# Inland Empire/Desert Region LMI News and Updates

March 26th, 2021

This release contains the following items and updates from the Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence.

- February 2021 Labor Market Update
- College-level Local Workforce Demand Assessments
- Links to recently released labor market reports

## February 2021 Labor Market Update

Between January 2021 and February 2021:

**Unemployment Rate**
Decreased to
**8.1%**

**Nonfarm Employment**
Added
**21,100 Jobs**

The February 2020 data release marks the one-year anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on employers and workers in the Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA). This analysis data was collected the week that includes February 12th and should reflect the end of California's stay-at-home mandates that began on January 25th. County risk levels and business activity guidance is available at Covid19.ca.gov.

### Labor Force and the Unemployment Rate

The regional unemployment rate **decreased to 8.1%** in February 2021, down from 8.6% in January 2021 and up from 3.9% in February 2021, one year ago. The tally of unemployed residents fell by 7,700 while the count of employed residents rose by 40,300. The region's labor force, the total sum of residents employed and unemployed, rose by 32,600 or 1.6% over the month. Figure 1 displays the regional month-over unemployment rate change from February 2020 to February 2021.

*Figure 1 Regional month-over unemployment rate change, February 2020 to February 2021*
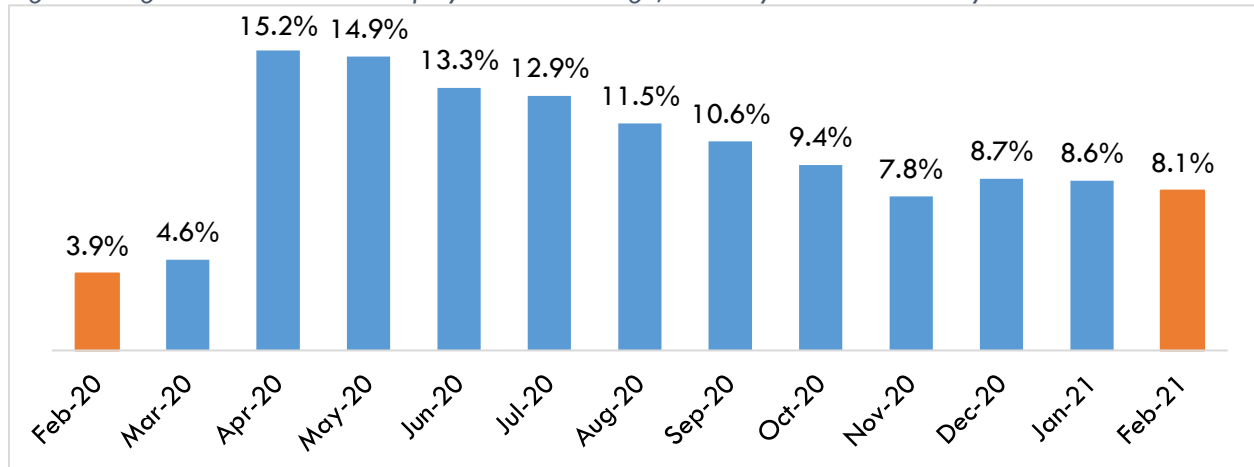
Figure 2 displays the five cities with the highest and lowest current unemployment rates for Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Figure 9 (end of this report) displays the unemployment rates for all cities and census-designated places (CDP) by subregion.

*Figure 2 Riverside and San Bernardino cities with the highest unemployment rates, February 2021\**

| Riverside County 8.0% | | | San Bernardino County 8.1% | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rank | Highest Unemployment Rate | Lowest Unemployment Rate | Rank | Highest Unemployment Rate | Lowest Unemployment Rate |
| 1 | Coachella 13.8% | Canyon Lake 3.7% | 1 | Adelanto 15.9% | Big Bear Lake 3.2% |
| 2 | Desert Hot Springs 11.7% | Indian Wells 5.0% | 2 | Victorville 11.9% | Chino Hills 5.1% |
| 3 | Hemet 11.4% | Temecula 6.2% | 3 | San Bernardino 11.3% | Rancho Cucamonga 5.8% |
| 4 | San Jacinto 10.9% | Murrieta 6.3% | 4 | Hesperia 11.2% | Loma Linda 6.1% |
| 5 | Perris 10.3% | Eastvale City 6.4% | 5 | Needles 10.4% | Redlands 6.2% |

*Incorporated cities only

The Inland Empire/Desert region (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA) ranked the 6th highest unemployment rate in the nation among metropolitan areas with one million or more residents in January 2021. Other California metros within the top 20 metros with the highest unemployment rates were the San Diego-Carlsbad MSA (#11 at 8.1%) and the Sacramento--Roseville--Arden-Arcade MSA (#14 at 7.6%). The Salt Lake City, UT MSA reported the lowest unemployment rate at 3.5%.

*Figure 3 Unemployment Rates for Large Metropolitan Areas (1 million or more residents), January 2021*

| Rank | National Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) | January 2021 Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA | 11.5% |
| 2 | Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV | 9.9% |
| 3 | New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA | 9.6% |
| 4 | New Orleans-Metairie, LA | 9.1% |
| 5 | Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI | 8.7% |
| 6 | Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA | 8.6% |
| 7 | Pittsburgh, PA | 8.4% |
| 8 | Providence-Warwick, RI-MA | 8.4% |
| 9 | Hartford-West Hartford-East Hartford, CT | 8.3% |
| 10 | Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX | 8.3% |

## Industry Employment

Between January 2021 and February 2021, nonfarm employment increased by 21,100 jobs, a 1.4% increase. Farm employers cut 700 jobs over the month. Greater than average job gains were recorded in the following industry sectors:

- Accommodations & Food Services (up 11,100 jobs)
- Health Care & Social Assistance (up 2,200 jobs)
- Manufacturing (up 2,100 jobs)
- Other Services (up 2,000 jobs)

Between February 2020 and February 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic reduced regional employment by 90,600 nonfarm jobs, down 5.7%. Farm employers reported 1,500 fewer jobs over the year, or down 10.7%.

*Figure 4 Nonfarm job change, February 2020 to February 2021*
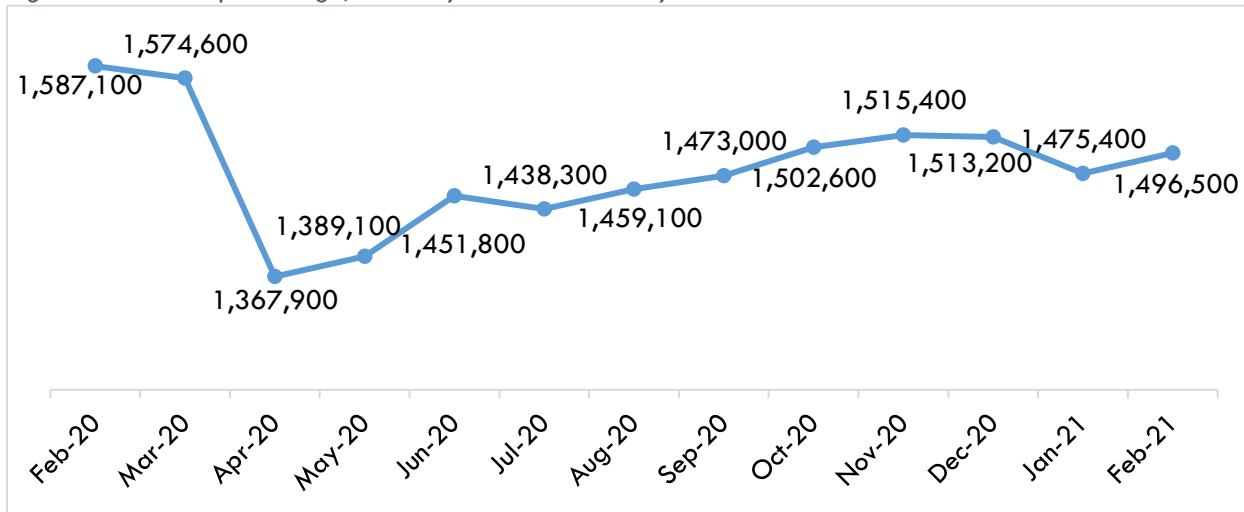


Notable year-over job changes were recorded in the following major industry sectors:

**Accommodations & food services** lost 36,600 jobs over the year (down 23.3%) despite gaining 11,100 jobs over the month (up 10.2%). The majority of year-over job losses in this sector were reported in the restaurant subsector (down 25,300 jobs), specifically in full-service restaurants (down 23,400, or 44%). The accommodations subsector reported 11,100 fewer jobs over the year, down 51.6%. However, the restaurant subsection added 9,700 jobs over the month (up 9.9%).

*Figure 5 Accommodation & food services month-over job change since February 2020*
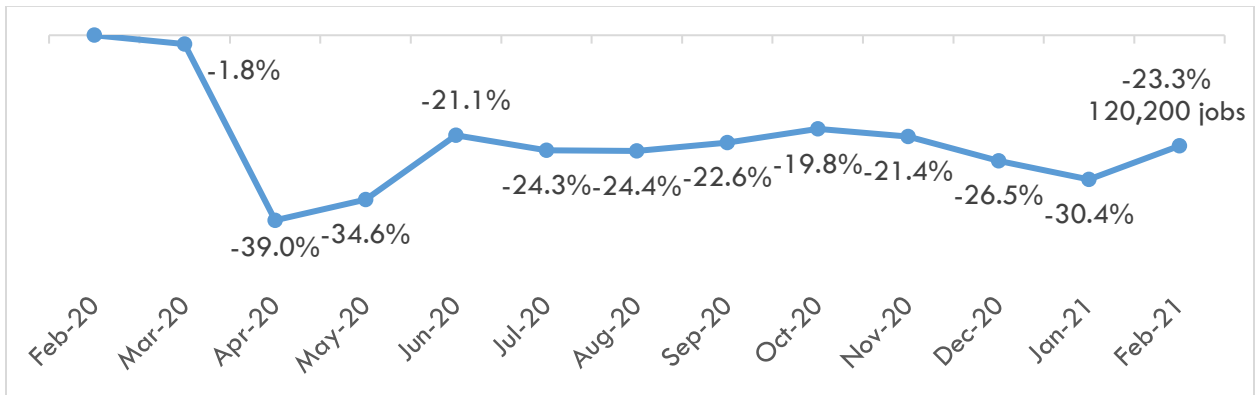


**The information** sector cut 2,600 jobs over the year, decreasing employment by 23%.

The **other services** sector total 10,000 fewer jobs over the year, decreasing by 20.8% despite the 2,000 jobs added over the month (up 5.5%). A significant portion of the job losses reported in this sector were in the personal & laundry services subsector, down 4,900 jobs or 32%.

The **government** sector decreased employment by 22,900 jobs over the year (down 8.6%), following accommodations & food services for the most significant absolute year-over job decrease. The local government subsector accounted for most job losses, with 21,700 fewer jobs reported over the year (down 10.2%).

The **transportation & warehousing** sector reported 25,700 more jobs in February 2021 than in February 2020, up 16.8% from one year ago. The majority of job gains were located in the warehousing & storage subsector (up 20,900 jobs) and couriers & messengers subsectors (up 5,400 jobs).

*Figure 6 Transportation & warehousing month-over job change since February 2020*
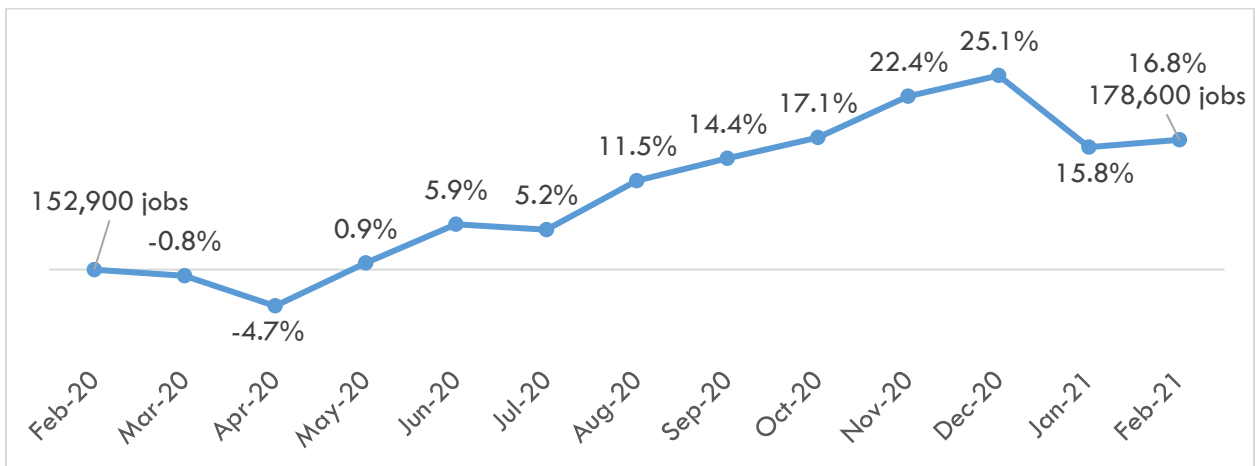


**Arts, entertainment & recreation** was one of the hardest-hit industry sectors over the year, reporting nearly 50% fewer jobs (down 11,100 jobs). This sector reported a gain of 100 jobs over the month.

*Figure 7 Arts, entertainment & recreation month-over job change since February 2020*
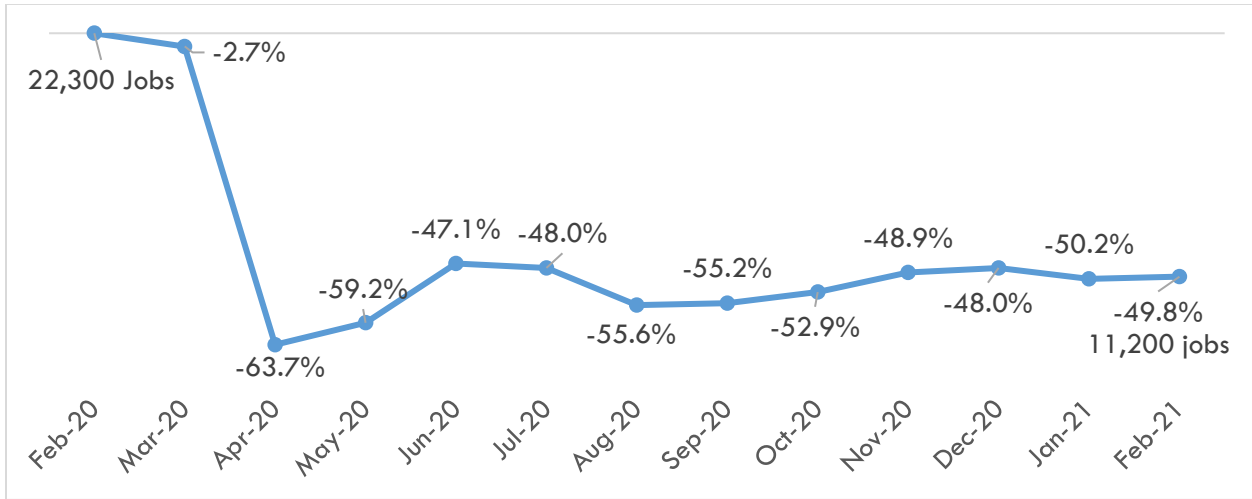
Month-over and year-over changes for each major industry sector are displayed in Figure 8.

*Figure 8 Major industry sector job change, month-over, and year-over, February 2020 to February 2021*

| Major Industries | February 2021 Jobs | Month-over Change | Month-over % Change | Year-over Change | Year-over % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Nonfarm | 1,496,500 | 21,100 | 1.4% | -90,600 | -5.7% |
| Total Farm | 12,500 | -700 | -5.3% | -1,500 | -10.7% |
| Government | 242,900 | -700 | -0.3% | -22,900 | -8.6% |
| Health Care & Social Assistance | 235,000 | 2,200 | 0.9% | -2,700 | -1.1% |
| Transportation & Warehousing | 178,600 | 1,500 | 0.8% | 25,700 | 16.8% |
| Retail Trade | 173,600 | -300 | -0.2% | -3,400 | -1.9% |
| Accommodation & Food Services | 120,200 | 11,100 | 10.2% | -36,600 | -23.3% |
| Construction | 108,400 | 1,100 | 1.0% | -500 | -0.5% |
| Administrative & Support & Waste Services | 102,800 | 300 | 0.3% | -6,700 | -6.1% |
| Manufacturing | 91,000 | 2,100 | 2.4% | -9,100 | -9.1% |
| Wholesale Trade | 65,600 | -200 | -0.3% | -2,300 | -3.4% |
| Professional, Scientific & Technical Services | 43,700 | 1,000 | 2.3% | -2,100 | -4.6% |
| Other Services | 38,100 | 2,000 | 5.5% | -10,000 | -20.8% |
| Finance & Insurance | 24,600 | 0 | 0.0% | -600 | -2.4% |
| Educational Services | 19,000 | 900 | 5.0% | -2,900 | -13.2% |
| Real Estate & Rental & Leasing | 17,800 | 0 | 0.0% | -2,900 | -14.0% |
| Arts, Entertainment & Recreation | 11,200 | 100 | 0.9% | -11,100 | -49.8% |
| Management of Companies & Enterprises | 8,800 | 0 | 0.0% | -100 | -1.1% |
| Information | 8,700 | 0 | 0.0% | -2,600 | -23.0% |
| Utilities | 5,300 | 0 | 0.0% | 300 | 6.0% |
| Mining and Logging | 1,200 | 0 | 0.0% | -100 | -7.7% |

## College-level Local Workforce Demand Assessment (LWDA)

To equitably serve residents and maintain career education programs that align with business needs, community colleges should have an awareness of their diverse populations and area employers. With this knowledge, these institutions will have the ability to effectively upskill their communities and develop programs that lead to in-demand and high-wage employment opportunities for students after program completion.

A series of Local Workforce Demand Assessments were developed by the Inland Empire/Desert Region Center of Excellence in partnership with the college's research staff to illuminate the job opportunities surrounding each college. This assessment series provides a hyper-localized view of the population, business activity, and occupational opportunities (middle-skill and higher-skill) near each college. Additionally, these assessments provide recommendations for future career education program development.

Each College LWDA may be accessed by selecting the report image:
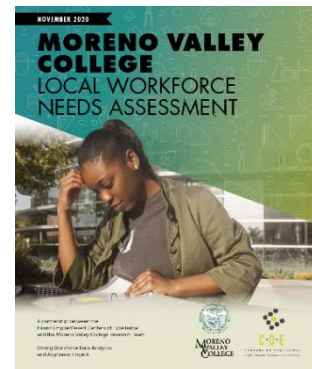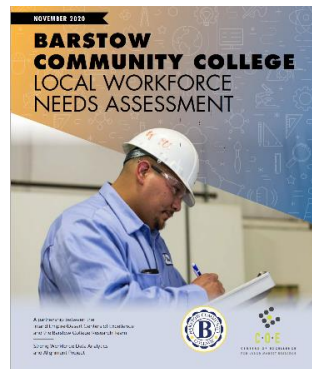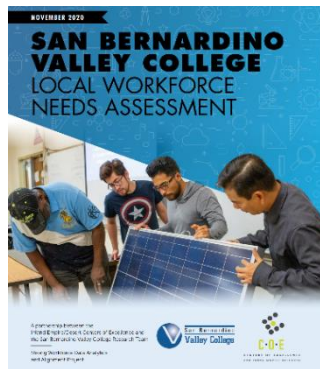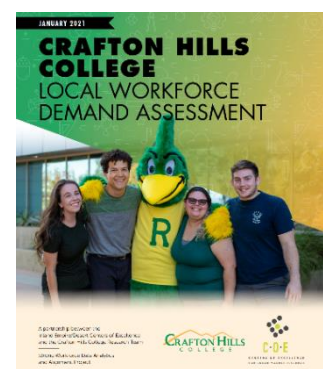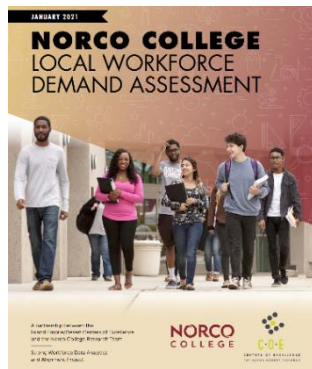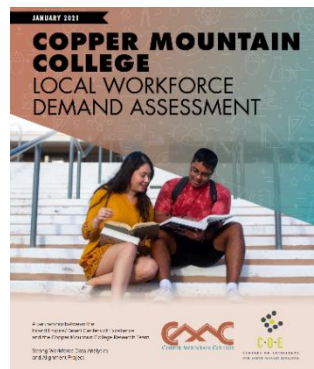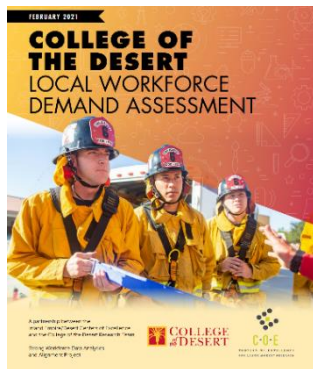
# Links to Recent Labor Market Reports

1. Building and Energy Systems Professional
2. Business Information Worker
3. Cloud and Internet of Things Administration and Support
4. Computer Data Science
5. Fire Technology, Academy, and Leadership
6. Forklift Operation
7. Greenhouse Technician
8. IT Project Management
9. Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Technologist
10. Makerspace
11. Medical Laboratory Technicians
12. Pharmacy Technicians
13. Radiologic Technology/Computed Tomography
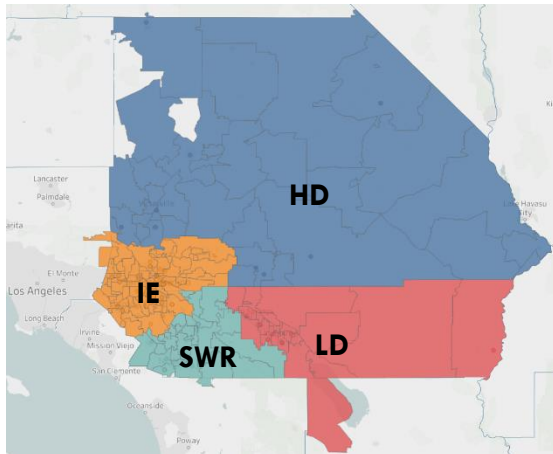14. Real Estate
15. Registered Nurses

Thank you,

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Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, CA EDD LMID, COE, North American Industry Classification System



Separating the two-county Inland Empire/Desert Region into four subregions provides a nuanced view of each subregion's unique employment characteristics. The region is divided into the High Desert (HD), Low Desert (LD), Southwestern Riverside (SWR), and the Inland Empire (IE) subregions.

*Figure 9 Regional unemployment rate by city and census-designated place by subregion, February 2021*

| City/Census Designated Place (CDP) | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|
| High Desert | |
| Lenwood CDP | 2.8% |
| Morongo Valley CDP | 5.6% |
| Apple Valley town | 9.0% |
| Twentynine Palms city | 9.0% |
| Barstow city | 9.8% |
| Needles city | 10.4% |

| City/Census Designated Place (CDP) | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|
| Hesperia city | 11.2% |
| Joshua Tree CDP | 11.4% |
| Searles Valley CDP | 11.9% |
| Victorville city | 11.9% |
| Yucca Valley town | 12.5% |
| Bluewater CDP | 12.8% |
| Big River CDP | 13.1% |
| Mountain View Acres CDP | 13.3% |
| Adelanto city | 15.9% |
| Inland Empire | |
| San Antonio Heights CDP | 0.4% |
| Big Bear Lake city | 3.2% |
| Woodcrest CDP | 3.9% |
| Crestline CDP | 3.9% |
| Chino Hills city | 5.1% |
| Wrightwood CDP | 5.4% |
| Rancho Cucamonga city | 5.8% |
| March AFB CDP | 4.4% |
| El Cerrito CDP | 5.4% |
| Bloomington CDP | 6.0% |
| Loma Linda city | 6.1% |
| Home Gardens CDP | 6.2% |
| Redlands city | 6.2% |
| Big Bear City CDP | 6.3% |
| Eastvale City city | 6.4% |
| Chino city | 6.4% |
| Yucaipa city | 6.5% |
| Corona city | 6.5% |
| Grand Terrace city | 6.7% |
| Upland city | 6.7% |
| Norco city | 6.8% |
| Montclair city | 6.9% |
| Running Springs CDP | 7.1% |
| Riverside city | 7.5% |
| Jurupa Valley city | 7.9% |
| Mentone CDP | 7.2% |
| Ontario city | 7.3% |
| Fontana city | 7.8% |
| Lake Arrowhead CDP | 8.0% |
| Highland city | 8.2% |
| Colton city | 8.6% |
| Rialto city | 9.5% |
| Moreno Valley city | 9.4% |
| Perris city | 10.3% |
| San Bernardino city | 11.3% |
| Highgrove CDP | 11.3% |
| Muscoy CDP | 18.3% |

| City/Census Designated Place (CDP) | Unemployment Rate |
|---|---|
| **Low Desert** | |
| Indian Wells city | 5.0% |
| La Quinta city | 6.4% |
| Thousand Palms CDP | 6.5% |
| Palm Desert city | 6.7% |
| Rancho Mirage city | 7.0% |
| Palm Springs city | 7.5% |
| Cathedral City city | 7.7% |
| Indio city | 8.5% |
| Blythe city | 8.9% |
| Bermuda Dunes CDP | 9.1% |
| Desert Hot Springs city | 11.7% |
| Mecca CDP | 12.6% |
| Coachella city | 13.8% |
| **Southwestern Riverside** | |
| Canyon Lake city | 3.7% |
| Cabazon CDP | 3.8% |
| Lakeview CDP | 5.3% |
| Idyllwild Pine Cove CDP | 5.4% |
| Cherry Valley CDP | 5.5% |
| Temecula city | 6.2% |
| Murrieta city | 6.3% |
| Calimesa city | 6.5% |
| Beaumont city | 7.2% |
| Nuevo CDP | 7.2% |
| Wildomar city | 7.2% |
| Lake Elsinore city | 8.1% |
| Menifee city | 8.6% |
| Lakeland Village CDP | 8.7% |
| Valle Vista CDP | 9.0% |
| Homeland CDP | 9.2% |
| Romoland CDP | 9.3% |
| Banning city | 10.2% |
| San Jacinto city | 10.9% |
| Hemet city | 11.4% |
| East Hemet CDP | 11.5% |
| Winchester CDP | 11.8% |