



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
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NEWS RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

County Unemployment Rate Seasonally Adjusts to 6.5% in January

There was good news and bad in the Santa Barbara County employment figures for the month of January 2015 that was released today by the State Employment Development Department (EDD). Although January’s 6.5% unemployment rate (14,100 unemployed out of a labor force of 217,100) is an increase from the December 2014 rate of 5.7%, all of the county’s cities reported single-digit unemployment, with Lompoc dropping down to 8.5% from December’s 10.2%

Between January 2014 and January 2015, the County’s labor force grew a healthy 1.7% from 213,500 to 217,100 or 3,600 workers.

“Most of the increase in the unemployment rate since December,” said Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board Executive Director, Raymond L. McDonald, “is the result of adjustments from the Holiday and End-of-Year activities.”

“The sector reporting the largest job loss was Local Government,” explained McDonald. “This is consistent with schools being out for the holiday recess and semesters ending. Of the 1,400 jobs lost in the Government sector, 1,100 were from education. This is seasonally driven job loss. What’s more important is the 3,600 workers returning to the job market because the want ads and recruitments have encouraged them that they can find a job.”

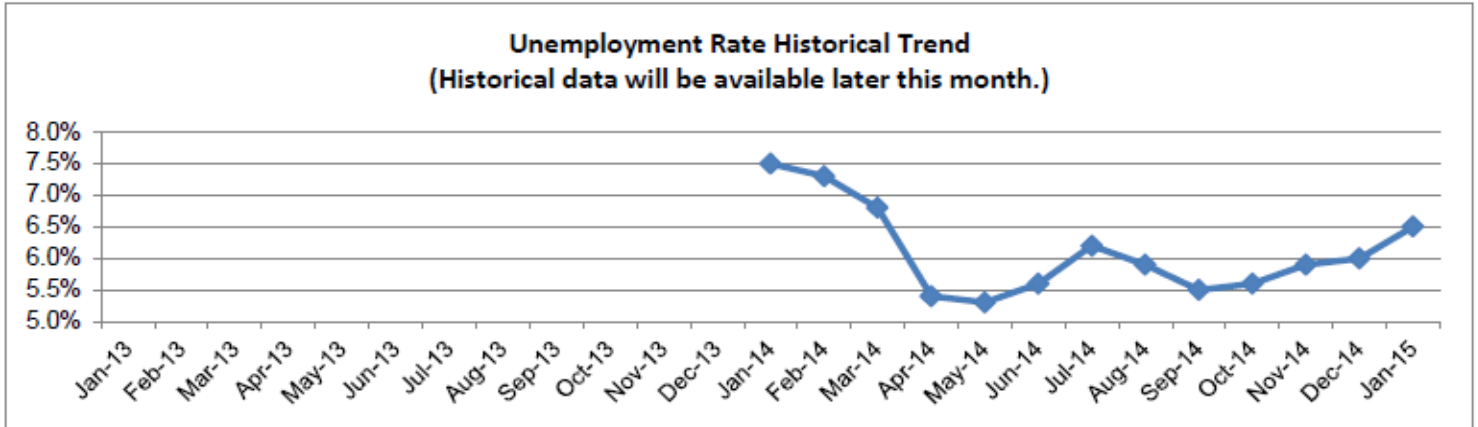
Beyond the Government job losses, the other sector hit hard in January was the Retail Sector with clothing stores losing 200 jobs and food & beverage stores decreasing by 100 jobs. These, too, can be seen as reflective of the end of the Holiday Season shopping and companies employee parties, dinners & lunches.

Returning to the sub-county areas, Goleta posted the lowest city unemployment rate of 3.9%, while Lompoc’s 1,500 unemployed resulted in the aforementioned 8.5% rate. Still the largest number of workers unemployed was in Santa Maria, where 3,800 of its residents were unsuccessful in finding work. Santa Barbara residents, with 2,700 unemployed, did a little better than Santa Maria, with a 5.2% unemployment rate.

Santa Barbara County Unemployment Rate by City

2014	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan'15
Santa Barbara County	7.3	7.1	6.7	5.4	5.0	5.4	6.0	5.6	5.3	5.4	5.7	5.7	6.5
Lompoc City	12.8	12.7	11.9	9.7	9.1	9.7	10.7	10.1	9.6	9.7	10.3	10.2	8.5
Guadalupe City	12.4	12.3	11.6	9.4	8.8	9.4	10.4	9.8	9.3	9.4	10.0	9.9	6.1
Santa Maria City	11.3	11.2	10.6	8.6	8.0	8.5	9.5	8.9	8.5	8.6	9.1	9.0	7.9
Buellton City	5.2	5.2	4.9	3.9	3.6	3.9	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.2

Santa Barbara City	5.1	5.0	4.7	3.8	3.5	3.7	4.2	3.9	3.7	3.8	4.0	4.0	5.2
Santa Ynez City	3.6	3.6	3.4	2.7	2.5	2.7	3.0	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.8	3.8
Carpinteria City	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.9	2.8	2.6	2.7	2.8	2.8	5.7
Goleta City	3.6	3.5	3.3	2.6	2.4	2.6	2.9	2.7	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.8	3.9
Solvang City	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.0	1.8	2.7	2.2	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	8.0



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 please go to: www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org or to www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov for the full statewide unemployment figures.