



United States Congress

Joint Economic Committee

EST. 1946

Republicans

Representative David Schweikert, *Chairman*



California Employment Update



August 2025 | Released September 19, 2025

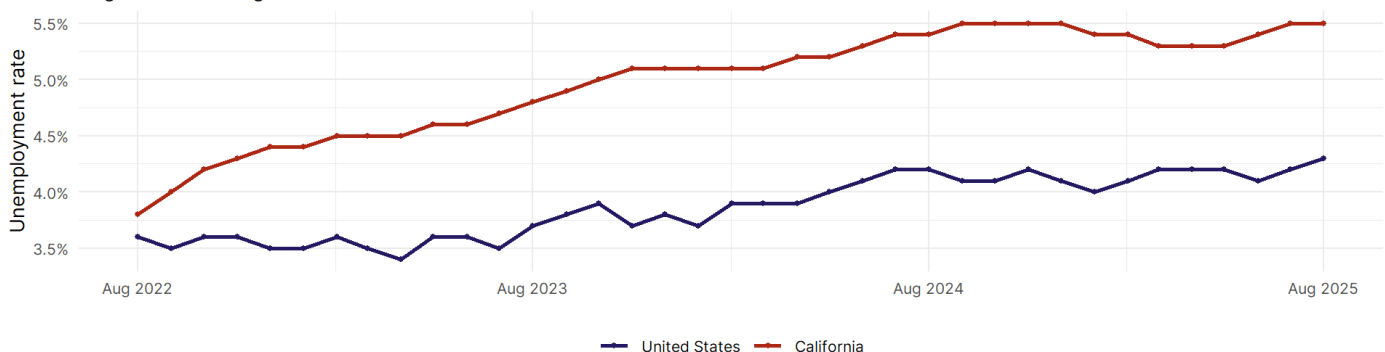
United States Employment Snapshot

- In August, among the 50 states and the District of Columbia **unemployment fell in 13, rose in 12, and remained unchanged in 26.**
- The highest unemployment rate was 6 percent in **District of Columbia**, and the lowest was 1.9 percent in **South Dakota**. Nationally, the unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point to 4.3 percent.
- In August, **payroll jobs rose in 32 states and fell in 18.** The largest payroll job percent increase was 0.5 percent in **Utah**. The largest payroll job percent decline was 0.7 percent in **District of Columbia**.

California Employment Snapshot

- In August, **California added 3,800 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5.5 percent.** In the prior month, California lost 300 net payroll jobs.
- Over the past 12 months, **California added 69,500 net payroll jobs** and the **unemployment rate rose by 0.1 percentage point from 5.4 percent.**
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent.** California **is tied for 36th** in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- In August, **California's private sector added 11,400 net private payroll jobs**, and over the past 12 months it added 37,200 private payroll jobs. In the prior month, California added 600 net private payroll jobs.
- In August, employment in California **rose by 1,019**, and over the past 12 months it rose by 137,816.
- **California's labor force participation rate remained steady at 62.4 percent** in August and **ranks 29th** in the nation. In the past 12 months, the labor force participation rate has risen by 0.2 percentage points.

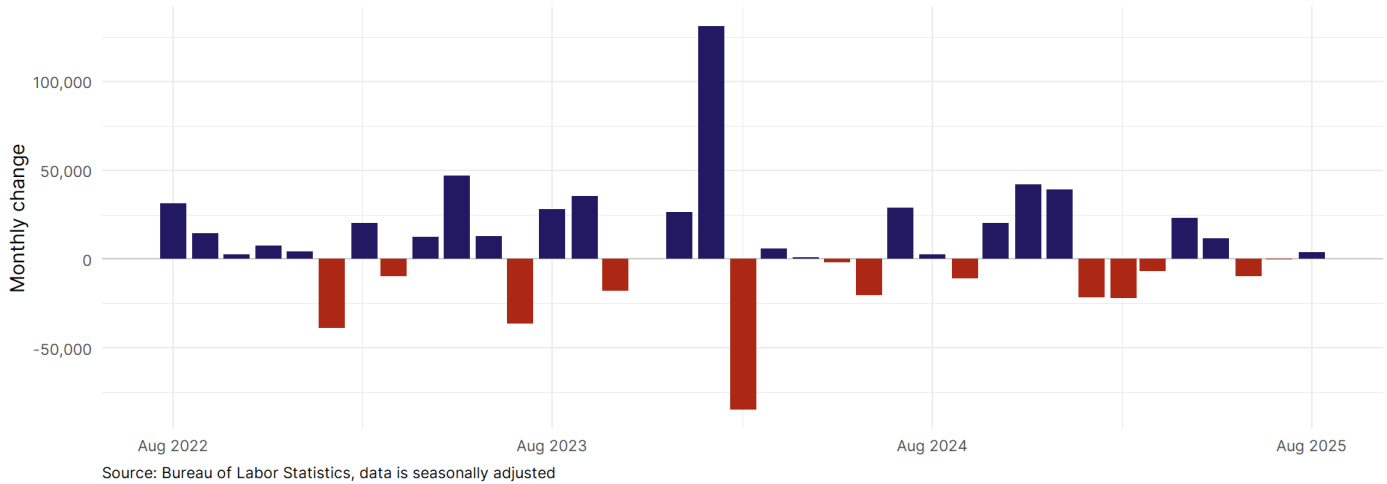
Unemployment Rate in California
August 2022 to August 2025



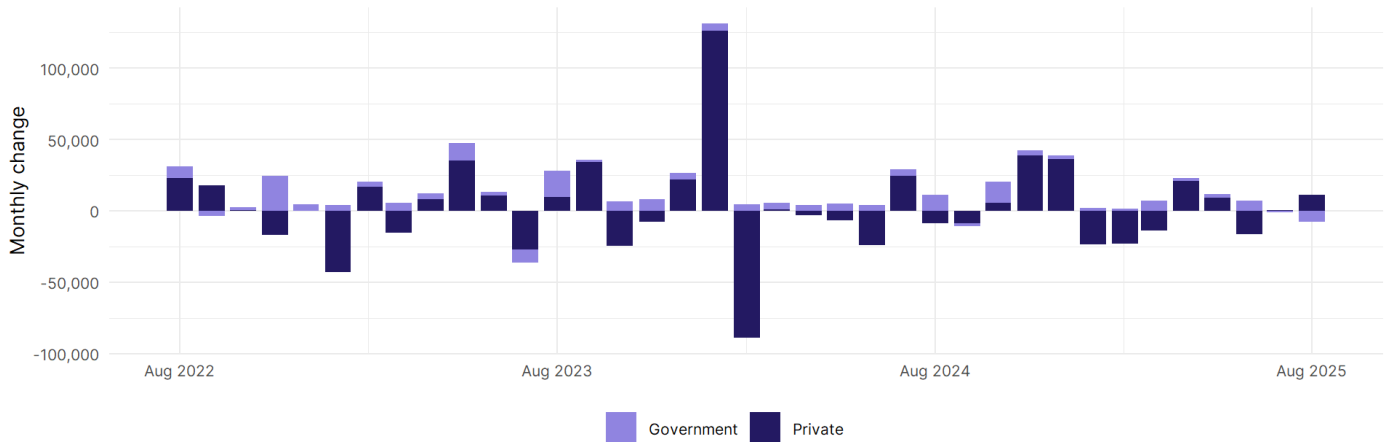
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

California Payroll employment

Change in Nonfarm Payrolls in California
August 2022 to August 2025



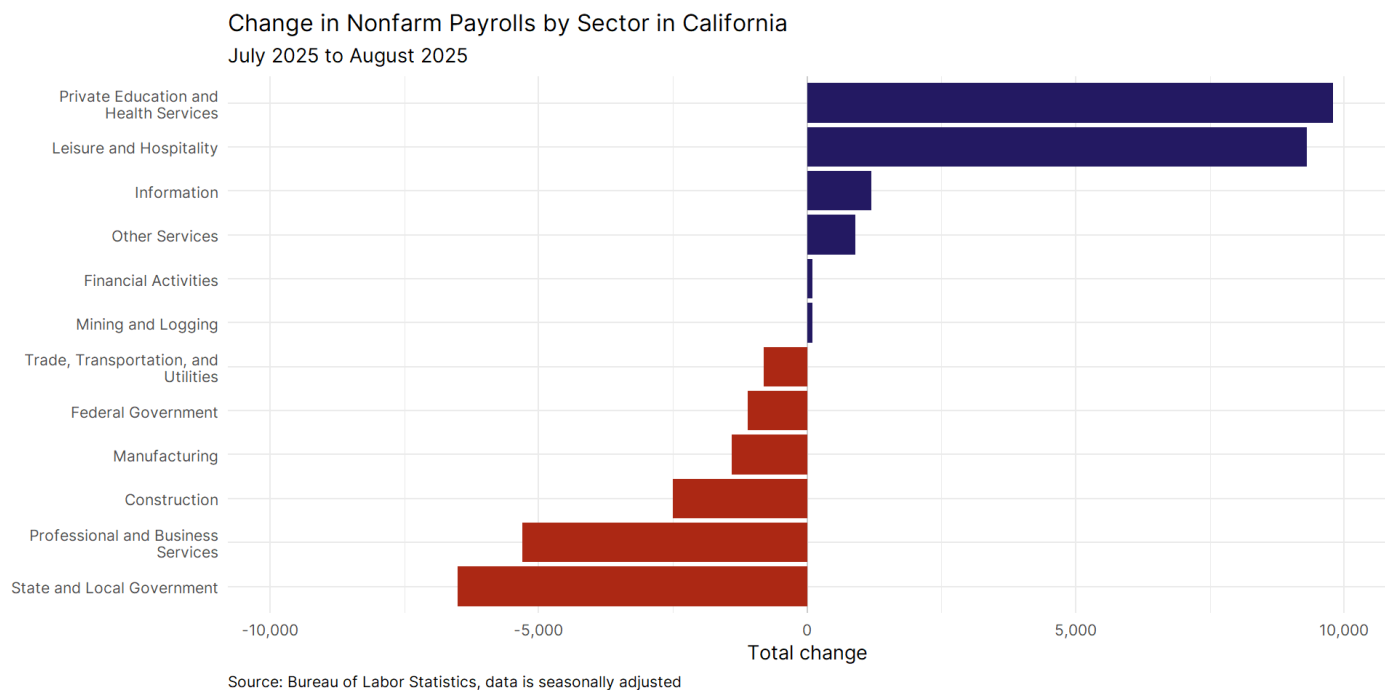
Change in Nonfarm Payrolls by Sector in California
August 2022 to August 2025



- **California added 3,800 net payroll jobs, or 0 percent**, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, California lost 300 jobs. California nonfarm payroll employment has increased in **6 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, nonfarm payrolls **rose by 22,000 in August, or 0 percent**. California is tied for 36th in the nation for percentage gain in nonfarm payroll employment over the past 12 months.
- **California added 11,400 private sector jobs, or 0.1 percent**, on a seasonally adjusted basis during August. In the prior month, California added 600 jobs. California private sector payroll employment has increased in **7 of the past 12 months**.
- Nationally, private sector payroll jobs **rose by 38,000 jobs in August, or 0 percent**. California ranks 45th in the nation for percentage gain in private sector payroll employment over the past 12 months.

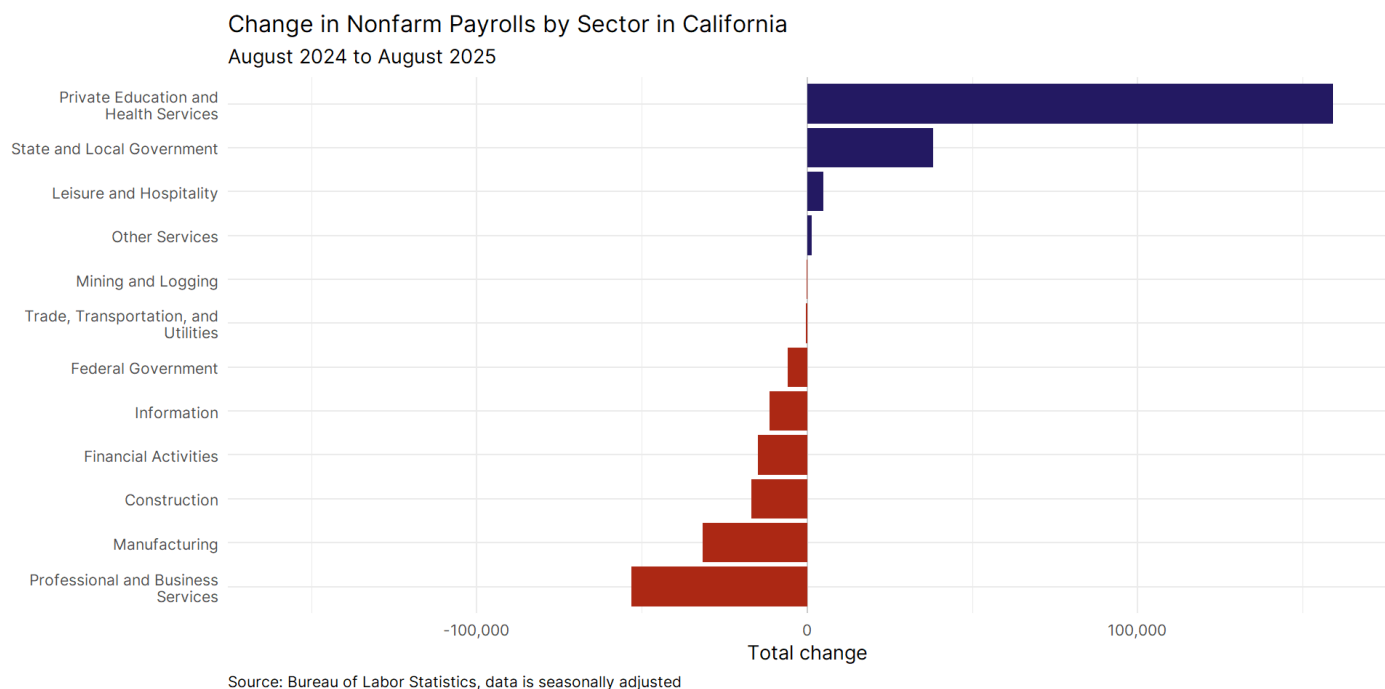
From July 2025 to August 2025:

- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+9,800) and **Leisure and Hospitality** (+9,300).
- The worst performing sectors were **State and Local Government** (-6,500) and **Professional and Business Services** (-5,300).



From August 2024 to August 2025:

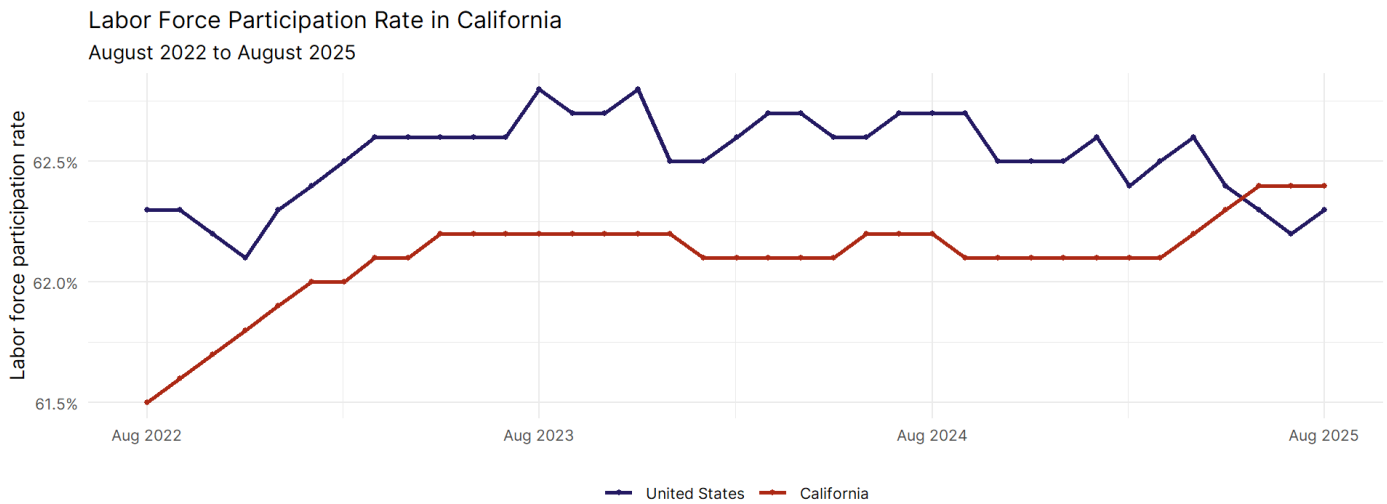
- The best performing sectors were **Private Education and Health Services** (+159,400) and **State and Local Government** (+38,100).
- The worst performing sectors were **Professional and Business Services** (-53,200) and **Manufacturing** (-31,700).



California Labor force

The labor force participation rate is the percentage of the civilian noninstitutionalized population age 16 and older who are employed or actively looking for work.

- The labor force participation rate in **California remained unchanged at 62.4 percent in August.**
- **California ranks 29th** in the nation.
- The 10-year high for the labor force participation rate in California was **63 percent** in February 2020, and the 10-year low was **59.6 percent** in May 2020.
- The national labor force participation rate **rose by 0.1 percentage points to 62.3 percent** in August.



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, data is seasonally adjusted

