

2001 Press Releases

For Immediate Release: June 11, 2001
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CALIFORNIA - The 5th Largest Economy on Earth

LOS ANGELES - California surpassed France in 2000 to become the 5th largest economy in the world, reports the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). The State enjoyed spectacular growth last year, and is still recording gains this year.

"Everyone gets confused as to where the economies of the State of California and the Southern California region stand, and what it means to the world", says Jack Kyser, Chief Economist for the LAEDC. Each year the LAEDC does an analysis of the Gross Domestic Product, GDP, for all nations with gross product over US\$250 billion and includes California, the Los Angeles 5-County Area, and just Los Angeles County to help put the local economies in better perspective.

The top 5 economies in the world in this year's 2000 comparison ranks the United States at #1 with \$9,966 billion in annual GDP, Japan at #2 with \$4,614 billion, Germany is #3 with \$1,867 billion, the UK at #4 with \$1,415 billion and California a fairly close #5 with \$1,330 billion.

The Los Angeles 5-County Area (including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura Counties) ranks #10 moving past Spain from the previous year with \$602 billion in 2000 annual GDP. "While this ranking is exciting, the Southern California region faces two challenges that will shape its future" adds Lee Harrington, President and CEO of the LAEDC, "This includes coping with still rapid population growth (nearly 321,000 in new residents in 2000) and making strategic addition's to its infrastructure. With an economy larger than the nations of Mexico, India, or Spain, it is imperative that we think and act regionally to improve our quality of life."

Los Angeles County by itself continues to rank as the world's 16th largest economy beating out the countries of Russia, Taiwan, Argentina, and Switzerland with \$352 billion in GDP.

"While current headlines focus on the California energy crisis, it is necessary to look beyond this short term event, and focus on better utilizing the region's unique resources", urges Kyser.

[Click here for the actual spreadsheet](#)

The LAEDC is a private non-profit organization. As the premier business leadership organization, the LAEDC's mission is to attract, retain and grow businesses and jobs in the regions of Los Angeles County, as well as identifying trends and affecting positive change for the local economy. Since 1995, the LAEDC has helped in the creation of 56,632 jobs from 278 projects. The economic impact of those jobs translates into \$1.9 billion in salaries and more than \$222 million in tax revenue generated to support schools and local government in the LA County region annually.

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