



# IE JOB MARKET SNAPSHOT

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Continued improvement in the Inland Empire's unemployment rate and size of the labor force indicates that the region's economy is doing well. The most recent data from the California Employment Development Department (issued on October 19, 2018) shows the unemployment rate for the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area to be 4.1% in September. This is a decrease from the revised rate of 4.5% in August and well below the estimate from one year ago of 4.9%. The region's 4.1% unemployment rate (unadjusted) compares favorably with the rates for California, 3.9%, and the United States, 3.6%. The unemployment rate in Riverside County is 4.4%. San Bernardino County's unemployment rate is 3.8%, edging below the state's rate as it has been for most of this year.

In the past year, between September 2017 and September 2018, total nonfarm employment

in the region increased by 41,700 jobs, or 2.9%. Agricultural employment declined by 1,900 jobs. The largest increase was in the government sector, with a gain of 10,700 jobs. Three quarters of these were in local government, most of which (6,500 of the 8,200 local government increase) was local government educational services. State government in the region added 2,200 jobs and the federal government added 300.

Trade, transportation, and utilities followed the government sector in job growth in the last year, gaining 10,200 jobs. Professional and business services was not far behind with 9,000 jobs. Leisure and hospitality was up 8,200 and education and health services up 5,500. The information sector is the only one recording a decrease, dropping 400 jobs over the past year.

The changes in the last month mirror the year-over-year changes. Between August 2018 and

## INLAND EMPIRE LABOR FORCE

	Metropolitan Statistical Area	Riverside County	San Bernardino County
2007	1,764,200	902,000	862,200
2008	1,773,600	911,500	862,100
2009	1,773,500	915,800	857,700
2010	1,866,700	976,400	890,300
2011	1,867,000	978,500	888,500
2012	1,879,300	987,100	892,200
2013	1,893,100	996,400	896,700
2014	1,921,000	1,013,500	907,500
2015	1,956,900	1,035,700	921,200
2016	1,984,900	1,052,600	932,300
2017	2,022,100	1,071,900	950,200

Source: California Employment Development Department, LMI for Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA, California, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/msa/riverbern.html#DEF>

September 2018, total non-farm employment decreased from 1,495,000 to 1,494,300, a loss of 700 jobs. Agricultural employment increased by 1,300 jobs. The government sector saw the largest employment increase, adding 4,200 jobs. Most of these, 3,800, were in local government. State government had an increase of 400. There was no change in federal government employment over the last month.

Trade, transportation, and utilities increased by 1,700 jobs since August. Most of these, 1,400, were in transportation and warehousing. Wholesale trade contributed another 200 and retail trade another 100. There were no changes in utilities employment.

Job losses were spread over several sectors, with construction taking the biggest hit, losing 3,200 jobs. Specialty trade contractors account for most of those, 2,600. Construction of buildings was down by 400 jobs. Heavy and civil engineering construction lost 200 jobs. Six other nonfarm employment sectors also edged down for the month. Leisure and hospitality was down 1,900, manufacturing down 500, and professional and business services down 400.

Despite the job losses in the past month, employment in the region is still up by 41,700 for the year. The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA's unemployment rate of 4.1% is just over California's rate, as reported by the California Employment Development Department on October 19, 2018. The September rate of 3.9% is a new record low for California. The state's employers added 13,200 nonfarm payroll jobs last month – 10% of these in the Inland Empire – for a total of 17,202,900 nonfarm payroll jobs in California.

SAN BERNARDINO  
COUNTY'S  
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE  
IS 3.8%, JUST UNDER  
CALIFORNIA'S RATE OF  
3.9%.

The current unemployment rate is a significant improvement over one year ago, when it was at 4.5%. The numbers of jobs increased by 339,600, a 2% improvement. There were 803,000 unemployed Californians in September, no change since August, but down by 76,000 compared to September 2017.

Four of California’s industry sectors reported job gains in the past month. Professional and business services had the largest increase, up 11,800. Leisure and hospitality added 8,500 jobs, the government sector was up 5,100, and mining and logging gained 100. Six industry sectors reported losses. Education and health services led this category with a decrease of 3,700 jobs. Information was down 3,000 and construc-

tion down 2,000. The other services sector was down 1,800, manufacturing down 1,500, and transportation and utilities down 300.

Nine of the California’s industry sectors had job gains compared to one year ago. Professional and business services had the largest increase, adding 78,200 jobs. Education and health services was a close second, with 77,900 new jobs. Leisure and hospitality added 68,600. The following sectors also increased: government, trade, transportation and utilities, construction, information, financial activities, and manufacturing. Two industry sectors posted job losses in comparison to one year ago. Other services was down 4,500 and mining and logging down 300.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATE 2008-2018



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>. Data not seasonally adjusted.