

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**California unemployment rate falls to record low
4.3 percent in February**
Employers add 14,000 nonfarm payroll jobs

SACRAMENTO – California’s unemployment rate fell to 4.3 percent in February - a new record low in a series dating back to the beginning of 1976 - and the state’s employers added 14,000 nonfarm payroll jobs, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two surveys. California has also now gained a total of 2,876,200 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged in February at 4.1 percent, while the nation’s employers added 313,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In February 2017, the state’s unemployment rate was 5.1 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,100 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 17,065,800 in February, according to a survey of businesses that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 71,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The year-over change, February 2017 to February 2018, shows an increase of 383,600 jobs (up 2.3 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 18,550,000, an increase of 13,000 from January, and up 322,000 from the employment total in February of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 843,000 in February – down by 9,000 over the month, and down by 143,000 compared with February of last year.

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PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

EDD's payroll employment report (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 17,065,800 in February, a net gain of 14,000 jobs from January. This followed a revised gain of 48,900 jobs in January.

Month-over Job Gains

Six of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 23,500 jobs in February. Professional and business services posted the largest increase with a gain of 8,300 jobs, followed by construction up 6,800 and manufacturing up 3,500. Other industry sectors adding jobs over the month were educational and health services (2,800), leisure & hospitality (2,000), and financial activities (100).

Month-over Job Losses

Five industry sectors reported job declines over the month, down a total of 9,500 jobs. Trade, transportation & utilities posted the largest decrease over the month, down 3,100 jobs, followed by other services, down 2,800, government, down 2,500 information, down 1,000 and mining and logging, down 100 jobs.

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (February 2017 to February 2018), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 383,600 jobs (a 2.3 percent increase).

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 385,700 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 92,100 jobs (a 3.5 percent increase), construction, up 74,000 jobs (a 9.5 percent increase), professional and business services, up 61,600 (a 2.4 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, government, manufacturing, financial activities, other services, and mining and logging.

Year-over Job Losses

Only one industry sector posted job declines over the year, information, down a total of 2,100 jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 396,030 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the February survey week. This compares with 342,480 in January and 405,196 in February of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 31,291 in February, compared with 52,028 in January and 43,499 in February of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

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PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	February 2017	January 2018 (revised)	February 2018 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	16,682.2	17,051.8	17,065.8	2.3
Mining and logging	21.6	22.1	22.0	1.9
Construction	782.1	849.3	856.1	9.5
Manufacturing	1,312.0	1,319.2	1,322.7	0.8
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,021.7	3,075.9	3,072.8	1.7
Information	534.6	533.5	532.5	-0.4
Financial activities	829.0	836.4	836.5	0.9
Professional and business services	2,542.3	2,595.6	2,603.9	2.4
Educational and health services	2,602.3	2,691.6	2,694.4	3.5
Leisure and hospitality	1,933.4	1,987.1	1,989.1	2.9
Other services	560.1	566.3	563.5	0.6
Government*	2,543.1	2,574.8	2,572.3	1.1
Agriculture	430.5	428.9	419.4	-2.6

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	February 2017	December 2017	January 2018 (revised)	February 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,214,000	19,386,000	19,389,000	19,393,000
Total civilian employment	18,228,000	18,520,000	18,537,000	18,550,000
Unemployment	986,000	866,000	852,000	843,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.1	4.5	4.4	4.3
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.7	4.1	4.1	4.1

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	February 2017	December 2017	January 2018 (revised)	February 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,248,000	19,318,000	19,302,000	19,420,000
Total civilian employment	18,205,000	18,515,000	18,407,000	18,537,000
Unemployment	1,044,000	804,000	894,000	882,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.4	4.2	4.6	4.5

^aLabor force by place of residence, including workers involved in trade disputes.

²Seasonal 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).

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MONTHLY LABOR FORCE DATA FOR COUNTIES
February 2018 (Preliminary); 2017 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	19,419,500	18,537,500	882,100	4.5%
ALAMEDA	852,900	825,600	27,300	3.2%
ALPINE	550	520	20	4.2%
AMADOR	14,610	13,920	690	4.7%
BUTTE	103,400	97,500	5,900	5.7%
CALAVERAS	21,360	20,380	980	4.6%
COLUSA	10,820	8,660	2,160	20.0%
CONTRA COSTA	567,200	548,000	19,200	3.4%
DEL NORTE	9,790	9,180	610	6.3%
EL DORADO	90,800	87,100	3,700	4.1%
FRESNO	453,700	412,600	41,100	9.1%
GLENN	12,930	11,930	1,000	7.8%
HUMBOLDT	63,600	61,080	2,520	4.0%
IMPERIAL	72,500	60,900	11,600	16.0%
INYO	8,660	8,280	390	4.5%
KERN	384,400	347,500	36,900	9.6%
KINGS	58,100	52,500	5,600	9.7%
LAKE	29,890	28,190	1,700	5.7%
LASSEN	9,860	9,240	620	6.3%
LOS ANGELES	5,149,800	4,916,500	233,300	4.5%
MADERA	62,800	57,600	5,200	8.3%
MARIN	141,900	138,300	3,600	2.5%
MARIPOSA	7,080	6,540	530	7.5%
MENDOCINO	39,990	38,180	1,810	4.5%
MERCED	116,600	104,200	12,400	10.6%
MODOC	3,200	2,870	340	10.5%
MONO	9,360	9,020	350	3.7%
MONTEREY	212,900	190,900	21,900	10.3%
NAPA	72,900	70,300	2,500	3.5%
NEVADA	49,060	47,170	1,890	3.9%
ORANGE	1,627,300	1,576,900	50,300	3.1%
PLACER	183,300	177,000	6,400	3.5%
PLUMAS	7,420	6,550	870	11.7%
RIVERSIDE	1,087,800	1,038,300	49,500	4.6%
SACRAMENTO	705,900	676,300	29,600	4.2%
SAN BENITO	30,600	28,600	2,000	6.4%
SAN BERNARDINO	964,400	923,000	41,400	4.3%
SAN DIEGO	1,593,200	1,537,500	55,700	3.5%
SAN FRANCISCO	571,600	557,000	14,600	2.5%
SAN JOAQUIN	327,000	303,900	23,100	7.1%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	143,800	139,200	4,600	3.2%
SAN MATEO	455,000	444,100	10,800	2.4%
SANTA BARBARA	215,800	205,400	10,500	4.8%
SANTA CLARA	1,051,200	1,021,200	30,000	2.9%
SANTA CRUZ	143,700	134,000	9,600	6.7%
SHASTA	74,600	70,200	4,400	5.9%
SIERRA	1,310	1,200	100	7.8%
SISKIYOU	17,860	16,250	1,610	9.0%
SOLANO	209,300	200,100	9,200	4.4%
SONOMA	264,400	256,400	8,000	3.0%
STANISLAUS	243,200	225,000	18,100	7.5%
SUTTER	45,400	41,000	4,400	9.8%
TEHAMA	25,820	24,140	1,680	6.5%
TRINITY	4,910	4,550	360	7.3%
TULARE	206,600	183,300	23,300	11.3%
TUOLUMNE	21,720	20,520	1,200	5.5%
VENTURA	429,000	412,000	17,000	4.0%
YOLO	108,200	102,500	5,700	5.2%
YUBA	28,700	26,500	2,200	7.6%

*Not seasonally adjusted.