



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

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- The local unemployment rate drops by one-half percent while shedding 3,600 jobs.
- Local indices show local economy and workforce continue to flounder.
- Seasonal and full-time opportunities exist within the county.

Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)

| | September 2011 | August 2011 (revised) | July 2011 |
|----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| San Diego County | 9.7% | 10.2% | 10.6% |
| State of California | 11.4% | 11.9% | 12.4% |
| United States | 8.8% | 9.1% | 9.3% |

Source: EDD Monthly Press Release, Oct. 21, 2011

- **San Diego County's unadjusted unemployment rate declined one-half of a percent for September** to 9.7% from the revised August rate of 10.2%, the 2nd monthly decline. The current rate is eight-tenths of a percent lower than the rate for September of last year. Total non-farm employment declined by 3,600 jobs to 1,235,800. The statewide rate of 11.4% is one percent lower than last year while the national rate is down one-half percent from a year ago. In the county, National City had the highest rate – 18.5% followed by Imperial Beach – 15.5%, and El Cajon – 13.2%. Valley Center had the lowest rate – 4.8%, followed by Del Mar – 5.1%, and Poway – 5.8%. Marin County had the lowest rate in the state - 7.4%, down four-tenths of a percent and was joined by San Mateo and Orange Counties – 8.0%, and Santa Barbara County - 8.6% as the counties with a rate of less than nine percent. Twenty four counties had rates between 9% and 12%; twenty six counties had rates between 12% and 18%. Two counties had rates above 18%, Imperial County at 29.6% and Yuba County at 18.1%. (EDD Monthly Press Release, Oct. 21, 2011; EDD Monthly Report 400 C, Oct. 21, 2011)
- **The University of San Diego's Index of Leading Economic Indicators for San Diego County** edged up slightly for September by one-tenth of a percent. Activity during the month was uneventful with none of the six components displaying any significant change. Moderate gains in consumer confidence, help wanted advertising, and the outlook for the national economy were offset by a decline in local building permits, initial claims for unemployment insurance increase, and lower local stock prices. The Index has shown erratic movement in the last five months, reflecting the uncertainty of the local economy. (University of San Diego release, Oct. 28, 2011)
- **The San Diego Workforce Index** decreased to 84.92 in September from the revised reading of 85.15 in August. The decline was buffered by slight increases in the local economic index and temporary employment hiring, and a drop in the local unemployment rate. In addition to a dramatic decrease in consumer confidence, the region's employment was reduced by 3,600 jobs during September. However, there has been an increase of 17,300 jobs in the region for the year, resulting in a four percent increase in the Workforce Index during that time. The Index is a compilation of local economic indicators that provide a month-to-month record of the status of the workforce in San Diego County. (San Diego Workforce Partnership release, Nov. 3, 2011)
- **The good news about the weakest of economic recoveries is that people are being lured back into the job market.** The bad news is that those individuals, who have been missing from official statistics that track the unemployed, could keep the unemployment rate from dropping as quickly as politicians and economists would like. The jobless economic recovery has been so hard on many jobseekers that they have quit trying to find work. Now, with hints of companies hiring, these "missing workers" will return to the job search. Economists estimate about 3.5 million of the "missing workers" could return to the workforce. (msnbc.com, Oct. 28, 2011)
- **Home prices** rose during August in half of the twenty major cities as measured by the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller Index. This marked the fifth straight month that at least half of the cities showed monthly gains. Locally, in August, prices declined two-tenths of a percent from July and were down five and half percent from August 2010. Home prices in the region have not been this low since December 2002 and are off 38.1 percent since the peak in November 2005. (Yahoo!news.com, Oct. 25, 2011)

Pluses:

- **During September**, government posted the largest job-gain, +3,400 jobs, mostly in the public sector education

systems as staff returned to the classrooms. Trade, transportation, and utilities added 400 jobs. (EDD Release, Oct. 21, 2011)

- **Between September 2010 and September 2011**, total non-farm employment increased by 17,300 jobs, or 1.4%. Leisure and hospitality posted the greatest over-the-year gain, adding 5,400 jobs. Professional and business services added another 5,200, and education and health services increased by 4,200 jobs. (EDD Release, Oct. 21, 2011)
- **FedEx plans to hire approximately 20,000 seasonal employees this year** as it gears up for holiday shopping and shipping. The annual seasonal hiring is needed to address the movement of 260 million shipments, a 12 percent increase from last year, through its worldwide system during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period. (Pacific Business News, October 24, 2011)
- Despite the high local unemployment, **jobs are still being offered throughout the county**. Hiring is currently strongest in software, Internet, and wireless development. There are nearly 4,000 postings for software engineers, website developers, system analysts, and computer support specialists according to the Employment Development Department. Military contractors continue to hire for positions such as machinists, designers, electricians, and engineers. Health care continues its expansion with opening for health care professionals, clinical lab scientists, and customer service representatives. Retail companies will hire many thousands of workers this time of the year in preparation for the holiday shopping onslaught. (SignOnSanDiego.com, Oct. 25, 2011)

Minuses:

- **In September**, total non-farm employment declined by 3,600 jobs. Leisure and hospitality declined by 6,500 jobs, as firms reduced their staffs at the conclusion of the tourist season. Construction dropped 1,400 jobs, professional and business services declined by 700 jobs, and educational and health services declined by 300 jobs. (EDD Release, Oct. 21, 2011)
- **In San Diego County between September 2010 and September 2011** the most notable job losses occurred in construction (-1,500) with specialty trade contractors accounting for all the job losses. Jobs in the manufacturing sector were flat over-the-year. (EDD Release, Oct. 21, 2011)
- **Lowe's Cos. Inc. is closing 20 of its U.S. locations including its Westminster, Orange County store and eliminating 1,950 jobs** while halving the number of planned new store openings to only 10 – 15 for the upcoming year. (Yahoo!news.com, Oct. 18, 2011)

Items of Interest:

- **Bilingual Diversity Career Fair of South County San Diego**, Thursday, Nov. 10, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, South County Health and Human Service Facility, 690 Oxford St., Chula Vista. Call 619-277-9099 for more information.
- **The 2011 Occupational Outlook Report for San Diego County**, released by the Research and Labor Market Information team of the San Diego Workforce Partnership, is available at www.workforce.org/industry-reports. The report, resurrected by demand after a three year hiatus, profiles 46 local occupations with information such as employers' occupational growth projections, education/training and experience requirements, wages and benefits, and skills employers require for the occupation. Nearly 800 employers throughout the county provided data used to develop the profiles. A limited number of printed copies of the OOR are available. For more information call 619-228-2937.
- **Save the date for the 2012 San Diego County Economic Roundtable**, the longest running economic forecasting event in San Diego County, Thursday, January 19, 2012, Joan Kroc Center for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. A panel of local experts will give their views on the direction of the local economy for 2012.

Your input and feedback are very valuable to us. If you have information on current events, suggestions on how we can improve this newsletter, or wish to be removed from distribution, please e-mail us at LMIReport@workforce.org or call (619) 228-2900.



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