



## **WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Santa Barbara County's Unemployment Numbers For April 2012 decreases to 7.7 Percent Average for the County**

Santa Barbara County's average unemployment rate for April 2012 dropped to 7.7 percent, with a revised 8.9 percent reported for March according to the monthly figures released today by the state Employment Development Department (EDD). The average unadjusted (not seasonally adjusted) unemployment rate of 7.7 percent for the county in April 2012 is lower than the revised number of 8.5 percent reported for the same period from a year ago.

The drop in the unemployment numbers released today follows revised reported numbers that remained consistent in each month of the first quarter at 8.9 percent. Bolstering today's press release is the increase in the size of the county's labor force from January's numbers by 4,700 while adding 2,700 jobs in the month of April. Agriculture, business support services, retail, and the service industry are among the sectors with reported improvement year-to-date. Santa Barbara County's unemployment ranking compared to the other 57 counties in California moved up one position to the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest in the state. Santa Barbara County's unemployment rate compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 10.5 percent for California and a national average of 7.7 percent during the same period.

"Today's numbers are a positive sign in a recovering economy and consistent with what we hear from the business community about their hiring trends," said Raymond McDonald, Executive Director of the Santa Barbara County Workforce Investment Board. "Perhaps most encouraging for the county are those communities that have had prolonged higher unemployment are now starting to see their numbers decrease." Mr. McDonald went on to say, "The challenge is to keep this momentum through workforce training and development while implementing economic vitality programs that will continue to grow the job market."

Every region in the county saw a drop from previously reported numbers, but Santa Barbara County still has areas of higher unemployment than is acceptable. Lompoc reported a drop of 1.9 percent to 13.6 percent; Guadalupe and Santa Maria both reported a decrease of 1.7 percent to 13.2 percent and 12.1 percent, respectively.

#### **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).

For more information please go to: [www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org](http://www.SantaBarbaraCountyWIB.org) or to [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov) for the full statewide unemployment figures

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