



CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT

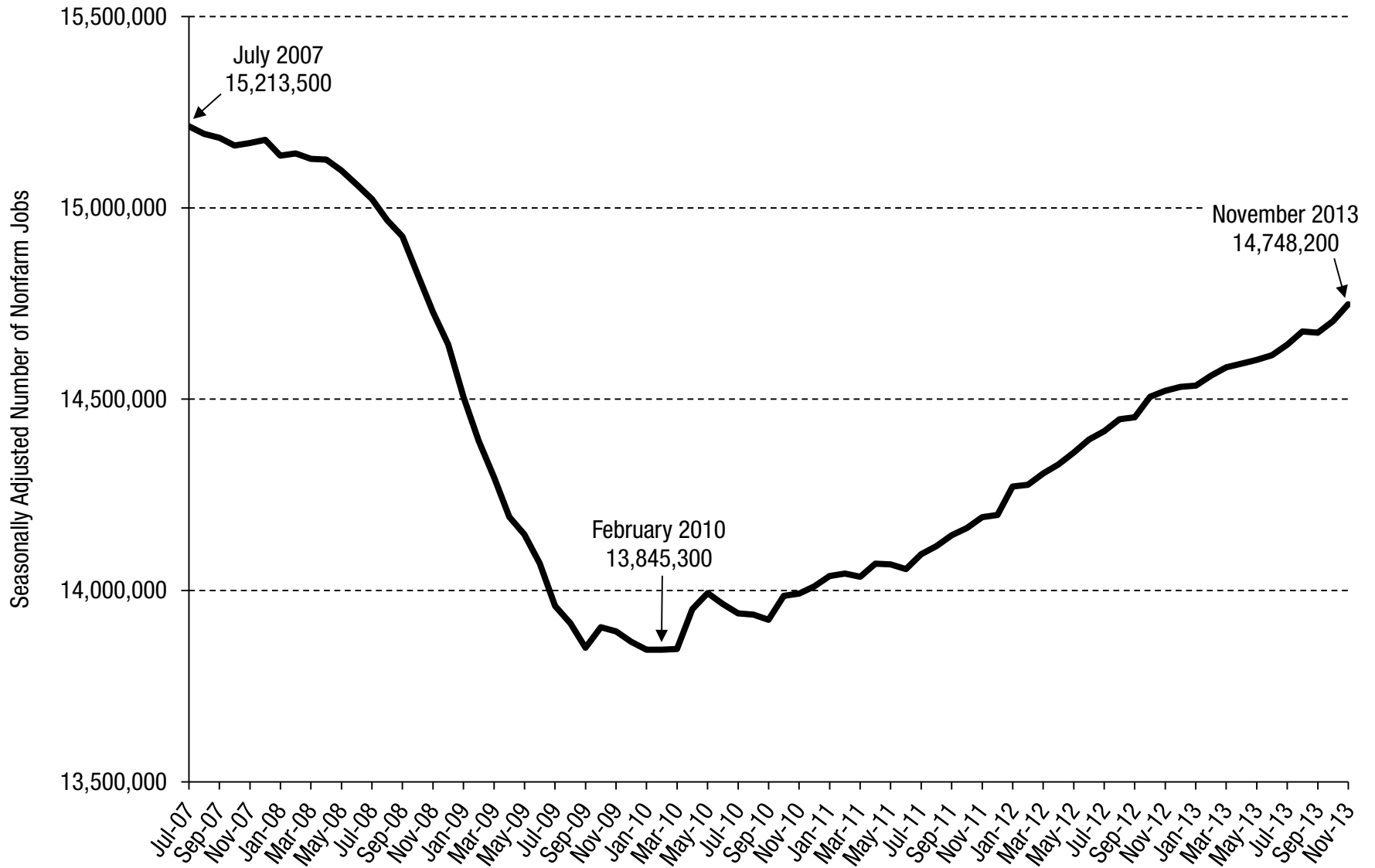
# Making Ends Meet in Contra Costa County: Current Economic Conditions and Policy Solutions for Broadly Shared Prosperity

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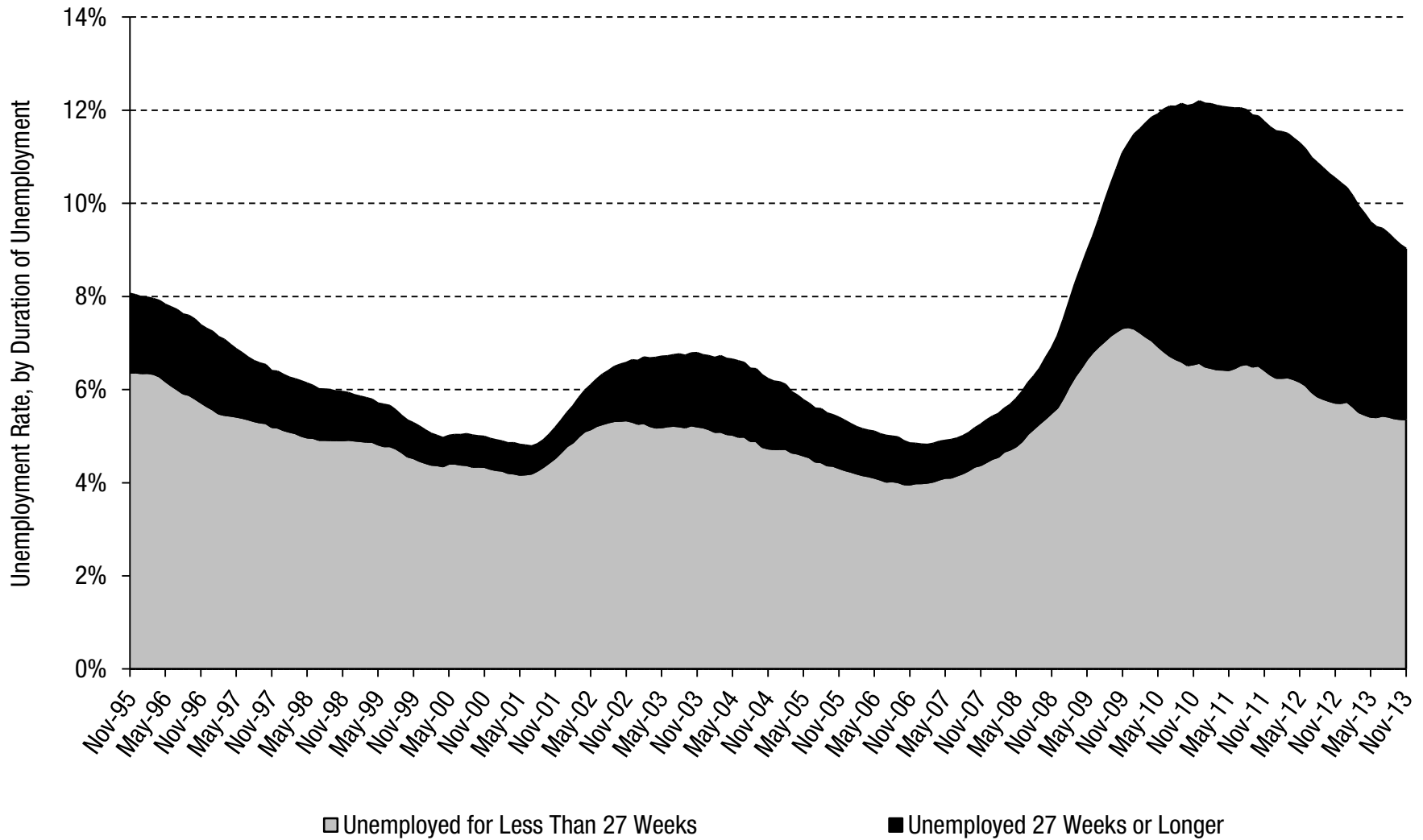
THE CALIFORNIA BUDGET PROJECT  
May 2014

Four years since the end of the Great Recession,  
many Californians are still hurting.

# California Is Slowly Recovering the Jobs Lost During the Great Recession



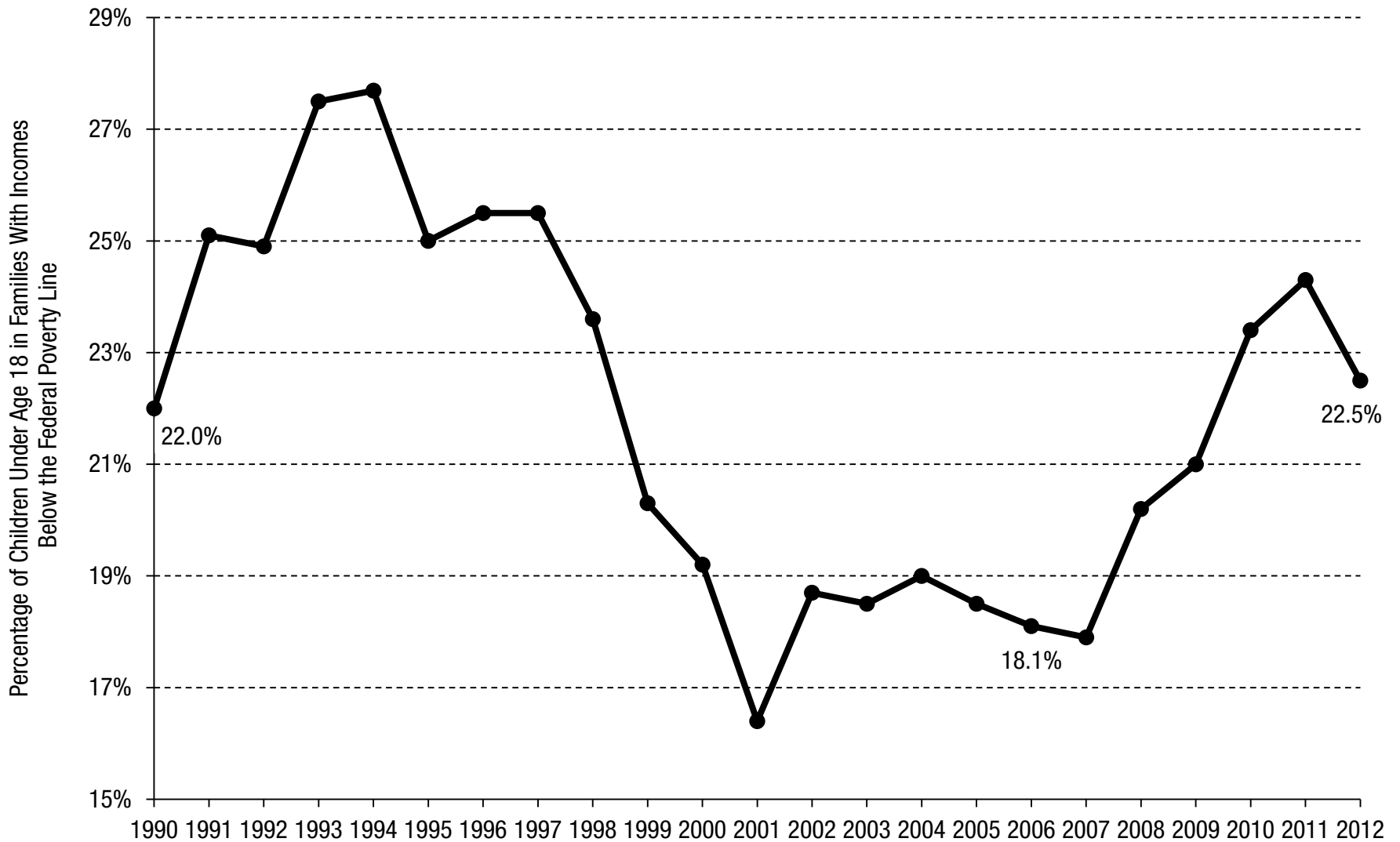
# Much of California's Unemployment Rate Consists of People Unemployed for More Than Six Months



Note: Data reflect 12-month averages ending in the month displayed.  
Source: Employment Development Department

# Nearly One Out of Four California Children Were Living in Poverty in 2012

## Child Poverty Rate Remains Nearly One-Fourth Higher Than in 2006, the Year Before the Great Recession Began



# Making Ends Meet: How Much Does it Cost to Raise a Family?

# Making Ends Meet — Annual Income by Household

Household Type	California	Contra Costa
Single Adult	\$32,625	\$34,235
Single-Parent*	\$74,477	\$80,578
Two-Parent, One Working*	\$60,771	\$63,766
Two Working Parents*	\$81,553	\$86,556

\*Assumes families with two children.

# What Does It Take to Make Ends Meet in Contra Costa County?

Hourly Wage Needed to Cover Basic Household Budget, by Family Type

Single-Parent  
Family

**\$38.73**  
per hour

Two-Working-  
Parent Family

**\$20.80**  
per hour  
per parent

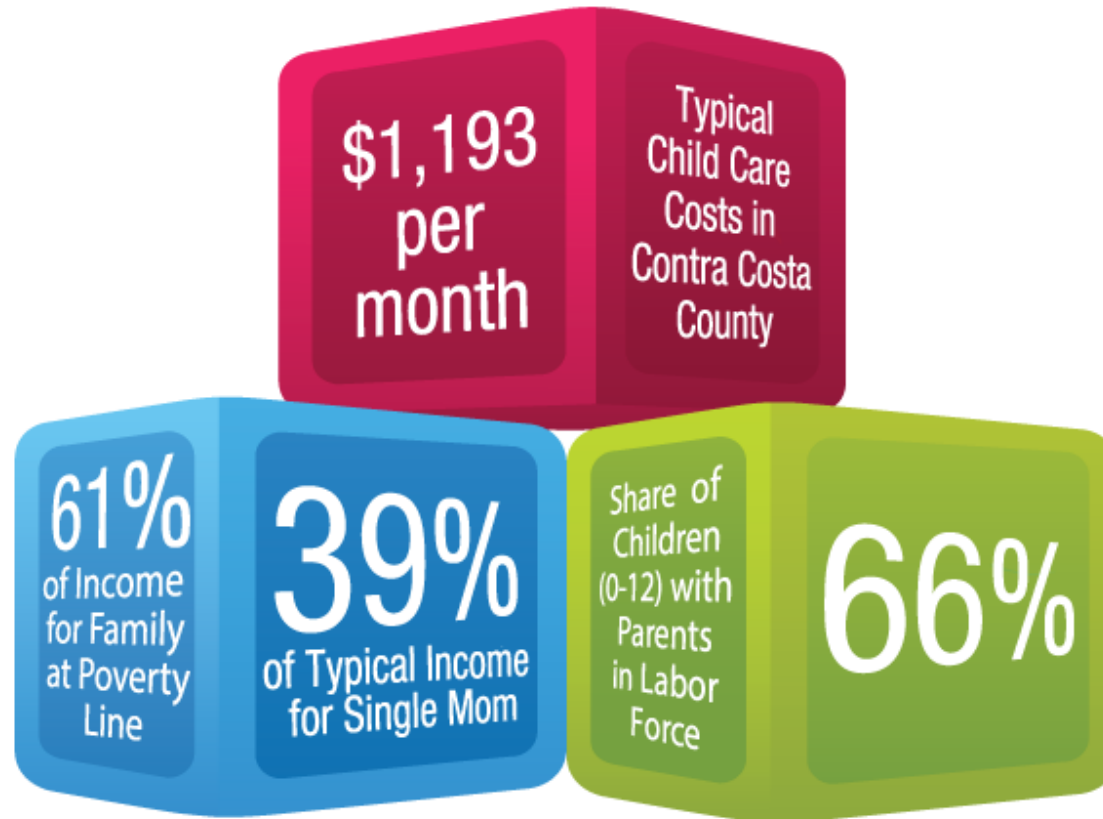


**\$10.00** Minimum Wage in California  
per hour (after increases end in 2016)

From California Budget Project, *Making Ends Meet: How Much Does It Cost to Raise a Family in California?*, December 2013



## Child Care Costs Present Major Challenge for Contra Costa County Families in Making Ends Meet



Note: Typical child care cost is estimated and is based on two-child family that has single parent or that has two parents with one working.

Source: US Census Bureau and the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network

# For Single Mothers in Contra Costa, Fair Market Rent Is 44% of the Typical Monthly Income



# Policy Solutions

# Economic Security: Policy Solutions

- Increase the minimum wage and index to inflation
- Establish a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit
- Provide access to paid sick days for all workers
- Rebuild California's safety net
  - Increase access to subsidized child care and the State Preschool Program
  - Raise the CalWORKs grant

# Housing Security: Policy Solutions

- Establish a long-term funding source for affordable housing
- Expand California's Renter's Credit
  - Increase the credit
  - Make the credit refundable
  - Index the credit to inflation

# Food Security: Policy Solutions

- Increase CalFresh participation rates
  - Create a standard statewide customer service plan
  - Streamline enrollment and take advantage of “horizontal integration”
- Ensure children have access to nutritious food
  - Close the summer “nutrition gap”
  - Increase low-income children’s participation in school breakfast and lunch programs

# Health Security: Policy Solutions

- Extend health coverage to undocumented immigrants
- Repeal the Medi-Cal provider rate cuts

**Strong state programs that invest in children and reduce inequality provide a foundation for families' financial stability. Improved economic security and opportunity for families broadens the base of the state's economic recovery.**



For More Information:

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