



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Riverside-San Bernardino Area Profile

- The Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area is comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino counties, and is often called the "**Inland Empire.**" The area is bordered by Los Angeles and Orange counties on the west, and on the east by the states of Nevada and Arizona. Riverside County covers 7,304 square miles while San Bernardino covers 20,106 square miles. The July 1, 2008 **population** of the area totaled 4,167,000 persons; an increase of 913,000 persons since 2000. The area's population count would make it larger than Puerto Rico, the state of Oregon and the Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA MSA.
- A quick **demographic profile** of the counties indicates that in Riverside, 42.7% of the population is white non-Hispanic; 43.2% is Hispanic; 6.0% is black; and 5.3% is Asian-Pacific Islander. In San Bernardino, 36.2% is white non-Hispanic; 46.8% is Hispanic; 8.4% is black; and 5.9% is Asian-Pacific Islander. As to education, 80% of Riverside County's population has a high school diploma or higher, and 20% has a bachelor's degree or higher. For San Bernardino, the numbers are 77% and 18%, respectively. (American Community Survey 2007)
- There is a diverse **economic base** in the Inland Empire (based on the concept of "industry clusters"). Using 2007 average employment as a measure, the leading industries were: 1.) tourism with 96,600 jobs; 2.) direct international trade with 90,400; 3.) professional & business services 55,600; 4.) wholesale trade & logistics with 48,900; and 5.) health services & biomedical with 37,500.
- The Inland Empire is also a growing **manufacturing center** with employment at the 87,000 mark as of 2007. The largest components are: fabricated metal products with 15,700 jobs; automotive manufacturing with 14,600; food, beverages, and tobacco products with 10,600; plastic products with 9,500 and furniture & home furnishings with 7,400.
- The **international trade** aspect of the Inland Empire's economy is extensive. The area is a major transportation hub for both rail and truck service, has the LA/Ontario International Airport (a UPS hub, both small packages and air freight, and for Asian service), and is a major distribution center for firms moving goods through Southern California's ports to the rest of the U.S.
- This area has an impressive array of **higher education** facilities, including the University of California-Riverside, Cal State San Bernardino, University of Redlands, and the Loma Linda School of Medicine. Just to the west of the county line in L.A. are the Claremont College group and Cal Poly Pomona. There are also several community colleges.
- As noted above, the Inland Empire is a hub for **transportation services** in Southern California. There is the LA/Ontario International Airport, strategic freeway access, two rail lines, and service by Amtrak and Metrolink (3 lines). There are also three ex-military air fields that are being redeveloped for commercial use: George Air Force Base as the Southern California Logistics Airport, Norton AFB as the San Bernardino International Airport, and March AFB as the March Inland Port.
- The two-county area has a diverse portfolio of **quality of life** elements. These include desert resorts with championship golf courses, and mountain resorts that offer skiing in the winter. The Coachella Valley has several Indian casinos. There are also fine and performing arts. The California Speedway in Fontana is the largest auto racetrack in Southern California.