



**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

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Jul 02	May 03	Jun 03 Revised	Jul 03 Prelim.		
Civilian Labor Force (1)	91,400	93,300	95,900	94,700		
Civilian Employment	79,300	80,200	82,100	81,700	Employed Increase (Decrease) From Previous Month	Percent Increase (Decrease) Previous Month
Civilian Unemployment	12,100	13,100	13,800	13,000		
Merced County Civilian Unemployment Rate	13.2%	14.0%	14.4%	13.8%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	7.1%	6.4%	6.8%	6.9%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.9%	5.8%	6.5%	6.3%		
<b>Total, All Industries (2)</b>	<b>68,200</b>	<b>68,700</b>	<b>70,700</b>	<b>69,800</b>	<b>(900)</b>	<b>(1.3%)</b>
Total Farm	12,800	11,500	12,600	13,400	800	6.3%
Total Nonfarm	55,400	57,200	58,100	56,400	(1,700)	(2.9%)
Total Private	42,700	43,300	44,100	44,400	300	0.7%
Goods Producing	14,000	13,900	14,100	14,500	400	2.8%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	2,400	2,600	2,700	2,700	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	11,600	11,300	11,400	11,800	400	3.5%
Durable Goods	1,900	2,010	2,100	2,000	(100)	(4.8%)
Nondurable Goods	9,700	9,200	9,300	9,800	500	5.4%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	7,700	7,300	7,400	7,900	500	6.8%
Residual-Textile Mills	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%
Service Providing	41,400	43,300	44,000	41,900	(2,100)	(4.8%)
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,200	11,900	12,300	12,300	0	0.0%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,600	1,800	1,900	100	5.6%
Retail Trade	7,300	7,700	7,800	7,800	0	0.0%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,700	1,900	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,500	1,500	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,100	4,300	4,200	4,200	0	0.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,300	2,600	2,700	2,600	(100)	(3.7%)
Information	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%
Finance and Insurance	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0.0%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	800	800	800	800	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,300	3,700	3,700	3,600	(100)	(2.7%)
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,200	5,300	5,300	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,400	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0.0%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	900	700	800	800	0	0.0%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%
Government	12,700	13,900	14,000	12,000	(2,000)	(14.3%)
Federal Government	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	11,800	12,900	13,000	11,000	(2,000)	(15.4%)
State Government	600	600	600	600	0	0.0%
Local Government	11,200	12,300	12,400	10,400	(2,000)	(16.1%)

**The QuickLook:** The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 53rd out of 58 counties. The preliminary July result is an decrease of 0.6 percentage points in the unemployment rate from the revised June rate. This preliminary figure is 0.6 percentage point higher than one year ago.

Overall, the County saw a decrease of 900 jobs in June following 2,600 new jobs created in June. The decrease was result of Local Government with 2,000 jobs lost, Durable Goods, Professional and Business Services and Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities, all with 100 job loses. Any substantial decrease in this area were offset by an increase of jobs in Total Farm (800 jobs), Food Manufacturing (500 jobs), and Wholesale Trade (100 jobs).

## Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

**The QuickLook At:** California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in July. This was down 0.2 percentage point from the rate in June and down 0.1 percentage point from one year ago. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 6.2 percent in July. This was down 0.2 percentage point from June, but up 0.4 percentage point from one year ago.

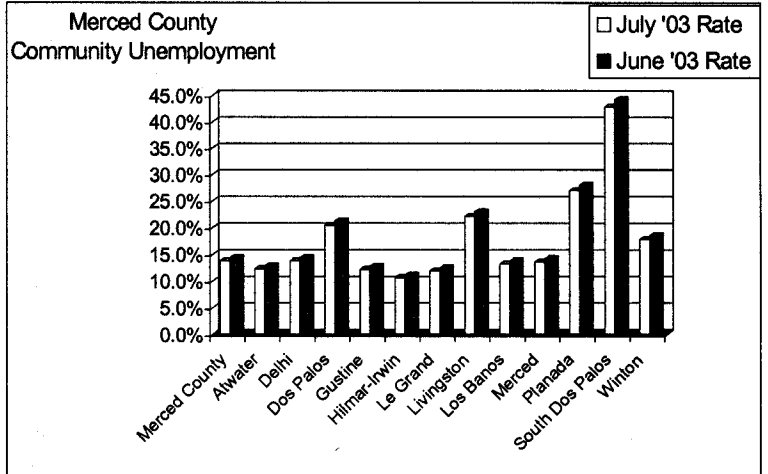
There were 14,431,700 jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in July, a decrease of 21,800 jobs from June. This followed a 6,400-job gain in June and a 13,400-job loss in May. In the first seven months of 2003, California's total nonfarm employment fell 33,200 jobs, for an average monthly decrease of 4,700 jobs. This compares to an average month-over increase of 600 jobs in 2002 and an average month-over decline of 21,200 jobs per month in 2001.

The actual California nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) decreased 158,000 jobs in July. Within nonfarm industries, five sectors had month-over job gains and six sectors had month-over job declines. Job increases were recorded in construction (7,400), leisure and hospitality (2,700), information (1,800), financial activities (900), and natural resources and mining (600). Job losses were recorded in government (146,300), educational and health services (17,100), trade, transportation and utilities (2,900), professional and business services (1,800), manufacturing (1,800), and other services (1,500).

Average hourly earnings for California production workers in manufacturing were \$15.04 in July. Average weekly earnings were \$586.56, a decrease of \$14.64 from June. Average weekly hours decreased 1.0 hour to 39.0 hours, and average weekly overtime hours was 3.7, remaining the same as the prior month. (Data are not seasonally adjusted.)

**The QuickLook At: Sub County** average unemployment rates for the county, cities and municipalities saw an overall 0.6 percent decrease this month. All communities noted a decrease in unemployment, led by South Dos Palos with a 1.3 percent decrease. Livingston was close behind with a 0.9 percent increase.

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	94,700	81,700	13,000	13.8%
Atwater - city	11,130	9,760	1,370	12.3%
Delhi - CDP	1,730	1,490	240	13.8%
Dos Palos - city	2,160	1,720	440	20.4%
Gustine - city	2,100	1,840	260	12.2%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,950	1,740	210	10.6%
Le Grand - CDP	570	500	70	11.9%
Livingston - city	4,420	3,440	980	22.1%
Los Banos - city	8,070	7,000	1,070	13.2%
Merced - city	28,760	24,840	3,920	13.6%
Planada - CDP	1,940	1,420	520	27.0%
South Dos Palos - CDP	590	340	250	42.9%
Winton - CDP	3,780	3,110	670	17.8%



**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 sixth highest in the state. San Benito saw the greatest decrease at 0.9 percent. Six counties' unemployment rate decreased in month-over average unemployment (Merced, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, San Benito, Stanislaus). One county's unemployment rate increase in month-over averages employment (San Joaquin). Mariposa County's 0.5 percent decrease lowered its rate to below the state's unemployment (6.9%) for the third time this year.

COUNTY	RANK	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
MERCED	53	94,700	81,700	13,000	13.8%
MADERA	48	59,700	63,600	7,200	12.1%
MARIPOSA	9	8,390	7,990	400	4.8%
FRESNO	50	415,800	362,700	53,200	12.8%
SAN BENITO	44	29,840	27,110	2,730	9.2%
SAN JOAQUIN	45	281,500	252,700	28,800	10.2%
STANISLAUS	46	227,400	201,600	25,700	11.3%

