



**LABOR FORCE**  
**188,300**



**EMPLOYED**  
**173,800**

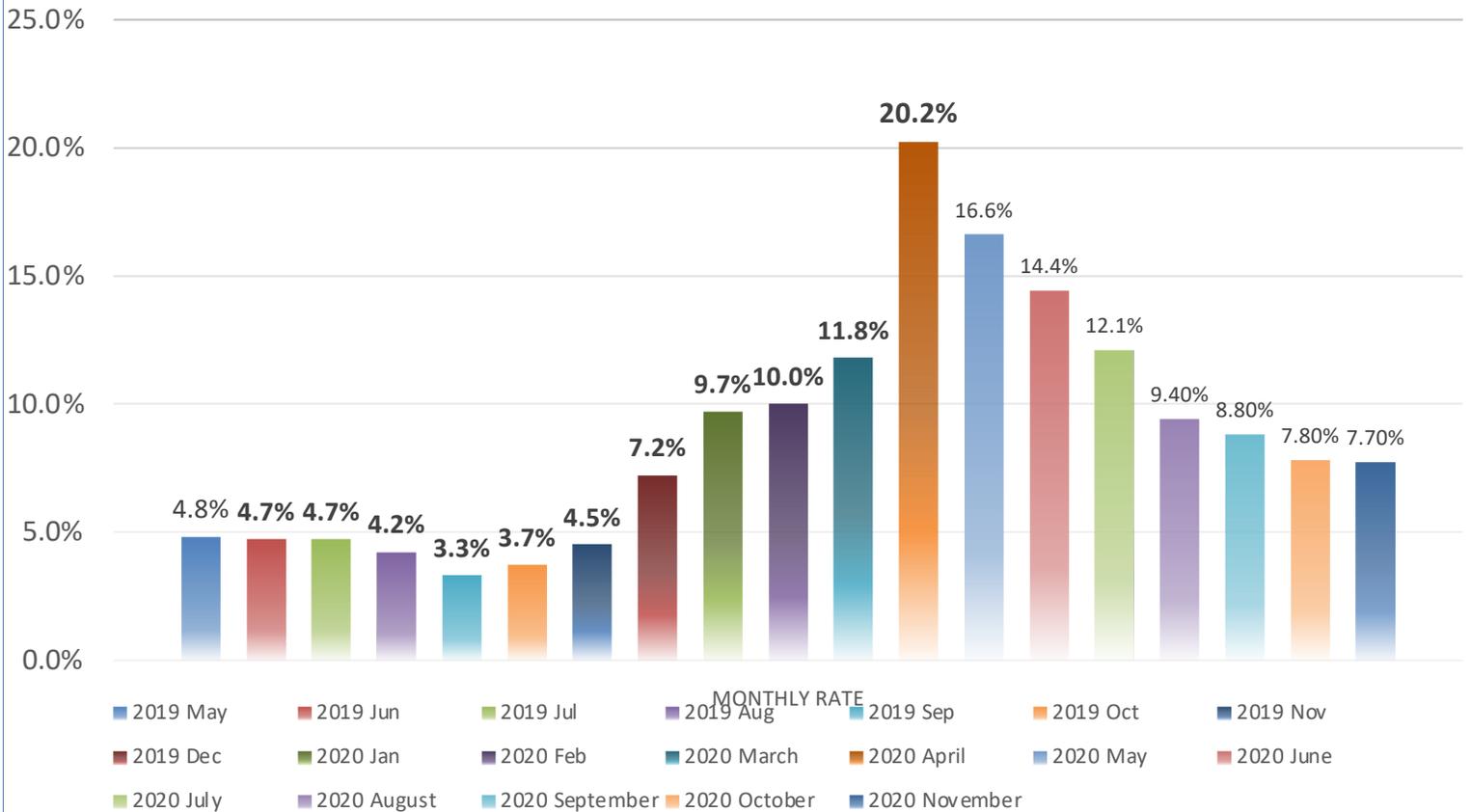


**UNEMPLOYED**  
**14,500**



**UNEMPLOYMENT**  
**7.7% (p)**

**MONTEREY COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT PERCENT  
NOVEMBER 2020**



The unemployment rate in the Monterey County was 7.7 percent (14,500 unemployed) in November 2020, up from a revised 7.6 percent in October 2020, and above the year-ago estimate of 4.7 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 7.9 percent for California and 6.4 percent for the nation during the same period.

(p) Preliminary  
EDD December 2020



**Total loss in Jobs  
 Farm/AG  
 (27,800)**



**Largest Sector Loss Non-Farm  
 Leisure and Hospitality  
 (5,100)**



**All Sector Loss  
 Non-Farm  
 (14,300)**



## Major Sectors Change November 2019 – November 2020

Industry	November-19	November - 20	Change
Total Farm	53,500	25,700	-27,800
Total Nonfarm	147,300	133,200	-14,300
Mining and Logging	300	300	0
Construction	6,600	6,500	(100)
Manufacturing	5,100	4,600	(500)
Retail Trade, Transportation & Utilities	27,900	25,400	(2,500)
Information	1,000	900	(100)
Financial Activities	4,400	4,400	0
Professional & Business Services	15,300	13,600	(1,700)
Educational & Health Services	20,700	20,000	(700)
Leisure & Hospitality	26,400	21,300	(5,100)
Other Services	5,000	4,300	(700)
Government	34,800	31,900	(2,900)

## MONTEREY COUNTY TOP JOB ADS BY OCCUPATION

December 2020

Occupation	Employees	Mean Ann Wages	Online Job Ads	Ann % Growth
Retail Salespersons	4,013	\$35,300	369	-0.4%
Registered Nurses	2,706	\$133,600	235	0.7%
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,532	\$46,900	194	-0.3%
Stockers and Order Fillers	2,329	\$31,800	170	-0.5%
Fast Food and Counter Workers	4,168	\$26,900	129	1.3%
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,016	\$40,600	129	0.9%
Speech-Language Pathologists	157	\$99,100	123	1.8%
Social and Human Service Assistants	531	\$37,100	109	1.8%
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	1,499	\$48,100	94	0.5%
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	2,236	\$45,200	79	-1.1%
Security Guards	1,300	\$33,800	72	0.2%
Customer Service Representatives	1,341	\$43,900	71	-0.5%
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	2,159	\$35,200	65	0.4%
Medical Assistants	748	\$38,700	65	1.8%
Medical and Health Services Managers	351	\$154,400	63	1.3%
Nursing Assistants	940	\$46,200	61	0.8%
Computer User Support Specialists	415	\$67,000	61	0.6%
Demonstrators and Product Promoters	136	\$38,300	59	0.4%
Accountants and Auditors	1,186	\$97,600	58	0.4%
Cashiers	4,247	\$28,800	56	-0.5%
Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	875	\$60,800	56	0.5%
Food Preparation Workers	1,107	\$29,600	49	0.7%
Cooks, Restaurant	1,950	\$35,500	48	1.8%
Light Truck Drivers	1,099	\$38,800	48	0.3%

## **SMALL BUSINESS WORKFORCE TRENDS IN CALIFORNIA, NOVEMBER 2020**

**By Luke Pardue, Economist, Gusto**

### **Key Findings**

- Employment growth among California's small businesses decelerated for the third straight month, and furloughs increased. Small business headcount growth in California decreased to 0.9% in November, a deceleration from the 1.3% and 1.2% growth rates in September and October, respectively. For the 2nd month in a row, furloughs increased after five months of decline, and remain 89% higher than this time last year.
- The hardest-hit industries in California still have significant ground to make up from the major losses in March. While overall small business headcount in California is 3.5% greater than the beginning of March, businesses in hard-hit industries (Accommodations, Arts & Entertainment, Food & Beverage, Salon & Spa, Sports & Recreation, and Tourism) remain between 7% and 25% below March employment levels.
- December is off to a rocky start: Recent spikes in COVID-19 cases, and ensuing lockdown orders, have led to significant declines in staffing levels within already hard-hit industries. Data over the first two weeks of December indicates that businesses in the Salon & Spa, Accommodations, and Food & Beverage sectors have all experienced large drops in headcount as the month begins: Salon & Spa by 7.09%, Accommodations by 4.19% and Food & Beverage by 1.38%.

### **November '20 Small Business Trends**

Of workers who were employed prior to COVID in February '20, 6.2% of those workers are furloughed as of November '20. This is a slight tick upwards from the rate of workers who were furloughed as of October '20 (6.1%) and the second straight increase, after falling from April through August. The furlough rate observed in November '20 is 89% higher than the furlough rate in November of last year. These elevated furlough rates, both month-over-month and relative to last year, could be one of the first indicators of the impact of rising COVID cases on small businesses and the actions that their owners and operators are forced to take. For more on this story go to : <https://gusto.com/company-news/small-business-workforce-trends-in-california-november-20>

## California farmworkers hit hard by COVID-19, study finds. By [Kara Manke](#) | UC Berkeley News December 2020

Many farmworkers who plant and harvest our food are forced to live and work under conditions that are ripe for transmission of COVID-19. During the summer harvest season, coronavirus outbreaks popped up across the nation among farmworkers in agricultural communities, including many [in California](#).

In a white paper Wednesday, Dec. 2, public health researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, detail preliminary findings from the first long-term study on the prevalence of, and the risk factors for, COVID-19 infection among California's agricultural laborers. The paper reports that between mid-July and November 2020, 13% of the 1,091 Salinas Valley farmworkers enrolled in the study tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. In California as a whole, only 5% of the population has tested positive between the beginning of the pandemic and late November.

By the end of October, roughly 20% of farmworkers recruited for the study tested positive for antibodies to COVID-19, indicating prior infection. These figures are far higher than estimates of approximately 1% in the San Francisco Bay Area population at large from studies led by [the Centers for Disease Control](#) and by other [UC Berkeley researchers](#) during the spring and summer.

“These findings validate concerns from researchers, public health professionals and community advocates that farmworkers would suffer from the COVID-19 pandemic in California,” said Joseph Lewnard, assistant professor of epidemiology at UC Berkeley and a member of the study team. “We have failed to protect this population, while they have continued to engage in essential work through the pandemic.”

To conduct the study, UC Berkeley researchers partnered with the [Clinica de Salud del Valle De Salinas](#) (CSVs) to recruit and test study participants. The CSVs is the main clinic network serving farmworkers and their families in Monterey County and has conducted testing throughout the pandemic, both at its clinics and through community outreach.



## California farmworkers hit hard by COVID-19, study finds

“Our study is an attempt to find answers about incidence and prevalence of this viral infection in the Hispanic farmworker community,” said Dr. Maximiliano Cuevas, CSVS chief executive officer. “Understanding the level of disease present in our community and understanding how it spreads among these ‘essential workers,’ will provide guidance for developing policies that can be used to quickly reduce and reverse the spread of disease and ultimately protect our vital food supply for our nation.”

The research was a new collaboration within the UC Berkeley School of Public Health: Brenda Eskenazi, Professor of the Graduate School, and Ana Maria Mora, a researcher in the Center for Environmental Research and Children’s Health, have led longstanding studies of farmworkers in Salinas Valley and elsewhere in the world. Lewnard has focused on respiratory and vaccine-preventable infections, and Eva Harris, a professor in the Division of Infectious Diseases and Vaccinology, leads serological studies of viruses, such as dengue and Zika.

### **COVID-19 in ‘America’s Salad Bowl’**

California’s Salinas Valley, known as “America’s Salad Bowl,” is home to more than 50,000 farmworkers, many of whom are Mexican immigrants and undocumented. Low wages and food insecurity make many fearful of missing work when they are sick, and fear of deportation may also deter them from seeking health care. The community also faces higher rates of medical conditions like obesity, hypertension and diabetes that can make COVID-19 infections worse.

In early April, Eskenazi rapidly helped to organize a coalition of growers, county officials, farmworker advocates, doctors and scientists to protect farmworker health. The coalition, the Monterey County Coalition of Agriculture, quickly helped to set COVID-19 safety guidelines for growers, distributed hundreds of thousands of face masks to workers and secured emergency housing for farmworkers needing to quarantine.

But, as epidemiologists, the study team members also wanted hard data to help guide the coalition’s efforts.

## California farmworkers hit hard by COVID-19, study finds

We need numbers,” Eskenazi said. “And we don’t just need the positivity rate. We also need to know things like: What proportion of the community is living in crowded conditions? And is that related to having COVID-19? Or what personal protective equipment is being provided to the farmworkers? And should they be provided more?” Study participants include farmworkers who came to the CSVS clinic for testing, as well as those recruited through community outreach. A total of 140, or 13%, tested positive for COVID-19 using polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing. The positivity rate was 28% for symptomatic individuals and 8% for asymptomatic individuals.

Alarming, more than half or 58%, of individuals who were both symptomatic and infected said that they continued to go to work while sick.

“A big problem is that farmworkers were going to work symptomatic because they thought they’d lose their jobs, and they felt they needed to feed their families,” Eskenazi said. “A large portion of the farmworkers are food insecure, meaning they are going hungry during this pandemic, and these are the people that put food on our table.”

Most farmworkers who become sick with COVID-19 are entitled to replacement income and emergency housing, where they can safely quarantine. However, some farmworkers also reported not receiving information about these resources from employers. And while a Monterey County Agricultural Advisory encourages growers to screen employees for symptoms, many study participants indicated that their employers did not have any such screening in place.

“It seems that employers are providing a lot of information about COVID-19 and are providing face coverings to farmworkers who don’t have them,” Mora said. “But while the guidelines recommend that they perform temperature checks and ask for symptoms when people arrive to work, most employers are not doing that.” Language barriers may also have prevented many farmworkers from taking advantage of these resources. Those who tested positive are more likely to speak Indigenous languages, rather than Spanish or English.

## California farmworkers hit hard by COVID-19, study finds

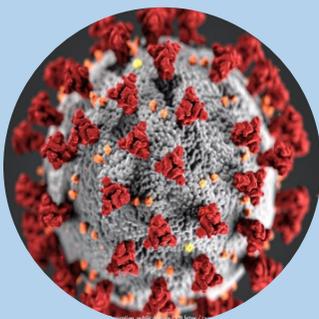
“I think we need a very strong media messaging campaign in multiple languages that reaches different groups within the farmworker community,” Mora said. “This campaign would have to include not only the resources available if you are infected, but also who can help you access those resources. For instance, it seems that the paperwork required to get replacement income is a headache. So, who can help you deal with that if you have a low level of education, or you don’t have time?”

While the work of the growers and public health officials has gone a long way toward helping farmworkers weather the COVID-19 crisis, Eskenazi stresses the need for continued social and epidemiological interventions in these communities.

“We need rapid testing that gives immediate results, plus rapid contact tracing by people who are connected to and trusted by the farmworkers,” Eskenazi said. “We also need to provide immediate wraparound care, to let people know their benefits and to make sure that we help them get replacement income right away, because many are living paycheck to paycheck. As vaccination becomes available, it is imperative that we prioritize these farmworkers to safeguard their health and to secure our food supply.”

The research team finished enrolling participants in the Salinas Valley at the end of November and hopes to expand the study to other agricultural regions of California.

The study was funded by the Innovative Genomics Institute at UC Berkeley and Clinica de Salud del Valle de Salinas.



### HOW TO DO SOCIAL DISTANCING



**NO HANDSHAKES  
OR HUGS**



**KEEP YOUR  
DISTANCE**  
(about 6 feet)



**WORK  
REMOTELY**



**AVOID  
CROWDS**



**STAY  
AT HOME**



**WASH  
YOUR HANDS**