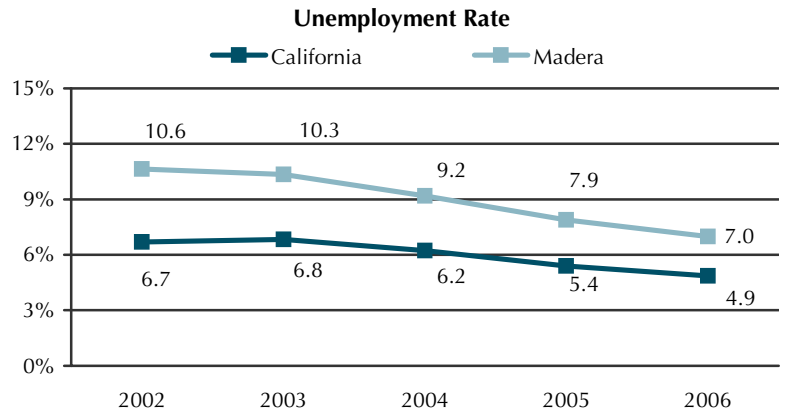


# Madera County snapshot

Madera County's 2,147 square miles lie south of the Yosemite Valley, a popular route many tourists choose for travel to Yosemite National Park. Most of the area's industrial and residential activity clusters along Highway 99, a primary transportation route, providing a north-south corridor through Madera. According to 2007 estimates, Madera's population exceeds 148,700 persons. California's Department of Finance estimates the county could be home to almost 212,900 residents by 2020.<sup>1</sup>

## Labor Force

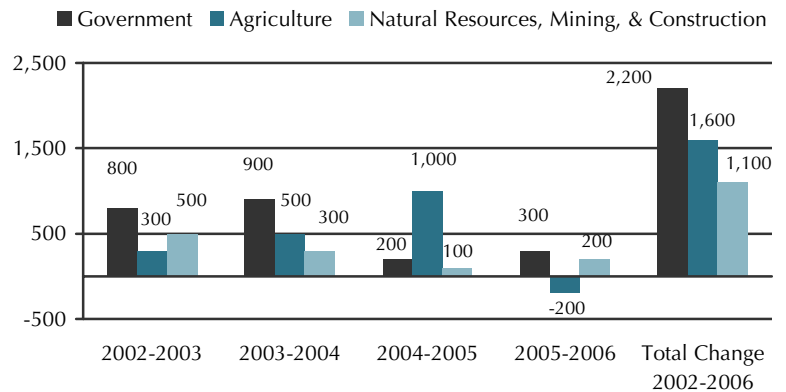
Madera's labor force posted 13.8 percent growth during the period 2002–2006, a gain of 7,700 persons. In 2006, the county's unemployment rate dropped 0.9 percentage point to 7.0 percent. As shown in the chart to the right, Madera's unemployment rate has declined significantly since 2002, yet remains above California's rate.



## Industry Employment

Industry employment in Madera County has increased 20.7 percent, or 7,800 jobs, over the years 2002–2006. With the exception of information, all major industries increased employment over these years. Three industries increased by the largest shares of new jobs: government; agriculture; and natural resources, mining, and construction (see chart on the right). Within government, local government recorded a gain of an additional 1,800 jobs, reflecting the inclusion of gaming establishment employment into the component. Madera's agriculture industry, the thirteenth-largest in value by county in California, grew by 18.4 percent over the period, gaining 1,600 jobs. The county's leading commodities include: almonds, grapes, milk, and pistachios.<sup>3</sup> Natural resources, mining, and construction added 1,100 jobs, 61.1 percent growth, while jobs in educational and health services were up 1,000, growth of 20.4 percent.

## Largest Growth Industries in Madera County Employment Change 2002-2006

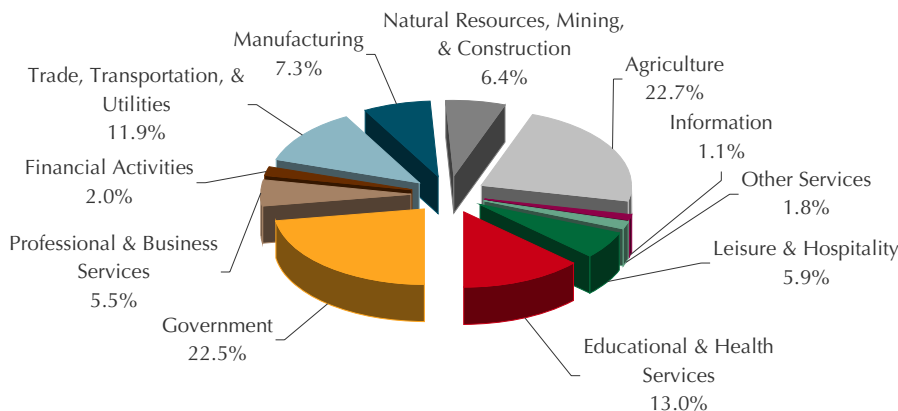


<sup>1</sup>California Department of Finance, Demographic Statistics, 2007.

<sup>2</sup>Employment Development Department. All labor statistics reflect Benchmark 2006 data.

<sup>3</sup>California Department of Food & Agriculture, Agricultural Statistics, 2005.

## Madera County Employment by Industry 2006 Annual Average



2006 Industry Employment total: 45,400

For more information, go to:  
[www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov)

or contact the local labor market consultant: (559) 445-6580

