

# Central Valley Business Times

California's unemployment rate drops to 6.3 percent

SACRAMENTO

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- Nonfarm payroll jobs increase by 22,900 in June
- Rate drops in most Valley counties



California's unemployment rate decreased to 6.3 percent in June, and nonfarm payroll jobs increased by 22,900 during the month for a total gain of 1,947,700 jobs since the recovery from the Great Recession began in February 2010, according to data released Friday by the California Employment Development Department from two separate surveys.

The U.S. unemployment rate also decreased in June to 5.3 percent.

In May, the state's unemployment rate was 6.4 percent, and in June 2014, the unemployment rate was 7.5 percent. The unemployment rate is derived from a federal survey of 5,500 California households.

Nonfarm jobs in California totaled 16,069,000 in June, an increase of 22,900 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, June 2014 to June 2015, shows an increase of 461,800 jobs (up 3.0 percent).

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 June was 17,848,000, an increase of 35,000 from May, and up 483,000 from the employment total in June of last year.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,195,000 – down by 18,000 over the month, and down by 217,000 compared with June of last year.

Here are the JUNE unemployment rates for Central Valley counties with May's percentages in (parentheses):

- Butte: 7.0 percent; (6.9 percent)
- Fresno: 9.5 percent; (9.8 percent)
- Kern: 9.9 percent; (10.0 percent)
- Kings: 10.2 percent; (10.3 percent)
- Madera: 9.5 percent; (9.8 percent)
- Merced: 10.5 percent; (11.1 percent)
- Sacramento: 5.8 percent; (5.8 percent)

- San Joaquin: 8.6 percent; (8.6 percent)
- Stanislaus: 9.3 percent; (9.6 percent)
- Tulare: 11.0 percent; (11.0 percent)
- Yolo: 6.0 percent; (6.1 percent)
- Yuba: 8.7 percent; (9.0 percent)

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 16,069,000 in June, a net gain of 22,900 jobs since the May survey. This followed a gain of 46,200 jobs (as revised) in May.

Six categories (manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; professional and business services; educational and health services; and other services) added jobs over the month, gaining 33,000 jobs. Professional and business services posted the largest increase over the month, adding 12,700 jobs.

Five categories (mining and logging; construction; information; leisure and hospitality; and government) reported job declines over the month, down 10,100 jobs. Leisure and hospitality posted the largest decrease over the month, down 5,800 jobs.

In a year-over-year comparison (June 2014 to June 2015), nonfarm payroll employment in California increased by 461,800 jobs (up 3.0 percent).

Ten categories (construction; manufacturing; 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 463,800 jobs. Professional and business services posted the largest gains on a numerical basis, adding 133,100 jobs (up 5.5 percent). Construction posted the largest gains on a percentage basis, up 7.0 percent (adding 47,000 jobs).

One category, mining and logging, posted job declines over the year, down 2,000 jobs (a 6.4 percent decrease).

In related data, the EDD reported that there were 362,157 people receiving regular Unemployment Insurance benefits during the June survey week. This compares with 379,996 in May and 418,927 in June of last year. At the same time, new claims for Unemployment Insurance were 45,591 in June, compared with 42,929 in May and 62,749 in June of last year.