



# The QuickLook

## A Merced County Labor Market Review

### The QuickLook:

Welcome to the Merced County labor market summary. The QuickLook has been developed by the Private Industry Training Department (PITD) 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 PITD, 1880 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced, CA 95340. Telephone (209) 724-2152. Email: PITD222@co.merced.ca.us

#### California/Merced County Current Labor Force & Unemployment Rates

Merced County				July 10, 2002		
March 2001 Benchmark	Jul 01	May 02	Jun 02	Jul 02	Percent	Change
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force	85,800	83,300	86,400	84,900	-1.7%	-1.0%
Civilian Employment	75,600	71,900	74,100	73,700	-0.5%	-2.5%
Civilian Unemployment	10,200	11,400	12,300	11,200	-8.9%	9.8%
Merced County Unemployment Rate	11.9%	13.6%	14.2%	13.2%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	6.0%	6.6%	6.6%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.7%	5.5%	6.0%	6.0%		

### The QuickLook:

California's revised unemployment rate for June was 6.6 percent, up two tenths of a percent from the preliminary numbers report the previous month. This was up 0.2 percentage points from the rate in May. Preliminary July unemployment dropped to 13.2 percent, down one percent from the June result.

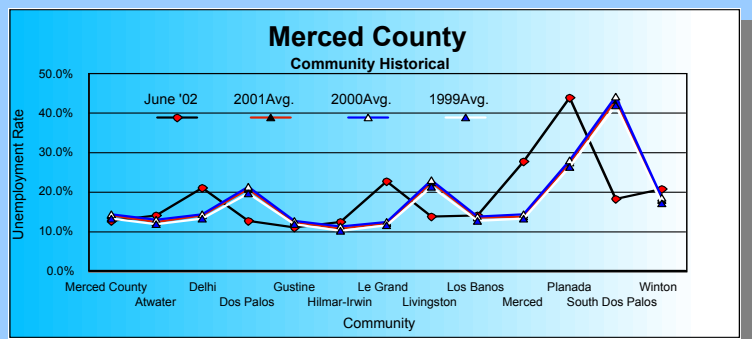
In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate remained steady at six percent in July. The July 2002 rate is 1.3 percent higher than one year ago.

The actual California labor force increased by almost 136,000 workers, while the number unemployed rose by a little over 10,000. Nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) declined by a little less than 10,000, a downturn of eight tenths of one percent in June. California farm services employment rose by 3.3 percent over the same period.

For Merced County, the revised June unemployment rate rose to 14.2 percent. The preliminary July rate declined from the revised June figure by one percent; however this unemployment rate remains the fourth highest in the State. The July unemployment rate is still up almost one percent from the previous year. Total workers employed increased by almost nine percent from the previous month.

#### County Data are for July 2002

	Labor		Unemployment	
Atwater - city	9,990	8,810	1,180	11.8%
Delhi - CDP	1,550	1,350	200	13.2%
Dos Palos - city	1,930	1,550	380	19.6%
Gustine - city	1,890	1,670	220	11.7%
Hilmar-Irwin	1,750	1,570	180	10.2%
Le Grand - CDP	510	450	60	11.4%
Livingston - city	3,950	3,110	840	21.3%
Los Banos - city	7,240	6,320	920	12.6%
Merced - city	25,800	22,430	3,370	13.0%
Planada - CDP	1,730	1,280	450	26.0%
South Dos Palos	530	310	220	41.7%
Winton - CDP	3,390	2,810	580	17.1%



The seasonality of the workforce is reflected by dramatic difference from current month to yearly average unemployment numbers.

### The QuickLook:

At the Sub County: Unemployment rates for county cities and municipalities saw a decline in the unemployment rate from the June revised numbers. The average unemployment for the 12 communities is down to 17.7%, a 2.2 percent decrease.

**For the Month of:  
July 2002**

## Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

March 2001 Benchmark	Jul 01	May 02	Jun 02	Jul 02				
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.				
Civilian Labor Force	85,800	83,300	86,400	84,900				
Civilian Employment	75,600	71,900	74,100	73,700				
Civilian Unemployment	10,200	11,400	12,300	11,200				
<b>Merced Unemployment Rate</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>14.2%</b>	<b>13.2%</b>				
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	6.0%	6.6%	6.6%				
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.7%	5.5%	6.0%	6.0%				
					Unemployment by Industry			
					Jul 01	May 02	Jun 02	Jul 02
Total, All Industries	66,000	63,000	65,000	64,500	7,854	8,568	9,230	8,514
Total Farm	13,100	10,200	11,400	12,100	1,559	1,387	1,619	1,597
Farm Production	8,300	7,700	8,100	7,700	988	1,047	1,150	1,016
Farm Services	4,800	2,500	3,300	4,400	571	340	469	581
Total Nonfarm	52,900	52,800	53,600	52,400	6,295	7,181	7,611	6,917
Goods Producing	13,400	12,200	12,300	12,700	1,595	1,659	1,747	1,676
Construction & Mining	2,400	2,600	2,600	2,600	286	354	369	343
Manufacturing	11,000	9,600	9,700	10,100	1,309	1,306	1,377	1,333
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700	214	231	241	224
Nondurable Goods	9,200	7,900	8,000	8,400	1,095	1,074	1,136	1,109
Food & Kindred Products	6,900	5,700	5,800	6,200	821	775	824	818
Other Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,200	274	299	312	290
Service Producing	39,500	40,600	41,300	39,700	4,701	5,522	5,865	5,240
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800	202	245	256	238
Transportation	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,400	155	190	199	185
Communications & Public Utilities	400	400	400	400	48	54	57	53
Trade	12,700	12,700	12,900	12,900	1,511	1,727	1,832	1,703
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,800	1,900	1,900	226	245	270	251
Retail Trade	10,800	10,900	11,000	11,000	1,285	1,482	1,562	1,452
General Merchandise	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	179	218	227	211
Food Stores	1,800	1,800	1,900	1,900	214	245	270	251
Eating & Drinking Places	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,700	452	503	525	488
Other Retail Trade	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,800	440	517	540	502
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	190	218	227	211
Finance	700	700	700	700	83	95	99	92
Other Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	900	900	900	900	107	122	128	119
Services	10,800	10,900	11,100	10,900	1,285	1,482	1,576	1,439
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	400	400	400	400	48	54	57	53
Business Services	1,800	1,600	1,700	1,600	214	218	241	211
Amusement & Recreation Services	500	600	600	600	60	82	85	79
Health Services	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,300	500	585	611	568
Social Services & Member Organizations	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900	214	258	270	251
Other Services	2,100	2,100	2,200	2,100	250	286	312	277
Government	12,700	13,600	13,900	12,500	1,511	1,850	1,974	1,650
Federal Government	700	800	800	800	83	109	114	106
State & Local Government	12,000	12,800	13,100	11,700	1,428	1,741	1,860	1,544
State Government	600	600	600	600	71	82	85	79
Local Government	11,400	12,200	12,500	11,100	1,357	1,659	1,775	1,465

\*For information only.

### The QuickLook:

At the Industries: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State. Merced is 54th out of 58 counties at 13.2 percent and has the third highest unemployment rate when compared to all Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA).

The July result, a drop of one percent from June, is more in line with that expected for this time of the year in Merced County.

Historically, average July unemployment is 13.1 percent trending lower to an average of around 11 percent in September and October.

Those unemployed declined by almost 700 workers in July; however the labor force declined by only a little more 1,500 workers during the month.

Total farm unemployment dropped by less 20 workers from the June figures. Farm production unemployment dropped by over a little less than 150 workers.

Service occupation employment improved by 114 workers over last month and by 100 from one year ago.

Trade occupations improved by almost 130 workers this past month.

### The QuickLook:

At the Summary: Merced County's workforce has steadily grown over the past 20 years reflecting the steady improvement of the County's economic situation. Employment has increased from approximately 65,700 in 1983 to over 83,000 in 2002. Recently though, this growth has begun to level off.

Unemployment, however has fluctuated from 19 percent in 1983 to a high of 20.8 percent in 1993 and averaging 17.3 percent over that span of time.

The County will continue to see unemployment well above that of the State given the large seasonal agricultural employment base that exists here. The overall situation should improve in the next five years with the expected increase in jobs in most occupational groups precipitated by the building of the 10th University of California campus.

The building and opening of the campus should bring about a resurgence of the growth noted during the early 1990's.

