

EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS

More than a year has passed since the COVID-19 pandemic sparked worldwide panic, and the State of California issued the first stay home order in mid-March 2020. The past 14 months have transformed the San Diego region in many ways and highlighted systemic inequalities from one community to another – inequalities that have led to disproportionate impacts among different groups of people in our region.

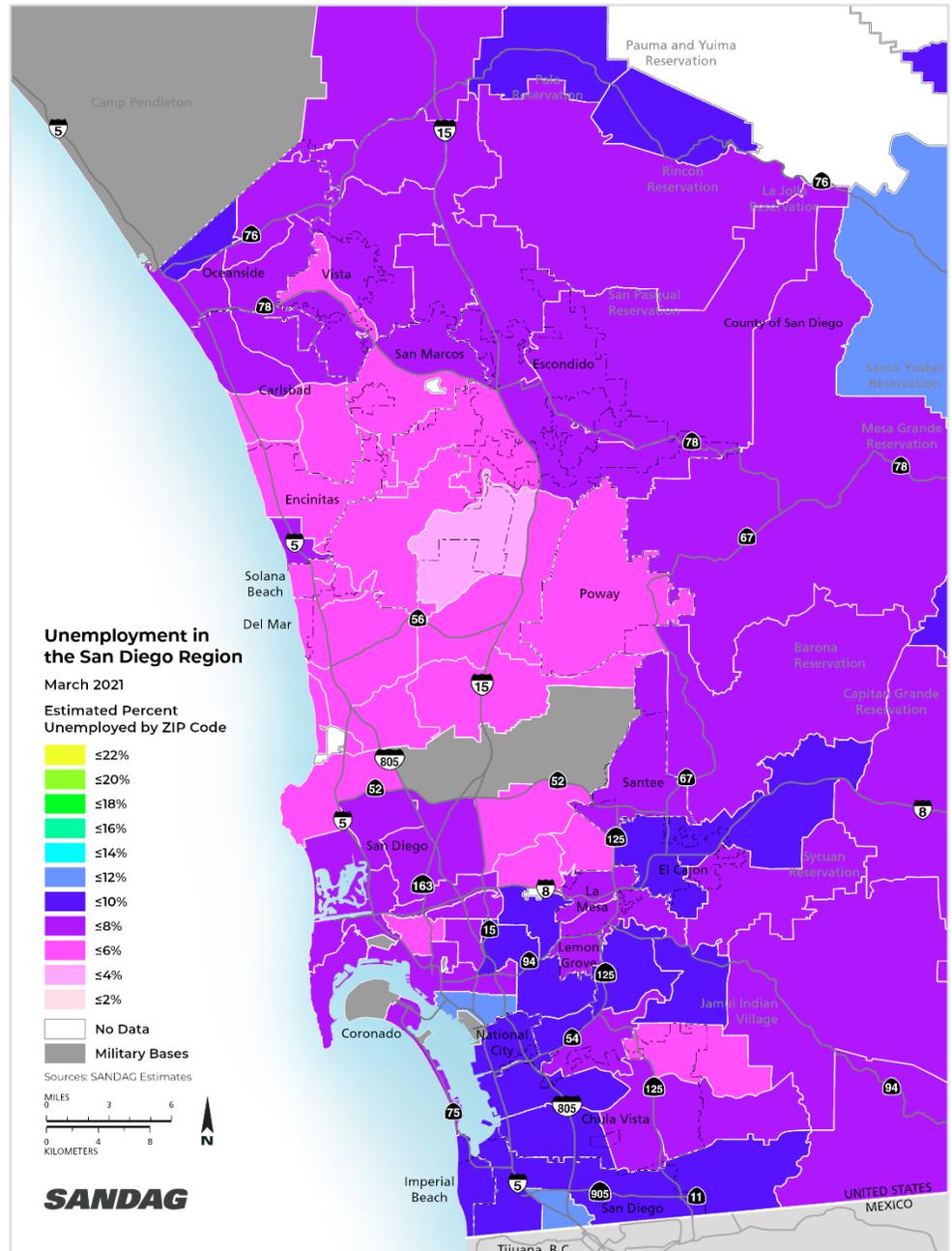
Throughout the pandemic, SANDAG has produced a number of [reports](#) and [InfoBits](#) that provide critical information related to unemployment statistics, the impact of the pandemic on specific business sectors, and analyses of who the pandemic has impacted the most.

As of March 2021, the region’s unemployment rate was 6.9%, with an estimated 105,700 people out of work. This rate is much lower than April 2020 when it was at its highest (15.9%) during the pandemic, but it is still much higher than before the pandemic began. Prior to the March 2020 lockdown, the unemployment rate was 3.2%, with just over 50,000 people unemployed.

As of March 2021, several zip code areas in the region were still experiencing high unemployment rates. These included:

- 92113 Logan Heights (11.2%)
- 92070 Santa Ysabel (10.4%)
- 92173 San Ysidro (10.0%)
- 91906 Campo (9.8%)

Figure 1: Estimated Unemployment Rate by ZIP Code as of March 2021

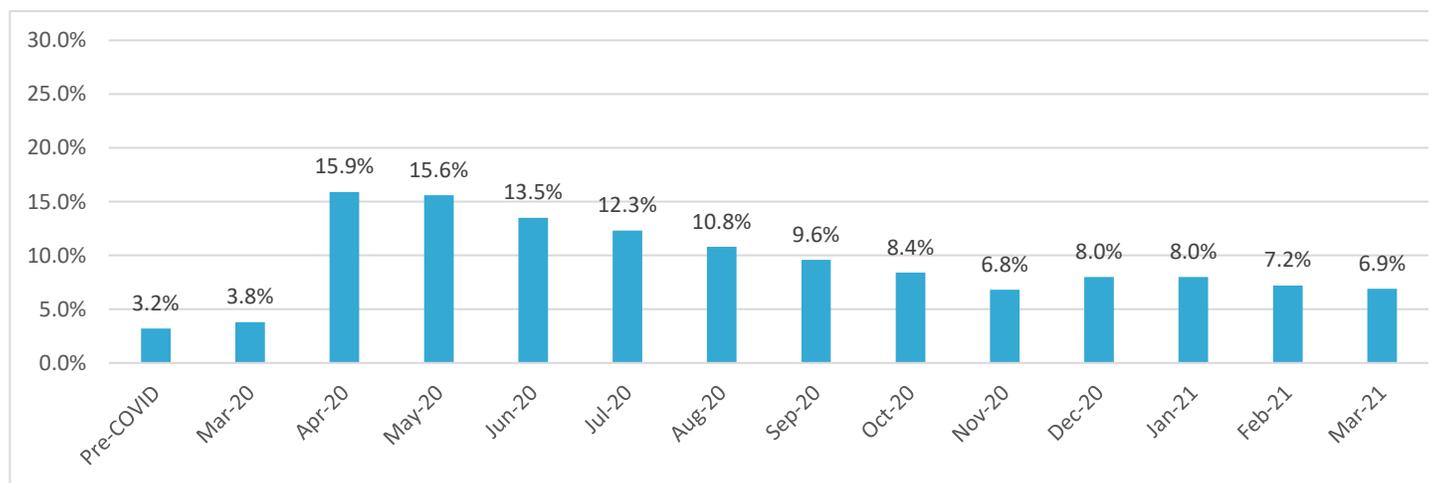


Source: SANDAG Estimates

- 92086 Warner Springs (9.6%)
- 92105 City Heights (9.2%)
- 92061 Pauma Valley (9.2%)
- 92036 Julian (9.0%)
- 91911 Chula Vista S (9.0%)
- 91932 Imperial Beach (8.8%)
- 92114 Encanto (8.8%)

Figure 2 tracks the monthly unemployment rate in the region since early last year (not seasonally adjusted), as published by the State of California Employment Development Department.

Figure 2: Estimated Unemployment Rate in the San Diego Region as of March 2021



Source: State of California Employment Development Department

The State of California has assigned specific *tiers* to each county, based on its rate of positive cases of COVID-19, adjusted case rate, and a health equity metric – all of which determine what restrictions in personal movement and on commerce should remain in place to limit the spread of COVID-19 (for more information, go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>).

As San Diego County transitions to less restrictive tiers, SANDAG will continue to monitor unemployment rates in the region every month and track differences among zip code areas. In the coming months, the agency will also prepare other special reports related to employment in the region.