

# Workforce Review

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

## September 2005

### *Did you know?*

#### **Confidence at 2 1/2-year low in valley**

Silicon valley consumers may be the latest victims of downsizing.

A survey of South Bay residents shows consumer confidence has plunged to its lowest point in 2 1/2 years. The culprits are mounting: rising energy prices, poor job creation, higher interest rates and a string of natural disasters.

At the same time, consumer prices are surging — they went up last month by the biggest amount in a quarter century, according to federal reports Friday. Inflation jumped 1.2 percent in September, the Labor Department said, so much that retirees will get more Social Security money next month.

Put it all together and what emerges is a picture of consumers under fire. So far, the growing anxiety still hasn't closed wallets. But if the downward trend persists, economists worry that consumer spending — which accounts for two-thirds of the economy — will slow and drag the rest of the economy down.

"It's not hard to understand why people are feeling skittish about the future," said Philip Trounstein, director of the Survey and Policy Research Institute at San José State University, which did the consumer confidence survey. "There's a real danger that lack of confidence can depress consumer spending. And that can have a spiraling effect on the economy."

Source: San José Mercury News  
[[www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/world/12910455.htm](http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/world/12910455.htm)]



*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	September 2004 (Actual)	August 2005 (Revised)	September 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Points Change	
				08/05–09/05	09/04–09/05
San José–Sunnyvale MSA <sup>1</sup>	6.0%	5.4%	5.2%	– 0.2	– 0.8
California	5.7%	5.1%	4.8%	– 0.3	– 0.9
United States	5.1%	4.9%	4.8%	– 0.1	– 0.3

  

Civilian Labor Force <sup>2</sup>	September 2004 (Actual)	August 2005 (Revised)	September 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				08/05–09/05	09/04–09/05
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	849,200	865,200	857,600	– 0.9%	+ 1.0%
Civilian Employed	798,500	818,100	812,900	– 0.6%	+ 1.8%
Civilian Unemployed	50,700	47,100	44,600	– 5.3%	– 12.0%

  

Where the Jobs Are <sup>3</sup> (San José–Sunnyvale MSA)	September 2004 (Actual)	August 2005 (Revised)	September 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				08/05–09/05	09/04–09/05
Total Nonfarm	860,700	860,300	860,900	+ 0.1%	0.0%
Goods Producing	214,900	214,400	214,600	+ 0.1%	– 0.1%
Manufacturing	171,100	171,000	170,900	– 0.1%	– 0.1%
Service Providing	645,800	645,900	646,300	+ 0.1%	+ 0.1%
Prof. & Business Svcs.	167,800	165,800	166,700	+ 0.5%	– 0.7%
Retail Trade	81,800	81,700	81,700	0.0%	– 0.1%

<sup>1</sup> San José–Sunnyvale MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) = Santa Clara and San Benito Counties

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

<sup>2</sup> Civilian labor force data are by place of residence.

<sup>3</sup> Industry employment is by place of work.

Labor Force by County (San Francisco Bay Area)	Labor Force			Labor Force % Change (09/04–09/05)	Employed		Employed % Change (09/04–09/05)	Unemployment Rate	
	September 2004	September 2005	September 2004		September 2005	Sept. 2004		Sept. 2005	
	<b>California</b>	<b>17,553,400</b>	<b>17,896,700</b>		<b>+ 2.0%</b>	<b>16,555,400</b>		<b>17,033,400</b>	<b>+ 2.9%</b>
Alameda County	748,300	767,400	+ 2.5%	707,200	729,700	+ 3.2%	5.5%	4.9%	
Contra Costa County	505,400	519,300	+ 2.8%	480,300	495,600	+ 3.2%	5.0%	4.5%	
Marin County	129,500	132,000	+ 1.9%	124,200	127,200	+ 2.4%	4.1%	3.7%	
Napa County	74,200	75,400	+ 1.6%	71,300	72,600	+ 1.8%	3.8%	3.7%	
San Francisco County	423,900	431,300	+ 1.7%	401,000	410,600	+ 2.4%	5.4%	4.8%	
San Mateo County	361,700	369,000	+ 2.0%	345,400	353,700	+ 2.4%	4.5%	4.1%	
Santa Clara County	824,400	832,700	+ 1.0%	775,400	789,500	+ 1.8%	5.9%	5.2%	
Solano County	209,300	215,200	+ 2.8%	198,300	204,400	+ 3.1%	5.2%	5.0%	
Sonoma County	260,100	261,700	+ 0.6%	248,700	251,100	+ 1.0%	4.4%	4.1%	
<b>S.F. Bay Area</b>	<b>3,536,800</b>	<b>3,604,000</b>	<b>+ 1.9%</b>	<b>3,351,800</b>	<b>3,434,400</b>	<b>+ 2.5%</b>	<b>5.2%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity: September 2005					Summary
Company	WARN*	City	Affected	Cause	
No WARN activity reported					Individuals Affected YTD <sup>†</sup> : 599+ <sup>‡</sup>  WARN Current YTD: 5  WARN Previous YTD: 4

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

<sup>†</sup> YTD : Year to Date — Refers to fiscal year (July 1–June 30)

<sup>‡</sup> Cumulative total may not equal sum of monthly numbers due to internal adjustments