

N E W S R E L E A S E

News Release

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**California unemployment rate falls to record low 4.2 percent in April**  
***Employers add 39,300 nonfarm payroll jobs***

SACRAMENTO – California’s unemployment rate fell to 4.2 percent in April – a new record low in a series dating back to the beginning of 1976 - and the state’s employers added 39,300 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 2,908,100 jobs since the economic expansion began in February 2010.

The U.S. unemployment rate fell to 3.9 percent, while the nation’s employers added 164,000 nonfarm payroll jobs.

In April 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 17,097,700 in April, 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, April 2017 to April 2018, shows an increase of 356,800 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 year. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in April was 18,543,000, a decrease of 9,000 from March, and up 245,000 from the employment total in April of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 815,000 in April – down by 13,000 over the month, and down by 139,000 compared with April 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 17,097,700 in April, a net gain of 39,300 jobs from March. This followed a revised gain of 5,400 jobs in March.

**Month-over Job Gains**

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 40,700 jobs in April. Construction reported the largest increase with a gain of 10,000 jobs, followed by professional and business services (up 8,500), and trade, transportation and utilities, (up 6,900 jobs). Other industry sectors that gained jobs over the month were educational and health services (up 4,700), other services (up 3,800), financial activities (up 2,700), information (up 2,100), government (up 1,000), leisure and hospitality (up 900), and mining and logging (up 100).

**Month-over Job Losses**

Only one industry sector reported job declines over the month, manufacturing posted a loss of 1,400 jobs in April.

**Year-over Job Gains**

In a year-over-year comparison (April 2017 to April 2018), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 356,800 jobs (a 2.1 percent increase).

Ten of California's eleven industry sectors added a total of 357,600 jobs over the year. The largest job gains were in educational and health services, up 83,500 jobs (a 3.2 percent increase), professional and business services, up 65,800 jobs (a 2.6 percent increase) and construction, up 59,500 jobs (a 7.4 percent increase). Other sectors adding jobs over the year were leisure and hospitality, trade, transportation and utilities, government, information, manufacturing, financial activities and mining and logging.

**Year-over Job Losses**

Only one industry sector posted job declines over the year, other services, down a total of 800 jobs.

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

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 390,362 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the April survey week. This compares with 403,184 in March and 388,142 in April of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 40,848 in April, compared with 39,330 in March and 45,319 in April of last year.

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

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

Industrial Classification	April 2017	March 2018 (revised)	April 2018 (prelim.)	Change Over 12 Months (percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers . . . . .	16,740.9	17,058.4	17,097.7	2.1
Mining and logging . . . . .	21.8	22.2	22.3	2.3
Construction . . . . .	802.3	851.8	861.8	7.4
Manufacturing . . . . .	1,311.2	1,323.6	1,322.2	0.8
Trade, transportation and utilities . . . . .	3,036.0	3,073.4	3,080.3	1.5
Information . . . . .	518.8	533.2	535.3	3.2
Financial activities . . . . .	830.4	834.1	836.8	0.8
Professional and business services . . . . .	2,548.9	2,606.2	2,614.7	2.6
Educational and health services . . . . .	2,618.2	2,697.0	2,701.7	3.2
Leisure and hospitality . . . . .	1,945.7	1,990.4	1,991.3	2.3
Other services . . . . .	562.6	558.0	561.8	-0.1
Government* . . . . .	2,545.0	2,568.5	2,569.5	1.0
Agriculture . . . . .	434.0	426.4	432.9	-0.3

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

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

	April 2017	February 2018	March 2018 (revised)	April 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	19,252,000	19,393,000	19,380,000	19,359,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	18,298,000	18,550,000	18,552,000	18,543,000
Unemployment . . . . .	954,000	843,000	828,000	815,000
Seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	5.0	4.3	4.3	4.2
US seasonally adjusted rate % . . . . .	4.4	4.1	4.1	3.9

TABLE B  
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	April 2017	February 2018	March 2018 (revised)	April 2018 (prelim.)
Civilian labor force <sup>a</sup> . . . . .	19,241,000	19,419,000	19,344,000	19,247,000
Total civilian employment . . . . .	18,338,000	18,539,000	18,526,000	18,509,000
Unemployment . . . . .	902,000	880,000	819,000	738,000
Unadjusted rate % . . . . .	4.7	4.5	4.2	3.8

<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**  
**April 2018 (Preliminary); 2017 BENCHMARK**  
*NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED*

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE*
<b>STATE TOTAL</b>	<b>19,246,800</b>	<b>18,508,900</b>	<b>737,800</b>	<b>3.8%</b>
ALAMEDA	841,700	819,300	22,500	2.7%
ALPINE	500	480	20	3.6%
AMADOR	14,530	13,970	560	3.9%
BUTTE	103,000	98,200	4,800	4.7%
CALAVERAS	21,190	20,380	810	3.8%
COLUSA	10,550	8,960	1,590	15.0%
CONTRA COSTA	559,600	543,700	15,900	2.8%
DEL NORTE	9,720	9,220	500	5.1%
EL DORADO	89,400	86,400	3,000	3.4%
FRESNO	450,400	416,600	33,800	7.5%
GLENN	12,760	11,930	830	6.5%
HUMBOLDT	63,050	60,960	2,090	3.3%
IMPERIAL	70,000	59,900	10,100	14.4%
INYO	8,640	8,320	310	3.6%
KERN	377,000	345,700	31,300	8.3%
KINGS	57,300	52,800	4,600	8.0%
LAKE	29,600	28,130	1,470	5.0%
LASSEN	9,810	9,320	490	5.0%
LOS ANGELES	5,136,300	4,929,800	206,500	4.0%
MADERA	60,500	56,100	4,400	7.3%
MARIN	139,200	136,200	3,000	2.1%
MARIPOSA	7,280	6,880	400	5.5%
MENDOCINO	39,640	38,140	1,510	3.8%
MERCED	115,700	105,600	10,100	8.7%
MODOC	3,280	3,040	240	7.3%
MONO	8,730	8,460	270	3.1%
MONTEREY	222,200	207,200	15,000	6.7%
NAPA	72,600	70,500	2,100	2.8%
NEVADA	48,110	46,550	1,570	3.3%
ORANGE	1,604,400	1,562,600	41,800	2.6%
PLACER	180,800	175,500	5,300	2.9%
PLUMAS	7,460	6,780	680	9.0%
RIVERSIDE	1,070,000	1,028,900	41,100	3.8%
SACRAMENTO	695,400	671,100	24,300	3.5%
SAN BENITO	30,200	28,700	1,500	5.1%
SAN BERNARDINO	948,600	914,200	34,300	3.6%
SAN DIEGO	1,577,400	1,531,200	46,200	2.9%
SAN FRANCISCO	564,300	552,400	11,900	2.1%
SAN JOAQUIN	324,400	305,600	18,800	5.8%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	142,500	138,700	3,800	2.6%
SAN MATEO	449,200	440,400	8,900	2.0%
SANTA BARBARA	217,300	209,700	7,700	3.5%
SANTA CLARA	1,043,100	1,018,500	24,500	2.4%
SANTA CRUZ	143,700	135,900	7,700	5.4%
SHASTA	73,700	70,100	3,600	4.9%
SIERRA	1,270	1,200	80	6.0%
SISKIYOU	17,760	16,580	1,180	6.7%
SOLANO	207,100	199,600	7,500	3.6%
SONOMA	260,800	254,200	6,600	2.5%
STANISLAUS	239,000	223,800	15,300	6.4%
SUTTER	45,200	41,600	3,600	8.0%
TEHAMA	25,510	24,110	1,410	5.5%
TRINITY	4,950	4,660	290	5.8%
TULARE	209,700	190,500	19,200	9.2%
TUOLUMNE	21,010	20,060	960	4.6%
VENTURA	424,500	410,700	13,800	3.2%
YOLO	106,700	102,400	4,300	4.0%
YUBA	28,400	26,600	1,800	6.3%

\*Not seasonally adjusted.