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## San Diego County Hits Highest Unemployment on Record

### Industries most impacted need to generate green jobs

The unemployment rate in San Diego County rose to 8.8% in February 2009, the highest unemployment rate on record for this county since data is available beginning 1990. This rate is almost the same as the national rate (8.9%) and 2 percentage points below the California unemployment rate (10.9%).

The Center on Policy Initiatives analyzed data for the county released today by the [California Employment Development Department](#).

The private sector in San Diego shed 4,100 jobs from January to February 2009, mostly in retail and manufacturing.

Table I. Top 5 Industry Sectors with Job Losses in Private Sector: (Jan-Feb 2009)

	<b>Job Loss</b>	<b>Share of total private job loss</b>	<b>Share of total private employment</b>
Furniture and home furnishing stores	1,300	31.7%	7.9%
Clothing stores	700	17.1%	5.4%
Warehouse clubs, super-centers and other general merchandise	400	9.8%%	6.3%
Computer & electronic manufacturing	400	9.8%%	1.6%
Air transportation	300	7.3%	1.6%

The above chart shows the relative impacts of the layoffs. The largest share of total layoffs was in the furniture and home furnishing, which is continuing a downward spiral since the end of the holiday shopping season. The share of layoffs in relation to the size of each industry shows how much the specific industry is impacted by the layoffs. Once again, furniture and home furnishing tops the list.

In the longer-term view, not all of the major segments of the economy have been affected equally by the economic downturn. The table below measures the decline in employment for each major private sector of the economy from its peak in the current economic cycle (since 2000). This chart shows that construction and non-durable manufacturing have been hardest hit relative to their size.

Table 2: Major private industry employment compared to peak (Jan 2000-Feb 2009):

Industry	Employment peak (since Jan' 2000)	Number of jobs at employment peak	Current number of jobs	Job loss (current from peak)	Job loss relative to total employment at peak
Construction	June 2006	95,100	67,900	27,200	28.6%
Manufacturing (Durable)	June 2000	93,400	74,800	18,600	19.9%
Manufacturing (Non-Durable)	June 2000	30,800	22,600	8,200	26.6%
Wholesale Trade	July 2007	46,000	41,800	4,200	9.1%
Retail Trade	Dec 2005	158,100	133,700	24,400	15.4%
Transportation, Warehouse and Utilities	July 2001	32,900	28,200	4,700	14.3%
Information	June 2000	41,000	38,400	2,600	6.3%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	May 2006	84,700	74,200	10,500	12.4%
Professional & Business Services	Aug 2007	219,200	213,000	6,200	2.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	Aug 2008	170,400	155,800	14,600	8.6%

"This implies that the two industries, construction and manufacturing, have undergone major changes, with almost a quarter of their peak workforce lost," said Murtaza Baxamusa, CPI research and policy director. "As these two industries are attempting to attract stimulus funding, it is likely they will undergo structural changes to address a growing demand for green jobs."

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