



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Unemployment Rate in Santa Barbara County down to 6.3 percent **for the Month of August 2013**

The unemployment rate for Santa Barbara County was 6.3 percent in August 2013, according to figures released today by the State Employment Development Department (EDD). This is down from a revised 6.7 percent in July 2013, and below the year-ago estimate of 7.8 percent. This is compared to an unadjusted unemployment rate for California of 8.8 percent and 7.3 percent for the nation during the same period.

The county's unemployment ranking compared to the other 57 counties in California was positioned as the 6th lowest in the state, as Industry sectors in Santa Barbara remained relatively steady for the month of August with an increase of 300 jobs. After a couple of months of continuous cuts, Government came back and gained 200 positions for the month. Trade, Transportation and Utilities also gained 200 jobs for the same period. Construction, Manufacturing, Professional and Business Services, and Leisure and Hospitality increased 100 positions each. Information was the only industry that trimmed jobs (100 for the month of August).

Between August 2012 and August 2013, total employment in Santa Barbara County rose by 3,000 jobs or 1.6 percent. Some of the highlights for this period included:

- Industries posting substantial gains over the year included: Private Service Providing —up 2.4% or 2,700 jobs; Professional & Business Services —up 8.4% or 2,100 jobs; Administrative and Support and Waste Services—up 13.3% or 1,600 positions; Construction—up 600 jobs or 8.8%.
- Other industries posting gains over the year included: Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—up 400 jobs or 3.5%; Health Care—up 500 jobs or 3.1%; Educational and Health Services—up 500 jobs or 2.3%; Health Care and Social Assistance—up 500 jobs or 2.6%; Food Services and Drinking Places—up 300 jobs or 2.0%.
- Some of the Industries that lost jobs for this period of time included: Retail Trade, Accommodation, and the Federal Government with a loss of 200 jobs each.

Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Director, Raymond L. McDonald stated, "Even with the continued employee lay-offs from the Union Bank/Santa Barbara Bank & Trust merger (that the WIB is responding to with special State Funding in Collaboration with the local business community), Santa Barbara County will continue to have low unemployment in comparison with other counties. Furthermore, we are optimistic that the numbers will continue to get even better when four of our six WIB-identified **Industry Sectors of Opportunity**—Healthcare; Energy & Environment; Building & Design; Technology & Innovation—begin to show expansion and new growth."

Mr. McDonald added: "Looking 'below the headline' what strikes me as significant is that in spite of our low unemployment numbers, the vast number of jobs continue to be in low-wage areas—which seems to support the recent County of Santa Barbara/Santa Barbara Foundation "Poverty Study" that found a large number of people who are living in poverty are also job-holders and wage-earners. It's just that the wages they earn are not enough to support themselves and their families."

Our local cities also experienced a decrease in their unemployment. The City of Lompoc remains at the top of the list with an unemployment rate of 11.3%. Lompoc is followed by Guadalupe with 11% and Santa Maria with 10%.

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

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 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, please contact Jessica McLernon at j.mclernon@sbcsocialserv.org.