

# MERCED COUNTY WORKFORCE FACTS 2022

**POPULATION**  
**286,461**  
106,000 workers

**MORE THAN**  
**47.3%** of Merced County's workforce is considered **Essential**

**47,880** workers commute outside of the County  
Most commuting to Stanislaus & Santa Clara Counties

**2** Worknet Job Centers  
3rd opening Fall 2022

**20+** organizations providing workforce services

**OPEN** **3,273** business establishments in Merced County  
Foster Farms is the County's largest private employer

**Occupations and Hourly Wages**

Education Staff 4,159 \$22.60	Truck Drivers 1,773 \$21.54	General Laborers 1,404 \$15.38	Registered Nurses 847 \$52.82
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**Top 4 Job Sectors**

- 19.8% Government and Education
- 17.6% Agriculture
- 11.7% Healthcare
- 11.2% Manufacturing

**Food Production**  
5th biggest Ag County in the US  
Employs  $\frac{1}{5}$  of County's residents  
\$3.16B produced in goods

**Logistics**  
Merced County Central Valley Railroad launched at Castle Commerce Center

**4,100** high schoolers graduate each year  
**90.3%** Graduation rate for Merced County high schools

**The Next Generation of Workers**

<b>Merced College</b> 15k Students   826 Avg. CTE Degrees awarded over past 5 years State-of-the-art AG Tech Center opening in 2022.	<b>UC Merced</b> 9k Students   60 PhDs produced each year New Medical School on the horizon
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**Merced Adult School**  
**68** classes to 3,000 students annually

**Merced County Office of Education**  
**300+** out of school youth trained annually

Fact Sheet provided by the Merced County Workforce Development Board. For data sources, visit [worknetmerced.com](http://worknetmerced.com).

**Barriers to Fix**

**16.3%** of residents live below the Federal Poverty; 15.4% CA

**100%** of Merced County is a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA)

Merced County needs **2,000** more childcare providers to meet parents' need

**27%** of adults do not have a high school diploma

**7%+** of County residents battle some form of substance abuse

**52.2%** households spend 30% or more of their income towards housing costs

**JOBS** Second-highest unemployment rate in Central Valley