OFI closes its Firebaugh plant — Fresno County, 2024

Olam Food Ingredients (OFI) permanently closed its Firebaugh facility in western Fresno County, eliminating 275 jobs — one event inside a reported wave of roughly 60 Central Valley plant closures or mass layoffs in a single year.

275

Jobs eliminated, per the WARN filing (effective August 30, 2024).

60+

Central Valley plant closures or mass layoffs reported within the same year (2024) — the strongest available evidence this is systemic, not company-specific.

What happened

The Firebaugh Facility of Olam Americas, at 4761 West Nees Avenue, produced dried onions and dried parsley sold as ingredients to food manufacturers worldwide. The WARN notice was filed June 28, 2024; the permanent closure took effect August 30, 2024, in phased layoffs running through the end of the year. The company cited "macroeconomic reasons" and a strategic exit from the U.S. parsley market.

This followed OFI's earlier exit from California tomato processing — the same company leaving the same broader sector in the same county (Kings County's **Olam Lemoore closure**) five years earlier, before OFI/Olam Food Ingredients became the operating name on this closure.

Reporting around the Firebaugh closure situates it inside a much larger wave: roughly 60 Central Valley plant closures or mass layoffs in 2024 alone, including Ruiz Foods' Tulare closure (215 workers) and Cargill's Fresno layoffs (roughly 180 workers).

Impact — what we know, and what we don't

- **Jobs:** 275, confirmed by WARN filing.

- **What happened to the workers:** Not documented in any source this archive has found.
- **Fresno County's broader exposure:** Fresno carries real, continuing exposure to food-processing closures, but its Sector Dependence Index (0.094 in 2025) is lower than Kings' or Stanislaus' — see **the Index** for the full county comparison.

Part of a larger pattern

OFI/Olam is a second major commodity-processing company (alongside Del Monte) exiting this region more than once. The ~60-closure figure for 2024 alone is the strongest single piece of evidence in this archive that the pattern is regional and sector-wide, not one company's decisions. Fresno County's other documented closure, **ConAgra's 2016 exit from its Hunt-Wesson plant in Helm**, shows the same company-level pattern seen here — a partial downgrade years before the eventual full closure — playing out independently at a different company, a decade earlier.

Sources

- KMPH, "Olam plant in Firebaugh to close by August, 275 jobs affected." Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- The Business Journal (Fresno), plant-closure coverage. Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- AOL/syndicated, "What led to closure of food plant in Fresno County? It has to do with parsley." Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- aviationpros.com (syndicated business-layoff wire), "String of Layoffs in Fresno, California Area Keep Adding Up" — names the broader ~60-closure pattern. Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- WARN Act filing, June 28, 2024, effective August 30, 2024. Access: obtained — taken directly from the agency's own filings rather than from a web page.

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