

## California Employment Report for August 2024

The Center for Jobs and the Economy has released our initial analysis of the June Employment Report from the California Employment Development Department. For additional information and data about the California economy visit [www.centerforjobs.org/ca](http://www.centerforjobs.org/ca).

### Mixed Results in July Data

The August numbers were positive but at relatively modest levels. Although revisions to the July numbers show stronger growth that month, nonfarm wage and salary jobs grew by only 6,800 in August, the 8<sup>th</sup> highest level among the states. Employment gains were 8,700.

The unemployment rate of 5.3% remained at the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst among the states, tied with Illinois and just ahead of Nevada. The number of unemployed again was above 1 million for the 8<sup>th</sup> month in a row, posting the worst levels since the pandemic months in 2021. The 0.1 point rise in the unemployment rate, however, came as the labor force grew by 20,000, with both the rise in the number of employed and unemployed reflecting new entrants.

While the administration has remained focused on arguing that higher wages somehow have not affected jobs in Limited-Service Restaurants, jobs in some of core base industries affecting overall economic performance and budget revenues came in weaker. Using the seasonally adjusted series, Manufacturing was down 4,700 for the month, down 27,900 from August 2023, and overall down 51,500 from the pre-pandemic high. Information as the result of tech industry layoffs and continuing effects from the movie/tv production strike was off 5,100 for the month, 21,200 for the year, and 109,800 from the peak. Financial Activities showed little change (-100) for the month, but a loss of 4,100 for the year, and 38,200 from the peak. Using the unadjusted series, Transportation & Warehousing—a key industry providing middle class wage jobs especially for workers with a high school education or less—fared somewhat better with a gain of 300 for the month and 8,500 for the year, but was down 49,700 from the pre-pandemic high.

### California Labor Force

Seasonally Adjusted	California		US	
	Aug 2024	Change from Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Change from Jul 2024
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	0.1	4.2%	-0.1
Labor Force	19,382,700	0.1%	168,549,000	0.1%
Participation Rate	62.1%	0.1	62.7%	0.0
Employment	18,362,700	0.0%	161,434,000	0.1%
Unemployment	1,020,000	1.1%	7,115,000	-0.7%

Not Seasonally Adjusted	California		US	
	Aug 2024	Change from Aug 2023	Aug 2024	Change from Aug 2023
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	0.7	4.4%	0.5

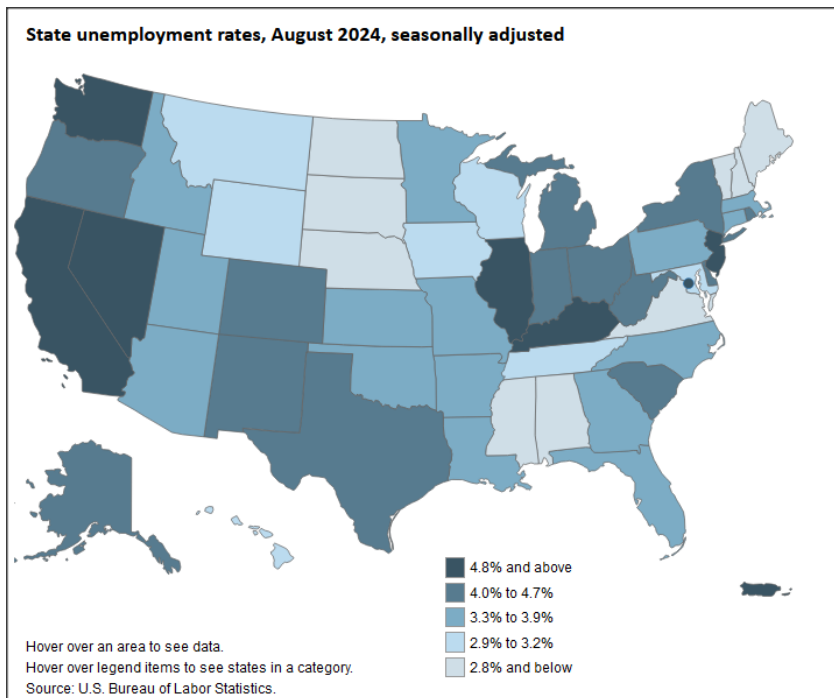
Labor Force	19,489,400	0.7%	168,763,000	0.4%
Participation Rate	62.4%	0.3	62.8%	-0.1
Employment	18,348,900	0.0%	161,348,000	0.0%
Unemployment	1,140,500	13.9%	7,415,000	12.0%

**5.3%**

**CA Unemployment  
Rate**

California's reported unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) in edged up 0.1 point to 5.3%. The US rate dipped 0.1 point to 4.2%.

Among the states, California again had the second highest unemployment rate, tied with Illinois and just behind Nevada.



Interactive Original: <https://www.bls.gov/charts/state-employment-and-unemployment/change-in-nonfarm-employment-by-state-map.htm>

**8.7k**

**CA Employment**

Employment rose by 8,700 (seasonally adjusted), with the total employment loss since the previous peak in May 2023 at 79,400.

US employment rose by 168,000.

California unemployment edged up by 11,300, while US unemployment dropped by 48,000. **California unemployment has been above 1 million for the past 8 months in a row, the highest levels since the pandemic period in 2021.**

62.1  
%

CA Labor Force  
Participation Rate

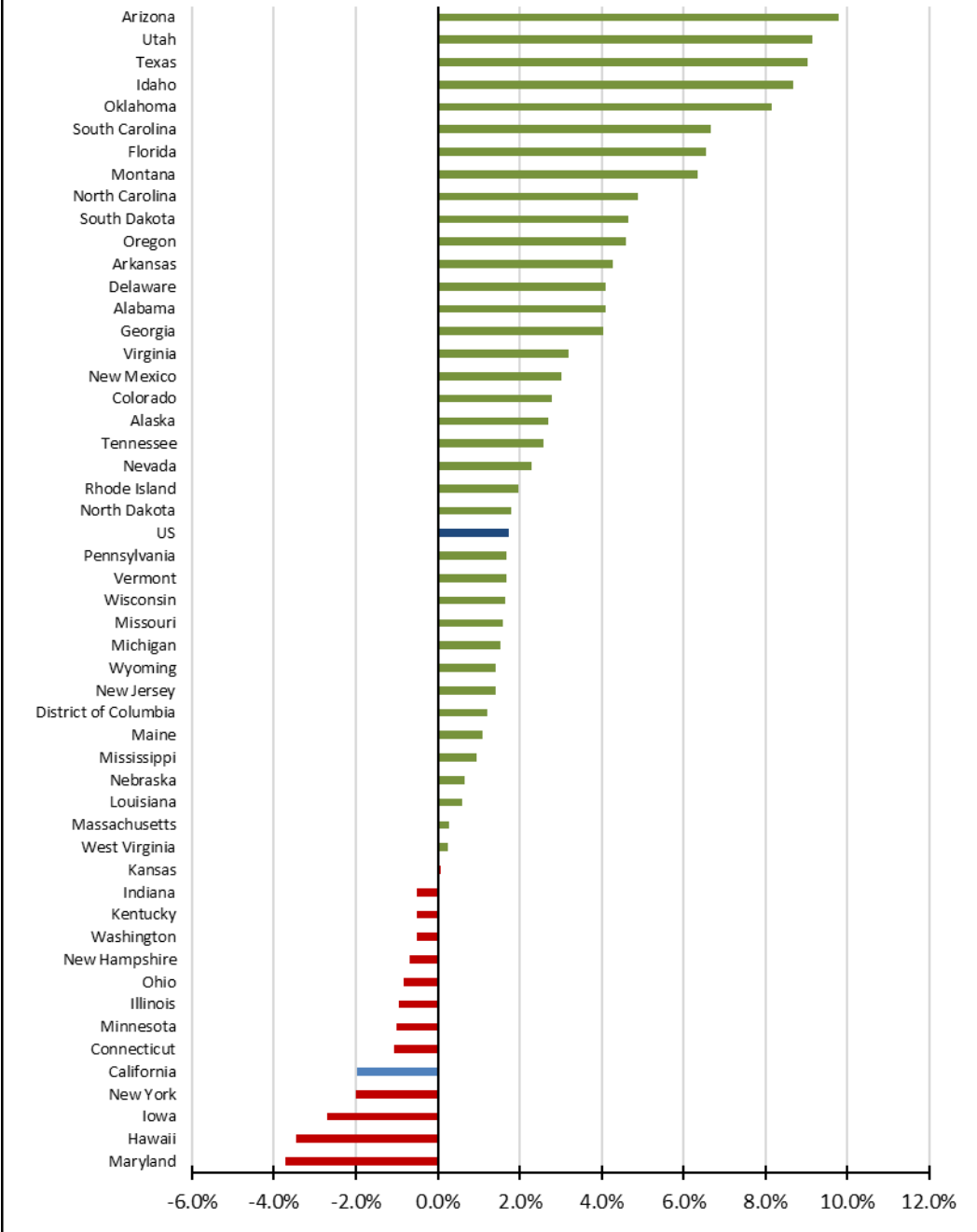
California labor force (seasonally adjusted) rose by 20,000, while the labor force participation rate was up 0.1 point to 62.1%. The US labor force rose 120,000, while the participation rate was unchanged at 62.7%.

### Recovery Progress: CA Employment vs. Other States

Compared to the pre-pandemic peak in February 2020, California's relative ranking for employment recovery improved marginally to 5<sup>th</sup> lowest among the states and DC.

### Employment: August 2024 vs. February 2020

Source: BLS, seasonally adjusted



### Nonfarm Jobs

**6.8k**

**Nonfarm Jobs  
Change**

Nonfarm wage and salary jobs rose 6,800 in the preliminary results for August, while the July gains were adjusted up by 8,000 to 29,900.

For the US as a whole, nonfarm jobs rose 142,000 in August.

The seasonally adjusted numbers for California showed gains in 10 industries and losses in. Increases were led by population-serving services in Healthcare & Social Assistance (11,500), Accommodation & Food Services (4,600), and Other Services (3,900). Losses in contrast were in the state's core base industries, led by Private Educational Services (-6,600), Information (-5,100), and Manufacturing (-4,700).

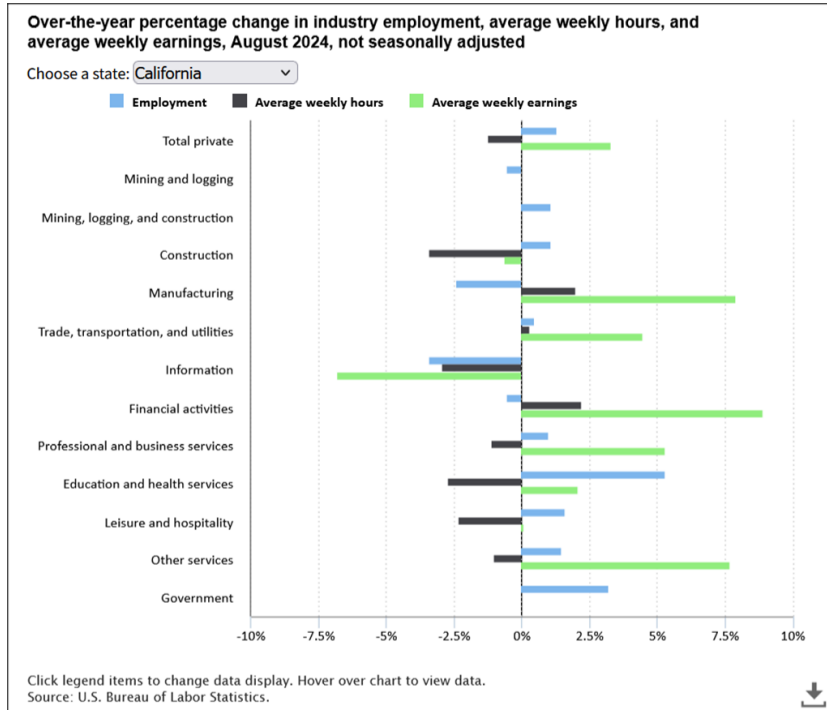
## Wages & Hours

**3.3%**

**12-month Change  
in Average Weekly  
Earnings**

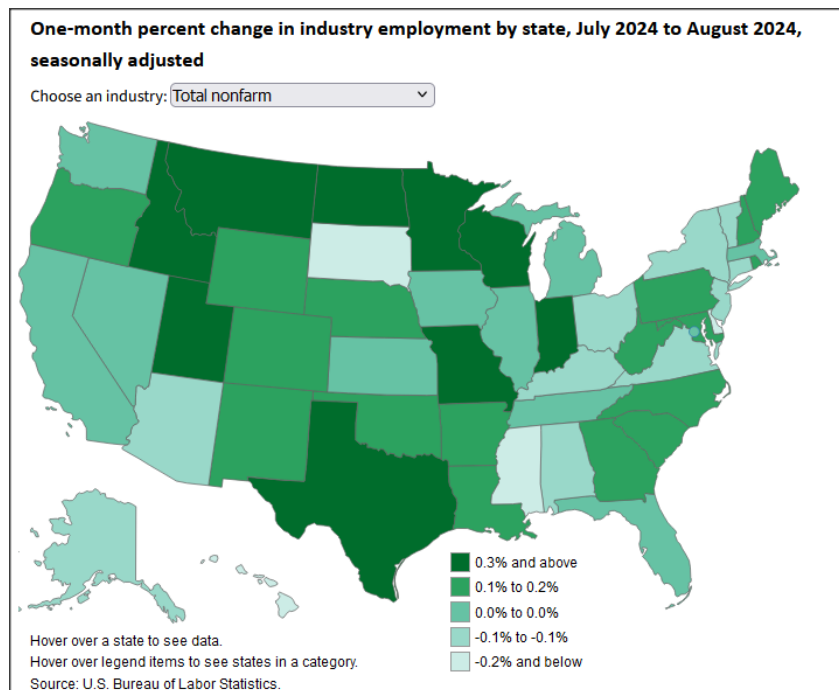
Turning to the seasonally unadjusted series, average weekly earnings rose 3.3% over the year, the 24<sup>th</sup> highest rate among the states and DC. Earnings growth was dampened slightly by average weekly hours, which dipped 1.2% over the year, the 17<sup>th</sup> lowest rate among the states.

Looking at industries, highest earnings growth over the year was in Financial Activities, Manufacturing, and Information. Leisure & Hospitality, which contains restaurants, saw weekly earnings growth of only 0.1% as average weekly hours dropped 2.3%.



Interactive Original: <https://www.bls.gov/charts/state-employment-and-unemployment/change-in-nonfarm-employment-by-state-map.htm>

## Recovery Progress: CA Nonfarm Jobs vs. Other States



Interactive Original: <https://www.bls.gov/charts/state-employment-and-unemployment/change-in-nonfarm-employment-by-state-map.htm>

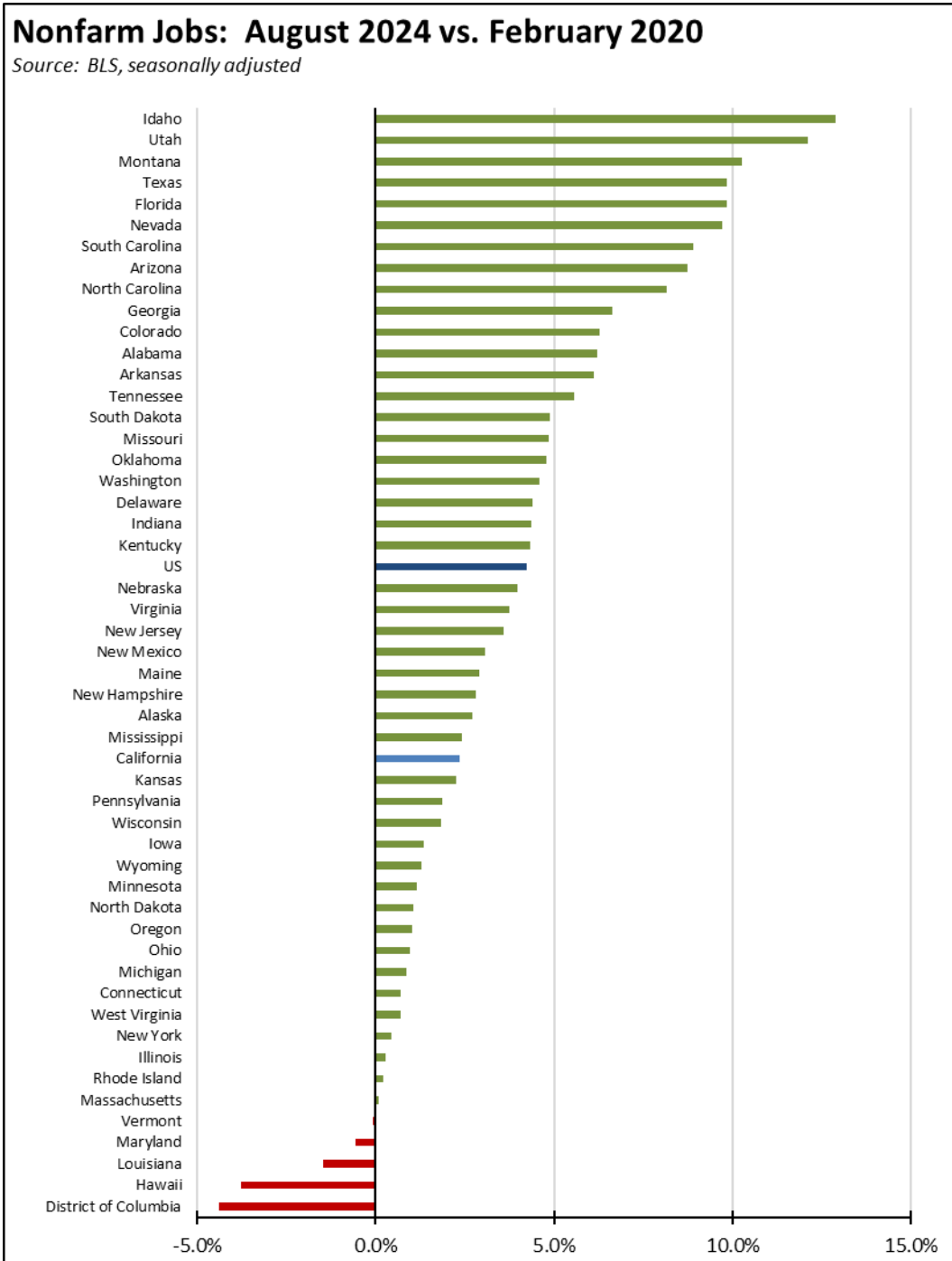
[employment-by-state-map.htm](https://www.calbizroundtable.com/employment-by-state-map.htm)

California’s monthly job performance in August was the 8<sup>th</sup> highest among the states and DC. Jobs growth instead was led by Texas with 78,000, Indiana with 19,800, and Minnesota with 14,400. The Texas number included some bounce-back from Hurricane Beryl.

Compared to the pre-pandemic peak, California has now gained a net 414,00 nonfarm jobs, remaining in 3<sup>rd</sup> place just ahead of much smaller North Carolina. As the results of these shifts, California nonfarm jobs have dropped from 11.6% to 11.4% of the US total, Texas growing from 8.5% to 9.0%, and Florida from 6.0% to 6.3% in just over 4 years.

Nonfarm Job Gains, Feb 2020 - Aug 2024	
Texas	1,276,100
Florida	893,800
California	414,000
North Carolina	379,500
Georgia	309,700

Adjusted for size, the July revisions helped California notch up to 30<sup>th</sup> highest, still below the US average. Only 4 states and DC remain below their pre-pandemic peaks.



### Nonfarm Jobs by Region

By region, job gains were concentrated in Central and Sacramento Valleys, while the budget-critical Bay Area showed a modest gain of 1,100. Los Angeles and Orange County regions were essentially unchanged.

### Nonfarm Jobs by Region

Source: EDD, seasonally adjusted



	Change from July 2024	Change from February 2020
Inland Empire	900	120,100
Central Valley	4,300	106,900
Sacramento	3,500	61,900
San Diego	1,300	48,700
Orange County	-200	23,200
Central Coast	200	-6,800
Los Angeles	-200	-37,600
Bay Area	1,100	-53,300

Because the data in the table is seasonally adjusted, the numbers should be considered as the total for the counties in each region rather than the regional number. This job series also is not available for all areas in California.

## Unemployment Rates by Region

Looking at employment change over the year, the Bay Area continued to show losses while portions of Southern California and the Central Valley again showed gains.

### Employment by Region

Source: EDD, not seasonally adjusted

	Change from Aug 2023
Los Angeles	30,300
Inland Empire	29,300
Central Valley	28,500
Sacramento	9,710
Upstate California	9,160
Central Sierra	1,840
San Diego/Imperial	-4,500
Orange County	-8,000
Central Coast	-13,600
Bay Area	-80,700

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) remain higher most regions compared to pre-pandemic February 2020 levels.

### Unemployment Rate by Region

Source: EDD, not seasonally adjusted

	Aug-24	Feb-20
California	5.9	4.3
Orange County	4.5	2.8
Bay Area	4.7	2.7
Central Sierra	5.0	4.5

Sacramento	5.2	3.7
Central Coast	5.4	7.0
San Diego/Imperial	5.7	3.8
Inland Empire	6.0	3.9
Upstate California	6.3	6.3
Los Angeles	6.5	4.3
Central Valley	8.0	8.4

## Counties with Double-Digit Unemployment

2

Counties with  
Unemployment Above  
10%

The number of counties with an unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) at 10% or more edged down to 2. The unadjusted rates ranged from 4.0% in San Mateo and Inyo to 20.2% in Imperial.

## California MSAs in the 25 Highest Unemployment Rates

10

MSAs in the Bottom 25 by  
Unemployment Rate

The number of California MSAs in the top 25 with the highest unemployment rates nationally remained unchanged at 10 in July.

MSA	Unemp. Rate June 2024	Rank (out of 389)
El Centro MSA	18.7%	389
Visalia-Porterville MSA	10.9%	387
Merced MSA	9.6%	386
Bakersfield MSA	9.5%	385
Hanford-Corcoran MSA	8.7%	384
Madera MSA	8.1%	382
Fresno MSA	8.1%	382
Yuba City MSA	7.8%	379
Modesto MSA	7.5%	378
Stockton-Lodi MSA	7.0%	375

## Unemployment Rate by Legislative District

The estimated unemployment rates are shown below for the highest and lowest districts. The full data and methodology are available on the Center's website.

Lowest	CD11 Pelosi (D)	4.0	SD13 Becker (D)	3.7	AD23 Berman (D)	3.6	
	CD40 Kim (R)	4.0	SD39 Atkins (D)	4.0	AD76 Maienschein (D)	3.7	
	CD50 Peters (D)	4.1	SD40 Jones (R)	4.0	AD19 Ting (D)	3.7	
	CD15 Mullin (D)	4.1	SD37 Min (D)	4.1	AD26 Low (D)	3.9	
	CD16 Eshoo (D)	4.1	SD38 Blakespear (D)	4.1	AD21 Papan (D)	4.0	
	CD47 Porter (D)	4.4	SD11 Wiener (D)	4.2	AD16 Bauer-Kahan (D)	4.0	
	CD49 Levin (D)	4.4	SD15 Cortese (D)	4.6	AD72 Dixon (R)	4.1	
	CD17 Khanna (D)	4.4	SD10 Wahab (D)	4.7	AD77 Boerner Horvath (D)	4.3	
	CD02 Huffman (D)	4.5	SD02 McGuire (D)	4.7	AD68 Valencia (D)	4.4	
	CD03 Kiley (R)	4.5	SD01 Dahle (R)	4.7	AD17 Haney (D)	4.4	
	Highest	CD24 Carbajal (D)	7.1	SD05 Eggman (D)	6.6	AD52 Carrillo (D)	7.5
		CD46 Correa (D)	7.3	SD20 Menjivar (D)	6.9	AD44 Friedman (D)	7.7
		CD14 Swalwell (D)	7.3	SD26 Durazo (D)	7.2	AD65 Gipson (D)	7.9
CD19 Panetta (D)		7.5	SD35 Bradford (D)	7.5	AD39 Carrillo (D)	8.0	
CD48 Issa (R)		7.8	SD21 Wilk (R)	7.5	AD27 Soria (D)	9.1	
CD51 Jacobs (D)		8.0	SD28 Smallwood-Cuevas (D)	7.6	AD31 Arambula (D)	9.2	
CD45 Steel (R)		8.8	SD33 Gonzalez (D)	7.7	AD57 Jones-Sawyer (D)	9.3	
CD38 Sánchez (D)		9.0	SD14 Caballero (D)	9.2	AD35 Bains (D)	9.4	
CD04 Thompson (D)		10.3	SD18 Padilla (D)	9.5	AD33 Mathis (R)	10.6	
CD35 Torres (D)		10.4	SD16 Hurtado (D)	10.2	AD36 Garcia (D)	12.5	