



California unemployment holds at record low 3.9 percent in December

- *Employers add 12,600 nonfarm jobs as record job expansion continues*
- *Central Valley sees jobless rates much higher*

California's unemployment rate held fast at its record low of 3.9 percent in December as the state's private, non-farm employers added 12,600 payroll jobs, according to data released Friday by the California Employment Development Department.

In the Central Valley, only Sacramento County had a jobless rate less than the state's average. Adjacent Yolo County was at the state average while all other Valley counties had unemployment rates greater than the state average.

The job gains in December contribute to a record job expansion in California of 118 months, surpassing the long expansion of the 1960s. California has gained

3,422,900 jobs since the current expansion began after the bottom of the Great Recession had been reached in February 2010, accounting for more than 15 percent of the nation's 22,688,000 job gain over the same timeframe.

California's Labor Market, by the Numbers

- The state's unemployment remained at 3.9 percent in December, maintaining a record low in a data series going back to the 1970s. The number of unemployed Californians is the lowest since 1989, despite large gains in statewide population since.
- The nation's unemployment rate also remained unchanged in December, holding at 3.5 percent.
- December's 12,600 nonfarm payroll jobs gain was driven by growth in six of California's 11 industry sectors. Professional & Business Services (6,500) posted the biggest jobs gain, fueled mostly by scientific research and development and advertising and related services. Educational & Health Services (5,200) also did well with job gains in dental offices and in-home supportive services leading the way.
- Information, one of November's top job-gaining sectors, posted December's biggest jobs loss (-3,900) mainly due to weakness last month in the motion picture and sound recording subsector.

Total Nonfarm Payroll Jobs

(From a monthly survey of approximately 80,000 California businesses that estimates jobs in the economy)

Total nonfarm jobs in California's 11 major industries totaled 17,612,500 in December – a net gain of 12,600 jobs from November. This followed a revised gain of 24,000 jobs in November.

Total nonfarm jobs increased by 310,300 jobs (a 1.8 percent increase) from December 2018 to December 2019 compared to the U.S. annual gain of 2,108,000 jobs (a 1.4 percent increase).

Employment and Unemployment in California

(Based on monthly federal survey of 5,100 California households which focuses on workers in the economy)

The number of Californians holding jobs in December was 18,786,800, an increase of 56,400 from November and up 81,800 from the employment total in December of last year.

The number of unemployed Californians was 757,700 in December, a decrease of 4,100 over the month and down by 44,900 compared with December of last year.

Here are December's unemployment rates for Central Valley counties:

- Butte – 4.2 percent
- Fresno – 6.9 percent
- Kern – 7.2 percent
- Kings – 7.7 percent

- Madera – 6.8 percent
- Merced – 7.9 percent
- Sacramento – 3.2 percent
- San Joaquin – 5.7 percent
- Stanislaus – 5.6 percent
- Tulare – 9.3 percent
- Yolo – 3.9 percent
- Yuba – 5.8 percent

San Mateo County's unemployment rate of 1.8 percent indicates that virtually no one was jobless there in December, whereas one out of five adults (19.4 percent) in Imperial County was jobless in December.

In related data that figures into the state's unemployment rate, there were 327,751 people receiving unemployment insurance benefits during the survey week in December compared to 293,595 in November and 338,747 people in December 2018. Concurrently, 50,116 people filed new claims in December which was a month-over increase of 680 people.