



LABOR FORCE
208,400



EMPLOYED
193,500



UNEMPLOYED
14,900



UNEMPLOYMENT
7.2%

Looking at Unemployment

The unemployment rate in the Monterey County was 7.2 percent (14,900 Unemployed) in December 2021, up from a revised 5.5 percent in November 2021, and below the year-ago estimate of 10.3 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 5.0 percent for California and 3.8 percent for the nation during the same period.

Between November 2021 and December 2021, the Civilian Employment went up by 2,900 jobs for the month.

- Farm was down by -15,600 jobs month to month typical seasonal adjustment.
- Retail trade had a loss of -200 jobs.
- Leisure and Hospitality had a gain of 300 jobs
- Manufacturing down -100 jobs

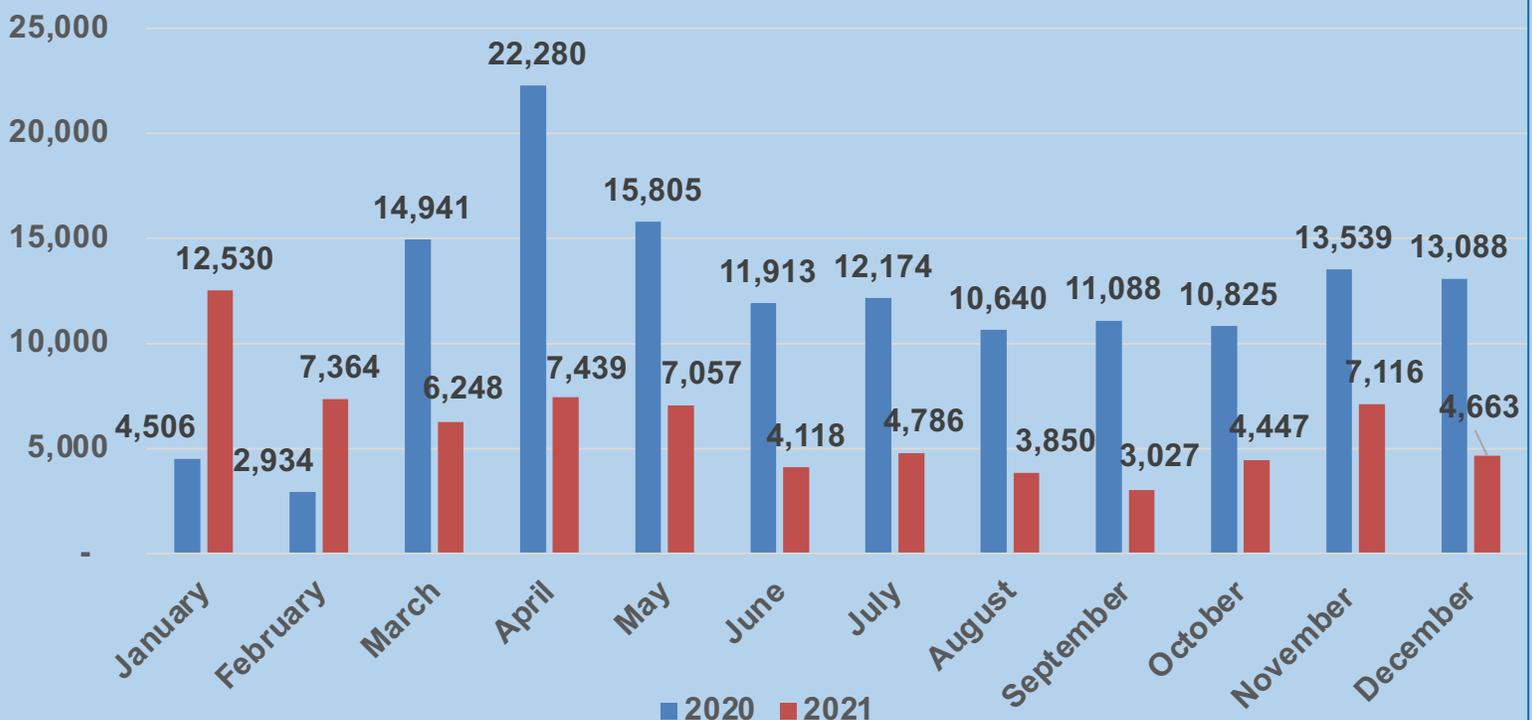
Between December 2020 and December 2021, civilian employment in the Salinas MSA, rose 12,200 jobs, a 3.2% gain over last year.

- Farm had an increase over last year of 1,800 jobs.
- Leisure and Hospitality grew by 5,800 jobs a 32.6% increase.
- Professional and Business Services increased payrolls by 600 jobs.
- Health Care and Social Assistance up 700 jobs.

Monterey County Unemployment Percent December 2021



Monterey County Unemployment Claims 2020-2021





**Total Gain in Jobs
Farm/AG**



**Key Sector Gain
Accommodations**



**Key Sector Gain Food
Services and Drinking
Places**



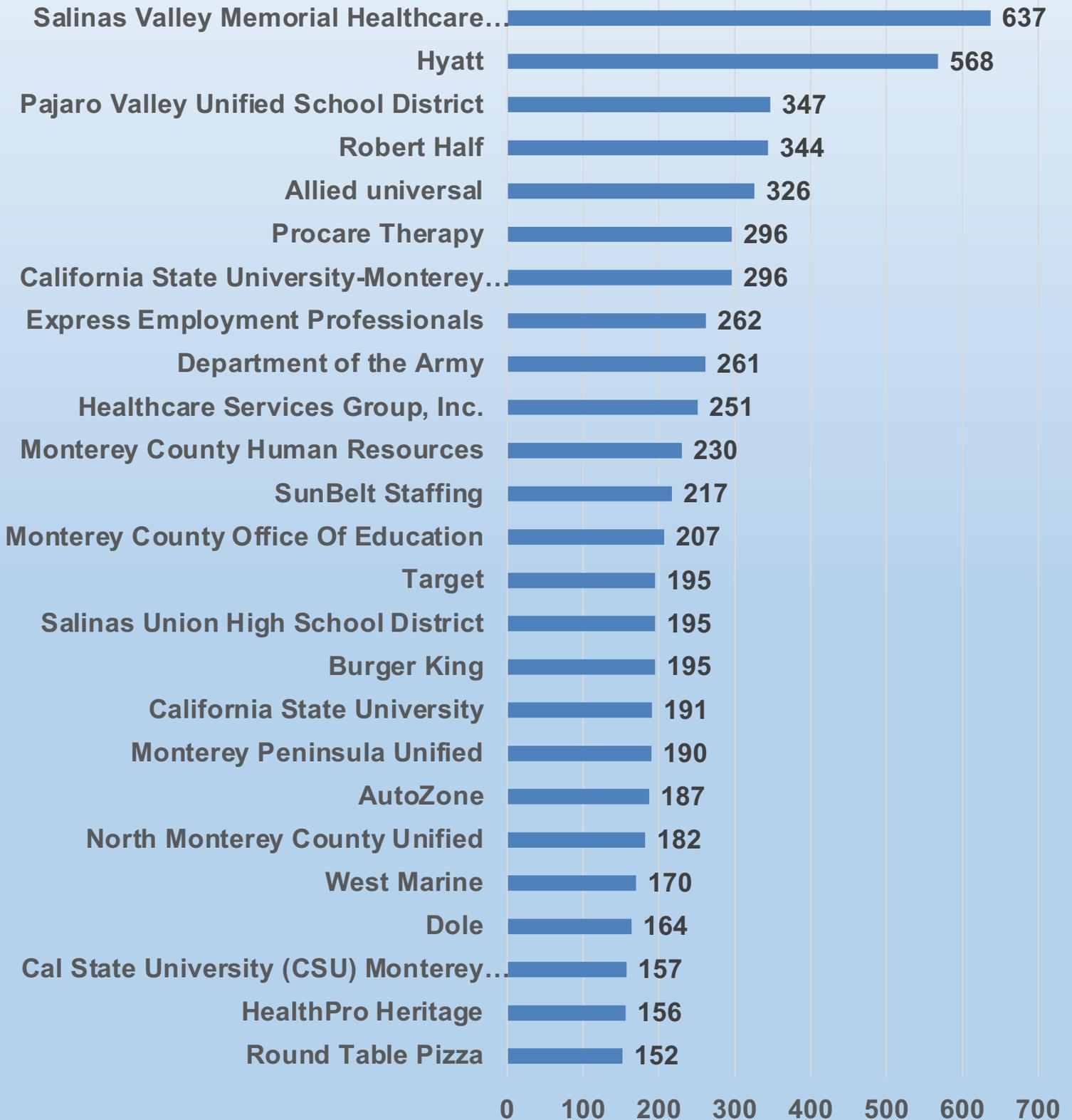
	Dec 20	Oct 21	Nov 21	Dec 21	Change	Percent Change	
			Revised	Prelim	Annual	Month	Year
Total, All Industries	172,200	206,200	198,400	182,800	10,600	-7.9%	6.2%
Total Farm	40,000	66,000	57,400	41,800	1,800	-27.2%	4.5%
Total Nonfarm	132,200	140,200	141,000	141,000	8,800	0.0%	6.7%
Construction	6,300	6,900	6,900	6,800	500	-1.4%	7.9%
Manufacturing	4,500	4,400	4,500	4,400	-100	-2.2%	-2.2%
Retail Trade	16,500	15,800	16,400	16,200	-300	-1.2%	-1.8%
Information	700	900	900	1,000	300	11.1%	42.9%
Financial Activities	4,100	4,100	4,100	4,200	100	2.4%	2.4%
Professional & Business Services	15,300	16,200	15,900	15,900	600	0.0%	3.9%
Health Care & Social Assistance	18,200	18,300	18,400	18,400	200	0.0%	1.1%
Accommodation	4,900	8,400	8,300	8,500	3,600	2.4%	73.5%
Food Services & Drinking Places	11,000	13,300	13,400	13,500	2,500	0.7%	22.7%
State and Local Government	27,100	28,100	28,400	28,200	1,100	-0.7%	4.1%

Source: EDD 1/22/2022

Active Job Ads



Active Job Ads



The Great Resignation? More like The Great Renegotiation

NPR's *Planet Money*

<https://www.npr.org/sections/money/2022/01/25/1075115539/the-great-resignation-more-like-the-great-renegotiation>



January 25, 2022 6:30 AM ET

[GREG ROSALSKY](#)

There's been much hubbub in recent months about what's been dubbed "The Great Resignation." The popular phrase refers to the roughly **33 million** Americans who have quit their jobs since the spring of 2021. Some — pointing to the difficulty of businesses in recruiting workers and spectacles like **the immense popularity** of the "[Anti-Work](#)" thread on Reddit — have gone as far as to suggest this record-breaking trend is a movement of young, able-bodied Americans rejecting work altogether. But it's pretty clear that, at least for the vast majority of Americans quitting their jobs, that's not the case. Americans are not en masse rejecting consumerism, moving off the grid, and living off the land. Most still need money. Some of those quitting are [older workers](#) deciding to retire early in large part because their finances have been buoyed by surging stock and housing markets. Others are secondary earners who have stayed home because they have had to [take care of kids](#) while schools have closed due to COVID-19 — or because, more simply, working face to face during a pandemic sucks.

The Great Resignation? More like The Great Renegotiation

Quitting to get better pay or treatment isn't unusual

However, most Americans quitting their jobs merely seem to be aiming to get better jobs. While we are living in a bizarre pandemic economy with countless strange trends, this isn't necessarily one of them; it's pretty standard to see a swell of workers quitting their jobs for greener pastures when the job market is strong and there are lots of shiny opportunities available. When the stars align as they're aligning now, workers gun for better pay, perks, flexibility, and treatment. Bargaining power has shifted in their favor. That's why we at *Planet Money* think it might be better to call what's going on "The Great Renegotiation." We coined this term in a recent episode called "[No shortage of labor stories](#)." In that episode we spoke with Karin Kimbrough, the chief economist of LinkedIn. Kimbrough approved of our rebranding, and she pointed us to her company's treasure trove of data to back it up. "There are twice as many jobs on our platform as there were a year ago," Kimbrough said. With lots of open jobs, workers have greater power to negotiate a better position.

As for why [the labor force participation rate](#) remains significantly smaller than before the pandemic and it's still hard for employers to fill open jobs, Kimbrough said: "I think that the workers are there, but the terms haven't yet drawn them off the sidelines. They are hesitating or being more choosy for a variety of really good reasons. They may say, 'I don't want to take the risk, and in order to make it worth my while to go out there and work again, you need to actually pay me a little bit more.'"

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Low-wage service workers look for something better

The workers who use LinkedIn tend to be [higher-income](#) professionals. Indeed, many of these [types of workers](#) are negotiating for better pay and amenities, such as continuing to be able to work from home. But the Great Renegotiation seems to be primarily a story about low-wage workers, according to a [recent report](#) by Ben Casselman at *The New York Times*. Low-wage workers in the leisure and hospitality sectors have the [highest rate](#) of [quitting](#). In November alone, a record-breaking [1 million](#) leisure and hospitality workers quit their jobs. And that was before omicron started surging. [Why full employment doesn't mean everyone has a job](#)

With places like hotels, bars and restaurants seeking to hire — or rehire — scores of workers as Americans began spending on services again, there have been many employers simultaneously competing for their labor. That creates an environment where quitting for something better makes a lot of sense. Now with omicron surging, these low-wage service workers have an additional reason to quit or demand better pay.

The Great Renegotiation is also a byproduct of inflation. Workers are seeking better pay to keep up with the rising cost of living. Interestingly, workers in the leisure and hospitality sectors saw their hourly earnings increase [by 12.3%](#) in November, well outpacing inflation. Yet, despite all the quitting and renegotiating, the real wage for the average American worker — meaning the true value of their paycheck after taking into account inflation — [fell by 2.4%](#) in 2021. In a recent poll by *The New York Times* and Momentum, only [about 17%](#) of Americans said their pay was keeping up with surging prices.