EMPLOYMENT ANALYSIS

Nearly 22 weeks have passed since the stay home orders were issued in mid-March. As of August 1, 2020, the San Diego region's unemployment rate remains around 14%.

Compared to the peak of the Great Recession in 2010, when unemployment reached its height at 10.8%, the San Diego region's unemployment rate peaked at 25% in early May during the COVID-19 recession. The region has suffered 18 consecutive weeks of unprecedented unemployment rates during the pandemic (from April 4 to August 1) as shown in Figure 2.

The ten hardest-hit ZIP codes are:
- 92113-Logan Heights (19.4%)
- 92102-Golden Hill (18.1%)
- 92115-College (18.0%)
- 92105-City Heights (17.4%)
- 92054-Oceanside S (16.9%)
- 91950-National City (16.8%)
- 92083-Vista W (16.4%)
- 92081-Vista S (16.3%)
- 92173-San Ysidro (16.1%)
- 92025-Escondido S (16.0%)

COVID-19 has unarguably had disastrous effects on people, drastic impacts on businesses, and has led to a severe downturn of the San Diego regional economy. By measuring and monitoring [COVID-19 impacts on a regular basis](#), SANDAG hopes to equip local leaders and institutions with the information needed to rethink how the San Diego economy can become more resilient. During this time, policymakers must develop innovative solutions to solve public problems.
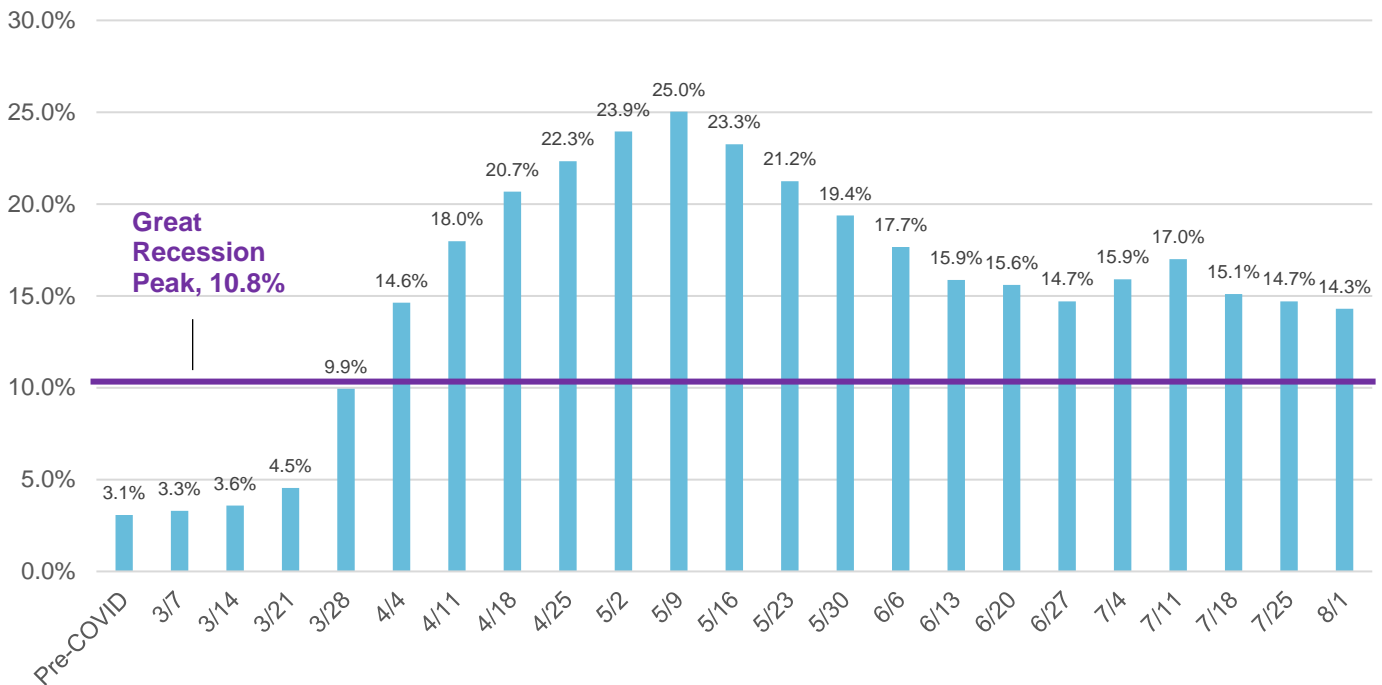
Figure 1: Estimated Unemployment Rate by ZIP Code as of August 1, 2020
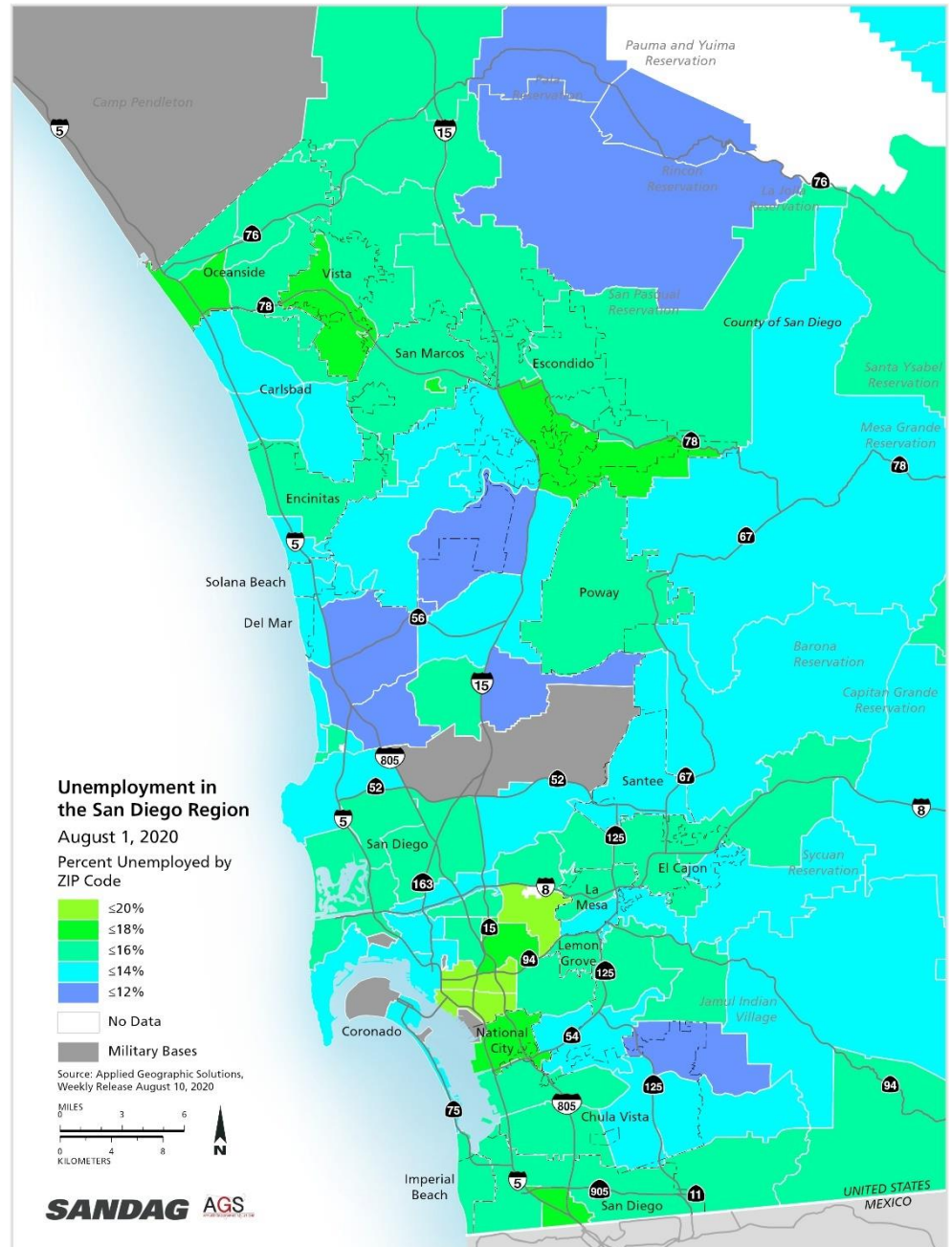
Source: Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, California, Weekly Release August 10, 2020

Communities that have been most affected by the pandemic were among those already disproportionately affected pre-COVID. The disruptions to operations and changing needs of business communities are ultimately impacting workers in lower-paid jobs. Lower-income adults were already feeling financial pressure long before the current crisis, and now as unemployment rates in the region continue at all-time highs, many lower-income families are desperately struggling to make ends meet. There is a need to focus on solutions that meet these affected families' immediate income and employment needs, including access to education and more recession-resilient jobs and skills.

Figure 2: Estimated Unemployment Rate in the San Diego Region as of August 1, 2020

Source: Applied Geographic Solutions, Inc., Thousand Oaks, California, Weekly Release June 23, 2020 (for data until June 13), and Weekly Release August 10, 2020 (after June 13)

It will take a long time for the unemployment rate to fall back to pre-COVID levels, especially if the full reopening of the economy continues to be delayed for public health reasons. SANDAG will continue to track the recovery of the San Diego regional economy by monitoring various data.