



N E W S R E L E A S E

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California's Unemployment Rate Increases To 7.7 Percent

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 7.7 percent in August, up from a revised 7.4 percent in July, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in August 2007, California's unemployment rate was 5.5 percent.

According to EDD's monthly survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 7,700 jobs over the month, for a total of 15,109,000.

According to the separate survey of households, the number of Californians holding jobs in August was 16,993,000. This was a decrease of 60,000 from July, and down 240,000 from the employment total in August of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,417,000 – up by 61,000 over the month, and up by 413,000 compared with August of last year.

Of the unemployed, 509,700 were laid off, 116,800 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 504,667 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the August survey week. This compares with 480,226 last month and 352,725 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 51,731 in August 2008, compared with 58,131 in July and 39,651 in August 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 15,109,000 in August, a net loss of 7,700 jobs since the July survey. This followed a loss of 15,000 jobs (as revised) in July.

Three of the categories (**information**; **educational and health services**; and **leisure and hospitality**) added jobs over the month, gaining 13,500 jobs. Information showed the largest gain, up by 9,400 jobs. Seven categories (**construction**; **manufacturing**; **trade, transportation and utilities**; **financial activities**; **professional and business services**; **other services**; and **government**) reported job declines this month, down 21,200 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 6,400 jobs. One industry, **natural resources and mining**, had no change over the month.

In a year-over-year comparison (August 2007 to August 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 72,700 jobs (down 0.5 percent).

Six industry divisions (**natural resources and mining**; **professional and business services**; **educational and health services**; **leisure and hospitality**; **other services**; and **government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 100,400 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on a numerical basis, adding 50,200 jobs (a 3.0 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, natural resources and mining showed the strongest gain, up 3.5 percent (adding 900 jobs).

Five categories (**construction**; **manufacturing**; **trade, transportation and utilities**; **information**; and **financial activities**) posted job declines over the year, down 173,100 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 79,200 jobs (a decline of 8.9 percent).

WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

Over the month, employment in **information** recorded the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 9,400 jobs. The gains were centered in the motion picture and sound recording sector (up by 9,200 jobs). **Government** recorded the greatest non-seasonally adjusted loss, down by 25,800 jobs. The losses were mainly in local and state government, which declined by 15,400 jobs and 8,200 jobs, respectively.

Educational and health services reported the largest gain over the year, up 51,600 jobs, with the gains split between health care and social assistance (up 37,500 jobs) and educational services (up 14,100 jobs). The largest decrease over the year was in **construction**, down by 85,500 jobs. The losses were mostly in specialty trade contractors, down 66,100 jobs, and residential building construction, down 19,100 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	August 2008 (prelim.)	July 2008 (revised)	August 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,109.0	15,116.7	15,181.7	-0.5
Natural resources and mining	26.8	26.8	25.9	3.5
Construction	811.0	813.0	890.2	-8.9
Manufacturing	1,430.5	1,432.9	1,459.3	-2.0
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,895.1	2,901.5	2,919.7	-0.8
Information	472.5	463.1	479.7	-1.5
Financial activities	869.3	872.1	902.6	-3.7
Professional and business services	2,273.4	2,274.9	2,265.0	0.4
Educational and health services	1,720.3	1,718.1	1,670.1	3.0
Leisure and hospitality	1,566.2	1,564.3	1,552.1	0.9
Other services	516.9	517.0	516.4	0.1
Government*	2,527.0	2,533.0	2,500.7	1.1
Agriculture	394.9	389.2	390.2	1.2

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA

	August 2008 (prelim.)	July 2008 (revised)	June 2008	August 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,410,000	18,409,000	18,431,000	18,237,000
Total civilian employment	16,993,000	17,053,000	17,149,000	17,233,000
Unemployment	1,417,000	1,356,000	1,282,000	1,004,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	7.7	7.4	7.0	5.5
US seasonally adjusted rate %	6.1	5.7	5.5	4.7

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	August 2008 (prelim.)	July 2008 (revised)	June 2008	August 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,526,000	18,555,000	18,470,000	18,243,000
Total civilian employment	17,109,000	17,143,000	17,181,000	17,240,000
Unemployment	1,417,000	1,412,000	1,289,000	1,003,000
Unadjusted rate %	7.6	7.6	7.0	5.5

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

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

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,526,200	17,109,500	1,416,700	7.6%
ALAMEDA	767,000	714,500	52,600	6.9%
ALPINE	500	450	50	10.4%
AMADOR	18,840	17,390	1,460	7.7%
BUTTE	107,200	98,200	9,100	8.5%
CALAVERAS	21,780	19,850	1,930	8.9%
COLUSA	11,070	10,020	1,050	9.5%
CONTRA COSTA	533,700	497,800	35,900	6.7%
DEL NORTE	11,700	10,670	1,030	8.8%
EL DORADO	95,900	89,400	6,500	6.8%
FRESNO	448,800	405,300	43,500	9.7%
GLENN	13,130	11,750	1,380	10.5%
HUMBOLDT	60,800	56,300	4,500	7.4%
IMPERIAL	73,300	55,100	18,100	24.7%
INYO	9,340	8,690	650	7.0%
KERN	368,400	333,300	35,100	9.5%
KINGS	61,700	55,800	5,800	9.5%
LAKE	27,010	24,360	2,650	9.8%
LASSEN	13,530	12,400	1,130	8.4%
LOS ANGELES	4,960,400	4,555,800	404,600	8.2%
MADERA	67,100	61,100	6,000	8.9%
MARIN	140,000	133,100	6,900	4.9%
MARIPOSA	10,400	9,740	670	6.4%
MENDOCINO	45,460	42,520	2,930	6.5%
MERCED	108,700	96,600	12,200	11.2%
MODOC	4,030	3,690	340	8.5%
MONO	7,720	7,200	520	6.7%
MONTEREY	220,900	206,000	14,900	6.8%
NAPA	76,200	72,100	4,100	5.3%
NEVADA	51,640	48,180	3,460	6.7%
ORANGE	1,643,500	1,548,300	95,300	5.8%
PLACER	177,800	165,600	12,300	6.9%
PLUMAS	11,440	10,610	840	7.3%
RIVERSIDE	924,500	835,000	89,500	9.7%
SACRAMENTO	706,000	651,800	54,300	7.7%
SAN BENITO	25,500	23,500	2,000	7.9%
SAN BERNARDINO	893,800	816,800	77,000	8.6%
SAN DIEGO	1,579,500	1,478,000	101,500	6.4%
SAN FRANCISCO	447,300	420,800	26,400	5.9%
SAN JOAQUIN	305,300	274,100	31,200	10.2%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	138,400	129,800	8,600	6.2%
SAN MATEO	390,700	370,500	20,200	5.2%
SANTA BARBARA	221,200	209,000	12,200	5.5%
SANTA CLARA	879,000	821,600	57,400	6.5%
SANTA CRUZ	153,600	144,000	9,600	6.2%
SHASTA	87,400	79,000	8,400	9.6%
SIERRA	1,690	1,540	140	8.4%
SISKIYOU	20,000	18,250	1,750	8.8%
SOLANO	215,700	199,800	15,900	7.4%
SONOMA	268,900	252,600	16,300	6.1%
STANISLAUS	243,600	217,800	25,700	10.6%
SUTTER	42,300	37,800	4,400	10.5%
TEHAMA	26,200	23,690	2,510	9.6%
TRINITY	5,470	4,900	560	10.3%
TULARE	199,600	178,500	21,100	10.6%
TUOLUMNE	26,990	24,880	2,110	7.8%
VENTURA	428,800	398,500	30,300	7.1%
YOLO	97,500	90,800	6,700	6.8%
YUBA	28,400	24,900	3,500	12.2%