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NEWS RELEASE

Workforce Development Board

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CONTACT:

Brad Gates

Assistant Director, WDB

909-387-9856

SB County unemployment reaches lowest level since pandemic started

San Bernardino County's unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level since the COVID-19 pandemic began, continuing a jobs recovery that has outpaced the state and reinforces the county's role as an employment and economic driver for Southern California and beyond.

Newly released figures from the California Employment Development Department (EDD) show unemployment in San Bernardino County dropping to 7.8% in March, down from 8.1% in February and a half percentage point better than the state average of 8.3%. The county's March rate is the lowest it has been in the year since the pandemic severely impacted the global economy.

It also continued a trend that has seen San Bernardino County and the Inland Empire recover at a faster rate than the state as a whole. An analysis of those numbers shows that the county has recovered more than 70% of the 138,500 jobs lost in March, April and May of 2020 – the peak of the COVID downturn.

"With our strong business climate, robust labor pool and exceptional quality of life, San Bernardino County is a prime location for companies looking to grow. The fact that we're seeing this kind of rapid jobs recovery coming out of the pandemic reinforces just how important an economic force we have become," said Curt Hagman, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors.

Although industry-specific data for the county is not yet available, EDD's Inland Empire summary shows that the recovery has been concentrated in two critical employment categories: Leisure and hospitality (up 4,900 jobs across the IE in March alone) and trade, transportation and utilities (up 4,100 jobs during the month). Other gains were recorded in professional and business services (up 1,600), government (up 1,500) and construction (up 400).

The recovery also is occurring at a significantly faster pace than it did coming out of the Great Recession. At that time, it took nearly five years to recapture 70% of the jobs that had been lost.

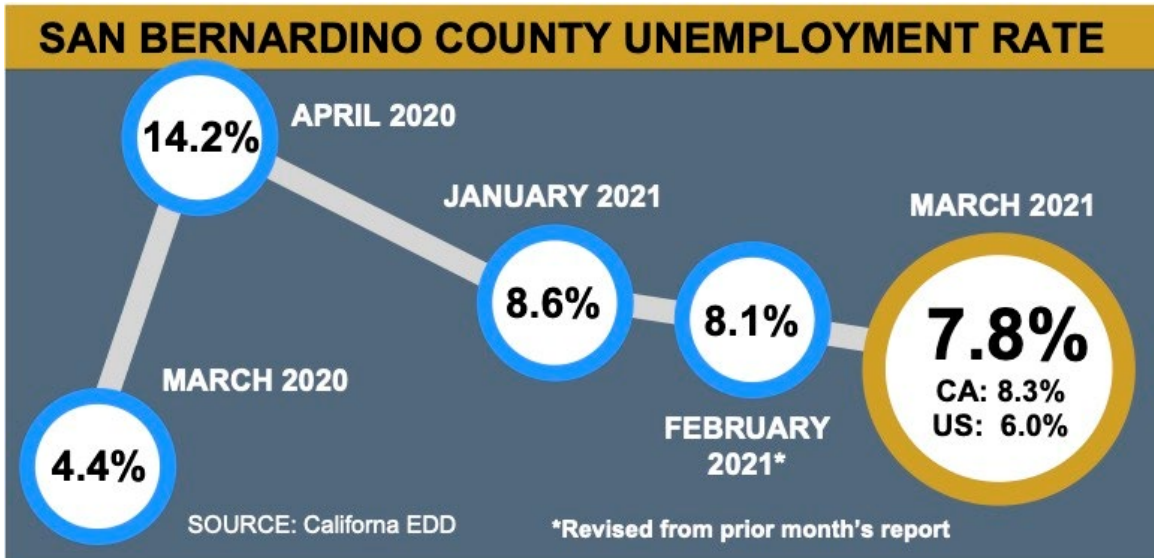
"While no two recoveries are ever the same, what's happening in San Bernardino County and throughout the Inland Empire this time around is indicative of the strength of our economy and the pipeline of trained and qualified workers we have to support the needs of businesses," said Phil Cothran, Chairman of the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB).

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:
<https://wp.sbcounty.gov/workforce/business-services/>



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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>.