



The Quick Look

A Merced County Labor Market Review - January 2006

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

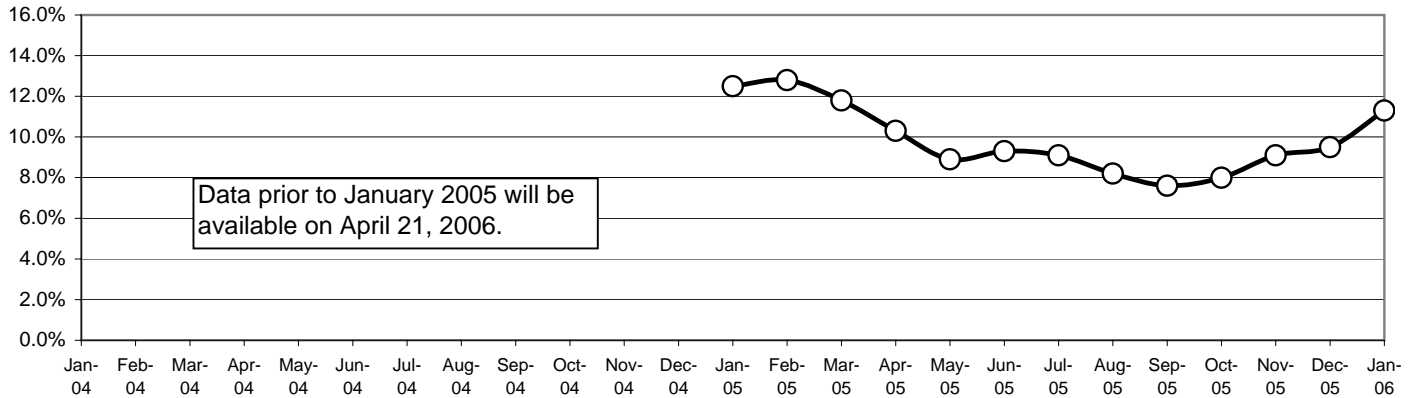
Merced County Data not adjusted for Seasonality	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2004 Benchmark				Percent Change	
	Jan 05	Nov 05	Dec 05 Revised	Jan 06 Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	96,500	101,200	100,800	98,900	-1.9%	2.5%
Civilian Employment	84,200	92,400	91,400	87,700	-4.0%	4.2%
Civilian Unemployment	12,400	8,800	9,400	11,200	19.1%	-9.7%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	12.8%	8.7%	9.3%	11.3%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.2%	5.1%	4.8%	5.4%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	4.8%	4.6%	5.1%		
Total, All Industries	63,200	71,300	69,900	66,300	-5.2%	4.9%
Total Farm	7,700	12,100	10,000	8,600	-14.0%	11.7%
Total Nonfarm	55,500	59,200	59,900	57,700	-3.7%	4.0%
Total Private	41,500	44,500	44,800	43,000	-4.0%	3.6%
Goods Producing	13,100	14,400	14,500	13,600	-6.2%	3.8%
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0		
Construction	3,000	3,600	3,600	3,300	-8.3%	10.0%
Manufacturing	10,100	10,800	10,900	10,300	-5.5%	2.0%
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	-5.6%
Nondurable Goods	8,300	9,100	9,200	8,600	-6.5%	3.6%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	6,700	7,200	7,300	7,000	-4.1%	4.5%
Residual - Textile Mills	1,600	1,900	1,900	1,600	-15.8%	0.0%
Service Providing	42,400	44,800	45,400	44,100	-2.9%	4.0%
Private Service Producing	28,400	30,100	30,300	29,400	-3.0%	3.5%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	10,400	11,600	11,700	11,000	-6.0%	5.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,400	1,600	1,600	1,500	-6.3%	7.1%
Retail Trade	7,300	7,900	8,000	7,400	-7.5%	1.4%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,400	-6.7%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,700	2,000	2,100	1,800	-14.3%	5.9%
Residual - Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,200	4,400	4,400	4,200	-4.5%	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,700	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0%	23.5%
Information	1,700	1,500	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-5.9%
Financial Activities	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%	11.1%
Finance and Insurance	1,100	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0%	18.2%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	700	700	700	700	0.0%	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,000	3,100	3,100	2,900	-6.5%	-3.3%
Educational and Health Services	5,300	5,600	5,600	5,700	1.8%	7.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,500	4,700	4,700	4,600	-2.1%	2.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,900	3,900	3,900	3,800	-2.6%	-2.6%
Residual - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	600	800	800	800	0.0%	33.3%
Other Services	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-5.9%
Government	14,000	14,700	15,100	14,700	-2.6%	5.0%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	800	1,200	1,300	1,300	0.0%	62.5%
Local Government	12,400	12,700	13,000	12,600	-3.1%	1.6%

The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 55th out of 58 counties in the month of January. The preliminary result is an increase of 2.0 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised December rate. This preliminary figure is a decrease of 1.5 percentage point from the unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County's Civilian Labor Force decreased by 1,900 persons over last month's figure and an increase of 2,400 persons over year ago figures. Industrial employment decreased by 3,600 jobs in January over December's figure and showed an increased of 3,100 jobs over year ago figures.

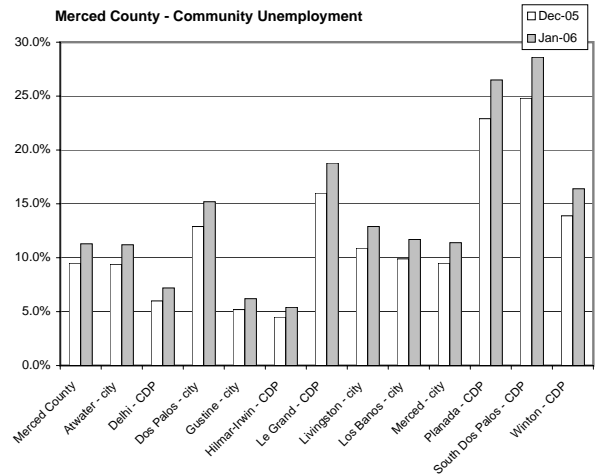
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**Merced County Unemployment Rate
 2004 - 2005**



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

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	98,900	87,700	11,200	11.3%
Atwater City	11,600	10,300	1,300	11.2%
Delhi CDP	3,800	3,500	300	7.2%
Dos Palos City	1,900	1,600	300	15.2%
Gustine City	2,300	2,200	100	6.2%
Hilmar-Irwin CDP	2,600	2,500	100	5.4%
Le Grand CDP	700	600	100	18.8%
Livingston City	4,800	4,200	600	12.9%
Los Banos City	12,200	10,800	1,400	11.7%
Merced City	29,200	25,900	3,300	11.4%
Planada CDP	1,600	1,200	400	26.5%
South Dos Palos CDP	400	300	100	28.6%
Winton CDP	3,700	3,100	600	16.4%



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	55	98,900	87,700	11,200	11.3%
Madera	37	61,000	56,100	4,900	8.1%
Mariposa	33	8,300	7,670	630	7.5%
Fresno	43	397,600	359,400	38,300	9.6%
San Benito	42	25,300	2,300	2,400	9.3%
San Joaquin	37	283,400	260,500	22,900	8.1%
Stanislaus	40	227,300	207,800	19,500	8.1%

Seven County Unemployment Rate

