

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

No.: 17-05

Date: March 24, 2017

California's unemployment rate falls to 5.0 percent in February
Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 22,900

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate fell to 5.0 percent and the state's employers added 22,900 nonfarm payroll jobs in February, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two surveys. With February's job gains, the state has gained a total of 2,489,500 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate decreased 0.1 percentage point in February to 4.7 percent, with employers nationwide adding 235,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In January, the state's unemployment rate was 5.2 percent, and in February 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 16,676,100 in February, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 58,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over change, February 2016 to February 2017, shows an increase of 315,800 jobs (up 1.9 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal household survey, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows an increase in the number of employed Californians over the month and the year. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in February was 18,190,000, an increase of 14,000 from January, and up 254,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 966,000 in February – down by 22,000 over the month, and down by 102,000 compared with February of last year.

(more)

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 16,676,100 in February, a net gain of 22,900 jobs from January. This followed a revised gain of 15,300 jobs in January.

Month-over Job Gains

Seven of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 30,800 jobs in February. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest jobs increase, with a gain of 11,100 jobs, followed by leisure and hospitality, with a gain of 5,600 jobs. Other sectors adding jobs over the month were construction; information; professional and business services; educational and health services; and other services.

Month-over Job Losses

Four industry sectors (mining and logging; manufacturing; financial activities; and government) reported job declines over the month, down a total of 7,900 jobs. Manufacturing posted the largest decrease over the month, down by 4,000 jobs, followed by financial activities, which fell by 2,200 jobs.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2016 to February 2017), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 315,800 jobs (a 1.9 percent increase).

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 328,300 jobs year-over. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 89,100 jobs (a 3.6 percent increase), and leisure and hospitality, up 48,900 jobs (a 2.6 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were construction; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; other services; and government.

Year-over Job Losses

Two industry sectors (mining and logging, and manufacturing) posted job declines over the year, down a total of 12,500 jobs. Manufacturing employment fell by 9,600 jobs (down 0.7 percent), while mining and logging was down by 2,900 jobs (an 11.2 percent decrease).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 405,196 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 386,875 in January and 388,417 in February of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 43,499 in February, compared with 62,201 in January and 42,281 in February of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	February 2017 (prelim.)	January 2017 (revised)	February 2016	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	16,676.1	16,653.2	16,360.3	1.9
Mining and logging	23.1	23.3	26.0	-11.2
Construction	783.1	778.0	766.6	2.2
Manufacturing	1,299.7	1,303.7	1,309.3	-0.7
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,020.9	3,009.8	2,972.4	1.6
Information	532.2	530.6	516.4	3.1
Financial activities	830.6	832.8	816.5	1.7
Professional and business services	2,561.4	2,558.7	2,525.3	1.4
Educational and health services	2,593.0	2,590.3	2,503.9	3.6
Leisure and hospitality	1,928.6	1,923.0	1,879.7	2.6
Other services	565.3	563.3	552.4	2.3
Government*	2,538.2	2,539.7	2,491.8	1.9
Agriculture	430.7	432.9	423.9	1.6

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	February 2017 (prelim.)	January 2017 (revised)	December 2016	February 2016
Civilian labor force ^a	19,156,000	19,164,000	19,165,000	19,004,000
Total civilian employment	18,190,000	18,176,000	18,165,000	17,936,000
Unemployment	966,000	988,000	999,000	1,068,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.6
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.9

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	February 2017 (prelim.)	January 2017 (revised)	December 2016	February 2016
Civilian labor force ^a	19,121,000	19,084,000	19,098,000	19,041,000
Total civilian employment	18,120,000	18,033,000	18,141,000	17,945,000
Unemployment	1,000,000	1,051,000	957,000	1,096,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.2	5.5	5.0	5.8

^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 2017 (Preliminary); 2016 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	19,120,600	18,120,300	1,000,300	5.2%
ALAMEDA	834,900	802,300	32,600	3.9%
ALPINE	620	590	30	4.7%
AMADOR	14,670	13,800	870	5.9%
BUTTE	103,200	96,200	7,000	6.8%
CALAVERAS	20,760	19,600	1,160	5.6%
COLUSA	10,720	8,280	2,440	22.8%
CONTRA COSTA	554,500	531,600	22,900	4.1%
DEL NORTE	9,580	8,870	710	7.4%
EL DORADO	89,500	85,000	4,400	4.9%
FRESNO	447,300	401,500	45,900	10.3%
GLENN	13,110	11,910	1,200	9.1%
HUMBOLDT	62,730	59,810	2,910	4.6%
IMPERIAL	73,600	60,000	13,600	18.4%
INYO	8,880	8,440	440	5.0%
KERN	385,000	342,900	42,100	10.9%
KINGS	56,600	50,100	6,500	11.5%
LAKE	29,660	27,700	1,960	6.6%
LASSEN	10,230	9,390	840	8.2%
LOS ANGELES	5,081,500	4,837,500	243,900	4.8%
MADERA	62,600	56,700	6,000	9.5%
MARIN	140,700	136,500	4,300	3.0%
MARIPOSA	7,030	6,460	570	8.1%
MENDOCINO	39,250	37,140	2,110	5.4%
MERCED	114,600	100,400	14,200	12.4%
MODOC	3,180	2,870	300	9.6%
MONO	8,900	8,530	380	4.3%
MONTEREY	216,900	194,100	22,800	10.5%
NAPA	72,500	69,500	3,100	4.2%
NEVADA	48,390	46,180	2,210	4.6%
ORANGE	1,596,400	1,537,600	58,900	3.7%
PLACER	179,300	171,600	7,700	4.3%
PLUMAS	7,340	6,380	960	13.1%
RIVERSIDE	1,058,900	1,000,800	58,200	5.5%
SACRAMENTO	694,900	659,100	35,800	5.2%
SAN BENITO	30,000	27,800	2,200	7.2%
SAN BERNARDINO	943,700	894,900	48,800	5.2%
SAN DIEGO	1,566,200	1,499,800	66,500	4.2%
SAN FRANCISCO	560,200	543,200	17,000	3.0%
SAN JOAQUIN	319,900	293,400	26,500	8.3%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	141,400	135,900	5,500	3.9%
SAN MATEO	448,800	436,300	12,500	2.8%
SANTA BARBARA	215,700	203,800	11,900	5.5%
SANTA CLARA	1,021,300	985,600	35,700	3.5%
SANTA CRUZ	143,400	131,200	12,200	8.5%
SHASTA	74,800	69,500	5,300	7.1%
SIERRA	1,300	1,180	120	9.4%
SISKIYOU	17,540	15,740	1,800	10.3%
SOLANO	207,000	195,900	11,100	5.4%
SONOMA	258,500	248,800	9,700	3.8%
STANISLAUS	243,800	222,300	21,500	8.8%
SUTTER	45,300	40,100	5,200	11.5%
TEHAMA	25,370	23,550	1,820	7.2%
TRINITY	4,910	4,520	400	8.1%
TULARE	206,100	181,300	24,800	12.1%
TUOLUMNE	21,770	20,390	1,370	6.3%
VENTURA	430,600	410,300	20,300	4.7%
YOLO	106,500	99,800	6,700	6.3%
YUBA	28,600	25,900	2,700	9.3%

*Not seasonally adjusted.