San Diego County Jobs Report 2023-2024

The unemployment rate in San Diego County has experienced notable fluctuations over the past year. In September 2024, the rate stood at 4.55%, having peaked in August 2024 at 5.05%. This was a significant increase from the low of 3.65% recorded in May 2024. Comparatively, the unemployment rate was generally higher in 2024 than at the end of 2023, where it was 4.28% in December. When compared to peer regions, San Diego County's unemployment rate is higher than that of Miami-Dade County, FL, which peaked at 3.13% in August 2024, but lower than Wayne County, MI, which saw a peak of 8.23% in July 2024. Maricopa County, AZ, also reported lower unemployment rates, with a peak of 3.84% in October 2023. This positions San Diego County in a moderate employment situation relative to these peers.

In terms of job postings, San Diego County has seen a decline across various industries from 2023 to 2024. The Health Care and Social Assistance sector had the highest number of unique postings at 52,862, despite a decrease of 24.16%. The Admin/Support/Waste Management and Remediation Services sector followed closely with 50,026 postings, experiencing a more significant drop of 34.86%. The Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry, while offering the highest median salary of $89,984, also saw a reduction in postings by 25.67%. Manufacturing and Retail Trade sectors reported 30,688 and 30,326 unique postings, respectively, with declines of 29.44% and 20.51%. Despite the overall decrease in job postings, the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry remains a lucrative field.

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|  | Industry | Unique Postings | Median Salary | Percent Change |  |
|  | ----------------------------------------------- | ----------------- | --------------- | ---------------- |  |
|  | Health Care and Social Assistance | 52,862 | $57,216 | -24.16% |  |
|  | Admin/Support/Waste Mgmt and Remediation Svcs | 50,026 | $62,336 | -34.86% |  |
|  | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Svcs | 44,158 | $89,984 | -25.67% |  |
|  | Manufacturing | 30,688 | $95,616 | -29.44% |  |
|  | Retail Trade | 30,326 | $41,600 | -20.51% |  |

Job Postings, Median Salary, and Percent Change by Industry

In summary, San Diego County's employment landscape in 2023-2024 reflects a moderate level of stability with room for improvement. The unemployment rate has been relatively stable but slightly higher in 2024 compared to the end of 2023. The job market shows a decline in postings across various industries, with significant reductions in sectors like Admin/Support and Finance. However, the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry remains a high-paying sector despite the decrease in job postings. Overall, while the county faces challenges in job availability and stability, there are opportunities for growth and improvement in the coming years.