

## National June jobs report shows lackluster hiring

By Kevin Smith, Staff Writer

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The nation's economic recovery stalled again last month on lackluster hiring by private employers and continued job losses, new numbers released Friday showed.

Figures from the U.S. Labor Department reveal that employers cut 125,000 jobs in June. Those losses were fueled heavily by the end of 225,000 temporary census jobs, but businesses added just 83,000 new workers - not nearly enough to jump-start a recovery.

Still, one local economic expert says people shouldn't read too much into the numbers.

"I don't make anything of it," said Brad Kemp, director of regional research for Beacon Economics in Los Angeles. "I recognize it as a number ... but it's just a single month.

"We know that the census numbers didn't create all the gains we've been getting over the past few months. The private sector has been adding jobs. Granted, it's at a slow pace, but that shouldn't be surprising to anyone looking at past recessions."

Unemployment dropped to 9.5 percent - the lowest level since July 2009 - from 9.7 percent. But the decline was mainly because more than 650,000 people gave up searching for jobs and left the labor force.

People who are no longer looking for work aren't counted in the unemployment numbers.

"We're seeing some of that, but we're also seeing people who are suddenly saying, 'I'll still keep plugging away, even though times are tough,'" said Robin McCarthy, executive director for Women at Work, a Pasadena-based

career and job resource center.

McCarthy acknowledged, however, that job seekers are having a difficult time.

"I have one client who sent out 22 resumes in one month and only heard back from two places," she said. "They both turned her down. It does get discouraging. A lot of the jobs people are being offered are part-time - jobs that come with no benefits."

Some of the positions employers are offering might not be dream jobs. But McCarthy advises job seekers to seriously consider the offers.

"We encourage people to take the temporary or part-time jobs, because you never know where it will lead," she said. "Employers will hire you sooner if you are a known quantity, and they

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might get a big job or an influx of work."

Nigel Gault, chief U.S. economist at IHS Global Insight, an economic forecasting firm, said Friday's job numbers aren't exactly welcome news.

"It could have been worse, but it wasn't good," Gault said. "It's adding to the evidence that growth has slowed."

People left the work force "because they think there's nothing out there," he said.

In a separate report, factory orders fell by 1.4 percent in May, according to the Commerce Department. It was the first decline after nine months of gains and the biggest drop since March 2009.

The reports follow a slew of data and developments this week that point to slower growth in the months ahead.

In May, home sales plunged and construction spending dropped after a popular homebuyers' tax credit expired on April 30. And consumer confidence has fallen sharply.

Local jobless rates have stayed much higher than the nation's. In May, Los Angeles County's unemployment rate climbed to 12.3 percent from 12.2 percent the previous month, the state Employment Development Department reported.

McCarthy said some of her clients are in dire

straights.

"Their unemployment has run out and they are waiting to see if Congress will extend it," said. "We are encouraging them to take the temporary or part-time jobs that are offered."

The private sector has added an average of 98,000 jobs a month since the beginning of the year. At that rate, it would take nearly seven years to regain the jobs lost during the recession.

The nation has lost 7.9 million private payroll jobs since the recession began. It takes about 100,000 new jobs a month to keep up with population growth.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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