The local unemployment rate drops in February.

USD’s Index of Economic Indicators takes a huge leap forward.

Help Wanted – Mickey D to hire 50,000 nationwide.

### Unemployment Rate (Unadjusted)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>February 2011</th>
<th>January 2011 (revised)</th>
<th>December 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Diego County</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>10.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of California</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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- **In San Diego County during February, the unadjusted unemployment rate** declined to 10.1%, from revised January rate of 10.4%. The current rate is one-half of a percent lower than the rate for January 2010. During February, the local civilian labor force decreased by 5,000 to 1,553,600 and the estimated number of unemployed civilians decreased by 4,700 to 156,700. Non-farm employment grew by 4,700 to 1,222,800 jobs. The statewide rate of 12.3% is also one-half of a percent lower than last year, while the national rate registered a nine-tenths of a percent decline from the prior year. Marin County had the lowest rate in the state at 7.8%. Mono County followed at 8.1% with San Mateo County at 8.3%, and Orange County dropping to 8.9%, making these four with rates below 9%. Fourteen counties had rates between 9% and 12%, the same as the prior month; twenty six counties had rates between 12% and 18%, one more than last month. Fourteen counties had rates above 18%, one less than last month. Colusa County had the highest rate climbing to 27.1% followed by Imperial County - 26.9%, and Sutter County – 22.4%. Within the county, National City had the highest rate - 19.1%, followed by Imperial Beach – 16.0%, and El Cajon – 13.7%. Valley Center had the lowest rate - 4.9% followed by Del Mar – 5.3%, and Poway – 6.0%. View the list of sub-region rates. (EDD Monthly Press Release, Mar. 25, 2011; EDD Monthly Report 400 C, Mar. 25, 2011)

- **The University of San Diego’s local Index of Leading Economic Indicators** recorded its largest-ever monthly increase and delivered a hint of an improving local economy. The Index which measures the health of the economy in the county grew by one and nine-tenths percent during February, which was the largest one-month gain since the Index began in 1977. The increase follows a nine-tents rise for January and now has risen or remained unchanged for 23 consecutive months. All six Index components increased in February led by a 5.11 percent jump in building permits. Other positives were a steep decline in initial unemployment claims, and increases in the outlook for the national economy, consumer confidence, help-wanted advertising, and rising local stock prices. Alan Gin, author of the Index, said the reading of the Index suggests a pickup in the pace of the recovery of the local economy. However, he added that the 23,000 jobs added since the bottom of the recession are far from reclaiming the more than 122,000 jobs lost during the recession. (University of San Diego Release, Mar. 31, 2011)

- **Industry Projections for San Diego County** recently released by the EDD/LMID predict 137,200 new jobs to be created from 2008 - 2018, a 9.5% grow rate for the 10-year projection period. Education services is forecast to create the most new jobs, 28,400, with a growth rate of 20.7%, more than double the county-wide rate. The bulk of the new jobs are in health care, 20,000, with a new job growth rate of 19.8%. The professional and business services sector is forecasted to generate 24,000 new jobs, a growth rate of 11.2% followed by government (mostly state and local education) 21,100 jobs and a 9.4% growth; and trade, transportation, and utilities with 16,400 new jobs and a growth rate of 5.9%. (www.SanDiegoAtWork.com; www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

- **Recent occupational projections developed by the EDD for San Diego County** forecast more than 14,400 new jobs and 33,250 replacement jobs totaling near 47,770 annual openings for the 2008 – 2018 period. Growth projections for nearly 700 local occupations plus wage estimates, and education and training levels are available. The occupational lists are available by various criteria. (www.SanDiegoAtWork.com; www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)
Fast-food purveyor McDonald’s announced that it plans to hire as many as 50,000 new employees in the U.S. this month. McDonald’s will stage its initial national hiring day at its restaurants and on its web site on April 19 to fill openings at its restaurants across the nation. Thehirings are in response to growth in domestic business in recent months and would increase the size of its U.S. workforce by 7 percent to 700,000. (www.msnbc.msn.com)

Pluses:
- During February, non-farm employment increased by 4,700 jobs. Professional and business services reported the greatest job-gain, adding 1,800 jobs. Six other non-farm industries displayed job growth with the most notable occurring in leisure and hospitality, 1,700, while education and health services grew by 1,200 and government by 900 jobs mostly occurring in the local public education systems. (EDD Release, Mar. 25, 2011)
- Between February 2010 and February 2011, total non-farm employment in the county increased by 19,100 jobs, a 1.6 percent growth. Professional and business services posted the largest gain, adding 10,700 jobs with professional, scientific, and technical services (+6,100) contributing most of the gain. Four other non-farm sectors added jobs: leisure and hospitality (+4,300), educational and health services (+3,800), and government (+1,900). (EDD Release, Mar. 25, 2011)
- Recent job ads for February show that five local companies, Qualcomm, Appleone, Blockbuster, UCSD, and Scripps Health, each had more than two hundred job postings. Registered nurses, computer software engineers specializing in applications, retail salespersons, and executive secretaries and administrative assistants were the occupations with more than 800 openings each. (EDD Release, Mar. 25, 2011)

Minuses:
- In the county during February, non-farm sectors that reported job declines included: transportation, warehousing, and utilities, which contracted by 900 jobs; manufacturing down 400; and construction lost 100 jobs. (EDD Release, Mar. 25, 2011)
- In San Diego County between February 2010 and February 2011, five non-farm sectors reported over-the-year job declines, the most notable occurring in construction (-1,600 jobs). (EDD Release, Mar. 25, 2011)

Events of Interest:
- Cal State San Marcos, partnering with the Workforce Partnership and San Diego State University’s College of Extended Studies, is offering an eight-week Career Transition & Development for Professionals program. Designed for those with a bachelor’s degree and five years professional work experience, it is targeted to assist dislocated workers gain job search skills needed to land their next position. Three sessions are offered in April, May and June. For more information call 760-750-4020, or email el@csusm.edu. Visit a One-Stop Career Center in your area for approval and referral authorization.
- Free classes and hands-on work experience in green building and sustainable energy is being offered to eligible students through a training program funded by the Workforce Partnership. Program participants will be ready for entry-level work in the field or to enroll in more specialized training for jobs such as HVAC technicians, retrofit specialists, and solar photovoltaic installers. The four-week, 120-hour course is held at Cuyamaca College, May 2 – 26; and at San Diego Continuing Education, May 16 – June 17. Students must be 18 years of age or older, registered with the selective service, and hold legal status. For more information on eligibility and enrollment, visit SanDiegoAtWork.com or call 619-228-2913.
- The Faces of the American Recovery™ features individuals throughout San Diego County who have successfully enriched their lives by advancing their career through tax-payer funded programs. Read articles about individuals who have changed their careers and inspired others.

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General Dynamics NASSCO announced that it would cut staffing levels in the upcoming weeks. Because of the federal budget stalemate, NASSCO anticipates laying off 350 workers during May and June. An additional 550 NASSCO employees and 250 subcontracted positions are also in jeopardy as the Navy is prevented from contracting for any new programs and has delayed its ship repair schedule while commercial shipbuilding orders have declined. (www.sddt.com Mar. 25, 2011)