



THE KINGS COUNTY ECONOMY AND THE PANDEMIC

Kings County EDC/JTO | 3/2021



KINGS COUNTY ECONOMY 1/2020

UNEMPLOYED

5,600

UNEMPLOYMENT

9.6%

OBSERVATIONS

- Unemployment was almost 6% lower than Recession levels. Approximately 5% lower than 2003 levels.
- All indicators were of a strong, growing economy

TOTAL WORKFORCE

57,700

TOTAL EMPLOYED

52,100

KINGS COUNTY ECONOMY 1/2021

UNEMPLOYED

6,000

UNEMPLOYMENT

10.7%

OBSERVATIONS

- Unemployment shrank from July 2020 levels at 12.4%
- Economic indicators are sending a confusing message on the economy. Small business struggle, while other parts excel.

TOTAL WORKFORCE

55,800

TOTAL EMPLOYED

49,800

SIDE BY SIDE

	JANUARY 2020	JANUARY 2021*
Total Workforce	57,700	55,800
Total Employed	52,100	49,800
Unemployed	5,600	6,000
Unemployment Rate	9.6%	10.7%

*Red indicates a number worse in relation to the prior year. Green indicates a number more positive in relation to the prior year.

OBSERVATIONS OF THE PANDEMIC ECONOMY

- There is appears to be a significant drop in available workforce, about 1,900 fewer workers.
 - This could be attributed to multiple factors including: retirements, layoffs, etc.
- During the pandemic induced shutdowns, Kings County unemployment and some of its fellow Central Valley communities fell below that of Los Angeles County for the first time in decades
- The greatest impact appears to be on small businesses.

POTENTIAL FACTORS INFLUENCING LESSEND IMPACT IN RELATION TO OTHER COUNTIES

- Defensive nature of the Kings County Economy.
 - Primarily an agricultural/essential based economy.
- Significant investments locally in supporting the business community.
 - More than \$6.5 million dollars has been allocated at the County level.
 - Hundreds of thousands of dollars allocated at the municipal level for assistance.



WHERE ARE ALL THE JOBS...

Current Projects

- Solar Fields
 - Kings County has thousands of acres of solar projects currently under construction or planned in the near future.
 - Hundreds of jobs available on these sites, KCJTO currently is working with IBEW to dispatch workers.
- Jackson Ranch/Utica Exit Project
 - Large development on I-5 between Avenal and Kettleman City.
 - Will employ hundreds of workers through construction and finalization.
 - Mix of commercial and industrial development.

- Tachi
 - \$80 million expansion currently planned, will result in new jobs in the community
- Helena Agri-Enterprises, LLC (In Permitting)
 - Construction of a new facility in Lemoore to include manufacturing
- Commercial Anaerobic Digesters
 - Currently there is a site under contract in Kings County that could be solely dedicated to the production and distribution of biomethane.
 - Stand-alone operation, purchasing materials from local agriculture
- Pitman Farms
 - Expanding operations to include over 1 million square feet of updated poultry houses

...EVERYWHERE!

POTENTIALS FOR THE FUTURE

- Economists have observed that metropolitan based companies may relocate operations to take advantage of teleworking capabilities in more affordable areas.
- Kings County currently has over a 1,000 job listings on public recruitment sites that are currently unfilled.
- The effects of the pandemic on the economy will be felt for years, and experts agree on the uncertainty going forward.



THANK YOU

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL
MEDIA