

Lake County's jobless rate drops in August

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LAKE COUNTY – There's some good news on the employment front in Lake County, where the jobless rate was down in August compared to July of this year.

However, while Lake County's preliminary August 2008 unemployment rate was 9.8 percent – down from the revised July rate of 10.2 percent – it remained 2.2 percent above the year-ago, August 2007 rate of 7.6 percent, according to Dennis Mullins of the Employment Development Department's North Coast Region office in Eureka.

In comparison to the 9.8-percent rate, the statewide rate increased 2.1 percent for the period, Mullins reported.

At 9.8 percent, Lake ranked 48th among the State's 58 counties. Some surrounding county rates included 9.5 percent for Colusa, 6.5 percent for Mendocino and 6.1 percent for Sonoma, said Mullins.

Marin had the lowest rate in the state at 4.9 percent, Mullins noted; Imperial County had the highest with 24.7 percent.

The comparable California and U.S. rates were 7.6 and 6.0 percent, respectively, Mullins added.

Total industry employment increased 230 (1.5 percent) between August 2007 and August 2008, ending the year-over period with 15,780 jobs, according to Mullins.

Year-over job growth occurred in trade, transportation and utilities; private educational and health services; and government.

At the same time, year-over job losses occurred in natural resources, mining and construction; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and other services.

Industry sectors with no change over the year included farm, manufacturing and information.

Mullins said government led industry gainers adding 190 jobs over the year. The trade, transportation and utilities sector gained 80 and private educational and health services was up 60.

Natural resources, mining and construction and the professional and business services sectors led decliners, Mullins reported, dropping 30 jobs each for the period. Leisure and hospitality was down 20 and financial activities and other services each dropped 10.

Six industry sectors gained jobs or held steady over the year, and five declined, Mullins said.

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