

Contact: Paul Saldana
President/CEO
Economic Development Corporation
servng Tulare County
Tel., 559/688-3388

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 2002 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE LOWEST SINCE 1990

TULARE, CALIF. (October 11, 2002)—Employment in Tulare County continues on an upward trend, as shown by the 12.4 percent unemployment rate, released today by the Employment Development Department.

September is typically a high employment month.

This year's rate is the lowest for the month of September since 1990. At that time, unemployment stood at 10.1 percent.

While the unemployment rate is expected to increase due to seasonal adjustments, planned expansions by companies such as NDS in Lindsay, Calif. and the occupancy of projects like Emergency Medical Products in Visalia, Calif., should continue to keep the unemployment rate at lower-than-average levels.

Prospect activity is higher, compared to this time last year. Manufacturing and distribution companies show increased levels of interest. On the recruitment front, the EDC is conducting business attraction activities in Indiana, Texas and California over the next three weeks. The EDC anticipates that it will secure one to two new prospects as a result of these marketing efforts.

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