

# California posts solid jobs growth; unemployment rate falls to 6.1%

By Shan  
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The California unemployment rate fell to 6.1% in August from 6.2% the previous month -- the lowest level since January 2008 -- while employers added a healthy 36,200 net new jobs.

Nationwide, the jobless rate slid to 5.1% in August, down from 5.3% the month before, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Since August 2014, the Golden State has added 470,000 net new jobs, a 3% annual growth rate that outpaced the national average of 2.1%. A year ago, the state unemployment rate was 7.4%.

California jobs, Aug. 2015

"California scored another very impressive gain in jobs," said Lynn Reaser, an economist at Point Loma Nazarene University. "Despite various headwinds, especially those caused by the slowdown in China and emerging markets, California's economy continues to show solid momentum."

The increase in jobs last month came after a robust showing in June, although that figure was revised slightly down to 80,500.

The government sector showed the biggest month-over-month gain, with 31,300 added in August.

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The information sector, which includes the entertainment industry and parts of the tech industry tied to Silicon Valley, added 1,000 net new jobs. Other industries showing strong growth include leisure and hospitality, with 10,600 new jobs, and the trade, transportation and utilities sector, which added 7,900 positions.

## FOR THE RECORD

**Sept. 18, 8:36 a.m.:** An earlier version of this post stated the information sector gained 12,000 jobs in August. That is the annual growth. The month-over-month increase was 1,000.

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Two major industries showed the most job losses: professional and businesses services shed 11,200 positions, while manufacturing lost 7,100 jobs.

Los Angeles County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell in August to 6.9%, from 7.2% in July. Total nonfarm employment climbed 7,900, boosted in large part by an early start to the academic year for public schools, which sent government payrolls up 5,700.

In San Francisco County, where a robust tech sector has spurred strong job growth, the unemployment rate fell to

3.5% from 3.7%. In Imperial County, which has dealt with stubbornly high joblessness, the unemployment rate clocked in at 23.7%.

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## **UPDATE**

**12:12 p.m.:** This article has been updated with additional details.

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