



A Merced County Labor Market Review

The QuickLook: Welcome to the Merced County labor market summary. The QuickLook 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 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced, CA 95340. Telephone (209) 724-2042. Email: pitd26@co.merced.ca.us

Merced County

Industry Employment & Labor Force March 2002 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Nov 02	Sep 03	Oct 03 Revised	Nov 03 Prelim.	PercentChange	
					Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	91,300	92,400	95,000	93,900	(1.2%)	2.8%
Civilian Employment	77,700	83,200	84,200	80,900	(3.9%)	4.1%
Civilian Unemployment	13,500	9,300	10,800	13,000	20.4%	(3.7%)
Civilian Unemployment Rate	14.8%	10.0%	11.4%	13.8%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.7%	6.2%	6.5%	6.3%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.6%	5.8%	5.6%	5.6%		

Total, All Industries (2)	66,900	71,700	72,100	68,600	(4.9%)	2.5%
Total Farm	10,900	14,300	14,500	11,300	(22.1%)	3.7%
Total Nonfarm	56,000	57,400	57,600	57,300	(0.5%)	2.3%
Total Private	42,300	44,200	44,300	43,800	(1.1%)	3.5%
Goods Producing	13,000	15,000	14,500	13,900	(4.1%)	6.9%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	2,400	2,600	2,700	2,700	0.0%	12.5%
Manufacturing	10,600	12,400	11,800	11,200	(5.1%)	5.7%
Durable Goods	1,800	2,000	1,900	1,900	0.0%	5.6%
Nondurable Goods	8,800	10,400	9,900	9,300	(6.1%)	5.7%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	6,700	8,500	8,000	7,400	(7.5%)	10.4%
Residual-Textile Mills	2,100	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0%	(9.5%)
Service Providing	43,000	42,400	43,100	43,400	0.7%	0.9%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,700	11,900	12,200	12,500	2.5%	6.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,400	1,700	1,700	1,600	(5.9%)	14.3%
Retail Trade	7,700	7,500	7,800	8,100	3.8%	5.2%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,100	5.0%	10.5%
General Merchandise Stores	1,600	1,500	1,600	1,700	6.3%	6.3%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,200	4,000	4,200	4,300	2.4%	2.4%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,600	2,700	2,700	2,800	3.7%	7.7%
Information	500	500	500	500	0.0%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,800	1,900	1,800	1,800	0.0%	0.0%
Finance and Insurance	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	0.0%	10.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	800	800	700	700	0.0%	(12.5%)
Professional and Business Services	3,600	3,400	3,400	3,300	(2.9%)	(8.3%)
Educational and Health Services	5,500	5,300	5,400	5,400	0.0%	(1.8%)
Leisure and Hospitality	4,400	4,400	4,600	4,500	(2.2%)	2.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,600	3,700	3,800	3,700	(2.6%)	2.8%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	800	700	800	800	0.3%	0.0%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900	0.0%	5.6%
Government	13,700	13,200	13,300	13,500	1.5%	(1.5%)
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%	0.0%
State and Local Government	12,700	12,200	12,300	12,500	1.6%	(1.6%)
State Government	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%
Local Government	12,100	11,600	11,700	11,900	1.7%	(1.7%)

The QuickLook: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 52nd out of 58 counties in the month of November. The preliminary November result is an increase of 2.4 percentage points in the unemployment rate from the revised October rate. This preliminary figure is a decrease of 1.0% in the unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County saw a decrease of 3,500 jobs in November following a 400 job increase in October. The decrease was a result of Total Farm with 3,200 jobs lost. Total Nonfarm industries realized a decrease of 300 jobs, mainly from the Goods Producing industries. The Service Providing industries saw an increase of 300 jobs, most of these new jobs were from Retail Trade. Government saw an increase of 200 jobs.

Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

The QuickLook At: California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in November. This was down 0.3 percentage point from the rate in October. The State rate was down 0.4 percentage point from one year ago. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in November. It moved similar to the California rate, falling 0.1 percentage point over the month, no change from one year ago.

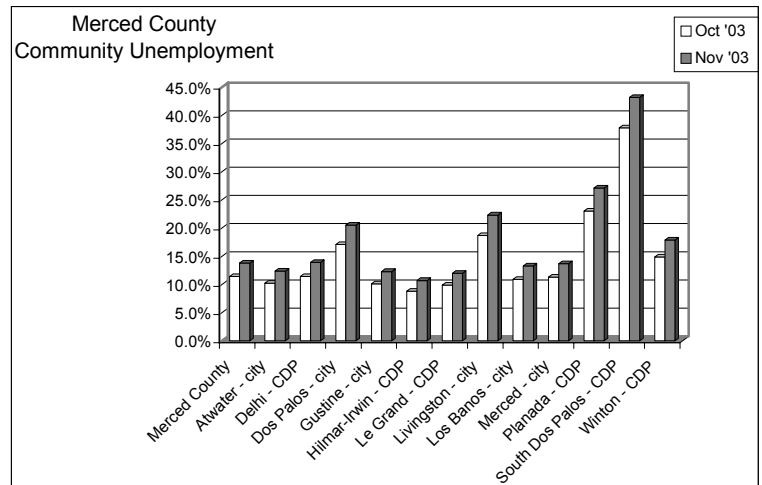
There were 14,446,600 jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in November, 14,400 jobs less than last month. The loss followed a 36,200-job gain (revised) in October, and a 10,900-job loss in September. In the first 11 months of 2003, California's total nonfarm employment fell 18,300 jobs, for an average monthly loss of 1,700 jobs. This compares to an average month-over increase of 600 jobs in 2002 and an average month-over decline 21,200 jobs per month in 2001.

The actual California nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) increased 30,000 jobs in November. Within nonfarm industries, five sectors had month-over job gains, and six sectors had month-over job declines. Sectors recording job increases were: trade, transportation and utilities (29,700); government (21,200); educational and health services (3,500); information (3,100); and financial activities (300). Job losses were recorded in the following sectors: construction (10,800); manufacturing (6,200); leisure and hospitality (6,200); professional and business services (3,400); other services (800); and, natural resources and mining (400).

Average hourly earnings for California production workers in manufacturing were \$15.14 in November. Average weekly earnings were \$611.66, an increase of \$12.27 from October. Average weekly hours were 40.4, an increase of 0.6 of an hour from the prior month. Average weekly overtime hours increased 0.2 of an hour in November to 4.2 hours. (Data are not seasonally adjusted)

The QuickLook At: Sub County average unemployment rates for the county, cities and municipalities saw an overall 2.4 percent increase this month. All communities noted an increase in the unemployment rate, led by South Dos Palos with a 5.4 percent increase. Planada was close behind with a 4.1 percent increase.

Area Name	Unemployment			
	Labor Force	Employment	Number	Rate
Merced County	93,900	80,900	13,000	13.8%
Atwater - city	11,030	9,660	1,370	12.4%
Delhi - CDP	1,720	1,480	240	13.9%
Dos Palos - city	2,140	1,700	440	20.5%
Gustine - city	2,090	1,830	260	12.3%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,930	1,720	210	10.7%
Le Grand - CDP	570	500	70	12.0%
Livingston - city	4,390	3,410	980	22.3%
Los Banos - city	7,990	6,930	1,060	13.3%
Merced - city	28,510	24,600	3,910	13.7%
Planada - CDP	1,920	1,400	520	27.1%
South Dos Palos - CDP	590	340	250	43.2%
Winton - CDP	3,750	3,080	670	17.9%



The QuickLook At The Seven Counties: 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 a yearly low of 11.1 percent in 1988 to a yearly high of 17.1 percent in 1995. Between the years 1983 to 2002 Merced County's average unemployment was 14.3 percent.

The county's unemployment rate is the seventh highest in the state. Merced County saw the greatest increase in unemployment at 2.4% percentage points above October's unemployment rate. All seven counties' unemployment rate increased in month-over average unemployment (Merced, Mariposa, Fresno, Madera, San Benito, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin).

COUNTY	RANK	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
MERCED	52	93,900	80,900	13,000	13.8%
MADERA	50	57,100	50,100	7,000	12.3%
MARIPOSA	29	7,410	6,920	490	6.6%
FRESNO	54	403,000	346,200	56,700	14.1%
SAN BENITO	38	27,470	25,010	2,460	8.9%
SAN JOAQUIN	43	283,300	254,300	29,000	10.2%
STANISLAUS	47	220,400	195,800	24,700	11.2%

