



# 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	Aug 01	Jun 02	Jul 02	July 10, 2002	Aug 02	Percent	Change
March 2001 Benchmark	Aug 01	Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug 02	Percent	Change	
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year	
Civilian Labor Force	85,100	86,400	85,000	83,800	-1.4%	-1.5%	
Civilian Employment	76,900	74,100	73,800	74,800	1.4%	-2.7%	
Civilian Unemployment	8,300	12,300	11,200	9,000	-19.6%	8.4%	
Merced County Unemployment Rate	9.7%	14.2%	13.2%	10.7%			
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.4%	6.6%	6.7%	6.2%			
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.9%	6.0%	6.0%	5.7%			

### The QuickLook:

California's revised unemployment rate for July was 6.7 percent, up one tenth of a percent from the preliminary numbers reported the previous month. This was up 0.1 percentage point from the rate in June. Preliminary August unemployment dropped to 6.2 percent, down five tenths of a percent from the July revised result.

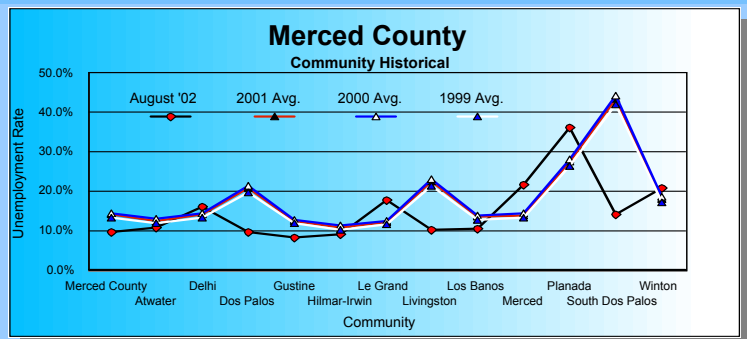
The actual California labor force increased by almost 128,500 workers, while the number employed rose by a little over 20,000 and those unemployed rose by 108,000. Construction lost almost 11,000 jobs, while manufacturing lost 11,200 jobs in August. Occupations in nondurable goods dropped almost 15,000 jobs during the same month. Service producing occupations saw an increase of 9,100 jobs while wholesale and retail trades dropped 7,300 jobs.

For Merced County, the revised July unemployment rate dropped to 13.2 percent. The preliminary August rate declined from the revised July figure by two and one half percent. Merced County moved ahead of Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties which had rates of 11.5 percent, 11.5 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively.

Merced County gained 1,200 new workers in the labor force, while those employed dropped by 1,000. Civilian unemployment increased by 2,200. Total farm occupations lost 200 workers, while total nonfarm lost 600. Farm production (-600) and goods producing (-500) made for the biggest losses. Farm production increased by 400 jobs during the same time.

#### County Data are for August 2002

	Labor		Unemployment	
Atwater - city	9,870	8,930	940	9.5%
Delhi - CDP	1,520	1,360	160	10.7%
Dos Palos - city	1,870	1,570	300	16.1%
Gustine - city	1,870	1,690	180	9.5%
Hilmar-Irwin	1,730	1,590	140	8.2%
Le Grand - CDP	510	460	50	9.2%
Livingston - city	3,820	3,150	670	17.6%
Los Banos - city	7,140	6,410	730	10.3%
Merced - city	25,440	22,740	2,700	10.6%
Planada - CDP	1,660	1,300	360	21.7%
South Dos Palos	490	310	180	36.1%
Winton - CDP	3,300	2,840	460	14.0%



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 July revised numbers. The average unemployment for the 12 communities is down to 14.9%, a 2.8% decrease. South Dos Palos, Livingston and Winton saw the greatest change.

**For the Month of:  
August 2002**

## Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

March 2001 Benchmark	Aug 01	Jun 02	Jul 02	Aug 02			
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.			
Civilian Labor Force	85,100	86,400	85,000	83,800			
Civilian Employment	76,900	74,100	73,800	74,800			
Civilian Unemployment	8,300	12,300	11,200	9,000			
Merced Unemployment Rate	9.7%	14.2%	13.2%	10.7%			
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.4%	6.6%	6.7%	6.2%			
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.9%	6.0%	6.0%	5.7%			
					Unemployment by Industry		
					Jul 02	Aug 02	Change
Total, All Industries	67,000	65,000	64,500	65,300	8,514	6,987	-800
Total Farm	13,300	11,400	12,100	12,300	1,597	1,316	-200
Farm Production	8,900	8,100	7,700	8,300	1,016	888	-600
Farm Services	4,400	3,300	4,400	4,000	581	428	400
Total Nonfarm	53,700	53,600	52,400	53,000	6,917	5,671	-600
Goods Producing	13,900	12,300	12,700	13,200	1,676	1,412	-500
Construction & Mining	2,400	2,600	2,600	2,700	343	289	-100
Manufacturing	11,500	9,700	10,100	10,500	1,333	1,124	-400
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,800	224	193	-100
Nondurable Goods	9,700	8,000	8,400	8,700	1,109	931	-300
Food & Kindred Products	7,400	5,800	6,200	6,500	818	696	-300
Other Nondurable Goods	2,300	2,200	2,200	2,200	290	235	0
Service Producing	39,800	41,300	39,700	39,800	5,240	4,259	-100
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	238	203	-100
Transportation	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,500	185	161	-100
Communications & Public Utilities	400	400	400	400	53	43	0
Trade	12,700	12,900	12,900	12,800	1,703	1,370	100
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	251	203	0
Retail Trade	10,800	11,000	11,000	10,900	1,452	1,166	100
General Merchandise	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,500	211	161	100
Food Stores	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900	251	203	0
Eating & Drinking Places	3,800	3,700	3,700	3,700	488	396	0
Other Retail Trade	3,700	3,800	3,800	3,800	502	407	0
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600	211	171	0
Finance	700	700	700	700	92	75	0
Other Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	900	900	900	900	119	96	0
Services	10,900	11,100	10,900	11,000	1,439	1,177	-100
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	400	400	400	400	53	43	0
Business Services	1,800	1,700	1,600	1,700	211	182	-100
Amusement & Recreation Services	500	600	600	600	79	64	0
Health Services	4,200	4,300	4,300	4,300	568	460	0
Social Services & Member Organizations	1,900	1,900	1,900	1,900	251	203	0
Other Services	2,100	2,200	2,100	2,100	277	225	0
Government	12,800	13,900	12,500	12,500	1,650	1,338	0
Federal Government	700	800	800	800	106	86	0
State & Local Government	12,100	13,100	11,700	11,700	1,544	1,252	0
State Government	600	600	600	600	79	64	0
Local Government	11,500	12,500	11,100	11,100	1,465	1,188	0

### The QuickLook:

At the Industries: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State; however, Merced did improve to 51st out of 58 counties at 10.7 percent unemployment moving past Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties, respectively.

The August result is a drop of two and one half percent from July. This rate is right in line with the 20 year average for the month of August. Predictors indicate the rate should continue to fall next month before beginning a slow rise through the remainder of the year.

Those unemployed increased by 800 workers in August, while the total labor force grew by 1,000.

Civilian unemployment increased by 2,200. Total farm occupations lost 200 workers, while total nonfarm lost 600. Farm production (-600) and goods producing (-500) made for the biggest losses. Farm production increased by 400 jobs during the same time.

Goods producing occupations lost 500 jobs during August, manufacturing lost 400 and service occupations lost 100 jobs.

Retail trade and general merchandise occupations were the only gainers in total nonfarm occupations during the 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.

