

San Francisco Bay Region: May News and Updates

June 10, 2020

The San Francisco Bay Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research strives to provide useful labor market data and information to the 28 community colleges we serve. We know it is paramount that colleges stay informed as they adapt programs and prepare students to transition to a post-pandemic labor market. We hope you find this information helpful and look forward to your feedback, which will inform future monthly newsletters. This newsletter provides a brief snapshot of the labor market in the San Francisco Bay Region for April 2020.

In keeping with how the California Employment Development Department (EDD) provides data, data in this newsletter on unemployment and industry employment are presented by metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs). Table 1 below provides a crosswalk of how these metropolitan areas align with counties and the sub-regions established by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office (CCCCO).

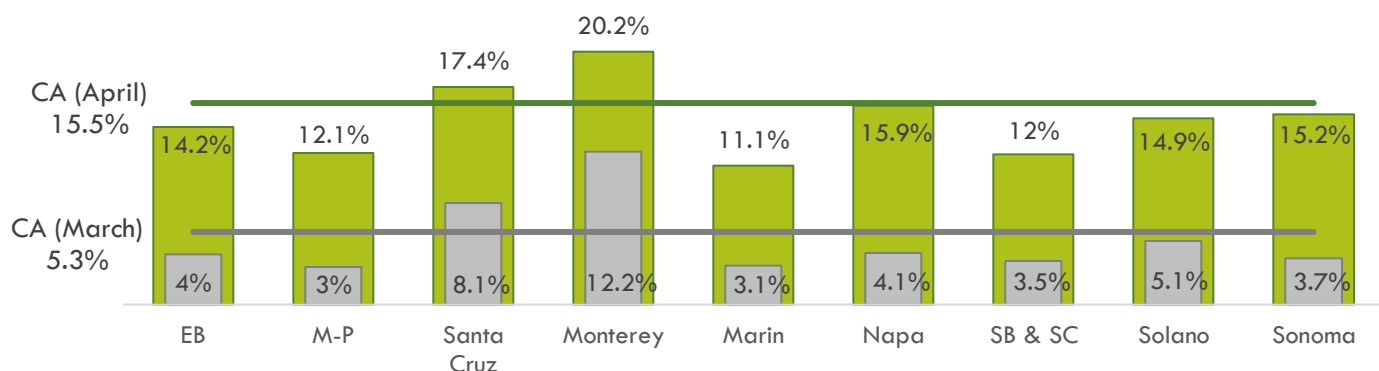
Table 1: Crosswalk of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Counties and CCCCCO Sub-Regions

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)	County	SF Bay Sub-Region	In this Report
Oakland-Hayward-Berkeley	Alameda Contra Costa	East Bay	EB
SF-Redwood City-South SF	San Francisco San Mateo	Mid-Peninsula	M-P
Santa Cruz-Watsonville	Santa Cruz	Monterey-Santa Cruz	Santa Cruz
Salinas	Monterey	Monterey-Santa Cruz	Monterey
San Rafael	Marin	North Bay	Marin
Napa	Napa	North Bay	Napa
San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara	San Benito Santa Clara	Monterey-Santa Cruz Silicon Valley	SB & SC
Vallejo-Fairfield	Solano	North Bay	Solano
Santa Rosa	Sonoma	North Bay	Sonoma

Unemployment :

Figure 1

Unemployment **increased more than 10%** across California and an average of **9.6%** across the SF Bay Region in **April 2020**, compared to the rate of unemployment in **March 2020**.

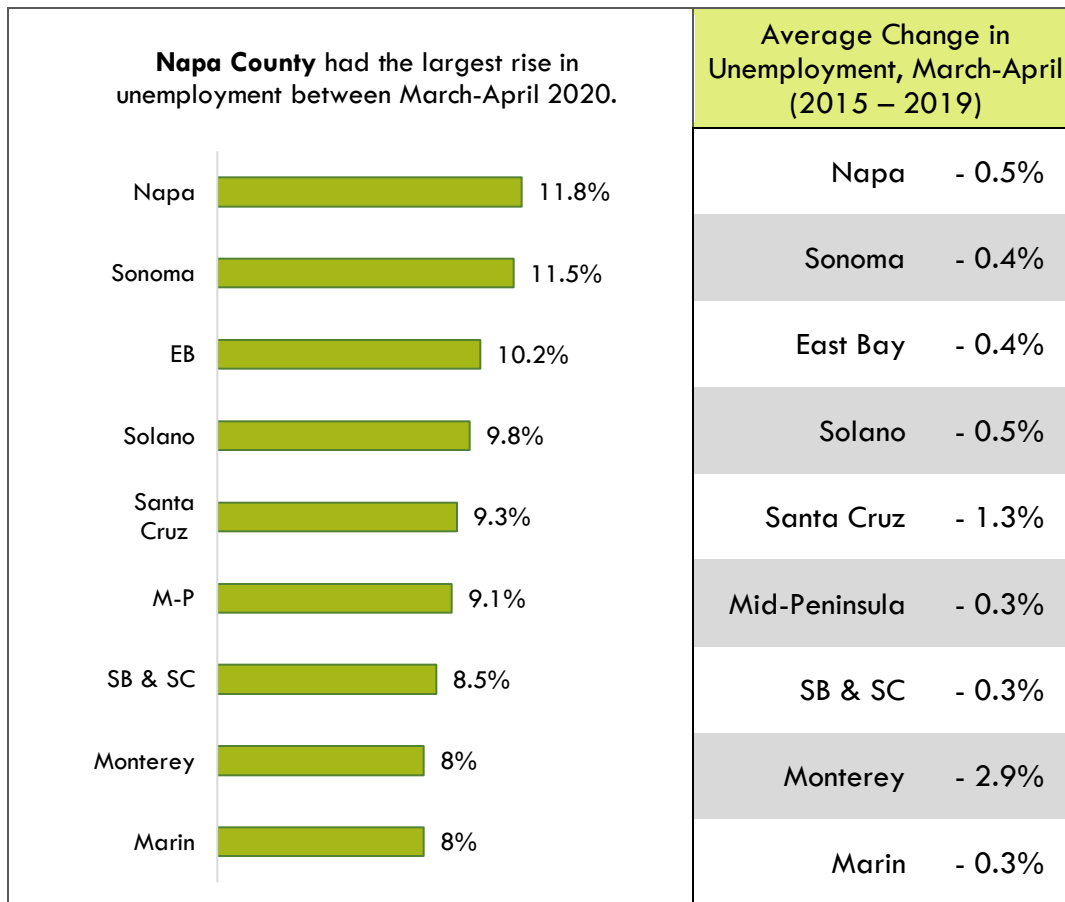


As shown in Figure 1 above, Monterey County had the highest unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) in the Bay Region in April 2020, at 20.2%, followed by Santa Cruz County at 17.4%.

Napa and Sonoma Counties saw the largest increases in unemployment (Figure 2 below), rising more than 11% between March 2020 and April 2020. Marin and Monterey Counties also saw increases of 8% in unemployment during this same time. Looking back at March-April trends in the most recent 5 years (2015-2019), data indicate unemployment had been on a steady decline, and typically dropped during this time of year. Figure 2 shows the change in unemployment rates in March-April 2020 across the Bay Region, compared to the average change in unemployment during this time of year in 2015 to 2019.

Learn [more](#) about how the data are measured and implications during COVID-19. Read [here](#) for more on making sense of unemployment data during this time.

Figure 2



Industry Employment ⁱⁱ

Looking at job losses by industry, the Leisure and Hospitality industry group was impacted most consistently across the Bay Region, with *non-seasonally adjusted*ⁱⁱⁱ job losses ranging from 32% to 62% in this group. A sector of this industry group, Accommodation and Food Service, similarly lost 32% to 64%

of jobs between March and April. Information, Government and Financial Activities industry groups lost the fewest jobs overall, ranging from no change between March-April to a drop of 10% of Information related jobs in Monterey County. In total, the Bay Region reported 578,800 fewer nonfarm jobs and 15,700 fewer farm jobs in April compared to March (non-seasonally adjusted). Table 2 below presents percentages of jobs lost in the Bay Region between March-April 2020 across industry groups and sectors for which data are available. Data were not available for all industry sectors at the time of this report.

For more on how Industry Groups and Sectors are defined, read more [here](#).

Table 2: SF Bay Region Changes in Employment between March-April 2020, by Industry Group and Sector

Industry	East Bay	Marin	Mid-Peninsula	Monterey	Napa	Santa Cruz	SB & SC	Solano	Sonoma
Leisure and Hospitality	-37%	-44%	-50%	-32%	-41%	-62%	-47%	-38%	-59%
<i>Accommodation and Food Service</i>	-36%	Not available	-55%	-34%	-39%	-64%	-53%	-32%	-63%
Other Services	-32%	-25%	-27%	-6%	-19%	-45%	-21%	-30%	-26%
Construction	-27%	-11%	-28%	-29%	Not available	Not available	-31%	-6%	-26%
Natural Resources, Mining & Construction	-27%	-11%	-28%	-28%	-11%	-9%	-31%	-6%	-25%
Professional & Business Services	-11%	-10%	-6%	-18%	-7%	-12%	-6%	-21%	-9%
<i>Admin. & Support & Waste Services</i>	-20%	Not available	-14%	Not available	-12%	Not available	-12%	-22%	-13%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	-12%	-12%	-18%	-12%	-7%	-8%	-14%	-10%	-14%
<i>Retail Trade</i>	-15%	-13%	-23%	-15%	-4%	-9%	-18%	-13%	-18%
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	-8%	-8%	-6%	-7%	-6%	-3%	-5%	-7%	-8%
<i>Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities</i>	-9%	-7%	-17%	-5%	-15%	-6%	-9%	-6%	-8%
Manufacturing	-14%	-9%	-9%	-8%	-10%	-11%	-2%	-6%	-17%
Educational & Health Services	-12%	-8%	-14%	-11%	-1%	-14%	-9%	-7%	-13%
<i>Health Care and Social Assistance</i>	-13%	Not available	-15%	-10%	-1%	Not available	-8%	-7%	-14%
Government	-4%	-6%	-2%	-3%	-4%	-5%	-3%	-4%	-4%
Information	-4%	0%	0%	-10%	0%	0%	-3%	-9%	-4%
Financial Activities	-3%	-4%	0%	-2%	-4%	-8%	-2%	-2%	-2%
<i>Finance & Insurance</i>	-2%	Not available	0%	Not available	Not available	-5%	-1%	0%	0%
Total Farm	10%	0%	-7%	-12%	-9%	-5%	-90%	-85%	-82%
Total Nonfarm	-14%	-14%	-14%	-14%	-13%	-17%	-11%	-12%	-18%

Darker grey = Industry Groups
 Lighter grey = Industry Sectors (subset of Groups)

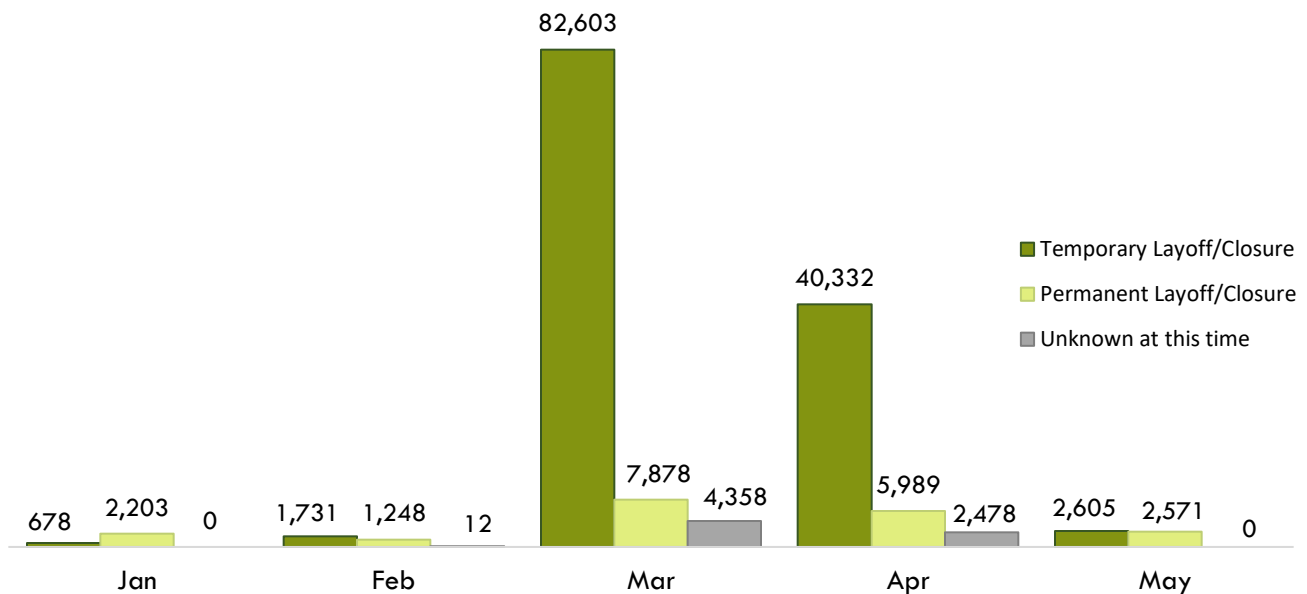
Red = 20% or more jobs lost
Yellow = 10% – 19% jobs lost
Green = 0% – 9% jobs lost

Employer Activity ^{iv}

Delving further into the employment status of workers in the Bay Region, Figure 3 below shows the number of employees affected by Layoffs or Business Closures in 2020 thus far. The number of employees in the Bay Region who were let go due to a temporary layoff or business closure spiked in March 2020, at a high of 82,603. Temporary layoffs and closures continued at a brisk pace in April, with more than 40,300 employees temporarily let go. Both temporary and permanent layoffs and closures slowed considerably in May, with 2,605 employees impacted by temporary layoffs or closures, and 2,571 employees impacted by permanent layoffs or closures.

Figure 3

Temporary layoffs and closures have especially spiked during this time, with a peak of more than 82,600 employees in the SF Bay Region impacted in March 2020.



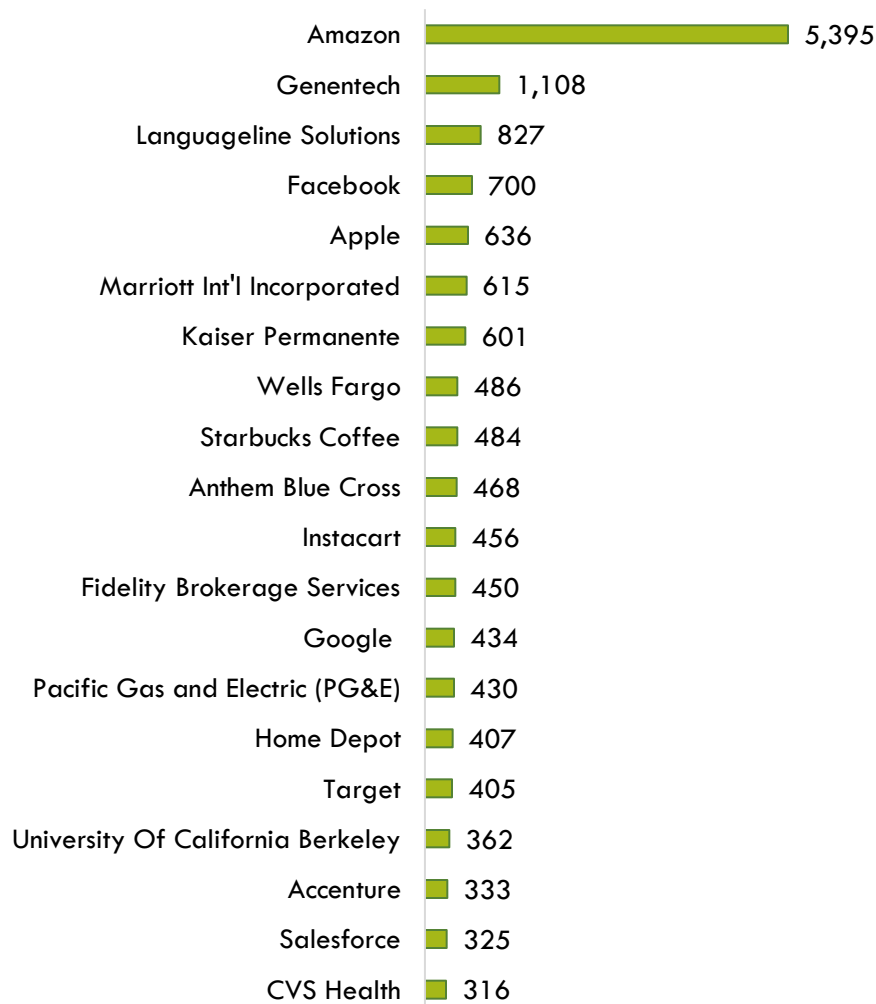
Federal and State laws (known as the WARN Act) require certain employers to give notice prior to a business closure or mass layoff, referred to as Worker Adjustment Retraining Notifications (WARN). WARN notices are only required for full-time employees, those working 20 or more hours per week, and not part-time employees. For this reason, the broader economic impact on employment is likely underrepresented when examining WARN notices alone. Similarly, reasons for a layoff or closure are not included in publicly available data regarding WARN notices, and we are unable to confirm if employees were let go during this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic or for other reasons. For more information on the WARN Act, read more [here](#).

Job Postings v

Shifting the focus to job postings, some employers in the Bay Region sought to add workers to their payroll in April (Figure 4 below). Amazon was the employer with the greatest number of job postings by far, posting close to 5,400 job openings during the month. Genentech (biotechnology corporation) had the second highest number of job postings in the region, at just over 1,100, followed by Languageline Solutions (language translation and interpretation services) and Facebook, with 827 and 700 job postings respectively.

Figure 4

Top 20 employers in the SF Bay Region with greatest number of jobs postings in April 2020



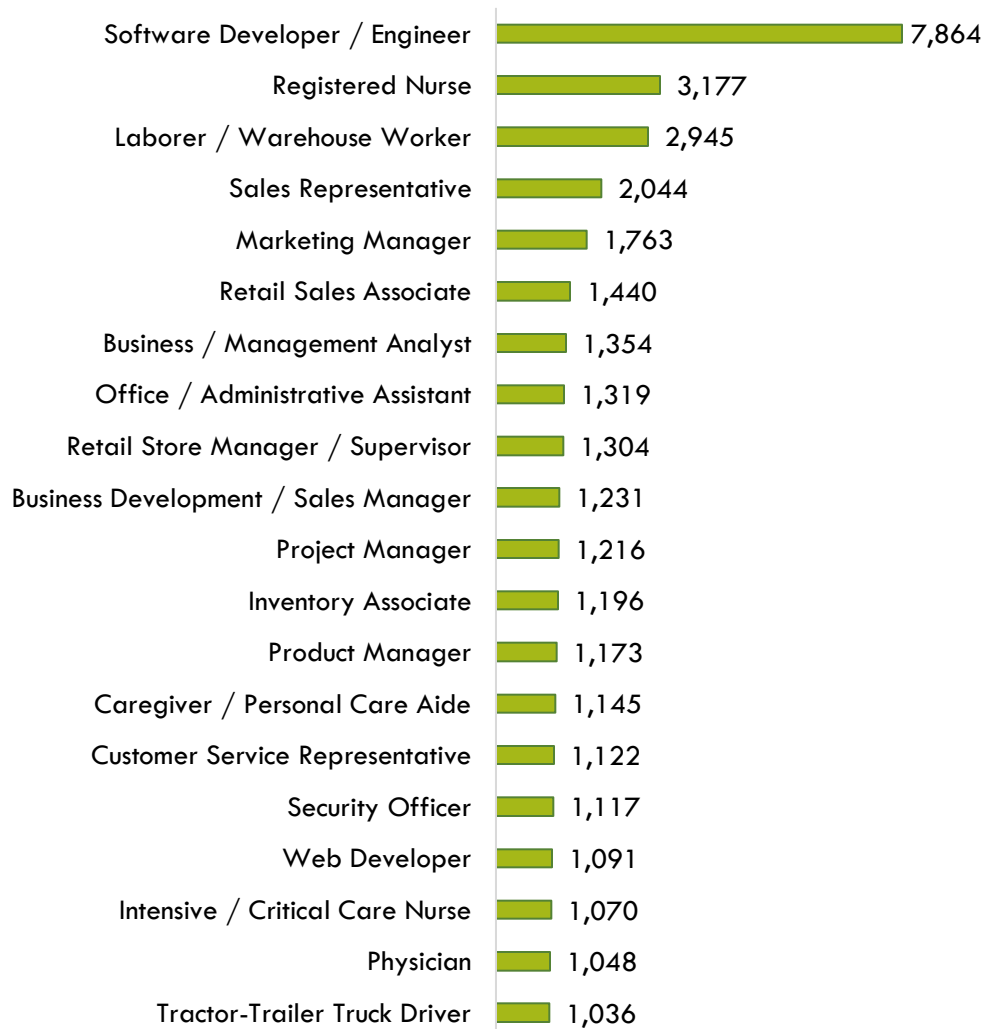
In terms of the specific types of jobs Bay Region employers looked to fill in April, Software Developer-Engineer was the most commonly sought after, with nearly 7,900 related job openings posted (Figure 5). Coming in at a distant second, the next highest number of job postings were for Registered Nurse at

3,177, followed by Laborer-Warehouse Worker (2,945) and Sales Representative (2,044). Figure 5 below shows the top 20 job titles employers posted openings for in the Bay Region during April 2020.

While some of the open jobs are tied to specific industries, such as Nursing jobs in Health Care Services, a number of the open jobs may be found across multiple industries, including Software Developer-Engineers, Sales Representatives and Office-Administrative Assistants.

Figure 5

Top 20 Job Titles with Highest Number of Postings in the SF Bay Region in April 2020



Industry Sector Spotlight: Construction

Switching gears, we end this newsletter with a brief spotlight on the Construction industry. Thank you to Carlos Santamaria, the San Francisco Bay Area Regional Director for Employer Engagement, Energy, Construction and Utilities (ECU), who shared a few words on his view of how the Construction industry has been impacted during this time by the pandemic.

Q. What is the status of the construction industry in the Bay region?

While larger, commercial construction projects have started back up with really only having had a short delay in work, now, most projects are in full swing with most, if not all of the trades able to work. The smaller residential construction and contractors had some delays but as of the last 15-30 days, even these projects and workers are back in relatively full swing. Residential [construction] was a little slower in getting back; commercial is and has been for the most part, busy during the closure.

Many service contractors were stopped dead for the first 30-days as I'm told, but now they are getting crews and work started. Most construction businesses are open and operating at this time, depending on the trade and service work they provide.

Q. Are construction firms hiring? If yes, what occupations are in demand?

I would say from what I'm seeing at this point in time they are just getting back to a level of work where they need to be busy with having their previous crews get back to work. So, I would say it really depends on what they had in their pipeline of upcoming work and where that is in their schedule with the brief slowdown of COVID. Will they be hiring? My assessment and opinion is YES.

Q. What is your sense of the likelihood of a federal bill being passed that would include infrastructure spending that would boost construction spending and employment in California and the Bay region?

This is uncertain as politics is playing an interesting role. I would say yes, with federally compromised projects such as roads, bridges and certain federal buildings and other key projects. With California being the 5th largest economy in the world, it's hard to imagine that our own incredible "economic machine" won't start working on all cylinders triggering another historic economic boom. I'm very optimistic and encouraged that within the California and US economy, the Energy, Construction & Utility (ECU) sector is well positioned to assist the industry with the national recovery that will provide even more opportunities during this period. We just need to be ready to advance our training delivery and speed for this new, hi-demand workforce.



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Additional Resources

For additional labor market information for California and the Bay Region, visit:

- Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research – [California State May Update](#)
- California Policy Lab – [California Unemployment Insurance Claims During the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)
- [California Industry Sector Snapshots](#)
- [San Francisco Chronicle Bay Area Layoff Tracker](#)

Questions? Comments? Please Give Us Your Feedback!

This newsletter is intended to provide useful labor market data and information relevant to the San Francisco Bay Region. Please contact us if you have any questions, or suggestions for additional data and information you would like to see in future newsletters.

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- i Data source: Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Data collection was conducted during the 2nd week of April.
- ii Data source: Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department (EDD). Data collection was conducted during the 2nd week of April.
- iii Note: These data are preliminary and not adjusted for seasonality; data may be revised in following months.
- iv Data source: Labor Market Information Division of the California Employment Development Department (EDD): Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Information for Employers. Data posted every month on the 3rd and 19th.
- v Data source: Burning Glass Technologies. burning-glass.com. 2020.