Trinity County Economic Forecast

Forecast Summary

- Approximately 50 jobs are expected to be created in Trinity County in 2019.
- Job creation will decelerate, and through 2024 an average of 20 new jobs per year is expected.
- The largest gains will be in agriculture, retail, healthcare, and government. Together, these industries will account for 82 percent of net job creation between 2018 and 2024.
- The unemployment rate averaged 5.7 percent in 2018, the lowest rate on record by a wide margin.
- The unemployment rate is near its lowest sustainable level and will begin to rise during the 2018–2024 forecast period.
- The Trinity County population is declining and will continue to do so in 2019 and 2020.

Government Employment

- Government is the largest employment sector in the county, accounting for 50 percent of all wage and salary jobs.
- Government agencies in Trinity County lost approximately 100 jobs between 2012 and 2018.

The largest entities in the county are:
- All public K-12 schools (400 employees)
- County-level government agencies (300 employees)
- U.S. Forest Service (50–100 employees)
- California Highway Patrol (20–50 employees)
- Caltrans (20 employees)

Future employment levels will be determined by population growth and by the condition of federal, state, and local government budgets.
Private Education and Healthcare Employment

- Healthcare agencies have gained approximately 100 jobs since 2012.
- The most prominent employer is Mountain Community Healthcare District, which has 150 employees.
- The private education industry is very small, and neither gains nor loses a substantial number of jobs each year.
- Healthcare employment is expected to continue grow during the 2018–2024 forecast period, rising by approximately 25 jobs.

Legal Cannabis

- Under California law, it is now legal to cultivate, manufacture, sell, and use cannabis and cannabis products.
- The state of California offers three broad types of cannabis permits: cultivation, manufacturing, and retail.
- As cannabis businesses across the state obtain permits and enter the legal market, they will impact employment data most prominently in agriculture, manufacturing, and retail. Cannabis workers are typically not counted in official employment data until their firms obtain permits.
- As of October 2019, Trinity County had the fifth largest number of cannabis cultivation permits in California, behind Humboldt, Santa Barbara, Mendocino, and Monterey counties.
- Not all cannabis growers have entered the legal market, and many still grow cannabis without a license. If more obtain permits and enter the legal market, the number of legal cannabis farms in Trinity County could increase substantially.
As of October 2019, Trinity County had no legal cannabis retailers or manufacturing establishments.

Despite a lack of legal cannabis retailers, retail employment has been expanding so local stores can provide supplies to the growing cannabis cultivation industry, both legal and non-legal.

Agriculture employment will begin to increase during the forecast period as more cannabis cultivation businesses enter the legal market. But in 2018 there were only 10 employees in the entire agriculture sector, and it is unlikely that the number of legal agriculture jobs will surpass 100 at any point before the year 2050.

Population Growth

The Trinity County population is declining because the number of deaths has begun to exceed the number of births, and because more people have moved out of the county than moved in.

Between 2012 and 2018, deaths outnumbered births by more than 300, and approximately 20 more people moved out than moved in.

Between 2018 and 2024, more people will begin to move into the county as the legal cannabis industry provides job opportunities and business prospects. But deaths will continue to outnumber births, and the countywide population will decline by a small amount.

Unemployment and Inflation Rates

The unemployment rate in Trinity County was 5.7 percent in 2018, which is above the average for Northern California.

The unemployment rate is near its lowest sustainable level and is expected to increase during the 2018–2024 forecast period.
• Inflation accelerated in 2018 as home prices and energy costs increased across California.

• In 2019 and 2020, inflation is expected to be within a range of 2.0 percent and 3.5 percent.

New Housing Production

• Trinity County has been impacted by wildfires in the last few years, and the rate of homebuilding has increased to replace structures that were destroyed.

• Homebuilding will remain elevated throughout the 2018–2024 forecast period, with an average of 40 new homes built each year. Virtually all will be single-family homes.

Income per Capita

• Income per capita was $37,000 in 2018, which was well below the Northern California average of $46,200.

• Over the last six years, real income per capita increased at a rate of 2.3 percent per year.

• Over the next six years, real income per capita is expected to increase by an average of 1.2 percent per year.

Registered Vehicles

• There were approximately 19,700 registered vehicles in Trinity County in 2018.
By 2024, it is expected that the county will have 19,400 registered vehicles. The number of vehicles will decline because the population will decline.

**Public School Enrollment**

- In Trinity County, approximately 1,600 students were enrolled in K-12 public schools in 2018.
- By 2024, enrollment is expected to remain near 1,600 public K-12 students.
### Economic Indicators

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Trinity County Economic Forecast

**Socioeconomic Indicators**

### Violent Crime Rate
- **2017**
  - Trinity County: 550 per 100,000 residents
  - Northern California: 510
  - California: 449

### Poverty Rate
- **2018**
  - Trinity County: 14.3%
  - Northern California: 12.0%
  - California: 11.1%

### Median Household Income
- **2018**
  - Trinity County: $38,700
  - Northern California: $53,500
  - California: $74,600

### Median Home Selling Price
- **2018**
  - Trinity County: $200,000
  - Northern California: $265,800
  - California: $571,200

### Average Travel Time to Work
- **2019**
  - Trinity County: 21 minutes each way
  - Northern California: 22
  - California: 32

### Percent of Population Age 25+ With at Least a 4-Year College Degree
- **2019**
  - Trinity County: 29.1%
  - Northern California: 73.0%
  - California: 32.6%