



Beacon Economics Employment Report

December 2011

A partnership of the EVC and Beacon Economics

Confidence In Job Market Growing As California Continues Slow March Toward Employment Recovery

Golden State Adds Jobs:

The California economy added 6,600 jobs in November, and the unemployment rate dropped from 11.7% to 11.3%. In addition, the total employment figure for October was revised upward by 11,900 jobs, and the September number was revised up by 27,400. This brings the state's total job gains to 83,400 over the past 3 months. The size of the labor force also increased by 52,000 in November, indicating that the state's workers are developing a renewed confidence in the job market.

Sector Slowdown Likely A Blip:

While the total gain of 6,600 jobs is relatively weak, the number is being affected, in large part, by one sector: Professional and Business Services. With a decline of 13,200 jobs, this sector posed a significant drag on the labor market last month. But over the past year, the trend in the industry has been one of growth. In fact, since November of 2010, Professional and Business services have added more jobs than any other industry in the state. This month's change is likely a blip in a long-term trend, or even a statistical anomaly that will be corrected next month. Beacon Economics views this as a solid overall report, and believes that the labor market recovery will continue.

Most Industries Show Growth:

Since November 2010, virtually every major sector in the state has shown job growth. Aside from Professional and Business Services, other strong industries have been Education and Health; Trade, Transportation, and Utilities; and Leisure and Hospitality. The only sector with losses was Manufacturing, which declined by a 100 jobs, a very small number.

California's Regions A Mixed Bag; Inland Empire Beginning To Shine:

Regional trends were mixed this month, but two regions - San Jose and San Diego - continued to lead the state's employment recovery. Los Angeles and San Francisco both saw declines, while Sacramento saw decent growth. The Inland Empire added 2,900 new positions, and since June, this region has added more jobs (25,900) than any other part of the state. As one of the last places to join the recovery, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties have come back with a vengeance, making up for much of the lackluster hiring of the past year. Across the board, in every region, the unemployment rate came down. Moreover, the drop has occurred despite labor force increases. This means the unemployment rate is genuinely improving as a result of real improvements in the economy - something that bodes well for future conditions.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to [The Beacon Employment Report](#) web page with regional and industry breakdowns in all 50 states.

Beacon Economics' interactive monthly employment report processes data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and data generated and released by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) on the third Friday of every month. Beacon Economics reproduces EDDs data by major MSA in California on a seasonally adjusted basis to facilitate month-to-month comparisons.

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