

**SANTA ANA-ANAHEIM-IRVINE METROPOLITAN DIVISION
(ORANGE COUNTY)**
Leisure and hospitality lead job gains from November to December

The unemployment rate in the Orange County was 6.5 percent in December 2008, up from a revised 6.2 percent in November 2008, and above the year-ago estimate of 4.3 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 9.1 percent for California and 7.1 percent for the nation during the same period.

Between November 2008 and December 2008, total nonfarm wage and salary employment declined from 1,474,000 to 1,470,200, a loss of 3,800 jobs.

- Professional and business services posted the largest month over loss of 2,500 jobs, with the majority of the decline in administrative and support and waste services (down 2,700 jobs) which includes temporary help firms. This was slightly offset by a gain in professional, scientific, and technical services (up 200 jobs).
- Construction lost 400 jobs, all in the specialty trade contractors sector. Manufacturing also declined by 400 jobs, with the loss largely concentrated in the durable goods sector (down 500 jobs), which was slightly offset by a gain in the nondurable goods sector (up 100 jobs).
- The largest month over increase of 900 jobs was reported in leisure and hospitality, with all the gain in accommodation and food services.

Between December 2007 and December 2008, total nonfarm wage and salary employment declined by 41,400, or 2.7 percent.

- The largest year over loss of 12,500 jobs was in professional and business services. Administrative and support services, which includes temporary help firms, accounted for almost 70 percent of the decline.
- Trade, transportation, and utilities declined by 11,300 jobs, with nearly 85 percent of the loss in retail trade.
- Educational and health services reported the largest year over gain of 1,300 jobs, with 90 percent of the increase in health care and social assistance (up 1,200 jobs).