

**SANTA ANA-ANAHEIM-IRVINE METROPOLITAN DIVISION  
(ORANGE COUNTY)**

**Trade, transportation, and utilities lead job gains from October to November**

The unemployment rate in the Orange County was 6.1 percent in November 2008, unchanged from a revised 6.1 percent in October 2008, and above the year-ago estimate of 4.2 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 8.3 percent for California and 6.5 percent for the nation during the same period.

**Between October 2008 and November 2008**, total nonfarm wage and salary employment declined from 1,475,200 to 1,473,100, a loss of 2,100 jobs.

- Leisure and hospitality reported the largest month over decline of 2,400 jobs. Over 60 percent of the loss was in arts, entertainment, and recreation, led by employment declines in amusement, gambling, and recreation.
- Manufacturing fell by 600 jobs, with both durable goods and nondurable goods each losing 300 jobs. Other sectors reporting month over declines were financial activities (down 500 jobs) and construction (down 300 jobs), with all the loss in specialty trade contractors. Information, professional and business services and other services each declined by 100 jobs.
- Trade, transportation, and utilities recorded the greatest month over gain, adding 900 jobs. Holiday hiring contributed to an increase of 1,400 jobs in retail trade, slightly offset by a loss of 100 jobs in wholesale trade.

**Between November 2007 and November 2008**, total nonfarm wage and salary employment declined by 38,400, or 2.5 percent.

- Financial activities reported a year-over loss of 9,300 jobs, with employment reductions in all the major categories. Nearly 70 percent of the decline was concentrated in the credit intermediation sector.
- Professional and business services also posted an overall loss of 8,700 jobs, led by employment declines in administrative and support services, which includes temporary help firms.
- Educational and health services grew by 1,400 jobs since one year ago. Educational services lost 200 jobs, slightly offsetting the expansion of 1,600 jobs in health care and social assistance.