

# **Merced's Personal Income Rising**

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#### Merced, Calif.

The Merced, Calif., metro area has experienced the top personal income growth of any region since 2012, climbing an estimated 13.7 percent when adjusted for inflation.

One big contributing factor to the region's growth is the expansion of the University of California's Merced campus. The school, which opened only a decade ago, continues to add students, faculty and staff.

The expansion has further supported new developments around Merced, where longvacant downtown retail spaces have started filling up. **City officials recently announced plans to renovate one building to make way for a boutique hotel, as well as construct a new mixed-use development with more than 50 apartments.** 

Still, with an economy tied largely to agriculture, the metro area remains poorer than most other regions in California. Personal incomes declined only slightly in 2008 and 2009, then experienced sharp growth since 2012. The per capita personal income for the metro area of 268,000 residents was \$36,185 in 2015.

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