



## N E W S R E L E A S E

**Contact:** Loree Levy  
Kevin Callori  
(916) 654-9029

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**Note:** *EDD's Unemployment Insurance (UI) telephone lines are open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays in continued response to increased demand for UI benefit assistance. Check EDD's Web site ([www.edd.ca.gov](http://www.edd.ca.gov)) for a list of 26 EDD offices open Saturdays with computers and phones available to apply for UI benefits.*

### **California's Unemployment Rate Increases To 11.2 Percent**

**SACRAMENTO** – California's unemployment rate was 11.2 percent in March, and nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 62,100 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 March, rising to 8.5 percent.

In February, the state's unemployment rate was a revised 10.6 percent, and in March 2008, the unemployment rate was 6.4 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California decreased by 62,100 over the month, for a total of 14,474,700, 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 (March 2008 to March 2009) shows a decrease of 637,400 jobs (down 4.2 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 March was 16,524,000, a decrease of 96,000 from February, and down 578,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 2,080,000 – up by 119,000 over the month, and up by 913,000 compared with March of last year.

(more)

## **PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED<sup>2</sup>)**

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,474,700 in March, a net loss of 62,100 jobs since the February survey. This followed a loss of 114,000 jobs (as revised) in February.

Two categories (**information** and **educational and health services**) added jobs over the month, gaining 11,000 jobs. Nine categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 73,100 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 15,200 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2008 to March 2009), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 637,400 jobs (down 4.2 percent).

One industry division, **educational and health services**, posted job gains over the year, adding 37,900 jobs (a 2.2 percent increase).

Ten categories (**natural resources and mining; 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 675,300 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities employment showed the largest decline on a numerical basis, down by 169,500 jobs (a decline of 5.9 percent). Construction posted the largest decline on a percentage basis, down by 18.4 percent (a decrease of 152,300 jobs).

## **UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 858,778 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 768,762 last month and 518,438 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 79,979 in March 2009, compared with 76,303 in February and 48,282 in March 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](http://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 DATA<sup>2</sup>**  
(Amounts in thousands)

| Industrial Classification                         | March 2009<br>(prelim.) | February 2009<br>(revised) | March 2008 | Change Over<br>12 months<br>(Percent) |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . . | 14,474.7                | 14,536.8                   | 15,112.1   | -4.2                                  |
| Natural resources and mining . . . . .            | 28.0                    | 28.2                       | 28.3       | -1.1                                  |
| Construction . . . . .                            | 673.6                   | 682.8                      | 825.9      | -18.4                                 |
| Manufacturing . . . . .                           | 1,340.0                 | 1,353.5                    | 1,440.6    | -7.0                                  |
| Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .     | 2,724.3                 | 2,739.5                    | 2,893.8    | -5.9                                  |
| Information . . . . .                             | 461.1                   | 453.4                      | 477.7      | -3.5                                  |
| Financial activities . . . . .                    | 813.5                   | 817.9                      | 863.9      | -5.8                                  |
| Professional and business services . . . . .      | 2,152.0                 | 2,166.1                    | 2,260.0    | -4.8                                  |
| Educational and health services . . . . .         | 1,748.0                 | 1,744.7                    | 1,710.1    | 2.2                                   |
| Leisure and hospitality . . . . .                 | 1,522.4                 | 1,531.6                    | 1,578.0    | -3.5                                  |
| Other services . . . . .                          | 503.0                   | 508.4                      | 515.7      | -2.5                                  |
| Government* . . . . .                             | 2,508.8                 | 2,510.7                    | 2,518.1    | -0.4                                  |
| Agriculture . . . . .                             | 392.7                   | 398.2                      | 384.7      | 2.1                                   |

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

**TABLE A**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA<sup>2</sup>**

|                                             | March 2009<br>(prelim.) | February 2009<br>(revised) | January 2009 | March 2008 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . . | 18,604,000              | 18,581,000                 | 18,538,000   | 18,269,000 |
| Total civilian employment . . . . .         | 16,524,000              | 16,620,000                 | 16,668,000   | 17,102,000 |
| Unemployment . . . . .                      | 2,080,000               | 1,961,000                  | 1,870,000    | 1,167,000  |
| Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .        | 11.2                    | 10.6                       | 10.1         | 6.4        |
| US seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .     | 8.5                     | 8.1                        | 7.6          | 5.1        |

**TABLE B**  
**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA**

|                                             | March 2009<br>(prelim.) | February 2009<br>(revised) | January 2009 | March 2008 |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . . | 18,581,000              | 18,557,000                 | 18,492,000   | 18,245,000 |
| Total civilian employment . . . . .         | 16,450,000              | 16,520,000                 | 16,532,000   | 17,066,000 |
| Unemployment . . . . .                      | 2,131,000               | 2,037,000                  | 1,960,000    | 1,178,000  |
| Unadjusted rate % . . . . .                 | 11.5                    | 11.0                       | 10.6         | 6.5        |

<sup>a</sup> Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

<sup>2</sup> 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**  
**MARCH 2009 (Preliminary); 2008 BENCHMARK**  
*NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*

| COUNTY             | LABOR FORCE       | EMPLOYMENT        | UNEMPLOYMENT     | RATE         |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|
| <b>STATE TOTAL</b> | <b>18,580,900</b> | <b>16,449,700</b> | <b>2,131,200</b> | <b>11.5%</b> |
| ALAMEDA            | 779,800           | 698,100           | 81,700           | 10.5%        |
| ALPINE             | 590               | 530               | 60               | 10.6%        |
| AMADOR             | 18,430            | 16,140            | 2,280            | 12.4%        |
| BUTTE              | 106,500           | 92,300            | 14,200           | 13.3%        |
| CALAVERAS          | 21,320            | 18,240            | 3,070            | 14.4%        |
| COLUSA             | 11,420            | 8,500             | 2,920            | 25.6%        |
| CONTRA COSTA       | 534,300           | 481,900           | 52,400           | 9.8%         |
| DEL NORTE          | 12,030            | 10,510            | 1,520            | 12.7%        |
| EL DORADO          | 93,600            | 82,800            | 10,800           | 11.5%        |
| FRESNO             | 446,100           | 370,300           | 75,800           | 17.0%        |
| GLENN              | 12,900            | 10,690            | 2,210            | 17.1%        |
| HUMBOLDT           | 61,800            | 54,400            | 7,400            | 12.0%        |
| IMPERIAL           | 72,800            | 54,600            | 18,300           | 25.1%        |
| INYO               | 9,220             | 8,270             | 950              | 10.3%        |
| KERN               | 371,000           | 312,000           | 59,000           | 15.9%        |
| KINGS              | 61,400            | 51,200            | 10,200           | 16.7%        |
| LAKE               | 25,560            | 21,330            | 4,230            | 16.5%        |
| LASSEN             | 13,700            | 11,550            | 2,150            | 15.7%        |
| LOS ANGELES        | 4,968,700         | 4,406,600         | 562,100          | 11.3%        |
| MADERA             | 68,900            | 58,300            | 10,600           | 15.3%        |
| MARIN              | 137,200           | 127,100           | 10,100           | 7.4%         |
| MARIPOSA           | 9,190             | 7,980             | 1,220            | 13.2%        |
| MENDOCINO          | 43,960            | 38,820            | 5,140            | 11.7%        |
| MERCED             | 108,000           | 86,000            | 22,000           | 20.4%        |
| MODOC              | 4,040             | 3,410             | 630              | 15.6%        |
| MONO               | 8,940             | 8,230             | 710              | 7.9%         |
| MONTEREY           | 216,700           | 182,600           | 34,100           | 15.7%        |
| NAPA               | 75,500            | 68,700            | 6,800            | 9.0%         |
| NEVADA             | 51,340            | 45,650            | 5,690            | 11.1%        |
| ORANGE             | 1,643,400         | 1,503,800         | 139,600          | 8.5%         |
| PLACER             | 178,200           | 158,700           | 19,500           | 10.9%        |
| PLUMAS             | 10,270            | 8,210             | 2,070            | 20.1%        |
| RIVERSIDE          | 929,700           | 807,400           | 122,300          | 13.2%        |
| SACRAMENTO         | 695,900           | 617,600           | 78,300           | 11.3%        |
| SAN BENITO         | 26,500            | 22,200            | 4,300            | 16.2%        |
| SAN BERNARDINO     | 886,500           | 775,300           | 111,200          | 12.5%        |
| SAN DIEGO          | 1,585,300         | 1,437,400         | 147,900          | 9.3%         |
| SAN FRANCISCO      | 455,000           | 414,200           | 40,800           | 9.0%         |
| SAN JOAQUIN        | 309,000           | 258,200           | 50,800           | 16.4%        |
| SAN LUIS OBISPO    | 140,000           | 127,800           | 12,100           | 8.7%         |
| SAN MATEO          | 387,500           | 355,400           | 32,100           | 8.3%         |
| SANTA BARBARA      | 225,300           | 206,100           | 19,200           | 8.5%         |
| SANTA CLARA        | 897,700           | 800,500           | 97,200           | 10.8%        |
| SANTA CRUZ         | 150,200           | 129,800           | 20,400           | 13.6%        |
| SHASTA             | 86,100            | 71,700            | 14,400           | 16.8%        |
| SIERRA             | 1,720             | 1,400             | 310              | 18.2%        |
| SISKIYOU           | 19,910            | 16,180            | 3,720            | 18.7%        |
| SOLANO             | 216,600           | 193,000           | 23,700           | 10.9%        |
| SONOMA             | 266,000           | 240,000           | 25,900           | 9.8%         |
| STANISLAUS         | 244,000           | 201,200           | 42,800           | 17.5%        |
| SUTTER             | 44,100            | 35,400            | 8,700            | 19.7%        |
| TEHAMA             | 27,090            | 23,070            | 4,020            | 14.8%        |
| TRINITY            | 5,110             | 3,990             | 1,120            | 21.9%        |
| TULARE             | 207,500           | 170,700           | 36,800           | 17.7%        |
| TUOLUMNE           | 27,050            | 23,530            | 3,520            | 13.0%        |
| VENTURA            | 439,900           | 397,700           | 42,300           | 9.6%         |
| YOLO               | 101,300           | 88,800            | 12,400           | 12.3%        |
| YUBA               | 29,300            | 23,700            | 5,600            | 19.1%        |