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**JOBWIRE**

for the Week of December 7, 2008

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By CJJ Staff

Another 700,000 Jobs Disappear

It's been over 30 years since the US has endured one month's job losses of the magnitude reported on Friday. The Dept of Labor's payroll survey showed November's job count declined by 533,000. Also, the loss tallies from September and October were revised upward to 403,000 and 320,000 respectively – 199,000 more jobs lost than previously estimated. From January through August, nationwide job cuts had averaged 82,000 per month, but in the last three months the average has soared to 419,000. As if there were any doubt, the National Bureau of Economic Research made it official last week: The US has been in a recession since December 2007.

The service sector shrank far more than expected in November, with The Institute for Supply Management's index of the industry's 'health' showing that for every company that was hiring, eight were laying off employees.

The national unemployment rate rose from 6.5 to 6.7 percent last month, although those government statistics do not include jobseekers who've given up and people working part-time involuntarily. If those workers were included, November's jobless rate would be 12.5 percent, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

On the Job Front

**NATIONWIDE** – With use of landlines declining, **AT&T** is calling for the elimination of 12,000 jobs, about 4 percent of its workforce, over the next year. The telecommunications giant, which cut 4600 positions earlier this year, still plans to add staffing in areas such as wireless, video and broadband to keep up with customer demand.

**BAY AREA** – **Carlyle Group** is cutting 100 jobs, about 10 percent of its workforce, and closing a Menlo Park office. The private equity investment firm also has offices in SF.

**AUBURN** – Auburn Buick Pontiac GMC, has closed, idling 75. It's the area's third new-car dealership to fail this year.

**EMERYVILLE** – **LeapFrog Enterprises Inc.**, maker of teaching toys, will lay off 70 from its staff of 700, and reduce the office space leased at its headquarters here.

**ROSEVILLE** – **California Bank & Trust** will open a new branch here this month, its fourth office in the Sacramento area.

**SACRAMENTO** – Preliminary work has begun on the Sacramento Railyards project, which will involve construction of roads, bridges, overpasses, underground utilities, and bike paths. Developers expect to hire up to 3000 workers beginning early next year. . . Eight months after filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, **Kimball Homes** announced it will close within months. The Chicago-based builder has local housing projects in Natomas, Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove, Galt and Stockton.

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