

## California Employment Report for April 2024

The Center for Jobs and the Economy has released our initial analysis of the February 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).

### Tepid Results in April Data

Both the nonfarm job and employment numbers showed positive gains in April, but at relatively modest levels. Nonfarm jobs rose by 5,200, and were not strong enough to even offset the 10,100 downward adjustment to the March gains. In the first 4 months of 2024, job gains have averaged 10,600, better than the 2,300 average loss in the same period during 2023 but below the overall 20,800 average during pre-pandemic 2019.

Employment gains were also modest at 5,800, but were only the second positive posting since last June. Although unemployment also showed little change, California again showed the highest unemployment rate among the states and DC for the third month in a row.

### California Labor Force

Seasonally Adjusted	California		US	
	Apr 2024	Change from Mar 2024	Apr 2024	Change from Mar 2024
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	0.0	3.9%	0.1
Labor Force	19,346,100	0.0%	167,982,000	0.1%
Participation Rate	62.0%	0.0	62.7%	0.0
Employment	18,319,100	0.0%	161,491,000	0.0%
Unemployment	1,027,000	-0.6%	6,492,000	1.0%

Not Seasonally Adjusted	California		US	
	Apr 2024	Change from Apr 2023	Apr 2024	Change from Apr 2023
Unemployment Rate	4.8%	0.7	3.5%	0.4
Labor Force	19,213,200	0.1%	167,484,000	0.8%
Participation Rate	61.6%	-0.1	62.5%	0.1
Employment	18,281,900	-0.7%	161,590,000	0.3%
Unemployment	931,400	17.2%	5,894,000	14.5%

**5.3%**

CA Unemployment  
Rate

California's reported unemployment rate (seasonally adjusted) in April was again unchanged at 5.3%. The US rate rose 0.1 point to 3.9%.

California again had the highest unemployment rate among the states and DC.

5.8k

CA Employment

Employment rose marginally by 5,800 (seasonally adjusted), with the total employment loss since April 2023 at 115,100.

US employment rose by 25,000.

California unemployment edged down 5,9000, while US unemployment rose by 63,000. **California unemployment has remained above the 1 million mark for the past 4 months in a row.**

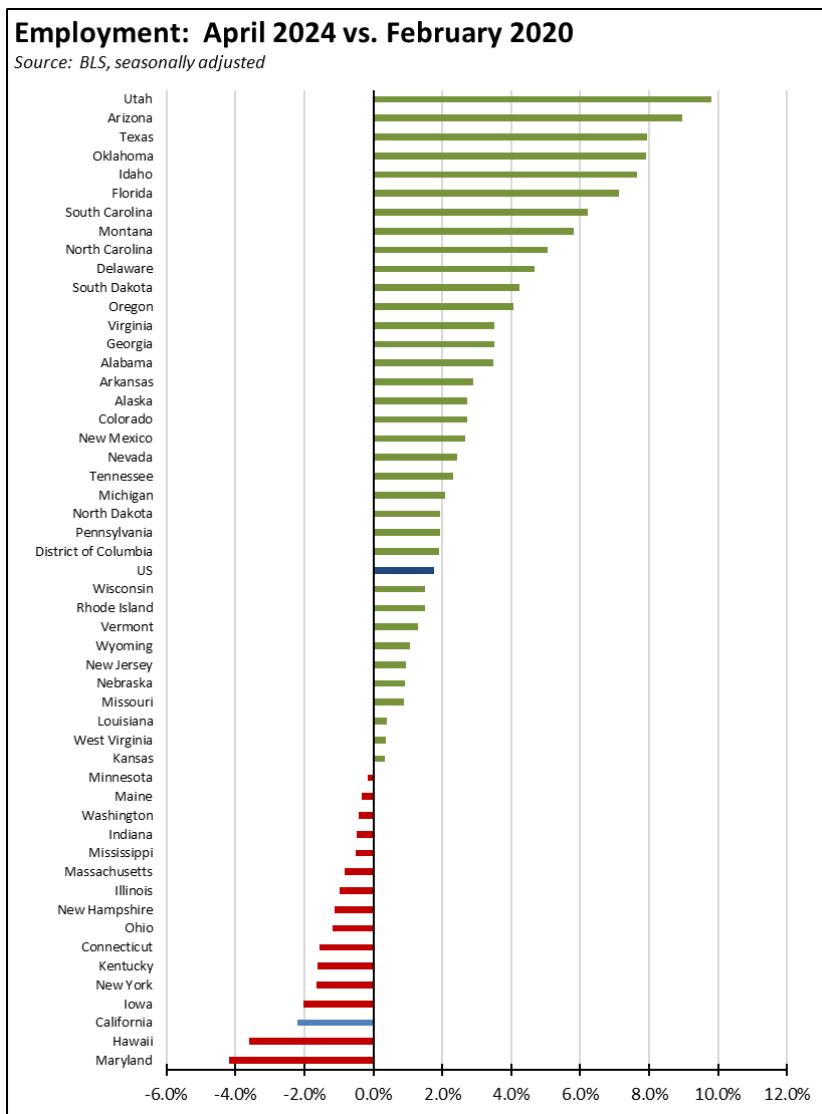
62.0%

CA Labor Force  
Participation Rate

California labor force (seasonally adjusted) remained essentially unchanged with a loss of only 100, while the labor force participation rate was level at 62.0%. The US labor force rose 87,000, 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 sustained weakness in employment recovery remained at the 3<sup>rd</sup> lowest among the states and DC.



## Nonfarm Jobs

**5.2k**

Nonfarm Jobs  
Change

Nonfarm wage and salary jobs edged up 5,200 in the preliminary results for April, not even offsetting the 10,100 downward revision of the March gain to 18,200.






For the US as a whole, nonfarm jobs rose 175,000 in April.

The seasonally adjusted numbers for California showed gains in 8 industries, losses in 9, and no change in Other Services. Increases were led by Healthcare & Social Assistance (10,100), and Accommodation & Food Services (4,500), and Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities (3,700). Losses were led by Construction (-6,000), Manufacturing (-5,300), and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (-3,600).

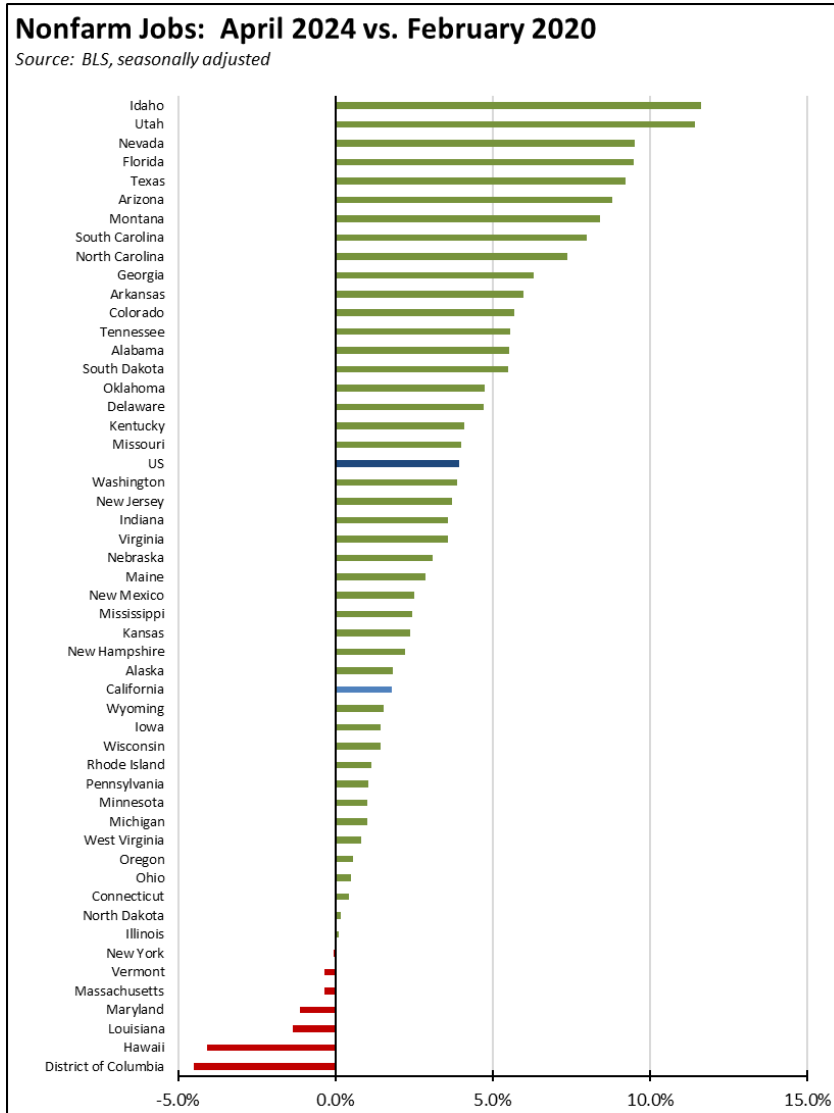
## Recovery Progress: CA Nonfarm Jobs vs. Other States

California’s monthly job performance in April was the 16<sup>th</sup> highest among the states and DC. Florida was highest with a gain of 45.3k, followed by Texas at 42.6k and Missouri at 16.7k.

Compared to the pre-pandemic peak, California has now gained a net 342,200 nonfarm jobs, still in 4<sup>th</sup> place among the states and DC but only 19,900 ahead of 5<sup>th</sup> place Georgia.

	Nonfarm Job Gains, Feb 2020 - Apr 2024	
Texas	1,195,900	
Florida	862,500	
North Carolina	342,200	
California	314,300	
Georgia	294,400	

Adjusted for size, California remained at 31st highest, below the US average.



## Nonfarm Jobs by Region

By region, job gains were concentrated in Los Angeles and Inland Empire. The budget-critical Bay Area saw only a marginal gain of 300 nonfarm jobs, and remains 55,800 below the pre-pandemic peak.

### Nonfarm Jobs by Region

Source: EDD, seasonally adjusted

	Change from March 2024	Change from February 2020
Inland Empire	2,600	107,500
Central Valley	-300	94,600
Sacramento	900	56,700
San Diego	1,000	42,400
Orange County	-2,700	10,600
Central Coast	300	-11,200
Bay Area	300	-55,800
Los Angeles	4,700	-57,800

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, Central Coast was the only region to post a monthly gain.

	Change from Mar 2024
Central Coast	10,400
Central Valley	7,600
Central Sierra	-1,010
Upstate California	-2,160
Sacramento	-5,920
San Diego/Imperial	-11,000
Orange County	-13,900
Inland Empire	-17,000
Los Angeles	-22,100
Bay Area	-34,500

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) remain higher in all regions except the Central Coast compared to pre-pandemic February 2020 levels.

**Unemployment Rate by Region**

*Source: EDD, not seasonally adjusted*

	<b>Apr-24</b>	<b>Feb-20</b>
California	4.8	4.3
Orange County	3.7	2.8
Bay Area	3.9	2.7
Sacramento	4.4	3.7
Los Angeles	4.5	4.3
San Diego/Imperial	4.6	3.8
Central Sierra	4.8	4.5
Inland Empire	4.8	3.9
Central Coast	6.4	7.0
Upstate California	6.4	6.3

**Counties with Double-Digit Unemployment**

**4**

**Counties with  
Unemployment Above  
10%**

The number of counties with an unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) at 10% or more dropped to 4. The unadjusted rates ranged from 3.3% in San Mateo to 15.7% in Imperial.

**California MSAs in the 25 Highest Unemployment Rates**

**14**

**MSAs in the Bottom  
25 by Unemployment  
Rate**

Nationally, 14 MSAs were in the 25 with the highest unemployment rates in March, including the 4 worst MSAs.

MSA	Unemp. Rate March 2024	Rank (out of 389)
El Centro MSA	16.1%	389
Visalia-Porterville MSA	12.0%	388
Merced MSA	11.5%	387
Salinas MSA	10.5%	386
Bakersfield MSA	10.1%	384
Hanford-Corcoran MSA	10.0%	383
Yuba City MSA	9.1%	381
Fresno MSA	9.1%	381
Madera MSA	8.9%	380
Santa Cruz-Watsonville MSA	7.4%	376
Modesto MSA	7.4%	376
Stockton-Lodi MSA	7.1%	374
Chico MSA	6.4%	370
Redding MSA	6.3%	369

## 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.

April 2024: Unemployment Rate by Legislative District	
Legislator	Highest Unemployment Rate
CD10 DeSaulnier (D)	5.5
CD48 Issa (R)	6.2
CD46 Correa (D)	6.2
CD02 Huffman (D)	6.5
CD14 Swalwell (D)	6.8
CD51 Jacobs (D)	7.3
CD45 Steel (R)	8.0
CD35 Torres (D)	9.6
CD03 Kiley (R)	9.8
CD24 Carbajal (D)	11.0
SD28 Smallwood-Cuevas (D)	5.1
SD33 Gonzalez (D)	5.3
SD21 Wilk (R)	5.5
SD17 Laird (D)	5.7
SD04 Alvarado-Gil (D)	6.0
SD05 Eggman (D)	6.5
SD12 Grove (R)	6.9

April 2024: Unemployment Rate by Legislative District	
Legislator	Lowest Unemployment Rate
CD40 Kim (R)	3.3
CD11 Pelosi (D)	3.4
CD15 Mullin (D)	3.4
CD50 Peters (D)	3.4
CD16 Eshoo (D)	3.5
CD38 Sánchez (D)	3.5
CD47 Porter (D)	3.6
CD49 Levin (D)	3.6
CD28 Chu (D)	3.6
CD17 Khanna (D)	3.7
SD13 Becker (D)	3.1
SD39 Atkins (D)	3.3
SD40 Jones (R)	3.3
SD37 Min (D)	3.3
SD38 Blakespear (D)	3.4
SD11 Wiener (D)	3.5
SD30 Archuleta (D)	3.7

SD18 Padilla (D)	7.5
SD14 Caballero (D)	10.3
SD16 Hurtado (D)	10.9
AD13 Villapudua (D)	6.4
AD03 Gallagher (R)	6.7
AD22 Alanis (R)	7.3
AD29 Rivas (D)	7.5
AD32 Fong (R)	7.7
AD36 Garcia (D)	9.7
AD35 Bains (D)	10.1
AD31 Arambula (D)	10.1
AD27 Soria (D)	10.3
AD33 Mathis (R)	11.3

SD34 Umberg (D)	3.9
SD10 Wahab (D)	3.9
SD36 Nguyen (R)	3.9
AD23 Berman (D)	3.0
AD76 Maienschein (D)	3.0
AD19 Ting (D)	3.1
AD72 Dixon (R)	3.2
AD66 Muratsuchi (D)	3.2
AD26 Low (D)	3.3
AD21 Papan (D)	3.3
AD16 Bauer-Kahan (D)	3.4
AD77 Boerner (D)	3.5
AD68 Valencia (D)	3.5