



For Immediate Release  
April 17, 2015

Contact  
Sarah Lubeck, (619) 615-2952  
c: (619)361-1437

Michael Combs, (619)615-2967

\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*

### **Manpower Monthly Employment Report: San Diego's unemployment rate drops to 5.1 percent**

SAN DIEGO – San Diego's job growth continued through March, as the region's employers added 8,000 seasonal jobs while the unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent—the lowest since April 2008. The region's year-to-year non-seasonal employment grew by 3.1 percent, adding 40,900 jobs since March 2014.

**Phil Blair, president of Manpower San Diego said,** "San Diego's labor market has really hit its stride. The unemployment rate is at a seven year low and two full percentage points lower than a year ago. More than 30,000 people who were unemployed have found employment in the past year, and the labor force continues to grow. Job growth has been led by key middle-to-high-wage industries like construction, health care, education, manufacturing and scientific services. These are great signs as we move ahead in 2015."

**Mike Combs, research manager at San Diego Regional EDC said,** "This was an incredibly positive report. We've seen job growth pick up the pace in the region, while the national growth rate has been relatively stagnant. Meanwhile, unemployment is down and the labor force is up. This means the dip in the unemployment rate is likely due to a healthy economy, rather than a dwindling labor force like we've seen at times in the past."

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**



**EMPLOYMENT** grew by **40,900 jobs** or 3.1 percent from the previous year.



**UNEMPLOYMENT** declined to 5.1 percent, the lowest since April 2008.



**PRIVATE SECTOR** jobs accounted for **92 percent** of the annual growth.



**STAFFING** industry added **400 jobs** from February to March.



**SHIP AND BOAT BUILDING** employment grew by more than **18 percent** from last year.

#### **Key Findings:**

- The unemployment rate fell to 5.1 percent, the lowest rate in nearly seven years, and remained well below the state and national average.
- From March 2014 to March 2015, the region added a total of 40,900 jobs—a 3.1 percent growth rate.
- Key sectors like ship and boat building, scientific R&D, health care, education and tourism drove most of the growth non-seasonal growth.

These findings are part of the California Employment Development Department monthly employment report, which was released this morning. Using the report, San Diego Regional EDC conducts its own analysis – the Manpower Monthly Report – to understand how the region’s economy is performing. The report is sponsored by Manpower San Diego.

To learn more about where San Diego stacks up with our peer metropolitan areas across the U.S., please refer to the [Quarterly Economic Snapshot](#) or [Economic Dashboard](#).

Please view the complete analysis here: <http://www.sandiegobusiness.org/blog/san-diego/manpower-employment-report-march-2015>

### **About San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation**

San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation’s (EDC’s) mission is to maximize the region’s economic prosperity and global competitiveness. As an independently funded non-profit fueled by more than 160 companies and organizations, EDC works to attract, retain and expand companies and the talent pool across the region’s three traded economies: military, tourism and innovation. [sandiegobusiness.org](http://sandiegobusiness.org)

### **About Manpower**

For more than 60 years, Manpower has been dedicated to enriching people's lives with meaningful employment and development opportunities, and providing companies with innovative workforce solutions that help them increase agility, improve productivity and boost the bottom line.

[manpower.com](http://manpower.com)



###