



# The Quick Look

## A Merced County Labor Market Review - April 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

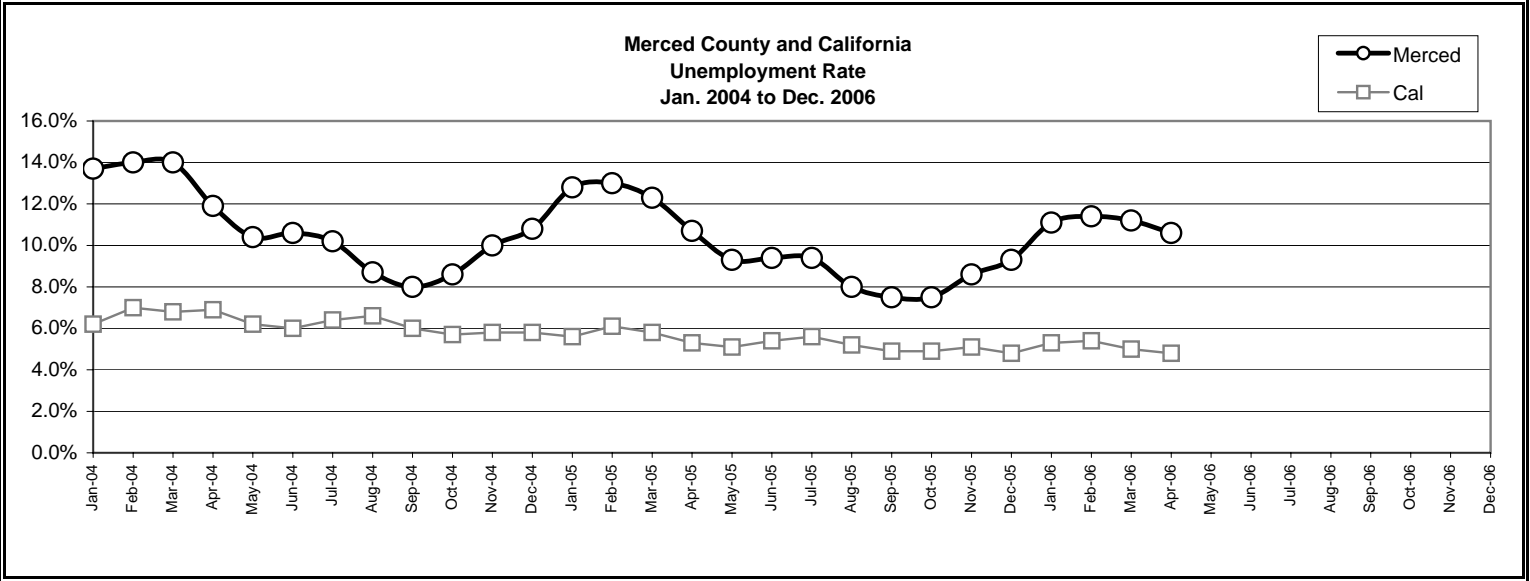
Merced County Data not adjusted for Seasonality	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2005 Benchmark				Percent Change	
	Apr 05	Feb 06	Mar 06 Revised	Apr 06 Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	99,000	98,800	98,700	98,800	0.1%	-0.2%
Civilian Employment	88,400	87,600	87,600	88,300	0.8%	-0.1%
Civilian Unemployment	10,600	11,200	11,000	10,500	-4.5%	-0.9%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.7%	11.4%	11.2%	10.6%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.3%	5.4%	5.0%	4.8%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.9%	5.1%	4.8%	4.5%		
Total, All Industries	67,700	67,200	67,400	68,100	1.0%	0.6%
Total Farm	9,200	9,000	8,900	8,600	-3.4%	-6.5%
Total Nonfarm	58,500	58,200	58,500	59,500	1.7%	1.7%
Total Private	43,600	43,100	43,300	44,200	2.1%	1.4%
Goods Producing	14,200	13,800	13,900	14,400	-5.7%	-2.9%
Natural Resources and Mining	0	0	0	0		
Construction	3,400	3,400	3,500	3,300	-5.7%	-2.9%
Manufacturing	10,800	10,400	10,400	11,100	6.7%	2.8%
Durable Goods	1,900	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	-10.5%
Nondurable Goods	8,900	8,700	8,700	9,400	8.0%	5.6%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	6,800	7,000	7,000	7,200	2.9%	5.9%
Residual - Textile Mills	2,100	1,700	1,700	2,200	29.4%	4.8%
Service Providing	44,300	44,400	44,600	45,100	1.1%	1.8%
Private Service Producing	29,400	29,300	29,400	29,800	1.4%	1.4%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	10,700	11,000	11,000	11,100	0.9%	3.7%
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	7,400	7,400	7,400	7,400	0.0%	0.0%
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	4,300	4,200	4,200	4,200	0.0%	-2.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	1,800	2,100	2,100	2,200	4.8%	22.2%
Information	1,600	1,600	1,500	1,500	0.0%	-6.3%
Financial Activities	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,000	0.0%	5.3%
Finance and Insurance	1,200	1,300	1,300	1,300	0.0%	8.3%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	700	700	700	700	0.0%	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,300	3,200	3,200	3,300	3.1%	0.0%
Educational and Health Services	5,500	5,500	5,500	5,600	1.8%	1.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,400	4,500	4,600	2.2%	-2.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,000	3,700	3,800	3,800	0.0%	-5.0%
Residual - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	700	700	700	800	14.3%	14.3%
Other Services	1,700	1,600	1,700	1,700	0.0%	0.0%
Government	14,900	15,100	15,200	15,300	0.7%	2.7%
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	13,300	13,000	13,100	13,200	0.8%	-0.8%

The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 55th out of 58 counties in the month of April. The preliminary result is a decrease of 0.6 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised March rate. For year ago data, this preliminary figure is a decrease of 0.1 percentage point from the unemployment rate.

Overall, the County's Civilian Labor Force increased by 100 persons over last month's figure and an decrease of 200 persons over year ago figures. Industrial employment increased by 700 jobs in April over March's figure and showed an increased of 400 jobs over year ago figures.

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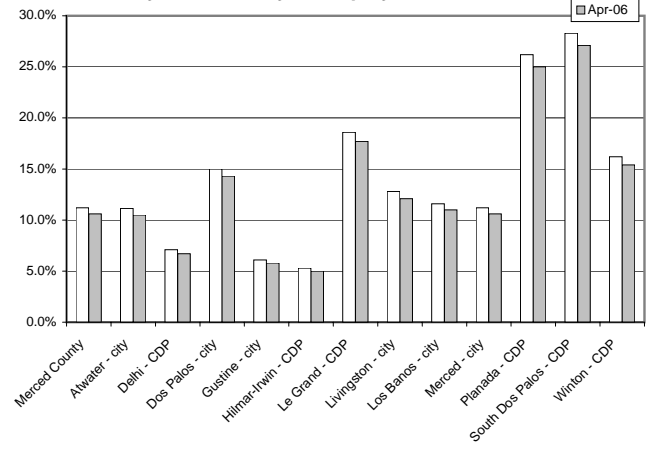


#### Sub County average unemployment rates for the county, cities, and municipalities.

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	98,800	88,300	10,500	10.6%
Atwater City	11,600	10,400	1,200	10.5%
Delhi CDP	3,900	3,600	300	6.7%
Dos Palos City	1,900	1,600	300	14.3%
Gustine City	2,300	2,200	100	5.8%
Hilmar-Irwin CDP	2,600	2,500	100	5.0%
Le Grand CDP	700	600	100	17.7%
Livingston City	4,800	4,200	600	12.1%
Los Banos City	12,200	10,900	1,300	11.0%
Merced City	29,200	26,100	3,100	10.6%
Planada CDP	1,600	1,200	400	25.0%
South Dos Palos CDP	400	300	100	27.1%
Winton CDP	3,700	3,100	600	15.4%

CDP - Census Designated Place

#### Merced County - Community Unemployment



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	88,300	10,500	10.6%
Madera	40	59,600	54,800	4,900	8.1%
Mariposa	31	8,370	7,830	540	6.5%
Fresno	45	406,600	370,800	35,800	8.8%
San Benito	41	24,900	22,800	2,100	8.5%
San Joaquin	39	283,000	261,300	21,700	7.7%
Stanislaus	41	227,300	208,000	19,400	8.5%

#### Seven County Unemployment Rate

