

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**California's unemployment rate decreases to 5.5 percent**  
***Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 39,900***

**SACRAMENTO** – California's unemployment rate decreased to 5.5 percent in February, and nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 39,900 during the month for a total gain of 2,123,500 jobs since the recovery began in February 2010, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged in February at 4.9 percent.

In January, the state's unemployment rate was 5.7 percent, and in February 2015, the unemployment rate was 6.7 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 16,310,000 in February, an increase of 39,900 jobs over the month, 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-year change, February 2015 to February 2016, shows an increase of 451,600 jobs (up 2.8 percent).

**EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA**

The federal survey of households, done with a smaller sample than the survey of employers, shows an increase in the number of employed people. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in February was 17,992,000, an increase of 62,000 from January, and up 331,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,053,000 – down by 36,000 over the month, and down by 207,000 compared with February of last year.

(more)

**PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 16,310,000 in February, a net gain of 39,900 jobs since the February survey. This followed a loss of 4,000 jobs (as revised) in January.

Five categories (construction; information; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; and other services) added jobs over the month, gaining 51,900 jobs. Leisure and hospitality posted the largest increase over the month, adding 18,300 jobs.

Four categories (trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; and government) reported job declines over the month, down 12,000 jobs. Two categories (mining and logging and manufacturing) were unchanged over the month.

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2015 to February 2016), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 451,600 jobs (up 2.8 percent).

Nine categories (construction; trade, transportation and utilities; information; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government) posted job gains over the year, adding 457,300 jobs. Educational and health services posted the largest gains on a numerical basis, adding 102,700 jobs (up 4.3 percent). Construction posted the largest gains on a percentage basis, up 7.6 percent (adding 53,800 jobs).

Two categories (mining and logging and manufacturing) posted job declines over the year, down 5,700 jobs. Mining and logging posted the largest decreases on both a numerical and percentage basis, down 3,300 jobs (an 11.0 percent decrease).

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

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 388,417 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 410,293 in January and 426,874 in February of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 42,281 in February, compared with 53,682 in January and 43,302 in February of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

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

Industrial Classification	February 2016 (prelim.)	January 2016 (revised)	February 2015	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	16,310.0	16,270.1	15,858.4	2.8
Mining and logging . . . . .	26.8	26.8	30.1	-11.0
Construction . . . . .	760.7	748.4	706.9	7.6
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,286.6	1,286.6	1,289.0	-0.2
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	2,976.0	2,982.6	2,905.7	2.4
Information . . . . .	499.0	491.7	477.0	4.6
Financial activities . . . . .	798.6	799.4	790.4	1.0
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,526.6	2,530.8	2,459.2	2.7
Educational and health services . . . . .	2,516.7	2,506.6	2,414.0	4.3
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,885.6	1,867.3	1,803.7	4.5
Other services . . . . .	551.9	548.0	540.5	2.1
Government* . . . . .	2,481.5	2,481.9	2,441.9	1.6
Agriculture . . . . .	435.0	426.9	433.3	0.4

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

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

	February 2016 (prelim.)	January 2016 (revised)	December 2015	February 2015
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	19,045,000	19,019,000	19,002,000	18,921,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	17,992,000	17,930,000	17,878,000	17,661,000
Unemployment . . . . .	1,053,000	1,089,000	1,124,000	1,260,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	5.5	5.7	5.9	6.7
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	4.9	4.9	5.0	5.5

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

	February 2016 (prelim.)	January 2016 (revised)	December 2015	February 2015
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	19,039,000	18,947,000	18,994,000	18,962,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	17,960,000	17,840,000	17,905,000	17,661,000
Unemployment . . . . .	1,079,000	1,107,000	1,089,000	1,301,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	5.7	5.8	5.7	6.9

<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**  
**February 2016 (Preliminary); 2015 BENCHMARK**  
**NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE	
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>19,039,100</b>	<b>17,959,800</b>	<b>1,079,300</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
ALAMEDA	827,200	791,900	35,300	4.3%
ALPINE	670	630	40	5.4%
AMADOR	14,360	13,430	930	6.5%
BUTTE	101,700	94,300	7,300	7.2%
CALAVERAS	20,300	19,060	1,240	6.1%
COLUSA	11,090	8,690	2,390	21.6%
CONTRA COSTA	550,900	526,300	24,600	4.5%
DEL NORTE	9,900	9,050	850	8.6%
EL DORADO	89,300	84,500	4,800	5.4%
FRESNO	444,200	397,600	46,600	10.5%
GLENN	13,370	12,160	1,210	9.0%
HUMBOLDT	62,380	59,060	3,320	5.3%
IMPERIAL	76,700	62,400	14,300	18.6%
INYO	9,080	8,550	530	5.8%
KERN	394,600	351,500	43,100	10.9%
KINGS	58,500	51,900	6,600	11.3%
LAKE	29,120	26,980	2,150	7.4%
LASSEN	10,790	9,890	900	8.4%
LOS ANGELES	5,020,100	4,743,100	277,000	5.5%
MADERA	62,400	56,200	6,200	9.9%
MARIN	141,900	137,300	4,600	3.2%
MARIPOSA	7,350	6,720	630	8.6%
MENDOCINO	39,780	37,420	2,350	5.9%
MERCED	115,400	100,800	14,600	12.6%
MODOC	3,130	2,810	320	10.1%
MONO	8,980	8,550	430	4.8%
MONTEREY	213,800	190,700	23,200	10.8%
NAPA	74,600	71,200	3,300	4.5%
NEVADA	49,010	46,560	2,460	5.0%
ORANGE	1,606,100	1,542,100	63,900	4.0%
PLACER	178,400	170,200	8,200	4.6%
PLUMAS	7,690	6,630	1,060	13.7%
RIVERSIDE	1,042,100	980,600	61,400	5.9%
SACRAMENTO	689,200	651,600	37,600	5.5%
SAN BENITO	30,000	27,700	2,300	7.7%
SAN BERNARDINO	933,400	881,100	52,400	5.6%
SAN DIEGO	1,568,500	1,495,100	73,400	4.7%
SAN FRANCISCO	553,100	535,000	18,100	3.3%
SAN JOAQUIN	317,400	289,500	27,900	8.8%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	144,400	138,200	6,200	4.3%
SAN MATEO	446,000	432,400	13,600	3.0%
SANTA BARBARA	220,300	208,000	12,200	5.6%
SANTA CLARA	1,029,300	990,700	38,600	3.8%
SANTA CRUZ	143,800	131,100	12,700	8.8%
SHASTA	74,200	68,400	5,800	7.8%
SIERRA	1,300	1,170	130	10.0%
SISKIYOU	17,620	15,630	1,990	11.3%
SOLANO	207,400	195,800	11,600	5.6%
SONOMA	261,000	250,200	10,800	4.1%
STANISLAUS	242,600	219,800	22,700	9.4%
SUTTER	44,500	39,300	5,200	11.8%
TEHAMA	24,560	22,620	1,950	7.9%
TRINITY	5,150	4,710	440	8.5%
TULARE	204,300	179,500	24,800	12.1%
TUOLUMNE	21,740	20,220	1,520	7.0%
VENTURA	432,400	410,300	22,100	5.1%
YOLO	104,200	97,300	6,900	6.6%
YUBA	28,100	25,400	2,700	9.5%

*\*Not seasonally adjusted.*

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