



The Quick Look

A Merced County Labor Market Review - July 2004

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

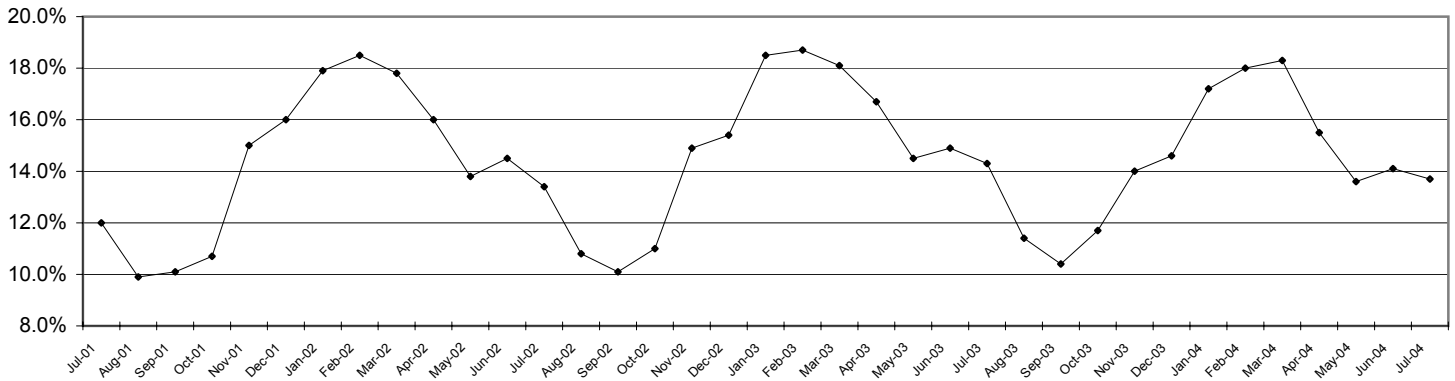
Merced County	Labor Force and Industrial Employment					
	March 2003 Benchmark					
	Jul 03	May 04	Jun 04	Jul 04	Percent	Change
Data not adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	90,800	92,100	95,600	92,700	-3.0%	2.1%
Civilian Employment	77,800	79,500	82,100	80,100	-2.4%	3.0%
Civilian Unemployment	13,000	12,500	13,500	12,700	-5.9%	-2.3%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	14.3%	13.6%	14.1%	13.7%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	7.2%	5.9%	6.4%	6.5%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	6.3%	5.3%	5.8%	5.7%		
Total, All Industries (2)	67,500	68,400	70,900	68,600	-3.2%	1.6%
Total Farm	12,900	10,800	12,200	13,100	7.4%	1.6%
Total Nonfarm	54,600	57,600	58,700	55,500	-5.5%	1.6%
Total Private	42,900	43,900	44,700	45,000	0.7%	4.9%
Goods Producing	14,700	14,800	15,100	15,400	2.0%	4.8%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	3,200	3,400	3,500	3,500	0.0%	9.4%
Manufacturing	11,500	11,400	11,600	11,900	2.6%	3.5%
Durable Goods	1,700	1,700	1,800	1,700	-5.6%	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	9,800	9,700	9,800	10,200	4.1%	4.1%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	8,000	7,900	8,000	8,300	3.8%	3.8%
Residual-Textile Mills	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900	5.6%	5.6%
Service Providing	39,900	42,800	43,600	40,100	-8.0%	0.5%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,000	11,400	11,800	11,900	0.8%	8.2%
Wholesale Trade	1,600	1,700	1,900	1,900	0.0%	18.8%
Retail Trade	7,200	7,400	7,500	7,600	1.3%	5.6%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	0.0%	6.7%
General Merchandise Stores	1,700	1,700	1,700	1,800	5.9%	5.9%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,000	4,100	4,200	4,200	0.0%	5.0%
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,200	2,300	2,400	2,400	0.0%	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%
Educational and Health Services	3,300	3,400	3,300	3,400	3.0%	3.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,600	0.0%	1.8%
Food Services and Drinking Places	4,600	4,800	4,900	4,800	-2.0%	4.3%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,800	3,900	3,900	3,800	-2.6%	0.0%
Other Services	800	900	1,000	1,000	0.0%	25.0%
Government	1,600	1,900	1,900	1,800	-5.3%	12.5%
Federal Government	11,700	13,700	14,000	10,500	-25.0%	-10.3%
State and Local Government	800	800	800	800	0.0%	0.0%
State Government	10,900	12,900	13,200	9,700	-26.5%	-11.0%
Educational and Health Services	600	600	600	600	0.0%	0.0%

The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 52nd out of 58 counties in the Month of July. The preliminary result is a decrease of 0.4 percentage point in the unemployment rate from the revised June rate. This preliminary figure is a decrease of 0.6 percentage point in the unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County saw a decrease of 2,300 jobs in July following a 2,500 job increase in May. The decrease was a result of Total Farm with a 900 job gain, and Total NonFarm industries with a decrease of 3,200 jobs. The Goods Producing industries increased by 300 jobs and the Service Providing industries decreased by 3,500 jobs.

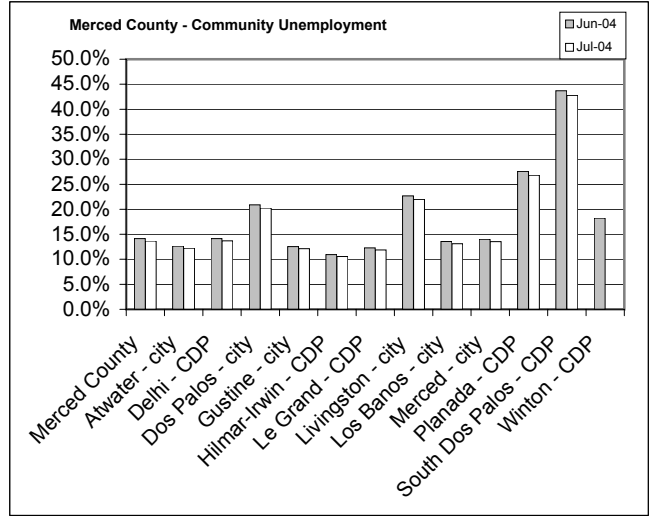
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Unemployment Rate Historical Trend



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

Area Name	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	
			Number	Rate
Merced County	95,500	82,000	13,500	13.7%
Atwater - city	11,220	9,800	1,420	12.2%
Winton - CDP	1,750	1,500	250	13.7%
Dos Palos - city	2,190	1,730	460	20.3%
Gustine - city	2,120	1,850	270	12.1%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,960	1,750	210	10.6%
Le Grand - CDP	570	500	70	11.9%
Livingston - city	4,470	3,460	1,010	22.0%
Los Banos - city	8,130	7,030	1,100	13.1%
Merced - city	29,000	24,940	4,060	13.5%
Planada - CDP	1,960	1,420	540	26.8%
South Dos Palos - CDP	600	340	260	42.8%
Winton - CDP	3,820	3,120	700	17.7%



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 12.8 percent to a yearly high of 17.3 percent in 1992. Between the years 1990 to 2003 Merced County's average unemployment was 15.2 percent

The County's unemployment rate is the seventh highest in the state. Merced County saw a decrease in unemployment of 0.4 percentage point above June's unemployment rate. Five of the seven counties' unemployment rate decreased in month-over average unemployment (Merced, Fresno, Madera, Stanislaus, and San Benito). Mariposa's unemployment rate remained stable. San Joaquin's unemployment increased by 0.0.4 percentage point.

County	Rank	Labor Force	Employ	Unemploy	Rate
Merced	54	92,700	80,100	12,700	13.7%
Madera	47	59,900	53,000	6,900	11.6%
Mariposa	14	8,330	7,890	440	5.3%
Fresno	49	413,300	363,500	49,800	12.0%
San Benito	39	30,800	28,230	2,570	8.3%
San Joaquin	44	283,700	254,700	29,000	10.2%
Stanislaus	45	225,300	201,400	24,000	10.6%

