

Workforce Review

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

November 2005

Did you know?

Chronic Underemployment Little Noticed but Can Be Devastating for Families

Middle class losing its grip on security — Mercury News Editorial

Many of the soft spots in Silicon Valley's economy are well known: the lowest five-year job growth in the country, a widening gap between rich and poor, declining household income and real estate prices that tie up huge portions of the average family's paycheck.

But a new Bay Area employment survey conducted jointly by the Mercury News and the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation highlights something new: the tenuous grip that many families have on the comforts of middle-class life.

A whopping 42 percent of those surveyed were unemployed for at least a month in the past five years. During those times, many had to cut back on basic necessities, move into more modest housing, dig deeply into their retirement savings and postpone medical care. Nearly one in 10 are underemployed — in jobs that are below their skill level or salary history. It's the best they could get in the valley's lackluster employment climate.

For many of the underemployed, life in the Bay Area is as challenging as for those who are unemployed, according to the survey. With the safety net full of holes, one in five say that even a week without their current pay would leave them in dire financial straits.

Nearly half of the underemployed are under 35. One in four — and nearly one in three of the unemployed — have college or even graduate degrees. That's a large group of people whose skills are not being utilized to their full potential. Not surprising, many are ready to ditch the Bay Area for greener pastures.

A majority of valley residents remain optimistic about their prospects and the region — and for good reason. The valley is still one of the world's most prosperous areas. Time and again, it has delivered unrivaled economic opportunities for millions of its residents. And it may do so again.

Source: San Jose Mercury News [12/19/05] – Archived
nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=10E9F47481615138&p_docnum=1



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	November 2004 (Actual)	October 2005 (Revised)	November 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Points Change	
				10/05-11/05	11/04-11/05
Metropolitan Statistical Area ¹	5.9%	5.5%	5.3%	- 0.2	- 0.6
California	5.8%	5.0%	5.1%	+0.1	- 0.7
United States	5.2%	4.6%	4.8%	+0.2	- 0.4

Civilian Labor Force ²	November 2004 (Actual)	October 2005 (Revised)	November 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				10/05-11/05	11/04-11/05
Metropolitan Statistical Area	852,100	861,600	857,200	- 0.5%	+0.6%
Civilian Employed	801,800	814,600	812,000	- 0.3%	+1.3%
Civilian Unemployed	50,300	47,000	45,300	- 3.6%	- 9.9%

Where the Jobs Are ³ (San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara MSA)	November 2004 (Actual)	October 2005 (Revised)	November 2005 (Preliminary)	Percentage Change	
				10/05-11/05	11/04-11/05
Total Nonfarm	863,700	861,600	864,400	+0.3%	+0.1%
Goods Producing	212,800	213,200	212,700	- 0.2%	0.0%
Manufacturing	170,800	169,900	170,200	+0.2%	- 0.4%
Service Providing	650,900	648,400	651,700	+0.5%	+0.1%
Prof. & Business Svcs.	167,400	164,900	164,800	- 0.1%	- 1.6%
Retail Trade	84,000	81,900	84,500	+3.2%	+0.6%

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

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

² Civilian labor force data are by place of residence.

³ Industry employment is by place of work.

Labor Force by County (San Francisco Bay Area)	Labor Force			Labor Force % Change (11/04-11/05)	Employed		Employed % Change (11/04-11/05)	Unemployment Rate	
	November 2004	November 2005	November 2004		November 2005	Nov. 2004		Nov. 2005	
	California	17,668,600	17,940,000		+1.5%	16,636,300		17,020,100	+2.3%
Alameda County	755,800	770,400	+1.9%	714,900	732,600	+2.5%	5.4%	4.9%	
Contra Costa County	511,300	521,400	+2.0%	485,600	497,600	+2.5%	5.0%	4.6%	
Marin County	130,700	132,300	+1.2%	125,400	127,300	+1.5%	4.1%	3.8%	
Napa County	72,500	73,000	+0.7%	69,000	69,800	+1.3%	4.9%	4.3%	
San Francisco County	429,600	431,800	+0.5%	405,000	410,900	+1.5%	5.7%	4.8%	
San Mateo County	365,200	369,500	+1.2%	348,900	354,000	+1.5%	4.5%	4.2%	
Santa Clara County	826,900	832,000	+0.6%	778,600	788,500	+1.3%	5.8%	5.2%	
Solano County	210,800	215,500	+2.2%	199,300	204,400	+2.6%	5.5%	5.1%	
Sonoma County	259,100	260,400	+0.5%	247,500	249,400	+0.8%	4.5%	4.2%	
S.F. Bay Area	3,561,900	3,606,300	+1.2%	3,374,200	3,434,500	+1.8%	5.3%	4.8%	

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity: November 2005					Summary	
Company	WARN*	City	Affected	Cause	Individuals Affected YTD [†] : 3,047+ [‡]	
Analog Devices	No	Santa Clara	494	Closure	WARN Current YTD: 12	
KLA Tencor	Yes	Milpitas	10	RIF	WARN Previous YTD: 5	
Nokia	Yes	Mountain View	51	RIF		
Sun Microsystems	Yes	Santa Clara	31	RIF		

* 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