

California Unemployment Hits 11.5%

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Sacramento, CA (AHN) - California's unemployment rate rose to 11.5 percent in May, which is not only the highest jobless rate there since World War II but also significantly higher than the national average of 9.4 percent.

Two of the state's rural counties have unemployment rates that are nearly 20 percent, according to the state Economic Development Department.

Non-farm payrolls dropped by 68,900, about the same rate as in March and April. The leading sector for job losses was government, which shed 14,200 jobs statewide. But every other sector saw job losses, except for the educational and health services category that bucked the trend by adding 2,100 jobs.

According to a press release from the Economic Development Department, the number of unemployed people in California in May was 2,138,000 - up by 73,000 from the previous month, and up by 885,000 compared to a year ago.

If misery loves company, then California has some in four states that have even higher jobless rates. Those states are Michigan at 14.1 percent, Oregon at 12.4 percent, and Rhode Island and South Carolina both with 12.1 percent.

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