



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

Merced County

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

	Sep 02	Jul 03	Aug 03 Revised	Sep 03 Prelim.		
Civilian Labor Force (1)	90,000	94,600	93,900	92,200		
Civilian Employment	81,000	81,500	83,200	83,000	Employed Increase (Decrease) From Previous Month	Percent Increase (Decrease) Previous Month
Civilian Unemployment	9,000	13,000	10,700	9,200		
Merced County Civilian Unemployment Rate	10.0%	13.8%	11.4%	10.0%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	6.5%	7.0%	6.6%	6.1%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	5.4%	6.3%	6.0%	5.8%		
Total, All Industries (2)	70,600	69,600	71,000	71,700	700	1.0%
Total Farm	13,800	13,400	13,600	14,300	700	5.1%
Total Nonfarm	56,800	56,200	57,400	57,400	0	0.0%
Total Private	43,800	44,300	44,400	44,200	(200)	(0.5%)
Goods Producing	14,700	14,500	14,800	15,000	200	1.4%
Natural Resources, Mining and Construction	2,400	2,700	2,600	2,600	0	0.0%
Manufacturing	12,300	11,800	12,200	12,400	200	1.6%
Durable Goods	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	10,300	9,800	10,200	10,400	200	2.0%
Food Man & Beverage & Tobacco	8,300	7,900	8,300	8,500	200	2.4%
Residual-Textile Mills	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0.0%
Service Providing	42,100	41,700	42,600	42,400	(200)	(0.5%)
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	11,400	12,200	12,100	11,900	(200)	(1.7%)
Wholesale Trade	1,500	1,900	1,800	1,700	(100)	(5.6%)
Retail Trade	7,300	7,700	7,700	7,500	200	(-2.6%)
Food and Beverage Stores	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000	0	0.0%
General Merchandise Stores	1,400	1,600	1,600	1,500	(100)	(6.3%)
Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers	4,100	4,200	4,100	4,000	(100)	(2.4%)
Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,700	100	3.8%
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	3,600	3,500	3,400	(100)	(2.9%)
Educational and Health Services	5,500	5,300	5,300	5,300	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	4,700	4,500	4,500	4,400	(100)	(2.2%)
Food Services and Drinking Places	3,900	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0.0%
Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	800	800	800	700	100	(12.5%)
Other Services	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800	0	0.0%
Government	13,000	11,900	13,000	13,200	200	1.5%
Federal Government	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	0	0.0%
State and Local Government	12,000	10,900	12,000	12,200	200	1.7%
State Government	600	600	600	600	0	0.0%
Local Government	11,400	10,300	11,400	11,600	200	1.8%

The QuickLook: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, ranking 51st out of 58 counties. The preliminary September result is a decrease of 1.4 percentage points in the unemployment rate from the revised August rate. This preliminary figure matches unemployment rate of one year ago.

Overall, the County saw an increase of 700 jobs in September following a 600 jobs increase in August. The increase was a result of Total Farm with 700 jobs created. Goods Producing and Service Providing each saw a decrease of 200 jobs. Government saw an increase of 200 jobs.

Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

The QuickLook At: California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in September. This was down 0.3 percentage point from the rate in August and from the rate one year ago. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 6.1 percent in September. It was unchanged from August following two consecutive months of improvement. The September rate was 0.4 percentage point above the rate in September 2002.

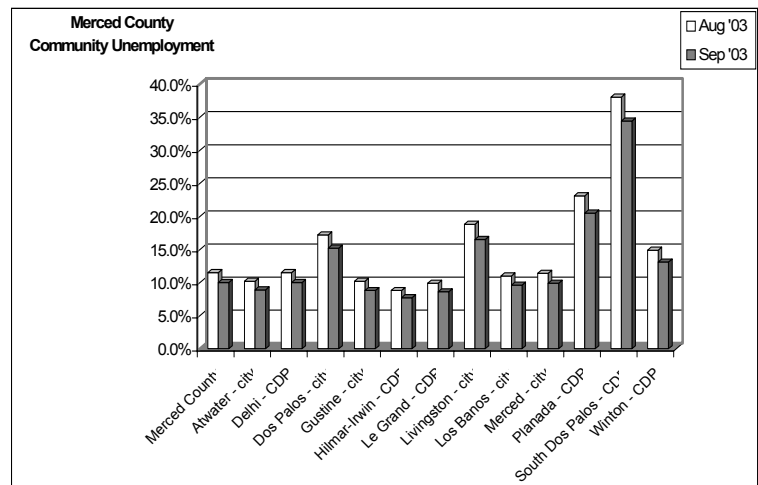
There were 14,419,100 jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in September, a decrease of 16,600 jobs from August. This followed losses of 7,800 jobs in August and 10,000 jobs in July. In the first nine months of 2003, California's total nonfarm employment fell 45,800 jobs, for an average monthly decrease of 5,100 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 54,500 jobs in September. Within nonfarm industries, five sectors had month-over job gains and six sectors had month-over job declines. Sectors recording job increases were: government (63,400); educational and health services (11,700); trade, transportation and utilities (7,100); other services (1,000); and, financial activities (100). Job losses were recorded in the following sectors: leisure and hospitality (17,900); information (6,000); professional and business services (1,800); construction (1,700); manufacturing (1,200); and, natural resources and mining (200).

Average hourly earnings for California production workers in manufacturing were \$15.09 in September. Average weekly earnings were \$602.09, an increase of \$4.60 from August. Average weekly hours increased 0.2 of an hour to 39.9 hours, and average weekly overtime hours was 4.2, 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	92,500	83,000	9,200	10.0%
Atwater - city	10,890	9,920	970	8.9%
Delhi - CDP	1,690	1,520	170	10.0%
Dos Palos - city	2,060	1,750	310	15.2%
Gustine - city	2,050	1,870	180	8.8%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,920	1,770	150	7.7%
Le Grand - CDP	560	510	50	8.6%
Livingston - city	4,190	3,500	690	16.5%
Los Banos - city	7,870	7,110	760	9.6%
Merced - city	28,030	25,250	2,780	9.9%
Planada - CDP	1,810	1,440	370	20.5%
South Dos Palos - CDP	520	340	180	34.4%
Winton - CDP	3,640	3,160	480	13.1%



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 eighth highest in the state. Madera County saw the greatest decrease in unemployment at 1.6 percent with Merced County close behind with a 1.5 percent decrease. All seven counties' unemployment rate decreased in month-over average unemployment (Merced, Mariposa, Fresno, Madera, San Benito, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin). Mariposa County's 0.1 percent decrease lowered its rate to below the state's unemployment (6.1%) for the fifth time this year.

COUNTY	RANK	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	RATE
MERCED	51	92,200	83,000	9,200	10.0%
MADERA	47	59,300	54,200	5,200	8.7%
MARIPOSA	12	7,830	7,480	350	4.5%
FRESNO	53	418,200	274,200	44,000	10.5%
SAN BENITO	44	28,650	26,430	2,210	7.7%
SAN JOAQUIN	45	279,400	255,700	23,700	8.5%
STANISLAUS	46	224,400	205,000	19,400	8.6%

