



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite C • Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 681-4453 • FAX (805) 681-4656  
[www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org)

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DSS/WIB 11-22-1-9  
DATE: November 22, 2013

News Media Contact:  
Raymond L. McDonald, Executive Director  
(805) 681- 4453  
Karen L. Le Doux, Program Coordinator  
(805) 681- 4760

## PRESS RELEASE

### The State's Employment Development Department Releases Unemployment Data for September and October 2013

Today the State Employment Development Department (EDD) released the unemployment rate and other jobs data for both, September and October 2013, after the government shut down delayed this report last month. The two months are both reflected in the revised unemployment rate for Santa Barbara County at 6.1 percent in October 2013, up from a revised 5.9 percent in September 2013, and below the year-ago estimate of 7.3 percent. This compares with an unadjusted rate of 8.3 percent for California and 7.0 percent for the nation during the same period.

The county's unemployment ranking in October, compared to the other 57 counties in California, positioned Santa Barbara County, along with San Luis Obispo County, at the 6<sup>th</sup> lowest unemployment percentage level in the state. All industry sectors in Santa Barbara County showed an unchanged stability or an increase over the last two months except for 'Manufacturing', which showed a decrease of 200 jobs and 'Leisure and Hospitality', with a decrease of 400 jobs— both reflecting a change of 9.8% in each area. All other industry sectors increased over the same time period, even with the government "shut down", with a total increase for the region of 2,400 jobs. Trades, Transportation, & Utilities along with Education and Health Services demonstrated the highest increase with 300 new jobs added in each category.

Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director, Raymond L. McDonald commented, "The improvement in the local unemployment rates for the months of September and October reflect a renewed vitality in our economy even during the uncertainty of a government shut down." He also concluded, "Our improving numbers, throughout most of the identified industry sectors in our regional community align with the WIB Industry Clusters of Opportunity (see below) and high-demand growth. The positive outcomes also are telling of an increase in financial confidence, a balance between seasonal jobs, a government returning to work, and an increase in trades and construction."

The total Santa Barbara County Unemployment rate is currently at 6.1%. The City of Lompoc remains at the top of the list with an unemployment rate of 10.9% down from 11.3%. The City of Guadalupe follows but also shows an improved rate at 10.6%, down from 11% and in the City of Santa Maria, the unemployment rate is down to a single digit number of 9.6% from 10% at the last reporting.

According to INJCJC, US Initial Jobless Claims SA, the weekly initial jobless claims totals used to calculate local and federal UI (unemployment insurance) ratings is determined by the actual number of people who have filed for Unemployment benefits for the first time in a given period. And the following five (5) eligibility criteria must be met in order to file for Unemployment benefits: 1. meet the requirement of time worked during a 1 year period (full time or not), 2. have become unemployed through no fault of your own (was not fired), 3. must be able to work, no physical or mental holdbacks, 4. must be available for work, and 5. must be actively seeking work.

#### ABOUT THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF Santa Barbara COUNTY

The Workforce Investment Board, [www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org), is dedicated to serving the workforce needs of businesses, adults, laid-off workers and youth throughout Santa Barbara County. The WIB is a public/private partnership created by the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and is staffed by the County of Santa Barbara.

Job seekers and employers can take advantage of free services at two Workforce Resource Centers (“One-Stops”) to help find work or new employees. Programs include employment services for job seekers, the latest labor market information and regional workforce research for businesses, as well as training that specialize in helping people gain the skills and confidence necessary to find and obtain a job. The One-Stop Shops are at 1410 S. Broadway in Santa Maria, (805) 614-1550, and 130 E. Ortega Street in Santa Barbara, (805) 568-1296. Online information is available at [www.workforceresource.com](http://www.workforceresource.com).

Santa Barbara County Industry Clusters of Opportunity (designated by WIB):

- Healthcare
- Energy and Environment
- Building and Design
- Technology and Innovation
- Business Support Services
- Agriculture, Tourism, and Wineries

For more information about Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board please visit our website at [www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org)

For the full statewide unemployment figures visit: [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov).

For information about The Santa Barbara County/Santa Barbara Foundation Poverty Study please go to: [www.countyofsb.org/social\\_services/default.aspx?id=44131](http://www.countyofsb.org/social_services/default.aspx?id=44131).

For more information about the WIB-led project for Santa Barbara Bank & Trust/Union Bank employees, please contact Jessica McLernon at [j.mclernon@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:j.mclernon@sbcsocialserv.org).

###