



## N E W S R E L E A S E

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### **California's Unemployment Rate Unchanged at 12.4 Percent**

**SACRAMENTO** – California's unemployment rate was 12.4 percent in December, and nonfarm payroll jobs decreased by 38,800 during the month, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate also was unchanged in December, remaining at 10.0 percent.

In November, the state's unemployment rate was a revised 12.4 percent, and in December 2008, the unemployment rate was 8.7 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 14,148,000 in December, a decrease of 38,800 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 (December 2008 to December 2009) shows a decrease of 579,400 jobs (down 3.9 percent).

#### **EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA**

The federal survey of households, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows a decrease in the number of employed people. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in December was 15,978,000, a decrease of 88,000 from November, and down 973,000 from the employment total in December of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 2,254,000 – down by 19,000 over the month, but up by 648,000 compared with December 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 14,148,000 in December, a net loss of 38,800 jobs since the November survey. This followed a loss of 17,600 jobs (as revised) in November.

Three categories (information; financial activities; and educational and health services) added jobs over the month, gaining 10,600 jobs. Educational and health services posted the largest increase over the month, adding 7,500 jobs. Eight categories (mining and logging; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government) reported job declines this month, down 49,400 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 15,300 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (December 2008 to December 2009), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 579,400 jobs (down 3.9 percent).

One industry division, educational and health services, posted job gains over the year, adding 22,800 jobs (a 1.3 percent increase).

Ten categories (mining and logging; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government) posted job declines over the year, down 602,200 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities employment showed the largest decline on a numerical basis, down by 127,100 jobs (a decline of 4.6 percent). Construction posted the largest decline on a percentage basis, down by 16.1 percent (a decrease of 116,100 jobs).

## **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 792,764 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the December survey week. This compares with 781,449 last month and 655,445 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 80,873 in December 2009, compared with 84,738 in November and 87,979 in December of last year.

***NOTE TO EDITORS:*** EDD encourages those who are filing for Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at [www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov). On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. EDD's UI telephone lines also are open Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for claim filing and assistance.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

**PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA<sup>2</sup>**  
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	December 2009 (prelim.)	November 2009 (revised)	December 2008	Change Over 12 Months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	14,148.0	14,186.8	14,727.4	-3.9
Mining and logging . . . . .	26.8	27.0	28.3	-5.3
Construction . . . . .	606.5	614.0	722.6	-16.1
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,278.2	1,284.1	1,384.8	-7.7
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	2,639.9	2,655.2	2,767.0	-4.6
Information . . . . .	450.5	448.5	468.0	-3.7
Financial activities . . . . .	798.7	797.6	829.2	-3.7
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,122.4	2,127.1	2,212.3	-4.1
Educational and health services . . . . .	1,764.5	1,757.0	1,741.7	1.3
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,501.4	1,506.4	1,545.0	-2.8
Other services . . . . .	488.2	496.3	513.3	-4.9
Government* . . . . .	2,470.9	2,473.6	2,515.2	-1.8
Agriculture . . . . .	374.5	374.6	394.5	-5.1

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

**TABLE A**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA<sup>2</sup>**

	December 2009 (prelim.)	November 2009 (revised)	October 2009	December 2008
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	18,232,000	18,339,000	18,340,000	18,557,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	15,978,000	16,066,000	16,041,000	16,951,000
Unemployment . . . . .	2,254,000	2,273,000	2,299,000	1,606,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	12.4	12.4	12.5	8.7
US seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	10.0	10.0	10.1	7.4

**TABLE B**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA**

	December 2009 (prelim.)	November 2009 (revised)	October 2009	December 2008
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	18,196,000	18,332,000	18,363,000	18,551,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	15,989,000	16,083,000	16,105,000	16,862,000
Unemployment . . . . .	2,207,000	2,249,000	2,258,000	1,689,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	12.1	12.3	12.3	9.1

<sup>a</sup> Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

<sup>2</sup> 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**  
**December 2009 (Preliminary); 2008 BENCHMARK**  
**NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>18,195,800</b>	<b>15,989,300</b>	<b>2,206,600</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
ALAMEDA	762,300	679,500	82,800	10.9%
ALPINE	520	450	70	13.6%
AMADOR	17,710	15,480	2,230	12.6%
BUTTE	104,000	90,100	13,900	13.4%
CALAVERAS	20,410	17,320	3,100	15.2%
COLUSA	10,900	8,090	2,820	25.9%
CONTRA COSTA	527,100	469,100	58,000	11.0%
DEL NORTE	11,440	10,010	1,430	12.5%
EL DORADO	91,100	79,600	11,500	12.6%
FRESNO	442,500	368,100	74,300	16.8%
GLENN	12,520	10,530	2,000	15.9%
HUMBOLDT	59,500	52,700	6,800	11.5%
IMPERIAL	75,300	54,400	20,900	27.7%
INYO	9,310	8,420	890	9.6%
KERN	377,100	317,500	59,600	15.8%
KINGS	59,500	49,300	10,200	17.1%
LAKE	24,710	20,130	4,570	18.5%
LASSEN	13,510	11,550	1,950	14.5%
LOS ANGELES	4,869,400	4,285,100	584,300	12.0%
MADERA	67,700	57,300	10,400	15.4%
MARIN	133,100	122,800	10,300	7.8%
MARIPOSA	9,740	8,540	1,200	12.3%
MENDOCINO	42,320	37,440	4,890	11.5%
MERCED	106,800	85,700	21,100	19.8%
MODOC	3,980	3,400	580	14.5%
MONO	8,470	7,650	820	9.7%
MONTEREY	206,600	172,200	34,400	16.7%
NAPA	73,400	65,900	7,500	10.2%
NEVADA	50,030	44,320	5,710	11.4%
ORANGE	1,608,700	1,461,700	147,000	9.1%
PLACER	172,100	152,600	19,500	11.3%
PLUMAS	9,820	7,960	1,850	18.9%
RIVERSIDE	910,900	780,800	130,100	14.3%
SACRAMENTO	676,500	593,700	82,900	12.2%
SAN BENITO	26,500	21,500	5,000	18.7%
SAN BERNARDINO	868,000	749,700	118,300	13.6%
SAN DIEGO	1,554,100	1,397,600	156,500	10.1%
SAN FRANCISCO	441,800	400,100	41,700	9.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	302,000	250,300	51,800	17.1%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	138,800	125,800	13,000	9.4%
SAN MATEO	375,700	343,300	32,400	8.6%
SANTA BARBARA	220,300	199,800	20,500	9.3%
SANTA CLARA	875,400	777,000	98,300	11.2%
SANTA CRUZ	150,800	130,400	20,400	13.5%
SHASTA	84,000	70,600	13,400	15.9%
SIERRA	1,600	1,310	290	17.9%
SISKIYOU	18,820	15,370	3,440	18.3%
SOLANO	212,200	186,900	25,400	11.9%
SONOMA	258,500	232,400	26,000	10.1%
STANISLAUS	237,700	196,100	41,700	17.5%
SUTTER	42,000	33,600	8,500	20.1%
TEHAMA	26,490	22,480	4,010	15.1%
TRINITY	4,690	3,760	930	19.8%
TULARE	209,000	172,400	36,600	17.5%
TUOLUMNE	25,800	22,140	3,660	14.2%
VENTURA	425,900	379,500	46,500	10.9%
YOLO	98,900	85,400	13,500	13.7%
YUBA	27,700	22,500	5,200	18.8%

\*Not seasonally adjusted.