

Valley unemployment up as farm jobs suffer

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Employment fell throughout the Central Valley in November as more farm laborers found themselves out of work.

According to data released by the state Employment Development Department, Fresno County's unemployment rate stood at 11.2 percent in November, up from 10.2 percent in October but less than 12.2 percent a year ago.

Fresno County lost a total of 6,000 jobs from October to November, with farm employment dropping 5,500 and nonfarm industries receding by 500, ending at 360,000 total jobs in the county.

Manufacturing decreased by 1,600 jobs, while government, construction and leisure and hospitality all edged down by 200 jobs each. However, the trade, transportation and utilities sector moved up by 1,800 jobs in the month.

Tulare County saw its unemployment rate increase from 11.7 percent in October to 12.3 percent in the latest month. Both were down from 13.1 percent in November 2013.

Although nonfarm industries gained 1,100 jobs in the month, farms lost 1,200 jobs, ending at a total of 147,700 jobs in the county during November.

Trade, transportation and utilities had the biggest gains at 700 new jobs, followed by 400 more in the professional and business sector and 300 in government.

Manufacturing lost 200 jobs in the county, while mining, logging and construction was down by 200.

Madera County had an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent in November, up from 8.9 percent in October but below 11 percent a year ago.

Farms lost 1,500 jobs in the month as nonfarm industries fell by 700, leaving a total workforce of 45,700 in November.

The government sector shrank by 900 jobs and leisure and hospitality by 100. Professional and business services gained 100 jobs in the month, as did trade, transportation and utilities and the information sectors.

Kings County's unemployment rate increased to 11.7 percent in the month, up from 10.7 percent in October but down from 12.7 percent last year.

Farms shed 300 jobs during the month as nonfarm industries had no change overall, leaving the county with a total of 43,600 jobs.

Although the county's manufacturing sector had 400 fewer jobs in November, trade, transportation and utilities picked up 300 and government added 100.

California's unemployment rate decreased to 7.2 percent in November compared to 7.3 in October and 8.4 percent a year ago. The U.S. rate was unchanged in the month at 5.8 percent, down from 7 percent in November 2013.

