Patterson Vegetable Company closes — Stanislaus County, 2012

Patterson Vegetable Company shut down for good on June 22, 2012, after more than 60 years in the heart of downtown Patterson — WARN filings put the toll at 1,015 jobs across two notices, more than any other single closure in this project's record, including the 2026 Del Monte Modesto/Hughson closure.

1015

Jobs covered across two 2012 WARN filings — the largest single closure this project has documented, WARN-confirmed total.

60+

Years the plant operated in downtown Patterson before closing for good.

What happened

Patterson Vegetable Company announced an initial round of cuts in February 2012 — a secondary WARN tracker lists a notice dated February 20, 2012, covering 489 employees — followed by a second, final WARN notice on June 24, 2012, covering 526 employees. This archive could not independently verify either filing against the official state WARN report, which does not cover a period this far back. The plant shut down for good on Friday, June 22, 2012; a few staff stayed through the weekend to permanently close the facility.

No source found explains why the company closed after more than six decades, or names a parent company — this archive found no ownership information. News coverage estimated the job toll differently from the WARN total: an initial CBS13 report put it at "nearly 500" (close to the February WARN figure), while the June closure story cited "about 300 year-round workers and another 600 seasonal" (roughly 900) — both lower than the combined 1,015-job WARN total across the two filings. That June story also noted a new Amazon distribution center, opening "the following year" per its reporting, as a possible source of replacement work for displaced employees — this archive found no follow-up confirming whether that happened.

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

- **Jobs:** WARN filings total 1,015 across two 2012 notices; press coverage estimates ranged from "nearly 500" to "about 900" — a real discrepancy, not resolved here. Treat the WARN total as the harder number, consistent with this project's practice elsewhere, while noting the gap here is unusually large.
- **Why it closed:** Not documented anywhere found.
- **Ownership:** No parent company identified in any source checked.
- **What happened to the workers:** Beyond the Amazon-jobs speculation in one article, no source tracks outcomes.

Part of a larger pattern

Searching this project's four-county record for the 2000–2020 window — outside the 2020–2026 wave this project otherwise tracks — turned up four previously undocumented closures: **Land O'Lakes' Tulare cheese plant** (2010), **Dawn Foods' Modesto bakeries** (March 2012), this one (June 2012), and **ConAgra's Hunt-Wesson plant in Helm** (2016). This is the single largest WARN-covered closure in this project's entire record, Kings and Fresno counties included — larger than Del Monte's 765-job Modesto/Hughson closure in 2026 — and it landed within about five months of Dawn Foods' own Modesto closure the same year, the clearest evidence yet that the "compounding closures, same county" pattern this project documents for 2024–2026 already happened once before, in the same county, fourteen years earlier.

Sources

- **CBS13/CBS Sacramento, "Another Plant Scheduled To Close In Struggling Stanislaus County"** (the February announcement).
- CBS13/CBS Sacramento, "Patterson Vegetable Company Closes Doors, Lays Off Hundreds" (the June shutdown). Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- Secondary WARN tracker (not independently verified against an official state filing — predates this project's local WARN-PDF archive, which starts at fiscal year 2014–2015). Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.

Full citation detail and source archive: **Data**. Back to **all case studies**.