

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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California's unemployment rate decreases to 5.4 percent
Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 4,200

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate decreased to 5.4 percent in March, and nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 4,200 during the month for a total gain of 2,134,400 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 increased in March to 5.0 percent.

In February, the state's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent, and in March 2015, the unemployment rate was 6.6 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 16,320,900 in March, an increase of 4,200 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 2015 to March 2016, shows an increase of 420,800 jobs (up 2.6 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 March was 18,038,000, an increase of 46,000 from February, and up 350,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,020,000 – down by 34,000 over the month, and down by 222,000 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 16,320,900 in March, a net gain of 4,200 jobs since the March survey. This followed a gain of 46,600 jobs (as revised) in February.

Four categories (trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; educational and health services; and government) added jobs over the month, gaining 22,600 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest increase over the month, adding 11,100 jobs.

Seven categories (mining and logging; construction; manufacturing; information; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and other services) reported job declines over the month, down 18,400 jobs. Construction posted the largest decrease over the month, down by 7,400 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2015 to March 2016), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 420,800 jobs (up 2.6 percent).

Nine categories (construction; 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 429,400 jobs. Educational and health services posted the largest gains on a numerical basis, adding 104,700 jobs (a 4.3 percent increase). Construction posted the largest gains on a percentage basis, up 5.6 percent (adding 39,600 jobs).

Two categories (mining and logging and manufacturing) posted job declines over the year, down 8,600 jobs. Manufacturing posted the largest decrease on a numerical basis, down 4,700 jobs (a 0.4 percent decrease). Mining and logging posted the largest decrease on a percentage basis, down 12.9 percent (a decrease of 3,900 jobs).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 420,502 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 388,417 in February and 464,530 in March of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 44,305 in March, compared with 42,281 in February and 44,502 in March of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

Industrial Classification	March 2016 (prelim.)	February 2016 (revised)	March 2015	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	16,320.9	16,316.7	15,900.1	2.6
Mining and logging	26.3	26.6	30.2	-12.9
Construction	752.7	760.1	713.1	5.6
Manufacturing	1,285.6	1,287.2	1,290.3	-0.4
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,986.2	2,975.1	2,916.0	2.4
Information	491.8	495.0	479.2	2.6
Financial activities	801.9	798.7	791.3	1.3
Professional and business services	2,531.2	2,531.6	2,468.3	2.5
Educational and health services	2,522.6	2,517.0	2,417.9	4.3
Leisure and hospitality	1,882.4	1,885.6	1,807.7	4.1
Other services	549.0	551.3	541.7	1.3
Government*	2,491.2	2,488.5	2,444.4	1.9
Agriculture	440.0	435.0	439.8	0.0

**TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²**

	March 2016 (prelim.)	February 2016 (revised)	January 2015	March 2015
Civilian labor force ^a	19,058,000	19,046,000	19,019,000	18,930,000
Total civilian employment	18,038,000	17,992,000	17,930,000	17,688,000
Unemployment	1,020,000	1,054,000	1,089,000	1,242,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.4	5.5	5.7	6.6
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.0	4.9	4.9	5.5

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

	March 2016 (prelim.)	February 2016 (revised)	January 2015	March 2015
Civilian labor force ^a	19,028,000	19,039,000	18,947,000	18,950,000
Total civilian employment	17,971,000	17,959,000	17,840,000	17,683,000
Unemployment	1,057,000	1,080,000	1,107,000	1,267,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.6	5.7	5.8	6.7

^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 2016 (Preliminary); 2015 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	19,028,200	17,971,100	1,057,100	5.6%
ALAMEDA	826,800	791,500	35,300	4.3%
ALPINE	660	620	40	5.6%
AMADOR	14,530	13,580	950	6.5%
BUTTE	101,400	94,100	7,300	7.2%
CALAVERAS	20,460	19,180	1,280	6.2%
COLUSA	11,080	8,800	2,280	20.6%
CONTRA COSTA	551,000	526,100	24,800	4.5%
DEL NORTE	9,920	9,070	850	8.6%
EL DORADO	89,400	84,600	4,800	5.4%
FRESNO	446,600	399,200	47,400	10.6%
GLENN	13,420	12,170	1,250	9.3%
HUMBOLDT	62,440	59,130	3,310	5.3%
IMPERIAL	76,000	61,900	14,200	18.6%
INYO	9,080	8,560	520	5.7%
KERN	389,400	344,200	45,200	11.6%
KINGS	58,200	51,600	6,600	11.4%
LAKE	29,150	27,040	2,110	7.2%
LASSEN	10,630	9,750	880	8.3%
LOS ANGELES	5,007,500	4,756,400	251,000	5.0%
MADERA	61,400	55,000	6,400	10.5%
MARIN	141,900	137,300	4,600	3.2%
MARIPOSA	7,430	6,780	650	8.7%
MENDOCINO	40,210	37,810	2,400	6.0%
MERCED	115,500	101,000	14,400	12.5%
MODOC	3,190	2,870	320	9.9%
MONO	8,780	8,350	440	5.0%
MONTEREY	215,100	192,600	22,500	10.5%
NAPA	74,600	71,300	3,300	4.4%
NEVADA	48,740	46,300	2,440	5.0%
ORANGE	1,607,500	1,543,300	64,200	4.0%
PLACER	178,500	170,200	8,300	4.6%
PLUMAS	7,720	6,670	1,050	13.6%
RIVERSIDE	1,042,100	980,700	61,400	5.9%
SACRAMENTO	689,600	651,700	37,900	5.5%
SAN BENITO	30,000	27,700	2,400	7.8%
SAN BERNARDINO	932,700	880,300	52,400	5.6%
SAN DIEGO	1,569,700	1,495,900	73,800	4.7%
SAN FRANCISCO	553,400	535,200	18,200	3.3%
SAN JOAQUIN	318,000	289,900	28,100	8.8%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	144,500	138,300	6,200	4.3%
SAN MATEO	446,100	432,600	13,600	3.0%
SANTA BARBARA	222,400	210,700	11,700	5.3%
SANTA CLARA	1,028,100	989,400	38,700	3.8%
SANTA CRUZ	144,000	131,400	12,600	8.8%
SHASTA	74,200	68,300	5,900	8.0%
SIERRA	1,290	1,160	130	9.9%
SISKIYOU	17,690	15,780	1,910	10.8%
SOLANO	206,900	195,200	11,700	5.7%
SONOMA	261,700	250,900	10,800	4.1%
STANISLAUS	243,300	219,900	23,400	9.6%
SUTTER	44,900	39,600	5,300	11.9%
TEHAMA	24,600	22,640	1,960	8.0%
TRINITY	5,150	4,710	440	8.5%
TULARE	202,900	177,800	25,100	12.4%
TUOLUMNE	21,600	20,120	1,480	6.9%
VENTURA	432,300	410,900	21,500	5.0%
YOLO	104,400	97,600	6,800	6.5%
YUBA	28,300	25,500	2,700	9.7%

*Not seasonally adjusted.