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Ag helps Monterey County unemployment rate drop

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Unemployment in Monterey County dipped to its lowest level in seven months, as agricultural companies picked up hiring in May.

All told, the county added 9,900 jobs last month with all but 1,000 of them in the agricultural industry, according to a report issued by the Employment and Development Department today.

The new jobs pushed unemployment to 10.9 percent in May, down from 12.6 percent in April. However, more people in Monterey County sought work this year than in May 2010, when unemployment hit 10.7 percent.

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rate can drop even if jobs aren't added.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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