



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
260 N. San Antonio Road, Suite C • Santa Barbara, CA 93110  
(805) 681-4453 • FAX (805) 681-4656  
[www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org)

NEWS RELEASE  
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News Media Contact:  
Raymond L. McDonald, Executive Director  
(805) 681- 4453  
Luis Servin, Business Services Coordinator  
(805) 681- 4643

## PRESS RELEASE

### Unemployment Rate in Santa Barbara County Remains Unchanged at 6.2 Percent for the Month of December 2013

The State Employment Development Department (EDD) released today the unemployment rate and other jobs data for the month of December 2013. The unemployment rate remained unchanged from a revised 6.2 percent in November 2013, and below the year-ago estimate of 7.7 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 7.9 percent for California and 6.5 percent for the nation during the same period.

The county's unemployment ranking in December, compared to the other 57 counties in California, positioned Santa Barbara County, now in 9<sup>th</sup> place behind other counties such as: Marin (4.2%), San Mateo (4.6%), San Francisco (4.8%), Orange (5.2%), San Luis Obispo (5.6%), Santa Clara (5.7%), Sonoma (5.7%) and Napa (5.9%). The changes in ranking was due to Santa Barbara's unemployment figures remaining the same for December, as several of the other counties (which were tied for 5th and 6th place last month) experienced different changes in their unemployment numbers, causing them to separate from each other.

The total number of jobs in Industry sectors in Santa Barbara County decreased by 3,400 positions. Some of the industry sectors that experienced decreases in their labor force include government, with 300 jobs. Construction had a minus of 200 jobs. Manufacturing and Information both lost 100 positions. Industry sectors showing favorable gains included Trade, Transportation & Utilities and Professional & Business Services with an increase of 300 positions each. Educational & Health Services also showed an increase of 200 jobs, while Financial Activities and Leisure & Hospitality both gained 100 positions each.

**Between December 2012 and December 2013**, 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: Service Providing —up 1.6% or 2,500 jobs; Private Service Providing —up 1.8% or 2,000 jobs; Professional & Business Services—up 3.8% or 1,000 positions; Administrative & Support & Waste Services—up 700 jobs or 5.5%; Educational & Health Services—up 2.2% or 500 positions; Government —up 1.3% or 500 jobs; Health Care — up 400 jobs or 2.5%; Health Care & Social Assistance — up 300 jobs or 1.5%; Local Government —up 1.3% or 300 jobs.
- Other industries posting favorable gains over the year included: Educational Services—up 200 jobs or 7.1%; Manufacturing—up 200 jobs or 1.7%; Retail Trade —up 200 jobs or 1.1%; Professional, Scientific and Technical Services —up 200 jobs or 1.7%; State Government Educational—up 200 jobs or 1.9%; and Local Government Education—up 200 jobs or 1.6%.
- Some of the Industries that lost jobs for this period of time included: Manufacturing and Goods Producing — minus 200 jobs and Durable Goods — minus 100 positions. All other industries showed positive or no change in their labor force.

Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director, Raymond L. McDonald commented, “The lack of change in the labor force for December is typical for the end of the year, as businesses begin planning for the upcoming year while assessing their current year’s gains and losses.” He added, “For January we should expect an increase in positions in the farm industry, as seasonal workers return to the fields and a slight decrease in nonfarm work, as consumers and companies settle for the New Year.” Mr. McDonald concluded, “Even though our unemployment numbers remained unchanged in December, it is important for the community to work together on creating more jobs. A Department of Finance State Demographic Report released December 12, 2013 showed that Santa Barbara County had the third largest increase in population with 1.44% or 6,133 more residents with a total number of residents of 432,238.”

The unemployment for most of our local cities also remained unchanged. The two cities that experienced decreases in unemployment included Buellton, which went from a 4.5% last month to 4.4% this month. The City of Guadalupe also decreased from 10.8% in November to 10.7% in December. All the other cities in the county remained unchanged for the month of December.

### Santa Barbara County Labor Force Data for Cities

2013	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	August	October	November	December
<b>Santa Barbara County</b>	8.4%	7.7%	7.2%	6.0%	5.6%	6.3%	6.7%	6.3%	6.1%	6.2%	6.2%
<b>Lompoc city</b>	14.7%	13.5%	12.8%	10.8%	10.0%	11.3%	12.0%	11.3%	10.9%	11.1%	11.1%
<b>Guadalupe city</b>	14.2%	13.1%	12.4%	10.4%	9.7%	11.0%	11.6%	11.0%	10.6%	10.8%	10.7%
<b>Santa Maria city</b>	13.0%	12.0%	11.3%	9.5%	8.8%	10.0%	10.6%	10.0%	9.6%	9.8%	9.8%
<b>Buellton city</b>	6.1%	5.5%	5.3%	4.4%	4.0%	4.6%	4.9%	4.6%	4.4%	4.5%	4.4%
<b>Santa Barbara city</b>	5.9%	5.4%	5.1%	4.2%	3.9%	4.4%	4.7%	4.4%	4.3%	4.3%	4.3%
<b>Santa Ynez</b>	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.0%	2.8%	3.2%	3.4%	3.2%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
<b>Carpinteria city</b>	4.2%	3.8%	3.6%	3.0%	2.7%	3.1%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%
<b>Goleta city</b>	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	2.9%	2.7%	3.1%	3.3%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
<b>Solvang city</b>	4.2%	2.9%	2.7%	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%

According to INJCJC, [US Initial Jobless Claims SA](#), the weekly initial jobless claims 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org)

For the full statewide unemployment figures visit: [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov).

For the Department of Finance State Demographic Report Visit: [www.dof.ca.gov](http://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](http://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, please contact Luis Servin at [l.servin@sbcsocialserv.org](mailto:l.servin@sbcsocialserv.org).

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