

Workforce Review

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

February 2012

Did you know?

California's share of green jobs is just average, report says

California's economy may not be as "green" as people think.

In the federal government's first report breaking down so-called green energy employment in the country, the Bureau of Labor Statistics said [March 22] that California had 338,400 jobs associated with the production of green goods and services in 2010.

That's more than any other state, but as a percentage of California's overall employment, green jobs made up 2.3% of its total private and public payrolls. In the country as a whole, the BLS says, there were 3.1 million green jobs in 2010, which accounted for 2.4% for all employment.

Conventional thinking is that California, traditionally a leader in pushing for efficient cars and clean energy, has an outsized share of the nation's green jobs. A 2009 report by Pew Charitable Trusts put California's share of the nation's clean-energy jobs at 16.3% — much higher than the 10.8% in the BLS report.

Chris Lafakis, an economist at Moody's Analytics who has been researching clean energy's role in the economy, said he was very surprised by the California percentage, but he noted that the difference could be in the way BLS defines green jobs.

By the BLS definition, green jobs are those in any industry that involves production of renewable energy; energy efficiency; pollution reduction and recycling; natural resources conservation; or education and training related to environmental compliance. This definition is broader than Pew's, which used a different and more stringent industrial classification in determining green jobs.

In the BLS report, Vermont had the highest share of green jobs, at 4.4% of its overall payrolls, followed by the District of Columbia (3.9%) and Idaho (3.7%).

The BLS generated the report for 2010 using a sample of some 120,000 business and government establishments identified as potentially involved in green goods and service. There was no comparison with prior years, but other studies and reports from green-energy groups indicate these jobs are growing much more rapidly than other types of work.

"The clean energy economy is still in its infancy, which is why government support is crucial for it to flourish," Lafakis said.

Source: *Los Angeles Times* (03/22/12)
<http://lat.ms/GUIGDu>

Labor Force Statistics (San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara MSA)

Unemployment Rate	February 2011	January 2012	February 2012	Percentage Point Change	
				Monthly	Annual
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	10.5%	9.1%	9.1%	0.0	- 1.4
California	12.3%	11.3%	11.4%	+ 0.1	- 0.9
United States	9.5%	8.8%	8.7%	- 0.1	- 0.8

Labor Force	February 2011	January 2012	February 2012	Percentage Change	
				Monthly	Annual
San José–Sunnyvale MSA	913,600	929,900	936,600	+ 0.7%	+ 2.5%
Civilian Employed	817,800	845,500	851,400	+ 0.7%	+ 4.1%
Civilian Unemployed	95,800	84,500	85,200	+ 0.8%	- 11.1%

Industry Statistics (San José–Sunnyvale–Santa Clara MSA)

Change in Employment	February 2011	January 2012	February 2012	Percentage Change	
				Monthly	Annual
Total Nonfarm	864,900	884,400	891,800	+ 0.8%	+ 3.1%
Construction	29,700	31,100	32,700	+ 5.1%	+ 10.1%
Manufacturing: Computer, et al	107,200	111,100	110,800	- 0.3%	+ 3.4%
Retail: Electronics, et al	5,200	4,800	4,700	- 2.1%	- 9.6%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	77,400	80,000	81,000	+ 1.3%	+ 4.7%
Government: Local	78,700	76,200	76,800	+ 0.8%	- 2.4%

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 City (NOVA Seven-City Consortium)

	Labor Force			Employed			Unemployment		
	February 2011	February 2012	Annual Change	February 2011	February 2012	Annual Change	February 2011	February 2012	Annual Change
Santa Clara County	886,000	908,700	+ 2.6%	795,900	828,600	+ 4.1%	90,100	80,100	- 11.1%
Cupertino	24,400	25,100	+ 2.9 %	22,800	23,700	+ 3.9 %	1,600	1,400	- 12.5 %
Los Altos	12,700	13,100	+ 3.1 %	12,100	12,600	+ 4.1 %	700	600	- 14.3 %
Milpitas	32,100	32,900	+ 2.5 %	28,700	29,900	+ 4.2 %	3,400	3,000	- 11.8 %
Mountain View	42,200	43,500	+ 3.1 %	39,000	40,600	+ 4.1 %	3,200	2,800	- 12.5 %
Palo Alto	31,500	32,500	+ 3.2 %	29,800	31,000	+ 4.0 %	1,700	1,500	- 11.8 %
Santa Clara	57,000	58,500	+ 2.6 %	51,700	53,800	+ 4.1 %	5,300	4,700	- 11.3 %
Sunnyvale	75,700	77,800	+ 2.8 %	69,100	71,900	+ 4.1 %	6,600	5,900	- 10.6 %
NOVA Region (sum)	275,600	283,500	+ 2.9%	253,100	263,500	+ 4.1%	22,500	20,000	- 11.1%

NOTE: Totals may not add correctly due to rounding

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMID

Regional Layoff Activity

Company	WARN *	City	Affected	Cause	Layoff Summary	
Applied Materials	Yes	Multiple cities	15	RIF	Individuals Affected YTD †:	3,410 †
Arvato Digital Services	Yes	Mountain View	129	RIF	Events Current YTD †:	66
Blue Coat Systems	Yes	Sunnyvale	81	RIF	Events Previous YTD †:	55
Calisolar	Yes	Sunnyvale	1	RIF		
First Solar	Yes	Santa Clara	63	Closure		
Company confidential	No	Multiple cities	44	RIF		
			333			

* **WARN: Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification** (notice of mass layoff or closure)
 † **YTD: Year to Date** (Program year: July 1–June 30)
 * **Summary Total** may not equal sum of monthly numbers due to internal adjustments

NOTE: Layoff data are reported by NOVA staff responding to layoff events and should be considered only an estimate of regional activity

Source: NOVA's internal Rapid Response database