



Fresno Regional
**Workforce
Development Board**

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

Workforce Snapshot

Issue 5 - 3rd Quarter 2017

2017 Unemployment Rate Comparison to 2016



Fresno County

7.5%

% (+/-) from 2016

-0.6%



California

4.7%

% (+/-) from 2016

-0.5%



Nation

4.1%

% (+/-) from 2016

-0.7%

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

The unemployment rate in Fresno County was 7.5 percent in September 2017, down from a revised 8.6 percent in August 2017. That means in Fresno County there were 7,100 more employed in September than there were in August 2017; and 5,700 more employed in September 2017 than in September 2016.

This corresponds with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 4.7 percent for California, down .5 percent from 2016 and 4.1 percent for the nation, down .7 percent during the same period.

Our Labor Force (2017 Compared to 2016)



**Construction/
Building Trades**
increased by 1,300 jobs
or 8.00%



**Durable
Goods Manufacturing**
increased by 400 jobs
or 4.90%



**State & Local
Government**
increased by 2,200 jobs
or 3.60%



**Professional and
Business Services**
decreased by 800 jobs
or -4.10%



**Ambulatory
Health Care Services**
increased by 500 jobs
2.80%

Connecting for Success!

"I'm thankful for this program! The support of my Employment Readiness Specialist along with the training and preparation for the exams and interviewing, greatly improved my communication skills and I felt better prepared"
- Zachariah Ream

Zachariah was working odd jobs through a temporary agency to support his wife and three boys. He knew that he needed to find a full-time position to ease the strain on his household. With limited skills and knowledge in electrical and general construction work, he knew that additional training would be necessary, but he wasn't sure where to go. Then he heard about Workforce Connection and the Construction/Trades Multi-Craft Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program on a local radio station. He logged on to www.valleybuild.net and submitted his information. He felt that this program would give him an opportunity to learn the skills necessary to obtain a career with benefits and add financial stability to his household.

Things began to come together for Zachariah in December 2016. He enrolled at Workforce Connection and began working closely with Ryan McAlister his Employment Readiness Specialist (ERS). Together they developed an Individual Employment Plan, created a resume, and he participated in mock interviews. He also attended multiple trade union classes such as sheet metal, plumbing, cementing, electrical, operating heavy equipment and iron work. The instructor/coordinator of the class said, "Zachariah seemed to stand out from the group and was eager and willing to learn as well as help others in the class".



Zachariah Ream accepting Certificate from Pat Barr, FRWDB Career Technical Education Specialist and Blake Konczal, FRWDB Executive Director

Zachariah completed the Multi-Craft Pre-Apprenticeship Training at the top of his class and was certified in OSHA 10, Forklift and CPR. At his graduation on March 24, 2017, he interviewed with the Plumbers and Pipefitters Union and it was noted that he ranked # 1 on their waiting list due to exceptional exam and interviewing scores. Shortly after that, in April 2017, he landed his first job with a non-union contractor as an Apprentice Plumber. But on May 1, 2017, he was hired by a union contractor - New England Sheet Metal - as an Apprentice Plumber earning \$17.28 an hour with benefits!

Zachariah admits that going through the program was a bit stressful because he had made a 6 week commitment to a program with no guarantee that he would secure a job. However, he says, "It wasn't difficult to go through the program because everyone was so helpful! And with the support of his wife, family and friends, he successfully completed the training.

GREAT JOB ZACHARIAH!

This program got me on the right path!
- Fernando Madrigal Jr.

Fernando Madrigal, Jr., a U.S. Marine Corp Veteran, entered the *Returning Heroes to Work Program* in 2014. By April of 2015, he was accepted into a

trades apprenticeship program and is now on target to graduate as a Journeyman in the Summer of 2019.

"My path has improved tremendously! I went from arriving on the job site not knowing anything about electrical construction and doing clean-up to knowing how to read plans, bend conduit, wiring up devices and finishings" said Mr. Madrigal.



The program is funded by the Veterans Employment-Related Assistance Grant (VEAP) and is a joint effort with the Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare Counties Building Trades Council. Through this program, on-going training and services are provided to veterans, like Mr. Madrigal, in the building trades industry to prepare them for apprenticeship programs.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FERNANDO MADRIGAL JR.!

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