

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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California unemployment rate holds at record-tying low 4.3 percent in March

Employers add 321,000 nonfarm payroll jobs over the year

SACRAMENTO – California’s unemployment rate remained steady at 4.3 percent in March – tying the record low set in February in a series dating back to the beginning of 1976 – although the state’s employers lost 7,200 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 2,856,200 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate was unchanged in March at 4.1 percent, while the nation’s employers added 103,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In March 2017, the state’s unemployment rate was 5.0 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,100 California households.

Nonfarm payroll jobs in California totaled 17,045,800 in March, 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, March 2017 to March 2018, shows an increase of 321,000 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 March was 18,552,000, an increase of 2,000 from February, and up 290,000 from the employment total in March of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 827,000 in March – down by 16,000 over the month, and down by 142,000 compared with March 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 17,045,800 in March, a net loss of 7,200 jobs from February. This followed a revised gain of 1,200 jobs in February.

Month-over Job Gains

Three of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 6,700 jobs in March. Educational and health services posted the largest increase with a gain of 4,600 jobs, followed by manufacturing (up 1,900 jobs), and mining and logging (up 200 jobs).

Month-over Job Losses

Eight industry sectors reported job declines over the month, down a total of 13,900 jobs. Other services posted the largest decrease over the month, down 4,600 jobs, followed by construction, (down 4,400 jobs), and trade, transportation and utilities (down 1,900 jobs). Other sectors that reported job declines were financial activities (down 1,200 jobs), information (down 800 jobs), professional and business services (down 800 jobs), leisure and hospitality (down 100 jobs), and government (down 100 jobs).

Year-over Job Gains

In a year-over-year comparison (March 2017 to March 2018), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 321,000 jobs (a 1.9 percent increase).

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 326,300 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 86,100 jobs (a 3.3 percent increase), construction, up 54,400 jobs (a 6.8 percent increase), and professional and business services, up 45,500 (a 1.8 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, government, manufacturing, financial activities, information and mining and logging.

Year-over Job Losses

Only one industry sector posted job declines over the year, other services, down a total of 5,300 jobs.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 403,184 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the March survey week. This compares with 396,030 in February and 420,505 in March of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 39,330 in March, compared with 31,291 in February and 42,939 in March of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	March 2017	February 2018 (revised)	March 2018 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	16,724.8	17,053.0	17,045.8	1.9
Mining and logging	21.6	22.0	22.2	2.8
Construction	795.6	854.4	850.0	6.8
Manufacturing	1,311.1	1,320.9	1,322.8	0.9
Trade, transportation and utilities	3,027.8	3,073.4	3,071.5	1.4
Information	522.4	530.9	530.1	1.5
Financial activities	829.7	835.9	834.7	0.6
Professional and business services	2,556.1	2,602.4	2,601.6	1.8
Educational and health services	2,612.2	2,693.7	2,698.3	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	1,941.8	1,987.2	1,987.1	2.3
Other services	562.5	561.8	557.2	-0.9
Government*	2,544.0	2,570.4	2,570.3	1.0
Agriculture	431.8	425.5	426.4	-1.3

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA²

	March 2017	January 2018	February 2018 (revised)	March 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,231,000	19,389,000	19,393,000	19,380,000
Total civilian employment	18,262,000	18,537,000	18,550,000	18,552,000
Unemployment	969,000	852,000	843,000	827,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	5.0	4.4	4.3	4.3
US seasonally adjusted rate %	4.5	4.1	4.1	4.1

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	March 2017	January 2018	February 2018 (revised)	March 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force ^a	19,281,000	19,302,000	19,419,000	19,343,000
Total civilian employment	18,283,000	18,407,000	18,539,000	18,526,000
Unemployment	998,000	894,000	880,000	817,000
Unadjusted rate %	5.2	4.6	4.5	4.2

^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).

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

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
STATE TOTAL	19,343,000	18,526,000	817,000	4.2%
ALAMEDA	848,900	823,900	25,000	2.9%
ALPINE	530	510	20	3.9%
AMADOR	14,600	13,940	650	4.5%
BUTTE	102,200	96,700	5,400	5.3%
CALAVERAS	21,270	20,340	930	4.4%
COLUSA	10,830	8,780	2,050	18.9%
CONTRA COSTA	564,500	546,900	17,600	3.1%
DEL NORTE	9,750	9,180	560	5.8%
EL DORADO	90,300	86,800	3,400	3.8%
FRESNO	451,300	412,000	39,300	8.7%
GLENN	12,920	11,960	970	7.5%
HUMBOLDT	63,160	60,820	2,340	3.7%
IMPERIAL	71,100	60,200	10,900	15.3%
INYO	8,710	8,340	370	4.2%
KERN	376,500	340,300	36,200	9.6%
KINGS	57,500	52,200	5,300	9.2%
LAKE	29,700	28,080	1,620	5.5%
LASSEN	9,790	9,220	570	5.8%
LOS ANGELES	5,149,100	4,935,600	213,500	4.1%
MADERA	61,200	56,200	5,000	8.2%
MARIN	140,800	137,500	3,300	2.3%
MARIPOSA	7,050	6,570	490	6.9%
MENDOCINO	39,970	38,240	1,720	4.3%
MERCED	116,800	104,900	11,900	10.2%
MODOC	3,220	2,920	300	9.4%
MONO	9,170	8,860	320	3.4%
MONTEREY	214,000	193,900	20,100	9.4%
NAPA	72,900	70,600	2,300	3.2%
NEVADA	48,720	46,930	1,790	3.7%
ORANGE	1,615,600	1,569,900	45,800	2.8%
PLACER	182,300	176,400	5,900	3.2%
PLUMAS	7,450	6,600	850	11.4%
RIVERSIDE	1,082,100	1,036,500	45,700	4.2%
SACRAMENTO	701,700	674,400	27,400	3.9%
SAN BENITO	30,500	28,700	1,800	6.1%
SAN BERNARDINO	958,500	920,700	37,800	3.9%
SAN DIEGO	1,584,000	1,533,100	50,900	3.2%
SAN FRANCISCO	569,000	555,500	13,500	2.4%
SAN JOAQUIN	326,800	305,000	21,700	6.6%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	143,000	138,800	4,100	2.9%
SAN MATEO	452,800	442,900	9,900	2.2%
SANTA BARBARA	216,500	207,000	9,500	4.4%
SANTA CLARA	1,047,200	1,019,900	27,300	2.6%
SANTA CRUZ	143,800	134,800	9,100	6.3%
SHASTA	73,900	69,700	4,200	5.7%
SIERRA	1,290	1,200	90	7.0%
SISKIYOU	17,780	16,270	1,500	8.5%
SOLANO	208,100	199,700	8,500	4.1%
SONOMA	262,700	255,300	7,400	2.8%
STANISLAUS	243,700	226,300	17,400	7.1%
SUTTER	45,600	41,300	4,300	9.5%
TEHAMA	25,630	24,010	1,620	6.3%
TRINITY	4,890	4,540	350	7.1%
TULARE	205,000	182,400	22,600	11.0%
TUOLUMNE	21,430	20,320	1,110	5.2%
VENTURA	428,600	413,200	15,400	3.6%
YOLO	107,700	102,500	5,200	4.8%
YUBA	28,800	26,700	2,100	7.4%

*Not seasonally adjusted.