



The Quick Look

A Merced County Labor Market Review - December 2005

Welcome to the Merced County labor market review. The Quick Look has been developed by the Department of Workforce Investment staff for the Merced County Local Workforce Investment Board. The data and information is provided by the California Employment Development Department. Questions can be referred to the Department of Workforce Investment, 1880 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA 95340. Telephone (209) 724-2042. Email: pitd26@co.merced.ca.us

Merced County Data not adjusted for Seasonality	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2004 Benchmark				Percent Change	
	Dec 04	Oct 05	Nov 05 Revised	Dec 05 Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	99,600	101,700	101,000	101,100	0.1%	1.5%
Civilian Employment	89,200	93,600	91,800	91,400	-0.4%	2.5%
Civilian Unemployment	10,400	8,200	9,200	9,600	4.3%	-7.7%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.5%	8.0%	9.1%	9.5%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	5.0%	5.1%	4.8%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.1%	4.6%	4.8%	4.6%		
Total, All Industries	67,500	71,100	69,500	68,400	-1.6%	1.3%
Total Farm	8,900	12,400	10,800	9,200	-14.8%	3.4%
Total Nonfarm	58,600	58,700	58,700	59,200	0.9%	1.0%
Total Private	44,900	44,800	44,200	44,400	0.5%	-1.1%
Goods Producing	15,100	15,500	14,800	14,700	-0.7%	-2.6%
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0		
Construction	3,700	3,900	3,800	3,800	0.0%	11.4%
Manufacturing	11,400	11,600	11,000	10,900	0.0%	2.7%
Durable Goods	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	9,800	10,000	9,400	9,300	-1.1%	-5.1%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	8,200	8,500	7,900	7,800	-1.3%	-4.9%
Residual - Textile Mills	1,600	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	-6.3%
Service Providing	43,500	43,200	43,900	44,500	1.4%	2.3%
Private Service Producing	29,800	29,300	29,400	29,700	1.0%	-0.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,500	11,100	11,400	11,600	1.8%	0.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	-6.7%
Retail Trade	8,100	7,800	8,100	8,300	2.5%	2.5%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,900	1,800	2,000	2,100	5.0%	10.5%
Residual - Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,700	4,500	4,600	4,700	2.2%	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0%	0.0%
Information	1,400	1,300	1,300	1,400	7.7%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0%	-5.3%
Finance and Insurance	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	0.0%	0.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	800	700	700	700	0.0%	-12.5%
Professional and Business Services	3,400	3,300	3,300	3,300	0.0%	-2.9%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,500	5,400	5,400	0.0%	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,600	4,700	4,600	4,600	0.0%	0.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,000	3,900	3,900	3,900	0.0%	-2.5%
Residual - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	600	800	700	700	0.0%	16.7%
Other Services	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	0.0%
Government	13,700	13,900	14,500	14,800	2.1%	8.0%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	2.2%	8.5%
State Government	500	1,000	1,200	1,200	0.0%	140.0%
Local Government	12,300	12,200	12,100	12,500	3.3%	1.6%

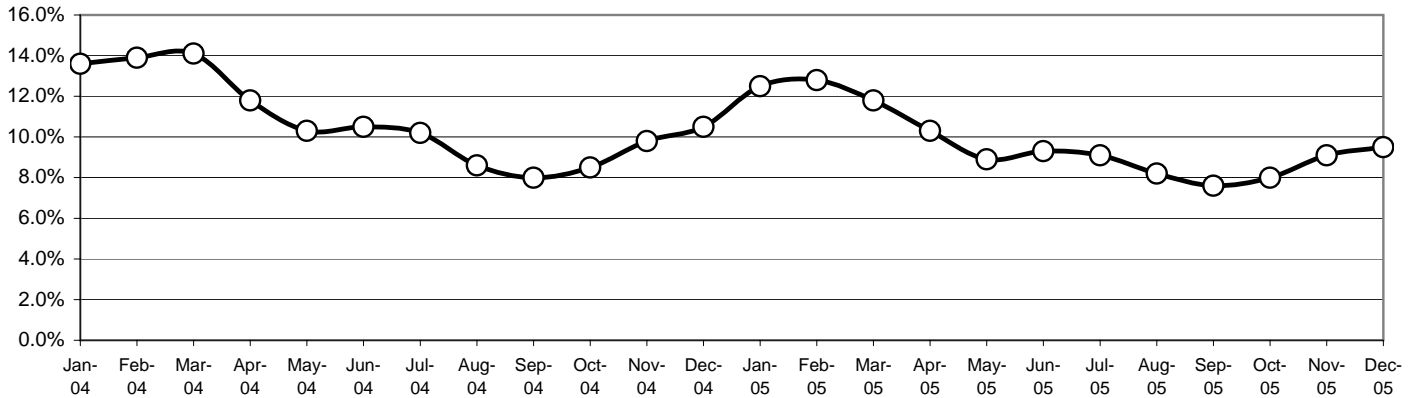
The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 54th out of 58 counties in the month of December. The preliminary result is an increase of 0.4 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised November rate. This preliminary figure is a decrease of 1.0 percentage point from the unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County's Civilian Labor Force decreased by 100 persons over last month's figure and an increase of 1,500 persons over year ago figures. Industrial employment decreased by 1,100 jobs in December over November's figure and showed an increased of 900 jobs over year ago figures.

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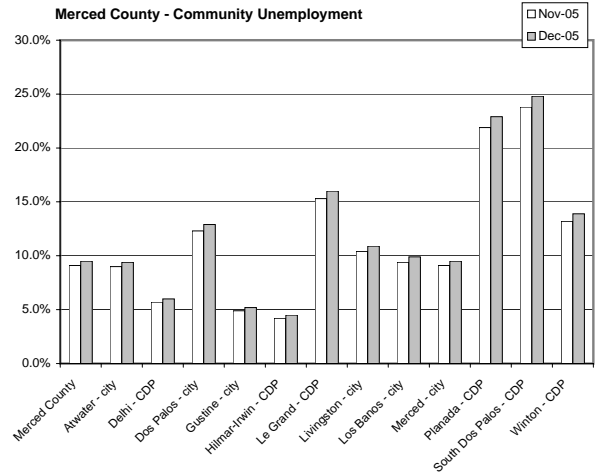
**Merced County Unemployment Rate
2004 - 2005**



Sub County average unemployment rates for the county, cities, and municipalities.

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	10,100	91,400	9,600	9.5%
Atwater City	11,900	10,800	1,100	9.4%
Delhi CDP	3,900	3,700	200	6.0%
Dos Palos City	1,900	1,700	200	12.9%
Gustine City	2,400	2,300	100	5.2%
Hilmar-Irwin CDP	2,700	2,600	100	4.5%
Le Grand CDP	700	600	100	16.0%
Livingston City	4,900	4,400	500	10.9%
Los Banos City	12,500	11,300	1,200	9.9%
Merced City	29,900	27,000	2,900	9.5%
Planada CDP	1,700	1,300	400	22.9%
South Dos Palos CDP	400	300	100	24.8%
Winton CDP	3,700	3,200	500	13.9%

CDP - Census Designated Place



Merced County's workforce has grown over the past 20 years reflecting improvement of the County's economic well being; however, unemployment remains a consistent barrier to greater prosperity. Average unemployment has fluctuated from an annual low of 9.7 percent to an annual high of 17.1 percent.

Seven County Quick Look

County	Rank	Labor Force	Employ	Unemployed	Rate
Merced	54	101,100	91,400	9,600	9.5%
Madera	37	63,500	58,900	4,500	7.1%
Mariposa	35	8,140	7,620	530	6.5%
Fresno	49	403,700	369,600	34,100	8.5%
San Benito	47	25,600	23,500	2,100	8.1%
San Joaquin	36	387,700	367,400	20,300	7.0%
Stanislaus	39	231,500	21,400	17,100	7.4%

Seven County Unemployment Rate

