November 2019 California Employment Highlights

OVERVIEW

- California’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.9 percent in November 2019, remaining at a record low. Civilian unemployment fell to its lowest level since September 1989.

- California added 28,400 nonfarm jobs in November 2019, still an upwards trend following the 32,000 nonfarm jobs added in October. California added 321,800 nonfarm jobs over the year in November 2019, which was an increase of 1.9 percent.

- California’s employment expansion turned 117 months old in November 2019. The state gained a total of 3,414,700 nonfarm jobs over the course of the February 2010-November 2019.

- Eight of California’s 11 major industry sectors added jobs in November. The largest job gains were in educational and health services (15,000) and information (8,600).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT

- California’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate held steady at 3.9 percent November 2019, remaining at the record low in the official data series that extends back to the beginning of 1976. Year-over, California’s unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage point in November 2019.

- The number of unemployed Californians fell by 3,000 persons to 762,000 in November 2019. This was California’s eighth consecutive unemployment decrease, with the number of unemployed falling by 76,000 persons over the period. This pushed unemployment in the state to its lowest level since September 1989. The number of unemployed Californians fell by 39,000 persons (4.9 percent) over the year.
The number of employed Californians rose by 53,000 persons to 18,730,000 in November 2019. This followed increases of 50,000 and 38,000 persons in October and September, respectively. Civilian employment grew by 22,000 persons (0.1 percent) over the year in November 2019 on the strength of this recent spurt in employment growth.

The number of Californians in the labor force grew by 50,000 persons to 19,492,000 in November 2019 and by a total of 112,000 persons over the last three months. Nevertheless, California’s labor force decreased by 17,000 persons (0.1 percent) over the year.
California’s labor force participation rate rose for the second consecutive month in November, increasing 0.1 percentage point to 62.2 percent.

**Nonfarm Payroll Employment**

- California gained 28,400 nonfarm jobs in November 2019. This was the state’s 16th consecutive job gain, and its 98th gain in total for the last 101 months. In addition, October’s preliminary jobs estimate increased by 8,400 jobs, resulting in a 32,000-job gain that month.
California added 321,800 nonfarm jobs over the year in November 2019, which was an increase of 1.9 percent. This was stronger year-over job growth than in November 2018, but slower growth than prior years of the employment expansion.

- California’s employment expansion, already the state’s longest on record, turned 117 months old in November 2019. California gained a total of 3,414,700 nonfarm jobs from the recessionary low in February 2010 through November 2019, which was an increase of 24.1 percent.
- California gained an average of 29,200 nonfarm jobs over the course of the entire expansion. The state’s recent job growth has matched or exceeded this pace. California gained an average of 29,400 jobs per month from June through November of 2019, and an average 30,800 jobs per month since April 2019.

**California Metropolitan Divisions and Statistical Areas**

- Twenty-four areas gained jobs in November, four lost jobs, and one had no change in employment. The largest job gain by far was in Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale MD (15,200), followed by San Diego-Carlsbad MSA (3,100), Sacramento-Arden Arcade-Roseville MSA (2,900), San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara MSA (2,100), and San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco MD (2,000). The areas that lost the most jobs were Anaheim-Santa Ana-Irvine MD (3,600) and Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley MD (1,600).
CALIFORNIA INDUSTRY TREND HIGHLIGHTS

- In November 2019, eight industry sectors added jobs, and three industry sectors lost jobs.

- California’s educational and health services sector added 15,000 jobs in November 2019. This month’s gain was the third time in calendar year 2019 that the sector added over 10,000 jobs. The bulk of this month’s gain was concentrated in the health care and social assistance subsector, which added 14,000 jobs. This was the subsector’s second gain of over 10,000 jobs this year. The educational services subsector added 1,000 jobs this month.

- The state’s information sector added 8,600 jobs this month. November’s month-over-gain was the largest since October 2018 (9,800). Over the past eleven months, the sector has added 15,700 jobs.

- In November 2019, the state’s professional and business services sector added 3,100 jobs, rebounding from a month-over-loss of 300 jobs in October. Year-to-date for 2019, the sector added 64,700 jobs. Among the subsectors, most of the month-over gains came from the administrative and support and waste services subsector. It gained 3,100 jobs in November and has added 33,800 jobs over the past eleven months. The management of companies and enterprises subsector added 100 jobs in November and has added jobs for four consecutive months. The professional, scientific, and technical services subsector lost 100 jobs in November and has lost jobs in back-to-back months.

- The government sector added 2,900 jobs in November, which was its fourth consecutive month of job gains. Between January and November of this year, the sector has added 37,000 jobs. The local government subsector added 3,900 jobs in November and has added jobs consecutively from August through November of 2019. The federal government subsector added 400 jobs in November, rebounding from back-to-back months of job losses in September and October. The state government subsector lost 1,400 jobs in November, but has gained 11,400 jobs in 2019 to-date.
California’s manufacturing sector added 2,200 jobs in November and has added 12,700 jobs over the 2019 calendar year to-date. The durable good subsector added 4,900 in November and has added jobs in six consecutive months (June 2019-November 2019). In contrast, the nondurable goods subsector lost 2,700 jobs in November. Year-to-date gains have been hampered by the seven months this year in which the sector recorded month-over losses. Losses during this eleven-month period ranged from 100 (April 2019) to 4,100 (July 2019) jobs.

The state’s financial activities sector added 1,400 jobs in November and has had consecutive month-over gains since September 2019. The sector added 15,500 jobs over the first 11 months of 2019. Both financial activities subsectors added jobs in November, with the real estate and rental and leasing subsector (1,200) adding the most jobs. The finance and insurance sector added 200 jobs in November and 6,900 jobs in 2019-to-date.

The state’s leisure and hospitality sector added 100 jobs in November 2019, increasing its 2019-to-date gains to 31,100 jobs. All of the sector’s November gain came from the arts, entertainment, and recreation subsector, which added 1,700 jobs. Gains for this subsector over the course of 2019 have ranged from 200 jobs in March 2019 to 4,900 jobs in April 2019. Although the accommodation and food services subsector lost 1,600 in November, its year-to-date gains totaled 24,600 jobs.

California’s mining and logging sector added 100 jobs in November. However, the sector had a year-to-date loss of 100 jobs due to month-over losses in the months of February, April, June, and July. In contrast, the sector gained 400 jobs over the first eleven months of 2018.

The state’s trade, transportation, and utilities (TTU) sector lost 2,300 jobs in November, with two subsectors losing jobs and one adding jobs. The transportation, warehousing, and utilities subsector added 2,700 jobs in November and has gained jobs in three consecutive months. In contrast, the wholesale trade subsector lost 4,900 jobs in November and this contributed to the subsector 2,700-job loss in 2019-to-date. The retail trade subsector lost 100 jobs in November, increasing its year-to-date losses for 2019 to 4,700 jobs.

The state’s other services sector lost 1,600 jobs in November. Through the first eleven months of 2019, the sector lost 1,700 jobs. In contrast, the sector gained 4,800 jobs over the same period of time in 2018.

The state’s construction sector lost 1,100 jobs in November. This was the sector’s fourth job loss thus far in 2019. Nevertheless, the sector’s 2019-to-date gains totaled 30,200 jobs in November. This was quite similar to its 34,700-job gain over the first eleven months of 2018.