



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

## Orange County Profile

- **Orange County** (Santa Ana-Anaheim-Irvine Metro Division) covers 948 square miles, and had a July 1, 2008 population of 3,126,000; an increase of 280,000 since 2000. This would make the County larger than the state of Iowa and the St. Louis MO-IL MSA.
- A quick **demographic profile** of Orange County indicates that 46.5% of the population is white non-Hispanic, 33.3% is Hispanic, 17.7% is Asian-Pacific Islander, and 1.8% is black. 83% of the population has a high school diploma or more, while 35% have a bachelor's degree or more. (American Community Survey 2007)
- There is a diverse **economic base** in Orange County (based on the concept of "industry clusters") using 2007 average employment as a measure. The leading industries are: 1.) professional & business services with 119,900 workers; 2.) tourism & hospitality with 119,800 workers; 3.) wholesale trade & logistics with 88,500 workers; 4.) direct international trade with 82,800 workers; and 5.) technology with 79,800 workers.
- **Technology** is a vital force in the Orange County economy, with several "clusters" of activity, including Irvine (around both the Spectrum and UC Irvine), and in the mid-county area. Areas of emphasis include computer software, semiconductors and bio-med applications.
- Orange County is also a **major manufacturing center**, with 151,000 workers in 2007. This puts the County just behind Seattle-Tacoma (156,303) and ahead of Cleveland (144,773). The largest sectors are: computer & electronic products with 31,200 workers; fabricated metal products with 24,600 workers; medical equipment & supply with 12,000 workers; machinery with 11,000 workers and aerospace products & parts with 10,900 workers.
- Orange County businesses have been very aggressive in **international trade**, and utilize the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, as well as Los Angeles International Airport, LA/Ontario International Airport, and other support activities.
- The **higher education assets** of Orange County are extensive, including the University of California-Irvine (which has a medical school), California State University Fullerton, Chapman University, and the Southern California College of Optometry. There are also several well-regarded community colleges.
- **Transportation** service in Orange County is well developed. Besides the freeway system, there is rail mass transit with service by Amtrak and Metrolink, and bus service offered by the Orange County Transit Authority. Commercial air service is offered at Orange County-John Wayne Airport.



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- **Quality of life** is a strong point for the County, with nearly 40 miles of coast line and three small craft harbors. The mountains on the east side of the county offer outdoor recreational opportunities. An array of fine and performing arts opportunities include the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, plus professional baseball and ice hockey. The modern theme park was born at Disneyland in Anaheim, which now includes a second park called California Adventure that's geared toward a more mature audience. Knott's Berry Farm and its sibling, Soak City USA are also located in Orange County.

A large, light gray watermark of the LAEDC logo is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. It consists of the letters "LAEDC" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a light gray square that is rotated approximately 30 degrees clockwise, matching the orientation of the main logo.