County Profile

San Bernardino County is located in southeastern California, with Inyo and Tulare Counties to the north, Kern and Los Angeles Counties to the west, and Orange and Riverside Counties to the south. The county is bordered on the east by the states of Nevada and Arizona. The county’s diverse geography and extensive natural resources as well as its proximity to major economic and population centers provides unique opportunities for varied industry sectors to thrive, including commerce, education, tourism and recreation. The following information profiles San Bernardino County’s geography, land use, population density, demographics, housing, and employment characteristics.

GEOGRAPHY AND LAND USE
San Bernardino County is the largest county in the state and the United States:
- The county covers over 20,000 square miles of land.
- There are 24 cities and towns in the county and multiple unincorporated communities.
- 81% of the land is outside the governing control of the County Board of Supervisors or local jurisdictions; the majority of the non-jurisdiction land is owned and managed by federal agencies.

The county is commonly divided into three distinct areas, including the Valley Region (sometimes divided into East and West Valley), Mountain Region, and Desert Region:
- The Valley Region contains the majority of the county’s incorporated areas and is the most populous region.
- The Mountain Region is primarily comprised of public lands owned and managed by federal and state agencies.
- The Desert Region is the largest region (over 93% of the county’s land area) and includes parts of the Mojave Desert.

Aside from open or undeveloped land, the largest land use in the county is for military purposes:
- Almost three-quarters (74.1%) of San Bernardino County is open or undeveloped land.
- 14.3% of the land is used for military purposes.
- Residential housing comprises 8.9% of the land area.
- Retail, commercial, and industrial uses make up 1.7% of the county’s land use.
- Agriculture (0.4%), transportation/utilities (0.4%), government (0.2%) and other uses (0.04%) make up the remainder.

Cities and Towns in San Bernardino County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Town</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adelanto</td>
<td>Montclair</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apple Valley</td>
<td>Needles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barstow</td>
<td>Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Bear Lake</td>
<td>Rancho Cucamong</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chino</td>
<td>Redlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chino Hills</td>
<td>Rialto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colton</td>
<td>Running Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crestline</td>
<td>San Bernardino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fontana</td>
<td>Twenty Nine Palms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Terrace</td>
<td>Upland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hesperia</td>
<td>Victorville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highland</td>
<td>Yermo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joshua Tree</td>
<td>Yucca Valley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Arrowhead</td>
<td>Yuma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loma Linda</td>
<td>Yucaipa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucerne Valley</td>
<td>Wrightwood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Government Owned Land in San Bernardino County

Sources: San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department, 2007 General Plan (www.sbcounty.gov/landuse/services/general_plan/FINAL%20General%20Plan%20Text%20-%206-1-07_w_Images.pdf); California State Association of Counties (www.counties.org)
POPPULATION DENSITY
Given the vast land area, the county’s overall population density is low:
• San Bernardino’s population density is estimated at 101.5 persons per square mile, which is substantially lower than California, and the four California peer counties compared (Riverside, San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles counties).4
• It is also lower than peer regions of Las Vegas, Phoenix, and Miami.
• Within San Bernardino County, the Valley Region is the most densely populated area, with 75% of the population residing in that region, but accounts for only 2.5% of the county’s land.2
• Based on these figures, the estimated population density of the Valley Region is approximately 3,045 persons per square mile, which is similar to neighboring Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

POPPULATION
San Bernardino County is the fifth largest county in California in terms of population:
• In January 2011, San Bernardino County’s population was estimated at over two million (2,052,397).5
• Only Los Angeles County (9,858,989), San Diego County (3,118,876), Orange County (3,029,859), and Riverside County (2,217,778) have more residents.5
• San Bernardino County is the twelfth largest county in the nation, with more residents than 15 of the country’s states, including New Mexico, Idaho, West Virginia, and Nebraska.6
• Since 2000, San Bernardino County’s population has grown by approximately 19%.7

Population Density for San Bernardino County, San Bernardino Valley, and Other Selected Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County (Major City)</th>
<th>Persons per Square Mile</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>San Bernardino</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clark (Las Vegas)</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverside</td>
<td>304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maricopa (Phoenix)</td>
<td>437</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade (Miami)</td>
<td>1,285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>2,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Bernardino Valley Region</td>
<td>3,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange (Santa Ana)</td>
<td>3,813</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Population density calculations for Maricopa County, Clark County, and Miami-Dade reflect 2009 county population estimates. San Bernardino Valley population density is estimated from data in the San Bernardino County 2007 General Plan. The remainder reflect 2010 population estimates.

Sources: Calculated using multiple sources including California Department of Finance 2010 Census Data; U.S. Census Bureau State and County QuickFacts; and San Bernardino County Land Use Department, 2007 General Plan
The county’s population growth has occurred at a moderate but steady rate over the past 50 years:

- Average annual population growth in the 1960s and 1970s was 3%.
- This annual growth rate jumped to 6% in the 1980s, and dropped back to 2% in the 1990s and 3% between 2000 and 2005.
- Most recently (between 2010 and 2011), San Bernardino County’s population grew 0.9% – similar to the state (at 0.8%) and one of the densest bordering counties, Orange County (0.7%).
- Population growth has been somewhat faster in Riverside County (1.7%), and slower in Los Angeles County (0.4%).

San Bernardino County’s population is expected to reach about 3.6 million by 2050:

- Population growth is projected to continue at an average annual rate between one and two percent.
- The Southern California Association of Governments forecasts that the Inland Empire, which is comprised of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, will grow by 1.7 million between 2000 and 2020, or more than all but three states (California, Texas, and Florida).

San Bernardino County’s growth has come from a combination of natural increase and migration:

- Since 1975 and up until 2007, the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area has had a positive net migration, with more people moving into the area than out.
- While the rate of net migration was 6.4% from 1990 to 2000, this rate increased to 23% between 2000 and 2005.
- Between 2009 and 2010, the county lost over 4,900 residents through domestic out-migration, but gained nearly 5,000 through international immigration, for a slight net gain due to migration.
- The county also added an estimated 19,815 residents through natural increase during this same period, for a total estimated increase of 19,869.

The largest ethnic group reported by San Bernardino County residents is Hispanic:

- Forty-nine percent (49%) of San Bernardino County residents are Hispanic, who may be of any race.
- Among the remaining 51% non-Hispanic residents, 33% are White, 8% are Black or African American, 6% are Asian, less than 1% report being “some other race,” and 2% report two or more races.

The smallest ethnic group reported by San Bernardino County residents is Native American Indians.

- Approximately 1% of the population in San Bernardino County is comprised of Native American Indians (20,396 individuals as of 2009), including Cherokee, Chippewa, Navajo, and Sioux. An additional 23,258 residents self-identify as Native American and some other race. Federally-recognized tribes within the county include: Chemehuevi Indian Tribe; San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; and Fort Mojave Indian Tribe.
In 2009, 21% of the people living in San Bernardino County were foreign born:

- Forty-one percent (41%) of San Bernardino County residents over the age of five speak a language other than English at home.
- Among these, 83% speak Spanish and 17% speak some other language.13
- As of May 2011, there were 2,677 interpreters on staff at the County of San Bernardino, representing more than 12 languages. This is equivalent to approximately 14% of all county employees.14

San Bernardino County’s population is relatively young:

- In 2010, the county’s median age was 32 compared to 35 statewide.
- As of 2010, 29% of the population is under age 18, while nearly 9% are 65 years or older.15
- From 2005 to 2009, the number of residents increased across all age groups except 5 to 14 year olds, and 35 to 44 year olds.16

However, the percent of the population 65 years and older is anticipated to increase through 2050:

- In 2010, the older adult population comprised 9% of the total population and in 2050 it is expected to comprise 19% of the total population.
- The total older adult population is expected to increase by 250% overall by, compared to a 68% increase among all ages.8
EMPLOYMENT
San Bernardino County enjoys a diverse economy, with economic output and employment distributed among multiple sectors:
• As of 2009, the largest labor markets in San Bernardino County are Trade, Transportation and Utilities (25.4% of the total industry employment) and Government (19.6%), followed by Educational and Health Services (12.4%), Professional and Business Services (12.1%), Leisure and Hospitality (9.1%), Manufacturing (8.2%), and Construction (4.5%).
• All other industries accounted for less than 10% of the total labor force.21

After several years of steady increase, the San Bernardino County labor force peaked in 2006 and began to decline:
• The number of people employed increased from 680,100 in 1998 to 820,700 in 2006.
• By the first quarter of 2011, the civilian employed population had declined to 731,900 (March 2011).21

Industry estimates for the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area project that from 2008 to 2018, total non-farm employment will increase by 8%:
• The metro area’s fastest growing sectors are projected to be Education Services (+27%), Health Care and Social Assistance (+22%), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+13%), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (13%), and Leisure and Hospitality (+10%).
• Occupations with the fastest projected job growth include Personal and Home Care Aides (+45%), Medical Scientists except Epidemiologists (+42%), Network Systems and Data Communications Analyst (+40%), Physicians Assistants (+38%), Home Health Aides (+36%), Fitness Trainers and Aerobics Instructors (+33%), Physical Therapists Aides (+31%) and Surgical Technicians (+31%).
• Non-farm sectors projected to decline include Management of Companies and Enterprises (-16%), Manufacturing (-9%), Mining and Logging (-8%), Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (-8%) and Financial Activities (-3%).22

Since 2005, the fastest employment growth in the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area has been in businesses with fewer than 100 employees (+16%):
• The vast majority of businesses have fewer than 100 employees (98%).
• In the third quarter of 2009, 61% of employees worked for businesses with fewer than 100 employees, 26% worked for businesses with 100–499 employees, and the remaining 13% worked for large businesses with 500 employees or more.
• Firms with 500 employees or more have shown the biggest decline in number (-29%) and employees (-17%).23
Top 5 Fastest Growing Occupations and Top 5 Occupations with the Most Job Openings
Riverside-San Bernardino, 2008-2018 Projection with 1st Quarter 2010 Wages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fastest Growing Occupations</th>
<th>Employment Change</th>
<th>Median Hourly</th>
<th>Median Annual</th>
<th>Occupations with Most Job Openings</th>
<th>Total Job Openings</th>
<th>Median Hourly</th>
<th>Median Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care and Service</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>$10.06</td>
<td>$20,924</td>
<td>Office and Administrative Support</td>
<td>6,059</td>
<td>$15.12</td>
<td>$31,440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Support</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>$12.49</td>
<td>$25,965</td>
<td>Sales and Related</td>
<td>5,518</td>
<td>$11.42</td>
<td>$23,757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare Practitioners and Technical</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>$32.95</td>
<td>$68,532</td>
<td>Food Preparation and Serving Related</td>
<td>5,270</td>
<td>$9.33</td>
<td>$19,393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Mathematical</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>$31.99</td>
<td>$66,541</td>
<td>Transportation and Material Moving</td>
<td>3,506</td>
<td>$13.80</td>
<td>$28,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life, Physical, and Social Science</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>$28.72</td>
<td>$59,747</td>
<td>Education, Training, and Library</td>
<td>2,972</td>
<td>$25.39</td>
<td>$52,800</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: California Employment Development Department, Projections of Employment by Industry Occupation

UNEMPLOYMENT
Following unemployment trends nationwide, San Bernardino County’s unemployment rate rose dramatically in 2010:
• During the 10-year period from 2001 to 2011, the unemployment rate in San Bernardino County ranged from a low of 4.8% in 2006 to a high of 14.3% in 2010.
• The unemployment rate decreased to 13.2% in April 2011.
• In April 2011, San Bernardino County’s unemployment rate was ranked 29th out of 58 counties in California (1st is lowest unemployment rate).24
• Compared with the United States, San Bernardino County faced higher unemployment rates between 2001 and 2011.25, 26, 27

Unemployment
Annual Average Rate, 2001-2011

San Bernardino County
California
United States

Source: California Employment Development Department, Employment by Industry Data; California Employment Development Department Historical Annual Average Labor Force for the United States; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.