



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) 724-2042. Email: pitd26@co.merced.ca.us

Merced County

Industry Employment & Labor Force March 2003 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	June 03	Apr 04	May 04 Revised	June 04 Prelim.	PercentChange Month Year	
Civilian Labor Force (1)	90,800	91,700	91,200	95,500	3.7%	5.2%
Civilian Employment	77,300	77,400	79,500	82,000	3.1%	6.1%
Civilian Unemployment	13,500	14,200	12,500	13,500	8.0%	0.0%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	14.9%	15.5%	13.6%	14.1%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.9%	6.2%	5.9%	6.3%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	6.5%	5.4%	5.3%	5.8%		
Total, All Industries (2)	68,000	66,200	68,400	70,900	3.7%	4.3%
Total Farm	12,000	9,500	10,800	12,200	13.0%	1.7%
Total Nonfarm	56,000	56,700	57,600	58,700	1.9%	4.8%
Total Private	42,200	43,100	43,900	44,700	1.8%	5.9%
Goods Producing	13,700	14,400	14,800	15,100	2.0%	10.2%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	3,100	3,300	3,400	3,500	2.9%	12.9%
Manufacturing	10,600	11,100	11,400	11,600	1.8%	9.4%
Durable Goods	1,700	1,800	1,700	1,800	5.9%	5.9%
Nondurable Goods	8,900	9,300	9,700	9,800	1.0%	10.1%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	7,200	7,500	7,900	8,000	1.3%	11.1%
Residual-Textile Mills	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	0.0%	5.9%
Service Providing	42,300	42,300	42,800	43,600	1.9%	3.1%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	10,900	11,300	11,400	11,800	3.5%	8.3%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,900	11.8%	18.8%
Retail Trade	7,100	7,300	7,400	7,500	1.4%	5.6%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	0.0%	6.7%
General Merchandise Stores	1,600	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0%	6.3%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,000	4,100	4,100	4,200	2.4%	5.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,400	4.3%	9.1%
Information	500	500	500	500	0.0%	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	(5.9%)
Finance and Insurance	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0.0%	0.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	700	600	600	600	0.0%	(14.3%)
Professional and Business Services	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,300	(2.9%)	(2.9%)
Educational and Health Services	5,600	5,500	5,500	5,600	1.8%	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,600	4,800	4,900	2.1%	4.3%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,800	3,800	3,900	3,900	0.0%	2.6%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	900	800	900	1,000	11.1%	11.1%
Other Services	1,700	1,800	1,900	1,900	0.0%	11.8%
Government	13,800	13,600	13,700	14,000	2.2%	1.4%
Federal Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State and Local Government	13,000	12,800	12,900	13,200	2.3%	1.5%
State Government	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%
Local Government	12,400	12,200	12,300	12,600	2.4%	1.6%

The QuickLook: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 52nd out of 58 counties in the month of May. The preliminary result is an increase of 0.5 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised May rate. This preliminary figure is a decrease of 0.5 percentage point in the unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County saw an increase of 2,500 jobs in June following a 2,200 job increase in May. The increase was a result of Total Farm with a 1,300 job gain. Total Nonfarm industries realized an increase of 1,400 jobs, from the Goods Producing industries 300 jobs and the Service Providing industries 800 jobs.

Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

The QuickLook At: California's unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in June, down from a revised 6.3 percent in May, the state Employment Development Department (EDD) reported today. A year ago, in June 2003, California's unemployment rate was 6.8 percent.

According to EDD's survey of employers, nonfarm payroll employment in California grew by 12,300 jobs over the month, for a total of 14,523,100.

The number of people unemployed in California was 1,100,000 – a decline of 5,000 over the month, and down by 88,000 compared with June of last year.

Of the unemployed, 382,600 were laid off, 92,300 left their jobs voluntarily, and the remaining were either new entrants or reentrants into the labor market.

EDD's report on payroll employment (wage and salary jobs) in the nonfarm industries of California totaled 14,523,100 in June, a net gain of 12,300 jobs since the May survey. This followed a gain of 33,200 jobs (as revised) in May.

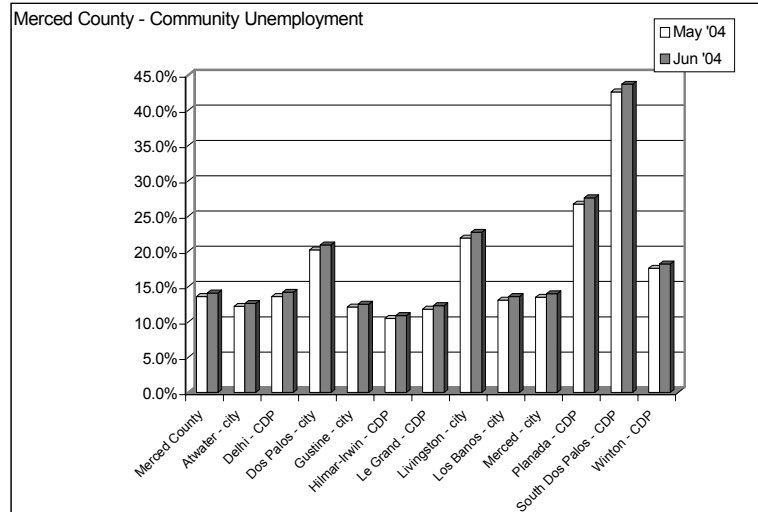
Nine of the categories (**natural resources and mining; construction; manufacturing; trade, transportation and utilities; financial activities; educational and health services; leisure and hospitality; other services; and government**) added jobs over the month, gaining 23,700 jobs. Two categories (**information and professional and business services**) reported job declines this month, down 11,400 jobs.

Over the month, employment in **trade, transportation and utilities** showed the largest non-seasonally adjusted gain, up by 17,500 jobs. Within this sector, the gains were concentrated primarily in retail trade, specifically in the clothing stores sector, which was up by 4,000 jobs over the month. **Leisure and hospitality** had the second largest gain over the month, up by 17,300 jobs, primarily in accommodation and food service and the arts, entertainment, and recreation sectors, up 9,600 and 7,700 jobs, respectively.

The **professional and business services** industries reported the largest gain over the year, up 62,900 jobs. The largest gains were in the administrative and support services sector, particularly in employment services, which was up by 55,900 jobs. The largest decrease over the year was recorded in **government**, which was down by 48,100 jobs. The losses were concentrated in state and local government, which were down by 42,400 jobs (a 1.9 percent decline).

The QuickLook At: Sub County average unemployment rates for the county, cities and municipalities.

Area Name	Unemployment			
	Labor Force	Employment	Number	Rate
Merced County	95,500	82,000	13,500	14.1%
Atwater - city	11,220	9,800	1,420	12.6%
Delhi - CDP	1,750	1,500	250	14.2%
Dos Palos - city	2,190	1,730	460	20.9%
Gustine - city	2,120	1,850	270	12.5%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,960	1,750	210	10.9%
Le Grand - CDP	570	500	70	12.3%
Livingston - city	4,470	3,460	1,010	22.7%
Los Banos - city	8,130	7,030	1,100	13.6%
Merced - city	29,000	24,940	4,060	14.0%
Planada - CDP	1,960	1,420	540	27.6%
South Dos Palos - CDP	600	340	260	43.7%
Winton - CDP	3,820	3,120	700	18.2%



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 is the seventh highest in the state. Merced County saw an increase in unemployment of 0.5 percentage point above May's unemployment rate. Five of the seven counties' unemployment rate increased in month-over average unemployment (Merced, Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin). San Benito unemployment rate remained stable. Mariposa unemployment decrease by 0.6 percentage point and was less than California's and the U.S.'s unemployment rate.

COUNTY	RANK	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
MERCED	52	95,500	82,000	13,500	14.1%
MADERA	47	59,200	52,000	7,200	12.2%
MARIPOSA	16	7,750	7,340	410	5.3%
FRESNO	49	407,700	356,400	51,300	12.6%
SAN BENITO	40	29,750	27,100	2,650	8.9%
SAN JOAQUIN	44	295,500	263,900	28,600	9.8%
STANISLAUS	46	222,900	196,900	26,000	11.7%

