

EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS

As jobless claims continue to rise, unemployment in the San Diego region has hit an all-time high. An additional 34,000 jobs were lost between April 25 and May 2. The region's unemployment rate is now at 28.7%, increasing 2 percentage points over the previous week.

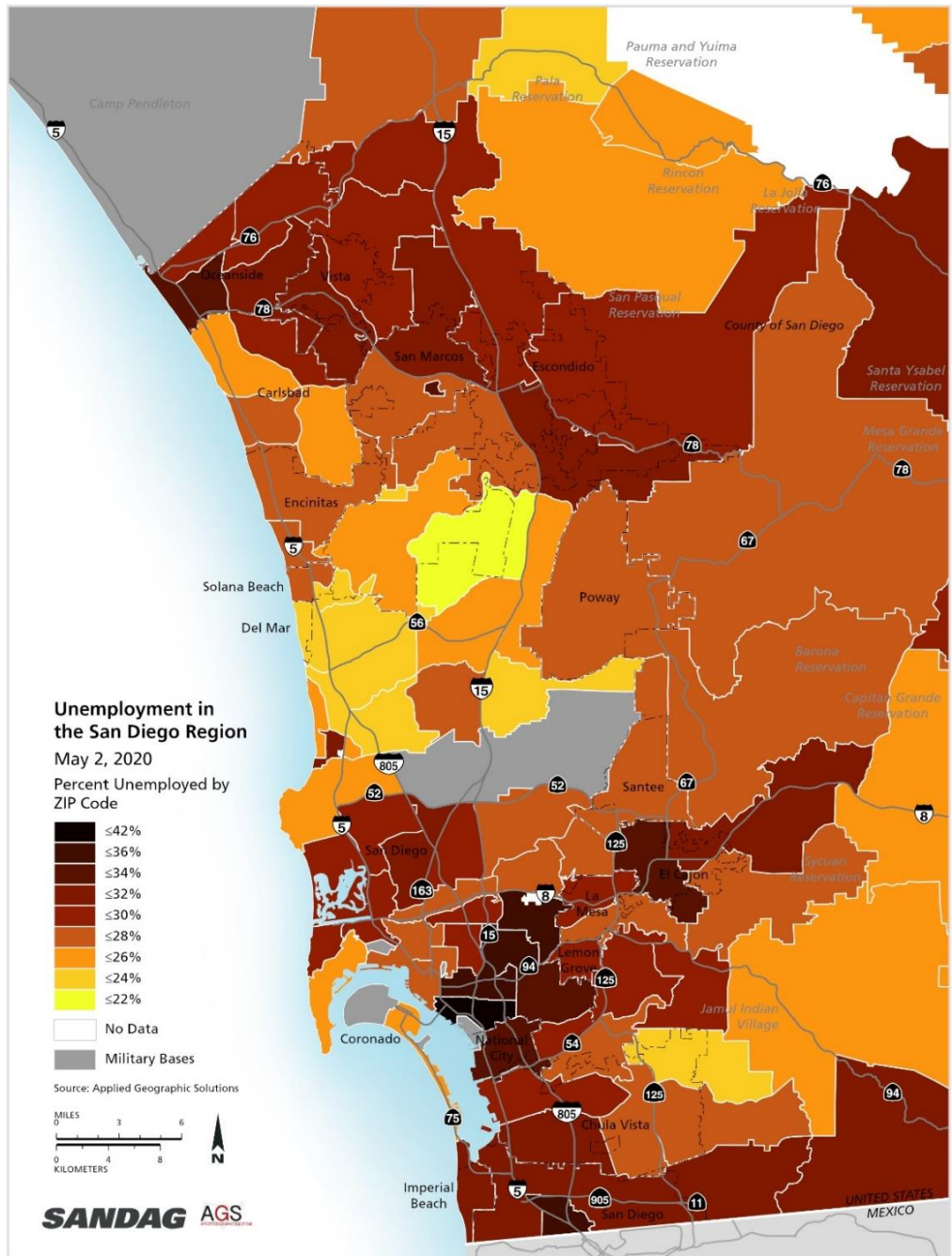
However, the current weekly increase has slowed since March 21, the end of the first week stay-at-home orders took effect.

The updated data are reflective of May 2, prior to California Governor Gavin Newsom's May 4 order to allow the reopening of portions of the economy on Friday, May 8. The phased reopening signals that the pandemic curve is flattening, and economic improvement may occur in the next few weeks.

Although recorded unemployment claims are expected to rise next week, the easing of restrictions will allow some people to begin to return to work. For the local economy to take a turn for the better, the region must move through phase 2, and into phase 3 of the Governor's roadmap.

The unemployment rate in the region is now estimated to have increased from 26.7% on April 25 to 28.7%

Figure 1: Estimated Unemployment Rate by ZIP Code as of May 2, 2020



Source: Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, California, Weekly Release May 11, 2020

on May 2, as shown in Figure 2.*

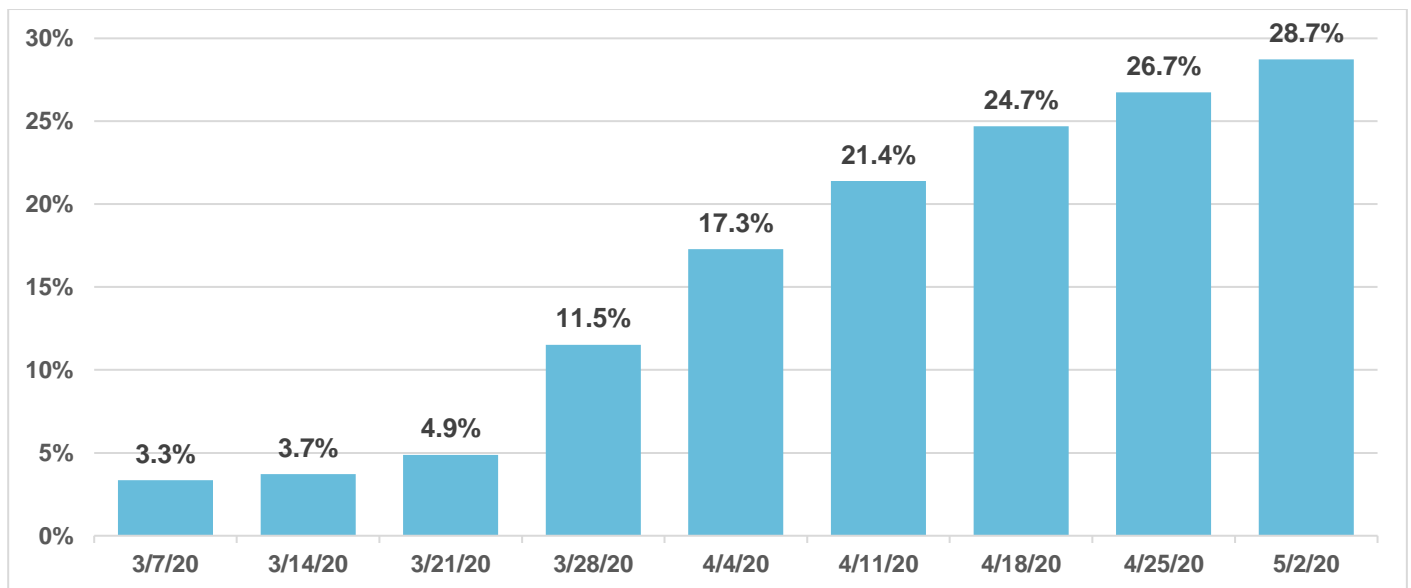
As of May 2, the San Diego region has nearly 490,000 unemployed residents. Of the nearly half-million people out of work, more than 430,000 lost their jobs after March 7, when the COVID-19 pandemic began.

While the hardest hit ZIP codes are in the central and southern parts of the county – with average unemployment rate around 35.4%, essentially leaving more than 1 in 3 workers out of work -- several areas in North County have also experienced very high increases in unemployment.

This is especially the case along the State Route 78 Corridor, where in less than two months, the unemployment rate increased more than 25 percentage points, from an average of 3.1% on March 7 to 28.6% on May 2. The ZIP codes suffering the greatest job loss, where more than 30% of the residents are without work in North County, include:

ZIP code	Name	Estimated Unemployment Rate (%) (%), as of May 2, 2020
92054	Oceanside S	32.5
92096	CSUSM	32.0
92081	Vista S	31.4
92025	Escondido S	31.1
92083	Vista W	30.7
92056	Oceanside E	30.3
92069	San Marcos N	30.3
92010	Carlsbad NE	30.0

Figure 2: Estimated Unemployment Rate in the San Diego Region as of May 2, 2020



Source: Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., (AGS) Thousand Oaks, California, Weekly Release May 11, 2020

* These estimates were revised by AGS from the previous weekly release.