



## 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](mailto:pitd26@co.merced.ca.us)

Merced County

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Aug 02	Jun 03	Jul 03 Revised	Aug 03 Prelim.		
Civilian Labor Force (1)	90,400	95,900	94,600	92,700		
Civilian Employment	80,700	82,100	81,500	82,100	Employed Increase (Decrease) From Previous Month	Percent Increase (Decrease) Previous Month
Civilian Unemployment	9,700	13,800	13,000	10,600		
Merced County Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.7%	14.4%	13.8%	11.5%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.6%	6.8%	7.0%	6.1%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.7%	6.5%	6.3%	6.0%		
Total, All Industries (2)	69,400	70,700	69,600	70,200	600	0.9%
Total Farm	13,100	12,600	13,400	13,600	200	1.5%
Total Nonfarm	56,300	58,100	56,200	56,600	400	0.7%
Total Private	43,300	44,100	44,300	44,400	100	0.2%
Goods Producing	14,500	14,100	14,500	14,800	300	2.1%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	2,400	2,700	2,700	2,600	(100)	(3.7%)
Manufacturing	12,100	11,400	11,800	12,200	400	3.4%
Durable Goods	1,900	2,100	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	10,200	9,300	9,800	10,200	400	4.1%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	8,200	7,400	7,900	8,300	400	5.1%
Residual-Textile Mills	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%
Service Providing	41,800	44,000	41,700	41,800	100	0.2%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,200	12,300	12,200	12,100	(100)	(0.8%)
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,800	1,900	1,800	(100)	(5.3%)
Retail Trade	7,300	7,800	7,700	7,700	0	0.0%
Food and Beverage Stores	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600	0	0.0%
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,000	4,200	4,200	4,100	(100)	(2.4%)
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,400	2,700	2,600	2,600	0	0.0%
Information	500	500	500	500	0	0.0%
Financial Activities	1,700	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	700	800	800	800	0	0.0%
Professional and Business Services	3,500	3,700	3,600	3,500	(100)	(2.8%)
Educational and Health Services	5,400	5,300	5,300	5,300	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,500	4,500	4,500	0	0.0%
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,900	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0.0%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	800	800	800	800	0	0.0%
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%
Government	13,000	14,000	11,900	12,200	300	2.5%
Federal Government	900	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	12,100	13,000	10,900	11,200	300	2.8%
State Government	600	600	600	600	0	0.0%
Local Government	11,500	12,400	10,300	10,600	300	2.9%

**The QuickLook:** The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 52rd out of 58 counties. The preliminary August result is a decrease of 2.3 percentage points in the unemployment rate from the revised July rate. This preliminary figure is 0.8 percentage point higher than one year ago.

Overall, the County saw an increase of 600 jobs in August following a 1,100 jobs loss in July. The increase was a result of Goods Producing industries with 300 jobs created, Service Providing industries creating 100 new jobs, and Farm creating 300 jobs.

## Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

**The QuickLook At:** California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.6 percent in August. This was down 0.1 percentage point from the rate in July and from the rate one year ago. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in August. This was down 0.1 percentage point from July, but up 0.3 percentage point from one year ago.

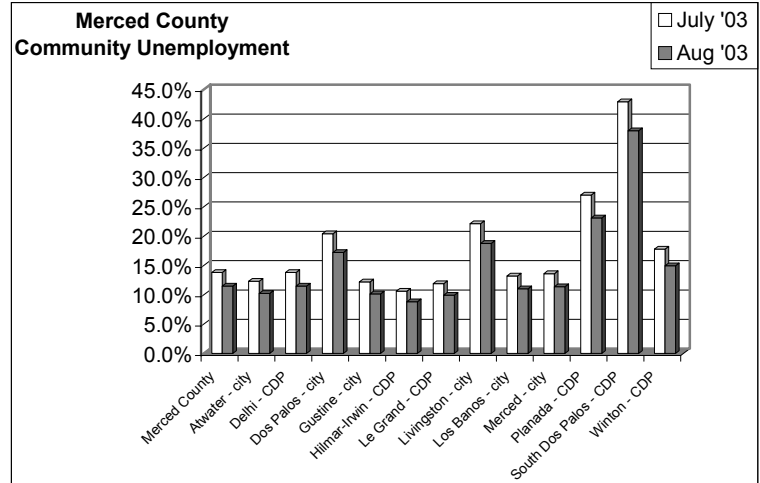
There were 14,441,600 jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in August, a decrease of 1,900 jobs from July. This followed a 10,000-job loss in July and a 6,400-job gain in June. In the first eight months of 2003, California's total nonfarm employment fell 23,300 jobs, for an average monthly decrease of 2,900 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) increased 4,000 jobs in August. Within nonfarm industries, eight sectors had month-over job gains and three sectors had month-over job declines. The sectors that recorded increases were: construction (9,900); manufacturing (8,800); professional and business services (7,700); leisure and hospitality (4,000); trade, transportation and utilities (4,000); financial activities (500); natural resources and mining (400); and, educational and health services (200). Job losses were recorded in government (26,200), information (4,300), and other services (1,000).

Average hourly earnings for California production workers in manufacturing were \$15.04 in August. Average weekly earnings were \$597.09, an increase of \$5.56 from July. Average weekly hours increased 0.5 of an hour to 39.7 hours, and average weekly overtime hours was 4.0, increasing 0.2 of an hour from 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 2.3 percent decrease this month. All communities noted a decrease in unemployment, led by South Dos Palos with a 4.9 percent decrease. Planada was close behind with a 3.9 percent decrease.

Area Name	Unemployment			
	Labor Force	Employment	Number	Rate
Merced County	92,700	82,100	10,600	11.5%
Atwater - city	10,930	9,810	1,120	10.2%
Delhi - CDP	1,690	1,500	190	11.5%
Dos Palos - city	2,090	1,730	360	17.2%
Gustine - city	2,060	1,850	210	10.2%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,920	1,750	170	8.8%
Le Grand - CDP	560	500	60	9.9%
Livingston - city	4,260	3,460	800	18.8%
Los Banos - city	7,900	7,030	870	11.0%
Merced - city	28,170	24,970	3,200	11.4%
Planada - CDP	1,850	1,420	430	23.1%
South Dos Palos - CDP	550	340	210	38.0%
Winton - CDP	3,670	3,120	550	14.9%



**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 the greatest decrease at 2.3 percent. All seven counties' unemployment rate decreased in month-over average unemployment (Merced, Mariposa, Fresno, Madera, San Benito, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin). Mariposa County's 0.2 percent decrease lowered its rate to below the state's unemployment (6.6%) for the fourth time this year.

COUNTY	RANK	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
MERCED	52	92,700	82,100	10,600	11.5%
MADERA	48	59,600	53,400	6,100	10.3%
MARIPOSA	11	8,250	7,880	380	4.6%
FRESNO	50	416,000	369,100	46,900	11.3%
SAN BENITO	44	28,710	26,360	2,360	8.2%
SAN JOAQUIN	45	282,000	256,100	25,900	9.2%
STANISLAUS	46	227,100	205,900	21,200	9.3%

