

California Payroll Data for October 2016

Summary

California has added 31,200 new jobs in October creating 2,400,300 positions since the recovery began in February 2010. The state has added 389,500 jobs or 2.4 percent increase from a year ago. The CA unemployment rate stayed at 5.5 percent in October compared to the national rate of 4.9 percent. The CA unemployment rate a year ago was 5.9 percent. Leisure and hospitality, education and health as well as trade transportation and utilities added jobs. Mining, manufacturing, government reduced employment.

Analysis

The Golden State has the most powerful economic engine in the country accounting for almost 20 percent of all the job creations in the economy in October. In August it was 29 percent. Another healthy sign of California's labor market is that labor force continues to rise at a hefty pace since the summer months. In October labor force rose nearly 90,000 on the heels of 118,000 rise in September. The word is out that there are both high- and low-paying jobs to be had in the state causing people to flock to the job market. This is the main reason the unemployment rate has remained stable for about a year despite the increase in the labor force.

The industries which added most jobs compared to a year ago include education and health, professional and business services while mining and manufacturing lost jobs.

The Bay area and Southern California continue to be job-creation machines. Southern California includes vibrant industries including motion pictures, music, tourism, etc. Southern California is also the home for people in arts, design, entertainment, sports and media; these areas have fared relatively well. The Bay Area, with its high concentration of high technology, has been the leader in the state's job growth in this recovery.