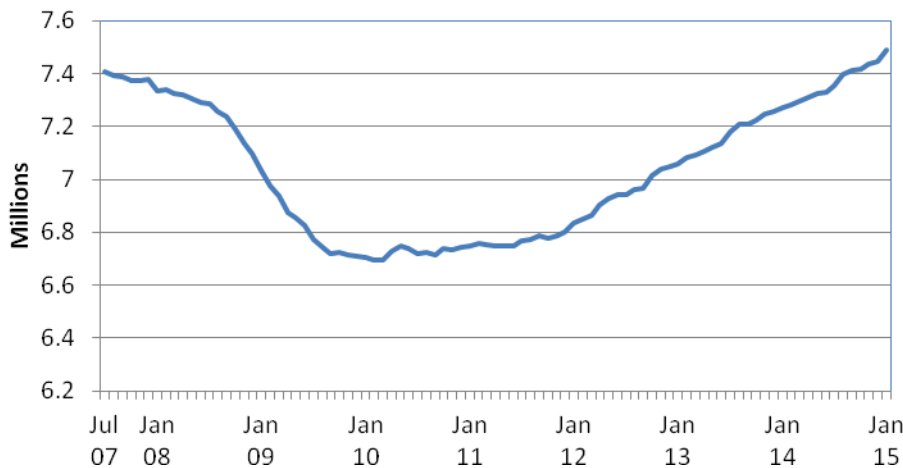


Southern California Surpasses Pre-Recession Job Peak

The annual revision of job estimates by the state Employment Development Department (EDD) found that Southern California added many more jobs than previously thought in 2014. As of January 2015 the region has 84,200 more jobs than in July 2007, the pre-recession peak.

Southern California Jobs



The revised estimates found more than 100,000 extra jobs comparing the old and new December 2014 estimates.

Upward Revision to Southern California Jobs (Thousands)

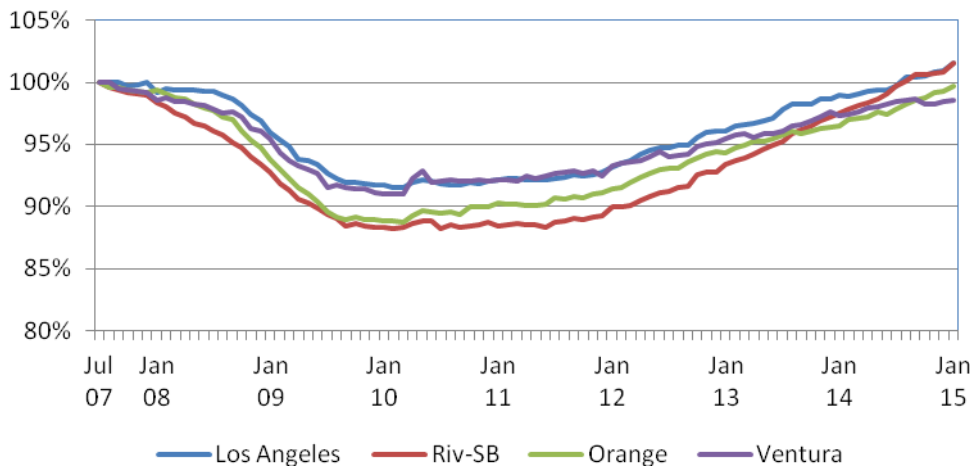
Metro Area	Dec 14 prel	Dec 14 revised	Change
LOS ANGELES	4,263.0	4,321.2	58.2
ORANGE	1,515.3	1,531.9	16.6
RIV-SB	1,289.7	1,324.5	34.8
VENTURA	297.3	297.6	0.3
LA BASIN	7,365.3	7,475.2	109.9

Source: EDD

The largest change was in the Riverside-San Bernardino (Inland Empire) metro area where the revision found 34,000 more jobs (+2.6%) than previously estimated. Los Angeles and Orange County also had upward revisions.

As a result, the Inland Empire, which had lagged in the recovery, has now exceeded the area's pre-recession job peak by 1.6%. And the same change occurred in Los Angeles County. Orange County should surpass the pre-recession peak in the next month or two and shortly thereafter Ventura County will follow.

Job Trends: Southern California



The Southern California resurgence is explained by record years in tourism, expanding foreign trade, the development of a growing regional tech sector and a return to construction activity.

One statistic stands out to illustrate the recovery. In January 2007 just prior to the recession the Inland Empire had 15,500 warehousing jobs. In January 2015 that number had exploded to 35,600. In Los Angeles County, which recorded record hotel occupancy and tourism, accommodation and food service jobs totaled 315,200 in January 2007 and 391,900 in January 2015. And in Orange County the high wage professional, scientific and technical services sector had 110,900 jobs in January 2007 and 126,100 in January 2015.

The recovery does not solve all problems and is far from complete, Construction job levels, while recovering, are far below pre recession peaks. Manufacturing in the region as in the nation suffered job losses that will never be fully recovered. And unemployment and poverty levels, while coming down, are way above historic normal levels.

But the outlook today is far more positive than it looked a month ago and regional leaders can concentrate on building the now evident strengths of the region.

Stephen Levy
Director