

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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California's unemployment rate falls to 4.7 percent in May

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate fell to 4.7 percent in May, tying the record low that occurred in November-December 2000, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD). The state's nonfarm payroll employment grew by 17,600 jobs in May, and California has now gained a total of 2,510,900 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in May to 4.3 percent, with employers nationwide adding 138,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In April, the state's unemployment rate was 4.8 percent, and in May 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.5 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 16,697,500 in May, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 71,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over change, May 2016 to May 2017, shows an increase of 242,600 jobs (up 1.5 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal household survey, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows an increase in the number of employed Californians over the month and the year. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in May was 18,258,000, an increase of 3,000 from April, and up 250,000 from the employment total in May of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 898,000 in May – down by 26,000 over the month, and down by 152,000 compared with May of last year.

(more)

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 16,697,500 in May, a net gain of 17,600 jobs from April. This followed a revised loss of 17,600 jobs in April.

Month-over Job Gains

Eight of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 29,400 jobs in May. Government posted the largest jobs increase with a gain of 12,300 jobs, followed by information with a gain of 9,600 jobs. Other sectors adding jobs over the month were trade, transportation and utilities; other services; financial activities; educational and health services; construction; and manufacturing.

Month-over Job Losses

Three industry sectors reported job declines over the month, down a total of 11,800 jobs. Leisure and hospitality posted the largest decrease over the month, down 9,700 jobs, followed by professional and business services, down 1,700 jobs, and mining and logging, down 400 jobs.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (May 2016 to May 2017), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 242,600 jobs (a 1.5 percent increase).

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 253,200 jobs year-over. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 64,600 jobs (a 2.5 percent increase); government, up 46,900 jobs (a 1.9 percent increase); and leisure and hospitality, up 44,000 jobs (a 2.3 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were construction; other services; trade, transportation and utilities; professional and business services; financial activities; and information.

Year-over Job Losses

Two industry sectors posted job declines over the year, down a total of 10,600 jobs. Manufacturing fell by 8,900 jobs (down 0.7 percent), and mining and logging was down by 1,700 jobs (a 6.9 percent decrease).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 354,371 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the May survey week. This compares with 388,142 in April and 362,535 in May of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 38,252 in May, compared with 45,319 in April and 40,779 in May of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	May 2017 (prelim.)	April 2017 (revised)	May 2016	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	16,697.5	16,679.9	16,454.9	1.5
Mining and logging	22.9	23.3	24.6	-6.9
Construction	810.5	810.2	771.6	5.0
Manufacturing	1,299.4	1,299.3	1,308.3	-0.7
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,008.6	3,005.5	2,987.7	0.7
Information	530.0	520.4	529.8	0.0
Financial activities	828.0	826.3	821.1	0.8
Professional and business services	2,536.1	2,537.8	2,527.7	0.3
Educational and health services	2,601.0	2,600.5	2,536.4	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	1,932.7	1,942.4	1,888.7	2.3
Other services	574.0	572.2	551.6	4.1
Government*	2,544.3	2,542.0	2,507.4	1.9
Agriculture	433.7	437.8	425.6	1.9

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	May 2017 (prelim.)	April 2017 (revised)	March 2017	May 2016
Civilian labor force ^a	19,156,000	19,179,000	19,170,000	19,058,000
Total civilian employment	18,258,000	18,255,000	18,227,000	18,008,000
Unemployment	898,000	924,000	943,000	1,050,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	4.7	4.8	4.9	5.5
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.3	4.4	4.5	4.7

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	May 2017 (prelim.)	April 2017 (revised)	March 2017	May 2016
Civilian labor force ^a	19,061,000	19,086,000	19,170,000	19,022,000
Total civilian employment	18,256,000	18,222,000	18,194,000	18,080,000
Unemployment	806,000	864,000	976,000	941,000
Unadjusted rate %	4.2	4.5	5.1	4.9

^aLabor force by place of residence, including workers involved in trade disputes.

²Seasonal 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 2017 (Preliminary); 2016 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	19,061,300	18,255,700	805,600	4.2%
ALAMEDA	832,000	804,100	27,900	3.3%
ALPINE	510	480	30	6.5%
AMADOR	14,740	14,100	640	4.4%
BUTTE	103,400	98,200	5,200	5.0%
CALAVERAS	20,900	19,990	910	4.3%
COLUSA	10,940	9,590	1,350	12.4%
CONTRA COSTA	551,800	532,700	19,100	3.5%
DEL NORTE	9,510	8,970	550	5.7%
EL DORADO	88,800	85,300	3,500	4.0%
FRESNO	447,900	414,600	33,400	7.4%
GLENN	12,980	12,130	850	6.6%
HUMBOLDT	62,590	60,330	2,260	3.6%
IMPERIAL	74,000	58,900	15,200	20.5%
INYO	8,900	8,560	340	3.8%
KERN	381,700	349,600	32,100	8.4%
KINGS	56,600	52,100	4,500	7.9%
LAKE	29,900	28,430	1,480	4.9%
LASSEN	10,290	9,770	510	5.0%
LOS ANGELES	5,100,800	4,894,900	205,800	4.0%
MADERA	61,800	57,300	4,400	7.2%
MARIN	139,400	135,800	3,600	2.6%
MARIPOSA	7,650	7,280	360	4.7%
MENDOCINO	39,510	38,010	1,500	3.8%
MERCED	113,200	103,600	9,600	8.5%
MODOC	3,330	3,140	190	5.8%
MONO	7,890	7,480	410	5.2%
MONTEREY	222,100	210,600	11,600	5.2%
NAPA	74,100	71,900	2,300	3.1%
NEVADA	46,620	44,830	1,790	3.8%
ORANGE	1,575,500	1,525,400	50,000	3.2%
PLACER	178,400	172,100	6,300	3.5%
PLUMAS	7,600	7,060	540	7.1%
RIVERSIDE	1,047,900	999,300	48,600	4.6%
SACRAMENTO	690,900	661,600	29,300	4.2%
SAN BENITO	29,300	27,800	1,600	5.3%
SAN BERNARDINO	933,600	892,200	41,400	4.4%
SAN DIEGO	1,553,600	1,497,500	56,100	3.6%
SAN FRANCISCO	557,600	542,600	15,000	2.7%
SAN JOAQUIN	319,200	299,300	19,900	6.2%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	141,700	137,500	4,300	3.0%
SAN MATEO	446,600	435,800	10,800	2.4%
SANTA BARBARA	217,600	209,900	7,700	3.6%
SANTA CLARA	1,016,000	986,100	30,000	2.9%
SANTA CRUZ	144,300	137,000	7,300	5.0%
SHASTA	74,300	70,500	3,800	5.1%
SIERRA	1,340	1,260	80	5.7%
SISKIYOU	17,700	16,630	1,060	6.0%
SOLANO	205,600	196,700	8,900	4.3%
SONOMA	258,400	250,700	7,700	3.0%
STANISLAUS	244,000	226,800	17,100	7.0%
SUTTER	45,300	41,600	3,600	8.0%
TEHAMA	25,360	23,930	1,430	5.6%
TRINITY	5,100	4,830	270	5.3%
TULARE	208,600	190,700	17,900	8.6%
TUOLUMNE	21,670	20,650	1,020	4.7%
VENTURA	426,700	410,500	16,200	3.8%
YOLO	105,300	100,700	4,500	4.3%
YUBA	28,100	26,300	1,900	6.7%

*Not seasonally adjusted.