

N E W S R E L E A S E

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California unemployment rate remains at 4.2 percent in February
Employers add 14,600 nonfarm payroll jobs

SACRAMENTO – California’s unemployment rate remained at 4.2 percent in February while the state’s employers added 14,600 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 3,133,100 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate decreased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.8 percent, and the nation’s employers added 20,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In February 2018, the state’s unemployment rate was 4.3 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,100 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 17,322,700 in February, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 80,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over change from February 2018 to February 2019 shows an increase of 222,500 jobs (up 1.3 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 February was 18,758,000, an increase of 17,800 from January and up 318,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 824,200 in February – an increase of 6,600 over the month and down by 13,500 compared with February of last year.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD’s payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 17,322,700 in February, a net gain of 14,600 jobs from January. This followed a revised gain of 5,900 jobs in January.

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Month-over Job Gains

Six of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 30,900 jobs in February. Professional and business services reported the largest increase with a gain of 12,500 jobs. Other sectors adding jobs over the month were leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, educational and health services, government, and information.

Month-over Job Losses

Five of California industries reported job losses over the month. Construction reported the largest decrease with a loss of 7,700 jobs while manufacturing had a loss of 5,400 jobs. Other sectors losing jobs over the month were financial activities, other services, and mining and logging.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2018 to February 2019), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 222,500 jobs (a 1.3 percent increase).

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 227,700 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in professional and business services, up 71,700 (a 2.7 percent increase) and educational and health services, up 65,200 jobs (a 2.4 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were leisure and hospitality, government, trade, transportation and utilities, manufacturing, information, construction, other services, and mining and logging.

Year-over Job Losses

The only industry that posted a year-over decline was financial activities with a job loss of 5,200.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 389,449 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 376,402 in January and 396,030 in February of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 34,593 in February, compared with 51,544 in January and 31,291 in February of last year. Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

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PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	February 2018	January 2019 (revised)	February 2019 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	17,100.2	17,308.1	17,322.7	1.3
Mining and logging	22.8	23.4	23.2	1.8
Construction	858.6	868.8	861.1	0.3
Manufacturing	1,319.6	1,334.4	1,329.0	0.7
Trade, transportation and Utilities	3,045.4	3,050.6	3,056.2	0.4
Information	542.3	550.3	551.0	1.6
Financial activities	837.9	834.6	832.7	-0.6
Professional and business services	2,639.7	2,698.9	2,711.4	2.7
Educational and health services	2,700.8	2,761.9	2,766.0	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	1,979.3	2,009.5	2,016.1	1.9
Other services	569.9	572.5	571.4	0.3
Government*	2,583.9	2,603.2	2,604.6	0.8
Agriculture	424.8	432.7	429.5	1.1

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	February 2018	December 2018	January 2019 (revised)	February 2019 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,277,700	19,507,600	19,557,800	19,582,200
Total civilian employment	18,440,000	18,705,000	18,740,200	18,758,000
Unemployment	837,700	802,600	817,600	824,200
Seasonally adjusted rate %	4.3	4.1	4.2	4.2
US seasonally adjusted rate %.	4.1	3.9	4.0	3.8

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	February 2018	December 2018	January 2019 (revised)	February 2019 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,343,000	19,533,800	19,564,200	19,592,700
Total civilian employment	18,455,800	18,739,500	18,629,100	18,725,100
Unemployment	887,200	794,300	935,100	867,600
Unadjusted rate %	4.6	4.1	4.8	4.4

^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				
February 2019 (Preliminary); 2018 BENCHMARK				
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED				
COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	19,592,700	18,725,100	867,600	4.4%
ALAMEDA	859,000	832,100	27,000	3.1%
ALPINE	680	650	30	4.4%
AMADOR	14,880	14,180	710	4.8%
BUTTE	104,200	97,800	6,300	6.1%
CALAVERAS	21,490	20,490	1,000	4.7%
COLUSA	11,350	9,020	2,330	20.5%
CONTRA COSTA	571,900	552,600	19,300	3.4%
DEL NORTE	9,750	9,120	630	6.5%
EL DORADO	93,800	89,800	3,900	4.2%
FRESNO	462,200	420,900	41,400	8.9%
GLENN	12,960	11,920	1,050	8.1%
HUMBOLDT	64,400	61,700	2,700	4.2%
IMPERIAL	71,800	59,300	12,500	17.4%
INYO	8,810	8,390	410	4.7%
KERN	395,800	358,900	36,800	9.3%
KINGS	59,300	53,400	5,900	9.9%
LAKE	29,550	27,740	1,800	6.1%
LASSEN	9,980	9,360	620	6.2%
LOS ANGELES	5,135,000	4,918,700	216,300	4.2%
MADERA	64,900	59,500	5,400	8.2%
MARIN	142,400	138,800	3,600	2.5%
MARIPOSA	7,360	6,840	520	7.0%
MENDOCINO	39,930	37,920	2,010	5.0%
MERCED	117,900	105,300	12,600	10.7%
MODOC	3,170	2,820	350	10.9%
MONO	9,770	9,430	350	3.5%
MONTEREY	220,000	197,200	22,800	10.4%
NAPA	74,700	72,200	2,500	3.4%
NEVADA	49,790	47,850	1,950	3.9%
ORANGE	1,640,100	1,590,200	49,900	3.0%
PLACER	189,300	182,600	6,700	3.5%
PLUMAS	7,750	6,780	970	12.5%
RIVERSIDE	1,103,100	1,053,700	49,400	4.5%
SACRAMENTO	725,800	696,200	29,600	4.1%
SAN BENITO	31,700	29,500	2,100	6.7%
SAN BERNARDINO	971,400	931,000	40,400	4.2%
SAN DIEGO	1,611,400	1,555,100	56,200	3.5%
SAN FRANCISCO	589,100	574,900	14,200	2.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	328,900	305,800	23,100	7.0%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	142,500	137,900	4,600	3.2%
SAN MATEO	465,200	454,800	10,500	2.3%
SANTA BARBARA	219,800	209,300	10,500	4.8%
SANTA CLARA	1,067,000	1,038,200	28,900	2.7%
SANTA CRUZ	144,000	134,400	9,600	6.7%
SHASTA	74,400	69,700	4,600	6.2%
SIERRA	1,280	1,180	100	7.8%
SISKIYOU	17,360	15,700	1,660	9.6%
SOLANO	210,400	201,100	9,300	4.4%
SONOMA	261,400	253,400	8,100	3.1%
STANISLAUS	244,800	227,200	17,700	7.2%
SUTTER	46,000	41,500	4,500	9.7%
TEHAMA	25,850	24,070	1,780	6.9%
TRINITY	4,660	4,290	360	7.8%
TULARE	210,900	187,000	23,900	11.3%
TUOLUMNE	21,760	20,560	1,210	5.5%
VENTURA	429,100	412,200	17,000	4.0%
YOLO	111,400	105,600	5,800	5.2%
YUBA	29,700	27,400	2,300	7.8%