

## COE Labor Market Update and News

April 2023

The North/Far North Center of Excellence is sharing a quarterly bulletin of findings on jobs postings, unemployment, industry measures, and other real-time data.

[READ ARCHIVED ECONOMIC BULLETINS HERE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO THE ECONOMIC UPDATE HERE](#)

### SUMMARY

This edition of the COE economic update features analysis of unemployment, labor force, and industry sector employment. It also includes a summary of recent reports covering the labor market section of the North/Far North strategic plan and a statewide study on entry-level firefighting careers.

Research for the April 2023 economic update indicates that the North/Far North region has experienced slowed growth in most analyzed sectors. Unemployment rates in the region have increased slightly but have remained below pre-pandemic levels. The data do not yet indicate a cooling labor market or layoffs. Key findings are as follows:

- **Unemployment rates** increased slightly but remained below pre-pandemic levels. In December, the Greater Sacramento (North) region had an average unemployment rate of 3.4%. In the Far North, the average rate climbed a little to 4.4%. The rate in California was 3.9%.
- The North region's **labor force** experienced a minor reduction in the fourth quarter of 2022. In December, the labor force for the North was 3.3% larger than in January 2018. The Far North's labor force experienced a larger loss and was still 3.6% smaller than in January 2018.
- Most analyzed sectors in the North/Far North continued to grow through December 2022 with a few exceptions. **Hospitality** continued its path to recovery from pandemic-related job losses, but the pace of that recovery slowed. In December, the Far North had 1.8% more jobs in the hospitality sector than in January 2020. In the North, the sector's employment was only 3.7% smaller than in January 2020. The figures are dramatically higher than at the same time in 2021, especially in the North. The **Information** sector's employment was still below pre-pandemic levels in both subregions.
- **Construction** and **manufacturing** remained the fastest-growing sectors in the region. Between January 2020 and December 2022, construction's employment total increased 7.6% in the North and 21.8% in the Far North. The manufacturing sector's employment total increased 4.9% in the North and 7.2% in the Far North.

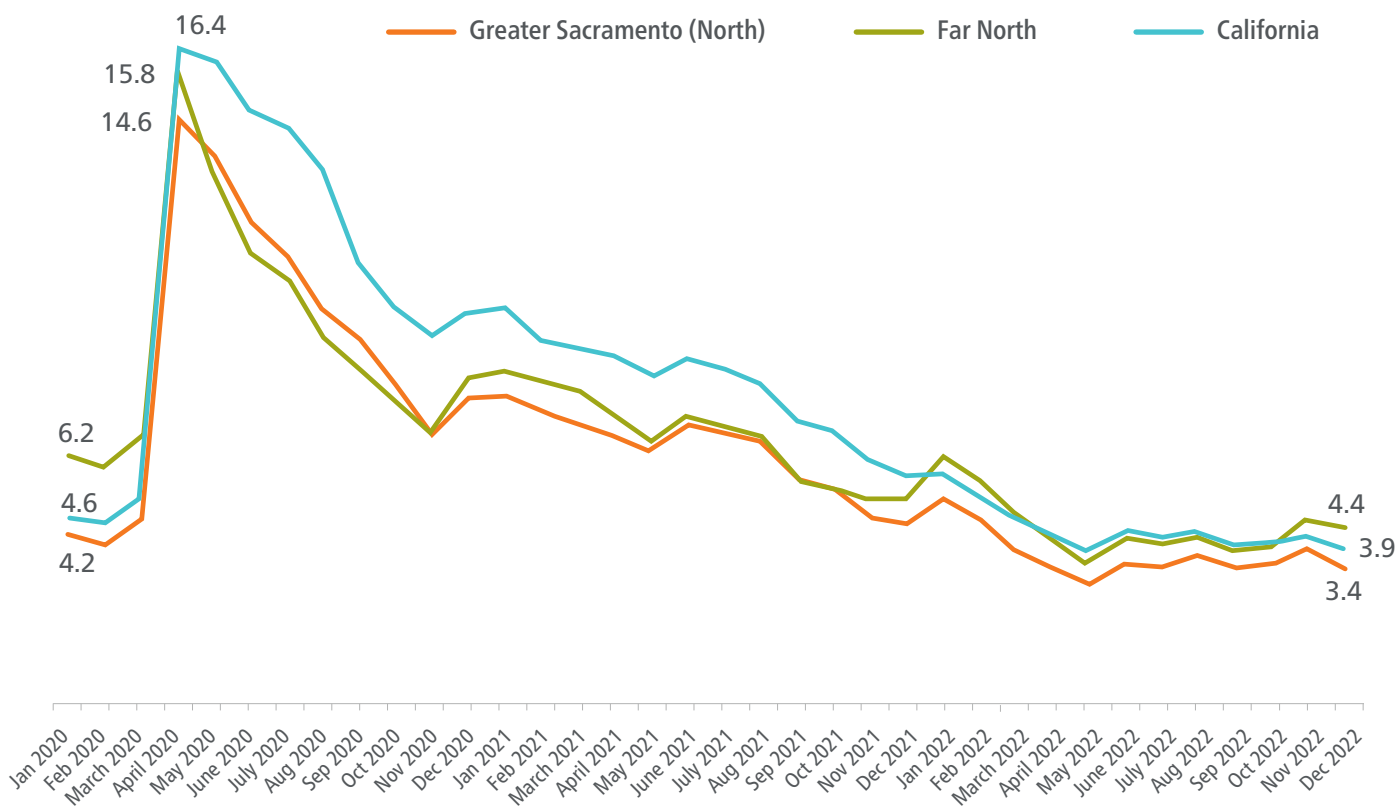


# UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE TRENDS

## Unemployment

Following a slight increase in the October and November, unemployment rates started to fall in December 2022 in the North/Far North region (Exhibit 1). In December, in the Greater Sacramento region, the average unemployment rate was 3.4%. In the Far North, the average unemployment rate was 4.4%. The rate in California was 3.9%.

**Exhibit 1. Unemployment rates (%), Greater Sacramento (North) and Far North subregions and California, selected months, January 2020–December 2022**



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

Note: Unemployment rates are averaged across the counties of each subregion.



Exhibits 2 and 3 display the unemployment rates for selected counties in the North/Far North region immediately before the pandemic (January 2020), at the height of closures (April 2020), and this winter (December 2022). In December, many counties in the Far North region had unemployment rates greater than 4%. Most counties in the North/Far North region had unemployment rates 0.8% to 2.8% lower than rates in January 2020.

**Exhibit 2. Unemployment rates (%) and percent change, Greater Sacramento (North) subregion by county, January 2020–December 2022**

County	Jan 2020	Apr 2020	Dec 2022	% Change Jan 2020 to Dec 2022	% Change Apr 2020 to Dec 2022
<b>El Dorado</b>	3.8	15.5	2.8	-1.0	-12.7
<b>Nevada</b>	3.7	15.4	2.8	-0.9	-12.6
<b>Placer</b>	3.3	13.2	2.5	-0.8	-10.7
<b>Sacramento</b>	4.0	14.9	3.5	-0.5	-11.4
<b>Sutter</b>	9.1	17.7	6.7	-2.4	-11.0
<b>Yolo</b>	5.1	11.8	3.6	-1.5	-8.2
<b>Yuba</b>	7.3	16.3	5.5	-1.8	-10.8

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

**Exhibit 3. Unemployment rates (%) and percent change, Far North subregion by county, January 2020–December 2022**

County	Jan 2020	Apr 2020	Dec 2022	% Change Jan 2020 to Dec 2022	% Change Apr 2020 to Dec 2022
<b>Butte</b>	5.6	16.0	4.0	-1.6	-12.0
<b>Del Norte</b>	6.7	14.5	4.8	-1.9	-9.7
<b>Humboldt</b>	4.1	15.3	3.3	-0.8	-12.0
<b>Lake</b>	6.3	16.0	5.1	-1.2	-10.9
<b>Mendocino</b>	4.9	15.6	3.8	-1.1	-11.8
<b>Shasta</b>	5.6	15.7	4.1	-1.5	-11.6
<b>Siskiyou</b>	8.5	15.6	5.7	-2.8	-9.9
<b>Trinity</b>	7.1	13.3	4.6	-2.4	-8.6

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

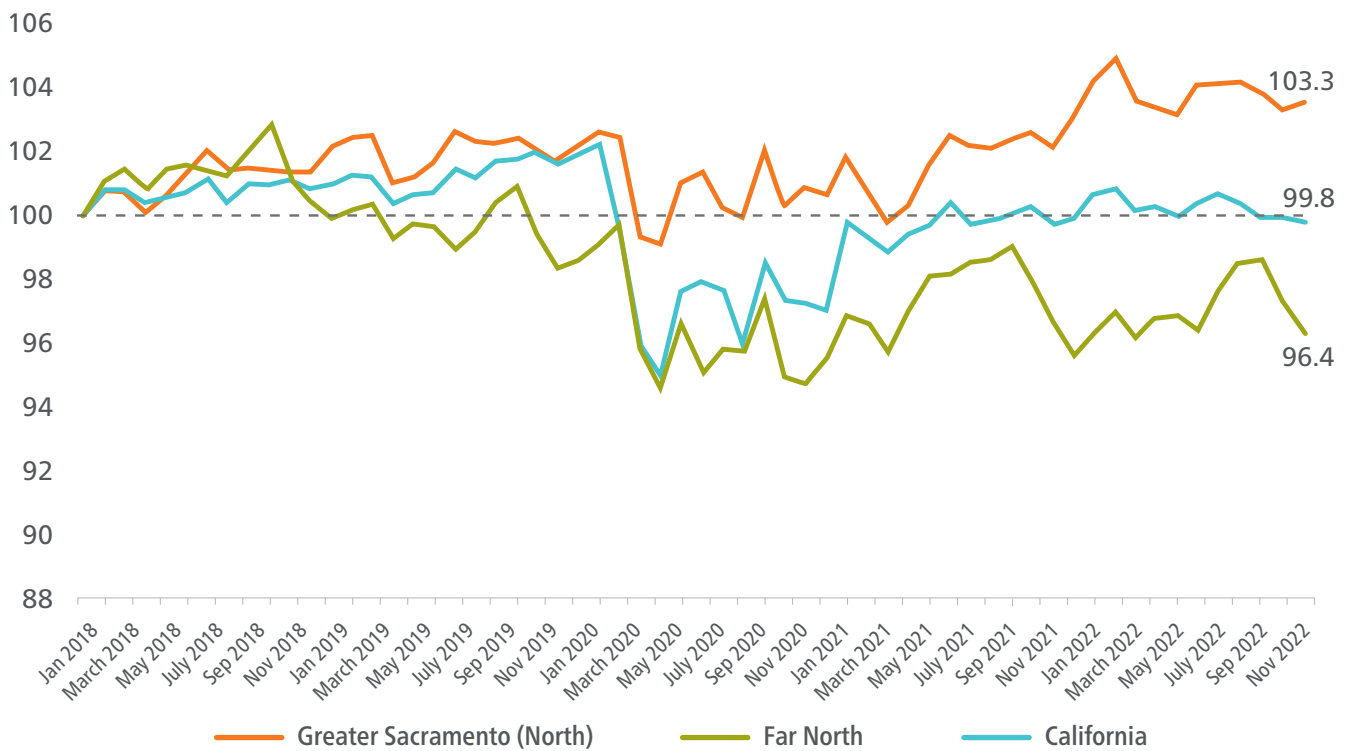


## Labor force

After remaining at a steady level during the third quarter of 2022, the Greater Sacramento (North) region’s labor force experienced a minor reduction in the fourth quarter of 2022. In December, the North’s labor force was 3.3% larger than in January 2018 and 1.4% larger than in September 2021.

Following a steady increase since the second quarter of 2022, the Far North’s labor force decreased continuously in the last three months of 2022. Overall, the subregion has not regained the labor force numbers it lost during the pandemic. In December, the Far North’s labor force was 3.6% smaller than in January 2018. California’s labor force reduced slightly in December and was 0.2% smaller than in January 2018.

**Exhibit 4. Civilian labor force, North/Far North subregions and California, monthly trend, January 2018–December 2022 (indexed to January 2018)**



Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division (LMID), Labor Force and Unemployment, <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/unemployment-and-labor-force.html>.

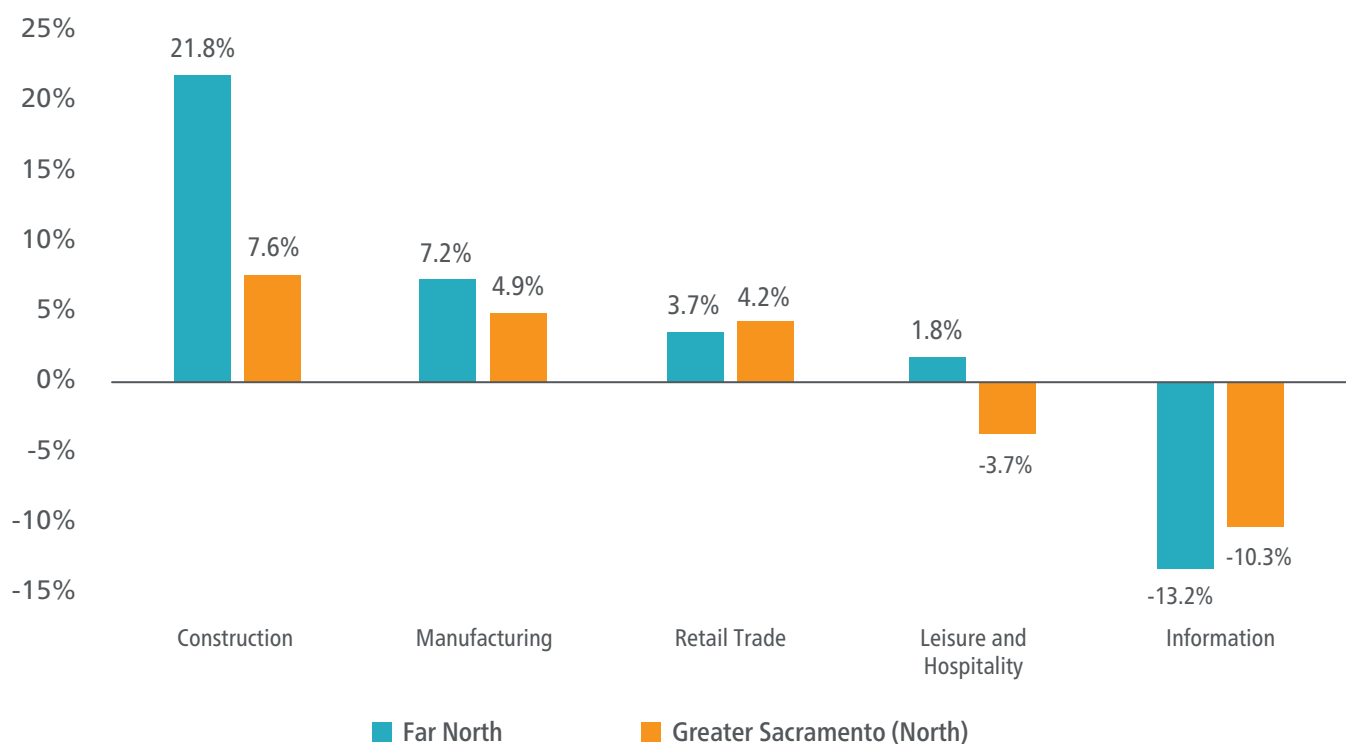


# INDUSTRY TRENDS

Between January 2020 and December 2022 in the Greater Sacramento (North) subregion, job numbers in construction, manufacturing, and retail trade were between 4.2% and 7.6% above pre-pandemic employment levels (Exhibit 5). Compared with January 2020 levels, jobs numbers in the hospitality sector remain 3.7% lower and in the information sector, 10.3% lower.

With a few notable exceptions, industry trends in the Far North are similar to those in the Greater Sacramento (North) subregion. Compared with January 2020 employment levels, December 2022 employment levels in the subregion's retail trade sector are 3.7% higher. In the manufacturing sector, they are 7.2% higher, and in the construction sector, they are 21.8% higher. But they are lower in the information sector (-13.2%).

**Exhibit 5. Percentage change in employment, North/Far North subregions, January 2020–December 2022**

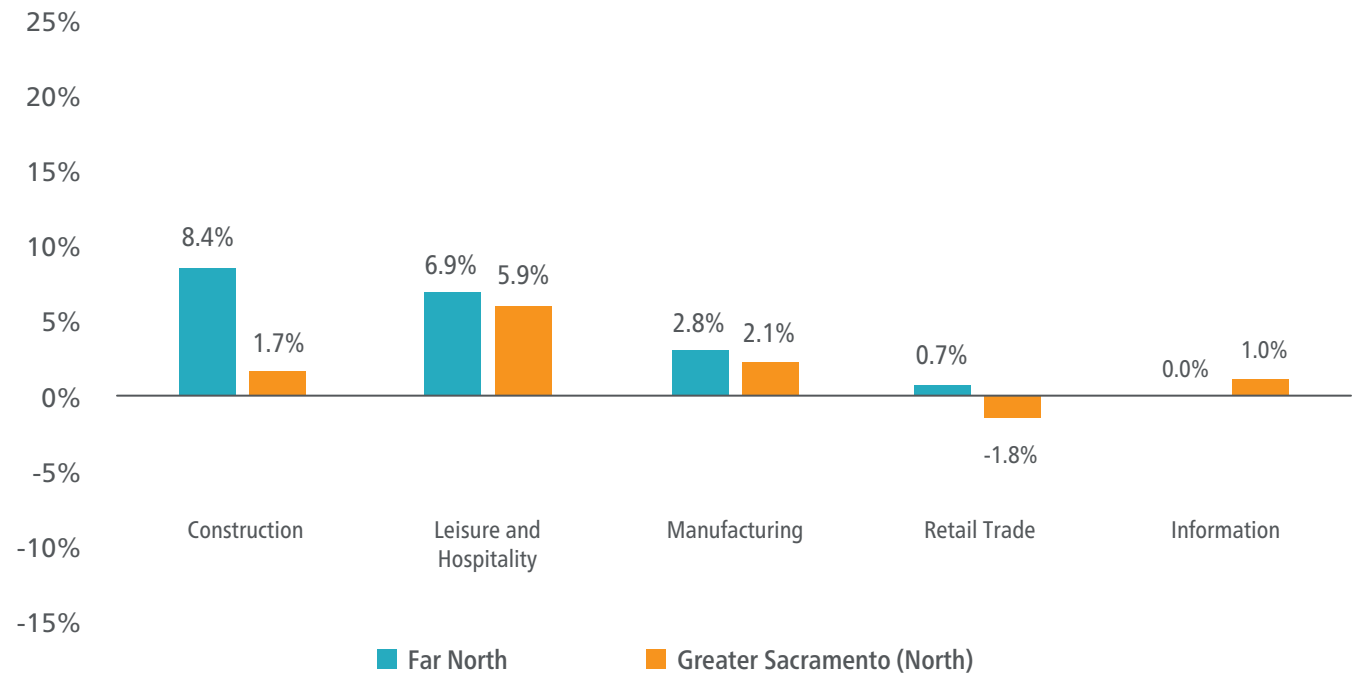


Sources: Employment data—California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, Current Employment Statistics (CES), <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/areaselection.asp?tablename=ces>.



Employment levels increased across the economy in the North/Far North between December 2021 and December 2022 with a few exceptions (Exhibit 6). The gains were largest in the Far North region’s construction and hospitality sectors, where they increased by 8.4% and 6.9%, respectively. The retail trade and information sectors in the Far North region experienced zero or minimal job gains. Employment in the analyzed sectors grew between 1.0% and 5.9% in the Greater Sacramento (North) region, with the exception of the retail trade sector, where it shrank by 1.8%.

**Exhibit 6. Percentage change in employment, North/Far North subregions, December 2021–December 2022**



Sources: Employment data—California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, Current Employment Statistics (CES), <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/areaselection.asp?tablename=ces>.



# REPORT SPOTLIGHTS AND NEWS

## Regional analysis released to supplement the North/Far North Vision for Success and Strong Workforce Program Strategic Plan

The Far North COE and the North (Greater Sacramento) COE collaborated on a report accompanying the North/Far North Strong Workforce Program Strategic Plan. The report provides a comprehensive review of the region's labor market and career education (CE) programs and includes analysis of the following topics:

- Regional demographics
- Industry sector and occupational employment trends and projections
- Student enrollments and awards
- Strong Workforce Program student outcomes
- CE student demographics
- Student outcomes by gender and race/ethnicity

Please find the report [here](#). Listen to a webinar presentation summarizing the report [here](#).



WE ARE  
HIRING