Del Monte closes its Modesto/Hughson canneries — Stanislaus County, 2026

Del Monte's Modesto/Hughson canneries closed in April 2026, eliminating 765 permanent jobs and ending 20-year supply contracts with roughly 70 California peach growers — the largest single closure this project documents.

765

Permanent jobs eliminated — the largest documented closure in this project's record.

420K

Clingstone peach trees growers are now removing, following the end of 20-year supply contracts with roughly 70 California growers.

What happened

Stanislaus County has the *highest* food-processing dependence of the four counties this project tracks — Employment SDI 0.200 in 2025 — but unlike Kings County, that dependence has been *declining* since 1990 (from 0.277), not rising. See **the Index** for the full county comparison.

Del Monte Foods filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in July 2025, months before this closure — see the timeline on **Case Studies** for how that filing relates to both this closure and the company's **Hanford tomato plant closure** in Kings County the month before.

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

- **Jobs:** 765 permanent positions, confirmed by multiple independent news outlets and federal aid records.
- **Growers:** Roughly 70 California peach growers lost 20-year supply contracts; an estimated 420,000 clingstone peach trees are now being removed as a direct consequence.
- **What happened to the workers:** Granular public data on where the 765 workers actually went post-closure does not exist in any source this archive has found — this would require primary research (direct contact with Stanislaus County Workforce Development

or Teamsters Local 948, which represented the Modesto/Hughson workforce), not more desk research.

- **An open question, not glossed over:** Kings County's Hanford closure and this one are this project's two flagship case studies, but they sit on *opposite* economic trajectories — Kings' food-processing dependence was rising when its plant closed; Stanislaus' was falling. We haven't yet explained why, and we're not pretending otherwise.

Part of a larger pattern

This is the only closure in this archive outside Kings and Fresno counties, and by far the largest by job count — a reminder that this pattern isn't confined to one county, even though Kings County's Hanford and Lemoore have absorbed the most *repeated* exposure.

Sources

- Multiple independent news outlets, federal aid records. Access: not-captured — a public URL exists for this source and this project has not recorded it.
- Company bankruptcy filing (Del Monte Foods, Chapter 11), July 2025. 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**.