



NEWS RELEASE

Workforce Development Board

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Local payrolls exceed pre-pandemic levels; 951,000 jobs in January

San Bernardino County's job market has surged past pre-pandemic levels, with payrolls over 950,000 for the third month in a row, according to an analysis of newly released state numbers.

The California Employment Development Department reported Friday (March 11) that despite a typical seasonal uptick in the county's unemployment rate from December to January, payrolls are now 13,000 above where they were in January 2020 – before the COVID-19 pandemic severely impacted the global economy.

Led by continued growth in the region's supply chain industry and a resurgence in hospitality-related businesses, employers in San Bernardino County have now recovered all of the 130,000 jobs lost during the first two months of the COVID shutdown – plus some. Beginning in November, county payrolls have hovered about 950,000, according to a revised formula adopted by the state beginning with the January report.

The report also shows that the county's labor pool has exceeded 1 million for the third month in a row, reaching a record 1,008,800 in January.

"These numbers speak to the strength of San Bernardino County as one of the country's fastest-growing economic and population centers. We've got a supportive business culture and a growing, qualified labor pool – all of which encourages the kind of consistent economic growth we're seeing," said Curt Hagman, Chairman of the County Board of Supervisors.

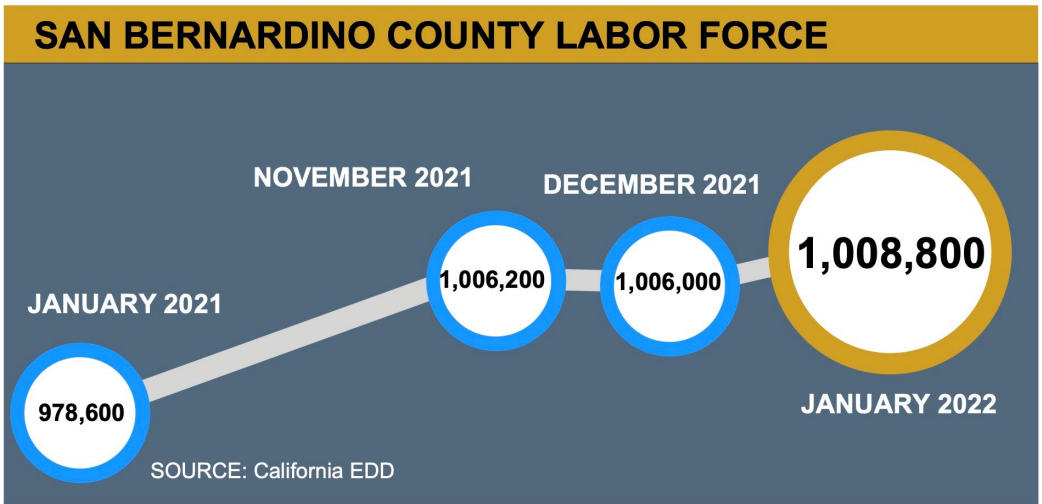
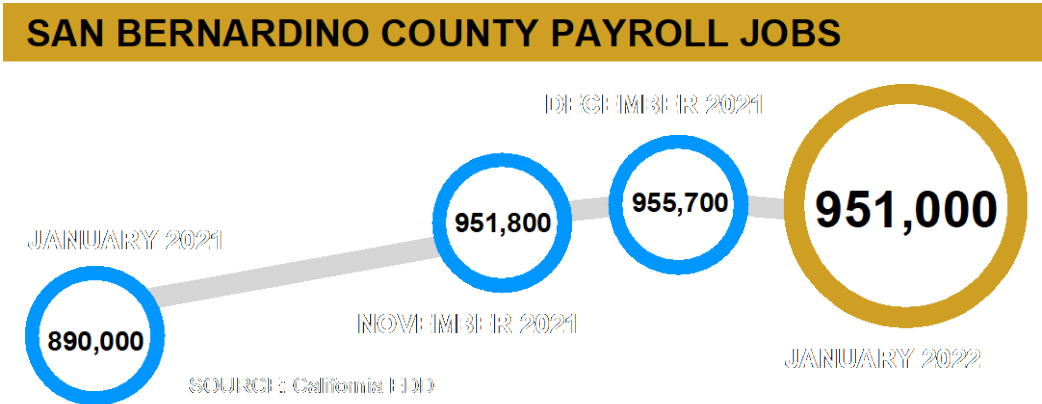
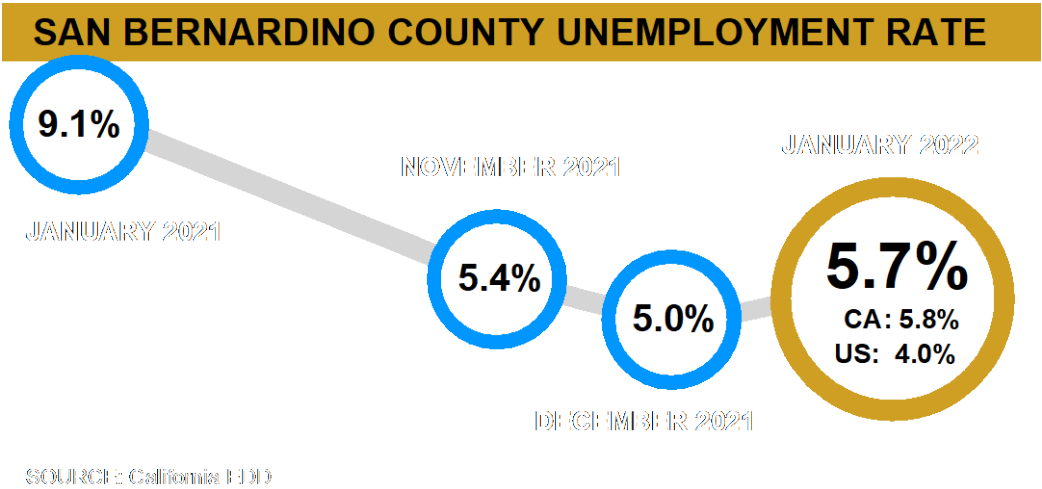
According to the numbers, the unemployment rate in San Bernardino County rose to 5.7% during January – a fairly typical increase following the holiday surge. Even so, the county's rate remains below the state average (5.8%).

The January jobs report follows recent studies have have shown a dramatic migration of residents from Los Angeles and Orange counties into the Inland Empire.

"The growth of our labor pool is great news for employers and the regional economy. Clearly, a big part of what we're seeing are families and young professionals coming to San Bernardino County to pursue career opportunities and enjoy a quality of life they can't get elsewhere," said Phil Cothran, Chairman of the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board.

Cothran encouraged job seekers to check out the services and resources WDD offers.

Information on those services – including the three America’s Job Centers of California across the county – is available at: <https://wp.sbcounty.gov/workforce/>



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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 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>. <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sanbernardinocountywdb>; and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.

