



June 2021

The North/Far North Center of Excellence is sharing a semi-monthly bulletin of findings on job postings, unemployment, industry measures, and other real-time data. Some data points that we have traditionally used do not reflect the current economic disruption due to COVID-19.

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SUMMARY

Last month's economic update presented optimism based on slightly decreasing unemployment rates, increasing labor force numbers, and job gains in several concerning sectors. This edition presents data from April and May that display slightly decreasing unemployment rates in the North/Far North region. Labor force data, however, show stagnant trends, indicating some of the improvements in unemployment rates owe to people exiting the workforce and the region.

- Unemployment rates continued to slowly decline in the North/Far North region. In April, the Far North counties' average unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points, falling to 7.2%. The unemployment rate decreased by just 0.2 percentage points, to 6.8%, in the Greater Sacramento (North) subregion.
- In April, Siskiyou, Sutter, and Trinity counties' unemployment rates fell by 0.7 to 1.2 percentage points, good news for the counties with unemployment rates among the highest in the region. But most counties' unemployment rates fell by a fraction of a percentage point.
- After encouraging increases in the first two months of the year, labor force numbers dropped again in March and April in both subregions. In March and April, the Greater Sacramento (North) subregion's labor force declined by 1.8 percentage points. In the Far North during the same period, the labor force declined by 1.1 percentage points.

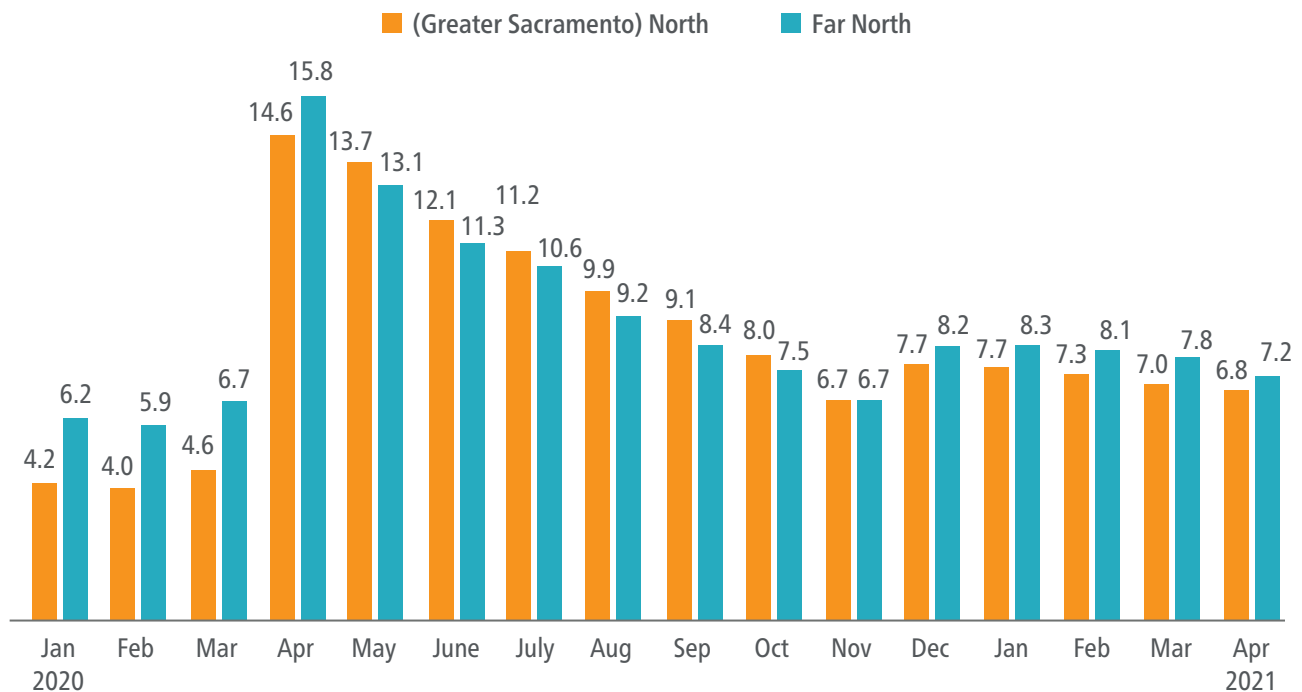


COE INSIGHTS

Unemployment

After rising in December and January, unemployment rates have slowly declined in the North/Far North region (Exhibit 1). The decline in unemployment rates reflects the dip in labor force totals (see below) and business re-openings. In April, the Far North counties' unemployment rate decreased by 0.6 percentage points, falling to 7.2% on average. The unemployment rate decreased by just 0.2 percentage points in the Greater Sacramento (North) subregion, resulting in an average unemployment rate of 6.8%.

Exhibit 1. Unemployment rates (%), North/Far North subregions, January 2020–April 2021



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

Note: Unemployment rates are averaged across the counties of each subregion.



In April, several counties' unemployment rates dropped substantially (Exhibit 2 and Exhibit 3). Siskiyou County's unemployment rate fell by 1.2 percentage points. Sutter County's unemployment rate fell by 0.8 percentage points. Trinity County's unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percentage points. Yuba County's unemployment rate fell by 0.6 percentage points. These decreases are welcome news for these counties, where unemployment rates have generally been among the highest in the North/Far North region. Placer County (5.3%) and Nevada County (5.9%) have the lowest unemployment rates in the North/Far North region.

Exhibit 2. Unemployment rates (%), Greater Sacramento (North) subregion by county, September 2020–April 2021

County	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
El Dorado	7.6	6.7	5.7	6.7	7.0	6.6	6.3	6.0
Nevada	7.7	6.8	5.7	6.7	6.7	6.3	6.1	5.9
Placer	7.2	6.3	5.2	6.0	6.0	5.7	5.4	5.3
Sacramento	10.0	8.8	7.3	8.3	8.1	7.7	7.3	7.2
Sutter	9.4	8.6	8.0	10.0	10.4	10.4	10.3	9.5
Yolo	7.2	6.5	5.7	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.4	6.1
Yuba	10.1	9.3	8.2	9.8	10.0	9.8	9.6	9.0

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

Exhibit 3. Unemployment rates (%), selected Far North subregion counties, September 2020–April 2021

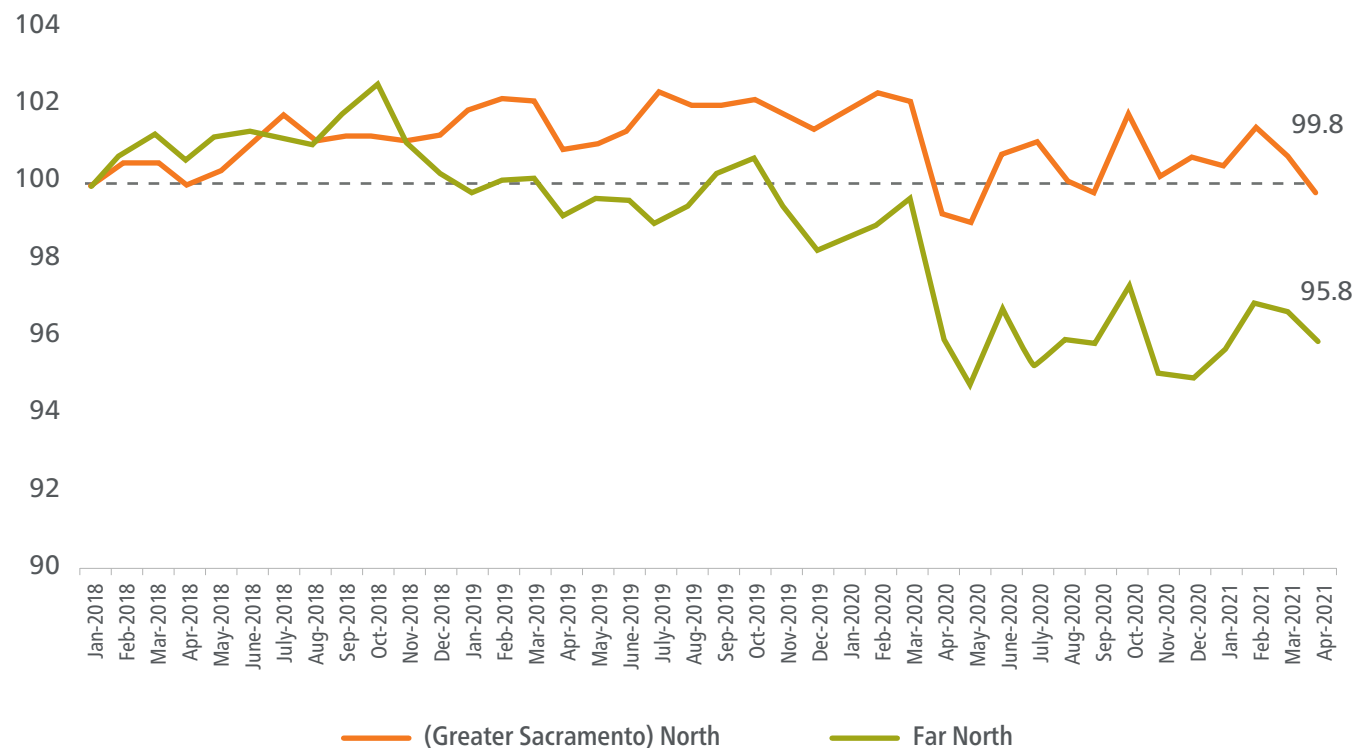
County	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Butte	9.1	7.9	6.9	8.1	8.1	7.8	7.5	7.1
Del Norte	8.9	8.3	7.6	8.9	9.0	8.6	8.3	8.1
Humboldt	8.0	7.2	6.1	7.5	7.3	7.0	6.7	6.4
Lake	8.9	8.3	7.4	8.8	8.9	8.3	7.9	7.6
Mendocino	8.6	7.8	6.7	7.8	7.7	7.4	7.1	6.6
Shasta	8.0	7.3	6.5	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.5	7.0
Siskiyou	8.0	7.3	6.8	9.5	9.9	9.8	9.3	8.1
Trinity	6.5	6.3	5.6	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.5	6.8

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

Labor force

After encouraging signs in the first two months of the year, labor force numbers dropped again in March and April in both subregions (Exhibit 4). Three trends may account for a significant portion of the drop in unemployment rates: people halting work searches, moving out of the area, or retiring. In March and April, the Greater Sacramento (North) subregion's labor force declined by 1.8 percentage points; the data show the subregion has the same number of people in the labor force as it did at the beginning of 2018. The numbers for March and April are similarly disappointing in the Far North; in the 15 counties of the subregion, the labor force declined by 1.1 percentage points.

Exhibit 4. Civilian labor force, North/Far North subregions, monthly trend indexed to Jan 2018



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.



REPORT SPOTLIGHT

Agriculture Workforce Needs Assessment - Woodland Community College Lake County Campus

June, 2021

Ebony Benzing, Research Manager, COE North/Far North

Ms. Benzing's new workforce needs assessment analyzes industries, occupations, and local training programs. The report finds that dozens of programs are well supplying the agriculture sector's workforce. The report found few opportunities for middle- and above-middle skill workers for the college's training and education programs.

Check out these report highlights:

- Job postings data from a new source
- Local community college program inventory
- List of agriculture employers in Lake County

[Download the report here.](#)

