California Economic Update

An Analysis of the Current State of California's Economy

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California Unemployment Rate

- California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 8.3 percent in April 2021. California's unemployment rate fell by 7.7 percentage points from its peak of 16.0 percent in April 2020 over the last year of recovery. Despite this improvement, California's April unemployment rate remained 4.0 percentage points higher than it was in February 2020, which was before the pandemic hit.

California Civilian Unemployment

- The number of unemployed Californians fell by 3,000 persons to 1,576,000 persons in April 2021. While a small decrease only, it was nevertheless the state's 11th unemployment decrease in the last 12 months. Although civilian unemployment fell by 1,390,000 persons from its peak in April 2020 through April 2021, it remained 731,000 persons higher than its pre-pandemic level in February 2020.

California Civilian Employment

- California civilian employment increased by 37,000 persons to 17,378,000 persons in April 2021. Despite growing by 1,849,000 persons from its pandemic low in May 2020 through April 2021, civilian employment remained 1,210,000 persons (6.5 percent) below its pre-pandemic level in February 2020.

California Labor Force Participation Rate

- California's labor force participation rate (LFPR) increased by 0.1 percentage point to 61.0 percent in April 2021. This was 1.8 percentage points higher than its recent record low of 59.2 percent in May and September 2020, but remained 1.5 percentage points lower than its pre-pandemic level in February 2020.

California Total Nonfarm Employment: April 2021

- California added 101,800 nonfarm jobs in April 2021 boosting total nonfarm employment in the state to 16,248,200 jobs. California has added jobs in 10 of the last 12 months, the exceptions being losses in the months of December and January when stricter pandemic restrictions were in effect. In contrast, the state added 390,300 jobs over the three-month period from January through April 2021 after the lifting of the Regional Stay At Home Order and the continued easing of other restrictions.

U.S. and California Job Growth Comparisons

<u>The Pandemic Recession</u>: Change from February Through April 2020

<u>The Recovery</u>: Year-Over Change in Jobs in April 2021

Tracking California's Industry Recovery

Industry Sector Job Changes in California During the Pandemic Shutdown (February-April 2020) and Subsequent Recovery (April 2020-April 2021)
(Thousands of Jobs; Seasonally Adjusted Data)

	The Shutdown	Recovery	
	Job Change: Feb.-Apr. 2020	Job Change: Apr. 2020-Apr. 2021	Share of Jobs Lost Recovered as of Apr. 2021
TOTAL NONFARM JOBS	**-2,714.8**	**1,302.1**	**48.0%**
Construction	-174.7	147.1	84.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	-436.8	353.5	80.9%
Transportation, Warehousing & Utilities	*-48.0*	*84.1*	*175.2%*
Retail Trade	*-313.3*	*238.6*	*76.2%*
Wholesale Trade	*-75.5*	*30.8*	*40.8%*
Professional & Business Services	**-297.6**	**189.2**	**63.6%**
Professional, Scientific & Technical Services	*-91.1*	*75.7*	*83.1%*
Administrative & Support & Waste Services	*-192.0*	*112.6*	*58.6%*
Management of Companies & Enterprises	*-14.5*	*0.9*	*6.2%*
Educational & Health Services	**-284.4**	**180.6**	**63.5%**
Health Care & Social Assistance	*-229.6*	*184.7*	*80.4%*
Educational Services	*-54.8*	*-4.1*	*N/A*
Leisure & Hospitality	-985.5	408.1	41.4%
Accommodation & Food Services	*-816.6*	*370.3*	*45.3%*
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	*-168.9*	*37.8*	*22.4%*
Manufacturing	-121.4	45.8	37.7%
Nondurable Goods	*-62.1*	*24.0*	*38.6%*
Durable Goods	*-59.3*	*21.8*	*36.8%*
Other Services	-198.0	73.9	37.3%
Information	-71.1	15.7	22.1%
Financial Activities	-48.6	7.6	15.6%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	*-37.4*	*6.0*	*16.0%*
Finance & Insurance	*-11.2*	*1.6*	*14.3%*
Mining and Logging	**-1.9**	**-1.3**	**N/A**
Government	**-94.8**	**-118.1**	**N/A**
Federal Government	*2.0*	*0.6*	*N/A*
State Government	*-11.2*	*-20.1*	*N/A*
Local Government	*-85.6*	*-98.6*	*N/A*

Pandemic Impact: Long-Term Unemployed

Pandemic Impact : Unemployment by Age

Pandemic Impact: Unemployment by Gender

Pandemic Impact: Unemployment by Veteran Status

Pandemic Impact: Unemployment for Persons with a Disability (PWD)

California Regional Analysis of Business Establishment Trends in 2020

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Trends in the News: Labor Shortages

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