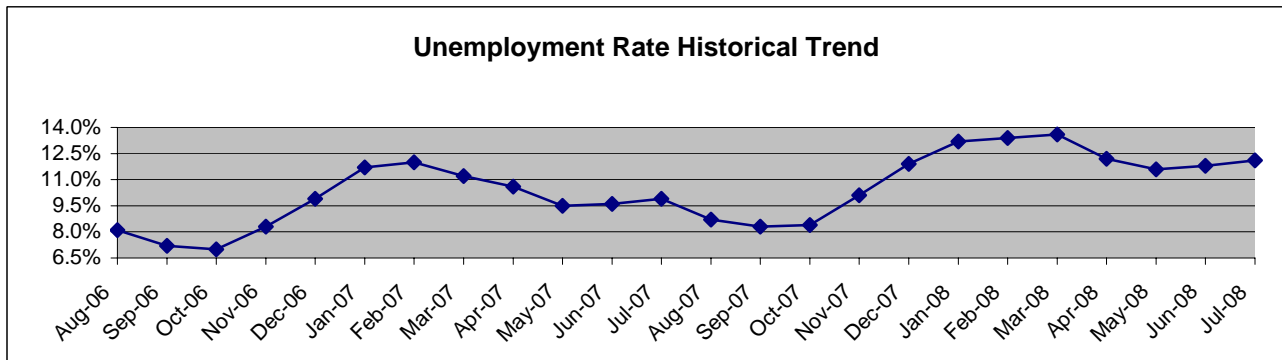


IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 MERCED METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)
 (Merced County)

The unemployment rate in Merced County was 12.1 percent in July 2008, up from a revised 11.8 percent in June 2008, and above the year-ago estimate of 9.9 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 7.6 percent for California and 6.0 percent for the nation during the same period.



| Industry | Jun-2008 | Jul-2008 | Change | | Jul-2007 | Jul-2008 | Change |
|--|----------|----------|---------|--|----------|----------|--------|
| | Revised | Prelim | | | Prelim | | |
| Total Jobs | 74,100 | 72,300 | (1,800) | | 70,500 | 72,300 | 1,800 |
| Farm Jobs | 13,500 | 13,500 | 0 | | 12,400 | 13,500 | 1,100 |
| Nonfarm Jobs | 60,600 | 58,800 | (1,800) | | 58,100 | 58,800 | 700 |
| Natural Resources, Mining and Construction | 3,000 | 3,100 | 100 | | 3,400 | 3,100 | (300) |
| Manufacturing | 9,700 | 10,200 | 500 | | 9,800 | 10,200 | 400 |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 11,900 | 12,000 | 100 | | 11,800 | 12,000 | 200 |
| Information | 1,300 | 1,300 | 0 | | 1,300 | 1,300 | 0 |
| Financial Activities | 1,900 | 1,900 | 0 | | 1,900 | 1,900 | 0 |
| Professional and Business Services | 4,300 | 4,300 | 0 | | 4,200 | 4,300 | 100 |
| Educational and Health Services | 5,500 | 5,500 | 0 | | 5,600 | 5,500 | (100) |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 5,100 | 5,000 | (100) | | 5,000 | 5,000 | 0 |
| Other Services | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0 | | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0 |
| Government | 16,400 | 14,000 | (2,400) | | 13,600 | 14,000 | 400 |

Notes: Data not adjusted for seasonality. Data may not add due to rounding.
 Labor Force data will be revised month to month
 Additional data are available on-line at www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

| | Jul 07 | May 08 | Jun 08 | Jul 08 | Percent Change | |
|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------------|-------|
| | | | Revised | Prelim | Month | Year |
| Civilian Labor Force (1) | 101,900 | 106,200 | 107,800 | 106,300 | -1.4% | 4.3% |
| Civilian Employment | 91,800 | 93,900 | 95,100 | 93,500 | -1.7% | 1.9% |
| Civilian Unemployment | 10,100 | 12,300 | 12,700 | 12,800 | 0.8% | 26.7% |
| Civilian Unemployment Rate | 9.9% | 11.6% | 11.8% | 12.1% | | |
| (CA Unemployment Rate) | 5.7% | 6.5% | 7.0% | 7.6% | | |
| (U.S. Unemployment Rate) | 4.9% | 5.2% | 5.7% | 6.0% | | |

| | | | | | | |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Total, All Industries (2) | 70,500 | 72,700 | 74,100 | 72,300 | -2.4% | 2.6% |
| Total Farm | 12,400 | 12,500 | 13,500 | 13,500 | 0.0% | 8.9% |
| Total Nonfarm | 58,100 | 60,200 | 60,600 | 58,800 | -3.0% | 1.2% |
| Total Private | 44,500 | 43,900 | 44,200 | 44,800 | 1.4% | 0.7% |
| Goods Producing | 13,200 | 12,500 | 12,700 | 13,300 | 4.7% | 0.8% |
| Natural Resources, Mining and Construction | 3,400 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3.3% | -8.8% |
| Natural Resources and Mining | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | |
| Construction | 3,400 | 3,000 | 3,000 | 3,100 | 3.3% | -8.8% |
| Manufacturing | 9,800 | 9,500 | 9,700 | 10,200 | 5.2% | 4.1% |
| Durable Goods | 1,800 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 2,000 | 0.0% | 11.1% |
| Nondurable Goods | 8,000 | 7,500 | 7,700 | 8,200 | 6.5% | 2.5% |
| Service Providing | 44,900 | 47,700 | 47,900 | 45,500 | -5.0% | 1.3% |
| Private Service Producing | 31,300 | 31,400 | 31,500 | 31,500 | 0.0% | 0.6% |
| Trade, Transportation and Utilities | 11,800 | 11,800 | 11,900 | 12,000 | 0.8% | 1.7% |
| Wholesale Trade | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,900 | 2,000 | 5.3% | 11.1% |
| Retail Trade | 7,700 | 7,900 | 7,900 | 7,900 | 0.0% | 2.6% |
| Food and Beverage Stores | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 1,700 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| General Merchandise Stores | 1,700 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 0.0% | 5.9% |
| Residual-Miscellaneous Store Retailers | 4,300 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 4,400 | 0.0% | 2.3% |
| Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities | 2,300 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 2,100 | 0.0% | -8.7% |
| Information | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 1,300 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Financial Activities | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 1,900 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Finance and Insurance | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 700 | 700 | 700 | 700 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Professional and Business Services | 4,200 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 0.0% | 2.4% |
| Educational and Health Services | 5,600 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 5,500 | 0.0% | -1.8% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 5,000 | 5,100 | 5,100 | 5,000 | -2.0% | 0.0% |
| Food Services and Drinking Places | 4,200 | 4,300 | 4,300 | 4,200 | -2.3% | 0.0% |
| Residual-Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Other Services | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 1,500 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Government | 13,600 | 16,300 | 16,400 | 14,000 | -14.6% | 2.9% |
| Federal Government | 800 | 800 | 800 | 800 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| State and Local Government | 12,800 | 15,500 | 15,600 | 13,200 | -15.4% | 3.1% |
| State Government | 1,700 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 1,800 | 0.0% | 5.9% |
| State Government Education | 1,100 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 1,200 | 0.0% | 9.1% |
| Other State Government | 600 | 600 | 600 | 600 | 0.0% | 0.0% |
| Local Government | 11,100 | 13,700 | 13,800 | 11,400 | -17.4% | 2.7% |

Note 1: Civilian labor force data are by place of residence; include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

Note 2: Industry employment is by place of work; excludes self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, & workers on strike.

Effective with the release of the February data on March 21, 2008, we will be releasing revised monthly labor force data for the previous month.

These data are produced by the Labor Market Information Division of the California State Employment Development Department (EDD). Questions should be directed to: Pedro Vargas-209/726-5424 or Liz Baker (209/941-6551)

August 15, 2008
Employment Development Department
Labor Market Information Division
(916) 262-2162

Merced MSA
Merced County
Industry Employment & Labor Force
March 2007 Benchmark

Data Not Adjusted for Seasonality

| | Jul 07 | May 08 | Jun 08 Revised | Jul 08 Prelim | Percent Change Month Year |
|--|--------|--------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
|--|--------|--------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|

These data, as well as other labor market data, are available via the Internet
at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov>. If you need assistance, please call (916) 262-2162.

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