

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

No.: 17-51

Date: January 19, 2018

California's unemployment rate falls to a new record low 4.3 percent in December

Nonfarm payrolls jobs increase by 52,700

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent in December - establishing a new record low in a series dating back to the beginning of 1976 - and the state's employers added 52,700 nonfarm payroll jobs, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two surveys. California has now gained a total of 2,793,800 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged in December at 4.1 percent, while the nation's employers added 148,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In December 2016, the state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,100 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 16,980,400 in December, 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, December 2016 to December 2017, shows an increase of 342,500 jobs (up 2.1 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 December was 18,548,000, an increase of 39,000 from November, and up 383,000 from the employment total in December of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 839,000 in December – down by 46,000 over the month, and down by 160,000 compared with December 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 16,980,400 in December, a net gain of 52,700 jobs from November. This followed a revised gain of 53,700 jobs in November.

Month-over Job Gains

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 56,900 jobs in December. Government posted the largest jobs increase with a gain of 10,300 jobs, followed by leisure & hospitality, up 10,100. Four additional industry sectors added 6,600 or more jobs in December: professional and business services (8,700), information (8,300), construction (7,000), and financial activities (6,600). Manufacturing (3,000), other services (1,600), and educational and health services (1,300).

Month-over Job Losses

Two industry sectors reported job declines over the month, down a total of 4,200 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decrease over the month, down 3,800 jobs, followed by mining and logging, down 400 jobs.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (December 2016 to December 2017), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 342,500 jobs (a 2.1 percent increase).

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 345,900 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 80,000 jobs (a 3.1 percent increase), leisure and hospitality, up 62,700 jobs (a 3.3 percent increase), and construction, up 56,000 jobs (a 7.1 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were government, professional and business services, information, other services, trade, transportation and utilities and financial activities.

Year-over Job Losses

Two industry sectors posted job declines over the year, down a total of 3,400 jobs. Manufacturing fell by 2,000 jobs (down 0.2 percent), and mining and logging declined by 1,400 jobs (down 5.9 percent).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 351,959 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the December survey week. This compares with 256,961 in November and 367,944 in December of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 45,447 in December, compared with 36,177 in November and 52,953 in December of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	December 2016	November 2017 (revised)	December 2017 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	16,637.9	16,927.7	16,980.4	2.1
Mining and logging	23.7	22.7	22.3	-5.9
Construction	783.9	832.9	839.9	7.1
Manufacturing	1,304.3	1,299.3	1,302.3	-0.2
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,023.1	3,040.8	3,037.0	0.5
Information	524.5	536.0	544.3	3.8
Financial activities	831.5	838.3	844.9	1.6
Professional and business services	2,543.7	2,568.7	2,577.4	1.3
Educational and health services	2,570.5	2,649.2	2,650.5	3.1
Leisure and hospitality	1,922.6	1,975.2	1,985.3	3.3
Other services	564.5	581.0	582.6	3.2
Government*	2,545.6	2,583.6	2,593.9	1.9
Agriculture	429.2	431.1	431.9	0.6

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	December 2016	October 2017	November 2017 (revised)	December 2017 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,165,000	19,360,000	19,394,000	19,386,000
Total civilian employment	18,165,000	18,407,000	18,509,000	18,548,000
Unemployment	999,000	953,000	885,000	839,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.2	4.9	4.6	4.3
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.1

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	December 2016	October 2017	November 2017 (revised)	December 2017 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,098,000	19,358,000	19,345,000	19,286,000
Total civilian employment	18,141,000	18,519,000	18,568,000	18,482,000
Unemployment	957,000	839,000	776,000	805,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.0	4.3	4.0	4.2

^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
December 2017 (Preliminary); 2016 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	19,286,500	18,481,900	804,600	4.2%
ALAMEDA	847,800	822,600	25,200	3.0%
ALPINE	520	500	20	4.4%
AMADOR	14,660	14,010	650	4.4%
BUTTE	102,800	97,600	5,200	5.1%
CALAVERAS	21,150	20,300	850	4.0%
COLUSA	10,330	8,540	1,790	17.3%
CONTRA COSTA	562,600	544,900	17,700	3.1%
DEL NORTE	9,520	8,950	570	6.0%
EL DORADO	90,500	87,300	3,300	3.6%
FRESNO	446,300	410,200	36,200	8.1%
GLENN	13,050	12,170	880	6.8%
HUMBOLDT	62,380	60,150	2,230	3.6%
IMPERIAL	73,400	60,300	13,100	17.9%
INYO	8,870	8,530	340	3.8%
KERN	380,000	347,400	32,600	8.6%
KINGS	56,000	51,300	4,700	8.4%
LAKE	29,450	27,790	1,660	5.6%
LASSEN	10,490	9,870	620	5.9%
LOS ANGELES	5,126,200	4,912,100	214,000	4.2%
MADERA	62,100	57,400	4,700	7.5%
MARIN	142,700	139,500	3,300	2.3%
MARIPOSA	7,060	6,620	440	6.2%
MENDOCINO	39,340	37,690	1,650	4.2%
MERCED	113,300	102,800	10,500	9.2%
MODOC	3,220	2,960	260	8.1%
MONO	8,670	8,340	330	3.8%
MONTEREY	207,500	189,200	18,200	8.8%
NAPA	71,800	69,200	2,600	3.6%
NEVADA	48,330	46,650	1,680	3.5%
ORANGE	1,610,600	1,564,900	45,700	2.8%
PLACER	182,000	176,200	5,700	3.1%
PLUMAS	7,410	6,760	650	8.8%
RIVERSIDE	1,082,200	1,036,200	46,000	4.3%
SACRAMENTO	704,500	677,100	27,400	3.9%
SAN BENITO	29,900	28,300	1,700	5.6%
SAN BERNARDINO	964,700	926,800	37,900	3.9%
SAN DIEGO	1,576,900	1,525,400	51,500	3.3%
SAN FRANCISCO	570,300	556,900	13,400	2.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	317,900	296,900	21,000	6.6%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	138,200	134,000	4,200	3.1%
SAN MATEO	457,000	447,300	9,600	2.1%
SANTA BARBARA	215,400	205,900	9,500	4.4%
SANTA CLARA	1,045,100	1,017,700	27,300	2.6%
SANTA CRUZ	142,200	132,900	9,300	6.5%
SHASTA	75,700	71,800	3,900	5.1%
SIERRA	1,320	1,240	80	6.2%
SISKIYOU	17,630	16,190	1,440	8.2%
SOLANO	208,700	200,200	8,500	4.1%
SONOMA	259,300	251,900	7,400	2.8%
STANISLAUS	244,300	227,700	16,600	6.8%
SUTTER	44,400	40,500	3,900	8.8%
TEHAMA	25,580	24,230	1,350	5.3%
TRINITY	4,880	4,610	280	5.7%
TULARE	201,900	181,500	20,500	10.1%
TUOLUMNE	21,900	20,880	1,020	4.7%
VENTURA	431,400	414,800	16,600	3.8%
YOLO	107,100	102,100	5,000	4.6%
YUBA	28,200	26,200	2,000	6.9%

*Not seasonally adjusted.