



FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER AT-A-GLANCE

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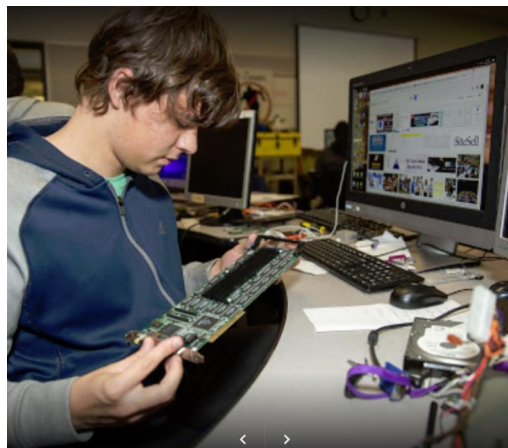
ECONOMY

San Jose unemployment rate at historic low

The unemployment rate for the City of San José dropped to a historically low in 2018, finishing the year at 2.5% after hitting an all-time low of 2.3% in May.

The high demand for workers continued to draw sidelined workers into the market and new housing completions also deepened the pool of job candidates. As of December, the City's labor force stood at nearly 575,000, of which more than 560,000 were employed. At the beginning of 2018, the labor force was approximately 553,000 with 537,00 persons employed, an increase of 3.9% and 4.3%, respectively.

For more details and data on other cities, read the blogpost by clicking below.



[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Donovan Lazaro](#), Business Development Officer, OED.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

OED Viewpoint - business trends to watch



strong business investment.

As part of OED's annual Business Development Update presentation to the City Council, we shared some forward-looking statements that have been gathered through meetings, interviews, data analysis, roundtables, and various other forms of business outreach.

Many of these are recurring themes in what's now the ninth year of a national economic expansion, while others are new or increasingly pressing. The full report is available online. Some of the key issues we identified are **lengthening project timelines**, a **very competitive talent market** and

More insights and indicators can be found in the blogpost.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Nathan Donato-Weinstein](#), Business Development Officer, OED.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Foreign Trade Zone business forum offered March 5 in San Jose

OED is hosting an important business forum on the advantages of using a Foreign Trade Zone on (FTZ), March 5, 2019, 8:30-11 am, at City Hall.

Foreign Trade Zones are territories within the US that are considered outside of U.S. Customs territory. The City of San Jose's FTZ #18 includes San Jose, Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz region and southern Alameda County. The event is designed to help business decision-makers learn how as operating as an FTZ under the City of San Jose's FTZ #18 can provide significant business benefits. The program will include presentations from key representatives of major area companies currently operating as Foreign Trade Zones, such as Bloom Energy, Lam Research, RK Logistics Group, Tesla and officials of the U.S. Commercial Service/San Jose and Foreign Trade Zones Board in Washington, D.C.

The main topics we will address include:

- Fundamentals of using a Foreign Trade Zone
- How using the FTZ can save money
- International trade programs provided by the U.S. Commercial Service
- The FTZ in times of trade uncertainty
- The functions of the U.S. Department of Commerce Foreign Trade Zones Board and U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
- The process for applying for FTZ authority.

Details:

San Jose City Hall - Wing Building, Rooms 118-120
200 East Santa Clara Street, San Jose 95113
Tuesday, March 5, 2019
8:30 am - Refreshments
9:00-11:00 am - Program

The program is free, but [registration is requested](#) to ensure space availability. The program is organized and hosted by the City of San Jose - Grantee, Foreign Trade Zone #18

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Joe Hedges](#), International Program Manager, OED.



RK Logistics robots at work in the FTZ facility

DOWNTOWN

San Jose scores Wi-Fi upgrade downtown in time for national sports events



Just before the launch of College Football Playoffs Championship Campus events in Downtown, San Jose was excited to inaugurate significantly upgraded Wi-Fi service in and around Plaza de Cesar Chavez and the Convention Center.

The upgrade, provided at no cost to the City by Ruckus Networks and partner SmartWAVE Technologies, is a boon to heavy users of social media visiting the City, as they did for the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship on January 4-7 and Honda NHL® All-Star Game on January 22-26.

For this deployment, Ruckus Networks provided T710 outdoor access points (APs) and SmartZone Scalable Network Controllers for Converged Wired-Wireless Management to key public spaces in San José's Downtown, and SmartWAVE provided design and installation services working with various City Departments. More details are available in the blogpost.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Blage Zelalich](#), Downtown Manager, OED.

CLIMATE SMART SAN JOSE

Climate Change awards nominations



We wanted to be sure our readers have the chance to put forward nominations in seven categories for the first annual Climate Smart Champion Awards.

The awards will recognize San José individuals, employers and organizations that have made outstanding effort this year towards achieving the sustainability goals of Climate Smart San José, a community-wide initiative to reduce air pollution, save water and improve quality of life. Winners will be selected in seven categories, including:

- Climate Champion of the Year
- Outstanding Transportation Champion
- Energy Efficiency Champion
- Water Conservation Champion
- Climate Smart Development Champion
- Youth Climate Champion
- Climate Smart City Employee of the Year

Winners will be announced at an awards breakfast in March 2019. For more information, visit the [website](#).

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Elisabeth Handler](#), Public Information Manager, OED.

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

Launching & growing a dream - BOS events for entrepreneurs

A full roster of events, workshops, skills sessions, clubs and clinics are held every month courtesy of Business Owners Space, one of the City of San Jose's economic development programs. Here are two worth noting:

New Year, New Business @ ActionSpot

Designed for entrepreneurs, start-ups and ambitious people with ideas, the Feb. 6 workshop is designed to provide real-life guidance to getting your business off the ground in San Jose. The issues to be covered include financing, business plans, taxes and more. A tour of ActionSpot is included. Presenters include representatives of SCORE, SBCD, City of San Jose and ActionSpot.

Wed, February 6, 2019
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM PST

Action Spot, 453 W San Carlos St., San Jose, CA 95110
The event is free, but please [register](#) to hold a seat.

Success in Start-Ups and Small Businesses, by MBDA

Hosted by the Minority Business Development Agency, San Jose, this workshop is free and open to all types of entrepreneurs. Get a firmer grasp and understanding on the important details of building a business such as business certifications, access to capital, bonding and procurement. You'll also have the opportunity to talk to experts about other business concerns such as worker's compensation and liability insurance. Speakers for this event will include City of San Jose, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, California Capital Procurement Technical Assistance Center, California Department of General Services, and Caltrans.

A light breakfast and free parking validation at the 4th Street Parking Garage by the library will be offered to attendees of this event.

Wed, February 13, 2019
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM PST

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 East San Fernando St., 3rd Flr., San Jose, CA 95112.
The event is free, but please [register](#) to hold a seat. -

Check the Business Owner Space [website](#) for the full event calendar.



[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Dhez Woodworth](#), Economic Development Officer, OED.

DOWNTOWN ACTIVITIES

Hugs & kisses from City Hall

In celebration of Valentine's Day, the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs is offering a free commemorative photo, taken in front of the public artwork XO at City Hall on February 14.

For just that day, photos will be taken of couples, co-workers, groups, BFFs and even with a much-loved pet. Professional photographer, David Lepori, will be stationed in front of the artwork 4 at lunchtime from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, and again in the evening from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.



Each group will receive a complimentary copy of the photo printed on the spot. Limit one per group. Photographs will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. So plan to get there early!

The artwork, XO, by Laura Kimpton with Jeff Schomberg, is part of the three-year Playa to Paseo partnership between the City of San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs and Burning Man Project to site temporary artworks throughout San Jose. XO was installed on October 20, 2018 and will be up through February 28, 2019. A companion work, HaHa also by Laura Kimpton with Jeff Schomberg is currently on view in Hammer Theatre Plaza through the end of February.

[READ THE FULL STORY](#)



For more information, contact [Elisabeth Handler](#), Public Information Manager, OED.

EVENTS

[Please visit February's full event calendar.](#) Don't miss out on these featured events.

[U.S. Men's National Soccer Team vs. Costa Rica](#)
Avaya Stadium
2.2.2019

[Building Community Archives and Documenting Stories of Refugees](#)
San Jose Museum of Art
2.6.2019

[Alleluja! - A New Play by Allen Bennett \(screening\)](#)
Trianon Theater
2.7.2019

[Jazz Nights - Nineteen](#)
Tabard Theatre
2.9.2018

[Steinway Society presents Vyacheslav Gryaznov](#)
Tabard Theatre
2.10.2019

[Gilles Peterson DJ Set](#)
The Continental
2.14.2019

[2019 San Jose Jazz Winterfest](#)
The Hammer Theatre, Cafe Stritch, The Continental, Art Boutiki
2.14 through 2.27.2019

Dover String Quartet
Trianon Theater
2.17.2019

Lunafest Women's Film Festival
San Jose Women's Club
2.22.2019

Cats - Broadway San Jose
San Jose Museum of Art
2.19 - 2.24.2019

Mothers and Sons
City Lights Theater
1.17 through 2.17.2019