



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 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 PITD, 1880 W. Wardrobe Ave., Merced, CA 95340. Telephone (209) 724-2152. Email: PITD222@co.merced.ca.us

| Current Labor Force & Unemployment Rates | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|
| California | | | | December 11, 2002 | | |
| March 2001 Benchmark Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality | Nov 01 | Sep 02 | Oct 02 Revised | Nov 02 Prelim. | Percent Month | Change Year |
| Civilian Labor Force (1) | 17,528,900 | 17,595,000 | 17,680,500 | 17,658,400 | -0.1% | 0.7% |
| Civilian Employment | 16,478,800 | 16,503,000 | 16,571,800 | 16,543,900 | -0.2% | 0.4% |
| Civilian Unemployment | 1,050,100 | 1,092,000 | 1,108,700 | 1,114,500 | 0.5% | 6.1% |
| Civilian Unemployment Rate | 6.0% | 6.2% | 6.3% | 6.3% | | |
| (CA Unemployment Rate) | 6.0% | 6.2% | 6.3% | 6.3% | | |
| (U.S. Unemployment Rate) | 5.3% | 5.4% | 5.3% | 5.7% | | |

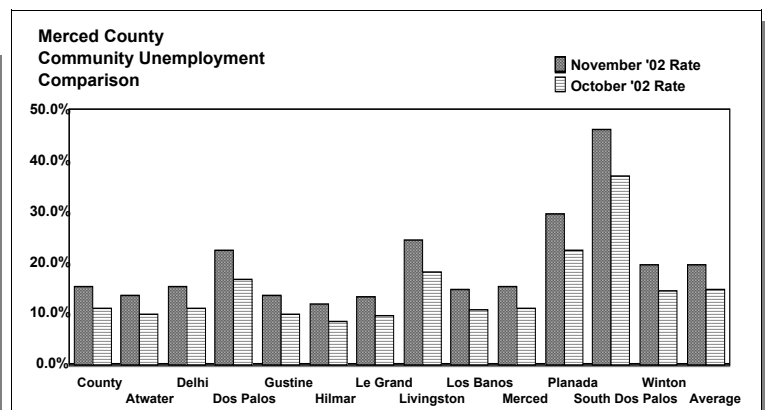
The QuickLook:

California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in November. This was down 0.1 percentage point from the revised rate in October, but up 0.3 percentage point from one year ago. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in November. This was 0.3 percentage point higher than in October and 0.4 percentage point higher than one year ago, and equaled the previous recessionary high recorded in April.

There were 14,647,000 jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in November, down 10,500 jobs from the previous month. This followed a gain of 11,900 jobs in October and a loss of 17,100 jobs in September. In the first eleven months of 2002, California's total nonfarm employment has fallen 9,200 jobs, for an average decrease of 800 jobs per month. This compares to an average month-over drop of 2,200 jobs in 2001 and an average month-over increase of 40,500 jobs per month in 2000.

The actual California nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) increased 40,700 jobs in November. Within nonfarm industries, three sectors saw month-over job gains, four sectors saw month-over job declines, and one sector saw no change in employment. Job increases were recorded in trade (50,100), government (26,700), and finance, insurance and real estate (3,100). Job losses were recorded in manufacturing (16,200), construction (15,300), services (4,200), and transportation and public utilities (3,500). Employment was unchanged in mining.

| County Data are for November 2002 | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------|--------------|-------|
| Area Name | Labor Force Employment | | Unemployment | |
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Merced County | 83,900 | 71,100 | 12,800 | 15.3% |
| Atwater | 9,840 | 8,490 | 1,350 | 13.7% |
| Delhi | 1,530 | 1,300 | 230 | 15.3% |
| Dos Palos | 1,930 | 1,500 | 430 | 22.5% |
| Gustine | 1,850 | 1,600 | 250 | 13.6% |
| Hilmar-Irwin | 1,710 | 1,510 | 200 | 11.9% |
| Le Grand | 510 | 440 | 70 | 13.3% |
| Livingston | 3,950 | 2,990 | 960 | 24.3% |
| Los Banos | 7,140 | 6,090 | 1,050 | 14.7% |
| Merced | 25,480 | 21,620 | 3,860 | 15.2% |
| Planada | 1,750 | 1,230 | 520 | 29.5% |
| South Dos Palos | 540 | 290 | 250 | 46.0% |
| Winton | 3,360 | 2,700 | 660 | 19.7% |



The QuickLook:

At the Sub County: Average unemployment rates for county cities and municipalities saw an overall increase of five percent this month. All communities noted increases in unemployment, led by South Dos Palos with a nine percent increase. Atwater increased by 3.8 percent, Delhi by 4.2, Dos Palos by 5.8, Gustine by 3.8, Livingston by 6.1, Los Banos by 4.1 and Merced City by 4.2 percent.

**For the Month of:
November 2002**

Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

| March 2001 Benchmark | Nov 01 | Sep 02 | Oct 02 | Nov 02 | Monthly | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------|--------|---------|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|---------|
| Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality | | | Revised | Pretim. | Change | | | | |
| Civilian Labor Force | 84,900 | 82,800 | 82,700 | 83,900 | 1,200 | | | | |
| Civilian Employment | 72,400 | 74,400 | 73,500 | 71,100 | (2,400) | | | | |
| Civilian Unemployment | 12,500 | 8,400 | 9,200 | 12,800 | 3,600 | | | | |
| Civilian Unemployment Rate | 14.7% | 10.1% | 11.1% | 15.3% | 4.2% | | | | |
| (CA Unemployment Rate) | 6.0% | 6.2% | 6.3% | 6.3% | 0.0% | | | | |
| (U.S. Unemployment Rate) | 5.3% | 5.4% | 5.3% | 5.7% | | | | | |
| | | | | Unemployment by Industry | | | | | Monthly |
| | | | | Nov 01 | Sep 02 | Oct 02 | Nov 02 | Change | |
| Total, All Industries | 63,400 | 65,700 | 64,400 | 62,100 | 9,320 | 6,636 | 7,148 | 9,501 | (2,353) |
| Total Farm | 11,200 | 12,600 | 12,100 | 10,300 | 1,646 | 1,273 | 1,343 | 1,576 | (233) |
| Farm Production | 7,900 | 8,400 | 8,500 | 7,300 | 1,161 | 848 | 944 | 1,117 | (173) |
| Farm Services | 3,300 | 4,200 | 3,600 | 3,000 | 485 | 424 | 400 | 459 | (59) |
| Total Nonfarm | 52,200 | 53,100 | 52,300 | 51,800 | 7,673 | 5,363 | 5,805 | 7,925 | (2,120) |
| Goods Producing | 11,600 | 13,100 | 12,000 | 11,200 | 1,705 | 1,323 | 1,332 | 1,714 | (382) |
| Construction & Mining | 2,500 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 2,700 | 368 | 273 | 300 | 413 | (113) |
| Manufacturing | 9,100 | 10,400 | 9,300 | 8,500 | 1,338 | 1,050 | 1,032 | 1,301 | (268) |
| Durable Goods | 1,700 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 250 | 182 | 189 | 260 | (71) |
| Nondurable Goods | 7,400 | 8,600 | 7,600 | 6,800 | 1,088 | 869 | 844 | 1,040 | (197) |
| Food & Kindred Products | 5,100 | 6,400 | 5,400 | 4,500 | 750 | 646 | 599 | 689 | (89) |
| Other Nondurable Goods | 2,300 | 2,200 | 2,200 | 2,300 | 338 | 222 | 244 | 352 | (108) |
| Service Producing | 40,600 | 40,000 | 40,300 | 40,600 | 5,968 | 4,040 | 4,473 | 6,212 | (1,739) |
| Transportation & Public Utilities | 1,700 | 2,000 | 1,900 | 1,800 | 250 | 202 | 211 | 275 | (65) |
| Transportation | 1,300 | 1,600 | 1,500 | 1,400 | 191 | 162 | 167 | 214 | (48) |
| Communications & Public Util. | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 59 | 40 | 44 | 61 | (17) |
| Trade | 13,000 | 12,800 | 12,900 | 12,900 | 1,911 | 1,293 | 1,432 | 1,974 | (542) |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,800 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,800 | 265 | 192 | 211 | 275 | (65) |
| Retail Trade | 11,200 | 10,900 | 11,000 | 11,100 | 1,646 | 1,101 | 1,221 | 1,698 | (477) |
| General Merchandise | 1,800 | 1,500 | 1,600 | 1,700 | 265 | 152 | 178 | 260 | (83) |
| Food Stores | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 279 | 192 | 211 | 306 | (95) |
| Eating & Drinking Places | 3,800 | 3,700 | 3,700 | 3,600 | 559 | 374 | 411 | 551 | (140) |
| Other Retail Trade | 3,700 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 3,800 | 544 | 384 | 422 | 581 | (160) |
| Finance, Insurance & Real Estate | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 1,600 | 235 | 162 | 178 | 245 | (67) |
| Finance | 700 | 700 | 700 | 700 | 103 | 71 | 78 | 107 | (29) |
| Other Fin., Ins. & Real Estate | 900 | 900 | 900 | 900 | 132 | 91 | 100 | 138 | (38) |
| Services | 10,900 | 11,100 | 11,000 | 11,000 | 1,602 | 1,121 | 1,221 | 1,683 | (462) |
| Hotels & Other Lodging Places | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 59 | 40 | 44 | 61 | (17) |
| Business Services | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,700 | 1,800 | 265 | 182 | 189 | 275 | (87) |
| Amusement & Recreation Serv. | 500 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 74 | 61 | 67 | 92 | (25) |
| Health Services | 4,200 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,200 | 617 | 434 | 477 | 643 | (165) |
| Social Service & Member Organizations | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 279 | 192 | 211 | 291 | (80) |
| Other Services | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 309 | 212 | 233 | 321 | (88) |
| Government | 13,400 | 12,500 | 12,900 | 13,300 | 1,970 | 1,263 | 1,432 | 2,035 | (603) |
| Federal Government | 700 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 103 | 81 | 89 | 122 | (34) |
| State & Local Government | 12,700 | 11,700 | 12,100 | 12,500 | 1,867 | 1,182 | 1,343 | 1,913 | (569) |
| State Government | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 88 | 61 | 67 | 92 | (25) |
| Local Government | 12,100 | 11,100 | 11,500 | 11,900 | 1,779 | 1,121 | 1,277 | 1,821 | (544) |

The QuickLook:

At the Industries: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State, tying for 54th with Fresno County.

The preliminary November result is a gain of 4.2 percent in the unemployment rate from the revised October rate and is six tenths of one percent higher than one year ago.

These numbers represent a greater than average increase in November unemployment rates. Predictors indicate the unemployment rate should have increased to slightly more than 14 percent for the month with a projected December rate of 14.6 percent.

In spite of the fact that the agricultural growing and harvesting season has come to an end, farm unemployment increased by only 233 lost jobs while the total increase for all industries 2,358.

Total nonfarm lost 2,120 jobs or slightly more than 90 percent of all unemployment.

Trade occupations lost 542 jobs last month or 23 percent of all unemployment.

Transportation and Public Utility occupations had the smallest loss of jobs where job losses were up only by 65.

State and local government saw its largest jump in unemployment this year, losing 603 jobs in November led by local government which saw the loss of 544 jobs.

The QuickLook:

At the Seven Counties: Merced County's workforce has steadily grown reflecting the steady improvement of the County's economic situation and unemployment has remained consistent on a month-to-month basis. Average Unemployment, however has fluctuated from 19 percent in 1983 to a high of 20.8 percent in 1993 and while averaging 17.3 percent over that span of time.

The county remains near or in the top five percent of all California counties ranking tied for 54th out of the 58 counties.

Summarily, the unemployment jump from 11.1 percent to 15.3 was somewhat unexpected since it exceeded the average November unemployment rate by 1.1 percent.

Additionally, Merced County had the largest increase in unemployment rates, jumping 4.2 percent from the previous month. Madera County had a 3.5 percent increase while Stanislaus County had the third highest increase with 1.9 percent

| COUNTY | STATE RANK | LABOR FORCE | EMPLOYMENT | UNEMPLOYMENT | RATE |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------|
| MERCED | 54 | 83,900 | 71,100 | 12,800 | 15.3% |
| FRESNO | 54 | 386,600 | 327,300 | 59,300 | 15.3% |
| MADERA | 51 | 54,300 | 46,800 | 7,500 | 13.8% |
| STANISLAUS | 49 | 214,300 | 189,400 | 24,900 | 11.6% |
| SAN JOAQUIN | 45 | 274,300 | 245,900 | 28,400 | 10.4% |
| SAN BENITO | 40 | 27,890 | 25,260 | 2,630 | 9.4% |
| MARIPOSA | 28 | 7,920 | 7,390 | 530 | 6.7% |

