

Merced County	1,929 sq.mi. 109 persons / sq.mi.	Median Age: 29.0
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Snapshot	Workforce
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Merced County is a rich agricultural region in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley, extending from the coastal ranges to the foothills of Yosemite in Central California.

In 2000, the median age was more than 3 years younger than California. Nearly one of every 10 people was over 65 years of age and one in 91 was 85 or older. More than one in 4 adults was 65+ or disabled.

Unemployment was high at 14.0% (2001), nearly triple California's rate. There were projected to be 60 job openings for RNs and 90 for nursing aides. An estimated 229 direct care nursing staff were needed in facilities (2000). Average hourly wages (2001):

RN	HHA	Nurse Asst	IHSS	MSW	PT
\$25.03	\$8.24	\$8.38	\$6.95	\$22.60	\$25.26

Medi-Cal	Housing
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Merced ranked among those counties with the highest percent of Medi-Cal eligibles--more than one in every 4 people. One in every 48 persons in the county was 65+ and a Medi-Cal recipient.

The median home price was \$129,071 (2001). Housing vacancy rates in 2000 when compared to California were the same for homeowners at 1.4% and higher for rentals at 4.2%.

Merced had more households with individuals 65+ (19.3%) and slightly fewer households with those 65+ living alone (7.4%) than California. Of those over 65, one in 3.0 was living alone (32.8%).

Long Term Care: Special Programs	Transportation
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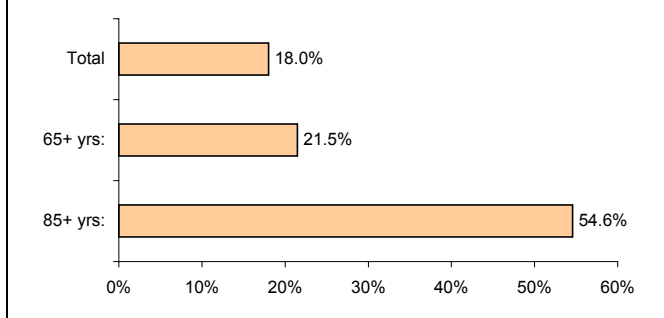
Reported transit services for people in the cities and county of Merced: 148,994 passengers using special vehicles; 14 special vehicles operated peak hours and 14 operated middays during the week; 10 on Saturdays; and none on Sundays.

Population Growth (increase since 1990): 18.0%	65+ yrs: 21.5%	85+ yrs: 54.6%
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Demographics

Percent Population Growth 1990-2000

Population	1990		2000		2010	
	US Census	%	US Census	%	DOF Projection	%
Total Population	178,403	100%	210,554	100%	264,420	100%
Over 60	22,474	13%	26,651	13%	34,592	13%
Disabled (21-64)	not available	not available	26,199	12%	not available	not available
Total 65+	16,468	9%	20,004	10%	24,457	9%
Total Over 65 + Disabled (21-64)	not available	not available	46,203	22%	not available	not available
Total 65-74	10,150	6%	11,119	5%	12,851	5%
Total 75-84	4,960	3%	6,786	3%	8,049	3%
Total 85+	1,358	1%	2,099	1%	3,557	1%



Gender (2000) US Census	Total	65+	85+
Male	49.8%	4.1%	0.3%
Female	50.2%	5.4%	0.7%

Demographic Trends

Ethnicity (2000) US Census	Total	65+
Total	100%	10%
White*	41%	6.72%
Black or African American*	4%	0.37%
Hispanic or Latino	45%	1.95%
Asian	7%	0.45%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.01%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.5%	0.04%
Some Other Race	0.2%	0.02%
Multi-Racial (two or more)	2.9%	0.23%

Merced County's population grew faster than California's in the last decade. There was also a faster growth in the percentage of those over 65 and those over 85.

In 2000, Merced had 59% non-Whites, while California had 53% non-Whites. Nearly one of every 2 persons was Hispanic/Latino; one in 15 was Asian; one in 28 was Black/African American; and one in 34 was multi-racial. Looking at age and ethnicity: one in 15 persons was 65+/White; one in 52 was 65+/Hispanic/Latino; one in 222 was 65+/Asian; and one in 270 was Black/African American.

Enrollment (2000)	Eligibles	% Tot Pop	Elig 65+	% 65+
Medi-Cal Recipients	57,386	26.1%	4,725	2.15%
SSI/SSP Recipients	8,933	4.1%	not available	not available
Dual Eligibles	6,309	2.9%	not available	not available

The median household income was \$12,000 less than California's, with many people living in poverty--more than one in 5, including many seniors.

Persons under Poverty Level: 21.7%	65+ yrs: 11.8%	Median Household Income: \$35,532
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