

N E W S R E L E A S E

Contact: Loree Levy
Aubrey Henry
916-654-9029

Date: April 19, 2019

News Release No.: 19-113

California unemployment rate rises to 4.3 percent in March
Employers add 24,500 nonfarm payroll jobs

SACRAMENTO – California’s unemployment increased to 4.3 percent in March 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 3,163,900 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate remained at 3.8 percent, and the nation’s employers added 196,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In March 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 17,353,500 in March, 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 March 2018 to March 2019 shows an increase of 238,500 jobs (up 1.4 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal household survey, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows a decrease in the number of employed Californians over the month. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in March was 18,742,000, a decrease of 17,000 from February and up 274,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 838,500 in March – an increase of 14,300 over the month and up by 5,200 compared with March of last year.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD’s payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 17,353,500 in March, a net gain of 24,500 jobs from February. This followed a revised gain of 20,900 jobs in February.

(more)

Month-over Job Gains

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 30,400 jobs in March. Construction reported the largest increase with a gain of 9,400 jobs. Other sectors adding jobs over the month were professional and business services, manufacturing, educational and health services, information, other services, leisure and hospitality, government, and mining and logging.

Month-over Job Losses

Two of California industries reported job losses over the month. Trade, transportation, and utilities reported the largest decrease with a loss of 5,800 jobs while financial activities had a loss of 100 jobs.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2018 to March 2019), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 238,500 jobs (a 1.4 percent increase).

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 242,700 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in professional and business services, up 65,900 (a 2.5 percent increase) and educational and health services, up 64,100 jobs (a 2.4 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were leisure and hospitality, government, construction, manufacturing, information, trade, transportation and utilities, 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 4,200.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 387,767 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 389,449 in February and 403,184 in March of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 39,965 in March, compared with 34,593 in February and 39,330 in March of last year. Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

(more)

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	March 2018	February 2019 (revised)	March 2019 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	17,115.0	17,329.0	17,353.5	1.4
Mining and logging	22.8	23.2	23.5	3.1
Construction	844.4	859.5	868.9	2.9
Manufacturing	1,322.6	1,331.7	1,336.4	1.0
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,048.5	3,058.7	3,052.9	0.1
Information	546.4	550.9	553.2	1.2
Financial activities	837.7	833.6	833.5	-0.5
Professional and business services	2,650.2	2,710.2	2,716.1	2.5
Educational and health services	2,706.0	2,766.3	2,770.1	2.4
Leisure and hospitality	1,981.3	2,013.9	2,015.4	1.7
Other services	570.5	572.5	574.1	0.6
Government*	2,584.6	2,608.5	2,609.4	1.0
Agriculture	411.3	429.5	436.7	6.2

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	March 2018	January 2019	February 2019 (revised)	March 2019 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,301,500	19,557,700	19,582,900	19,580,400
Total civilian employment	18,468,100	18,740,000	18,758,700	18,741,900
Unemployment	833,300	817,700	824,200	838,500
Seasonally adjusted rate %	4.3	4.2	4.2	4.3
US seasonally adjusted rate %.	4.0	4.0	3.8	3.8

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	March 2018	January 2019	February 2019 (revised)	March 2019 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,328,600	19,564,200	19,596,300	19,512,600
Total civilian employment	18,468,800	18,629,100	18,729,000	18,611,000
Unemployment	859,800	935,100	867,300	901,500
Unadjusted rate %	4.4	4.8	4.4	4.6

^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).

(more)

MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES March 2019 (Preliminary); 2018 BENCHMARK <i>NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED</i>				
COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	19,512,600	18,611,000	901,500	4.6%
ALAMEDA	857,400	829,100	28,300	3.3%
ALPINE	650	610	30	5.1%
AMADOR	14,810	14,080	730	4.9%
BUTTE	104,500	98,000	6,500	6.2%
CALAVERAS	21,380	20,350	1,030	4.8%
COLUSA	11,400	9,050	2,350	20.6%
CONTRA COSTA	570,800	550,600	20,200	3.5%
DEL NORTE	9,700	9,070	620	6.4%
EL DORADO	93,100	89,100	4,100	4.4%
FRESNO	461,700	418,600	43,200	9.4%
GLENN	13,120	12,050	1,070	8.2%
HUMBOLDT	64,000	61,200	2,700	4.3%
IMPERIAL	70,200	57,700	12,500	17.8%
INYO	8,780	8,350	420	4.8%
KERN	388,700	349,400	39,300	10.1%
KINGS	58,800	52,700	6,100	10.3%
LAKE	29,570	27,730	1,840	6.2%
LASSEN	9,810	9,170	640	6.5%
LOS ANGELES	5,115,600	4,892,200	223,400	4.4%
MADERA	62,700	57,100	5,600	8.9%
MARIN	142,000	138,200	3,800	2.7%
MARIPOSA	7,320	6,820	500	6.9%
MENDOCINO	39,850	37,790	2,060	5.2%
MERCED	117,900	105,000	12,900	11.0%
MODOC	3,200	2,860	340	10.8%
MONO	9,510	9,160	360	3.7%
MONTEREY	222,000	199,400	22,500	10.1%
NAPA	74,400	71,800	2,600	3.5%
NEVADA	49,230	47,190	2,040	4.1%
ORANGE	1,631,500	1,578,700	52,700	3.2%
PLACER	188,100	181,100	7,000	3.7%
PLUMAS	7,800	6,800	1,000	12.8%
RIVERSIDE	1,100,000	1,048,600	51,400	4.7%
SACRAMENTO	721,300	690,300	30,900	4.3%
SAN BENITO	31,700	29,500	2,200	6.9%
SAN BERNARDINO	968,000	926,000	42,100	4.3%
SAN DIEGO	1,602,100	1,543,400	58,700	3.7%
SAN FRANCISCO	587,100	572,000	15,100	2.6%
SAN JOAQUIN	327,300	303,300	23,900	7.3%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	142,000	137,200	4,700	3.3%
SAN MATEO	463,600	452,400	11,100	2.4%
SANTA BARBARA	220,000	209,300	10,700	4.9%
SANTA CLARA	1,063,500	1,033,000	30,600	2.9%
SANTA CRUZ	143,600	133,600	9,900	6.9%
SHASTA	74,000	69,500	4,600	6.2%
SIERRA	1,280	1,170	110	8.5%
SISKIYOU	17,370	15,690	1,680	9.6%
SOLANO	209,300	199,800	9,500	4.6%
SONOMA	260,700	252,200	8,500	3.3%
STANISLAUS	244,300	225,900	18,400	7.5%
SUTTER	46,400	41,600	4,800	10.3%
TEHAMA	25,660	23,810	1,850	7.2%
TRINITY	4,660	4,280	380	8.1%
TULARE	208,500	183,300	25,200	12.1%
TUOLUMNE	21,630	20,370	1,260	5.8%
VENTURA	429,000	411,600	17,400	4.0%
YOLO	110,600	104,700	5,900	5.3%
YUBA	29,700	27,300	2,400	7.9%