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## Workforce

### *By admin*

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The City of Merced and its surrounding areas provide an abundant and productive labor force, including both skilled and unskilled workers, at very reasonable wage rates. True to the area's agricultural roots, these workers tend to be hard working and loyal, resulting in low turnover rates for local employers. Businesses locating in Merced can reduce the costs of recruiting, screening and training employees by taking advantage of several available programs through WorkNet of Merced County.

Companies relocating or expanding to Merced have always enjoyed a high applicant to job opening ration. In one case over 3,000 applications were received for a new business hiring 40 positions. Merced is well known for assisting companies with their staffing needs.

| Merced County Employment   |         |
|--|---------|
| Civilian Labor Force   | 104,600 |
| Civilian Employment  | 86,900  |
| Civilian Unemployment  | 17,600  |
| Civilian Unemployment Rate   | 16.9%   |
| State of California Unemployment Rate  | 10.9%   |
| <i>Source: State of California Employment Development Department, (<a href="http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov">www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov</a>)</i> |         |

| Educational Attainment of Population over 25 Years of Age |       |
|---|-------|
| Years of School Completed                                 | Total |
| Less than High School                                     | 28.7% |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
| High School  | 26.5% |
| Some College   | 19.9% |
| Associate's Degree   | 8.2%  |
| Bachelor's Degree  | 10.2% |
| Graduate/ Professional   | 6.6%  |
| Source: <a href="http://www.demographicreports.com">www.demographicreports.com</a> |       |

| Employment Taxes and Mandated Benefits  |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Tax /Benefit  | Rate / Basis   | Administering Agency                               |
| Disability Insurance  | 1.2% of wages up to \$86,698 (employee paid via withholding)   | <a href="#">Employment Development Department</a>  |
| Employment Training Tax   | 0.1% of first \$7,000 payroll per employee   | <a href="#">Employment Development Department</a>  |
| Unemployment Insurance  | 1.5% to 6.2% of first \$7,000 payroll per employee based on employer's experience; rate for new employer is 3.4%   | <a href="#">Employment Development Department</a>  |
| Workers' Compensation   | Based on payroll and occupation  | <a href="#">Department of Industrial Relations</a> |
| Family Leave  | Employees covered by Disability Insurance (see above) are eligible for up to six weeks of paid family leave to care for seriously ill child, spouse, parent or domestic partner, or to bond with a new minor child. Disability Insurance is paid by employees. | <a href="#">Employment Development Department</a>  |
| Source: California Employment Development Department, 2011 California Employer's Guide (DE-44), ( <a href="http://www.edd.ca.gov/employer.asp">www.edd.ca.gov/employer.asp</a> ) (September 2011) |  |  |

