

# Fast Facts on the California Economy

Compiled by: Assembly Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy  
Jose Medina, Chair

California's economy is the eighth largest in the world with a 2012 state GDP of \$2.0 trillion.<sup>1</sup> In August 2013, the California unemployment rate was 8.9%, a slight rise from the previous month's 8.7%. This figure represents almost 1.6 million unemployed workers. Over the same period, the national unemployment rate dropped from 7.4% to 7.3%.<sup>2</sup>

## California's Global Economy

- In 2012, California's total GDP was \$2.00 trillion, as compared to the U.S. total GDP of \$15.7 trillion.<sup>3</sup>
- If California were a country, its 2012 GDP would place tied with Italy and the Russian Federation for 8<sup>th</sup> in the world. Worldwide GDP ranking are as follows: United States (\$15.7 trillion); China (\$8.2 trillion); Japan (\$6.0 trillion); Germany (\$3.4 trillion); France (\$2.6 trillion); United Kingdom (\$2.4 trillion); Brazil (\$2.3 trillion); California, Italy and the Russian Federation (\$2.0 trillion); India and Canada (\$1.8 trillion); Australia (\$1.5 trillion); Spain (\$1.4 trillion); and Mexico (\$1.2 trillion).<sup>4</sup>
- With the European economies still in recession, California is expected to surpass both Italy and the Russian Federation in 2013 due to recent strong job growth and move closer to the GDP's of France and the United Kingdom. However, it is expected that India will surpass California in the near future, and that Canada and the Russian Federation will remain close.<sup>5</sup>

## Job Market in August 2013

- California civilian employment in August 2013 decreased by 53,000 workers from the prior month, dropping total civilian employment in the state to 16,935,000 persons. Between August 2012 and August 2013, civilian employment was up 381,000 persons, an increase of 2.3%.<sup>6</sup>
- In August 2013, nonfarm employment rose in nine major industry sectors: construction (+7,700); professional and business services (+6,300); educational and health services (+4,300); financial activities (+4,200); other services (+4,000); manufacturing (+3,300); leisure and hospitality (+3,000); government (+1,100) and mining and logging (+200). However, two sectors lost jobs: information (-3,400); and trade, transportation and utilities (-1,600).<sup>7</sup>
- In 2012, California's major industry sectors accounted for \$140 billion worth of wages: professional and business services (\$38.6 billion); government (\$34.3 billion); trade, transportation, and utilities (\$29.5 billion); education and health services (\$23.6 billion); leisure and hospitality (\$9.3 billion); and other services (\$4.8 billion).<sup>8</sup>

**Unemployment Rates for Largest Areas: August 2013.** *The following figures are not seasonally adjusted (as compared to the seasonally adjusted unemployment number above.) Monthly unemployment numbers by their nature are not seasonally adjusted.*<sup>9</sup>

Statewide: 8.8%

Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale: 10.2%

Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine: 6.2%

San Diego-Carlsbad-San Marcos: 7.4%

Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario: 10.4%

Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura: 7.8%

San Francisco-San Mateo-Redwood City: 5.4%

Oakland-Fremont-Hayward: 7.4%

San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara: 6.8%

Sacramento-Arden Arcade-Roseville: 8.5%

Fresno: 11.9%

The highest unemployment rates by race and ethnicity was among blacks (16.0%), then Hispanics (11.0%), and then whites (9.1%). By age group, the highest unemployment was among workers 16 to 19 (31.9%), a 0.3% decrease from the prior month.<sup>10</sup> The largest group of unemployed persons when sorted by duration were those unemployed for 52 weeks or more (517,000 persons, 29.6% of all unemployed).<sup>11</sup> The number of persons not in the labor force increased by 15,000 (0.1%) in August to 10,911,000.<sup>12</sup>

### **Small Business in California (2010)**

- There are approximately 3.7 million businesses in the state.<sup>13</sup>
- Of those 3.7 million businesses, 2.8 million (76.8%) were non-employer firms and 431,635 (11.8%) were microbusinesses (with less than 4 employees), accounting for 3.2 million (89%) of business in the state.<sup>14</sup>
- There were 3.4 million (92%) businesses with 9 or less employees; 3.44 million (94%) with 19 or less employees; and 3.5 million (96%) with 99 or less employees. Businesses with 100-499 employees accounted for 36,877 (1%) of businesses and businesses with 500+ employees accounted for 117,747 (3.2%), accounting for only 4.2% of business in the state.<sup>15</sup>

### **Foreign Investment & U.S. Based Subsidiaries**

- California has the highest rate of employment by U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies.<sup>16</sup>
- In 2010, insourcing companies employed 567,000 Californians and accounted for 5% of the state's total private sector employment.<sup>17</sup> More than 30% of all jobs in California are in the manufacturing industry and account for 178,600 jobs.<sup>18</sup>

### **Energy Market**

- In 2010-11, California produced 12% of the natural gas, 71% of the electricity, and 38% of the crude oil it consumes.<sup>19</sup> The remaining electricity and natural gas was purchased from Canada, the Pacific Northwest, the Rocky Mountain States and the Southwest. Remaining crude oil was imported from Alaska and abroad.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2010, 53.4% of California's electricity came from burning natural gas, 15.7% from nuclear energy, 14.6% was generated in large hydroelectric dams, 14.6% from renewable sources, and 1.7% came from coal.<sup>21</sup>
- Since 1978, energy efficient building and appliance standards have saved \$66 billion in electricity and natural gas costs. The 2013 Energy Efficient Standards (Standards) will result in 25% less energy for lighting, heating, cooling, ventilation, and water heating than the 2008 standards. Additionally, the Standards will save 200 million gallons of water per year (equal to more than 6.5 million wash loads) and avoid 170,500 tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year.<sup>22</sup>

### **California's Innovation Economy**

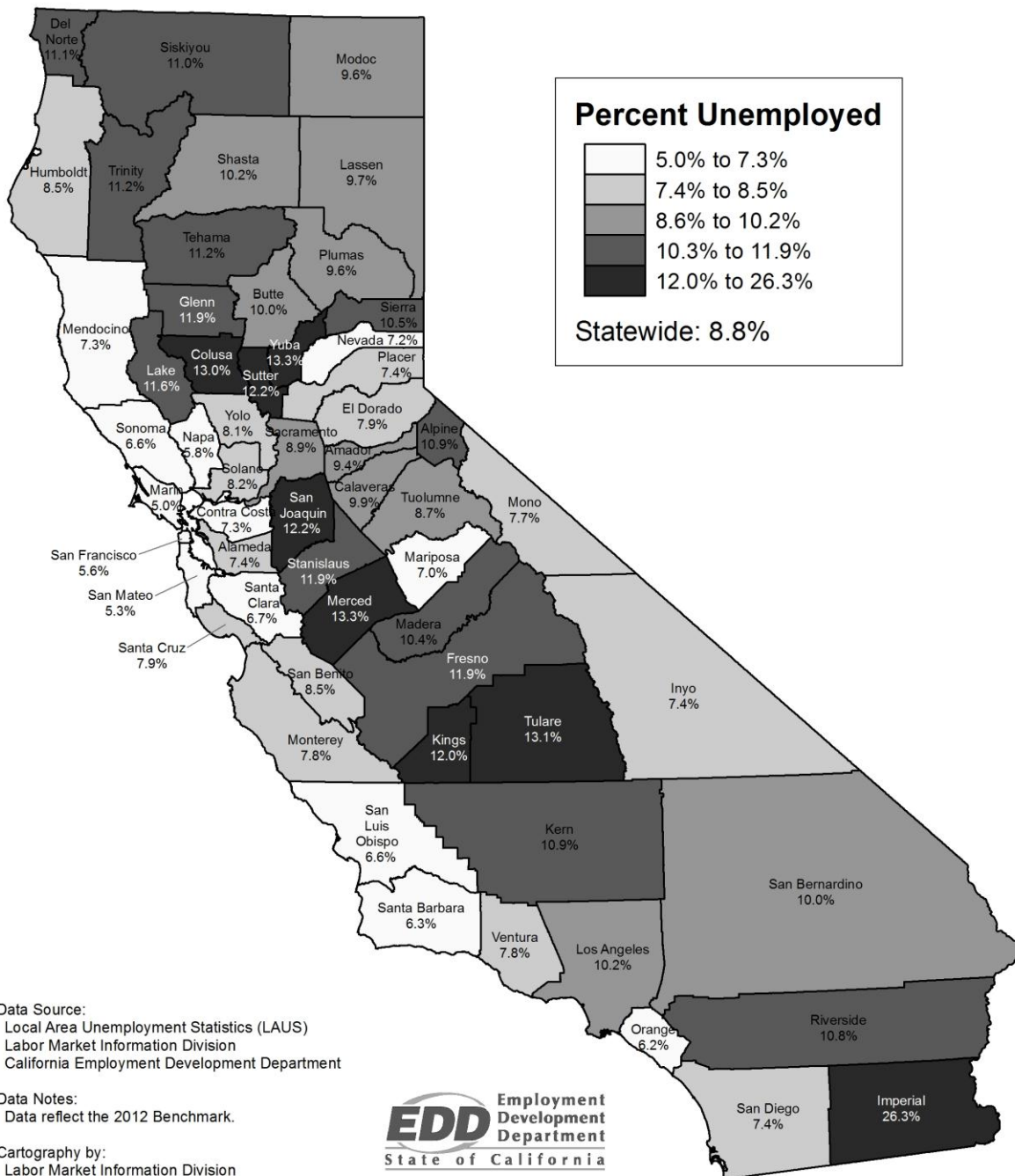
- The San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara region, also known as Silicon Valley, ranked #1 in the Best-Performing Cities Index over 2012. This region accounts for more than 40% of all venture capital placements in the U.S., has the highest high-tech GDP concentration in the nation, and recorded the fastest wage growth in the U.S.<sup>23</sup>
- California ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation in patents by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in 2012 with 34,660 patents granted. This accounts for roughly 12.5% of all patents issued in the world.<sup>24</sup>
- The University of California system is one of the leading academic research enterprises in the world. UC research has contributed to California's emergence as the intellectual and economic power that it is today. In 2011, UC research produced 1,581 new inventions (an average of four a day).<sup>25</sup>
- The UC system develops more patents than any other university in the nation and currently holds 3,900 active U.S. patents, many of which have led to the creation of today's leading industries.<sup>26</sup>

### **California Trade and Foreign Investment Activity**

- California exported \$161 billion in products in 2012. This is up from 2011 (\$159.1 billion).<sup>27</sup>
- California's largest export market is Mexico, where the value of exports totaled \$26.3 billion in 2012. After Mexico, California's top export markets in 2012 were: Canada (\$17.3 billion); China (\$13.9 billion); Japan (\$13 billion); and South Korea (\$8.2 billion).<sup>28</sup>
- California's top five exports in 2012 were: Computer & Electronic Products (\$44.5 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$16.1 billion); Machinery, Except Electrical (\$15 billion); Miscellaneous Manufactured Commodities (\$14 billion); and Chemicals (\$13 billion).<sup>29</sup>
- China is the largest source of imports into California; the 2011 value of Chinese imports was \$128 billion. China is followed by Japan (\$41.5 billion); Mexico (\$36 billion); Canada (\$25.7 billion); and South Korea (\$12.2 billion).<sup>30</sup>
- California's top five imports in 2012 were: Computer & Electronic Products (\$112 billion); Transportation Equipment (\$60 billion); Oil & Gas (\$32 billion); Miscellaneous Manufactured Commodities (\$19.3 billion); and Apparel & Accessories (\$19 billion).<sup>31</sup>

# County Unemployment Rates

August 2013 (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Data Source:  
Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)  
Labor Market Information Division  
California Employment Development Department

Data Notes:  
Data reflect the 2012 Benchmark.

Cartography by:  
Labor Market Information Division  
California Employment Development Department  
<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>  
September 2013



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