



N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's unemployment rate decreases to 11.7 percent

NOTE TO EDITORS: *Unemployed Californians who are collecting Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits are now receiving notice of an upcoming change in their payment method. Beginning July 8, the EDD will start issuing new EDD Debit Cards to customers instead of traditional checks. The cards are a faster, convenient, and more secure payment process. An insert being included with customers' benefit checks informs them that they don't need to do anything since the cards will be issued automatically over the next few months. Look for more information in the weeks ahead.*

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate decreased to 11.7 percent in May, and nonfarm payroll jobs decreased by 29,200 during the month, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate increased in May to 9.1 percent.

In April, the state's unemployment rate was a revised 11.8 percent, and in May 2010, the unemployment rate was 12.4 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 14,031,700 in May, a decrease of 29,200 jobs over the month, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 42,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over-year change (May 2010 to May 2011) shows an increase of 87,500 jobs (up 0.6 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal survey of households, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows an increase in the number of employed people. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in May was 15,947,000, an increase of 8,000 from April, and up 2,000 from the employment total in May of last year.

(more)

The number of people unemployed in California was 2,117,000 – down by 24,000 over the month, and down by 134,000 compared with May of last year.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,031,700 in May, a net loss of 29,200 jobs since the April survey. This followed a gain of 14,900 jobs (as revised) in April.

Two categories (information and financial activities) added jobs over the month, gaining 5,200 jobs. Financial activities posted the largest increase over the month, adding 3,200 jobs. Eight categories (construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government) reported job declines over the month, down 34,400 jobs. Professional and business services posted the largest decrease over the month, down 16,300 jobs. One category, mining and logging, recorded no change over the month.

In a year-over-year comparison (May 2010 to May 2011), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 87,500 jobs (up 0.6 percent).

Seven categories (construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; professional and business services; educational and health services; and leisure and hospitality) posted job gains over the year, adding 189,800 jobs. Educational and health services posted the largest gain on a numerical basis, adding 43,300 jobs (up 2.4 percent). Information posted the largest gain on a percentage basis, up by 7.1 percent (an increase of 30,100 jobs).

Four categories (mining and logging; financial activities; other services; and government) posted job declines over the year, down 102,300 jobs. Government posted the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 95,300 jobs (a decrease of 3.8 percent).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 553,041 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the May survey week. This compares with 584,141 last month and 675,201 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 65,115 in May 2011, compared with 63,739 in April and 70,439 in May of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	May 2011 (prelim.)	April 2011 (revised)	May 2010	Change Over 12 Months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	14,031.7	14,060.9	13,944.2	0.6
Mining and logging	27.1	27.1	27.2	-0.4
Construction	566.1	571.1	563.9	0.4
Manufacturing	1,251.3	1,253.4	1,243.8	0.6
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,648.9	2,652.5	2,621.1	1.1
Information	451.8	449.8	421.7	7.1
Financial activities	757.1	753.9	758.7	-0.2
Professional and business services	2,108.0	2,124.3	2,065.1	2.1
Educational and health services	1,825.8	1,827.2	1,782.5	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	1,527.7	1,529.4	1,491.7	2.4
Other services	480.5	484.5	485.8	-1.1
Government*	2,387.4	2,387.7	2,482.7	-3.8
Agriculture	379.0	374.2	381.2	-0.6

*Includes all civilian employees of federal, state, and local governments.

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	May 2011 (prelim.)	April 2011 (revised)	March 2011	May 2010
Civilian labor force ^a	18,065,000	18,080,000	18,078,000	18,196,000
Total civilian employment	15,947,000	15,939,000	15,902,000	15,945,000
Unemployment	2,117,000	2,141,000	2,176,000	2,251,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	11.7	11.8	12.0	12.4
US seasonally adjusted rate %	9.1	9.0	8.8	9.6

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	May 2011 (prelim.)	April 2011 (revised)	March 2011	May 2010
Civilian labor force ^a	17,993,000	18,028,000	18,022,000	18,143,000
Total civilian employment	15,938,000	15,926,000	15,803,000	15,978,000
Unemployment	2,055,000	2,101,000	2,220,000	2,164,000
Unadjusted rate %	11.4	11.7	12.3	11.9

^a Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

² Seasonal adjustment is a statistical method that removes typical employment patterns that occur at various times throughout the year (e.g., additional retail hiring during the holiday season).

MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
May 2011 (Preliminary); 2010 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	17,993,300	15,938,200	2,055,100	11.4%
ALAMEDA	738,700	663,300	75,400	10.2%
ALPINE	430	350	90	19.6%
AMADOR	16,970	14,920	2,060	12.1%
BUTTE	104,000	90,600	13,400	12.9%
CALAVERAS	19,380	16,530	2,850	14.7%
COLUSA	11,610	9,480	2,120	18.3%
CONTRA COSTA	511,700	459,000	52,600	10.3%
DEL NORTE	11,500	10,030	1,480	12.8%
EL DORADO	89,600	78,300	11,300	12.6%
FRESNO	437,700	367,900	69,800	16.0%
GLENN	12,620	10,700	1,920	15.2%
HUMBOLDT	60,700	54,100	6,600	10.8%
IMPERIAL	75,000	54,200	20,700	27.7%
INYO	9,150	8,260	890	9.8%
KERN	363,300	308,800	54,500	15.0%
KINGS	61,600	52,200	9,400	15.2%
LAKE	24,810	20,640	4,180	16.8%
LASSEN	13,310	11,590	1,720	12.9%
LOS ANGELES	4,861,700	4,284,800	577,000	11.9%
MADERA	67,100	57,400	9,700	14.5%
MARIN	129,300	119,800	9,500	7.4%
MARIPOSA	9,000	7,930	1,070	11.9%
MENDOCINO	41,890	37,460	4,430	10.6%
MERCED	107,300	88,200	19,100	17.8%
MODOC	4,030	3,500	540	13.3%
MONO	7,440	6,490	940	12.7%
MONTEREY	219,900	196,000	23,900	10.9%
NAPA	74,000	67,600	6,400	8.7%
NEVADA	49,200	43,780	5,420	11.0%
ORANGE	1,561,500	1,428,500	133,000	8.5%
PLACER	173,500	154,700	18,700	10.8%
PLUMAS	10,020	8,520	1,500	14.9%
RIVERSIDE	890,500	772,500	118,000	13.3%
SACRAMENTO	658,600	581,000	77,500	11.8%
SAN BENITO	25,700	21,400	4,300	16.8%
SAN BERNARDINO	837,400	727,200	110,200	13.2%
SAN DIEGO	1,554,400	1,404,800	149,500	9.6%
SAN FRANCISCO	449,400	411,800	37,600	8.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	295,700	247,900	47,800	16.2%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	137,400	125,100	12,300	9.0%
SAN MATEO	366,700	337,100	29,600	8.1%
SANTA BARBARA	223,100	205,100	18,000	8.1%
SANTA CLARA	866,100	782,200	84,000	9.7%
SANTA CRUZ	148,700	131,800	16,900	11.4%
SHASTA	81,900	69,900	12,000	14.7%
SIERRA	1,510	1,270	240	16.0%
SISKIYOU	18,790	15,710	3,080	16.4%
SOLANO	209,800	186,100	23,700	11.3%
SONOMA	254,400	230,500	24,000	9.4%
STANISLAUS	233,900	194,900	39,100	16.7%
SUTTER	42,100	33,600	8,500	20.3%
TEHAMA	24,490	20,790	3,690	15.1%
TRINITY	5,050	4,150	910	17.9%
TULARE	212,100	180,100	32,000	15.1%
TUOLUMNE	24,780	21,460	3,310	13.4%
VENTURA	430,100	389,300	40,700	9.5%
YOLO	95,500	84,200	11,300	11.8%
YUBA	27,200	22,600	4,600	17.0%

*Not seasonally adjusted.

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