



The Quick Look

A Merced County Labor Market Review - February 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

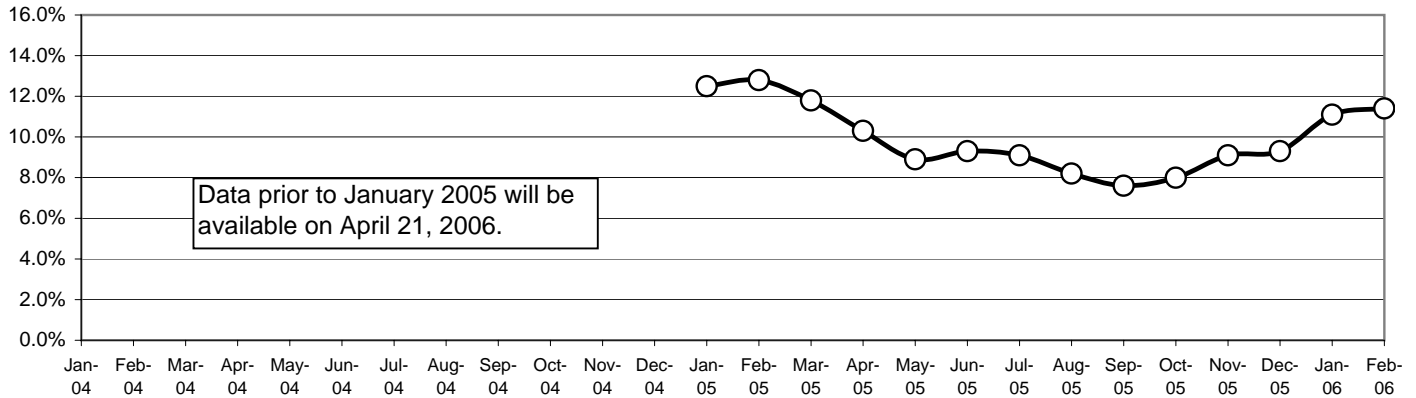
Merced County Data not adjusted for Seasonality	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2004 Benchmark				Percent Change	
	Feb 05	Dec 05	Jan 06 Revised	Feb 06 Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	98,500	101,200	98,700	98,800	0.1%	0.3%
Civilian Employment	85,600	91,800	87,700	87,600	-0.1%	2.3%
Civilian Unemployment	12,800	9,400	11,000	11,200	1.8%	-12.5%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	13.0%	9.3%	11.1%	11.4%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.1%	4.8%	5.3%	5.4%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.8%	4.6%	5.1%	5.1%		
Total, All Industries	64,500	69,900	66,300	67,300	1.5%	4.3%
Total Farm	8,200	10,000	8,600	9,000	4.7%	9.8%
Total Nonfarm	56,300	59,900	57,700	58,300	1.0%	3.6%
Total Private	42,100	44,800	43,000	43,300	0.7%	2.9%
Goods Producing	13,400	14,500	13,700	13,800	0.7%	3.0%
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0		
Construction	3,300	3,600	3,300	3,400	3.0%	3.0%
Manufacturing	10,100	10,900	10,400	10,400	0.0%	3.0%
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	-5.6%
Nondurable Goods	8,300	9,200	8,700	8,700	0.0%	4.8%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	6,700	7,300	7,000	7,000	0.0%	4.5%
Residual - Textile Mills	1,600	1,900	1,700	1,700	0.0%	6.3%
Service Providing	42,900	45,400	44,000	44,500	1.1%	3.7%
Private Service Producing	28,700	30,300	29,300	29,500	0.7%	2.8%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	10,400	11,700	11,000	11,000	0.0%	5.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,400	1,600	1,500	1,500	0.0%	7.1%
Retail Trade	7,200	8,000	7,400	7,400	0.0%	2.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,400	1,500	1,400	1,400	0.0%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,600	2,100	1,800	1,800	0.0%	12.5%
Residual - Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,200	4,400	4,200	4,200	0.0%	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,800	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0%	16.7%
Information	1,700	1,600	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	3,100	3,100	3,100	3,200	3.2%	3.2%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,600	5,500	5,500	0.0%	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,600	4,700	4,500	4,500	0.0%	-2.2%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,000	3,900	3,800	3,800	0.0%	-5.0%
Residual - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	600	800	700	700	0.0%	16.7%
Other Services	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,700	6.3%	0.0%
Government	14,200	15,100	14,700	15,000	2.0%	5.6%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	800	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0%	62.5%
Local Government	12,600	13,000	12,600	12,900	2.4%	2.4%

The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 55th out of 58 counties in the month of February. The preliminary result is an increase of 0.3 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised January rate. This preliminary figure is a decrease of 1.6 percentage point from the unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County's Civilian Labor Force increased by 100 persons over last month's figure and an increase of 300 persons over year ago figures. Industrial employment increased by 1000 jobs in February over January's figure and showed an increased of 2,800 jobs over year ago figures.

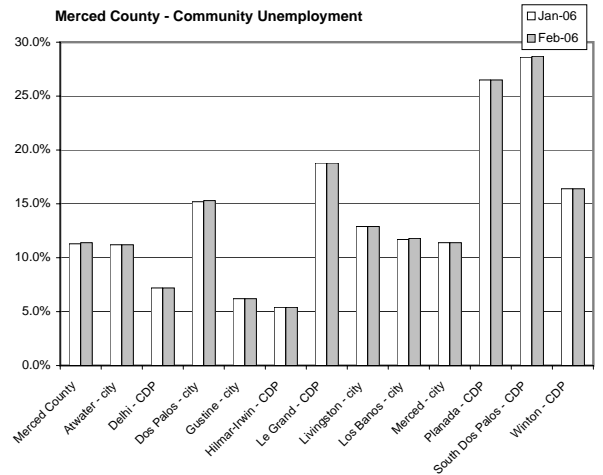
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**Merced County Unemployment Rate
 2004 - 2005**



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

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	98,800	87,600	11,200	11.4%
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	15.3%
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	11.8%
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	28.7%
Winton CDP	3,700	3,100	600	16.4%



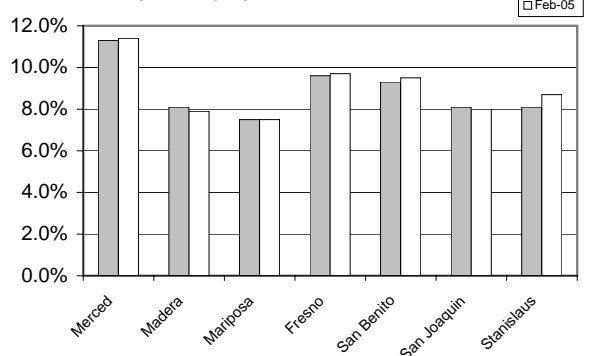
CDP - Census Designated Place

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	98,800	87,600	11,200	11.4%
Madera	38	6,100	56,200	4,800	7.9%
Mariposa	34	8,160	7,550	620	7.5%
Fresno	45	396,200	358,000	38,200	9.7%
San Benito	42	25,300	22,900	2,400	9.5%
San Joaquin	39	282,200	259,500	22,700	8.0%
Stanislaus	40	227,100	207,400	19,800	8.7%

Seven County Unemployment Rate





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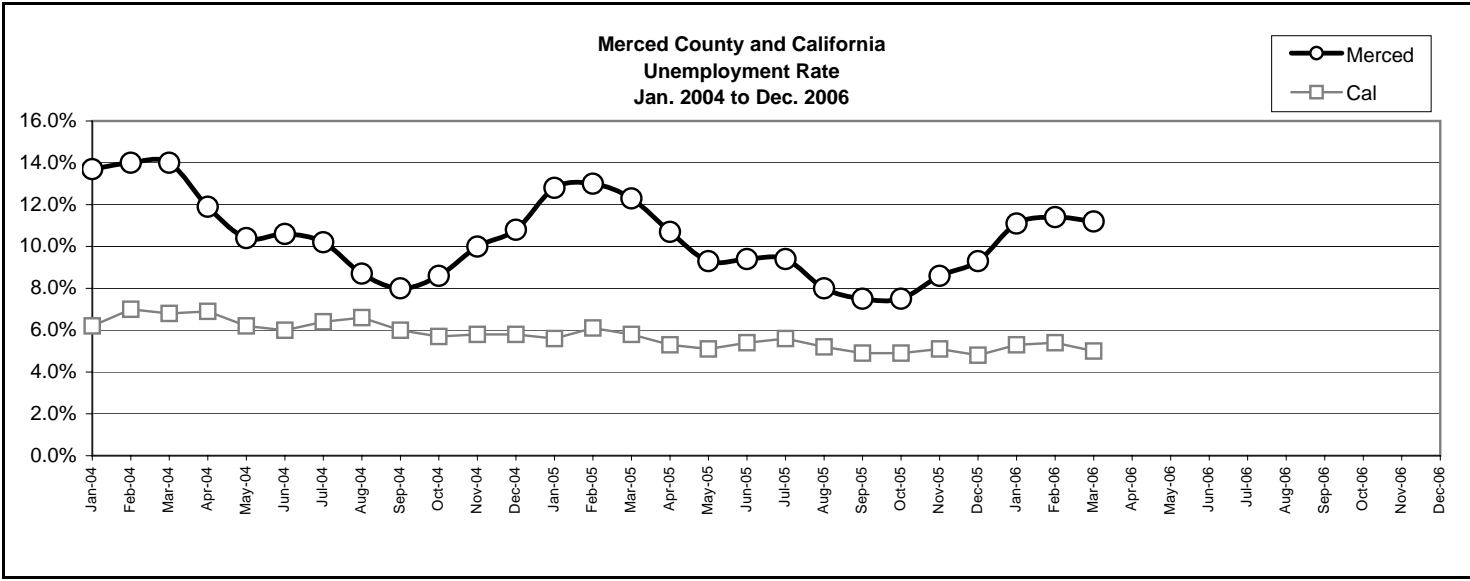
Merced County Data not adjusted for Seasonality	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2004 Benchmark				Percent Change	
	Mar 05	Jan 06	Feb 06 Revised	Mar 06 Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	98,300	98,700	98,800	98,700	-0.1%	0.4%
Civilian Employment	86,200	87,700	87,600	87,600	0.0%	1.6%
Civilian Unemployment	12,000	11,000	11,200	11,000	-1.8%	-8.3%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	12.3%	11.1%	11.4%	11.2%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.8%	5.3%	5.4%	5.0%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%	4.8%		
Total, All Industries	65,500	66,300	67,200	67,400	0.3%	2.9%
Total Farm	8,500	8,600	9,000	8,900	-1.1%	4.7%
Total Nonfarm	57,000	57,700	58,200	58,500	0.5%	2.6%
Total Private	42,700	43,000	43,100	43,200	0.2%	1.2%
Goods Producing	13,700	13,700	13,800	13,900	0.7%	1.5%
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0		
Construction	3,500	3,300	3,400	3,500	2.9%	0.0%
Manufacturing	10,200	10,400	10,400	10,400	0.0%	2.0%
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	-5.6%
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,700	8,700	8,700	0.0%	3.6%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	6,800	7,000	7,000	7,000	0.0%	2.9%
Residual - Textile Mills	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	6.3%
Service Providing	43,300	44,000	44,400	44,600	0.5%	3.0%
Private Service Producing	29,000	29,300	29,300	29,300	0.0%	1.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	10,400	11,000	11,000	11,000	0.0%	5.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	7.1%
Retail Trade	7,200	7,400	7,400	7,400	0.0%	2.8%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0%	5.9%
Residual - Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,100	4,200	4,200	4,200	0.0%	2.4%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,800	2,100	2,100	2,100	0.0%	16.7%
Information	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,500	-6.3%	-11.8%
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	3,200	3,100	3,200	3,200	0.0%	0.0%
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,500	5,500	5,500	0.0%	1.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,500	4,400	4,500	2.3%	-4.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,100	3,800	3,700	3,800	2.7%	-7.3%
Residual - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	600	700	700	700	0.0%	16.7%
Other Services	1,800	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-11.1%
Government	14,300	14,700	15,100	15,300	1.3%	7.0%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	800	1,300	1,300	1,400	7.7%	75.0%
Local Government	12,700	12,600	13,000	13,100	0.8%	3.1%

The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 55th out of 58 counties in the month of March. The preliminary result is a decrease of 0.2 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised February rate. For year ago data, this preliminary figure is a decrease of 1.1 percentage point from the unemployment rate.

Overall, the County's Civilian Labor Force decreased by 100 persons over last month's figure and an increase of 400 persons over year ago figures. Industrial employment increased by 200 jobs in March over February's figure and showed an increased of 1,900 jobs over year ago figures.

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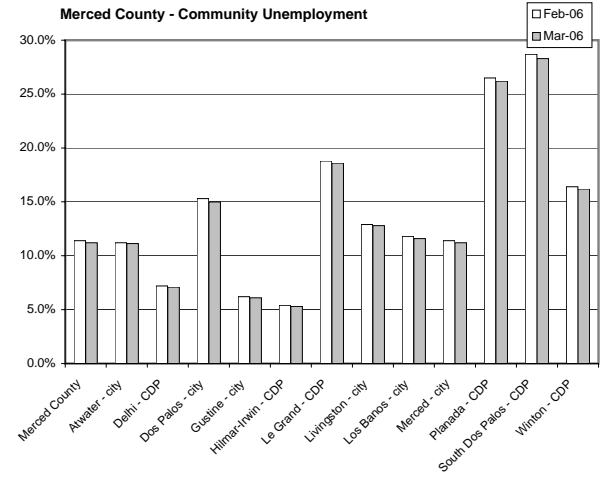
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Los Banos City	12,200	10,800	1,400	11.6%
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Mariposa	32	8,320	7,740	580	7.0%
Fresno	43	397,400	359,800	37,600	9.5%
San Benito	42	25,300	22,900	2,300	9.3%
San Joaquin	38	282,200	260,000	22,200	7.9%
Stanislaus	40	226,800	207,100	19,800	8.7%

