



N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Unemployment Rate Increases To 7.3 Percent

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 7.3 percent in July, up from a revised 7.0 percent in June, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in July 2007, California's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent.

According to EDD's monthly survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 14,900 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,116,800.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in July was 17,056,000. This was a decrease of 93,000 from June, and down 179,000 from the employment total in July of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,352,000 – up by 70,000 over the month, and up by 374,000 compared with July of last year.

Of the unemployed, 510,700 were laid off, 86,600 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 480,226 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the July survey week. This compares with 457,193 last month and 363,077 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 58,131 in July 2008, compared with 56,359 in June and 41,236 in July of last year.

(more)

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,116,800 in July, a net loss of 14,900 jobs since the June survey. This followed a loss of 13,400 jobs (as revised) in June.

Two of the categories (**trade, transportation and utilities** and **educational and health services**) added jobs over the month, gaining 900 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities showed the largest gain, up by 600 jobs. Nine categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; information; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 15,800 jobs. Financial activities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 5,200 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (July 2007 to July 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 75,900 jobs (down 0.5 percent).

Five industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 102,600 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on a numerical basis, adding 47,000 jobs (a 2.8 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, natural resources and mining showed the strongest gain, up 3.5 percent (adding 900 jobs).

Six categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; and other services**) posted job declines over the year, down 178,500 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 83,100 jobs (a decline of 9.3 percent).

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **manufacturing** recorded the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 6,300 jobs. The gains were concentrated in nondurable goods, and primarily in food manufacturing (up by 10,200 jobs). **Government** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 127,300 jobs. The losses were centered in local and state government education, which declined by 111,800 jobs and 18,700 jobs, respectively, during summer recess.

Educational and health services reported the largest gain over the year, up 46,700 jobs. The gains were centered in health care and social assistance, which was up by 33,500 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, which was down by 87,400 jobs. The losses were primarily in specialty trade contractors, down 66,400 jobs, and residential building construction, down 20,600 jobs.

NOTE TO EDITORS: *EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	July 2008 (prelim.)	June 2008 (revised)	July 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,116.8	15,131.7	15,192.7	-0.5
Natural resources and mining	26.8	27.0	25.9	3.5
Construction	813.3	815.3	896.4	-9.3
Manufacturing	1,435.8	1,437.0	1,466.7	-2.1
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,899.4	2,898.8	2,919.9	-0.7
Information	464.9	468.5	472.7	-1.7
Financial activities	871.0	876.2	906.4	-3.9
Professional and business services	2,276.2	2,276.4	2,270.0	0.3
Educational and health services	1,715.4	1,715.1	1,668.4	2.8
Leisure and hospitality	1,564.1	1,567.0	1,554.9	0.6
Other services	516.5	516.6	517.3	-0.2
Government*	2,533.4	2,533.8	2,494.1	1.6
Agriculture	379.9	382.8	389.9	-2.6

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	July 2008 (prelim.)	June 2008 (revised)	May 2008	July 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,408,000	18,431,000	18,446,000	18,213,000
Total civilian employment	17,056,000	17,149,000	17,187,000	17,235,000
Unemployment	1,352,000	1,282,000	1,259,000	978,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	7.3	7.0	6.8	5.4
US seasonally adjusted rate %	5.7	5.5	5.5	4.7

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	July 2008 (prelim.)	June 2008 (revised)	May 2008	July 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,556,000	18,470,000	18,371,000	18,300,000
Total civilian employment	17,147,000	17,181,000	17,178,000	17,254,000
Unemployment	1,409,000	1,289,000	1,193,000	1,046,000
Unadjusted rate %	7.6	7.0	6.5	5.7

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

MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
JULY 2008 (Preliminary); 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,555,800	17,146,800	1,409,000	7.6%
ALAMEDA	765,100	713,800	51,300	6.7%
ALPINE	490	430	60	12.1%
AMADOR	18,970	17,490	1,480	7.8%
BUTTE	107,100	97,600	9,500	8.9%
CALAVERAS	21,710	19,850	1,860	8.6%
COLUSA	11,250	10,070	1,180	10.5%
CONTRA COSTA	532,900	497,300	35,600	6.7%
DEL NORTE	11,600	10,540	1,060	9.1%
EL DORADO	96,000	89,500	6,500	6.8%
FRESNO	445,400	400,400	45,000	10.1%
GLENN	13,050	11,640	1,410	10.8%
HUMBOLDT	60,800	56,300	4,500	7.3%
IMPERIAL	72,700	55,800	16,900	23.3%
INYO	9,320	8,670	650	7.0%
KERN	368,700	332,100	36,600	9.9%
KINGS	61,700	55,600	6,100	9.9%
LAKE	26,370	23,680	2,690	10.2%
LASSEN	13,360	12,180	1,180	8.8%
LOS ANGELES	4,995,200	4,592,900	402,300	8.1%
MADERA	66,700	60,400	6,300	9.5%
MARIN	140,300	133,300	7,000	5.0%
MARIPOSA	10,450	9,770	680	6.5%
MENDOCINO	44,970	41,990	2,980	6.6%
MERCED	106,300	93,500	12,800	12.1%
MODOC	4,020	3,670	350	8.7%
MONO	7,650	7,090	560	7.3%
MONTEREY	221,400	206,400	15,000	6.8%
NAPA	76,500	72,600	3,900	5.2%
NEVADA	51,780	48,220	3,560	6.9%
ORANGE	1,647,400	1,553,900	93,500	5.7%
PLACER	177,900	165,800	12,100	6.8%
PLUMAS	11,590	10,700	890	7.6%
RIVERSIDE	926,500	840,100	86,400	9.3%
SACRAMENTO	705,100	652,500	52,600	7.5%
SAN BENITO	25,700	23,500	2,200	8.6%
SAN BERNARDINO	897,700	821,800	75,900	8.5%
SAN DIEGO	1,577,300	1,476,300	101,000	6.4%
SAN FRANCISCO	447,100	421,400	25,700	5.8%
SAN JOAQUIN	302,500	270,500	32,000	10.6%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	139,100	130,500	8,600	6.2%
SAN MATEO	390,900	371,000	19,900	5.1%
SANTA BARBARA	222,700	210,500	12,200	5.5%
SANTA CLARA	878,400	822,300	56,100	6.4%
SANTA CRUZ	155,000	145,100	9,900	6.4%
SHASTA	86,200	77,700	8,500	9.9%
SIERRA	1,690	1,530	160	9.2%
SISKIYOU	20,070	18,250	1,820	9.1%
SOLANO	215,100	199,400	15,700	7.3%
SONOMA	267,900	251,700	16,200	6.1%
STANISLAUS	239,600	212,400	27,200	11.3%
SUTTER	42,600	37,600	5,000	11.8%
TEHAMA	25,740	23,270	2,470	9.6%
TRINITY	5,400	4,800	600	11.1%
TULARE	200,300	178,400	21,900	10.9%
TUOLUMNE	26,950	24,840	2,110	7.8%
VENTURA	431,900	402,900	29,000	6.7%
YOLO	97,900	90,900	7,000	7.1%
YUBA	28,100	24,700	3,400	12.2%