

## Job search hard work in Y-S

[By Ryan McCarthy/Appeal-Democrat](#)

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Kenny Ines spoke Thursday about serving 10 years in the United States Air Force — and a second, shorter nonmilitary mission he was ready to undertake.

The 46-year-old Olivehurst resident laid off in January planned to live weekdays in a camper trailer if he'd gotten a job in Sierra County with Caltrans. His wife's serious health problems, however, left him reluctant to be away from home that much.

So Ines has remained in the region that had a 17.6 percent unemployment rate in January — the highest in the Yuba-Sutter area in more than a decade and up from 12.3 percent from the same month a year ago, according to figures released by the state Employment Development Department.

Sutter County's jobless rate was 17.4 percent, seventh highest in the state, while Yuba County's was 17.9 percent, fifth highest in the state.

Colusa County's employment picture was the worst in the state at 26.7 percent, the highest for the county since January 1999.

The statewide figure for January was 10.6 percent. The national number was 8.5.

Ines has seen how the high number of job seekers plays out. More than 90 people applied for a single custodian job with Sutter County, said Ines, who's prepared to take whatever work may become available.

"I'm not afraid to do what I need to do to make a living," he said.

Joe D'Andrea, director of the Sutter County One-Stop, noted the traditionally high unemployment rates in the Yuba-Sutter region are due in part to seasonal, agricultural-related employment and limited industrial infrastructure.

"We don't attract those kind of Roseville-type business parks," D'Andrea said of nearby Placer County that benefits from corporations including Hewlett-Packard and NEC adding operations there decades ago. This region is the capital of what he called the "autonomous technology" of the Global Hawk at Beale Air Force Base —and can work to attract related companies.

"Once you start building that regional resumé," D'Andrea said, an area benefits because of the belief "that must be the place to be."

For individuals with their own resumé's seeking jobs, the director spoke about the importance of an edge.

"You have to stand out," D'Andrea said, citing how much it matters that job seekers present themselves as someone who'll fit well in a workplace.

Susan Molyneux, labor market analyst with the state Employment Development Department, said in the Yuba-Sutter area, housing was first hit and downturns have spread to other areas including

government, retail and transportation jobs.

A total of 600 jobs were lost in government during the year that started in January 2008, Molyneux said.

While several industries reported lower employment, others, including health services, were stable, she said.

"That's a little bit of a bright spot," the labor analyst said.

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