



## 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) 724-2152. Email: [PITD222@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:PITD222@co.merced.ca.us)

Merced County						
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality						
	Apr 02	Feb 03	Mar 03	Apr 03		
			Revised	Prelim.		
Civilian Labor Force	88,400	93,600	94,000	94,000		
Civilian Employment	74,500	77,000	77,600	79,000	<b>Employed Increase (DECREASE) From Previous Month</b>	<b>Percent Increase -DECREASE Previous Month to Current Month</b>
Civilian Unemployment	13,900	16,600	16,400	15,000		
Civilian Unemployment Rate	15.7%	17.8%	17.4%	16.0%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.5%	7.0%	6.9%	6.6%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	6.4%	6.2%	5.8%		
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	64,100	64,600	65,100	67,200	<b>2,100</b>	3.23%
<b>Total Farm</b>	9,600	8,300	8,400	10,200	<b>1,800</b>	21.43%
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	54,500	56,300	56,700	57,000	<b>300</b>	0.53%
<b>Total Private</b>	40,800	42,500	42,700	43,000	<b>300</b>	0.70%
<b>Goods Producing</b>	13,000	13,500	13,500	13,500	0	
<b>Natural Resources, Mining and Construction</b>	2,300	2,500	2,500	2,500	0	
<b>Manufacturing</b>	10,700	11,000	11,000	11,000	0	
<b>Durable Goods</b>	1,800	1,900	1,900	2,000	<b>100</b>	5.26%
<b>Nondurable Goods</b>	8,900	9,100	9,100	9,000	(100)	-1.10%
<b>Food Man &amp; Beverage &amp; Tobacco</b>	6,900	7,100	7,200	7,100	(100)	-1.39%
<b>Residual-Textile Mills</b>	2,000	2,000	1,900	1,900	0	
<b>Service Providing</b>	41,500	42,800	43,200	43,500	<b>300</b>	0.69%
<b>Trade, Transportation and Utilities</b>	10,700	11,500	11,800	11,800	0	
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	0	
<b>Retail Trade</b>	7,000	7,500	7,600	7,600	0	
<b>Food and Beverage Stores</b>	1,500	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	
<b>General Merchandise Stores</b>	1,500	1,400	1,500	1,500	0	
<b>Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers</b>	4,000	4,200	4,200	4,200	0	
<b>Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities</b>	2,200	2,500	2,600	2,600	0	
<b>Information</b>	500	500	500	500	0	
<b>Financial Activities</b>	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,900	<b>100</b>	5.56%
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,100	<b>100</b>	10.00%
<b>Real Estate and Rental and Leasing</b>	700	800	800	800	0	
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	3,300	3,800	3,700	3,800	<b>100</b>	2.70%
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	5,400	5,200	5,200	5,300	<b>100</b>	1.92%
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	4,500	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	
<b>Food Services and Drinking Places</b>	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	
<b>Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation</b>	700	700	700	700	0	
<b>Other Services</b>	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	
<b>Government</b>	13,700	13,800	14,000	14,000	0	
<b>Federal Government</b>	800	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	
<b>State and Local Government</b>	12,900	12,800	13,000	13,000	0	
<b>State Government</b>	600	600	600	600	0	
<b>Local Government</b>	12,300	12,200	12,400	12,400	0	

**The QuickLook:** The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 55th out of 58 counties. The preliminary April result is a decline of 1.4 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised March rate. This preliminary figure is 0.3 percentage point higher than one year ago; however the result is equal to the 20-year average unemployment rate for April.

Overall, the County saw a gain of 2,100 jobs in April following 600 new jobs created in March. The gain was led by total farm with 1,800 jobs while the additional 300 were found in durable goods, financial activities, profession and business services and education and health services.

Only non-durable goods saw a decrease in number employed, losing 100 jobs in food manufacturing, beverage and tobacco.

## Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

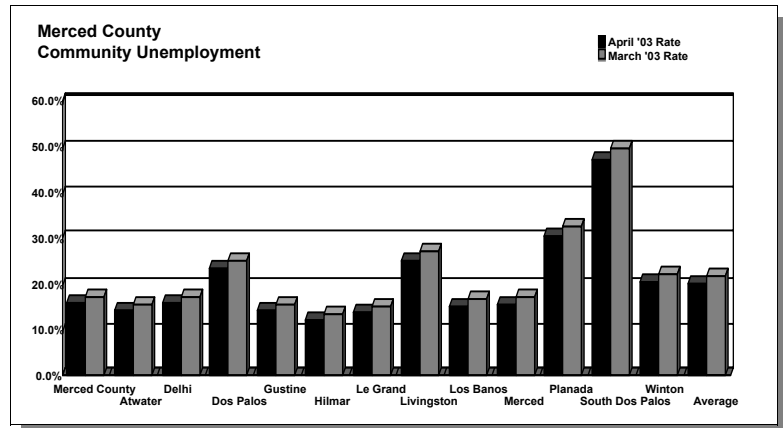
**The QuickLook At:** California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.7 percent in April. This was unchanged from the rate in February and March, but up 0.1 percentage point from one year ago. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was up 0.2 percentage points to 6.0 percent in April. This was up 0.1 percentage point from April 2002.

There were 14,462,100 jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in April, 13,100 jobs fewer than in March. This followed a smaller decline in March (3,000 jobs) and a larger drop in February (15,100 jobs). In the first four months of 2003, California's total nonfarm employment fell 2,800 jobs, for an average monthly loss of 700 jobs. This was slightly worse than the average monthly gain of 600 jobs in 2002, but much better than the average monthly loss of 18,300 jobs in 2001.

The actual California nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) increased 10,900 jobs in April. Within nonfarm industries, six sectors had month-over job gains and five sectors had month-over job declines. Job increases were recorded in leisure and hospitality (8,700), construction (7,500), government (2,700), educational and health services (1,400), financial activities (400), and other services (200). Job losses were recorded in manufacturing (5,200), trade, transportation and utilities (2,700), professional and business services (1,500), natural resources and mining (400), and information (200).

**The QuickLook At: Sub County** average unemployment rates for the county, cities and municipalities saw an overall 1.68 percent decrease this month. The rise in those employed can be attributed to the beginning of the growing season in the county. All communities noted decreases in unemployment, led by South Dos Palos with a 2.7 percent decrease. Livingston was close behind with a 2.1 percent improvement.

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	94,000	79,000	15,000	16.0%
Atwater - city	11,020	9,440	1,580	14.3%
Delhi - CDP	1,720	1,440	280	16.0%
Dos Palos - city	2,170	1,660	510	23.4%
Gustine - city	2,080	1,780	300	14.2%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,920	1,680	240	12.4%
Le Grand - CDP	560	480	80	13.9%
Livingston - city	4,460	3,330	1,130	25.3%
Los Banos - city	8,000	6,770	1,230	15.4%
Merced - city	28,560	24,030	4,530	15.8%
Planada - CDP	1,970	1,370	600	30.6%
South Dos Palos - CDP	620	330	290	47.3%
Winton - CDP	3,790	3,010	780	20.5%



**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 remains the fifth highest in the state, in spite of a 1.4 percent improvement over the revised March rate, followed immediately by Fresno County with a 1.3 percent improvement from the previous month.

All counties' unemployment rate improved except in Mariposa County with the rate there holding at 7.5 percent. Fresno County had the second highest percent improvement followed by San Benito and Stanislaus Counties, respectively.

COUNTY	RANK	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
MERCED	55	93,900	77,500	16,400	17.4%
FRESNO	54	400,300	332,100	68,200	17.0%
MADERA	49	56,600	48,100	8,600	15.1%
STANISLAUS	44	220,000	191,500	28,500	12.9%
SAN BENITO	42	27,470	24,190	3,290	12.0%
SAN JOAQUIN	40	281,800	251,200	30,600	10.9%
MARIPOSA	26	8,560	7,920	640	7.5%

