



N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's unemployment rate decreases to 6.5 percent ***Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 39,800***

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate decreased to 6.5 percent in March, and nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 39,800 during the month for a total gain of 1,860,700 jobs since the recovery began in February 2010, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged in March at 5.5 percent.

In February, the state's unemployment rate was 6.7 percent, and in March 2014, the unemployment rate was 7.9 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 15,982,000 in March, an increase of 39,800 jobs over the month, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 58,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over-year change, March 2014 to March 2015, shows an increase of 481,900 jobs (up 3.1 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 March was 17,713,000, an increase of 45,000 from February, and up 457,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,223,000 – down by 53,000 over the month, and down by 250,000 compared with March of last year.

(more)

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,982,000 in March, a net gain of 39,800 jobs since the February survey. This followed a gain of 22,400 jobs (as revised) in February.

Seven categories (construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; educational and health services; other services; and government) added jobs over the month, gaining 48,800 jobs. Professional and business services posted the largest increase over the month, adding 16,900 jobs.

Four categories (mining and logging; information; financial activities; and leisure and hospitality) reported job declines over the month, down 9,000 jobs. Information posted the largest decrease over the month, down 3,200 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2014 to March 2015), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 481,900 jobs (up 3.1 percent).

Ten categories (construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government) posted job gains over the year, adding 482,800 jobs. Professional and business services posted the largest gains on a numerical basis, adding 123,900 jobs (up 5.2 percent). Construction posted the largest gains on a percentage basis, up 6.9 percent (adding 46,300 jobs).

One category, mining and logging, posted job declines over the year, down 900 jobs (a 2.9 percent decrease).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 464,530 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 426,874 in February and 510,919 in March of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 44,502 in March, compared with 43,302 in February and 52,755 in March of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	March 2015 (prelim.)	February 2015 (revised)	March 2014	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,982.0	15,942.2	15,500.1	3.1
Mining and logging	30.4	30.5	31.3	-2.9
Construction	713.6	706.3	667.3	6.9
Manufacturing	1,272.9	1,268.6	1,267.7	0.4
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,929.3	2,917.4	2,844.7	3.0
Information	466.9	470.1	455.6	2.5
Financial activities	794.8	797.5	778.0	2.2
Professional and business services	2,522.3	2,505.4	2,398.4	5.2
Educational and health services	2,464.1	2,459.5	2,387.4	3.2
Leisure and hospitality	1,808.5	1,811.5	1,740.6	3.9
Other services	552.3	549.4	533.5	3.5
Government*	2,426.9	2,426.0	2,395.6	1.3
Agriculture	423.1	417.8	430.6	-1.7

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	March 2015 (prelim.)	February 2015 (revised)	January 2015	March 2014
Civilian labor force ^a	18,936,000	18,944,000	18,938,000	18,729,000
Total civilian employment	17,713,000	17,668,000	17,620,000	17,256,000
Unemployment	1,223,000	1,276,000	1,317,000	1,473,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	6.5	6.7	7.0	7.9
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.5	5.5	5.7	6.6

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	March 2015 (prelim.)	February 2015 (revised)	January 2015	March 2014
Civilian labor force ^a	18,879,000	18,910,000	18,890,000	18,806,000
Total civilian employment	17,656,000	17,617,000	17,518,000	17,246,000
Unemployment	1,223,000	1,292,000	1,372,000	1,560,000
Unadjusted rate %	6.5	6.8	7.3	8.3

^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
March 2015 (Preliminary); 2014 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	18,879,200	17,656,100	1,223,000	6.5%
ALAMEDA	811,200	772,600	38,500	4.8%
ALPINE	540	500	40	7.0%
AMADOR	14,520	13,500	1,020	7.0%
BUTTE	101,700	94,000	7,600	7.5%
CALAVERAS	20,140	18,780	1,360	6.7%
COLUSA	10,840	8,620	2,230	20.5%
CONTRA COSTA	543,800	516,600	27,300	5.0%
DEL NORTE	9,900	8,980	920	9.3%
EL DORADO	89,100	83,900	5,200	5.8%
FRESNO	442,100	392,400	49,700	11.2%
GLENN	12,640	11,440	1,200	9.5%
HUMBOLDT	62,700	59,000	3,700	5.9%
IMPERIAL	77,300	61,900	15,400	19.9%
INYO	9,010	8,450	570	6.3%
KERN	385,400	342,600	42,800	11.1%
KINGS	56,700	49,900	6,700	11.9%
LAKE	30,000	27,670	2,330	7.8%
LASSEN	10,530	9,650	880	8.4%
LOS ANGELES	5,044,400	4,679,300	365,100	7.2%
MADERA	61,700	54,600	7,100	11.5%
MARIN	140,900	136,000	4,900	3.5%
MARIPOSA	7,500	6,800	700	9.3%
MENDOCINO	40,840	38,260	2,580	6.3%
MERCED	115,500	100,600	14,800	12.9%
MODOC	3,180	2,850	330	10.4%
MONO	8,520	8,060	460	5.4%
MONTEREY	211,700	190,200	21,500	10.2%
NAPA	73,000	69,600	3,400	4.6%
NEVADA	48,700	45,980	2,730	5.6%
ORANGE	1,591,500	1,521,900	69,600	4.4%
PLACER	177,200	168,200	9,000	5.1%
PLUMAS	7,680	6,670	1,010	13.1%
RIVERSIDE	1,019,900	952,900	67,000	6.6%
SACRAMENTO	683,900	642,600	41,300	6.0%
SAN BENITO	29,800	27,200	2,500	8.4%
SAN BERNARDINO	917,100	858,600	58,500	6.4%
SAN DIEGO	1,552,500	1,473,500	79,000	5.1%
SAN FRANCISCO	540,800	521,200	19,600	3.6%
SAN JOAQUIN	309,900	280,300	29,600	9.5%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	141,500	134,900	6,600	4.6%
SAN MATEO	437,000	422,200	14,800	3.4%
SANTA BARBARA	220,600	208,900	11,700	5.3%
SANTA CLARA	1,018,700	976,800	41,900	4.1%
SANTA CRUZ	141,300	128,300	13,000	9.2%
SHASTA	74,200	67,900	6,300	8.5%
SIERRA	1,460	1,310	150	10.5%
SISKIYOU	17,430	15,480	1,950	11.2%
SOLANO	203,500	190,800	12,700	6.3%
SONOMA	256,700	244,900	11,800	4.6%
STANISLAUS	239,200	214,400	24,900	10.4%
SUTTER	44,100	38,500	5,600	12.7%
TEHAMA	24,970	22,860	2,110	8.4%
TRINITY	4,780	4,320	470	9.7%
TULARE	195,600	169,700	25,900	13.2%
TUOLUMNE	21,520	19,880	1,640	7.6%
VENTURA	432,400	408,900	23,500	5.4%
YOLO	102,100	95,000	7,100	7.0%
YUBA	27,900	25,100	2,800	10.0%

*Not seasonally adjusted.

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