



ALAMEDA
COUNTY
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD UPDATES

PRESENTATION TO
SYSTEM & STRATEGIES
COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 18, 2020



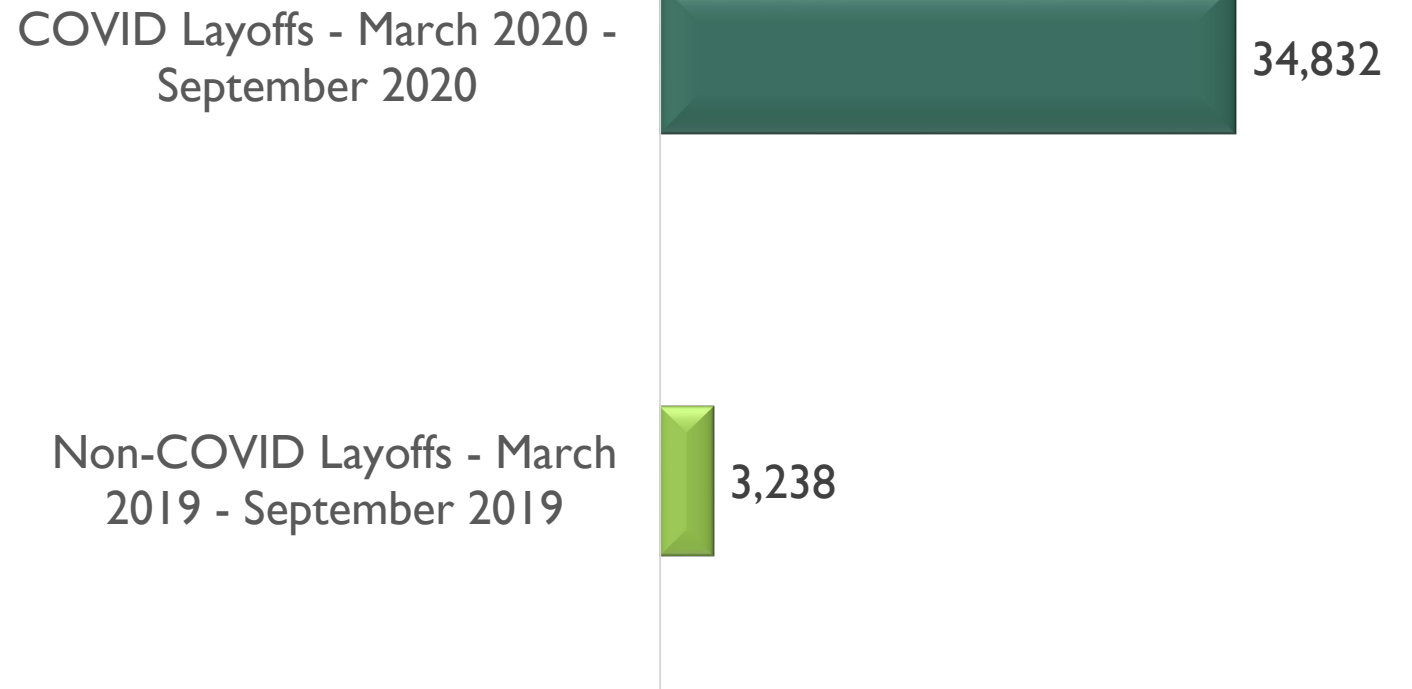
TODAY'S OVERVIEW

- ❖ **Covid-19: By the Numbers**
- ❖ **Services Adaptations and Updates**
- ❖ **Special COVID-19 Grants**

LAYOFF COMPARISONS – MARCH - SEPTEMBER 2019/2020

Based on WARN data submitted to the ACWDB - 34,832 workers were impacted due to COVID-19, compared to 3,238 for the similar timeframe in 2019.

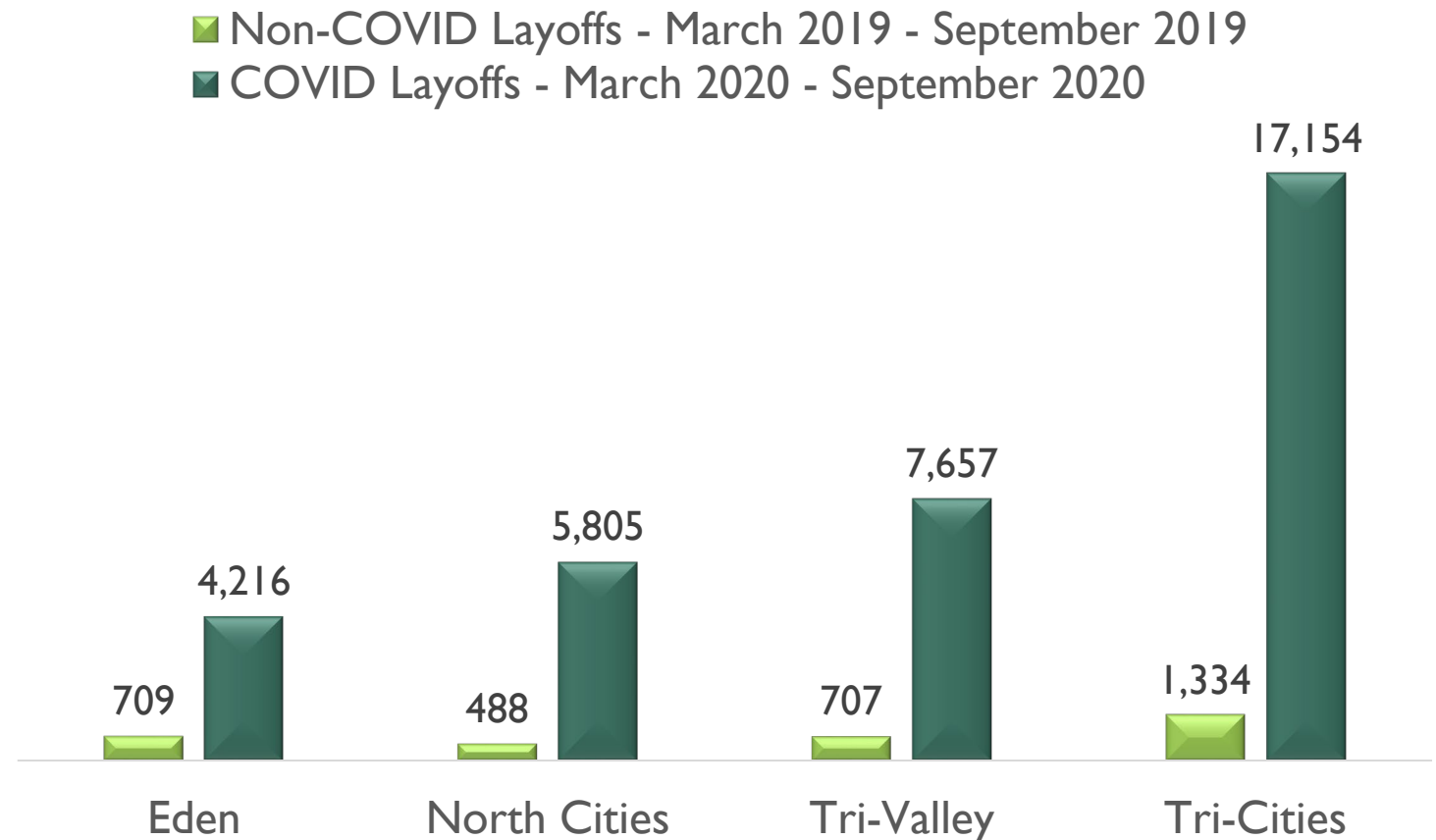
Layoffs by Compared Timeframe



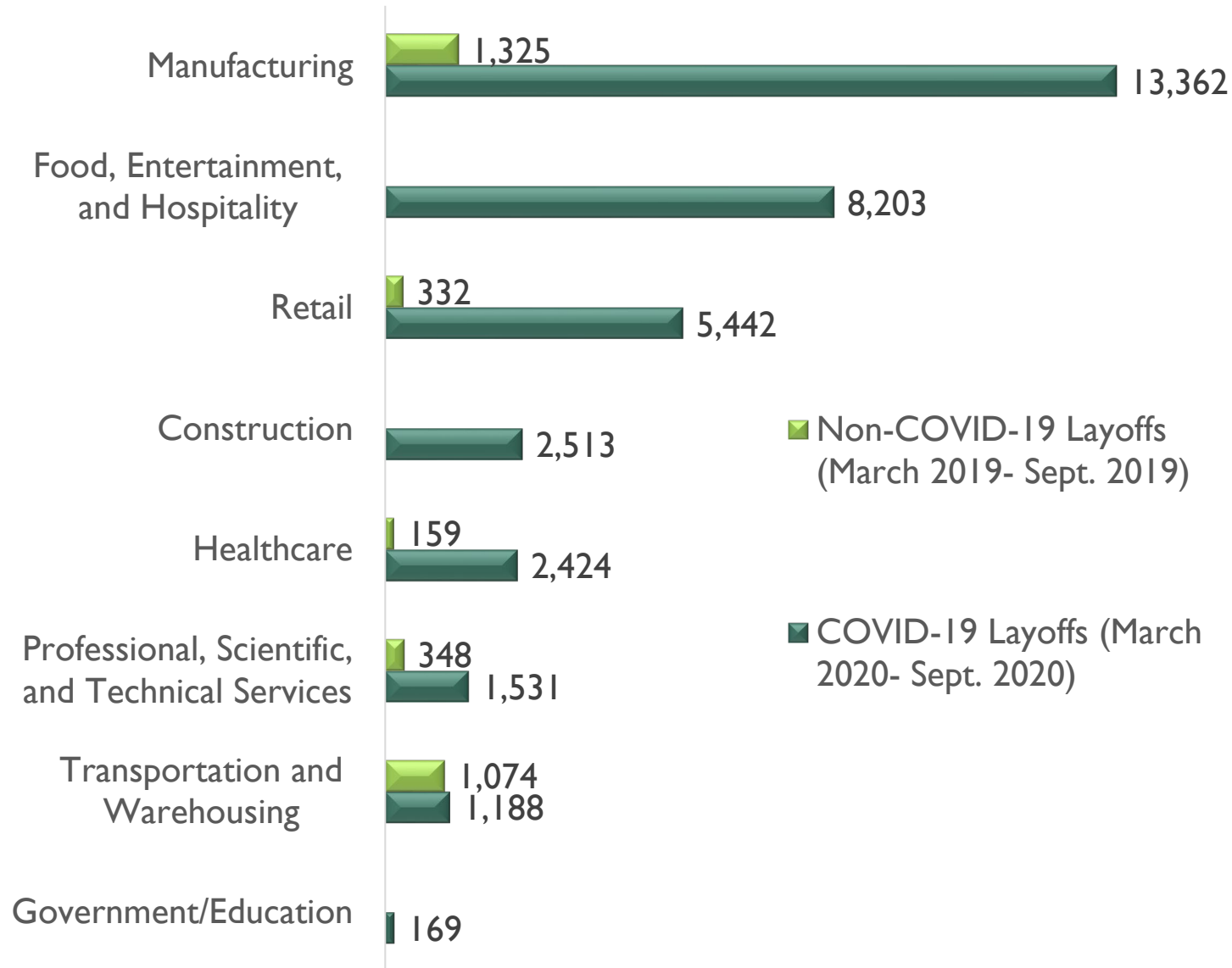
LAYOFFS BY SUB-REGION AND COMPARED TIMEFRAME

In 2020, the Tri Cities experienced the most drastic COVID-19 related impacts, primarily driven by Tesla Motors in Fremont.

Layoffs in 2019 also occurred most in the Tri Cities, specifically within the Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services industry, followed by the Manufacturing sector.

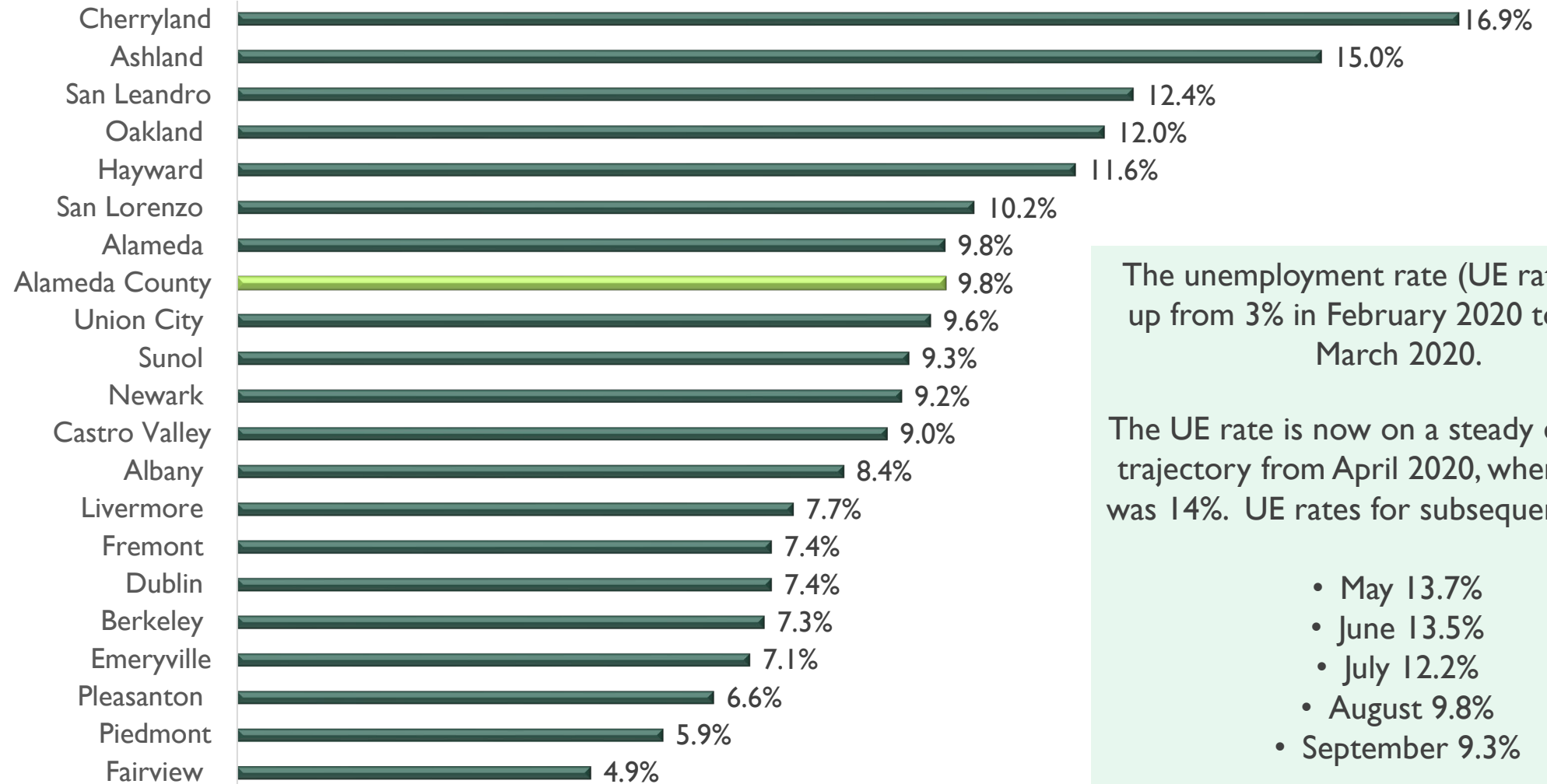


LAYOFFS BY INDUSTRY SECTOR AND COMPARED TIMEFRAME



LATEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Alameda County Unemployment Rate - August 2020



The unemployment rate (UE rate) ticked up from 3% in February 2020 to 3.9% in March 2020.

The UE rate is now on a steady downward trajectory from April 2020, when the rate was 14%. UE rates for subsequent months:

- May 13.7%
- June 13.5%
- July 12.2%
- August 9.8%
- September 9.3%

SYSTEM SERVICES ADAPTATIONS

Client Interactions

- Virtual and phone case management
- Meeting clients literally where they are to drop off and pick up documents to initiate WIOA enrollments
- Chat box feature on websites
- Two providers are working with homeless community-based organizations - Sheppard's Gate (Domestic Violence shelter) and Village of Love (homeless encampments)
- Some Youth and Adult career services are being carried-out at career site location by appointment only
- Food pick-up

Workshops and Employment Assistance

- Virtual Career Workshops
- Virtual Job Fairs
- Virtual Career Panels
- Drive through resource fair in progress
- Resume review bootcamp for previous clients
- Newsletter

BUSINESS SERVICES ADAPTATIONS AND UPDATES - RAPID RESPONSE AND LAYOFF AVERSION

Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notifications (WARN) signal ACWDB's Rapid Response Coordinator to deliver Rapid Response Orientations (RROs):

- Virtual RROs are held in collaboration with employers to inform laid-off workers of services, new opportunities, and resources to avert the layoff altogether or engage in rapid re-employment activities.
- Virtual RROs are jointly provided by:
 - ACWDB's Rapid Response Coordinator
 - ACWDB's Career Services Providers to facilitate real-time connection to WIOA programs
 - Employment Development Department (EDD)
 - Covered California
 - Department of Labor
- Some layoffs are not permanent, in which case employers are connected to EDD's Workshare Program, which allows employers to maintain workers and quickly recover when business conditions improve. This may help businesses avoid the cost of re-training new workers.

BUSINESS SERVICES ADAPTATIONS AND UPDATES – BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (BAP)

- ACWDB has partnered with the Corporation for Manufacturing Excellence (MANEX) to provide 8-10 small to mid-sized manufacturing companies technical assistance, assessments, and guidance for navigating business operations through the pandemic.
- Program offerings have been expanded to include cash flow challenges and re-opening protocols for impacted companies.
- To date, three companies Alter-G (Fremont), Santini Foods (San Lorenzo) and Power Knot (Fremont) have benefitted from the BAP, with reopening protocols or staying open safely.
- To date, three companies impacted from business loss due to COVID-19 have benefitted from assistance in Strategy, Finance & Operation: Production Robotics (San Leandro), Petit Pot (Emeryville) and NAIA Gelato (San Leandro).

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS UPDATES

- Customized and Incumbent Worker Training reimburses businesses up to 50% for the cost of existing workforce to meet business needs and promote worker up-skilling efforts. Staff is leveraging the program to assist with business resiliency.
- Ongoing partnering with the East Bay Economic Development Alliance, local economic development departments, and chambers of commerce to receive and share regular updates about COVID-19 business grants and resources.

BUSINESS SERVICES ADAPTATIONS AND UPDATES – ON-THE-JOB TRAINING (OJT) PROGRAM

- OJTs provide businesses with up to 50% reimbursement of the wage rate for onboarding a WIOA job seeker for a maximum of 520 hours of training.
- ACWDB's Business Services Unit promotes the program through the ACWDB website and by working with Career Services Providers, Chambers of Commerce, Economic Development offices and EASTBAY Works.
- Businesses also learn about the OJT program through service providers and may also reach out directly to ACWDB BSU staff.

SPECIAL COVID-19 GRANTS

Awarded \$853,000 to deploy enhanced COVID-19 workforce programs and resources.

Supportive Services Grant

\$153k COVID Emergency Response Supportive Services (CERSS) Grant has served 162 people and provided \$87,421 of financial assistance. The program runs through 12/31/2020

National Dislocated Worker Program - HEROS

- \$400,000 in National Dislocated Worker Grant funds, locally the program is called Health Emergency Response Occupational Stimulus (HEROS) Grant
- Upcoming partnership with the Alameda County Community Food Bank to provide subsidized employment opportunities, by hiring Food Insecurity Workers to maintain emergency Oakport site operations through the holiday season
- \$20/hour for up to 520 hours of work through the end of March 2021

In This Together (ITT) Grant

- \$300,000 ITT Grant in progress to enhance employer services and better assist small businesses impacted by COVID-19, with an employer hotline as a primary strategy
- Efforts will be focused on identifying at-risk businesses for the rapid deployment of employer resources

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