

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

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California unemployment rate rises to 4.2 percent in December
Employers add 24,500 nonfarm payroll jobs

SACRAMENTO – California’s unemployment rate increased to 4.2 percent in December while the state’s employers added 24,500 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 3,097,600 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate increased by 0.2 percentage point to 3.9 percent, and the nation’s employers added 312,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In December 2017, the state’s unemployment rate was 4.5 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,100 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 17,287,200 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 from December 2017 to December 2018 shows an increase of 284,300 jobs (up 1.7 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 18,779,200, an increase of 68,700 from November and up 259,100 from the employment total in December of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 813,900 in December – an increase of 7,300 over the month and down by 52,500 compared with December of last year.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD’s payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 17,287,200 in December, a net gain of 24,500 jobs from November. This followed a revised gain of 25,700 jobs in November.

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Month-over Job Gains

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 26,100 jobs in December. Leisure and hospitality reported the largest increase with a gain of 9,500 jobs, followed by educational and health services which gained 7,900 jobs. Other sectors adding jobs over the month were government, professional and business services, financial activities, manufacturing, information, trade, transportation and utilities, and mining and logging.

Month-over Job Losses

Two of California industries reported job losses over the month. Construction reported the largest decrease with a loss of 1,300 jobs, followed by other services which lost 300 jobs.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (December 2017 to December 2018), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 284,300 jobs (a 1.7 percent increase).

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 288,200 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in professional and business services, up 82,500 (a 3.2 percent increase), educational and health services, up 67,900 jobs (a 2.5 percent increase) and leisure and hospitality, up 56,300 (a 2.8 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were government, construction, trade, transportation and utilities, information, manufacturing, financial activities, and mining and logging.

Year-over Job Losses

The only industry that posted a year-over decline was other services with a job loss of 3,900.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 338,747 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the December survey week. This compares with 261,022 in November and 351,959 in December of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 48,684 in December, compared with 34,207 in November and 45,447 in December of last year. Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

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PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	December 2017	November 2018 (revised)	December 2018 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	17,002.9	17,262.7	17,287.2	1.7
Mining and logging	22.0	22.0	22.2	0.9
Construction	836.7	859.7	858.4	2.6
Manufacturing	1,316.4	1,320.8	1,322.2	0.4
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,064.5	3,074.9	3,075.8	0.4
Information	535.1	541.9	542.9	1.5
Financial activities	835.5	838.4	839.9	0.5
Professional and business services	2,591.8	2,672.5	2,674.3	3.2
Educational and health services	2,675.6	2,735.6	2,743.5	2.5
Leisure and hospitality	1,979.6	2,026.4	2,035.9	2.8
Other services	566.6	563.0	562.7	-0.7
Government*	2,579.1	2,607.5	2,609.4	1.2
Agriculture	435.1	445.8	437.2	0.5

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	December 2017	October 2018	November 2018 (revised)	December 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,386,500	19,441,600	19,517,200	19,593,000
Total civilian employment	18,520,100	18,637,300	18,710,500	18,779,200
Unemployment	866,400	804,300	806,600	813,900
Seasonally adjusted rate %	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.2
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.1	3.8	3.7	3.9

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	December 2017	October 2018	November 2018 (revised)	December 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,318,500	19,630,300	19,715,600	19,681,600
Total civilian employment	18,514,800	18,850,100	18,938,000	18,870,600
Unemployment	803,700	780,200	777,600	811,000
Unadjusted rate %	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.1

^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 2018 (Preliminary); 2017 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	19,681,600	18,870,600	811,000	4.1%
ALAMEDA	870,700	846,300	24,400	2.8%
ALPINE	680	650	20	3.3%
AMADOR	14,770	14,210	560	3.8%
BUTTE	106,800	101,100	5,700	5.3%
CALAVERAS	21,810	20,980	830	3.8%
COLUSA	10,790	9,100	1,700	15.7%
CONTRA COSTA	578,800	561,700	17,200	3.0%
DEL NORTE	9,960	9,340	620	6.2%
EL DORADO	92,300	89,000	3,300	3.6%
FRESNO	455,300	421,100	34,200	7.5%
GLENN	12,860	12,000	860	6.7%
HUMBOLDT	63,900	61,600	2,300	3.5%
IMPERIAL	75,400	62,400	13,000	17.3%
INYO	8,890	8,520	370	4.2%
KERN	385,500	356,000	29,500	7.6%
KINGS	57,900	53,200	4,700	8.2%
LAKE	29,510	27,860	1,650	5.6%
LASSEN	9,840	9,360	480	4.8%
LOS ANGELES	5,188,700	4,948,800	239,900	4.6%
MADERA	62,300	57,900	4,400	7.1%
MARIN	146,100	142,800	3,200	2.2%
MARIPOSA	7,150	6,740	410	5.8%
MENDOCINO	40,050	38,350	1,700	4.2%
MERCED	118,500	108,800	9,700	8.2%
MODOC	3,140	2,870	270	8.5%
MONO	9,990	9,670	330	3.3%
MONTEREY	212,000	194,900	17,100	8.1%
NAPA	71,500	69,200	2,400	3.3%
NEVADA	49,470	47,810	1,670	3.4%
ORANGE	1,639,300	1,593,400	45,900	2.8%
PLACER	186,800	181,000	5,800	3.1%
PLUMAS	7,550	6,890	650	8.7%
RIVERSIDE	1,109,500	1,063,600	45,900	4.1%
SACRAMENTO	717,900	691,600	26,300	3.7%
SAN BENITO	31,200	29,600	1,600	5.3%
SAN BERNARDINO	983,500	946,500	37,000	3.8%
SAN DIEGO	1,620,100	1,568,300	51,800	3.2%
SAN FRANCISCO	585,500	572,800	12,700	2.2%
SAN JOAQUIN	332,600	312,400	20,200	6.1%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	142,500	138,400	4,100	2.8%
SAN MATEO	466,200	456,700	9,500	2.0%
SANTA BARBARA	218,100	209,300	8,800	4.0%
SANTA CLARA	1,084,700	1,058,800	25,900	2.4%
SANTA CRUZ	144,200	136,500	7,600	5.3%
SHASTA	75,700	72,100	3,700	4.8%
SIERRA	1,300	1,230	70	5.4%
SISKIYOU	17,820	16,580	1,240	7.0%
SOLANO	213,200	205,000	8,200	3.8%
SONOMA	268,000	261,000	7,000	2.6%
STANISLAUS	244,000	228,700	15,400	6.3%
SUTTER	45,300	41,700	3,700	8.1%
TEHAMA	26,080	24,620	1,460	5.6%
TRINITY	4,920	4,660	260	5.3%
TULARE	206,500	186,600	19,800	9.6%
TUOLUMNE	21,830	20,860	980	4.5%
VENTURA	434,600	418,100	16,400	3.8%
YOLO	109,300	104,500	4,800	4.4%
YUBA	28,900	27,000	1,900	6.6%