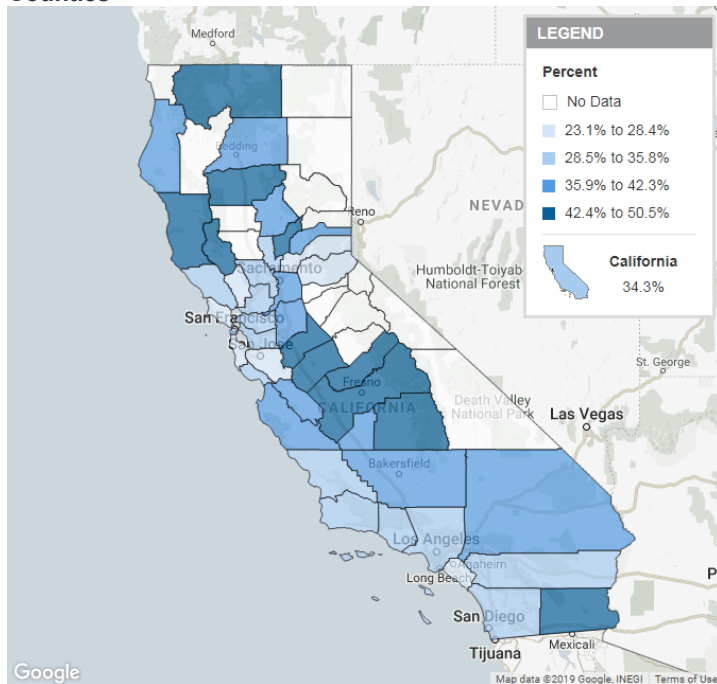


Unemployment in California

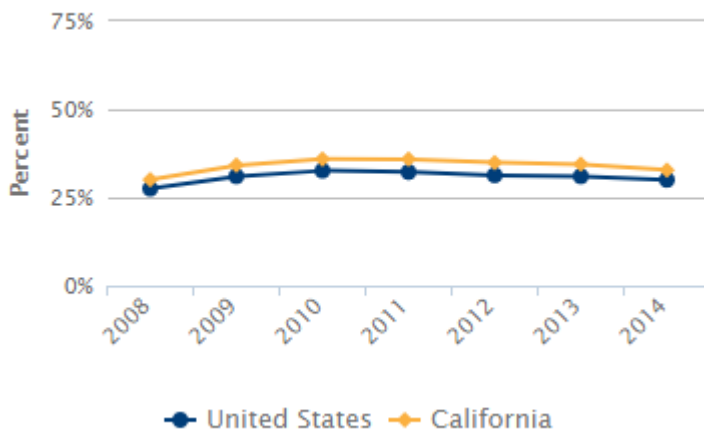
Children without Secure Parental Employment: 2010-2014; Showing Counties



Definition: Estimated percentage of children under age 18 living in families where no resident parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey (e.g., in 2010-2014, an estimated 34.3% of California children lived in families where no parent worked 35 hours per week for at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey).

Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey microdata files (Mar. 2016).

Children without Secure Parental Employment



What It Is

Kidsdata.org provides the number and percentage of unemployed people in the labor force (ages 16 and older). Data are available at the national, state, county, and city levels. California data come from a statewide survey of households, which counts a person as unemployed if he/she does not have a job, is able and available to work, and has looked for a job in the week that includes the 12th of the month. The same survey counts as employed any person who worked one hour or more during the week in question. U.S. data come from the Current Population Survey. In this survey, persons are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work. Persons who were not working and were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been temporarily laid off are also included as unemployed.

Data are also available for children living in households without secure parental employment, where no parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. These data are provided for regions with 65,000+ residents as 1-year estimates, and for regions of 10,000+ residents and legislative districts as 5-year estimates.

Why This Topic Is Important

In 2014, nearly one-third (32.8%) of California children lived in families where no parent had full-time employment (1). Unemployment and underemployment reduce family income and thus can cause financial instability. Financial stress has direct impacts on parents and, in addition to limiting parents's ability to meet their family's material needs, can affect their ability to meet their children's emotional needs. Consequently, family financial hardship can contribute to behavioral and social problems in children, and compound poor physical health (2). Children who experience economic hardship when they are young, or who experience extreme and prolonged hardship, are at greatest risk for poor developmental outcomes (2). Children with unemployed parents also are at higher risk of experiencing family relocation and repeating a grade in school than children whose parents are stably employed (2, 3). In addition, long-term parental unemployment is associated with decreased earnings for children when they enter the work force (3).

How Children Are Faring

Definition: Estimated percentage of children under age 18 living in families where no resident parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey (e.g., in 2014, an estimated 32.8% of California children lived in families where no parent worked 35 hours per week for at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey).

Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey microdata files (Nov. 2015).

Unemployment in California & Select Counties: 2015

Locations	Percentage of the Labor Force
California	6.2%
Alameda County	4.7%
Contra Costa County	5.0%
Fresno County	10.2%
Kern County	10.2%
Los Angeles County	6.7%
Orange County	4.5%
Riverside County	6.7%
Sacramento County	6.0%
San Bernardino County	6.5%
San Diego County	5.2%
Santa Clara County	4.2%

Definition: Estimated percentage of unemployed persons in the total labor force ages 16 and older (e.g., in 2015, an estimated 6.2% of the California labor force was unemployed).

Data Source: California Employment Development Dept., Labor Market Information Division (Jun. 2016); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics Including the National Unemployment Rate (Jun. 2016).

In 2015, nearly 1.2 million Californians (6.2% of the state workforce) were unemployed, down from a 16-year high of 2.3 million (12.4% of the labor force) in 2010. The trend in California's unemployment mirrors that of the U.S., but California's unemployment figures have been consistently higher since 2000. Unemployment varies across California counties, ranging from 3.4% to 24% in 2015. City-level rates also show variation.

In 2014, 32.8% of California children lived in households without secure parental employment, where no parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the 12 months prior to the survey. California figures for children without secure parent employment have exceeded national figures since at least 2008.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/43/unemployment/summary>



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