



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment in Santa Barbara County Returns to Pre-Recession Levels

The number of job seekers looking for employment dropped to levels not seen since July 2008 in Santa Barbara County, according to information released today by the State Employment Development Department (EDD). These numbers have not been seen, in Santa Barbara County, since the beginning of the Great Recession. The unemployment rate dropped to 5.4 percent in the county for April 2014, from a revised 6.8 percent in March 2014, and below the year-ago estimate of 6.3 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 7.3 percent for California and 5.9 percent for the nation during the same period.

All local cities in Santa Barbara County decreased to single digit unemployment numbers (for April) for the first time in many years. Solvang had one of the lowest unemployment rates in the county (with 2.0 %), followed by Goleta (2.6%), Carpinteria (2.6%) and Santa Ynez (2.7%).

The labor force in the county, defined as the number of individual in the workforce looking for employment, grew by 400 job seekers. The decline in unemployment in cities such as, Lompoc, Santa Maria and Solvang could be attributed to a decrease in their labor force. Other cities like Santa Barbara, Goleta and Montecito experience an increase in the number of job seekers.

Santa Maria had the most residents unemployed with 3,400 (8.6% of its workforce), followed by Santa Barbara city with 2,200 unemployed (3.8% of its workforce), and Lompoc with 2,000 residents looking for employment (9.7%).

The county's unemployment ranking in April, compared to the other 57 counties in California, positioned Santa Barbara County now in 9th place behind Sonoma, Santa Clara and San Luis Obispo County.

Industry sectors in Santa Barbara County gained 5,600 jobs in April, 1,300 more than last month. Total Farm jobs experienced a significant improvement, gaining 2,500 positions for April. Leisure and Hospitality saw an increase for the month, adding 800 jobs; Professional and Business Services increased 200 position; Construction, Information, Financial Activities, and Educational and Health Services all gained 100 jobs each. The two industries that trimmed jobs for April included: Government with minus 200 and Manufacturing with 100 jobs lost.

Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director, Raymond L. McDonald commented, "I am encouraged that the traditionally high sub-county areas, like Lompoc and Guadalupe, are now below 10 percent unemployment." Also: "The overall county low unemployment rate appears to be driven by the very low rates in Goleta (2.6%) and Santa Barbara City (3.8%)."

Mr. McDonald concluded: "The low unemployment numbers for the county are consistent with the national figures that show a decrease in the number of new unemployment insurance claims being filed."

Santa Barbara County Unemployment Data for Cities

2014	January	February	March	April
Santa Barbara County	7.3%	7.1%	6.7%	5.4%
Lompoc city	12.8%	12.7%	11.9%	9.7%
Guadalupe city	12.4%	12.3%	11.6%	9.4%
Santa Maria city	11.3%	11.2%	10.6%	8.6%
Buellton city	5.2%	5.2%	4.9%	3.9%
Santa Barbara city	5.1%	5.0%	4.7%	3.8%
Santa Ynez	3.6%	3.6%	3.4%	2.7%
Carpinteria city	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%	2.6%
Goleta city	3.6%	3.5%	3.3%	2.6%
Solvang city	2.7%	2.7%	2.5%	2.0%

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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