



# 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 Economic 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	May 01	Mar 02	Apr 02	5/8/2002	Percent	Change
March 2001 Benchmark				May 02	Month	Year
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.		
Civilian Labor Force (1)	83,300	83,600	82,900	83,300	0.5%	0.0%
Civilian Employment	72,300	68,600	69,400	72,000	3.7%	-0.4%
Civilian Unemployment	11,100	15,000	13,500	11,300	-16.3%	1.8%
Civilian Unemployment Rate	13.3%	17.9%	16.3%	13.6%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	4.7%	6.7%	6.4%	5.9%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.1%	6.1%	5.7%	5.5%		

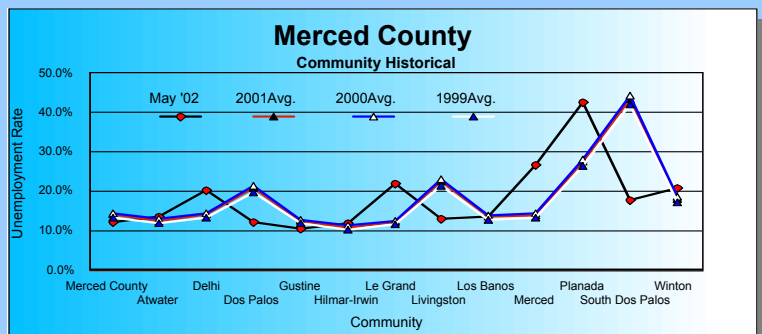
### The QuickLook:

California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.3 percent in May. This was down 0.2 percentage points from the rate in April and up 1.2 percentage points from the year-ago figure. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 5.8 percent in May. It was also down 0.2 percentage points from April and was up 1.4 percentage points from one year ago. There were 14,658,700 million jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in May, down 9,000 jobs from the previous month. This followed a drop of 4,300 jobs in April and an advance of 7,400 jobs in March. In the first five months of 2002, month-over growth California's total nonfarm employment increased an average of 500 jobs per month.

The actual California nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) increased 44,700 jobs in May. Within nonfarm industries, all eight sectors saw month-over job gains. Job increases were recorded in trade (15,600), government (8,700), construction (8,600), services (7,200), transportation and public utilities (2,300), manufacturing (1,500), finance, insurance and real estate (600), and mining (200).

For Merced County, in spite of the fact that the county unemployment rate dropped almost three percent (2.7) from the revised April figures, this unemployment rate remains one of the highest in the State at 13.3 percent with 11,100 workers out of a job. The rate, however, is still up three tenths of one percent from the previous year. Total workers unemployed dropped by 2,200 from the revised numbers for April. The total civilian labor force grew by 400 workers. California and Merced County unemployment rates should continue to improve throughout the growing season as seasonal agricultural business increases.

County Data are for May 2002				
	Unemployment			
Atwater - city	9,790	8,600	1,190	12.2%
Delhi - CDP	1,520	1,310	210	13.6%
Dos Palos - city	1,890	1,510	380	20.2%
Gustine - city	1,850	1,630	220	12.1%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,710	1,530	180	10.5%
Le Grand - CDP	500	440	60	11.8%
Livingston - city	3,880	3,030	850	21.9%
Los Banos - city	7,100	6,170	930	13.1%
Merced - city	25,310	21,900	3,410	13.5%
Planada - CDP	1,700	1,250	450	26.7%
South Dos Palos - CDP	520	300	220	42.6%
Winton - CDP	3,320	2,740	580	17.6%



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 also reflect the downward trend reflected in the County's unemployment results. The average unemployment for the 12 communities is 17.9% which is a decrease of 3.09% from the previous month.

**For the Month of:  
May 2002**

## Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

March 2001 Benchmark	May 01	Mar 02	Apr 02	May 02	Percent	Change				
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year				
Civilian Labor Force (1)	83,300	83,600	82,900	83,300	0.5%	0.0%				
Civilian Employment	72,300	68,600	69,400	72,000	3.7%	-0.4%				
Civilian Unemployment	11,100	15,000	13,500	11,300	-16.3%	1.8%				
Civilian Unemployment Rate	13.3%	17.9%	16.3%	13.6%						
(CA Unemployment Rate)	4.7%	6.7%	6.4%	5.9%	Employed					
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.1%	6.1%	5.7%	5.5%	by Industry					
					May 01	March 02	April 02	May 02	1 Year	1 Month
									Change	Change
Total, All Industries (2)	63,300	59,000	60,300	63,000	10,693	10,629	10,738	8,568	(2,125)	(2,170)
Total Farm	11,000	7,500	8,700	10,200	1,645	1,310	1,365	1,387	(258)	22
Farm Production	8,300	5,800	6,700	7,700	1,260	1,019	1,056	1,047	(213)	(9)
Farm Services	2,700	1,700	2,000	2,500	385	291	309	340	(45)	31
Total Nonfarm	52,300	51,500	51,600	52,800	9,048	9,318	9,373	7,181	(1,867)	(2,192)
Goods Producing	12,700	11,400	11,600	12,200	2,170	2,057	2,075	1,659	(511)	(416)
Construction & Mining	2,400	2,300	2,300	2,600						
Manufacturing	10,300	9,100	9,300	9,600						
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700						
Nondurable Goods	8,500	7,400	7,600	7,900						
Food & Kindred Products	6,300	5,100	5,300	5,700						
Other Nondurable Goods	2,200	2,300	2,300	2,200						
Service Producing	39,600	40,100	40,000	40,600	6,878	7,262	7,298	5,522	(1,356)	(1,776)
Transportation & Public Utilities	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800						
Transportation	1,300	1,400	1,400	1,400						
Communications & Public Util.	400	400	400	400						
Trade	12,500	12,400	12,500	12,700	2,188	2,257	2,257	1,727	(461)	(530)
Wholesale Trade	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800						
Retail Trade	10,800	10,600	10,700	10,900						
General Merchandise	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600						
Food Stores	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,800						
Eating & Drinking Places	3,800	3,600	3,600	3,700						
Other Retail Trade	3,700	3,600	3,700	3,800						
Finance, Insurance & Real Est.	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600						
Finance	700	700	700	700						
Other Fin., Ins. & Real Estate	900	900	900	900						
Services	10,400	10,600	10,500	10,900	1,785	1,947	1,929	1,482	(303)	(447)
Hotels & Lodging Places	400	400	400	400						
Business Services	1,700	1,500	1,400	1,600						
Amusement & Recreation	500	500	500	600						
Health Services	4,000	4,200	4,200	4,300						
Social Serv. & Member Orgn	1,700	1,900	1,900	1,900						
Other Services	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100						
Government	13,400	13,700	13,600	13,600	2,328	2,457	2,493	1,850	(478)	(643)
Federal Government	600	800	800	800						
State & Local Government	12,800	12,900	12,800	12,800	2,223	2,330	2,348	1,741	(482)	(607)
State Government	600	600	600	600						
Local Government	12,200	12,300	12,200	12,200	2,118	2,220	2,239	1,659	(459)	(580)
								Total	(1,419)	(1,830)

### The QuickLook:

At the Industries: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State. Merced is 54th out of 58 counties at 13.6 percent and has the third highest unemployment rate when compared to all Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA). Only Imperial and Kings Counties have higher unemployment rates (16.2% and 13.8% respectively).

May results continue the downward trend of the unemployment rates, dropping from a high of 18.2 percent in January to the current 13.6 percent.

Those unemployed dropped 2,170 from April 2002 and is down by 2,125 from the same period last year.

Total farm employment rose by 258 from May 2001 but is down by 22 workers from April 2002.

Service occupations improved by 1,776 workers over last month and by 1,356 from one year ago.

Trade occupations also saw more workers employed, improving by 530 workers from April.

Service occupations saw a 30.2 percent increase in those employed over April of this year and 20.5 percent from one year ago.

### 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.

