
City of Merced: Office of Economic Development
678 W. 18th St., Merced, CA 95340
1-800-723-4788 | 209-385-4788 | 209-723-1780 fax
Frank Qunintero: quinterof@cityofmerced.org

Quality of Life

By lindy

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While the future holds great promise, that future will be built on the solid foundation established by those who have gone before us. Merced is a wonderful place to live, and the community is committed to preserving our special quality of life.

Merced boasts dozens of tree-shaded parks, miles upon miles of bike paths and plenty of choices for sailing, water skiing and fishing. Lake Yosemite is a favorite with sailors and windsurfers alike, and its grassy, tree-lined shore makes a perfect setting for a Sunday afternoon picnic. Or you may prefer to take in a play at Playhouse Merced or stroll through an art exhibit at the Multicultural Art Center in the lovely Downtown.

Recreation and cultural opportunities certainly contribute to that special quality of life in Merced, but what may be more important is the sense of community that is shared by the people who live here. Businesses and individuals take pride in their volunteer accomplishments. Local government is responsive to community needs.

Perhaps it is our agricultural roots, but Merced has maintained a small town environment in an urban setting. Neighborhoods are still the building blocks of the community. Wide, tree-lined streets and spacious homes offer a pleasant contrast to the congested residential areas of larger cities. Neighbors spend time together and watch out for each other.

We invite you to consider investing in Merced. Affordable land and labor costs, good transportation access, and a location central to major markets should motivate your strategic planners. Affordable homes, quality education, abundant recreational opportunities and friendly neighbors will motivate your employees.

Cost of Living

This index compares the relative cost of living in different locations. Using the United States as the base location (i.e. a value of 100), an index value of 120 means that the cost of living in that particular community is 20 percent higher than in the base location; a value of 94 indicates a more affordable location.

| Location | Cost of Living Index |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| City of Merced | 103 |
| City of Fresno | 109 |
| City of Madera | 105 |
| City of Modesto | 112 |
| City of Turlock | 111 |
| City of Visalia | 108 |

Source: Sperling's BestPlaces (www.bestplaces.net), September 2011 data. The total of all cost of living categories is weighted as follows: 30% housing, 15% groceries, 10% transportation, 6% utilities, 7% health care, and 32% miscellaneous (clothing, services, entertainment); state and local taxes are not included. (October

2011)

Climate

| | |
|----------------------|-------------|
| January Low/High | 36°F / 55°F |
| July Low/High | 26°F / 95°F |
| Prevailing Windspeed | 6 mph/NW |
| Annual Precipitation | 12.4 inches |
| Elevation (1) | 170 feet |
| Comfort Index (1) | 52 |

Source: (1) Sperling's BestPlaces (www.bestplaces.net); Weather Underground (www.weatherunderground.com)

Note: The Comfort Index measures recognizes that humidity by itself isn't the problem. The Comfort Index uses a combination of afternoon summer temperature and humidity to closely predict the effect that the humidity will have on people. Higher values indicate a more comfortable climate. (October 2011)

Crime Rate

| Jurisdiction | Property Crime Rate per 1,000 | Violent Crime Rate per 1,000 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| City of Merced | 14.8 | 6.3 |
| City of Fresno | 22.4 | 6.1 |
| City of Madera | 12.8 | 7.1 |
| City of Modesto | 7.2 | 6.9 |
| City of Turlock | 2.1 | 6.7 |
| City of Visalia | 10.4 | 4.6 |

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (www.fbi.gov), 2010 data (October 2011)

Police Protection

| Provider | # Stations | Officers per 1,000 | Special Units |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| City of Merced Police Department 611 W. 22nd Street Merced, CA 95340 Norm Andrade, Chief 209-385-6913 | 1 HQ 2 Substations | 1.2 | Bomb Unit Domestic Violence Response Team K-9 Unit Bike Patrol Mounted Patrol SWAT & Technical Negotiations Team Community Aides |
| County of Merced Sheriff 700 W. 22nd Street Merced, CA 95340 Mark Pazin, Sheriff 209-385-7444 | HQ | 4.4 | Dive Team K-9 Unit Special Enforcement Response Team SWAT |
| <i>Source: Merced Police Department (www.cityofmerced.org/depts/police/default.asp); Merced County Sheriff's Office (www.co.merced.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=87); Officers per 1,000 population data is from the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics Police Employees 2010 data (www.fbi.gov), (October 2011)</i> | | | |

| Fire Protection | | |
|---|------------|--|
| Provider | # Stations | Special Units |
| City of Merced Fire Department 99 E. 16th Street Merced, CA 95340 Mike McLaughlin, Chief 209-385-6891 | 5 | HazMat / Decontamination Fire Investigation Fireworks Permitting Business Inspections Hazardous Operations Permits Public Education |
| County of Merced Fire Department 735 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Merced, CA 95341 209-385-7344 | 1 | Emergency Medical / Rescue Response Emergency Services Management Fire Prevention Fire Protection Hazardous Material Emergency Response Public Education |

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----|--|
| | | First Aide & CPR Flood Control Assistance Blood Pressure Measurement |
| *Insurance Rating: | n/a | |

Source: Merced Fire Department (www.cityofmerced.org/depts/fire/default.asp); Merced County Fire Department (www.co.merced.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=70) (October 2011)

*Insurance Rating - ISO (Insurance Services Office) determines the ISO ratings and that information is purchased (by subscription) by insurance offices. Your insurance agent should have current information and provide you with your ISO rating for your particular address.

| Housing Costs | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Starter | Mid-Level | Executive |
| \$64,000 to \$85,000 | \$84,000 to \$99,000 | \$137,000 to \$575,000 |
| 1 or 2 BR; 1000+ sf; 20+ yrs old | 3 or 4 BR; 1200+ sf; 10+ yrs old | 4+ BR; 2000+ sf; 5+ yrs old |

Source: Merced County Association of Realtors (www.mercedcounty.com) (October 2011)

| Rental Housing Costs | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Single Family Homes | Apartments/Townhouses |
| \$750 to \$875 (2-bedroom) | \$425 to \$670 (1-bedroom) |
| \$850 to \$1,400 (3-bedroom) | \$450 to \$820 (2-bedroom) |
| \$1,150 to \$2,500 (4-bedroom) | \$825 to \$1,100 (3-bedroom) |

Source: Gonella Property Management (www.mercedrentalproperties.com) (October 2011)

Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes

| City of Merced | State of California | United States (2010) |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| \$126,670 | \$297,060 | \$179,000 |

Source: US Census Bureau, American Fact Finder (www.census.gov/) US 2010 data; California Association of Realtors (www.car.org), August 2011 data (September 2011)

K-12 Education

| Elementary Schools | Enrollment | Avg. Class Size | Test Scores* |
|------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Ada Givens Elementary (K-5) | 493 | 21.4 | 775 |
| Alicia Reyes Elementary (K-5) | 580 | 23.2 | 740 |
| Allan Peterson Elementary (K-5) | 752 | 24.2 | 854 |
| Charles Wright Elementary (K-5) | 459 | 22.8 | 782 |
| Don Stowell Elementary (K-5) | 519 | 22.5 | 745 |
| Donn B. Chenowith Elementary (K-5) | 716 | 31.0 | 853 |
| Farmdale Elementary (K-5) | 850 | 20.4 | 790 |
| Franklin Elementary (K-5) | 489 | 21.1 | 786 |
| Joe Stefani (3-5) | 510 | 23.1 | 786 |
| John C. Fremont Charter (K-5) | 508 | 21.1 | n/a |
| John Muir Elementary (K-5) | 491 | 18.8 | 788 |
| Leontine Gracey Elementary (K-5) | 561 | 22.4 | 692 |
| Luther Burbank Elementary (K-5) | 598 | 23.0 | 731 |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Margaret Sheehy Elementary (K-5) | 508 | 22.0 | 771 |
| McSwain Elementary (K-8) | 836 | 23.3 | 860 |
| Pioneer Elementary (K-5) | 903 | 20.0 | 823 |
| Plainsburg Union Elementary (K-8) | 114 | 19.0 | 842 |
| Middle Schools | Enrollment | Avg Class Size | Test Scores* |
| Herbert H. Bruickshank (6-8) | 867 | 25.1 | 810 |
| Herbert Hoover Middle (6-8) | 857 | 24.1 | 731 |
| Merced Scholars Charter (6-12) | 108 | 25.4 | n/a |
| Rudolph Rivera Middle (6-8) | 898 | 26.0 | 759 |
| Tenaya Middle (6-8) | 890 | 25.0 | 713 |
| Weaver Middle (6-8) | 759 | 21.0 | 776 |
| High Schools | Enrollment / Grad Rate | Avg Class Size | Test Scores* |
| Golden Valley High (9-12) | 2,316 (89.5) | 22.4 | 775 |
| Merced High (9-12) | 2,656 (88.6) | 24.1 | 800 |
| Alternative/Special/Adult Education | Enrollment / Grad Rate | Avg Class Size | Test Scores* |
| Floyd A. Schelby (K-12) (Special Ed) | 63 (n/a) | 9 | 728 |
| Independence High (9-12) (Alt) | 215 (39.1) | 11.3 | 520 |
| Merced City School District Communic Day (K-8) (Alt) | 19 (n/a) | 6.3 | n/a |
| Merced County Juvenile Hall/Community (K-12) (Alt) | 114 (28.6) | 19.0 | n/a |
| Merced County Special Education (K-12) | 526 (n/a) | 9.2 | 717 |
| Sequoia High (9-12) (Alt) | 146 (84.5) | 8.4 | 516 |
| Valley Community (K-12) (Alt) | 841 | 22.8 | 535 |
| | | | |

| Yosemite High (9-12) (Continuation) | 307 (78.6) | 11.2 | 527 |
|--|------------|----------------|--------------|
| Private Schools | Enrollment | Avg Class Size | Test Scores* |
| Harvest Christian (PK-12) | 40 | 6.8 | n/a |
| Merced Adventist (4-8) | 9 | 9.0 | n/a |
| Merced Christian (PK-8) | 181 | 12.4 | n/a |
| Merced Montessori (PK-K) | 68 | 1.1 | n/a |
| Our Lady of Mercy (PK-8) | 324 | 26.7 | n/a |
| St. Luke's Episcopal (PK-5) | 83 | 9.0 | n/a |
| St. Paul Lutheran (PK-5) | 124 | 15.8 | n/a |
| Stone Ridge Christian High (9-12) | 52 | 9.6 | n/a |

Source: National Center for Education Statistics (www.nces.ed.gov); Great Schools (www.greatschools.org); 2009-2010 data (September 2011)

*API: The API (Academic Performance Index) ranges between 200 and 1,000, with 800 as the statewide goal for all schools.

Healthcare Facilities (sampling)

| Name | Location/ Distance | # Beds | Services / Specialties |
|---|-----------------------|-----------|---|
| Mercy Medical Center Merced 333 Mercy Avenue 209-564-5000 | Merced 3.3 miles | 186 | Cardiac, critical care, emergency services, family clinic, home care, laboratory, maternity, outpatient services, radiology, rehabilitation, respiratory, sleep lab, surgical, wound healing and hyperbaric medicine center |
| Hy-Lond Healthcare Center 3170 M Street 209-723-1056 | Merced 1.3 miles | 120 | Short-term rehabilitation and skilled nursing services |
| Country Villa Merced Behavioral Healthcare Center | Merced 1.5 miles | 96 | Behavioral nursing care facility |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|---|
| 1255 B Street 209-723-8814 | | | |
| Country Villa Merced Healthcare Center 510 W. 26th Street 209-723-2911 | Merced 0.7 mile | 78 | Residential nursing care / rehabilitation facility |
| Franciscan Convalescent Hospital 3168 M Street 209-722-6231 | Merced 1.4 miles | 71 | Skilled nursing care facility |
| Country Villa La Sierra Care Center 2424 M Street 209-723-4224 | Merced 0.6 mile | 68 | Residential nursing care / rehabilitation facility |
| Children's Hospital Central California Merced Center 1190 Olivewood Dr, Ste A 209-726-0199 | Merced 1.5 miles | 6 | Neonatal intensive care unit (satellite office) |
| Marie Green Center 300 E. 15th Street 209-381-6879 | Merced 1.0 miles | n/a | Provides inpatient services for Merced County Mental Health. Treatment for individuals needing brief hospitalization as a result of crisis or emergency. Hospital treatment will address acute symptoms in order to assist individual to return to previous level of functioning. |
| Veteran's Merced Outpatient Clinic 340 E. Yosemite Ave 209-725-8141 | Merced 2.3 miles | n/a | Hospital, outpatient medical, dental, pharmacy and prosthetic services, domiciliary, nursing home and community-based residential care; specialized healthcare for women Veterans, health and rehabilitation programs for homeless Veterans |
| Blood Source – Merced County 382 Yosemite Avenue 209-724-0428 | Merced 2.9 miles | n/a | Blood bank services and programs; blood collection, marrow and blood stem cell collection; National Marrow Donor program; specialized testing; volunteer programs; medical consultation; educational resources and Speaker's Bureau |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|--|
| California Home Care & Hospice, Inc. 3381 G Street 209-722-2273 | Merced 2.4 miles | n/a | Nursing care, physical therapy, medical, social and home health aide services |
| Cardiovascular Clinic of California 900 W. Olive Ave #D 209-723-2037 | Merced 1.1 miles | n/a | Sleep associated conditions, lipids, diabetes, cardiology heart and blood vessels, sleep disorders |
| Comfort Keepers 478 E. Yosemite Ave, Ste C 209-726-8007 | Merced 3.1 miles | n/a | In-home care provider |
| Golden Valley Health Center 847 W. Childs Avenue 209-383-7441 Women's Health 209-383-571 Dental 209-383-5871 | Merced 1.2 miles | n/a | Comprehensive primary medical services; behavioral health; family practice; geriatrics, health education, internal medicine, laboratory, optometry, pediatrics, pharmacy, podiatry, women's health and dental |
| Merced County Mental Health, Alcohol & Drug Services 480 East 13th Street 209-381-6814 | Merced 1.5 miles | n/a | Mental health services to children, youths, adults and families. Also drug and alcohol services |
| Merced County Public Health Department 260 E. 15th Street 209-381-1010 | Merced 1.2 miles | n/a | Services include pregnancy, home visiting, multi-purpose Senior services, transportation, healthcare coverage, family planning, immunizations, nutrition, dental health, vision and hearing screening, teen pregnancy, special healthcare needs and more |
| Mercy Home Care 2740 M Street 209-384-4820 | Merced 0.8 mile | n/a | In-home healthcare services & home health aides |
| Mercy Urgent Care & Occupational Medicine 378 W. Olive Avenue 209-384-5766 | Merced 1.2 miles | n/a | Occupational physical therapy, certified wound care nurse, critical care, emergency medicine |
| Park Avenue Physical Therapy 2808 Park Ave #8 | Merced 0.9 mile | n/a | Pre and post surgical programs, post mastectomy, |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----|---|
| 209-723-8144 | | | orthopedic and sports rehabilitation, manual therapy, industrial injuries |
| Patients First Medical Center 394 Yosemite Ave #200 209-383-3990 | Merced 2.3 miles | n/a | Family practice medical clinic |
| <p>Source: Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, Business Directory (www.merced-chamber.com); YellowPages.com, Local Guides (www.yellowpages.com), (September 2011)</p> <p>Note: Distance is measured from Merced City Hall</p> | | | |

Theater and Fine Arts

Merced [Merced](#)
 Agricultural [Theater](#)
 Museum 301 W.
 Main
 4498 E. Street
 State Hwy 209-722-3
 140 266
 209-383-1 (Closed
 912 for
 restoratio
 n,
 reopens
 2012)

[Merced](#) [Merced](#)
[Arts](#) [College](#)
[Council](#) [Performi](#)
 645 W. [ng Arts](#)
 Main Communit
 Street y College
 209-388-1 Dr. S.
 090 209-386-6
 644

[Castle](#) [Castle](#)
[Air](#) [Science](#)
[Museum](#) [&](#)
 5050 San [Technol](#)
 Fe Drive [ogy](#)
 #7 [Center](#)
 Atwater, 3460
 CA (8.7 Challenge
 miles) r Way
 209-723-2 Atwater,

178 CA (8.7
miles)
209-726-0
236

[Merced
College
Art
Gallery](#) [Playhou
se
Merced](#)
452 W.
3600 M Main
Street Street
209-384-6 209-725-8
064 587

Merced [UC](#)
Courthou [Merced](#)
se [Performi](#)
Museum [ng Arts](#)
21st and 5200
N Street North
209-723-2 Lake
401 Road
209-228-4
566

[Merced
Sympho
ny](#)
645 Main
Street
209-383-3
277

**Golf
Courses**

[Merced
Golf and
Country
Club](#) [Rancho
Del Rey
Golf
Course](#)
6333 5250
North Golf Green
Road Sands
209-722-3 Avenue
357 Atwater,
(6 miles) CA
(Private) 209-358-7
137
(7.7
miles)
(Public)

[Pheasan
t Run
Golf
Course](#)

19
Clubhouse Drive
Chowchilla, CA
866-475-2525
(18 miles)
(Private)

**Sports
Venues
and
Organizations**