

[Report: Valley poised for economic growth](#)

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Wednesday, 24 June 2009 12:42



Recession in the Fresno area is expected to fade out in the third quarter of 2010, prompting an economic rebound led by the trade, transportation, utilities, financial activities, professional and business services sectors, according to a new economic forecast.

Altogether, job losses in California will top 1 million before the recession ends this fall, according to the latest California and Metro Forecast released today by the Business Forecasting Center at the University of the Pacific.

Over the next few months, the pace of private sector employment declines will slow as state and local government layoffs begin. Unemployment is forecast to peak at 12.3 percent in early 2010 and remain in double digits until the end of 2011.

For the Fresno region, the unemployment rate is expected to peak at 16.1 percent in 2010 and slip down to 13.7 percent in 2012. Real personal income in Fresno is expected to grow 1.2 percent in 2010, down slightly below the state's rate of 1.3 percent.

In spite of some comparisons to Appalachia and post-Katrina New Orleans, the report states that the San Joaquin Valley is still poised for big things.

The report notes:

“The present may indeed be an economic disaster, but the San Joaquin Valley is also an economic opportunity area with enormous potential for positive growth. The California location, young workforce, growing cultural amenities and business services, and relatively low cost of living for the region creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and investment. Improving education and workforce skills are the most important steps the Valley can take to unlock its vast economic potential.”