

Tourism lifts North Bay employment in May

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Unemployment rates across the North Bay dropped in May, as the tourism sector drove hiring in several counties, others saw improvements across a range of industries, according to state figures released Friday morning.

Government jobs drive Sonoma growth

The unemployment rate in the Sonoma County was 6.1 percent in May, down from a revised 6.5 percent in April and the year-ago estimate of 8.5 percent, according to the Employment Development Department.

Over the year, the government sector added the most jobs, at 1,200, or 6.1 percent growth, while trade, transportation and utilities, largely related to retail, added 1,000. Education and health services added 800 jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality adding 700 jobs.

Between April and May, tourism led the way with 500 more jobs, while professional and business services added 300. Industry employment in the county increased 2.9 percent, or by 5,100 jobs, over 12 months to 181,800.

Wine-led manufacturing boosts Napa jobs

In Napa County, the unemployment rate fell to 5.3 percent in May, down from a revised 6 percent in April and below last year's rate of 7.5 percent.

Over the year, manufacturing, which includes wine, posted to highest growth, adding 900 jobs, followed by construction and tourism jobs, which each added 600.

Over the month, manufacturing added 400 jobs, while tourism added 200.

Health care leads Solano growth

The unemployment rate in the Solano County dropped to 7.6 percent in May 2013, down from a revised 8.1 percent in April and below the year-ago estimate of 10 percent.

Education and health services added the most jobs, at 800, followed by construction and utilities each adding 600 jobs. Leisure and hospitality added 400 jobs over the year.

Over the month, leisure and hospitality and utilities led the way with each adding 300 jobs, followed by education and health services, which added 200.

Marin remains No. 1

Marin County's jobless rate was 4.5 percent in May — the lowest in all of California — down from 4.7 percent in April and 6.3 percent a year ago.

Industry employment figures for Marin, part of a three-county statistical region including San Francisco and San Mateo counties, are not yet available.

Hospitality lifts Mendocino; Lake job growth flat

The jobless rate in Mendocino County was 7.0 percent in May, down from 9.5 percent a year before and 8.0 percent the previous month

Leisure and hospitality clearly led the way, adding 230 jobs over the year, followed by 120 more in government.

Lake County's unemployment rate fell to 11.6 percent in May from 14.8 percent a year before and 12.7 percent in April.

Small yearly gains were posted in farming and government, but most industries were flat over the year.

The unadjusted unemployment rate for California was 8.1 percent and 7.3 percent for the nation

during the same period.

North Bay employment by the numbers

Area	May 2012	April 2013	May 2012	12-mo. job growth
Lake Co.	14.8%	12.7%	11.6%	-1.0%
Marin Co.	6.3%	4.7%	4.5%	n/a
Mendocino Co.	9.5%	8.0%	7.0%	0.5%
Napa Co.	7.5%	6.0%	5.3%	4.4%
Solano Co.	10.0%	8.1%	7.6%	2.0%
Sonoma Co.	8.5%	6.5%	6.1%	2.9%

Source: California Employment Development Department. Note: Industry employment data for Marin Co. currently is available only through December 2011.

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