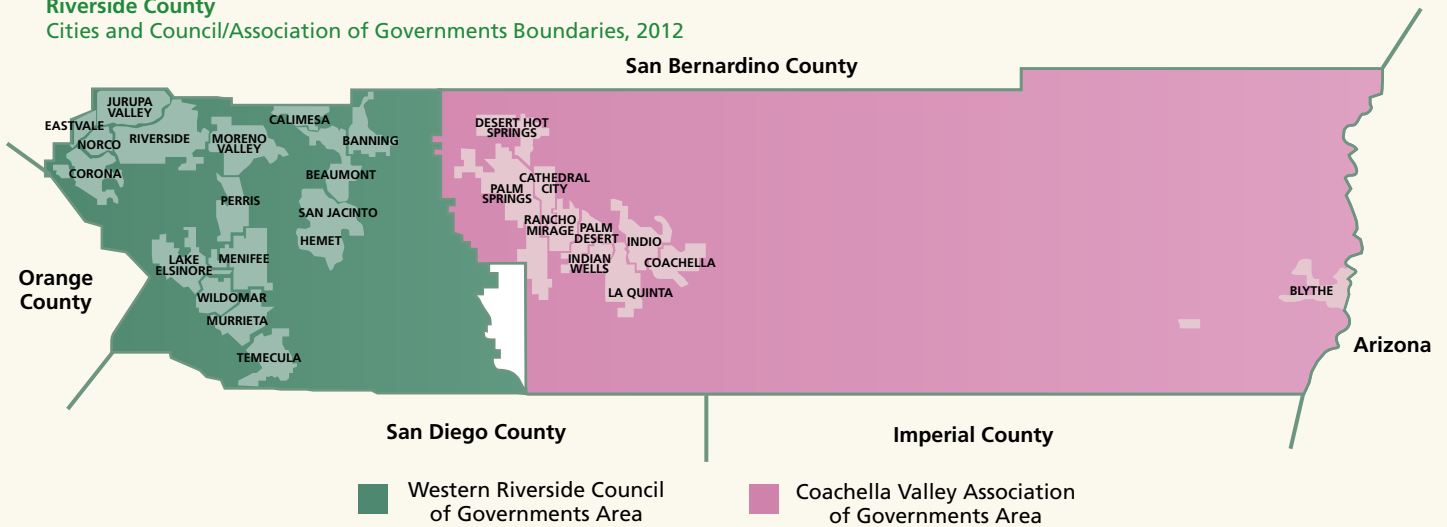# County Profile

Riverside County is located in Southern California to the east of Orange County, north of San Diego and Imperial counties, and south of San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties. It is the fourth largest county in California, and is home to diverse geographical features, including deserts, forests and mountains, as well as rich biological resources. These natural features are complemented by growing industrial and urban/suburban population centers, as well as by productive agricultural lands.[1]

There are 28 cities in Riverside County, large areas of unincorporated land, and several Native American tribal entities. The newest city to join the county, Jurupa Valley in the northwestern corner of the county, was incorporated in July 1, 2011.[2] There are 12 federally-recognized reservations that are located either entirely or partially in Riverside County: Agua Caliente, Augustine, Cabazon, Cahuilla, Colorado River, Morongo, Pechanga, Ramona, Santa Rosa, Soboba, Torres-Martinez, and Twenty-nine Palms.[3] Two governmental associations facilitate coordination among jurisdictions seeking cooperation on issues of mutual interest that are broader in scope than a single community: the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG), and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG).[2]

Riverside County
Cities and Council/Association of Governments Boundaries, 2012

Western Riverside Council of Governments Area

Coachella Valley Association of Governments Area

Note: The white area is outside of the jurisdiction of a council or association of governments.

Cities in Riverside County

Western Region

Banning	Hemet	Norco
Beaumont	Jurupa Valley	Perris
Calimesa	Lake Elsinore	Riverside
Canyon Lake	Menifee	San Jacinto
Corona	Moreno Valley	Temecula
Eastvale	Murrieta	Wildomar

Coachella Valley/Eastern Region

Blythe	La Quinta
Cathedral City	Palm Desert
Coachella	Palm Springs
Desert Hot Springs	Rancho Mirage
Indian Wells	
Indio	

Source: Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics (www.rctlma.org/rcd/default.aspx)

GEOGRAPHY

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California in terms of size:
- The county covers over 7,000 square miles of land.
- There are 28 incorporated cities in the county.
- Over 86% of the county is unincorporated land.[4]

Riverside County is roughly divided into eastern and western portions by the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains, which are connected by the San Gorgonio Pass:
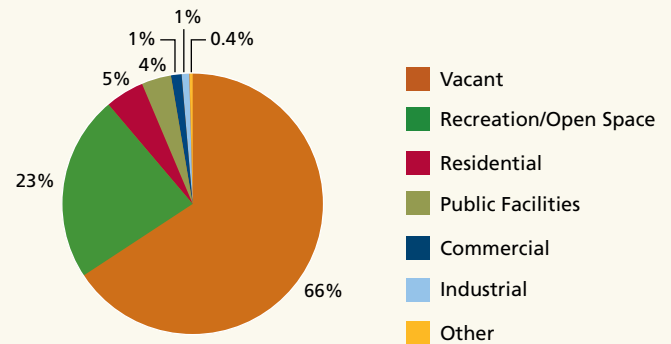- The western portion of the county, which covers approximately half as much land area as the eastern portion, is the more populous region and has faced the highest population growth pressures.
- The eastern half of the county, characterized by desert terrain, is less populous with most of the eastern portion's population residing in the Coachella Valley.
- Between the Coachella Valley and the county's eastern boundary lies primarily desert wilderness.[1]

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LAND USE

Land uses underscore the rural and natural character of Riverside County:

- Fully 66% of Riverside County is vacant land, followed by 23% dedicated to recreation and open space.
- Residential uses make up 5% of land use and public facilities contribute 4%.
- Commercial and industrial uses each comprise 1% of total land use.
- Within just the incorporated areas of Riverside County, residential uses jump up to 21% of all incorporated area land use; public facilities comprise 16%; and commercial uses comprise 6%.
- Still, within incorporated areas, as much as 36% of land is vacant and 17% is dedicated to recreation and open space.[2]

Land Uses by Category
Riverside County, 2010

Legend:
- Vacant
- Recreation/Open Space
- Residential
- Public Facilities
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Other

Source: Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics

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=== **FOCUS ON COACHELLA VALLEY** ===

The Coachella Valley includes nine incorporated cities as well as a number of unincorporated communities and Native American tribal lands. This desert valley is known for its beautiful scenery and warm winters, making it a popular tourist and retirement destination. Agriculture is the other major component of the local economy. Within the Coachella Valley there are also vast, unpopulated natural lands, including the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument and the southern portion of Joshua Tree National Park. The rural character of the region is reflected in its low population density. In Coachella Valley incorporated areas, there is an average of 1,125 people per square mile, compared to 2,583 in western Riverside County.

Sources: Riverside County General Plan 2008; Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics

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POPULATION DENSITY

Despite high population growth during the last decade, the county's overall population density remains low:

- Riverside County's overall population density is estimated at 309 persons per square mile, which is higher than San Bernardino County, but substantially lower than two of the more populous nearby counties: Orange County and Los Angeles County.[4,5]
- Compared to peer regions, the county's population density is slightly higher than Las Vegas (Clark County, NV), but lower than Phoenix (Maricopa County, AZ), and much lower than Miami (Miami-Dade County, FL).[5]
- Within Riverside County, the estimated population density ranges widely, from 57 persons per square mile in the unincorporated areas to 4,357 persons per square mile in the City of Eastvale.[4]
- For all cities combined, the population density is estimated at 2,052 persons per square mile.[4]

Population Density
Regional and Sub-Regional Comparison, 2013

	Persons per Square Mile
Riverside County Unincorporated Areas	**57**
CVAG Boundary Area	**89**
San Bernardino County	104
Clark County (Las Vegas)	253
Riverside County	**309**
Maricopa County (Phoenix)	428
San Diego County	756
WRCOG Boundary Area	**881**
CVAG Cities	**1,125**
Miami-Dade County (Miami)	1,331
Riverside County Cities	**2,052**
Los Angeles County	2,453
WRCOG Cities	**2,583**
San Bernardino County Valley Region	2,958
Orange County	3,915

Note: Land area data are from the 2000 Census and population data are from the 2012 Census Population Estimates Program for all regions except Riverside County regions, which are 2013 data from Riverside County IT-GIS/Demographics and the California Department of Finance. CVAG is the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, which includes cities, unincorporated areas and tribal entities in central and eastern Riverside County. WRCOG is the Western Riverside Council of Governments and includes cities, unincorporated areas, tribal entities and water districts west of the Coachella Valley.

Sources: Analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census 2000 and 2012 Population Estimates Program); Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics

POPULATION

Riverside County is the fourth largest county in California in terms of population:
- In January 2013, Riverside County's population was estimated at approximately two and a quarter million (2,255,059).[6]
- Riverside County is the eleventh largest county in the nation, with more residents than 15 states, including New Mexico, Nebraska, West Virginia, and Idaho.[7]
- Among all California counties, only Los Angeles County (9,958,091), San Diego County (3,150,178), and Orange County (3,081,804) have more residents.[6]
- Since 2000, Riverside's population has grown by approximately 44%, or 687,128 people – the largest percentage and numeric increases in the state.[8]

The county's population growth has occurred at a brisk rate over the past 50 years:
- Average annual population growth in the 1970s was 4.5%.[9]
- This annual growth rate jumped to 7.7% in the 1980s, and dropped back to 3.1% in the 1990s and 3.4% between 2000 and 2010.[9]
- Most recently (between 2011 and 2013), Riverside's average annual population growth slowed to 1.1% – slightly faster than the state overall (0.7%), as well as Orange County (0.9%), San Bernardino County (0.7%), and San Diego County (0.6%).[10]

Riverside County's population is expected to reach about 3.3 million by 2035:
- Population growth is projected to continue at an average annual rate of 2%, creating total growth of 56% between 2008 and 2035.
- This rate of growth is toward the higher range among counties in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region, with Imperial County projected to grow the fastest (69%) and Orange County the slowest (14%).[11]

Ranking by Population Growth
County Comparison, 2011-2012

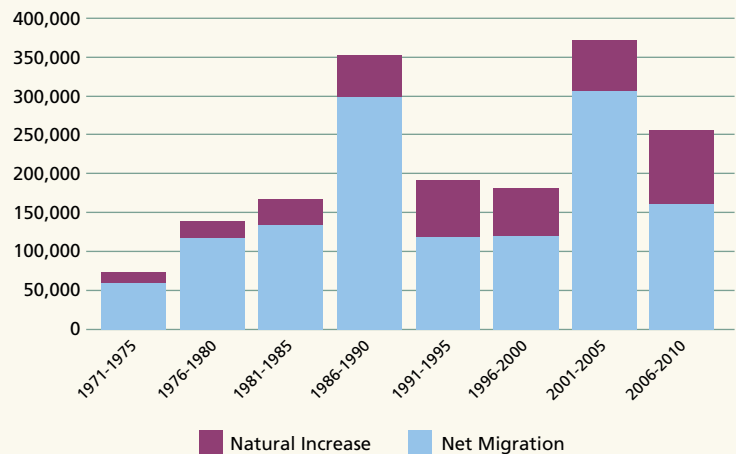| County (Major City)	State	Ranking by Numeric Population Growth (2011-2012)	Ranking by Percent Change in Population Growth (2011-2012)
Los Angeles	CA	2	662
Maricopa (Phoenix)	AZ	3	188
San Diego	CA	5	380
Orange (Santa Ana)	CA	8	435
Clark (Las Vegas)	NV	10	239
Riverside	**CA**	**12**	**312**
Miami-Dade (Miami)	FL	17	505
San Bernardino	CA	27	615

Note: Ranking is among over 3,000 counties in the United States and runs from the largest to the smallest change.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program (www.census.gov/popest/)

Riverside County's growth has come from a combination of natural increase and migration:
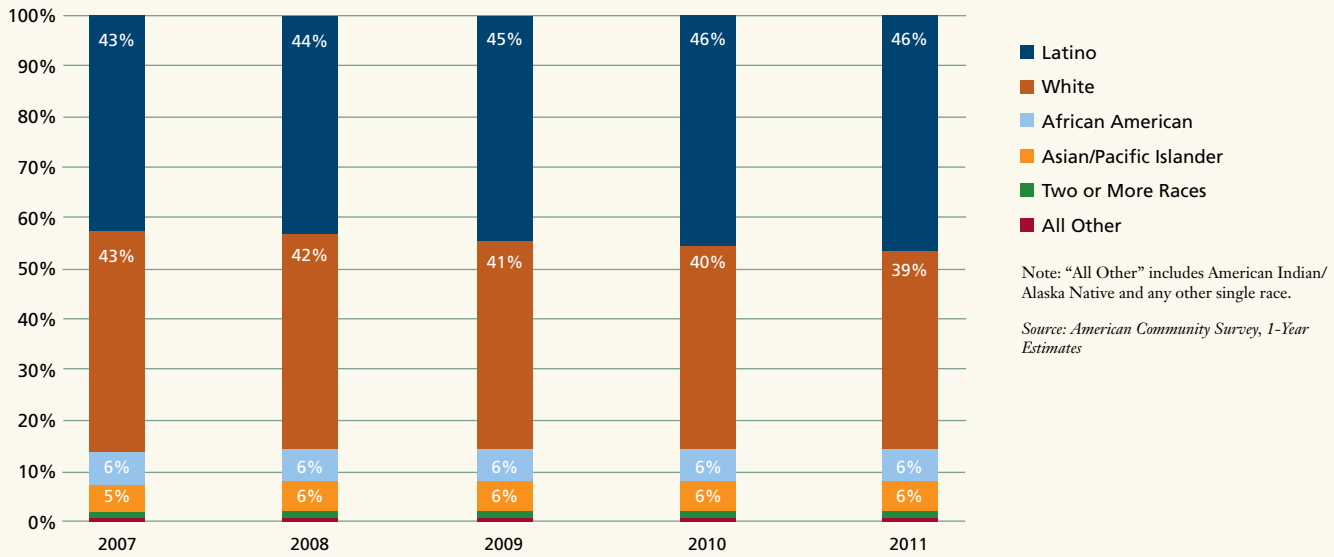- For over 40 years, Riverside County has had a positive net migration, with more people moving into the area than out.[9]
- Between 2010 and 2012, net migration remained positive, adding nearly 13,000 new residents through domestic migration (people moving to the county from within the United States) and approximately 5,700 residents through international immigration (people moving to the county from another country).[12]
- However, natural increase (births minus deaths) is outpacing migration, with nearly 34,000 new residents added during this same period.[12]

Components of Population Change
Riverside County, 1971-2010

Source: California Department of Finance, Table E-6, 1970-2010 (www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/view.php)

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Population by Race and Ethnicity
Riverside County, 2007-2011

Legend:
- Latino
- White
- African American
- Asian/Pacific Islander
- Two or More Races
- All Other

Note: "All Other" includes American Indian/Alaska Native and any other single race.

Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

The racial and ethnic composition of Riverside County is diverse:
- Forty-six percent (46%) of Riverside County residents indicate they are Latino.
- Among the remaining 54% residents who are not Latino, 39% are White, 6% are African American, 6% are Asian or Pacific Islander, 2% report two or more races, and the remaining 1% are Native American/Alaska Native or some other race.[13]

In 2011, 22% of the people living in Riverside County were born outside the U.S. and its territories:
- Forty percent (40%) of Riverside County residents over the age of five speak a language other than English at home.[14]
- Among these, 82% speak Spanish and 18% speak some other language.[14]

Riverside County's population is relatively young:
- In 2011, the county's median age was 34, compared to 37 nationwide and 36 statewide.[14]
- As of 2011, 28% of the population was under age 18, while 12% were 65 years or older.[14]
- Countywide, from 2007 to 2011, the number of residents increased across all age groups except for the under five age group (falling 2%), the 25 to 35 age group (falling 14%), and the 75 to 84 age group (falling 2%).[15]
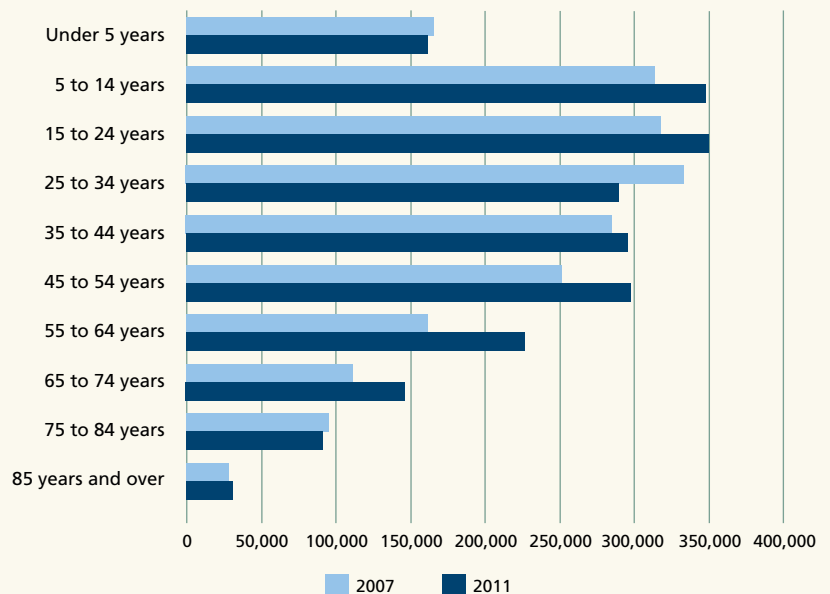
FOCUS ON COACHELLA VALLEY

In 2013, the population of the Coachella Valley portion of Riverside County was estimated at 459,688. This number is expected to increase by 92% over the next 22 years, reaching an estimated 882,640 by 2035. Census Bureau 2011 estimates indicate 51% of residents are Latino, 43% are White, 2% are African American, 2% are Asian/Pacific Islander, 1% are two or more races, and 1% are Native American/Alaska Native or some other race. More than a quarter of residents were born outside the U.S. and its territories (27%) and 46% speak a language other than English at home. Among those speaking another language at home, 92% speak Spanish.

The Coachella Valley population is older than the county overall, with 25% of Coachella Valley's population under age 18 compared with 28% countywide, and 20% age 65 or older in Coachella Valley, compared with 12% countywide.

Sources: Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics, Riverside County Projections 2010; U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey (combined Census County Divisions of: Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, Cathedral City-Palm Desert, and Desert Hot Springs)

Population by Age
Riverside County, 2007 and 2011

Legend: 2007 | 2011

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007 and 2011, 1-Year Estimates

HOUSING

Most homes in Riverside County are single-family, detached homes:
- As of January 2013, there were 812,234 housing units available to county residents.[16]
- There was a 37% increase in available housing units from 2000 to 2010.[17]
- Projections through 2035 estimate more than 1.2 million housing units, a rate of growth of 51% over the next 22 years.[18]
- Countywide, a majority of occupied units are owner-occupied (66%) compared to renter-occupied (34%).[14]
- The greatest proportion of homes in Riverside County was built between 1980 and 1989 (22% of the existing housing stock).[14]
- Between 2000 and 2005, more housing permits were granted in Riverside County than any other county in the state (154,464).[19]
- However, mirroring decreases elsewhere in the state, construction fell fairly steadily in Riverside County, dropping from a peak of 34,373 permits in 2005 to a low of 3,264 permits in 2011. In 2012, there were 4,052 permits granted.[19]
- The latest estimates report the Riverside County housing vacancy rate is 14%.[16]

In 2011, there were 684,794 households in the county:
- Families comprise 74% of the households in Riverside County and non-family households (individuals or two or more unrelated individuals) make up the remainder.[14]
- Of the families, 73% are married-couple households and about half (48%) of those families have children under age 18.[14]
- The remaining 27% of families are single householder families, and of those families, over half (56%) have children under age 18.[14]
- Riverside County has the tenth largest household size in California.[16]
- As of 2011, the average household size was 3.2 persons, higher than California (3.0) and the U.S. (2.6).[14]
- The city of Coachella has the highest average household size for a city in the county at 4.5, followed by Eastvale and Perris (both 4.1), and Moreno Valley (3.8).[20]

Sources: Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics, Riverside County Projections 2010; U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates (combined Census County Divisions of: Coachella Valley, Palm Springs, Cathedral City-Palm Desert, and Desert Hot Springs)

EMPLOYMENT

Riverside County's economy is diverse, with economic output and employment distributed among multiple sectors:
- As of 2010, the largest labor markets in Riverside County were Trade, Transportation and Utilities (22% of total industry employment) and Government (20%), followed by Leisure and Hospitality (13%), Educational and Health Services (12%), Professional and Business Services (10%), Manufacturing (7%), and Construction (6%).
- The remaining industry sectors account for 10% of employment (Other Services and Financial Services, both 3%; Farm, 2%; Information, 1%; and Mining and Logging, 0.1%).[21]

Industry estimates for the Riverside-San Bernardino metro area project that from 2010 to 2020, total non-farm employment will increase by 16.5%:
- The metro area's fastest growing sector is projected to be Transportation and Warehousing (+30%). Within this sector, jobs in Warehousing and Storage are anticipated to grow 45%, followed by 31% growth in Truck Transportation employment.
- The Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services sector is projected to grow 28%, led by 38% growth in jobs in Employment Services.
- Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance is projected to grow 27%.
- The top five occupations with the fastest projected job growth are in health care and business services, followed by laborers, personal care aides, medical scientists and equipment repairers, and logisticians.
- The top five occupations with the most job openings are in retail sales, cashiering, manual labor, food preparation and food service (see table on next page). This is followed by truck drivers, personal care aides, stock clerks, and registered nurses.
- Non-farm sectors projected to decline include Federal Government (-12.8%), Mining and Logging (-10%), Nondurable Goods Manufacturing, such as food and beverage manufacturing (-1.3%), and Information, such as non-Internet based publishing and telecommunications (-1.3%).[22]

Source: Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics, Riverside County Projections 2010

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The vast majority (98%) of businesses in Riverside County have fewer than 100 employees:
- In 2011, 57% of people employed in Riverside County worked for businesses with fewer than 100 employees, 25% worked for business with 100-499 employees, and the remaining 18% worked for large businesses with 500 employees or more.
- Since 2007, the number of firms in all size categories (from one to four employees to more than 1,000) has declined in Riverside County, falling 43% between 2007 and 2011 (from 87,157 to 50,092 businesses).[23]

Top 5 Fastest Growing Occupations and Top 5 Occupations with the Most Job Openings
Riverside-San Bernardino, 2010-2020 Projection with 1st Quarter 2012 Wages

Fastest Growing Occupations	Employment Change	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage	Occupations with Most Job Openings	Total Job Openings	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
Home Health Aides	54%	$9.71	$20,204	Retail Salespersons	23,420	$10.09	$21,003
Veterinary Technologists and Technicians	52%	$14.72	$30,611	Cashiers	21,160	$9.68	$20,134
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics	43%	$14.02	$29,155	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers (non-mechanical)	18,380	$11.89	$24,727
Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists	43%	$27.24	$56,642	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	14,670	$9.06	$18,863
Meeting, Convention, and Event Planners	41%	$20.88	$43,447	Waiters and Waitresses	13,180	$8.95	$18,623

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

ENDNOTES

1   Riverside County General Plan, Land Use Element (www.rctlma.org/genplan/default.aspx)

2   Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics

3   Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California Agency

4   Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics

5   U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, 2012 and Table GCT-PH1-R, Population, Housing Units, Area, and Density, 2000

6   California Department of Finance, Table E-1 (www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/view.php)

7   Census Population Estimates Program, 2012 Estimates by County (www.census.gov/popest/data/counties/totals/2012/index.html)

8   California Department of Finance, Table E-2, July 2000-2010 and July 2010-2012

9   California Department of Finance, County Population Estimates and Components of Change, July 1970-2010

10 California Department of Finance, Table E-5, January 2010-2013

11 Southern California Association of Governments, 2012 Regional Transportation Plan Growth Forecasts (www.scag.ca.gov/forecast/index.htm). The SCAG region includes the counties of: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura.

12 California Department of Finance, Table E-6, July 2010-2012

13 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates. Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

14 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

15 U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 and 2011 American Community Survey

16 California Department of Finance, Table E-5, January 2013

17 U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 and 2010, SF1

18 Riverside County Information Technology, GIS-Demographics

19 Housing and Urban Development Department (http://socds.huduser.org/permits/index.html)

20 U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

21 California Employment Development Department, Employment by Industry Data for Riverside County (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/LMID/Employment_by_Industry_Data.html)

22 California Employment Development Department, Projections of Employment by Industry and Occupation (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/LMID/Projections_of_Employment_by_Industry_and_Occupation.html)

23 Employment Development Department, Size of Business Data, 2001-Present (www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/?PAGEID=138)

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