



NEWS RELEASE

Workforce Development Board

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SB County continues to outpace state in regaining jobs

San Bernardino County has regained 58% of jobs lost during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, far outpacing the state average as the local economy continues to show signs of a healthy recovery.

Newly released figures from the California Employment Development Department show unemployment in San Bernardino County dropping to 8.6% in January, down significantly from its April 2020 peak of 14.2%. Since the end of May, employers in the county have added more than 80,000 non-farm jobs, out of 138,500 that were lost during the first three months of the pandemic. That 58% recovery rate compares to 39% for the state as a whole.

“San Bernardino County has become a major business and economic hub for the region and all of California, so it’s not surprising to see us leading the state out of pandemic downturn,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman. “We’re a great place to do business and to find that right job.”

The EDD report showed a 0.2% improvement in the county’s unemployment rate from December, continuing a trend that has seen the rate fall in eight of the last nine months. Although total employment dipped slightly during January, it was offset by a post-holiday decline in the labor force.

For the Inland Empire as a whole, total employment (1.89 million) is now within 6% of its prior year total, with supply chain-related jobs showing strong gains during that period. The Transportation and Warehousing sector was up 17% from January 2020 to January 2021— an increase of more than 25,000 jobs.

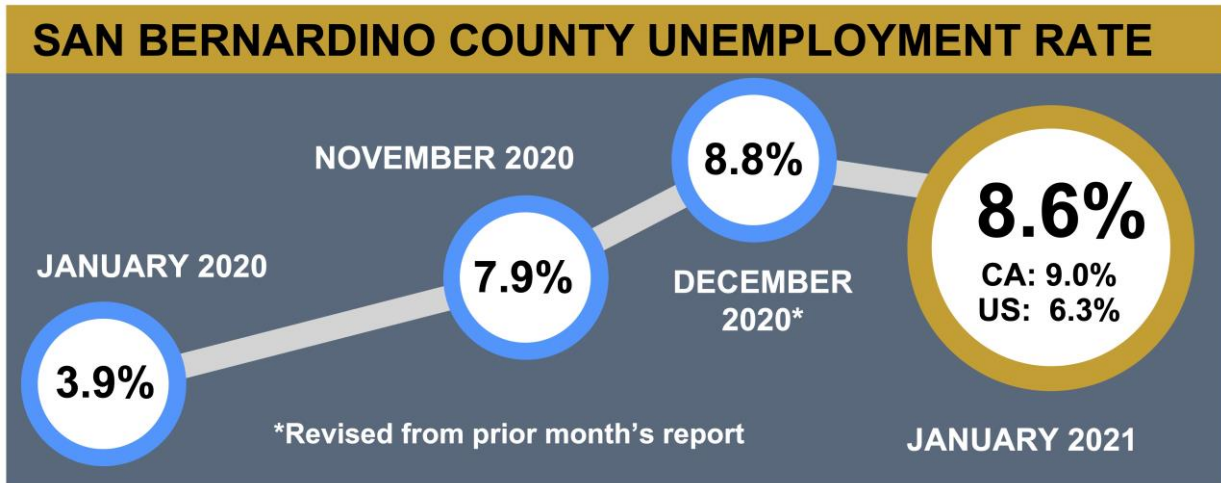
Phil Cothran, Chairman of the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board, said the recovery shines a light on the work WDB does in building a pipeline of trained and qualified workers to meet the needs of businesses.

“Our county is one of the fastest growing in the U.S., which is a tremendous asset for companies looking to relocated or expand. Between our America’s Job Centers of California and our Business Services team, we’re committed to connecting job seekers to the great employment opportunities that are out there – and in the process, to ensure companies have the employees necessary to grow and succeed,” Cothran said.

For the complete Inland Empire jobs report for January, go to:
[https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/rive\\$pds.pdf](https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/rive$pds.pdf)

For more on WDB’s Business Services team, visit:





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About the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board

The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. The WDB strives to strengthen the skills of the County's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing county resources, which generate jobs and investment in line with the Countywide Vision.

The Workforce Development Board, through the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, offers a variety of programs designed to help youth and adults identify career pathways and get the appropriate training and skills. Programs funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provide eligible youth, ages 16 to 24, access to a variety of career and educational services designed to help enhance job skills, develop leadership qualities, explore career options, participate in adult and peer mentoring opportunities, and take advantage of work experiences. In addition, the WDB operates San Bernardino County's three America's Job Centers of California (AJCC). The AJCCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. The AJCCs also support and provide services to the County's businesses, including employee recruitment and business retention programs.

Employers and job seekers who are interested in the Workforce Development Board programs may call: (800) 451-JOBS or visit www.sbcounty.gov/workforce. Also follow us on: Facebook www.facebook.com/SBCountyWDB; Twitter [@InlandEmpireJob](https://twitter.com/InlandEmpireJob); LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sanbernardinocountywdb>; and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.