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## Beacon Economics Employment Report

May 2011

*A partnership of the EVC and Beacon Economics*

### California Job Recovery Masks A Not So Stellar Growth Rate

#### California Recovering Jobs But Growth Remains Anemic:

California has recovered 144,200 of its jobs over the past year - the second largest gain among all 50 states (only Texas posted a larger gain, adding 254,400 jobs). However, the increase represents an annual job growth of only 1% - an anemic growth rate at best. The Golden State still has a long way to go before it returns to a fully functioning labor market. Notably, compared to job growth, production has increased at a much faster rate - indicating that businesses have improved efficiency (doing more with less) and that there has been a rise in demand for goods and services.

#### Unemployment Inches Downward:

California's unemployment rate dropped one-tenth of one percentage point in April to land at 11.9%. Only Nevada has a higher unemployment rate (12.5%). Over the past month, 37,000 more Californians reported having jobs and the number of unemployed residents dropped by 33,000. The last time California's unemployment rate was below 12% was in August 2009.

#### Los Angeles Sees Job Gains:

Los Angeles County gained the most jobs of any region in the state, adding 12,000 positions between March and April. In the bigger picture, however, the area continues to struggle. The County has only added back a total of 21,600 jobs since April of last year. Orange County saw the second largest month-over employment gain, adding 8,700 positions.

#### Hard Hit Regions Continue To Lose:

The Inland Empire, one of the regions hit hardest in the nation by the mortgage market collapse, continues to shed nonfarm jobs, losing 4,700 between March and April. Until the large number of distressed properties are processed and resolved, the area will continue to lag the recovery seen in other parts of the state.

[CLICK HERE](#) to go to *The Beacon Employment Report* web page with

*regional and industry breakdowns in all 50 states.*

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*Beacon Economics' interactive monthly employment report processes data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and data generated and released by the California Employment Development Department (EDD) on the third Friday of every month. Beacon Economics reproduces EDDs data by major MSA in California on a seasonally adjusted basis to facilitate month-to-month comparisons.*

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## Contact Beacon's Experts



**Christopher Thornberg, PhD**  
Founding Principal  
(310) 739-3286 OFC  
(415) 457-6004 FAX  
[Chris@BeaconEcon.com](mailto:Chris@BeaconEcon.com)  
[Read Bio](#)



**Jordan Levine**  
Director of Economic Research  
(310) 562-7462 OFC  
(415) 457-6004 FAX  
[Jordan@BeaconEcon.com](mailto:Jordan@BeaconEcon.com)  
[Read Bio](#)



**Brad Kemp**  
Director of Regional Research  
(310) 592-3276 OFC  
(415) 457-6004 FAX  
[Brad@BeaconEcon.com](mailto:Brad@BeaconEcon.com)  
[Read Bio](#)

**Economic Vitality Corporation** | 735 Tank Farm Road, Suite 264, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401  
(805) 788-2012 | [www.sloevc.org](http://www.sloevc.org) | [info@sloevc.org](mailto:info@sloevc.org)

For questions or feedback, please email [info@sloevc.org](mailto:info@sloevc.org) or call (805) 788-2012

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Economic Vitality Corporation | PO Box 5257 | San Luis Obispo | CA | 93403