

# Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence Newsletter and Labor Market Update



March 25, 2022

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- Labor Market Update: February 2022

Today's labor market release highlights the Inland Empire/Desert's (Riverside and San Bernardino counties) regional employment changes in February 2022. Two years ago (February 2020), we were blissfully unaware the COVID-19 pandemic would up-end our regional workforce.

As of February 2022, regional employers reported a net increase of more than 40,000 jobs and our labor force has increased by nearly 59,000 residents since February 2020. Recovery is well underway but still has a ways to go.

The next labor market update will be on Friday, April 15th (March 2022 data).

## INLAND EMPIRE/DESERT LABOR MARKET UPDATE

February 2022 (released today)



Unemployment Rate  
fell to  
**5%**

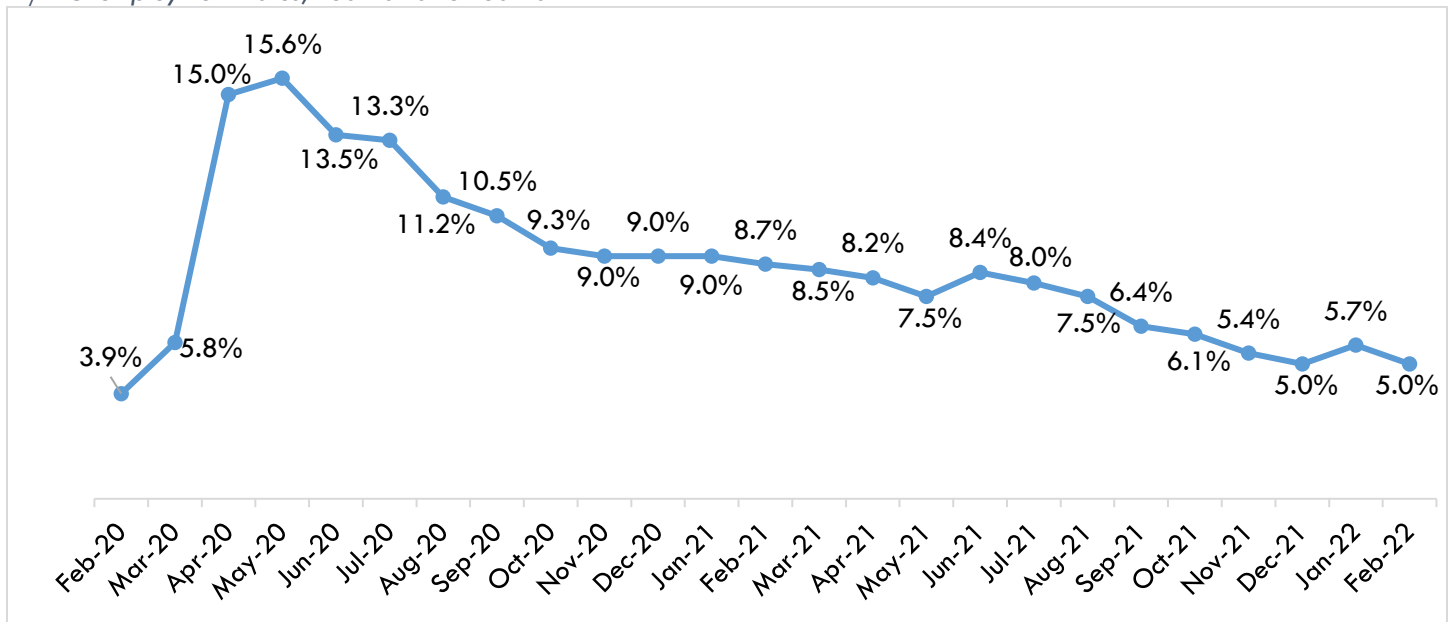


Nonfarm Employers  
Added  
**18,000 jobs**

### Civilian Labor Force and the Unemployment Rate

The civilian labor force is the total count of resident workers, 16 years and older, working or actively seeking work. The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed expressed as a share of the total labor force.

IE/D Unemployment Rates, Feb 2020 to Feb 2022



- In February 2022, the region's unemployment rate decreased to 5%, down from a revised 5.7% in January 2021 and down from 8.7% in February 2021. The unemployment rate in February 2020, generally considered the last month unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic, was 3.9%
  - Over the month, the region's total labor force increased by 17,300 for a total of 2.183 million labor force participants. This indicates a regional increase in the number of residents working or seeking work over the month, which is good for employers seeking workers to fill job vacancies.
    - Employment (residents reporting work) grew by 31,600.
    - Unemployment (residents actively seeking work and able to work) decreased by 14,300.
- Year-over (February 2021 and February 2022), employment increased by 146,000 residents, and unemployment fell by 76,200 (down about 41%). The total labor force rose by 69,800 residents, up by 3%.
- Since February 2020, the regional labor force increased 2.8%, and an increase of 58,800 regional residents working or seeking work over the pandemic.

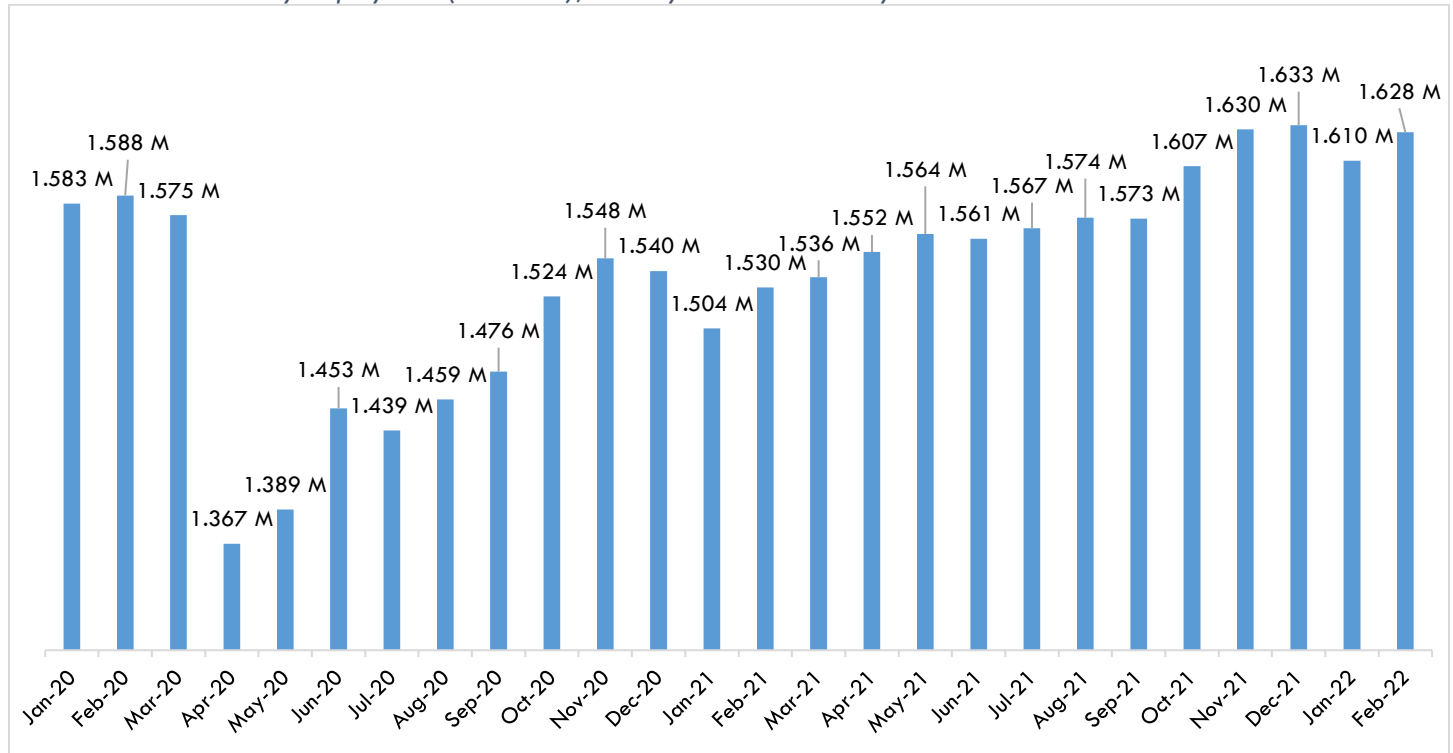
*Comparable unemployment rates for California and Southern California Metro Areas (unadjusted), February 2020-2022*

California & Southern California Regions	February 2020	February 2021	February 2022 (Current)
California	4.2%	8.9%	4.8%
Inland Empire/Desert Region (Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA)	3.9%	8.7%	5%
Los Angeles County (Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale MD)	4.3%	10.7%	5.4%
Orange County (Anaheim-Santa Ana-Irvine MD)	2.8%	7.4%	3.7%
San Diego County (San Diego-Carlsbad MSA)	3.2%	7.9%	4%
Imperial County (El Centro MSA)	17.9%	17.4%	14%

## Industry Employment and Jobs

Industries are a group of establishments that produce similar products or provide similar services. A given industry may have employees in dozens of occupations to support their business activity.

IE/D Total Nonfarm Industry Employment (in millions), January 2020 to February 2022



- In February 2022, regional nonfarm employers reported an increase of 18,000 jobs, up 1.1% over the month.
  - The region contributed about 8.3% of the total nonfarm jobs added to the state over the month (California added 217,300 nonfarm jobs).
- Over the year, from February 2021 to February 2022, the region added 98,300 jobs, an increase of 6.4%.
  - Since February 2020, the last month unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic, nonfarm employers reported a net gain of 40,100 jobs, up 2.5%.
- **Accommodations & food services** employers added 6,300 jobs over the month, increasing by 4.3%. Over the year, this sector reported 26,100 jobs, up over 20%. These employers are still recovering jobs lost during the pandemic; they are down 2,500 jobs or 1.6% since February 2020.
- **Construction** was the fastest-growing sector over the month, recording an increase of 4.5%, adding 4,700 jobs.
  - The specialty trade contractors subsector boosted overall employment in this sector by adding 3,700 jobs. Specialty trade contractors are employers performing specific activities but are not responsible for the entire project (e.g., pouring concrete, site preparation, plumbing, painting, and electrical work).
- **Health care and social service** employers bolstered their payrolls by 1%, adding 2,300 jobs over the month.
  - The ambulatory health care services subsector (offices of physicians, dentists, outpatient care, medical and diagnostic labs) added more than half the jobs to this sector, increasing employment by 1,500 jobs.
  - Nursing & residential care facilities subsector added 300 jobs, up 1.2%.
- **Manufacturing** payrolls increased by 1,400 jobs over the month, or up by 1.5%. Year-over, this sector added 2,400 jobs, increasing employment by 2.6%.

IE/D Industry Sector Month-over, Year-over, and Since February 2020 job change

Industry Sector	February 2022 Jobs	Month-over Change (Jan-Feb22)	Month-over % Change	Year-over Change (Feb21-Feb22)	Year-over Job % Change	Since Feb 2020 Change	Since Feb 2020 % Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>1,628,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	<b>98,300</b>	<b>6.4%</b>	<b>40,100</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
<b>Total Farm</b>	<b>14,100</b>	<b>-700</b>	<b>-4.7%</b>	<b>900</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0.7%</b>
Government	252,600	-200	-0.1%	14,200	6%	-13,200	-5%
Health Care & Social Assistance	238,800	2,300	1%	5,100	2.2%	1,100	0.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	213,800	1,300	0.6%	22,800	11.9%	60,900	39.8%
Retail Trade	180,800	-2,300	-1.3%	7,000	4.0%	3,800	2.1%
Accommodation & Food Serv.	154,300	6,300	4.3%	26,100	20.4%	-2,500	-1.6%
Admin. & Support & Waste Serv.	115,500	1,800	1.6%	4,000	3.6%	6,000	5.5%
Construction	108,300	4,700	4.5%	900	0.8%	-600	-0.6%
Manufacturing	96,400	1,400	1.5%	2,400	2.6%	-3,700	-3.7%
Wholesale Trade	67,600	-600	-0.9%	1,200	1.8%	-1,100	-1.6%
Professional, Scientific & Technical Serv.	46,100	700	1.5%	2,200	5%	300	0.7%
Other Services	44,000	300	0.7%	3,500	8.6%	-4,100	-8.5%
Finance & Insurance	24,400	300	1.2%	-300	-1.2%	-800	-3.2%
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	21,400	400	1.9%	1,500	7.5%	700	3.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	20,000	600	3.1%	5,300	36.1%	-2,300	-10.3%
Educational Serv.	19,400	700	3.7%	1,800	10.2%	-2,500	-11.4%
Information	9,800	100	1%	1,100	12.6%	-1,500	-13.3%
Mgmt. of Companies & Enterprises	8,500	200	2.4%	-500	-5.6%	-400	-4.5%
Utilities	5,000	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Mining and Logging	1,300	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%

Happy Spring!

Inland Empire/Desert Center of Excellence

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Source: California Labor Market Information Division (2022). February 2022 data release. Retrieved from <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/>