

Workforce Review

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

February 2007

Did you know?

Study Says Immigrant Workers Help Wages

The influx of immigrants to California raised the wages of some native-born workers in the state, according to a report released Tuesday [2/27/07] by the Public Policy Institute of California that refutes common public perception and previous studies on the subject. The new report, which analyzes wage and employment data, finds that some better-educated workers, with at least a high school diploma, saw wage increases ranging from 3 to 7 percent between 1990 and 2004, a period when the state experienced record influx of immigrants.

Rather than compete with native workers, immigrants "complement" some work sectors, agriculture and construction for example, by helping native workers who have the language and local networking skills to ascend to better-paying supervisory and managerial jobs. The influx of cheap labor, the report said, allows companies in some labor markets to expand jobs in management and training.

The real losers among low-skilled workers in California, the report said, are other immigrants who compete for those same low-end jobs, experiencing significant wage declines. During the same period, foreign-born workers suffered an average wage decline of 13 to 20 percent. For the past four decades, the number of California's foreign-born workers has grown steadily. In 1960, fewer than one in 10 state workers were foreign-born. In 2004, one-third of California's workforce, or about 5.4 million workers, was foreign-born.

Outside California, in regions with growing immigrant populations, researchers have documented the negative effect of the influx of immigrants on the native labor force, said Steven Camarota, director of research for the Center for Immigration Studies in Washington, D.C., a national group that advocates for limits to legal immigration. "The problem is California is not America," Camarota said. "There are drywall installers, taxi drivers, nannies, busboys, cooks and bakers in other parts of the country. Natives do those jobs in those other places. You can't gain much insight by looking at one location," Camarota said.

Source: *San Jose Mercury News* [02/28/07]



A regional catalyst shaping and influencing the Silicon Valley workforce investment system to promote economic opportunity and shared prosperity.

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Civilian Unemployment Rate	February 2006 (Actual)	January 2007 (Revised)	February 2007 (Preliminary)	Percentage Point Change	
				01/07-02/07	02/06-02/07
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	5.0%	4.7%	4.6%	- 0.1%	- 0.4%
California	5.4%	5.3%	5.2%	- 0.1%	- 0.2%
United States	5.1%	5.0%	4.9%	- 0.1%	- 0.2%

Civilian Labor Force	February 2006 (Actual)	January 2007 (Revised)	February 2007 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				01/07-02/07	02/06-02/07
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	852,000	872,100	868,600	- 0.4%	+ 1.9%
Civilian Employed	809,500	831,200	828,600	- 0.3%	+ 2.4%
Civilian Unemployed	42,500	40,900	40,000	- 2.2%	- 5.9%

Where the Jobs Are (San José–Sunnyvale MSA)	February 2006 (Actual)	January 2007 (Revised)	February 2007 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				01/07-02/07	02/06-02/07
Total Nonfarm	880,000	898,800	901,400	+ 0.3%	+ 2.4%
Goods Producing	215,300	217,400	217,400	0.0%	+ 1.0%
Manufacturing	169,600	170,100	169,800	- 0.2%	+ 0.1%
Service Providing	664,700	681,400	684,000	+ 0.4%	+ 2.9%
Health Care	69,600	72,400	73,000	+ 0.8%	+ 4.9%
Prof. & Business Svcs.	162,600	167,900	168,700	+ 0.5%	+ 3.8%

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 County (San Francisco Bay Area)	Labor Force			Employed		Unemployment Rate		
	February 2006	February 2007	Labor Force % Change (02/06-02/07)	February 2006	February 2007	Employed % Change (02/06-02/07)	February 2006	February 2007
	California	17,805,200	18,041,100	+ 1.3%	16,849,500	17,097,100	+ 1.5%	5.4%
Alameda County	740,900	751,100	+ 1.4%	705,900	717,400	+ 1.6%	4.7%	4.5%
Contra Costa County	515,600	522,800	+ 1.4%	491,600	499,600	+ 1.6%	4.7%	4.5%
Marin County	130,900	133,700	+ 2.1%	125,900	129,000	+ 2.5%	3.8%	3.5%
Napa County	70,600	73,300	+ 3.8%	67,500	70,200	+ 4.0%	4.4%	4.2%
San Francisco County	418,000	426,100	+ 1.9%	398,500	408,300	+ 2.5%	4.7%	4.2%
San Mateo County	364,800	372,500	+ 2.1%	350,000	358,700	+ 2.5%	4.1%	3.7%
Santa Clara County	826,700	842,900	+ 2.0%	786,600	805,100	+ 2.4%	4.8%	4.5%
Solano County	209,900	213,800	+ 1.9%	198,800	203,000	+ 2.1%	5.3%	5.0%
Sonoma County	254,500	262,300	+ 3.1%	243,300	251,200	+ 3.2%	4.4%	4.2%
S.F. Bay Area	3,531,900	3,598,500	+ 1.9%	3,368,100	3,442,500	+ 2.2%	4.6%	4.3%

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity: February 2007					Summary	
Company	WARN*	City	Affected	Cause	Individuals Affected YTD [†] :	3,997 [†]
City of Sunnyvale	No	Sunnyvale	17	RIF	WARN Current YTD:	35
Cytec Corporation	Yes	Mountain View	104	—	WARN Previous YTD:	28
Telik	No	Palo Alto	40	RIF		
Transmeta Corporation	Yes	Santa Clara	92	RIF		
Wolfe Engineering	No	Sunnyvale	25	RIF		
VeriSign	Yes	Mountain View	52	RIF		
			330			

* WARN : Workers' Adjustment and Retraining Notification (notice of mass layoff or closure)

[†] YTD : Year to Date — Refers to fiscal year (July 1–June 30)

[‡] Cumulative total may not equal sum of monthly numbers due to internal adjustments