



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				July 10, 2002		
March 2001 Benchmark	Jun 01	Apr 02	May 02	Jun 02	Percent	Change
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.	Month	Year
Civilian Labor Force (1)	86,200	82,900	83,300	86,400	3.7%	0.2%
Civilian Employment	74,800	69,400	71,900	74,100	3.1%	-0.9%
Civilian Unemployment	11,400	13,500	11,400	12,300	7.9%	7.9%
Merced Unemployment Rate	13.2%	16.3%	13.6%	14.2%		
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.3%	6.4%	6.0%	6.4%		
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.7%	5.7%	5.5%	6.0%		

The QuickLook:

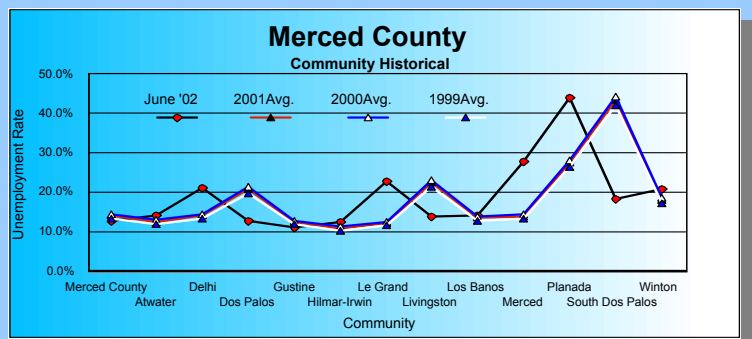
California's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 6.4 percent in June. This was up 0.4 percentage points from the rate in May and up 1.1 percentage points from the one year-ago rate. In comparison, the U.S. unemployment rate was 6.0 percent in June. It was up 0.5 percentage point from May and was up 1.3 percentage point from one year ago. There were 17,566,000 million jobs in total nonfarm industries (seasonally adjusted) in June, up more than 34,000 jobs from the previous month. This follows a drop of 9,000 jobs in May.

The actual California nonfarm job count (not seasonally adjusted) increased by three tenths of one percent in June. Within nonfarm industries, all eight sectors saw month-over job gains or they remained level from the previous month.

For Merced County, the revised May unemployment rate went unchanged from that reported in May. The preliminary June rate increased from the revised May figure by .6 percent and this unemployment rate remains one of the highest in the State. The June unemployment rate is still up one percent from the previous year. Total workers unemployed increased by more than seven percent from the previous month. California and Merced County unemployment rates should continue to improve throughout the growing season as the increase in seasonal agricultural business increases. The June result; however, is contrary to the historical norm for June and the revised June numbers should be closer to what is normal for this time of the year.

County Data are for May 2002

	Labor		Unemployment	
Atwater - city	10,150	8,860	1,290	12.7%
Delhi - CDP	1,570	1,350	220	14.2%
Dos Palos - city	1,970	1,560	410	21.0%
Gustine - city	1,910	1,670	240	12.6%
Hilmar-Irwin - CDP	1,770	1,580	190	11.0%
Le Grand - CDP	510	450	60	12.3%
Livingston - city	4,040	3,120	920	22.8%
Los Banos - city	7,350	6,350	1,000	13.7%
Merced - city	26,250	22,550	3,700	14.1%
Planada - CDP	1,780	1,290	490	27.7%
South Dos Palos	550	310	240	43.9%
Winton - CDP	3,450	2,820	630	18.3%



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 took a sharp turn upward from the May results. The average unemployment for the 12 communities is 18.9%, up one full percentage point from May.

**For the Month of:
June 2002**

Merced County Current Labor Force and Industry Employment

March 2001 Benchmark	Jun 01	Apr 02	May 02	Jun 02							
Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality			Revised	Prelim.							
Civilian Labor Force	86,200	82,900	83,300	86,400							
Civilian Employment	74,800	69,400	71,900	74,100							
Civilian Unemployment	11,400	13,500	11,400	12,300							
Merced Unemployment Rate	13.2%	16.3%	13.6%	14.2%							
(CA Unemployment Rate)	5.3%	6.4%	6.0%	6.4%							
(U.S. Unemployment Rate)	4.7%	5.7%	5.5%	6.0%							
					Unemployment by Industry					One Month	One Year
					Jun 01	Apr 02	May 02	Jun 02	Change	Change	
Total, All Industries	65,900	60,300	63,000	65,100	9,358	8,563	8,946	9,244	298	(114)	
Total Farm	12,400	8,700	10,200	11,400	1,761	1,235	1,448	1,619	170	(142)	
Farm Production	8,800	6,700	7,700	8,100	1,250	951	1,093	1,150	57	(99)	
Farm Services	3,600	2,000	2,500	3,300	511	284	355	469	114	(43)	
Total Nonfarm	53,500	51,600	52,800	53,700	7,597	7,327	7,498	7,625	128	28	
Goods Producing	12,800	11,600	12,200	12,300	1,818	1,647	1,732	1,747	14	(71)	
Construction & Mining	2,400	2,300	2,600	2,600							
Manufacturing	10,400	9,300	9,600	9,700							
Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,700	1,700							
Nondurable Goods	8,600	7,600	7,900	8,000							
Food & Kindred Products	6,400	5,300	5,700	5,800							
Other Nondurable Goods	2,200	2,300	2,200	2,200							
Service Producing	40,700	40,000	40,600	41,400	5,779	5,680	5,765	5,879	114	99	
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	12,700	12,500	12,700	12,900	1,803	1,775	1,803	1,832	28	28	
Wholesale Trade	1,900	1,800	1,800	1,900							
Retail Trade	10,800	10,700	10,900	11,000							
General Merchandise	1,500	1,600	1,600	1,600							
Food Stores	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900							
Eating & Drinking Places	3,800	3,600	3,700	3,700							
Other Retail Trade	3,700	3,700	3,800	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	10,800	10,500	10,900	11,100	1,534	1,491	1,548	1,576	28	43	
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	400	400	400	400							
Business Services	1,800	1,400	1,600	1,700							
Amusement & Recreation Serv.	500	500	600	600							
Health Services	4,200	4,200	4,300	4,300							
Social Serv. & Member Orgn	1,800	1,900	1,900	1,900							
Other Services	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,200							
Government	13,900	13,600	13,600	14,000	1,974	1,931	1,931	1,988	57	14	
Federal Government	700	800	800	800							
State & Local Government	13,200	12,800	12,800	13,200	1,874	1,818	1,818	1,874	57	0	
State Government	600	600	600	600							
Local Government	12,600	12,200	12,200	12,600	1,789	1,732	1,732	1,789	57	0	
									Total	170	14

The QuickLook:

At the Industries: The County continues with one of the highest unemployment rates in the State. Merced is 56th out of 58 counties at 14.2 percent and has the third highest unemployment rate when compared to all Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIA). Only Kings and Imperial Counties have higher unemployment rates (14.8% and 17.4% respectively).

The June results run counter to the norm for this time of the year. Historically, June unemployment will range as low as 12.3 percent trending lower beginning in May and running through October.

Those unemployed rose from 11,400 to 12,300 in June; however the labor force grew by 200 more workers in the month.

Total farm unemployment dropped by 170 workers from May .

Service occupations improved by 114 workers over last month and by 99 from one year ago.

Trade occupations remained stable from the previous month and from a 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.

