



N E W S R E L E A S E

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Date: December 19, 2008

News Release No.: 08-74

California's Unemployment Rate Increases To 8.4 Percent

SACRAMENTO – California's unemployment rate was 8.4 percent in November, and nonfarm payroll jobs declined by 41,700 during the month, according to data released today by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) from two separate surveys. The U.S. unemployment rate also increased by 0.2 percentage point in November, to reach 6.7 percent.

In October, the state's unemployment rate was 8.2 percent, and in November 2007, the unemployment rate was 5.7 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey¹ of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California decreased by 41,700 over the month, for a total of 15,023,600, according to an EDD survey² that is larger and less variable statistically. The survey of 42,000 California businesses measures jobs in the economy. The nation lost 533,000 jobs in November, its largest monthly job loss in nearly 34 years. The year-over-year (November 2007 to November 2008) change shows a decrease of 136,000 jobs (down 0.9 percent) in California, while the nation's year-over job losses totaled nearly 1.9 million (down 1.4 percent).

EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA

The federal survey of households¹, done with a smaller sample than the state employer study, also shows a decrease in the number of employed people. It estimates the number of Californians holding jobs in November was 17,017,000, a decrease of 34,000 from October, and down 221,000 from the employment total in November of last year.

(more)

¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) monthly survey of about 5,500 California households measures employment and unemployment levels of wage and salary workers in both agricultural and non-agricultural industries (including domestics and other private household workers), self-employed persons, and unpaid workers who worked 15 hours or more during the survey week in family-operated enterprises. Approximately 9.5 percent of these workers are self-employed. Persons who are working at more than one job are counted as employed only once. Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, for California and every other state are based on statistical models specified by the BLS.

² EDD's monthly survey of approximately 42,000 California businesses collects information on the number of wage and salary employees on the payrolls of nonfarm establishments for that month. Most economists put more weight on payroll numbers because they are derived from a larger survey sample than the federal household survey. Individuals who hold more than one job are counted once for each job in this survey. Unlike the federal household survey, the EDD survey does not count self-employed persons.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,562,000 – up by 32,000 over the month, and up by 512,000 compared with November of last year.

Of the unemployed, 679,200 were laid off, 97,200 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market, or persons who completed temporary jobs, according to the federal household survey.

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT DETAIL (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED³)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 15,023,600 in November, a net loss of 41,700 jobs since the October survey. This followed a loss of 27,800 jobs (as revised) in October.

Four categories (**natural resources and mining; information; educational and health services; and other services**) added jobs over the month, gaining 10,800 jobs. Educational and health services showed the largest gain, up by 6,200 jobs. Seven categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; leisure and hospitality; and government**) reported job declines this month, down 52,500 jobs. Trade, transportation and utilities posted the largest decline over the month, down by 26,200 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (November 2007 to November 2008), nonfarm payroll employment in California decreased by 136,000 jobs (down 0.9 percent).

Four industry divisions (**natural resources and mining; information; educational and health services; and government**) posted job gains over the year, adding 77,400 jobs. Educational and health services showed the strongest gain on a numerical basis, adding 55,000 jobs (a 3.3 percent increase). On a percentage of growth basis, natural resources and mining showed the strongest gain, up 6.2 percent (adding 1,600 jobs).

Seven categories (**construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; leisure and hospitality; professional and business services; and other services**) posted job declines over the year, down 213,400 jobs. Construction employment showed the largest decline on both a numerical and percentage basis, down by 67,700 jobs (a decline of 7.9 percent).

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIMS (NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 593,670 people receiving regular unemployment insurance benefits during the November survey week. This compares with 527,918 last month and 302,550 last year. At the same time, new claims for unemployment insurance were 80,920 in November 2008, compared with 67,491 in October and 39,531 in November of last year.

NOTE TO EDITORS: *EDD encourages those who are filing for unemployment insurance benefits to do so on-line through our Web site at www.edd.ca.gov. On-line claim filing is the fastest, most convenient way to apply for unemployment benefits, and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

Seasonally adjusted payroll detail follows:

PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA³
(Amounts in thousands)

Industrial Classification	November 2008 (prelim.)	October 2008 (revised)	November 2007	Change Over 12 months (Percent)
Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Workers	15,023.6	15,065.3	15,159.6	-0.9
Natural resources and mining	27.2	27.0	25.6	6.2
Construction	793.7	799.4	861.4	-7.9
Manufacturing	1,421.3	1,425.9	1,453.8	-2.2
Trade, transportation and utilities	2,843.5	2,869.7	2,909.3	-2.3
Information	477.2	473.4	471.2	1.3
Financial activities	860.7	863.1	889.0	-3.2
Professional and business services	2,261.1	2,268.1	2,274.5	-0.6
Educational and health services	1,736.5	1,730.3	1,681.5	3.3
Leisure and hospitality	1,554.3	1,559.8	1,556.8	-0.2
Other services	514.9	514.3	518.1	-0.6
Government*	2,533.2	2,534.3	2,518.4	0.6
Agriculture	395.7	394.2	395.0	0.2

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

TABLE A
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED DATA³

	November 2008 (prelim.)	October 2008 (revised)	September 2008	November 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,579,000	18,582,000	18,498,000	18,288,000
Total civilian employment	17,017,000	17,051,000	17,067,000	17,238,000
Unemployment	1,562,000	1,530,000	1,431,000	1,050,000
Seasonally adjusted rate %	8.4	8.2	7.7	5.7
US seasonally adjusted rate %	6.7	6.5	6.1	4.7

TABLE B
EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN CALIFORNIA, UNADJUSTED DATA

	November 2008 (prelim.)	October 2008 (revised)	September 2008	November 2007
Civilian labor force ^a	18,575,000	18,608,000	18,485,000	18,342,000
Total civilian employment	17,033,000	17,118,000	17,096,000	17,321,000
Unemployment	1,543,000	1,490,000	1,390,000	1,021,000
Unadjusted rate %	8.3	8.0	7.5	5.6

^a Labor force by place of residence including workers involved in trade disputes.

³ 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
NOVEMBER 2008 (Preliminary); 2007 BENCHMARK
NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
STATE TOTAL	18,575,100	17,032,500	1,542,600	8.3%
ALAMEDA	772,100	715,600	56,400	7.3%
ALPINE	480	420	70	13.7%
AMADOR	18,540	16,950	1,590	8.6%
BUTTE	106,800	96,800	9,900	9.3%
CALAVERAS	21,430	19,280	2,150	10.1%
COLUSA	11,120	9,110	2,000	18.0%
CONTRA COSTA	536,800	498,600	38,200	7.1%
DEL NORTE	11,940	10,750	1,200	10.0%
EL DORADO	96,600	89,100	7,500	7.7%
FRESNO	443,200	389,600	53,600	12.1%
GLENN	12,880	11,480	1,390	10.8%
HUMBOLDT	61,900	56,700	5,200	8.5%
IMPERIAL	74,500	57,000	17,400	23.4%
INYO	9,510	8,790	720	7.6%
KERN	370,600	332,000	38,600	10.4%
KINGS	60,700	53,800	6,900	11.4%
LAKE	26,020	22,800	3,220	12.4%
LASSEN	13,570	12,220	1,350	9.9%
LOS ANGELES	4,995,000	4,560,000	435,000	8.7%
MADERA	65,600	58,400	7,200	11.0%
MARIN	140,100	133,000	7,000	5.0%
MARIPOSA	9,160	8,320	840	9.2%
MENDOCINO	44,390	40,900	3,490	7.9%
MERCED	109,100	94,600	14,500	13.3%
MODOC	4,030	3,580	450	11.2%
MONO	7,810	7,190	620	8.0%
MONTEREY	213,500	194,800	18,700	8.8%
NAPA	75,300	70,400	4,900	6.5%
NEVADA	51,450	47,470	3,980	7.7%
ORANGE	1,638,700	1,538,300	100,300	6.1%
PLACER	178,600	165,100	13,500	7.6%
PLUMAS	10,780	9,560	1,220	11.3%
RIVERSIDE	930,000	838,400	91,600	9.8%
SACRAMENTO	707,300	649,900	57,300	8.1%
SAN BENITO	26,000	23,500	2,500	9.7%
SAN BERNARDINO	901,900	820,100	81,800	9.1%
SAN DIEGO	1,577,200	1,468,700	108,500	6.9%
SAN FRANCISCO	447,800	420,600	27,300	6.1%
SAN JOAQUIN	305,100	268,600	36,400	11.9%
SAN LUIS OBISPO	138,600	129,500	9,100	6.6%
SAN MATEO	392,000	370,300	21,800	5.5%
SANTA BARBARA	223,600	209,600	14,000	6.3%
SANTA CLARA	884,700	821,900	62,800	7.1%
SANTA CRUZ	153,500	141,100	12,400	8.1%
SHASTA	87,000	77,300	9,600	11.1%
SIERRA	1,720	1,530	190	11.3%
SISKIYOU	19,440	17,070	2,370	12.2%
SOLANO	216,600	199,400	17,200	7.9%
SONOMA	270,500	252,900	17,500	6.5%
STANISLAUS	239,100	209,500	29,600	12.4%
SUTTER	43,200	37,000	6,300	14.5%
TEHAMA	26,300	23,650	2,650	10.1%
TRINITY	5,210	4,530	680	13.1%
TULARE	197,800	173,000	24,700	12.5%
TUOLUMNE	26,910	24,560	2,360	8.8%
VENTURA	434,300	402,200	32,100	7.4%
YOLO	99,500	90,600	8,900	9.0%
YUBA	28,000	24,400	3,600	12.8%