



N E W S R E L E A S E

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Note: EDD is now opening its call center phone lines from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays beginning March 21 in continued response to increased demand for unemployment insurance benefit assistance. Further details to follow in a news release later today.

California's Unemployment Rate Increases To 10.5 Percent

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 10.5 percent in February, and nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 116,000 during the month, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate also increased in February to 8.1 percent.

In January, the state's unemployment rate was 10.1 percent, and in February 2008, the unemployment rate was 6.2 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California decreased by 116,000 over the month, for a total of 14,534,800, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 42,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over-year change (February 2008 to February 2009) shows a decrease of 605,900 jobs (down 4.0 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal survey of households, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows a decrease in the number of employed people. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in February was 16,621,000, a decrease of 47,000 from January, and down 495,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,950,000 – up by 80,000 over the month, and up by 824,000 compared with February of last year.

(more)

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED²)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,534,800 in February, a net loss of 116,000 jobs since the January survey. This followed a loss of 76,600 jobs (as revised) in January.

One category, **information**, added jobs over the month, gaining 7,900 jobs. Ten categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 123,900 jobs. Construction posted the largest decline over the month, down by 30,900 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2008 to February 2009), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 605,900 jobs (down 4.0 percent).

Two industry divisions (**natural resources and mining** and **educational and health services**) posted job gains over the year, adding 31,000 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on both a numerical and percentage basis, adding 30,900 jobs (a 1.8 percent increase).

Nine categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) posted job declines over the year, down 636,900 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities employment showed the largest decline on a numerical basis, down by 159,900 jobs (a decline of 5.5 percent). Construction posted the largest decline on a percentage basis, down by 18.5 percent (a decrease of 155,100 jobs).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 768,762 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 717,525 last month and 480,504 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 76,303 in February 2009, compared with 75,514 in January and 49,321 in February of last year.

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:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	February 2009 (prelim.)	January 2009 (revised)	February 2008	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	14,534.8	14,650.8	15,140.7	-4.0
Natural resources and mining	28.2	28.7	28.1	0.4
Construction	681.9	712.8	837.0	-18.5
Manufacturing	1,355.4	1,371.4	1,445.3	-6.2
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,742.5	2,758.4	2,902.4	-5.5
Information	450.7	442.8	469.4	-4.0
Financial activities	816.7	823.9	869.1	-6.0
Professional and business services	2,164.8	2,194.4	2,266.7	-4.5
Educational and health services	1,742.5	1,747.0	1,711.6	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	1,533.5	1,548.3	1,578.2	-2.8
Other services	510.0	511.3	516.1	-1.2
Government*	2,508.6	2,511.8	2,516.8	-0.3
Agriculture	398.0	395.0	388.6	2.4

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	February 2009 (prelim.)	January 2009 (revised)	December 2008	February 2008
Civilian labor force ^a	18,571,000	18,538,000	18,557,000	18,242,000
Total civilian employment	16,621,000	16,668,000	16,951,000	17,116,000
Unemployment	1,950,000	1,870,000	1,606,000	1,126,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	10.5	10.1	8.7	6.2
US seasonally adjusted rate %	8.1	7.6	7.2	4.8

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	February 2009 (prelim.)	January 2009 (revised)	December 2008	February 2008
Civilian labor force ^a	18,549,000	18,492,000	18,551,000	18,181,000
Total civilian employment	16,521,000	16,532,000	16,862,000	17,050,000
Unemployment	2,027,000	1,960,000	1,689,000	1,131,000
Unadjusted rate %	10.9	10.6	9.1	6.2

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

² Seasonal 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 2009 (Preliminary); 2008 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,548,600	16,521,200	2,027,400	10.9%
ALAMEDA	777,400	701,900	75,500	9.7%
ALPINE	650	590	60	9.6%
AMADOR	18,370	16,180	2,180	11.9%
BUTTE	107,000	93,400	13,600	12.7%
CALAVERAS	21,110	18,170	2,940	13.9%
COLUSA	11,040	8,100	2,940	26.6%
CONTRA COSTA	534,500	484,500	50,000	9.3%
DEL NORTE	11,950	10,500	1,460	12.2%
EL DORADO	93,100	83,000	10,100	10.9%
FRESNO	444,900	372,000	72,800	16.4%
GLENN	12,830	10,730	2,100	16.4%
HUMBOLDT	62,000	55,000	7,000	11.4%
IMPERIAL	73,200	55,300	18,000	24.5%
INYO	9,250	8,350	900	9.7%
KERN	372,000	317,500	54,500	14.7%
KINGS	61,500	51,400	10,000	16.3%
LAKE	25,310	21,280	4,030	15.9%
LASSEN	13,510	11,490	2,020	15.0%
LOS ANGELES	4,979,500	4,431,400	548,000	11.0%
MADERA	70,500	60,800	9,700	13.8%
MARIN	137,200	127,800	9,400	6.8%
MARIPOSA	9,120	7,950	1,170	12.8%
MENDOCINO	43,770	38,970	4,800	11.0%
MERCED	107,600	86,200	21,400	19.9%
MODOC	4,050	3,420	630	15.5%
MONO	9,130	8,440	690	7.6%
MONTEREY	216,100	181,100	35,000	16.2%
NAPA	75,200	68,800	6,400	8.5%
NEVADA	51,450	46,120	5,330	10.4%
ORANGE	1,635,100	1,506,800	128,300	7.8%
PLACER	177,300	159,100	18,200	10.3%
PLUMAS	10,200	8,210	1,990	19.5%
RIVERSIDE	926,400	809,800	116,600	12.6%
SACRAMENTO	693,300	619,200	74,100	10.7%
SAN BENITO	26,600	22,400	4,200	15.8%
SAN BERNARDINO	882,300	777,500	104,700	11.9%
SAN DIEGO	1,581,000	1,442,600	138,400	8.8%
SAN FRANCISCO	454,300	416,600	37,700	8.3%
SAN JOAQUIN	306,400	258,000	48,400	15.8%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	140,400	129,000	11,400	8.1%
SAN MATEO	386,700	357,500	29,300	7.6%
SANTA BARBARA	222,600	204,100	18,400	8.3%
SANTA CLARA	897,000	808,400	88,600	9.9%
SANTA CRUZ	150,500	130,800	19,700	13.1%
SHASTA	85,300	71,500	13,800	16.2%
SIERRA	1,700	1,390	320	18.5%
SISKIYOU	19,760	16,170	3,590	18.1%
SOLANO	216,300	193,800	22,500	10.4%
SONOMA	264,300	240,100	24,200	9.1%
STANISLAUS	242,000	201,100	40,900	16.9%
SUTTER	43,700	35,300	8,300	19.1%
TEHAMA	26,890	23,150	3,740	13.9%
TRINITY	5,090	4,010	1,080	21.2%
TULARE	206,600	171,400	35,100	17.0%
TUOLUMNE	27,060	23,680	3,390	12.5%
VENTURA	436,400	396,300	40,200	9.2%
YOLO	101,200	89,100	12,100	12.0%
YUBA	29,100	23,700	5,400	18.6%