



The Quick Look

A Merced County Labor Market Review - May 2005

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

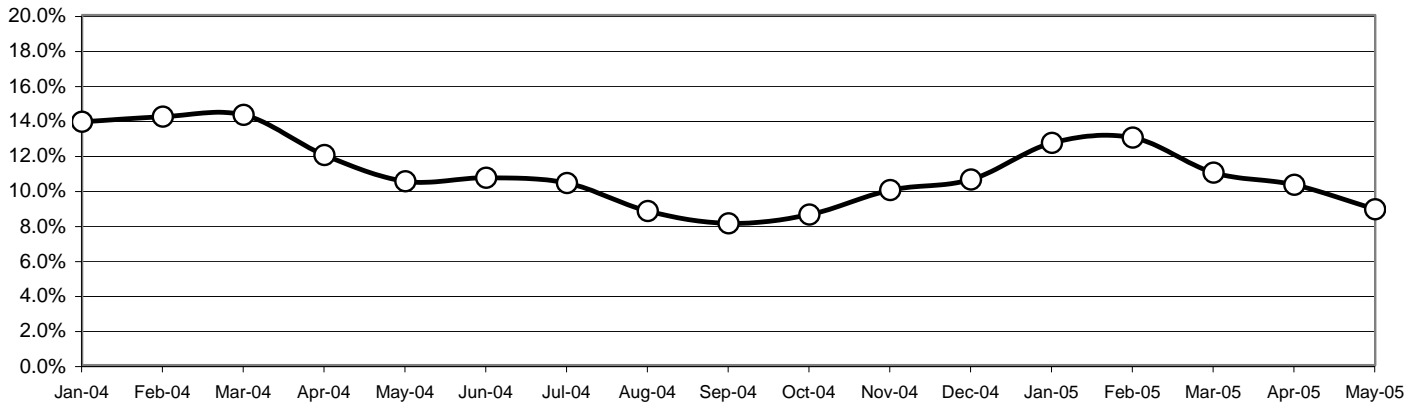
Merced County Data not adjusted for Seasonality	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2004 Benchmark				Percent Change	
	May 04	Mar 05	Apr 05 Revised	May 05 Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	97,400	99,400	99,100	100,100	1.0%	2.8%
Civilian Employment	87,100	87,700	88,900	91,300	2.7%	4.8%
Civilian Unemployment	10,200	11,700	10,200	8,900	-12.7%	-12.7%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.5%	11.8%	10.3%	8.9%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.0%	5.7%	5.2%	5.0%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.3%	5.4%	4.9%	4.9%		
Total, All Industries	68,200	66,000	67,500	69,700	3.3%	2.2%
Total Farm	10,800	7,900	8,900	10,500	18.0%	-2.8%
Total Nonfarm	57,400	58,100	58,600	59,200	1.0%	3.1%
Total Private	43,700	44,000	44,200	44,800	1.4%	2.5%
Goods Producing	14,100	14,800	15,000	15,200	1.3%	7.8%
Construction	3,300	3,600	3,700	3,800	2.7%	15.2%
Manufacturing	10,800	11,200	11,300	11,400	0.9%	5.6%
Durable Goods	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-5.9%
Nondurable Goods	9,100	9,600	9,700	9,800	1.0%	7.7%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	7,500	8,000	8,100	8,300	2.5%	10.7%
Residual - Textile Mills	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,500	-6.3%	-6.3%
Service Providing	42,700	42,700	43,300	44,000	0.9%	1.6%
Private Service Producing	29,600	29,200	29,200	29,600	1.4%	0.0%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	10,900	11,000	10,900	11,000	0.9%	0.9%
Wholesale Trade	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	0.0%
Retail Trade	7,500	7,700	7,600	7,700	1.3%	2.7%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0.0%	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	6.3%
Residual - Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,400	4,500	4,400	4,500	2.3%	2.3%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0%	-5.0%
Information	1,600	1,400	1,400	1,400	0.0%	-12.5%
Financial Activities	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,800	5.9%	5.9%
Finance and Insurance	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%	0.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	700	700	700	800	14.3%	14.3%
Professional and Business Services	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400	0.0%	0.0%
Educational and Health Services	5,500	5,400	5,500	5,500	0.0%	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,800	4,700	4,700	4,900	4.3%	2.1%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,100	2.5%	2.5%
Residual - Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	800	700	700	800	14.3%	0.0%
Other Services	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	-5.9%
Government	13,700	14,100	14,400	14,400	0.0%	5.1%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	600	700	700	700	0.0%	16.7%
Local Government	12,300	12,600	12,900	12,900	0.0%	4.9%

The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 54rd out of 58 counties in the Month of May. The preliminary result is a decrease of 1.4 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised April 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 1,000 persons over last month's figure and increase 2,700 persons over year ago figures. Industrial employment increased by 2,200 jobs in May over April's figures and increased 1,500 over year ago figures.

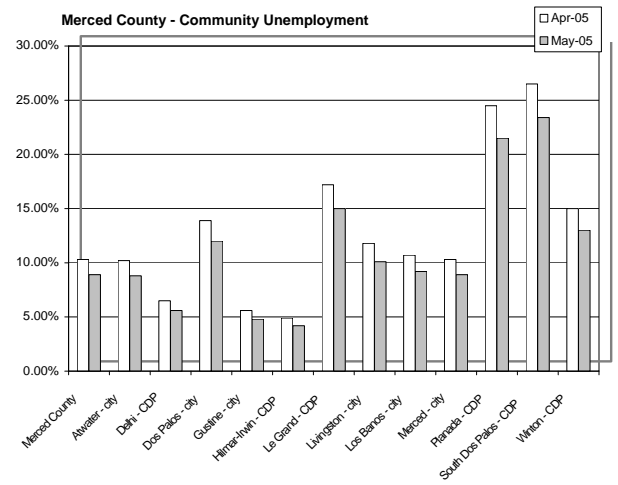
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**Merced County Unemployment Rate
 2004 - 2005**



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

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	100,200	91,300	8,900	8.9%
Atwater City	11,700	10,700	1,000	8.8%
Delhi CDP	3,900	3,700	200	5.6%
Dos Palos City	1,900	1,700	200	12.0%
Gustine City	2,400	2,300	100	4.8%
Hilmar-Irwin CDP	2,700	2,600	100	4.2%
Le Grand CDP	700	600	100	15.0%
Livingston City	4,900	4,400	500	10.1%
Los Banos City	12,400	11,300	1,100	9.2%
Merced City	29,600	27,000	2,600	8.9%
Planada CDP	1,600	1,300	300	21.5%
South Dos Palos CDP	400	300	100	23.4%
Winton CDP	3,700	3,200	500	13.0%



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 a yearly low of 10.30 percent to a yearly high of 17.3 percent in 1992.

The County's unemployment rate is the fifth highest in the state. Merced County saw a decrease in the unemployment rate of 1.4 percentage point below April's revised unemployment rate. All seven counties (Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, San Benito, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus) saw decreases in their unemployment rate.

Seven County Quick Look

County	Rank	Labor Force	Employ	Unemployed	Rate
Merced	54	100,100	91,300	8,900	8.9%
Madera	42	62,100	57,600	4,500	7.2%
Mariposa	29	8,530	8,070	470	5.5%
Fresno	49	410,300	377,200	33,000	8.1%
San Benito	44	2,500	23,100	1,900	7.5%
San Joaquin	37	293,400	274,200	19,300	6.6%
Stanislaus	46	227,900	210,000	17,900	7.8%

Seven County Unemployment Rate

