

Jobs up, but so is jobless rate

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The unemployment rate in Yuba-Sutter increased slightly in October, but industry experts say that, despite the uptick, the job market has actually improved.

The unemployment rate in the Yuba City metropolitan statistical area was 12.4 percent in October, up from a revised rate of 12.1 percent in September. The unemployment rate was 12.5 percent in Sutter County and 12.1 percent in Yuba County.

While the area is still well above the state unemployment rate of 8.3 percent, it is a marked improvement from the October 2012 rate of 15.1 percent.

But focusing only on the unemployment rate obscures the fact that the area added 400 jobs during a period when it normally posts a loss, said Liz Bosley, labor market consultant for the state Employment Development Department.

Yuba-Sutter Economic Development Corp. president Brynda Stranix pointed to an identical increase from September 2012 to October in 2012 as a reason not to read too deeply into the uptick. She said it was most likely the result of the loss of some seasonal farm labor.

Bosley said that she expects the upswing to be eliminated by a boost in hiring due to the holiday season.

The job gains occurred in government (increase of 200), professional and business services (increase of 100) and trade, transportation and utilities (increase of 100).

There were 2,400 more jobs in October 2013 than the previous year.

Government (increase of 800), leisure and hospitality (increase of 600), educational and health services (increase of 200), professional and business services (increase of 400) and trade, transportation and utilities (increase of 100) posted gains.

Job losses occurred in mining, logging and construction (decrease of 100), manufacturing (decrease of 100) and financial activities (decrease of 100).

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