



Beacon Economics Employment Report

September 2011

A partnership of the EVC and Beacon Economics

California Job Numbers Remain Flat Over Past Month... But State Has Seen Growth Since Beginning of Year

A Flat Month For Job Growth:

California's labor market remained basically unchanged from July to August, as payroll jobs fell by a statistically insignificant 8,400 over the month. This largely mirrors the national number, which was also flat. Note that both totals were affected by the Verizon strike, which reduced national employment by 45,000. Any of those jobs that were located in California, will be added back to payrolls in September. California's unemployment rate rose from 12.0% in July to 12.1% in August, but is down from 12.4% in January. Across the nation, the unemployment rate was flat over the month at 9.1%, up slightly from 9.0% since the beginning of the year.

California Adds Jobs In 2011:

The Golden State has added 98,500 jobs since the beginning of 2011 - an annualized growth rate of 1.1%, which is faster than the national rate of 0.7%. This would be a healthy gain during a normal economy, but is slow for a post-recessionary period. It is, however, a vast improvement over the same time last year, when the state had a gain of just 10,000 jobs - a rate of less than 0.1%. As the California economy slowly heals, the labor market is healing with it.

Healing Signs Emerge From Consumer Spending:

The largest gain of 7,800 jobs was seen in the Retail Trade industry, as consumers have continued to increase their spending. A strong retail performance indicates that the economy is continuing to heal, and is obviously better than the loss of 7,800 retail jobs across the U.S. Manufacturing also added 1,600 jobs, continuing a year of solid growth. Compared to a slight loss across the nation, the California manufacturing sector is beginning to make up for the hard hit that it took during the downturn.

[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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