

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

No.: 17-13

Date: April 21, 2017

**California's unemployment rate falls to 4.9 percent in March**  
***Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 19,300***

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate fell to 4.9 percent and the state's employers added 19,300 nonfarm payroll jobs in March, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two surveys. With March's job gains, the state has gained a total of 2,507,400 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate decreased 0.2 percentage point in March to 4.5 percent, with employers nationwide adding 98,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In February, the state's unemployment rate was 5.0 percent, and in March 2016, the unemployment rate was 5.6 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 16,694,000 in March, 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, March 2016 to March 2017, shows an increase of 346,400 jobs (up 2.1 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 March was 18,227,000, an increase of 37,000 from February, and up 268,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 942,000 in March – down by 25,000 over the month, and down by 119,000 compared with March of last year.

(more)

## **PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

### **Month-over Job Gains**

EDD's payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 16,694,000 in March, a net gain of 19,300 jobs from February. This followed a revised gain of 21,500 jobs in February.

Six of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 37,200 jobs in March. Construction posted the largest jobs increase, with a gain of 18,900 jobs, followed by government, with a gain of 6,300 jobs. Other sectors adding jobs over the month were manufacturing; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services.

### **Month-over Job Losses**

Five industry sectors reported job declines over the month, down a total of 17,900 jobs. Information posted the largest decrease over the month, down by 9,400 jobs, followed by trade, transportation and utilities, which fell by 4,200 jobs. Other sectors losing jobs over the month were mining and logging; financial activities; and professional and business services.

### **Year-over Job Gains**

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2016 to March 2017), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 346,400 jobs (a 2.1 percent increase).

Nine of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 355,300 jobs year-over. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 88,400 jobs (a 3.5 percent increase); leisure and hospitality, up 51,400 jobs (a 2.7 percent increase); and government, up 51,400 jobs (a 2.1 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were construction; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; and other services.

### **Year-over Job Losses**

Two industry sectors (mining and logging, and manufacturing) posted job declines over the year, down a total of 8,900 jobs. Manufacturing employment fell by 6,500 jobs (down 0.5 percent), while mining and logging was down by 2,400 jobs (a 9.4 percent decrease).

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

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 420,505 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 405,196 in February and 420,502 in March of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 42,786 in March, compared with 43,499 in February and 44,305 in March of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA<sup>2</sup>  
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	March 2017 (prelim.)	February 2017 (revised)	March 2016	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	16,694.0	16,674.7	16,347.6	2.1
Mining and logging . . . . .	23.1	23.2	25.5	-9.4
Construction . . . . .	803.9	785.0	761.7	5.5
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,301.2	1,299.5	1,307.7	-0.5
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	3,016.4	3,020.6	2,973.6	1.4
Information . . . . .	522.2	531.6	513.5	1.7
Financial activities . . . . .	828.4	831.3	816.5	1.5
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,554.5	2,555.8	2,512.1	1.7
Educational and health services . . . . .	2,595.2	2,590.9	2,506.8	3.5
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,932.1	1,927.4	1,880.7	2.7
Other services . . . . .	567.1	565.8	551.0	2.9
Government* . . . . .	2,549.9	2,543.6	2,498.5	2.1
Agriculture . . . . .	434.2	430.7	420.1	3.4

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

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

	March 2017 (prelim.)	February 2017 (revised)	January 2017	March 2016
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	19,169,000	19,157,000	19,164,000	19,021,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	18,227,000	18,190,000	18,176,000	17,959,000
Unemployment . . . . .	942,000	967,000	988,000	1,061,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	4.9	5.0	5.2	5.6
US seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	4.5	4.7	4.8	5.0

TABLE B  
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	March 2017 (prelim.)	February 2017 (revised)	January 2017	March 2016
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	19,168,000	19,122,000	19,084,000	19,085,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	18,194,000	18,120,000	18,033,000	17,980,000
Unemployment . . . . .	974,000	1,002,000	1,051,000	1,105,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	5.1	5.2	5.5	5.8

<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 2017 (Preliminary); 2016 BENCHMARK**  
**NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>19,167,900</b>	<b>18,193,500</b>	<b>974,400</b>	<b>5.1%</b>
ALAMEDA	840,900	808,400	32,400	3.9%
ALPINE	610	570	30	5.1%
AMADOR	14,710	13,880	840	5.7%
BUTTE	102,700	95,900	6,700	6.6%
CALAVERAS	20,780	19,660	1,120	5.4%
COLUSA	10,680	8,350	2,330	21.8%
CONTRA COSTA	558,200	535,600	22,700	4.1%
DEL NORTE	9,610	8,900	710	7.4%
EL DORADO	89,500	85,200	4,300	4.8%
FRESNO	448,200	402,100	46,100	10.3%
GLENN	13,100	11,930	1,170	8.9%
HUMBOLDT	62,750	59,910	2,840	4.5%
IMPERIAL	73,000	59,000	14,000	19.2%
INYO	8,910	8,460	450	5.0%
KERN	378,900	335,200	43,600	11.5%
KINGS	56,400	50,100	6,300	11.2%
LAKE	29,460	27,540	1,910	6.5%
LASSEN	10,210	9,400	810	8.0%
LOS ANGELES	5,102,400	4,881,400	220,900	4.3%
MADERA	61,200	55,100	6,100	10.0%
MARIN	141,100	136,900	4,200	3.0%
MARIPOSA	7,040	6,490	550	7.8%
MENDOCINO	39,440	37,310	2,120	5.4%
MERCED	114,800	100,800	14,000	12.2%
MODOC	3,260	2,940	320	9.7%
MONO	8,720	8,350	370	4.2%
MONTEREY	218,200	196,100	22,100	10.1%
NAPA	72,500	69,600	2,900	4.1%
NEVADA	48,120	45,990	2,130	4.4%
ORANGE	1,598,300	1,539,900	58,500	3.7%
PLACER	179,500	172,000	7,500	4.2%
PLUMAS	7,310	6,350	950	13.0%
RIVERSIDE	1,062,700	1,004,500	58,200	5.5%
SACRAMENTO	696,400	660,800	35,600	5.1%
SAN BENITO	30,100	27,900	2,200	7.2%
SAN BERNARDINO	946,700	897,600	49,100	5.2%
SAN DIEGO	1,566,200	1,500,000	66,300	4.2%
SAN FRANCISCO	560,900	543,900	17,000	3.0%
SAN JOAQUIN	319,700	293,200	26,500	8.3%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	141,700	136,300	5,400	3.8%
SAN MATEO	449,300	436,900	12,400	2.7%
SANTA BARBARA	218,100	206,800	11,300	5.2%
SANTA CLARA	1,025,300	990,000	35,300	3.4%
SANTA CRUZ	144,300	132,100	12,300	8.5%
SHASTA	74,700	69,500	5,200	7.0%
SIERRA	1,300	1,190	110	8.8%
SISKIYOU	17,620	15,880	1,740	9.9%
SOLANO	207,600	196,800	10,900	5.2%
SONOMA	257,800	248,400	9,400	3.6%
STANISLAUS	246,900	225,100	21,800	8.8%
SUTTER	45,400	40,200	5,100	11.3%
TEHAMA	25,210	23,430	1,780	7.1%
TRINITY	4,910	4,520	390	8.0%
TULARE	204,700	179,500	25,300	12.3%
TUOLUMNE	21,770	20,420	1,350	6.2%
VENTURA	433,100	413,100	20,000	4.6%
YOLO	106,500	100,100	6,400	6.0%
YUBA	28,400	25,900	2,500	8.9%

\*Not seasonally adjusted.