



# The Update

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EDD's unemployment rates by County for February – April 2006

Labor Force & Industry Employment Data April

## POPULATION DATA

### Total Population

Jan 1, 2006 3,072,336 Orange County  
 Jan 1, 2006 37,172,015 California  
 May 25, 2006 298,822,288 U.S.

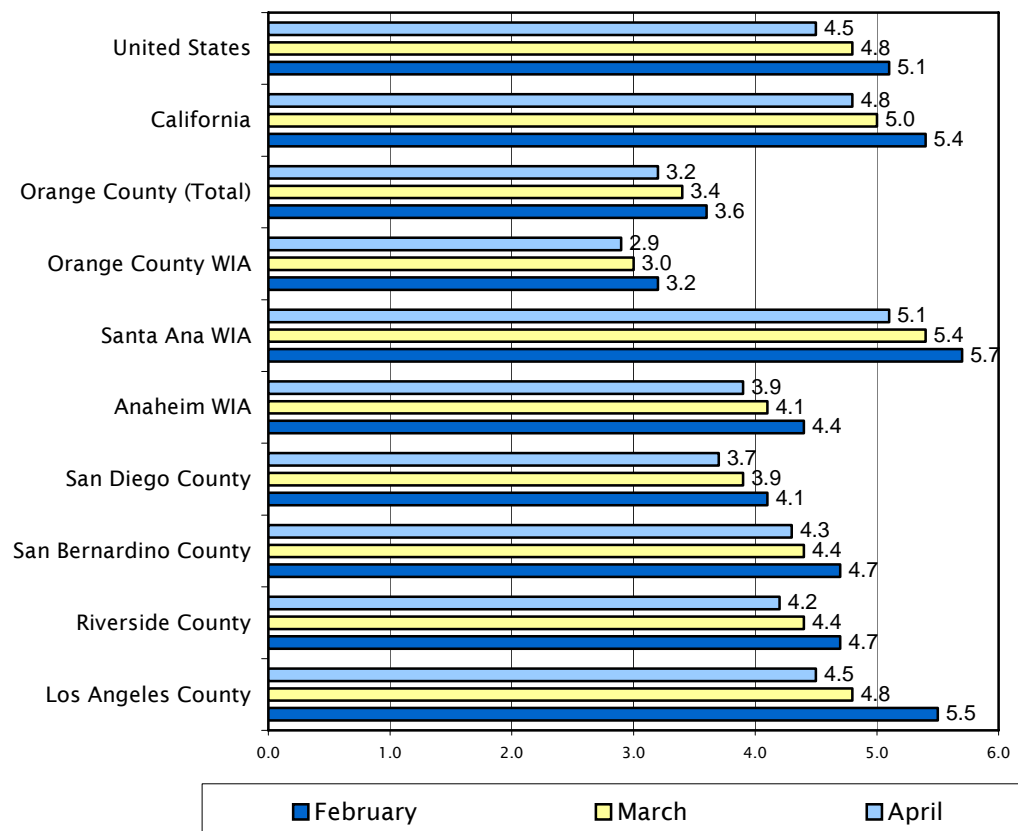
## ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYMENT DATA

### Total Civilian Labor Force

Mar. 2006 1,596,300 (Revised)  
 Apr. 2006 1,587,400 (Preliminary)

Sources: CA Department of Finance; EDD, Labor Market Division. Note: Each month is subject to slight EDD revisions thirty days after issuance. All previous EDD figures are benchmarked each March.

## UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



2006

Census Bureau's Survey  
of Business Owners

Job Growth – Where  
and What?

[http://money.cnn.com/  
2006/05/02/technology/  
business2\\_nextjobboom  
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Orange County is  
Awarded \$400,000  
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Prepare for Inevitable  
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Strikes - SBA

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## Labor Force & Industry Employment Data April 2006

**Between March 2006 and April 2006**, nonfarm wage and salary employment in Orange County grew by 2,900 to reach 1,502,500 jobs.

- Leisure and hospitality posted the largest gain, with the addition of 1,800 jobs over the month. Most of the growth was in accommodation and food services (up 1,000 jobs).
- Professional and business services grew by 700 jobs, with 86 percent of the increase in administrative and support services, which includes temporary help agencies.
- Employment in manufacturing increased by 500 jobs. Eighty percent of the increase was in durable goods. This is the largest month over increase recorded in the last ten years.

**Between April 2005 and April 2006**, total nonfarm employment was up 13,300 jobs, an increase of 0.9 percent.

- Professional and business services reported the largest gain with the addition of 6,000 jobs. Administrative and support services (up 4,300 jobs) accounts for 72 percent of the employment in this sector. Year over increases in this industry have slowed each month since January 2006.
- Construction reported an increase of 3,400 jobs over the year. The growth was only about half of the previous month's year over gain. Seventy-one percent of the growth was in specialty trade contractors, which include plumbers, electricians, laborers and others.
- Educational and health services recorded a gain of 2,000 payroll jobs, with all of the growth in health care and social assistance led by nursing and residential care facilities.

Sources: Employment Development Department, Labor Market Division press release, May 19, 2006  
[http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/oran\\$PDS.pdf](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/file/lfmonth/oran$PDS.pdf)

## Census Bureau's Survey of Business Owners

On May 16, 2006, the Census Bureau released the results of the Survey of Business Owners. The Survey of Business Owners (SBO), formerly known as the Surveys of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (SMOBE/SWOBE), provides statistics that describe the composition of U.S. businesses by gender, Hispanic or Latino origin, and race. Additional statistics include owner's age, education level, veteran status, and primary function in the business; family- and home-based businesses; types of customers and workers; and sources of financing for expansion, capital improvements, or start-up. Economic policymakers in federal, state and local governments use the SBO data to understand conditions of business success and failure by comparing census-to-census changes in business performances and by comparing minority-/non-minority- and women-/men-owned businesses. The 2002 SBO defines minority owned businesses as firms in which a minority person owns 51 percent or more of the stock or equity of the business.

## Asian Owned Businesses

The number of Asian-owned businesses grew 24 percent between 1997 and 2002, approximately twice the national average for all businesses. The 1.1 million businesses generated more than \$326 billion in revenues, up 8 percent from 1997. Almost 1-in-3 of all Asian-owned firms had paid employees. These 319,300 businesses employed more than 2.2 million people and generated revenues of nearly \$291 billion.

### Other highlights:

California and New York accounted for 59 percent (170,547) of all Chinese-owned firms, 37 percent (86,494) of all Asian Indian-owned firms and 46 percent (73,466) of all Korean-owned firms. California and Texas accounted for 51 percent (74,634) of all Vietnamese-owned firms. California and Hawaii accounted for 54 percent (69,061) of all Filipino-owned firms and 65 percent (56,490) of all Japanese-owned firms.

Forty-nine percent (35,224) of all other Asian-owned firms were located in California, New York and Texas. Los Angeles County, by far, had the largest number of Asian-owned firms in 2002 with 140,411 or 13 percent of all Asian businesses. These businesses generated \$52.5 billion in receipts. Queens County, N.Y., was second (48,241), followed by Orange County, Calif., (46,015) and Honolulu County, Hawaii (35,376).

## Black Owned Businesses

Revenues generated by the nation's 1.2 million black-owned businesses rose 25 percent between 1997 and 2002 to \$88.8 billion in 2002, while the number of such firms grew by 45 percent in the same five-year period. New York had the greatest number of black-owned firms with 129,324, followed by California (112,873), Florida (102,079), Georgia (90,461) and Texas (88,769). These five states accounted for about 44 percent of all black-owned businesses in the United States. Cook County, Ill., and Los Angeles County, Calif., had the largest numbers of black-owned businesses in the nation. Cook County, with 54,758 black-owned firms, accounted for 80 percent of all black-owned firms in Illinois. Los Angeles County, with 52,674 black-owned firms, accounted for 47 percent of all black-owned firms in California.

### Other highlights:

In 2002, nearly 4-in-10 black-owned firms operated in health care and social assistance, and other services, such as personal services, and repair and maintenance. They owned 9.7 percent of all such businesses in the United States. Retail trade, and health care and social assistance services accounted for 28.6 percent of all black-owned business revenue.

There were 10,727 black-owned firms operating in 2002 with receipts of \$1 million or more. Revenue for these firms was about \$49 billion, compared to \$40 billion in 1997, up 22 percent.

## Hispanic Owned Businesses

The number of Hispanic-owned businesses grew 31 percent between 1997 and 2002 — three times the national average for all businesses. The nearly 1.6 million Hispanic-owned businesses generated nearly \$222 billion in revenue, up 19 percent from 1997. Hispanic businesses are among the fastest growing segments of our economy.

### Other highlights:

In 2002, nearly 3-in-10 Hispanic-owned firms operated in construction and other services, such as personal services, and repair and maintenance. Retail and wholesale trade accounted for 36 percent of Hispanic-owned business revenue. There were 29,184 Hispanic-owned firms with receipts of \$1 million or more.

States with the fastest rates of growth for Hispanic-owned firms between 1997 and 2002 included New York (57 percent), Rhode Island and Georgia (56 percent each), Nevada and South Carolina (48 percent each). Counties with the highest number of Hispanic-owned

firms were Los Angeles County, Calif. (188,472); Miami-Dade County, Fla. (163,188); Harris County, Texas (61,934); and Bronx County, N.Y. (38,325).

More information is available on the Census Bureau's web site at <http://www.census.gov/csd/sbo/index.html>

## Job Growth - Where and What?

To find hotspots for job growth, look south. Las Vegas and Orlando have a growing entertainment sector. Austin is a tech hub that seems ready for double-digit growth with a vibrant semiconductor sector. Samsung is putting \$4 billion into a local chip fabrication. Phoenix meanwhile is growing in areas as disparate as aerospace, financial services and online education. This city is in the midst of such a boom that experts project it will be the scene of the greatest regional expansion in our lifetime.

As new subdivisions spring to life the infrastructure that's required to support new residents -- such as mortgage lending and healthcare -- are sure to provide steady employment. Best of all, this kind of work has to be delivered locally. These are jobs that won't go overseas. Las Vegas, Nevada; Orlando, Florida; Riverside, California; Austin, Texas; Phoenix, Arizona; Jacksonville, Florida; Tampa, Florida; Dallas, Texas; Charlotte, North Carolina; and Atlanta, Georgia are the "10 hot cities for job growth" according to an article on CNNMoney May 4, 2006.

Apple, Adobe, and eBay, some of the fastest-growing tech companies grew their payrolls by an average of 16% in 2005, hiring more than 70,000 people. Google, has hired so much tech talent over the past couple of years that it's pushed salaries higher all over Silicon Valley. Does this mean the IT job market has recovered from its long slump? Depends on where you live. According to NimbleCat, a tech job-tracking service, the job market is picking up across the board, but California is creating a somewhat smaller share of new IT jobs, meaning that growth is increasing elsewhere. According to NimbleCat's latest figures, the top 10 metropolitan areas for new tech jobs are: Los Angeles, Washington, D.C., Chicago, Boston, New York, Seattle, San Francisco, San Jose, Dallas, and Atlanta. Note that only three are here in the Golden State, the fewest since NimbleCat began counting seven years ago.

But even if you don't live anywhere near those top 10 cities, plenty of other employers are hiring if the job-seeker has the right skills. Dan Rodriguez, CEO of an IT staffing firm in Florida called Veredus, says, "it's becoming far more of an employee's market." According to Rodriguez, "when things were really bad, in 2001 and 2002, lots of people decided to get out of IT altogether, including some really highly qualified people." "They went off and took up whole new careers, so they're not available anymore.

What skills are employers seeking now? The list is a fairly extensive one, according to Rodriguez: "Nationwide, Microsoft .Net is in big demand, as are Oracle and Java developers. We're also seeing openings for portal developers and people with BizTalk and e-commerce experience, along with certain packages like PeopleSoft, Oracle financials, and SAP. And of course certifications like the MCSE [Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer] are always big. The supply of people who have these skills and credentials is not keeping up with demand."

So-called "soft skills" are also being emphasized - a trend too many job seekers overlook. "Companies now want tech people who interact well with the rest of the organization - talking to customers, understanding where tech projects fit into the overall corporate strategy, and so on," says Rodriguez. "The days when IT staffers and managers could just be technical wizards with bad people skills are over."

In a new twist on global outsourcing, a flock of U.S. pilots is fleeing the depressed North American airline industry to work in far reaches of the world where aviation is booming (The Wall Street Journal, May 5, page 1, as referenced in the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Daily Report, Monday, May 8, 2006). After the 2001 terrorist attacks stifled air travel and sent the U.S. industry into its deepest decline ever, more than 10,000 U.S. pilots were laid off and many more took early retirement. Despite subsequent hiring by a few healthy carriers, including Southwest Airlines, thousands haven't been able to find new flying jobs at their old pay grades.

At the same time, the industry is expanding rapidly in China, India, Southeast Asia and the Middle East. As these regions have grown more affluent and loosened aviation restrictions, travel demand has soared. New airlines have started up, existing carriers are adding routes, and hundreds of new jets are on order. So like British and Australian pilots who long have plied their trade wherever they can find work, more Yanks are taking their skills offshore. They are doing so despite trepidations about moving families, flying on short term contracts, and sometimes giving up union rights to be called back to work by U.S. carriers according to seniority. U.S. pilots are working as far afield as Bolivia, China, Qatar and Vietnam. Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways and Singapore Airlines are hiring more Americans, as are carriers in Taiwan and South Korea, and increasingly in India.

Aerospace giant Boeing Co. estimates the global jet fleet will grow to more than 35,000 airplanes in 2024, from fewer than 17,000 in 2004. Boeing pegs demand for new pilots at nearly 18,000 a year through 2024. China, alone, will need more than 35,000 new pilots over 20 years, and the rest of Asia will need 56,500, the company estimates. Many countries are unable to train pilots at home. English is the industry's world-wide language. Putting two pilots with different native languages in the same cockpit where they might have to interact with an air-traffic controller whose native tongue is different still can lead to problems, especially in emergencies, contends the president of the U.K. based International Federation of Air Line Pilots Association, which represents pilot unions and associations in 95 countries. Compensation for the foreign gigs varies widely. But it is often better than what U.S. pilots can earn at home, where pay levels and benefits have been reduced by bankruptcy filings and restructurings.

[http://money.cnn.com/2006/05/02/technology/business2\\_nextjobboom\\_hotcities/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2006/05/02/technology/business2_nextjobboom_hotcities/index.htm)

[http://money.cnn.com/2006/05/23/news/economy/annie/fortune\\_annie0524\\_b2fastesttech/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2006/05/23/news/economy/annie/fortune_annie0524_b2fastesttech/index.htm)

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## Orange County is Awarded \$400,000 Veterans Grant

The Orange County Workforce Investment Board received a grant for \$400,000 to provide important employment and training related services to Veterans who have been discharged from the armed forces within the last four years.

The "Operation: Veterans Employment and Training Services (VETS)" project is the result of a collaborative effort involving the Workforce Investment Boards of the County of Orange, the City of Anaheim, the City of Santa Ana, and Coastline Community College. Specialized services will be provided to recently-separated Veterans who are transitioning from military service into private sector employment.

The two-year "Operation: VETS" project features the unique launching of an on-base satellite Employment Transition Center at the Joint Forces Training Base at Los Alamitos. The "Operation: VETS" project will begin as a pilot project by serving the National Guard branch of the military and will expand to all other branches of the military that use the Joint Forces Training Base at Los Alamitos. Other eligible Veterans will be served through the four One-Stop Centers located throughout Orange County which can be accessed at: <http://www.ocwib.org/JobSeeker.aspx>.



Only five projects throughout California were selected for funding. Funding for the grant is derived from the Governor's 15 and 25 percent portion of the federally funded Workforce Investment Act. The County of Orange, Housing & Community Services Department/Community Investment Division coordinated the submission of the proposal. California Labor Secretary Victoria Bradshaw made the announcement of the award.

To see the news release, please click on <http://www.labor.ca.gov/newsindex.htm>

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## Prepare for Inevitable Disaster Before It Strikes - SBA

Last year hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses were destroyed, and billions of dollars were lost in the destruction caused by Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. With the Atlantic hurricane season approaching June 1, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) is urging homeowners, renters and businesses across the country to take steps to protect their lives and property now.

Disaster preparedness begins with having adequate insurance coverage – at least enough to rebuild your home and replace personal belongings. Homeowners and business owners should review their policies to see what isn't covered. Businesses should consider "business interruption insurance," which helps to cover operating costs during the post-disaster shutdown period. Flood insurance is essential; most of the 143,000 disaster loans made by the SBA after the Gulf Coast hurricanes were for flood damage. To find out more about the National Flood Insurance Program, visit the Web site at [www.floodsmart.gov](http://www.floodsmart.gov).

Making sure your home or business property is less vulnerable by identifying possible hazards, developing a plan which includes establishing escape routes, keeping emergency phone numbers handy and saving copies of important business and personal records off-site are critical disaster preparedness strategies suggested by the SBA.

A University of Texas study reports that 43 percent of companies experiencing a catastrophic data loss never recover, and half of them go out of business within two years. So businesses, and for that matter anyone who owns a home computer, should back-up financial records and other vital information stored on hard drives. SCORE, a non-profit association that serves as counselors to small businesses, suggests that those files should be stored in a portable lockbox offsite, at least 500 miles away.

More preparedness tips for businesses, homeowners and renters are available on the SBA's Web site at [www.sba.gov/disaster\\_recov/prepared/getready.html](http://www.sba.gov/disaster_recov/prepared/getready.html). The Institute for Business and Home Safety ([www.ibhs.org](http://www.ibhs.org)) also has information on protecting your home or business. The federal government's preparedness Web site [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) is another helpful resource. Through a partnership with the Hartford, the SBA also offers an online Webinar on preparing your business for disaster. Access the site by clicking <http://www.sba.gov/training/courses.html> and selecting "Surviving Beyond Disaster." To learn more about the SBA's disaster assistance program, visit the Web site at [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster).

U.S. Small Business Administration News Release, May 22, 2006

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For more information about the Orange County Workforce Investment Board, please visit: <http://www.ocwib.org>. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please reply by e-mail to [the.update@csa.ocgov.com](mailto:the.update@csa.ocgov.com) with the subject "unsubscribe". The Update is produced by the Orange County Workforce Investment Board (OCWIB) and features workforce and economic development information. Please feel free to forward The Update. If you wish to add an individual to the distribution list, please contact the OCWIB Administration office at (714) 567-7370 or reply by e-mail to: [the.update@csa.ocgov.com](mailto:the.update@csa.ocgov.com)