



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
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NEWS RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment Rate in Santa Barbara County Decreases to 6.7 Percent for the Month of March 2014

The State Employment Development Department (EDD) released today the unemployment rate and other jobs data for the month of March 2014. In Santa Barbara County the unemployment rate decreased to 6.7 percent in March 2014, from a revised 7.2 percent in February 2014, and below the year-ago estimate of 7.4 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 8.4 percent for California and 6.8 percent for the nation during the same period.

The county's unemployment ranking in March, compared to the other 57 counties in California, positioned Santa Barbara County in 10th place behind Alameda, Sonoma and San Luis Obispo County.

Industry sectors in Santa Barbara County gained 4,300 jobs, from the 5,000 positions lost last month. Every industry sector in Santa Barbara County gained positions or remained steady for the month of March. Professional and Business Services gained the most number of positions with 1,200 jobs; Government increased by 600 positions; Leisure and Hospitality was up by 300 jobs; Construction and Manufacturing both gained 100 positions each. All other industries experienced no change in their labor force.

Between March 2013 and March 2014, total employment in Santa Barbara County rose by 2,300 jobs or 1.2 percent. Some of the highlights for this period included:

- Industries posting substantial gains over the year included: Professional and Business Services—up 7.3% or 1,700 jobs; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—up 6.9% or 800 jobs; Management of Companies and Enterprises—up 10.5% or 200 positions; Administrative and Support and Waste Services—up 7.2% or 700 jobs.
- Some of the Industries that lost jobs for this period of time included: Mining and Logging —down 8.3% or 100; Federal Government—minus 200 positions or 5.3% and Arts, Entertainment and Recreation—down 3.2% or 100 jobs.

Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director, Raymond L. McDonald commented, “We are delighted to see our unemployment numbers return to normal; nevertheless, we still continue to work with our community partners and the private industry to find ways to put people back to work” He added, “As an example, the Workforce Investment Board, together with other local government agencies and private organizations, will be hosting the Second Annual Job and Resource Fairs in Lompoc May 1st and Santa Maria June 12th.” He concluded, “We are inviting employers and job seekers alike to come out and join us.”

The number of people unemployed in the county's major cities also decreased. Santa Maria had the most residents unemployed with 4,300 (10.6% of its workforce), followed by Santa Barbara city with 2,700 unemployed (4.7% of its workforce), and Lompoc with 2,400 residents looking for employment (11.9%). The labor force in the county, defined as the number of individual in the workforce looking for employment, grew by 4,800 more workers looking for jobs. This left Santa Barbara County with a labor force of 209,700 workers for the month of March 2014. The cities with the highest labor force continue to be Santa Barbara with 56,800, followed by Santa Maria with 40,400 and Lompoc with 20,500 workers.

Santa Barbara County Unemployment Data for Cities

2014	January	February	March
Santa Barbara County	7.3%	7.1%	6.7%
Lompoc city	12.8%	12.7%	11.9%
Guadalupe city	12.4%	12.3%	11.6%
Santa Maria city	11.3%	11.2%	10.6%
Buellton city	5.2%	5.2%	4.9%
Santa Barbara city	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%
Santa Ynez	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%
Carpinteria city	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%
Goleta city	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%
Solvang city	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%

According to INJCJC, [US Initial Jobless Claims SA](#), the weekly initial jobless claim totals used to calculate local and federal UI (unemployment insurance) ratings is determined by the actual number of people who have filed for Unemployment benefits for the first time in a given period. And the following five (5) eligibility criteria must be met in order to file for Unemployment benefits: 1. meet the requirement of time worked during a 1 year period (full time or not), 2. have become unemployed through no fault of your own (was not fired), 3. must be able to work, no physical or mental holdbacks, 4. must be available for work, and 5. must be actively seeking work.

ABOUT THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF Santa Barbara COUNTY

The Workforce Investment Board, www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org, is dedicated to serving the workforce needs of businesses, adults, laid-off workers and youth throughout Santa Barbara County. The WIB is a public/private partnership created by the Federal Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and is staffed by the County of Santa Barbara.

Job seekers and employers can take advantage of free services at two Workforce Resource Centers (“One-Stops”) to help find work or new employees. Programs include employment services for job seekers, the latest labor market information and regional workforce research for businesses, as well as training that specialize in helping people gain the skills and confidence necessary to find and obtain a job. The One-Stop Shops are at 1410 S. Broadway in Santa Maria, (805) 614-1550, and 130 E. Ortega Street in Santa Barbara, (805) 568-1296. Online information is available at www.workforceresource.com.

Santa Barbara County Industry Clusters of Opportunity (designated by WIB):

- Healthcare
- Energy and Environment
- Building and Design
- Technology and Innovation
- Business Support Services
- Agriculture, Tourism, and Wineries

For more information about Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board please visit our website at www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org

For the full statewide unemployment figures visit: www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov.

For the Department of Finance State Demographic Report Visit: www.dof.ca.gov

For information about The Santa Barbara County/Santa Barbara Foundation Poverty Study please go to: www.countyofsb.org/social_services/default.aspx?id=44131.

For more information about the WIB-led project for Santa Barbara Bank & Trust/Union Bank employees, or the up-coming job fairs, please contact Luis Servin at l.servin@sbcsocialserv.org.

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