

Silicon Valley surge led to 11,200 more jobs in Bay Area last month

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The Bay Area added more than 11,000 jobs in December, led by a big surge in employment in Santa Clara County and the San Francisco-San Mateo-Marín region, but the East Bay job market contracted, a state labor report released Friday shows.

The most recent report underscores the Bay Area's role as the primary leader in job creation for California. The 11,200 jobs that the Bay Area gained last month represented more than 80 percent of all of the employment gains created during December in all of California, which added 13,600 jobs.

The Santa Clara County area added 5,800 jobs in December and the San Francisco-San Mateo-Marín area gained 5,500 jobs, according to seasonally adjusted figures from the state's Employment Development Department. The East Bay lost 500 jobs.

The statewide jobless rate improved to 8.3 percent in December, down from 8.5 percent in November, the EDD report showed. The United States jobless rate declined from 7 percent to 6.7 percent in December despite a decline in job growth, with the Labor Department reporting Jan. 10 that 74,000 jobs were created nationwide after four straight months of totals higher than 200,000.

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