Nov. 19, 2010)
- **Locally, between October 2009 and October 2010**, Professional and business services posted the largest job increase, gaining 4,600 jobs. Education and health services added 2,500 during the year. (EDD Press Release, Nov. 19, 2010)
- **Statewide during October**, there was an increase of 39,000 jobs to reach 13,857,500. Eight sectors (professional and business services, trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, educational and health services, leisure and hospitality, government, construction, and other services) led the job increase. (EDD LMI e-Newsletter, Nov. 19, 2010)

Minuses:

- **During October in the County**, leisure and hospitality dropped -3,400 jobs resulting from the end of the tourist season, and construction declined by -500 jobs. Manufacturing lost -400 jobs. (EDD Press Release, Nov. 19, 2010)
- **In San Diego County between October 2009 and October 2010**, total non-farm employment decreased by -1,100 jobs, a -0.1 percent decline. Government dropped -2,200 jobs, leisure and hospitality declined -1,800, and manufacturing dropped -1,600 jobs. Construction dropped -900 jobs. (EDD Press Release, Nov. 22, 2010)
- **Statewide in October**, three industry sectors (financial activities information, and mining)) reported job declines totaling -7,500 jobs. (EDD LMI e-Newsletter, Nov. 19, 2010)

Events of Interest:

- **Save the date, January 28, 2011 for the 2011 San Diego County Economic Roundtable** at the University of San Diego Joan B. Kroc Center for Peace and Justice. Sponsored by the County of San Diego, Qualcomm, San Diego Union-Tribune, San Diego Workforce Partnership, and the University of San Diego, School of Business Administration, the event will bring together local experts to forecast the direction of the region's economy for 2011. There is no charge to attend, however reservations are required. More details on the event including registration will be released around December 15.

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