

Workforce Review

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

April 2005

Did you know?

San Jose among least favorable areas to work and live

The ratio between cost of living and average pay makes San Jose the fourth least favorable place to live and work out of 188 U.S. cities, according to a study released Monday by Salary.com, a Web site specializing in worker compensation issues.

San Jose has a lot of California company on the "worst" list. Six of the 10 cities making that list are in California. In addition to San Jose, they are: San Francisco, ranked second; San Diego fifth; Santa Barbara sixth; Bakersfield seventh; and Fresno ninth. New York City has the worst ratio.

New London, Connecticut, is the "most favorable" city in terms of average salaries compared to cost of living, Salary.com says.

"It's not enough to simply list cities by pay or by cost of living. There's a complex relationship between these two types of information," says Tim Driver, senior vice president of consumer products at Salary.com. "We've analyzed and averaged pay across more than 2,500 job categories, and then correlated this to a real-world collection of living costs. It's no surprise that the list of least-favorable cities includes New York, San Francisco, and other popular spots high in culture and nightlife, because they have extraordinarily high living costs, even though the average pay is high."

Each of the 188 metropolitan areas analyzed has more than 250,000 residents and average pay for each area was correlated across more than 2,500 job categories, along with other factors that include living costs, housing costs, and employment rate. The Salary.com analysis does not take into account such qualitative factors as school systems, weather, infrastructure, and culture.

Source: Silicon Valley/San José Business Journal [5/23/05]
<http://www.bizjournals.com/sanjose/stories/2005/05/23/daily5.html>



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	April 2004 (Actual)	March 2005 (Revised)	April 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Point Change	
				03/05-04/05	04/04-04/05
San José MSA	6.9%	5.8%	5.4%	-0.4	-1.5
California	6.2%	5.7%	5.2%	-0.5	-1.0
United States	5.4%	5.4%	4.9%	-0.5	-0.5

Civilian Labor Force	April 2004 (Actual)	March 2005 (Revised)	April 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				03/05-04/05	04/04-04/05
San José MSA Total	849,600	843,700	840,500	-0.4%	-1.1%
Civilian Employed	790,900	794,600	795,300	+0.1%	+0.6%
Civilian Unemployed	58,700	49,100	45,200	-7.9%	-23.0%

Where the Jobs Are	April 2004 (Actual)	March 2005 (Revised)	April 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				03/05-04/05	04/04-04/05
San José MSA Nonfarm	858,000	850,900	855,800	+0.6%	-0.3%
Goods Producing	210,400	208,000	208,800	+0.4%	-0.8%
Manufacturing	169,500	168,300	168,800	+0.3%	-0.4%
Service Providing	647,600	642,900	647,000	+0.6%	-0.1%
Prof. & Bus. Services	164,300	162,800	164,100	+0.8%	-0.1%
Government	96,500	94,700	95,200	+0.5%	-1.3%

NOTE: San José 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		Labor Force % Change (04/04-04/05)	Employed		Employed % Change (03/04-03/05)	Unemployment Rate	
	April 2004	April 2005		April 2004	April 2005		April 2004	April 2005
	California	17,495,700	17,658,100	+0.9%	16,383,300	16,734,600	+2.1%	6.4%
Alameda County	746,800	748,500	+0.2%	701,500	712,200	+1.5%	6.1%	4.9%
Contra Costa County	504,300	507,300	+0.6%	476,500	483,700	+1.5%	5.5%	4.6%
Marin County	128,900	129,600	+0.5%	123,200	125,000	+1.5%	4.5%	3.5%
Napa County	71,600	72,900	+1.8%	68,400	70,000	+2.3%	4.4%	3.9%
San Francisco County	423,000	424,200	+0.3%	397,700	408,700	+2.8%	6.0%	4.8%
San Mateo County	360,900	362,500	+0.4%	342,600	347,700	+1.5%	5.1%	4.1%
Santa Clara County	824,000	815,300	-1.1%	768,100	772,300	+0.5%	6.8%	5.3%
Solano County	206,400	209,900	+1.7%	194,000	199,000	+2.6%	6.0%	5.2%
Sonoma County	253,800	255,600	+0.7%	241,000	244,800	+1.6%	5.1%	4.2%
S.F. Bay Area	3,519,700	3,525,800	+0.2%	3,313,000	3,358,400	+1.4%	5.9%	4.7%

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity: April 2005					Summary
Company	WARN *	City	Affected	Cause	
City of Palo Alto	No	Palo Alto	75	RIF	Individuals Affected YTD [†] : 3,010 [‡]
Spherion	No	Sunnyvale	-	-	
Not disclosed	No	-	-	RIF	WARN Current YTD: 23
Not disclosed	Yes	-	124	Closure	WARN Previous YTD: 42
			199+		

* 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