

# Quarterly Labor Market Report



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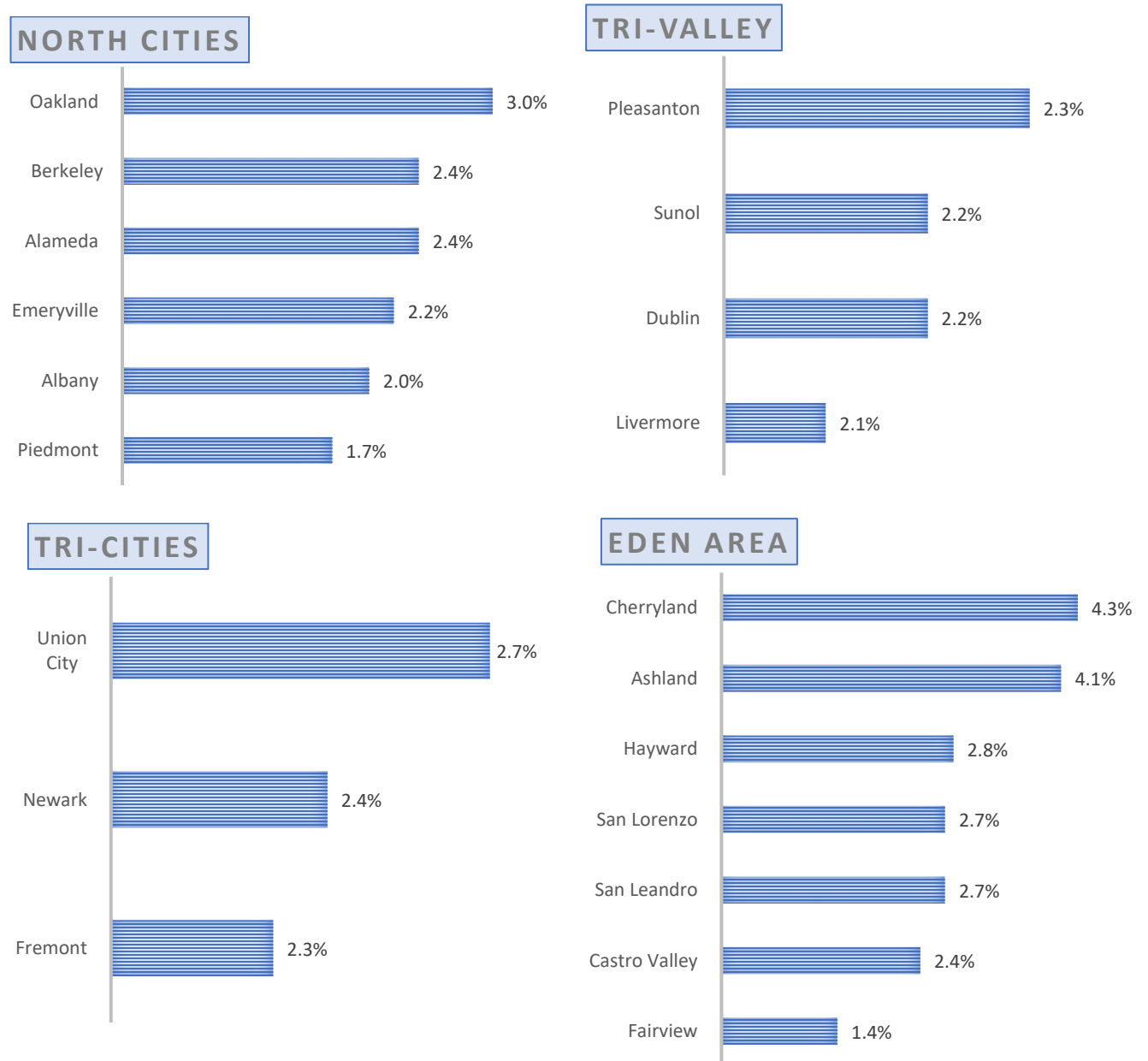
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## Alameda County Unemployment Rate – October 2019

The unemployment rate in Alameda County was 2.6% as of October 2019, or 22,400 unemployed individuals. Three other Bay Area counties held the lowest unemployment rates in the state – San Mateo at 1.8%, San Francisco at 1.5% and Napa at 1.5%. The State’s unemployment rate for October 2019 was 3.7%.<sup>i</sup>

### Sub-Regional Unemployment Rates

Sub-regionally, unemployment rates remained relatively low. The Ashland and Cherryland areas had unemployment rates exceeding the state’s rate at 4.1% and 4.3%, respectively.<sup>ii</sup>



## Quarterly Industry Establishment Growth and Decline

### **Industry Establishment Growth**

Overall, the number of establishments driving employment in Alameda County (industries represented in the following tables), grew and declined from the fourth quarter (October 2018 to December 2018) to the first quarter (January 2019 to March 2019).

The Services for the Elderly and Disabled industry surged in establishment growth, adding an additional 147 establishments from the end of 2018 to the beginning of 2019.<sup>iii</sup> This growth may be indicative of increased demand in the sector due to older adults aging in place and should translate into more employment opportunities. However, the industry still offers relatively lower wages. Employment in the sector may represent ample entry-level opportunities in health care field, helping less experienced health care workers gain industry exposure and experience before moving along a career pathway.

Limited Service Restaurants and Dental Offices also had an increased presence in Alameda County, collectively adding 43 establishments at the beginning of the year. See Table 1.

*Table 1. Industry Establishment Growth*

<b>Private Industry Groups</b>	<b>Quarter 4 (2018) Establishments</b>	<b>Quarter 1 (2019) Establishments</b>	<b># of Establishments (Growth)</b>
Services for the Elderly and Disabled	22,490	22,637	147
Limited Service Restaurants	1,310	1,341	31
Dental Offices	956	968	12
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	199	203	4
Engineering Services	463	465	2
New Car Dealers	83	85	2
Physician Offices except Mental Health Offices	853	854	1

## **Industry Establishment Decline**

Top employment-driving industries in Alameda County also experienced some level of industry establishment decline, specifically the Custom Computer Programming Services, Computer Systems Design Services, and Full-Service Restaurant industries. Collectively these industries shed 89 establishments from the end of 2018 to the beginning of 2019. Nursing Care Facilities-Skilled Nursing had no growth or decline from quarter-to-quarter. See Table 2.

*Table 2. Industry Establishment Decline*

<b>Private Industry Groups</b>	<b>Quarter 4 (2018) Establishments</b>	<b>Quarter 1 (2019) Establishments</b>	<b># of Establishments (Decline)</b>
Custom Computer Programming Services	922	890	-32
Computer Systems Design Services	925	896	-29
Full-Service Restaurants	1,585	1,557	-28
Temporary Help Services	191	184	-7
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	33	29	-4
Security Guards and Patrol Services	105	101	-4
Supermarkets and other Grocery Stores	355	352	-3
Couriers and Express Delivery Services	56	54	-2
Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services	106	105	-1
Managing Offices	228	227	-1
Snack and Non-alcoholic Beverage Bars	555	554	-1
Nursing Care Facilities, Skilled Nursing	98	98	0

## Private Sector Employment and Wages

Half of the top 10 employment-driving industries in Alameda County grew in employment, while the other half declined from the end of fourth quarter (December 2018) to end of first quarter (March 2019). Generally, employment growth was represented by service and health care industries, while declining employment was represented by IT and service industries as well. See Table 3.

Table 3. Private Sector Employment Growth and Decline

Industry	Dec. 2018 Employment	Jan. 2019 Employment	Feb. 2019 Employment	March 2019 Employment	Employment Change (Qtr. 4 to Qtr. 1)	Average Weekly Wages 2019
Services for the Elderly and Disabled	27,211	27,426	27,499	27,521	310	\$344
Full-Service Restaurants	26,513	25,795	26,197	26,295	-218	534
Limited-Service Restaurants	19,544	19,544	19,902	20,012	468	433
Managing Offices	16,628	16,259	16,246	16,446	-182	3,358
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	15,099	14,947	14,942	15,066	-33	1,952
Research and Development in the Physical, Engineering, and Life Sciences	12,632	12,794	12,874	12,988	356	2,818
Temporary Help Services	13,979	12,303	12,044	12,533	-1,446	911
Supermarkets and other Grocery Stores	12,371	12,447	12,505	12,453	82	652
HMO Medical Centers	10,828	10,792	10,750	10,987	159	2,934
Custom Computer Programming Services	8,876	8,716	8,738	8,526	-350	3,418

## Local Government Sector Establishments, Employment, and Wages

Elementary and Secondary schools had the largest employment gains in Alameda County’s local government sector (from the end of quarter 4 2018 to the end of quarter 1 2019), followed by General and Medical Surgical Hospitals, Junior Colleges, and Libraries and Archives. Local Government employment decline was most prominent in the Other Justice and Safety Activities industry. See Table 4.

Table 4. Local Government Employment Growth and Decline

Industry	Quarterly Establishments 2019	Dec. 2018 Employment	Jan. 2019 Employment	Feb. 2019 Employment	March 2019 Employment	Employment Change (Qtr. 4 to Qtr. 1)	Average Weekly Wage 2019
Elementary and Secondary Schools	457	28,011	31,026	31,239	31,292	3,281	\$1,321
General Medical and Surgical Hospitals	13	6,681	6,723	6,766	6,801	120	\$1,940
Junior Colleges	10	3,995	3,264	3,968	4,041	46	\$1,221
Libraries and Archives	6	856	864	868	902	46	\$885
Executive and Legislative Offices, Combined	21	4,339	4,250	4,348	4,354	15	\$1,632
Bus and Other Motor Vehicle Transit Systems	6	1,883	1,883	1,889	1,888	5	\$1,740
Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction	6	1,184	1,172	1,172	1,183	-1	\$1,653

Water Supply and Irrigation Systems	4	2,182	2,168	2,176	2,177	-5	\$1,855
Transportation Program Administration	4	584	576	577	578	-6	\$2,735
Sewage Treatment Facilities	4	327	320	322	319	-8	\$2,109
All Other Amusement and Recreation Industries	4	436	424	420	420	-15	\$693
Other Justice and Safety Activities	6	5,998	5,955	5,914	5,953	-45	\$2,369



## End Notes

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<sup>i</sup> Monthly and sub-regional unemployment data is derived from the California Employment Development Department – Labor Market Information Division

<sup>ii</sup> Ibid.

<sup>iii</sup> References to Quarterly Establishments, Wages, and Employment are derived from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data set.