



Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board

A proud partner of America's Job Center of CaliforniaSM network.

Workforce Snapshot

Issue 4 - 2nd Quarter 2017

2017 Unemployment Rate Comparison to 2016



Fresno County

8.4%



California

4.9%



Nation

4.5%

Source: EDD July 2017 release of the Fresno MSA 23420 PDS

The unemployment rate in the Fresno County was 8.4 percent in June 2017, up from a revised 7.5 percent in May 2017, and below the year-ago estimate of 9.0 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.9 percent for California, down .7 percent from 2016 and 4.5 percent for the nation, down .6 percent during the same period.

Our Labor Force (Change from 2016)



Construction/Trades
increased by 1,100 jobs
6.80%



**Agriculture/
Total Farm**
increased by 1,300 jobs
2.50%

Food Manufacturing
decreased by 1,400 jobs
-10.40%



**Transportation &
Warehousing**
increased by 200 jobs
1.90%

Local Government
increased by 2,000 jobs
4.0%



**Health Care &
Social Assistance**
increased by 1,900 jobs
3.20%

Collaborative Partnerships Guide Unwavering Program Participant to Self-Sufficiency

*"The program is the best! You led me to water and all I had to do was drink"
Keishon G.*

The journey began in early 2016 when Keishon, a single father of one, realized he needed to address several barriers in order to move forward with his life. Keishon entered the RESET program and upon successful completion, he emerged focused and determined as he began working closely with his self-sufficiency counselor.

By January 2017, he enrolled in the Expanded Subsidized Employment (ESE) program at the Employment Connection in Visalia and secured temporary employment while looking for a full-time position. While at the Employment Connection he learned about and subsequently enrolled in the Construction/Trades Multi-Craft Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program, sponsored by the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board and the Fresno, Madera, Kings & Tulare Building Trades Council.



**Keishon G.
Program
Participant**

Everything was going well for Keishon until shortly after enrolling he hit a roadblock - his car caught on fire! But he would not be deterred. He found alternative transportation to class and completed everything except the forklift module. However, through the Supervised Population Program, Keishon was able to successfully complete and receive his Forklift Certificate. Armed with the skills acquired through the Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program and his Forklift Certificate, Keishon interviewed with the Cement Mason Union and was hired as

a Cement Mason on May 23, 2017, earning an hourly wage of \$29.18/hour.

Keishon's journey had many obstacles but he was successful due to his unwavering attitude of determination and hard work, coupled with the collaborative partnerships of the Tulare County Probation, Health and Human Services, Employment Connection, California Workforce Board's Supervised Population Program and the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board's Construction/Trades Multi-Craft Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program.

CONGRATULATIONS KEISHON!

The Central Valley Slingshot Program

The Central Valley Slingshot Program was one of the topics of interest at the Third Annual Manufacturing Summit, which was attended by nearly 900 registrants in April at the Fresno Convention Center.

Our Executive Director, Blake Konczal, and Stuart Van Horn, Chancellor of West Hills Community College, presented an overview of future projections at the Manufacturing Summit. They also shared their successes in preparing our valley residents for employment in high-growth industrial sectors that concretely benefits both the individual worker and the overall local economy.

The Sling Shot Program is a regional manufacturing initiative, funded by the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board to increase income mobility, better meet labor market needs, and leverage parallel efforts of community colleges, organized labor, employers, workforce development boards and state universities.

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