

2022 Antelope Valley Labor Market Study

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Mission Statement:

The AV EDGE mission is to ensure thoughtful, diverse economic growth and development of the entire Antelope Valley. Through partnerships, legislative advocacy and education, we work to inspire all businesses and industries to engage, leverage and cultivate the countless opportunities the Antelope Valley offers businesses locally, regionally and globally.

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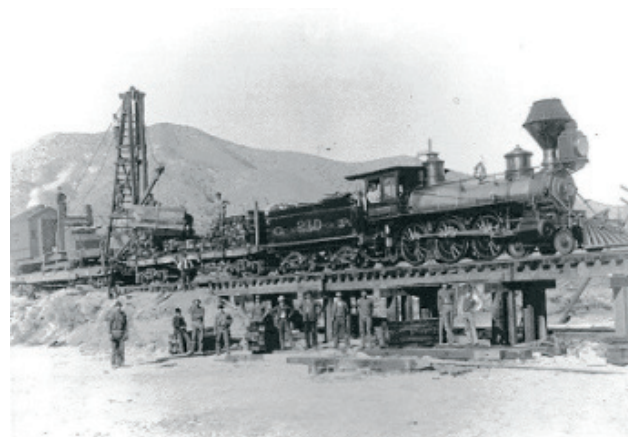
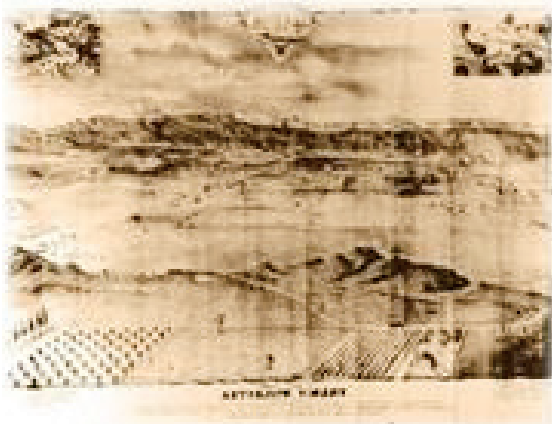
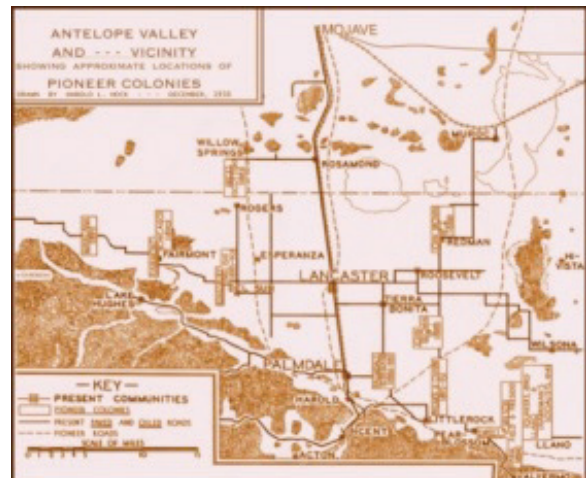
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Introduction

Following two years of restricted and virtual activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, the residents of the Antelope Valley are ready for a fresh start and have put the impact of the pandemic behind as they resume their lives. They have been resilient, reconnecting with family and friends they may not have seen in over two years, shopping in person, dining out, and traveling more as businesses reopened. Despite the pandemic, the Antelope Valley is poised for even greater growth than it has experienced ever before in its long history. Located 65 miles to the north of Los Angeles, the region encompasses over 3,000 square miles of California's High Desert at about 2,500 feet above sea level. Highways 14 and 138 provide easy and primary access to the AV. The region falls in southern Kern and northern Los Angeles Counties.

The climate is mostly sunny, windy, and dry. This makes it ideal for renewable energy initiatives and offers many opportunities for furthering sustainability. The Antelope Valley is a center for renewable energy for Southern California.



The aviation industry is strongly tied to the area's history and ample open spaces. Two military bases, Edwards Air Force Base and Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, along with U.S. Air Force Plant 42, the Mojave Air & Spaceport, and numerous aerospace companies located in the Antelope Valley have contributed greatly to its economy. Some of the nation's largest aerospace companies such as Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Boeing, and a variety of industries including educational services, healthcare, public administration, transportation, and construction choose to do business in the Antelope Valley.

That history is an inherent feature of this resilient area. From its origins and the early tribes to the pioneering settlers, to the current time of greater abundance and space travel, the Antelope Valley has thrived. There have been many landmark achievements over the past century ranging from Chuck Yeager's breaking of the sound barrier to more recent milestones in private space exploration. Today, the western Mojave high desert region continues to flourish and is destined for further success.

Another example of how the area has grown with the times is the evolution of Antelope Valley High School, which can be seen in these photos from the early 1900s (eight students in the 12th grade in 1912), 1940s, and 1968. Present day enrollment is about 500 students in the 12th grade.



Now a major suburban area, the Antelope Valley consists of the following cities and unincorporated communities: Rosamond, Mojave, Ridgecrest, California City, Lake Los Angeles, Edwards Air Force Base, Tehachapi, North Edwards, Inyokern, Palmdale, Lancaster, Littlerock, Acton, China Lake, and Lake Hughes. The Antelope Valley, with its vast availability of affordable land for commercial and industrial purposes, has experienced rapid growth for over a decade and continues to attract manufacturers, Fortune 500 companies, numerous restaurants, retailers, and other desired services. It has an educated workforce with abundant opportunities for economic development, K-12 and college education, employment, affordable land, housing with many recreational and cultural prospects.





These communities, the Antelope Valley Economic Development & Growth Enterprise (AV EDGE), and the Los Angeles County and Kern County Supervisors support local business and industry and the need for a skilled workforce in the region. The following report covers some key characteristics of the Antelope Valley. It also examines the major business and industry establishments driving the Antelope Valley economy and its labor force. This includes some projections for the region for the types of business, industry and related occupations that are expected to grow through 2031.

Antelope Valley's Advantages

- The region offers numerous development and expansion opportunities, as growth is projected across all business and industry sectors.
- Aerospace and agricultural industries thrive in the region, and business and industry growth is supported by local government.
- Educational Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance is the largest industry sector for the Antelope Valley.
- The overall costs for business and industry development/operation are lower.
- Antelope Valley offers affordable land and housing compared with the rest of the state.
- The area is in recovery, with decreasing unemployment rates and a growing number of business establishments.
- There is potential to create a climate where more of those that are commuting can work and live here, reducing the region's carbon footprint.
- With increased population has come an increased need for the service industry.
- The ethnic/racial diversity provides an enriching cultural environment and has implications for economic development, along with education and training needs.
- A relatively youthful median age in the thirties could help further develop, support, and sustain the region for years to come. With a large population of school age children and family-friendly orientation and activities, the Antelope Valley is an attractive choice for an increasing number of families.
- Antelope Valley is in close proximity to Los Angeles with access to large metropolitan areas.
- This region is a haven for renewable energy initiatives because of availability of ample solar and wind, along with supportive local policy-makers.

Demographics

Population by Race/Ethnicity, Gender & Age

The best available data for Antelope Valley cities-the 2016-2020 American Community Survey (ACS) have been utilized in this report.

The population of California has seen a steady increase from the 2000 Census to the 2020 Census. It grew 16.7% from 2000 to 2020 and 6.1% from 2010 to 2020. Los Angeles County's population increased by 5.2% between the 2000 and the 2020 Census, while Kern County's increased by 37.4% for the same time period. From Census 2010 to Census 2020, Los Angeles and Kern County populations grew by 2.0% and 8.3%, respectively.

	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	2000 to 2010 Change, %	2010 to 2020 Change, %	2000 to 2020 Change, %
California	33,871,648	37,253,956	39,538,223	▲10.1%	▲6.1%	▲16.7%
Los Angeles County	9,519,338	9,818,605	10,014,009	▲3.1%	▲2.0%	▲5.2%
Kern County	661,645	839,631	909,235	▲26.9%	▲8.3%	▲37.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Between 2010 and 2019, California's population grew at an annual average rate of 0.7%. Overall, Los Angeles and Kern counties grew at 0.3% and 0.8%, respectively. As of July, 2021, despite any temporary impact of the pandemic, the California Department of Finance estimates reflect steady continued population growth up to 2060 for California when the population is projected to be over 44 million. While Kern County is also expected to experience population growth during that time and is projected to surpass one million, Los Angeles County is projected to remain relatively flat or decline somewhat through 2060 when compared with 2010, largely due to declining birth rates and high cost of living with some inland migration.

Overall, the incorporated cities of the Antelope Valley within Los Angeles and Kern Counties have experienced growth since 2000. From 2013-2021, the populations of Lancaster and Palmdale grew 6.7% and 5.7%, respectively (see the next table). However, the population of two of the three incorporated cities within Kern County declined between 2013 and 2021: .9% for Tehachapi and 1.8% for Ridgecrest, while the population of California City increased by 14.2%. The total population of the incorporated cities of the Antelope Valley is estimated at 392,291 for 2021. The population of the Antelope Valley has increased by 40.3% since 2000. Lancaster and Palmdale remain the two largest cities in the Antelope Valley. The latest trend shows that while the population of Kern County cities in the Antelope Valley declined by 1.5% between 2010 and 2020, the population of the cities in the Los Angeles County portion increased by 10.9%.

Population Trends for Antelope Valley Incorporated Cities and Associated Counties

AV City	2000 Census	2010 Census	2020 Census	2013	2014	2015	2016	2019	2021
AV-Kern	44,269	56,150	55,325	55,138	55,128	54,957	54,903	56,903	56,380
California	8,385	14,120	14,973	13,225	13,233	13,240	13,707	14,198	15,098
Ridgecrest	24,927	27,616	27,959	28,617	28,652	28,692	28,701	28,973	28,105
Tehachapi	10,957	14,414	12,393	13,296	13,243	13,205	12,495	13,011	13,177
AV- Los Angeles	235,388	309,383	342,966	316,298	317,257	317,641	317,462	312,680	335,911
Lancaster	118,713	156,633	173,516	159,408	160,037	160,208	160,106	157,601	170,150
Palmdale	116,675	152,750	169,450	156,890	157,220	175,433	157,356	155,079	165,761

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The primary racial and ethnic groups are Hispanic of any race, White, and African American/Black, with varying compositions across the cities of the Antelope Valley. Whites are the majority in most of the cities and unincorporated communities with the exception of Palmdale, Lancaster, California City, Mojave, Lake Los Angeles, and Littlerock, where Hispanics of any race are the majority. Hispanics of any race is generally the second largest category, followed by African Americans/Blacks being the third largest group.

In general, when compared with the rest of the state of California, the Antelope Valley's population has a higher percentage of African American and Hispanic/Latino population groups, and lower percentages of White, Asian, and Non-Hispanic groups. California has two major racial/ethnic groups with the Hispanic/Latino group slightly outnumbering the Whites. The Antelope Valley region has already experienced this in its racial/ethnic composition, with the proportion of the Hispanic/Latino group increasing by more than 10% during the last decade. This, associated with the cultural shifts in the region, should be considered for economic development and planning. The increased diversity provides a more enriching cultural environment and opportunities for raising cultural awareness.

Antelope Valley Population Percentages by Race and Ethnicity

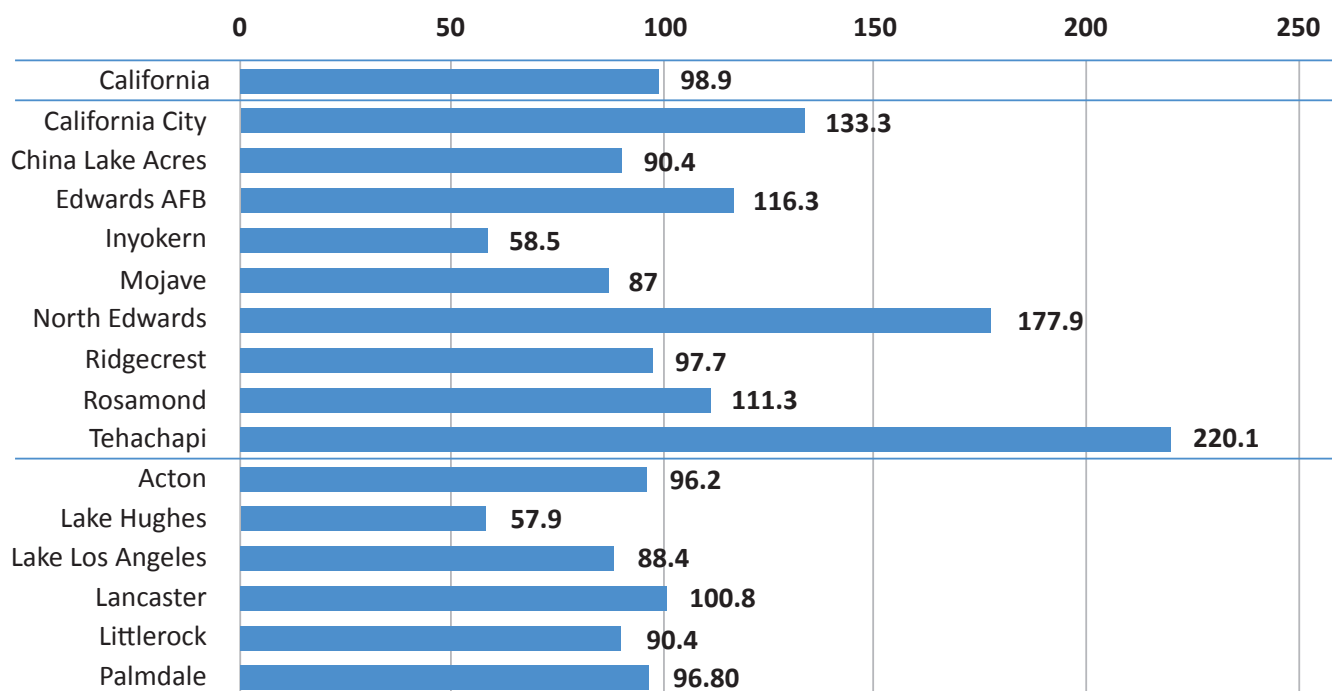
	Hispanic/ Latino	White	Black/ African American	American Indian/AK Native	Asian	Native HI/ Pacific Islander	Some other race	2 or more Races	Total Population
Kern County									
California City	34.2%	31.9%	23.6%	1.3%	2.6%	0.3%	0.3%	5.7%	14,001
China Lake	16.6%	55.5%	16.8%	0.0%	0.6%	0.0%	1.7%	8.8%	2,450
Edwards AFB	18.1%	65.5%	4.5%	0.0%	4.6%	0.0%	0.9%	6.3%	2,676
Inyokern	15.5%	84.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	645
Mojave	42.9%	29.7%	22.3%	3.4%	0.3%	0.0%	0.4%	1.0%	3,780
North Edwards	26.3%	53.5%	5.0%	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	0.0%	11.7%	906
Ridgecrest	20.0%	66.8%	4.3%	0.9%	4.2%	0.1%	0.0%	26.3%	28,905
Rosamond	40.9%	44.1%	9.7%	0.2%	2.4%	0.1%	0.1%	3.6%	20,255
Tehachapi	35.9%	51.5%	6.8%	0.2%	2.4%	0.1%	0.0%	3.0%	12,718
LA County									
Acton	27.6%	68.2%	0.3%	0.0%	1.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	7,054
Lake Hughes	8.9%	86.8%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%	2.3%	660
Lake Los Angeles	59.5%	32.8%	5.1%	0.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	660
Lancaster	43.0%	28.2%	20.6%	0.4%	4.4%	0.1%	0.2%	3.2%	157,697
Littlerock	71.3%	25.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	3.5%	948
Palmdale	61.6%	19.5%	12.0%	0.6%	4.0%	0.1%	0.4%	1.7%	153,240
California	39.1%	36.5%	5.4%	0.3%	14.6%	0.3%	0.3%	3.4%	39,346,023

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

AV Region and California Population Distribution by Gender & Age

The percentage of males compared with females in the Antelope Valley cities tends to be somewhat higher overall (see charts below), while the opposite is the case for the state of California with males at 49.7% compared with females at 50.3%, as well as the nation with 49.5% males and 50.5% females.

Sex Ratio (Male for 100 Females)

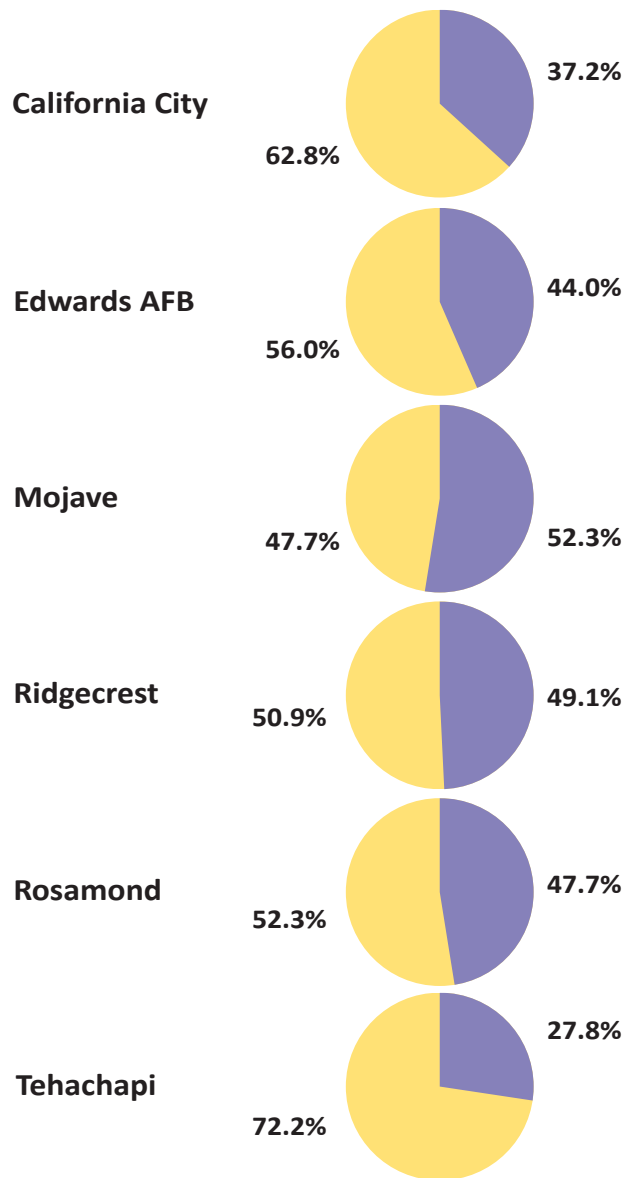
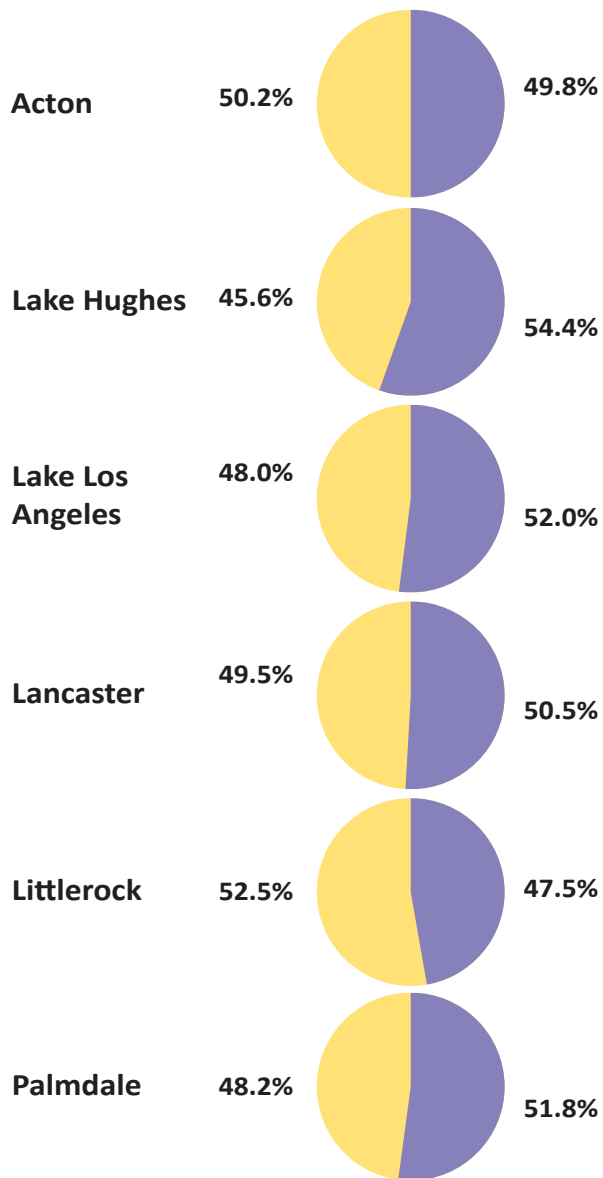


Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

AV-LA County and AV-Kern County: City Population Proportions by Sex

AV - LA County Male / Female

AV - Kern County Male / Female



Population Distribution by Age for Antelope Valley Cities

The median age for the nation is 38.1 and 36.7 years for California. The median age for Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities tends to fall below these. The median age is in the low 30s for most of the large cities, indicating a relatively youthful population with the exception of North Edwards, Inyokern, Acton, and Lake Hughes. The median age is the highest for Lake Hughes and Acton and lowest for Edwards AFB (24) and Littlerock (25). The data in the table below shows that in the cities and unincorporated communities of the Antelope Valley, the majority of the residents are between 19 and 64 years old. Those who are less than 19 years old comprise the next largest group for most of the other cities and unincorporated communities in the region. This relatively younger median age is something that with the proper encouragement and support could offer the region the stability and longevity it needs to thrive in the future. The area offers an abundance of family-oriented activities, including athletics for their residents.

Population Distribution by Age for AV Cities

	Median Age (years)	<19 years	20 to 44 years	45 to 64 years	65+ years
Kern County	31.9				
California City	34.3	25%	42%	22%	11%
China Lake Acres	33.9	31%	40%	21%	9%
Edwards AFB	24.1	45%	53%	2%	0%
Inyokern	57.2	25%	22%	31%	22%
Mojave	36.3	30%	32%	24%	15%
North Edwards	43.5	15%	35%	34%	16%
Ridgecrest	37.2	27%	34%	25%	14%
Rosamond	31.6	32%	35%	23%	10%
Tehachapi	37.8	19%	44%	25%	12%
LA County	36.7				
Acton	50.1	20%	23%	40%	17%
Lake Hughes	54.7	15%	29%	34%	22%
Lake Los Angeles	33.7	34%	29%	26%	11%
Lancaster	33.3	31%	34%	24%	10%
Littlerock	24.9	33%	37%	27%	2%
Palmdale	32.3	33%	33%	24%	10%
California	36.7	25%	35%	25%	14%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Economy

An Overview of the Antelope Valley Economy

Largely attributable to the pandemic, most Americans have accumulated more savings than they typically had prior to 2020. Assisted by government relief packages, households overall had \$4.1 trillion in savings during the first quarter of 2021, which was up from \$1.2 trillion pre-pandemic (Source: NYT, 4/29/2021). To make up for that period of inactivity, they began spending more in 2021, and that helped the economy grow again. As residents increasingly access goods and services, the economy is expected to continue to grow with relatively low interest rates, credit availability, increasing home values, and stock prices helping consumers along. Despite the pandemic, California's economy has grown at a rapid pace since the Great Recession and the state would rank as the fifth largest economy in the world if viewed as a sovereign nation - just behind Germany and ahead of India (Bull Oak Capital, June 27, 2020). The Antelope Valley was similarly impacted by the pandemic, but as supply shortages (e.g., semi-conductors and automobile sector) ease and consumers increase their spending, the area economy is expected to continue to recover.

The focus has been on strengthening the Antelope Valley's economy via economic development. Municipalities in the Antelope Valley have created an environment that fosters business and industry growth. A prime example of this is the City of Lancaster vying to become the solar capital of the world. Lancaster has partnered with SolarCity for installing solar on municipal buildings and school rooftops. Since 2014, the city was the first in America to require all new single-family homes to either have solar panels or have their respective subdivisions produce one kW of solar energy per house. Lancaster has achieved the goal of becoming a net-zero city, producing more renewable energy within the City limits than is consumed. This continues to not only create sustainability-related employment and business opportunities for the area, but has also lowered the cost of electricity and is serving as a model for other cities. Similarly, the Antelope Valley Transit Authority has become the first public transit agency in the nation with an all electric fleet. These buses are funded under a grant from the state in order to show the feasibility of this type of public transportation. These state-of-the-art electric buses are manufactured right here in the Antelope Valley by BYD. The increasing population in the Antelope Valley has brought with it a need for goods and services, along with an accompanying demand for skilled labor.

Real Estate

With respect to residential real estate, although home sales slowed in California for high-priced homes, there was still strong demand for affordably priced homes. Developers have tended to focus on higher-end homes, but there is a growing realization that there is an untapped market for more master-planned communities with more affordable homes. The Antelope Valley, given its relatively affordable real estate and high demand from the growing aerospace industry and other regional employers, is a good candidate for new, more affordable master-planned communities. On the commercial side, there is ample opportunity to provide the goods and services needed by the Antelope Valley's growing population. The AV boasts the lowest cost per square foot for commercial real estate in Los Angeles County.

Home Sale activity by City (Single Family Residences, Condos, New Homes) July 2022 and March 2021 with Year-over-Year Comparisons

City	# of Units Sold	Median Price, July 2022	Price Change from July 2021	# of Units Sold	Median Price, March 2021	Median Price, March 2020	% Change (Year-to-Year)
Rosamond	29	\$423,000	12.3%	39	\$352,000	\$270,000	30.4%
Mojave	5	\$245,000	32.4%	5	\$212,000	\$190,000	11.6%
Ridgecrest	64	\$283,000	12.3%	60	\$250,000	\$203,500	22.9%
California City	25	\$289,000	25.9%	32	\$210,000	\$163,000	25.8%
Tehachapi	69	\$375,000	7.1%	95	\$350,000	\$292,000	19.9%
North Edwards	5	\$140,000	1.8%	2	\$155,000	n/a	n/a
Kern County	1,064	\$339,500	11.3%	1,382	\$290,000	\$258,250	4.7%
Palmdale	157	\$500,000	9.9%	211	\$415,000	\$363,000	24.9%
Lancaster	245	\$440,000	3.6%	308	\$370,000	\$340,000	22.1%
Littlerock	11	\$450,000	-1.2%	9	\$395,000	\$310,000	27.4%
Acton	9	\$866,000	15.1%	22	\$750,000	\$640,000	17.2%
Lake Hughes	4	\$300,000	-38.1%	8	\$402,000	\$232,000	73.5%
LA County	5,491	\$840,000	5.7	7,974	\$750,000	\$640,000	17.2%

Data Source: CoreLogic (Accessed on 9/25/2022)

Cost of Living

Southern California is well known as a region with a higher-than-average cost of living. The cost of living in Los Angeles, for example, has been estimated at 95% higher than the national average in the United States. Although the cost of living is higher overall in most Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities, it is lower than that of most of California. Relative to the rest of the region, the cost of living in the Antelope Valley was considerably lower. In some communities in the Kern County portion of the Antelope Valley, the cost of living is substantially lower than the national average, and less than half the cost of living in other parts of Southern California. The Kern County communities in the Antelope Valley averaged a cost-of-living 67% lower than nearby Santa Clarita, which is itself a relatively affordable community in Southern California. The Los Angeles County communities in the Antelope Valley were more expensive than those in Kern County, but still averaged a cost-of-living 29 percent lower than that of Los Angeles. While communities such as Lancaster may have had housing costs higher than the national average, rent and monthly housing costs in Lancaster were only about 80 percent of the statewide average.

Cost of Living Indices¹

City/County	Overall	Groceries	Health	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Median Home Cost
Kern County	98.5	97.8	88.8	94.8	112.9	103.9	\$283,700
California City	95.2	97.3	88.8	69	117.7	121.3	\$219,700
China Lake	82.4	98.4	88.8	39.4	112.9	103.9	\$112,000
Edwards AFB	107.4	93.5	88.8	121.7	117.7	102.6	\$348,900
Mojave	83.5	95.2	88.8	46.7	113	100.3	\$182,100
North Edwards	78.6	92.8	88.8	28.1	112.9	103.9	\$78,200
Ridgecrest	96	98.4	88.8	83.8	119.6	101.6	\$241,100
Rosamond	105.8	99.8	88.8	108.3	115.5	114.2	\$329,500
Tehachapi	106.6	100.1	88.8	122.3	106	99.7	\$346,400
Los Angeles County	164.7	104.1	89.4	272.2	96.2	162.1	\$754,400
Acton	170.1	102.2	89.4	267.1	113.6	189.1	\$747,300
Agua Dulce	175.7	102.8	89.4	307.9	96.2	162.1	\$862,600
Lake Hughes	118.8	98.5	89.4	122.9	96.2	162.1	\$373,200
Lancaster	112.7	98.5	89.4	125.4	115.8	119.2	\$385,400
Littlerock	118.5	98.4	89.4	122.3	96.2	162.1	\$368,000
Palmdale	127.4	98.9	89.4	135.1	113.6	179.7	\$420,500
Quartz Hill	126	99.6	89.4	148.2	96.2	160.5	\$410,700
Santa Clarita	147.1	101.9	89.4	235.8	105.5	124.7	\$684,100
California	149.9	105.1	92.4	239.1	102.4	133.1	\$684,800
USA	100	100	100	100	100	100	\$291,700

¹ Index value of 100 is the U.S. average. Below 100 is cheaper than the U.S. average; above 100 is more expensive than the U.S. average. An index of 110 means the area is 10% more expensive than an area with 100.

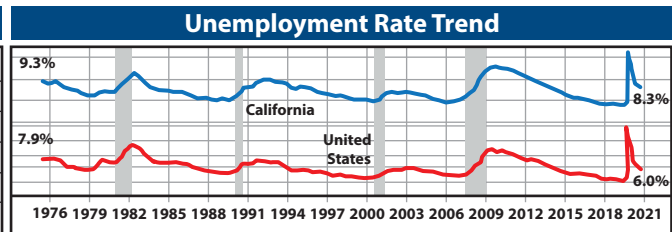
Source: <https://bestplaces.net>, accessed September 22, 2022

Employment

California, Kern County & Los Angeles County Comparison

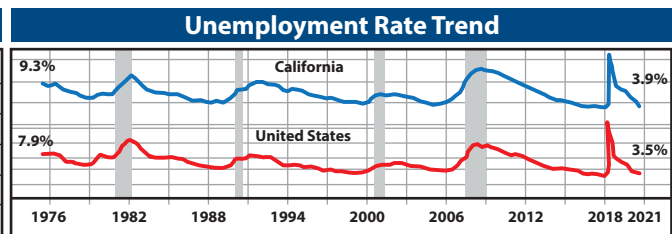
Between the Great Recession of 2007 and the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. unemployment rate was falling and fluctuated around 4% before the beginning of the pandemic. As seen below, it was at 6% for the nation and 8.3% for California during March 2021, but in 2022 is at 3.6% for the nation and 4.8% in California.

California Labor Market Indicators				
Metrics	February, 2021	March, 2021	Change	
Unemployment Rate	8.5%	8.3%	-0.2%	↓
Labor Force	18,942,700	18,903,000	-39,700	↓
Employment	17,332,700	17,342,600	9,900	↑
Unemployment	1,610,000	1,560,400	-49,600	↓
Nonfarm Jobs	16,014,000	16,133,600	119,600	↑



Data Source: EDD Labor Market Information Division
 Note: Data is seasonally adjusted. February 2021 data is revised and March 2021 data is preliminary.

California Labor Market Indicators				
Metrics	June, 2022	July, 2022	Change	
Unemployment Rate	4.2%	3.9%	-0.3%	↓
Labor Force	19,350,200	19,326,800	-23,400	↓
Employment	18,544,700	18,568,200	23,500	↑
Unemployment	805,500	758,700	-46,800	↓
Nonfarm Jobs	17,533,300	17,618,100	84,800	↑



Data Source: EDD Labor Market Information Division
 Note: Data is seasonally adjusted. June 2022 data is revised and July 2022 data is preliminary.

Unemployment has been decreasing steadily for Los Angeles (5%) and Kern (6.6%) Counties overall and across most of the cities of the Antelope Valley. As seen in the table below, unemployment rates were high at 10.9% for Los Angeles and 11.2% for Kern Counties as of April 2021, and decreased to 5% for Los Angeles County and 6.6% for Kern by August 2022.

Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment by Antelope Valley Cities - March 2021

Area Name	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
AV-Kern County	368,500	327,600	40,900	11.10%
Rosamond	8,700	7,700	1,000	11.6%
Mojave	1,600	1,200	400	20.4%
Ridgecrest	12,700	12,200	500	4.1%
California City	4,800	3,800	1,000	21.2%
Tehachapi	3,500	3,200	300	8.3%
North Edwards	400	300	100	18.8%
Inyokern	300	300	0	0.0%
AV-Los Angeles County	5,103,400	4,548,200	555,100	10.90%
Palmdale	62,900	54,300	8,600	13.7%
Lancaster	67,100	56,600	10,500	15.6%
Little Rock	400	300	100	18.0%
Acton	3,500	3,200	300	9.3%
Lake Los Angeles	3,700	3,100	600	17.3%

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, Retrieved on April 29, 2021 (<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/interactive-labor-market-data-tools.html>)

Monthly Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment by AV Cities July 2022

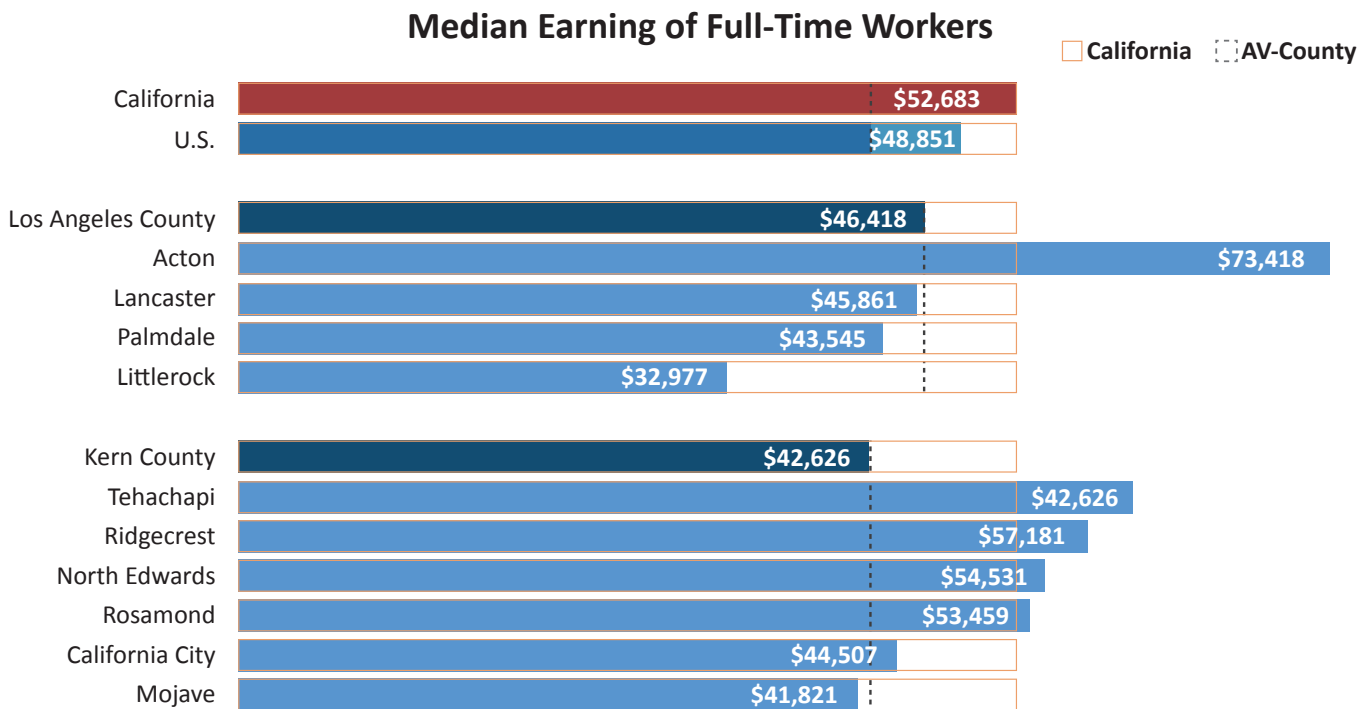
Area Name	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate (July 2022)
Kern County	384,500	359,300	25,300	6.6%
California City	4,800	4,200	600	12.9%
China Lake Acres	1,200	1,100	100	6.0%
Edwards AFB	400	300	0	9.8%
Inyokern	200	200	0	0.0%
Lake Isabella	1,100	1,000	100	9.5%
Mojave	1,500	1,400	100	8.4%
North Edwards	500	400	100	12.4%
Ridgecrest	13,800	13,400	400	2.8%
Rosamond	8,600	7,800	800	9.4%
Tehachapi	3,200	2,900	200	7.7%
Los Angeles County	4,974,600	4,724,100	250,600	5.0%
Acton	3,500	3,300	100	3.3%
Lake Los Angeles	3,600	3,300	300	7.2%
Lancaster	63,300	58,700	4,600	7.3%
Little Rock	400	400	0	6.8%
Palmdale	61,700	57,200	4,500	7.2%
Quartz Hill	4,500	4,300	200	4.4%

Source: California Employment Development Department, Labor Market Information Division, Retrieved on August 19, 2022 (<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/interactive-labor-market-data-tools.html>)

The labor market has been unevenly distributed with more educated white-collar employees having made a smoother transition to remote work, relying on home deliveries for goods and services during the pandemic, while less educated blue-collar workers struggled to make ends meet. As federal support programs were providing extended benefits to the unemployed, some quit their jobs and/or essentially stopped looking for work. Racial groups were disproportionately impacted as well; for example unemployment was at 9.6% compared to 5.4% for whites. Even though these support programs expired in September, 2021, given the number of job openings, the impact on job applications across the industries is sufficient to meet labor needs. As spending increases, savings are depleted.

Wages for Antelope Valley Cities

The median wages for the U.S. pre-pandemic were higher at \$48,851 and \$52,683 in California compared with those presented for the AV Region and its cities in the next table for full-time workers. The median wages for Ridgecrest, North Edwards, Tehachapi, Rosamond, and Acton fell above those of the nation and California, while the remaining Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities fell below.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Median Household Income by City and Unincorporated Community

In 2019, the median household income for the nation was \$62,843 and \$75,235 for California. Acton, Edwards AFB, Palmdale, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, and Tehachapi have a higher median household income than that of the U.S., while Acton, Edwards AFB, and Ridgecrest's is also higher than California's. The remaining Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities with available data fall below California and the U.S. Mojave has the largest percentage of households with an income below poverty level, whereas Acton and Edwards AFB have the lowest.

Household and Family Income by AV Region Cities

	Median family income (dollars)	Mean family income (dollars)	Per capita income (dollars)	% whose Income in the past 12 Months was below Poverty Level	
				Families	People
Acton	\$114,574	\$ 143,111	\$45,903	4.6%	8.1%
Lake Hughes	-	\$ 139,437	\$46,938	0.0%	0.0%
Lake Los Angeles	\$46,953	\$57,319	\$15,873	23.6%	24.1%
Lancaster	\$60,883	\$76,089	\$22,315	17.6%	21.7%
Littlerock	-	\$95,198	\$29,747	0.0%	0.0%
Palmdale	\$65,787	\$81,062	\$22,687	13.6%	15.6%
California City	\$54,951	\$72,664	\$20,602	18.3%	24.1%
China Lake Acres	\$39,792	\$53,994	\$36,183	28.8%	34.0%
Edwards AFB	\$76,591	\$91,868	\$24,840	1.4%	1.7%
Mojave	\$33,954	\$49,480	\$19,399	29.6%	34.8%
North Edwards	\$35,521	\$68,355	\$29,019	25.6%	28.0%
Ridgecrest	\$84,723	\$97,328	\$32,499	9.2%	12.7%
Rosamond	\$68,053	\$83,912	\$26,636	13.4%	17.3%
Tehachapi	\$70,313	\$89,384	\$20,100	10.7%	14.6%

Table Survey/Program: 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Projected Job Growth

As California remains one of the leading economies in the world, it has been recovering relatively well, as supported by decreasing unemployment rates and an improving housing market.

2018-2028 Local Employment Projections Highlights by County

“The 2018-2028 employment projections do not include impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and response efforts. Employment projections are developed using models based on historical data, which in this set of projections cover the period through 2018; all input data therefore precede the pandemic. Employment projections are long-term projections intended to capture structural change in the economy, not cyclical fluctuations. As such, they are not intended to capture the impacts of the recession that began in February 2020. However, besides the immediate recessionary impacts, the pandemic may cause new structural changes to the economy. Subsequent employment projections will incorporate new information on economic structural changes as it becomes available.”

SOC	Occupational Title	Total Job Openings	Median Hourly Wage	Median Annual Wage
Bakersfield MSA (Kern County)				
45-2092	Farmworkers and Laborers, Crop, Nursery, and Greenhouse	83,230	\$12.16	\$25,280
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	16,960	\$0.00	\$0
41-2011	Cashiers	16,580	\$12.78	\$26,585
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	14,040	\$0.00	\$0
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	11,270	\$16.48	\$34,271
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	10,460	\$13.67	\$28,449
11-9013	Farmers, Ranchers, and Other Agricultural Managers	7,770	\$32.19	\$66,962
53-3032	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	7,550	\$21.51	\$44,723
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	7,220	\$12.43	\$25,855
43-5081	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	7,200	\$0.00	\$0
Los Angeles – Long Beach – Glendale (MD) (LA County)				
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	442,830	\$0	\$0
35-3021	Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	221,570	\$0	\$0
41-2011	Cashiers	212,980	\$14.12	\$29,362
41-2031	Retail Salespersons	166,200	\$15.01	\$31,221
35-3031	Waiters and Waitresses	163,210	\$13.99	\$29,097
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	160,770	\$14.90	\$30,988
43-9061	Office Clerks, General	117,760	\$17.83	\$37,093
43-5081	Stock Clerks and Order Fillers	96,260	\$0	\$0
37-2011	Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and Housekeeping	91,460	\$15.54	\$32,336
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	87,570	\$14.91	\$30,997

Source: California Employment Development Department
<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/employment-projections.html>

2018-2028 Fastest Growing Occupations

SOC	Occupational Title	Employment Estimates		% Change	Median Wage	
		Base Year	Projected Year		Hourly	Annual
Bakersfield MSA (Kern County)						
47-2231	Solar Photovoltaic Installers	230	380	65.2%	\$20.17	\$41,948
49-9081	Wind Turbine Service Technicians	240	380	58.3%	\$29.23	\$60,782
31-1011	Home Health Aides	360	510	41.7%	\$0.00	\$0
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	6,920	9,510	37.4%	\$0.00	\$0
31-9097	Phlebotomists	260	350	34.6%	\$20.33	\$42,294
53-3041	Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs	590	780	32.2%	\$0.00	\$0
29-1126	Respiratory Therapists	300	390	30.0%	\$35.98	\$74,831
29-1123	Physical Therapists	370	480	29.7%	\$54.28	\$112,901
53-7062	Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	6,030	7,740	28.4%	\$16.48	\$34,271
31-9092	Medical Assistants	1,800	2,310	28.3%	\$15.66	\$32,560
Los Angeles – Long Beach – Glendale (MD) (LA County)						
39-9021	Personal Care Aides	203,170	297,260	46.3%	\$0.00	\$0
15-2041	Statisticians	1,070	1,470	37.4%	\$46.44	\$96,582
29-1071	Physician Assistants	2,030	2,710	33.5%	\$61.27	\$127,433
31-2011	Occupational Therapy Assistants	400	530	32.5%	\$32.65	\$67,912
25-1072	Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary	1,310	1,730	32.1%	\$0.00	\$0
25-1071	Health Specialties Teachers, Postsecondary	3,650	4,810	31.8%	\$0.00	\$89,653
29-1171	Nurse Practitioners	3,290	4,330	31.6%	\$64.95	\$135,098
29-1127	Speech-Language Pathologists	3,830	4,970	29.8%	\$44.17	\$91,862
29-9091	Athletic Trainers	540	700	29.6%	\$0.00	\$57,807
15-2011	Actuaries	420	540	28.6%	\$55.40	\$115,236

Source: California Employment Development Department
<https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/data/employment-projections.htm>

Projected Job Growth by Training Required for AV Region

In general, during the next 10 years, employment is expected to increase for occupations needing a two-year degree or certificate; those needing a bachelor's degree; and occupations needing postgraduate degrees. The next three charts represent the rate of growth for occupations and support employment and the need for higher levels of education in the nation, California, as well as the Antelope Valley.



Fastest Growing Occupations, 2021-2031

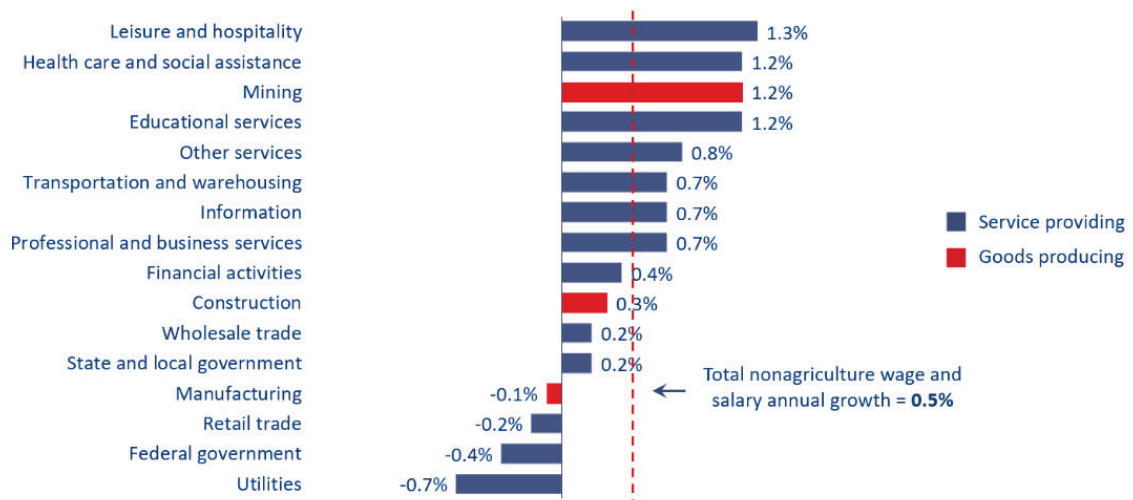
OCCUPATION	2021 MEDIAN PAY	GROWTH RATE, 2021-31
1 Nurse practitioners	\$120,680 per year	46%
2 Wind turbine service technicians	\$56,260 per year	44%
3 Ushers, lobby attendants, and ticket takers	\$24,440 per year	41%
4 Motion picture projectionists	\$29,350 per year	40%
5 Cooks, restaurant	\$30,010 per year	37%
6 Data scientists	\$100,910 per year	36%
7 Athletes and sports competitors	\$77,300 per year	36%
8 Information security analysts	\$102,600 per year	35%
9 Statisticians	\$95,570 per year	33%
10 Umpires, referees, and other sports officials	\$35,860 per year	32%
11 Web developers	\$77,030 per year	30%
12 Animal caretakers	\$28,600 per year	30%
13 Choreographers	\$42,700 per year	30%
14 Taxi drivers	\$29,310 per year	28%
15 Medical and health services managers	\$101,340 per year	28%
16 Logisticians	\$77,030 per year	28%
17 Physician assistants	\$121,530 per year	28%
18 Solar photovoltaic installers	\$47,670 per year	27%
19 Animal trainers	\$31,280 per year	27%
20 Physical therapist assistants	\$61,180 per year	26%

Data Source: www.BLS.gov, accessed September 26, 2022 (link)

Among the fastest growing occupations are those related to Healthcare and Big Data.

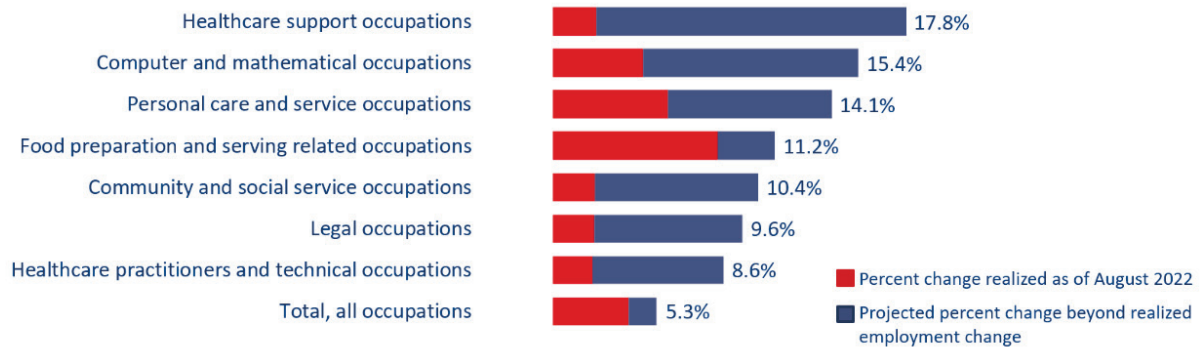
Projected Annual Rate of Change in Industry Employment, 2021-2031

Compound annual rate of change for wage and salary employment, projected 2021-31



Projected Percent Change by Selected Occupational Groups, 2021-2031, Including Realized Employment Change as of August 2022

Percent employment change, projected 2021-31



Note: Data for percent change realized as of August 2022 are estimates of the employment change from the 2021 base year of the projections through the most recent historical data available as of August 2022.

Source: BLS.GOV

City	Largest Industry Sector	Second Largest Industry Sector	Third Largest Industry Sector	Fourth Largest Industry Sector
Acton (3,475)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Construction	Manufacturing	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services
	16.6%	13.9%	10.5%	10.1%
Lake Hughes (318)	Manufacturing	Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	Construction
	21.7%	19.2%	14.7%	10.2%
Lake LA (3,476)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Construction	Retail trade	Manufacturing
	27.7%	14.7%	11.3%	9.8%
Lancaster (58,349)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Manufacturing	Retail trade	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services
	28.4%	12.3%	11.2%	8.0%
Littlerock (385)	Construction	Retail trade	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	Other services, except public administration
	19.7%	16.1%	15.6%	13.2%
Palmdale (62,070)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Retail trade	Manufacturing	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services
	21.7%	11.8%	11.2%	9.7%
California City (4,041)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Public administration	Retail trade	Construction
	22.1%	13.1%	12.3%	10.0%

Antelope Valley Employment Composition

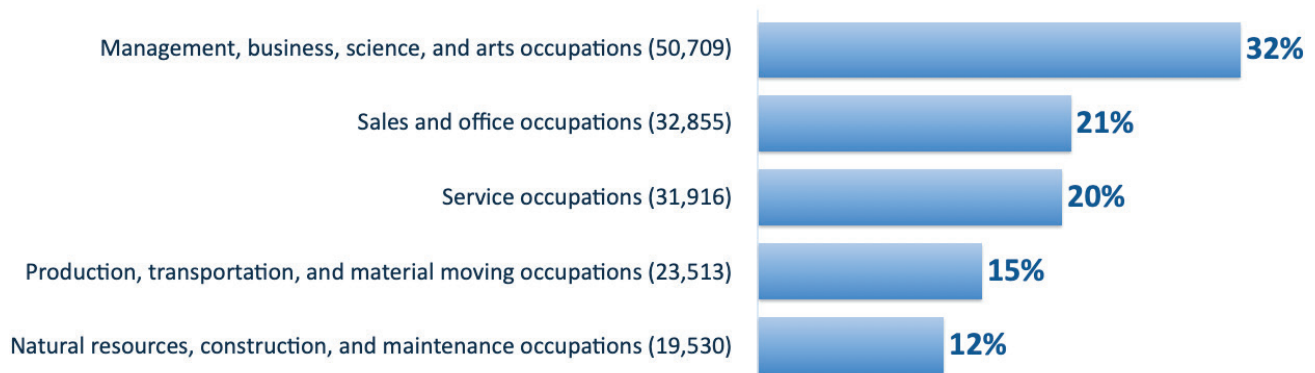
Educational services, health care, and social assistance are the main industry sectors for Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities. The four largest industry sectors and major occupational groups for the region areas are presented in this table and chart.

Antelope Valley Employment Composition (Continued)

City	Largest Industry Sector	Second Largest Industry Sector	Third Largest Industry Sector	Fourth Largest Industry Sector
China Lake Acres (1,067)	Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	Public administration	Retail trade
	18.2%	17.8%	15.8%	11.4%
Edwards AFB (329)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Public administration	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	Construction
	34.0%	29.2%	13.1%	7.3%
Mojave (1,350)	Retail trade	Manufacturing	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	Educational services, and health care and social assistance
	22.7%	11.6%	11.4%	11.0%
N. Edwards (424)	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	Retail trade	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services
	21.5%	20.0%	14.4%	11.8%
Ridgecrest (12,745)	Public administration	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	Retail trade
	29.6%	21.5%	9.7%	8.4%
Rosamond (7,483)	Educational services, and health care and social assistance	Manufacturing	Public administration	Retail trade
	16.7%	15.0%	13.1%	10.4%
	Educational services, and health care and	Public administration	Transportation and warehousing, and	Arts, entertainment, & recreation, &

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment Composition by Occupation



*Region's Total includes the following cities and unincorporated communities: Acton, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Palmdale, California City, China Lake Acres, Edwards AFB, Mojave, Palmdale, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Inyokern, and Tehachapi

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

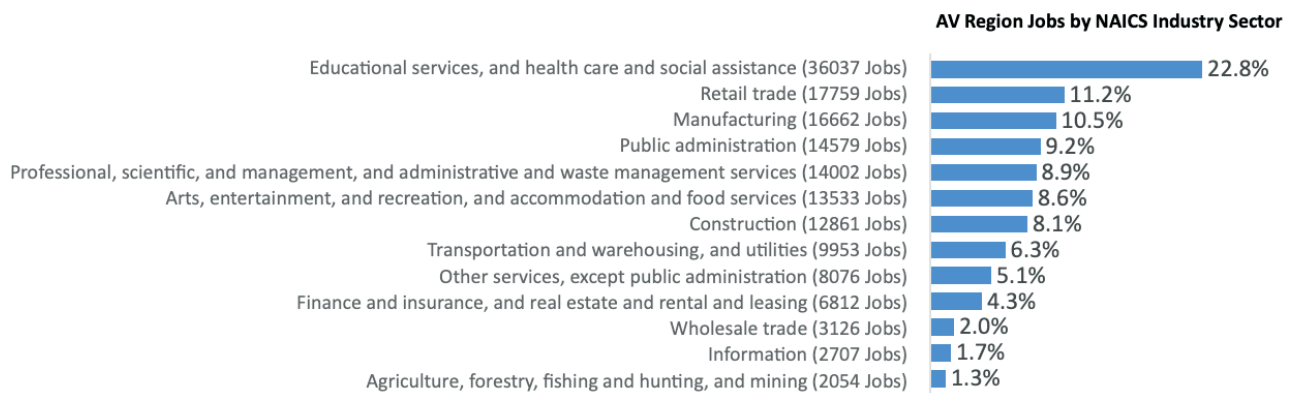
The following table represents employment composition by occupation for Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities. The workforce in the Antelope Valley is diverse, not only in terms of demographics but in terms of skill sets and experience.

For residents, regardless of whether they work in or out of the region, most jobs are in management, business, science, and arts occupations, along with service and sales/office sectors of the economy rather than in goods producing sectors, trade, transportation, or utilities.

OCCUPATION	Acton	Lancaster	Littlerock	Palmdale	California City	Mojave	Ridgecrest	Rosamond	Tehachapi	AV Region AVG
Management, business, science, & arts occupations	37.2%	34.8%	16.4%	26.8%	28.4%	11.1%	49.3%	28.6%	34.0%	33.3%
Service occupations	15.1%	19.6%	18.2%	22.2%	23.8%	22.8%	16.0%	12.2%	28.7%	18.6%
Sales & office occupations	19.1%	20.4%	32.5%	22.1%	21.8%	21.0%	15.3%	23.6%	10.8%	21.4%
Natural resources, construction, & maintenance occupations	16.3%	11.2%	25.2%	12.6%	14.0%	14.5%	8.1%	16.4%	17.1%	13.2%
Production, transportation, & material moving occupations	12.2%	14.0%	7.8%	16.2%	12.1%	30.5%	11.3%	19.2%	9.4%	13.6%
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	3,475	58,349	385	62,070	4,041	1,350	12,745	7,483	2,835	158,523

*Region's Average includes the following cities and unincorporated communities: Acton, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Palmdale, California City, China Lake Acres, Edwards AFB, Mojave, Palmdale, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, Inyokern, and Tehachapi

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Considering the Antelope Valley as a whole, most workers were employed in management, business, science, and arts occupations (33%), followed by sales/office occupations (21%), and service occupations (19%). According to the chart below, most workers were in the educational services, health care, and social assistance industry grouping (22.8% of workers), with a sharper drop-off to the second-place industry, retail trade (11.2% of workers).

There is some variation among the dominant occupations within the cities and communities that comprise the Antelope Valley. For example, for most of the cities, the largest percentage of workers were in management, business, science, and arts occupations; in Mojave, the highest percentage of workers were in service occupations, and service and sales/office occupations came a close second for the percentage of workers for most of the Antelope Valley communities.

The following two charts and table depict the employment distribution by industry for Antelope Valley cities and unincorporated communities, by county.

Los Angeles County Employment Distribution by Industry

	Acton	Lake Hughes	Lake LA	Lancaster	Littlerock	Palmdale
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	16.4%	10.2%	25.1%	26.5%	13.9%	21.8%
Construction	14.1%	9.0%	14.1%	7.2%	11.4%	8.8%
Manufacturing	10.3%	6.1%	9.5%	11.2%	14.7%	11.3%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	10.2%	14.7%	7.7%	8.0%	12.8%	9.2%
Retail Trade	9.0%	0.0%	9.5%	12.3%	10.6%	11.7%
Public Administration	8.3%	4.9%	5.6%	7.8%	0.0%	5.5%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7.6%	4.1%	8.2%	6.3%	0.0%	6.6%
Other services, except public administration	6.2%	4.9%	6.3%	5.2%	14.7%	5.2%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	6.0%	20.0%	7.5%	7.1%	17.5%	9.9%
Information	4.9%	0.0%	1.6%	1.9%	0.0%	1.8%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	16.4%	26.1%	3.5%	4.2%	4.4%	4.6%
Wholesale trade	1.7%	0.0%	0.4%	1.8%	0.0%	2.7%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	0.5%	0.0%	1.3%	0.8%	0.0%	0.8%

Kern County Employment Distribution by Industry

	California City	China Lake Acres	Edwards AFB	Mojave	N. Edwards	Ridgecrest	Rosamond	Tehachapi
Public Administration	17.6%	20.1%	26.7%	8.6%	14.8%	27.8%	14.6%	14.6%
Educational Services, and health care and social assistance	18.5%	7.1%	39.9%	12.0%	20.2%	19.6%	17.0%	19.7%
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	8.0%	5.6%	13.8%	15.6%	15.4%	11.0%	9.3%	4.8%
Retail Trade	8.4%	5.1%	5.1%	12.8%	7.0%	9.2%	9.6%	5.1%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	12.4%	4.7%	2.4%	12.5%	12.9%	6.8%	9.0%	11.5%
Manufacturing	5.8%	11.0%	4.8%	13.3%	2.0%	5.3%	12.6%	7.0%
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	1.8%	5.9%	0.0%	2.2%	9.8%	4.2%	2.7%	2.6%
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	5.2%	16.9%	2.7%	2.5%	14.3%	4.0%	4.7%	10.4%
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	4.6%	5.1%	0.0%	4.3%	0.0%	3.9%	2.9%	5.1%
Construction	9.6%	14.8%	2.1%	5.2%	3.6%	4.9%	10.4%	10.3%
Other services, except public administration	4.2%	8.6%	0.0%	9.5%	0.0%	2.7%	5.5%	7.5%
Wholesale trade	2.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.7%	0.0%	1.2%	1.1%	0.5%
Information	1.1%	0.0%	2.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.9%	0.6%	0.9%

INDUSTRY	Acton	Lake LA	Lancaster	Palmdale	California City	Mojave	Ridgecrest	Rosamond	Tehachapi	Region Total*
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	17	43	463	533	71	29	518	220	86	2,054
Construction	484	471	4,118	5,560	379	68	419	838	343	12,861
Manufacturing	354	318	6,422	7,108	229	174	649	1,011	233	16,662
Wholesale trade	57	12	1,008	1,683	106	9	146	90	15	3,126
Retail trade	310	317	7,053	7,404	331	167	1,125	768	170	17,759
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	262	273	3,609	4,174	204	33	495	375	346	9,953
Information	167	52	1,079	1,163	43	9	107	48	31	2,707
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	166	116	2,411	2,888	181	56	478	234	168	6,812
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	349	257	4,586	5,811	316	203	1,357	744	159	14,002
Educational services, and health care and social assistance	561	841	15,259	13,746	726	157	2,402	1,365	653	36,037
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	205	250	4,063	6,224	489	163	838	723	381	13,533
Other services, except public administration	211	211	2,992	3,260	164	124	337	438	250	8,076
Public administration	283	186	4,459	3,486	694	112	3,411	1,175	486	14,579
Civilian employed population 16+ years	3,426	3,347	57,522	63,040	3,933	1,304	12,282	8,029	3,321	158,161

*Region's total includes the following cities: Acton, Lake Hughes, Lancaster, Lake Los Angeles, Littlerock, Palmdale, California City, China Lake Acres, Edwards AFB, Mojave, North Edwards, Palmdale, Ridgecrest, Rosamond, & Tehachapi.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Looking at the dominant industries in the Antelope Valley communities, most are in educational services, health care and social assistance industry group had the largest share of workers, but there were exceptions. In Mojave, it was professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services (15.6% of workers); in Littlerock it was arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services (17.5% of workers); in Lake Hughes it was finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing (26.1% of workers); and in Ridgecrest it was public administration (27.8% of workers).

Housing

Housing in the Antelope Valley

Whereas housing markets in the State of California and Los Angeles County are among the most expensive in the country, one distinctive feature of the Antelope Valley is that it offers more affordable housing. In 2019, the median home value of owner-occupied houses in California was \$505,000 and \$583,200 in Los Angeles County. With the exception of Acton, by comparison, the housing prices in cities of the Antelope Valley were relatively low, especially compared to Los Angeles County median home value vs. median household income. In the majority of the most populated cities and unincorporated communities in the region, homeownership rates are higher than in Los Angeles and Kern Counties, as well as the state.

Housing Quick Facts: AV Major Cities Comparisons

	<i>Tehachapi</i>	<i>Rosamond</i>	<i>Ridgecrest</i>	<i>California City</i>	<i>Lancaster</i>
Housing					
Housing units	3,616	7,574	12,403	4,836	52,295
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, %	59.9%	64.9%	63.2%	55.3%	53.0%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units	\$211,200	\$208,600	\$180,300	\$124,500	\$261,400
Median selected monthly owner costs (with a mortgage)	\$1,393	\$1,557	\$1,390	\$1,015	\$1,670
Median selected monthly owner costs (w/o a mortgage)	\$397	\$470	\$411	\$376	\$533
Median gross rent	\$1,015	\$949	\$879	\$966	\$1,215
Families & Living Arrangements					
Households	3,197	6,907	10,974	4,222	48,083
Persons per household	2.6	3.0	2.6	2.7	3.2
Living in same house 1 year ago, %	73.6%	86.4%	83.6%	76.3%	91.8%
Language other than English spoken at home (% of households)	26.2%	30.7%	18.7%	23.2%	25.4%
Computer and Internet Use					
Households with a computer, %	82.4%	91.9%	89.8%	91.1%	85.5%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, %	69.6%	84.0%	83.3%	76.9%	77.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

During the Great Recession, the area was hit hard and was among the top ten in the nation for the number of foreclosures. This made housing more affordable and attractive for families from the greater Los Angeles area. The housing prices continued to fall for a three-year period and started to rise at the end of 2009, yet still leaving the Antelope Valley an affordable community in comparison to much of Southern California. Homeowners of the AV-LA portion of the region pay higher median housing monthly costs than those in the AV-Kern portion, however living in the largest cities of the LA County portion of the AV is still more affordable than the rest of the county.

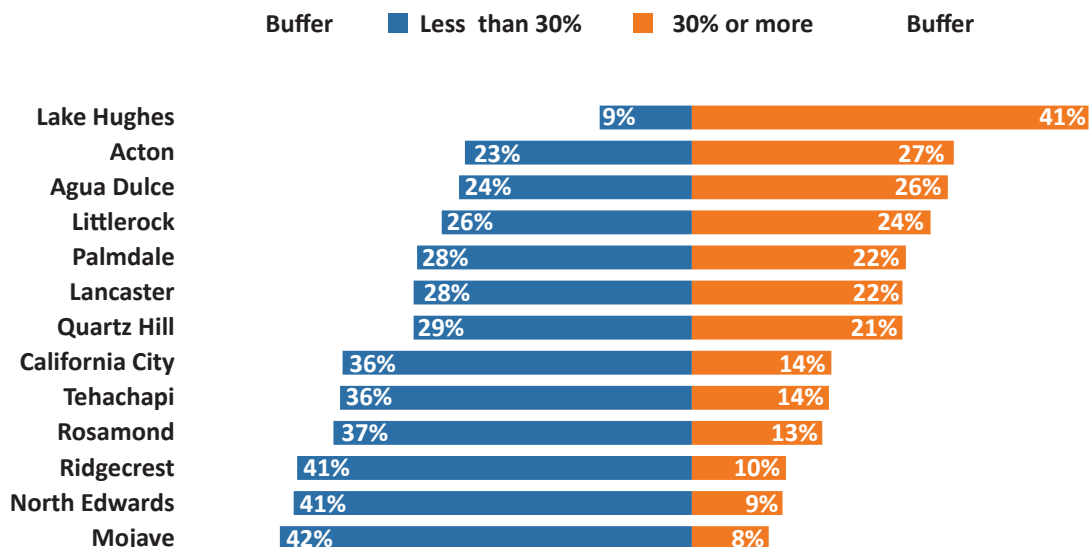
Selected Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC)

Selected monthly owner costs are calculated from the sum payment for mortgages, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees. When combined with income, a new item is created -- Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income. This item is used to measure housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. For example, many government agencies define excessive as being costs that exceed 30 percent of household income.

City	Less than \$500	\$500 to \$999	\$1,000 to \$1,499	\$1,500 to \$1,999	\$2,000 to \$2,499	\$2,500 to \$2,999	\$3,000 or more	Median (dollars)	Housing units with a mortgage
Acton	1%	2%	5%	14%	23%	23%	32%	2,619	1,758
Lake Hughes	0%	0%	33%	59%	0%	8%	0%	1,663	102
Lake LA	0%	35%	50%	14%	0%	2%	0%	1,133	1,817
Lancaster	0%	8%	28%	34%	16%	8%	5%	1,670	19,258
Littlerock	0%	23%	51%	26%	0%	0%	0%	1,197	115
Palmdale	1%	7%	26%	31%	18%	11%	7%	1,737	22,274
California City	3%	46%	30%	18%	2%	0%	0%	1,015	1,678
China Lake Acres	0%	38%	40%	21%	0%	0%	0%	1,072	112
Inyokern	0%	0%	0%	61%	16%	23%	0%	1,921	77
Mojave	4%	62%	19%	10%	6%	0%	0%	919	271
North Edwards	9%	49%	36%	6%	0%	0%	0%	923	109
Ridgecrest	2%	17%	39%	25%	7%	5%	4%	1,390	4,253
Rosamond	0%	13%	32%	32%	18%	4%	1%	1,557	3,284
Tehachapi	1%	14%	44%	24%	11%	2%	5%	1,393	1,233
California	1%	5%	14%	19%	18%	14%	31%	2,357	5,030,939

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Percentage of Households with Selected Monthly Owner Costs above 30% of Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Commuting

Antelope Valley residents, especially those who live in the LA County portion, have needed to travel “down below” to the Los Angeles Basin for various needs, including employment. The residents of Lancaster and Palmdale make up the bulk of Antelope Valley’s commuting workforce. Sixty-five percent of the labor pool commutes up to 30 minutes each way per day. Where people decide to live and work can affect their quality of life. In an ideal world, residents could live and work within the same community, and the various housing types would accommodate workers of different income categories. In reality, there is often an imbalance between employment opportunities and place of residence, which can necessitate commuting with the exception of forced remote work during the pandemic and those organizations that have now built-in flexibility for working from home at least some of the time. For many households though, there is more than one worker who works in different locations.

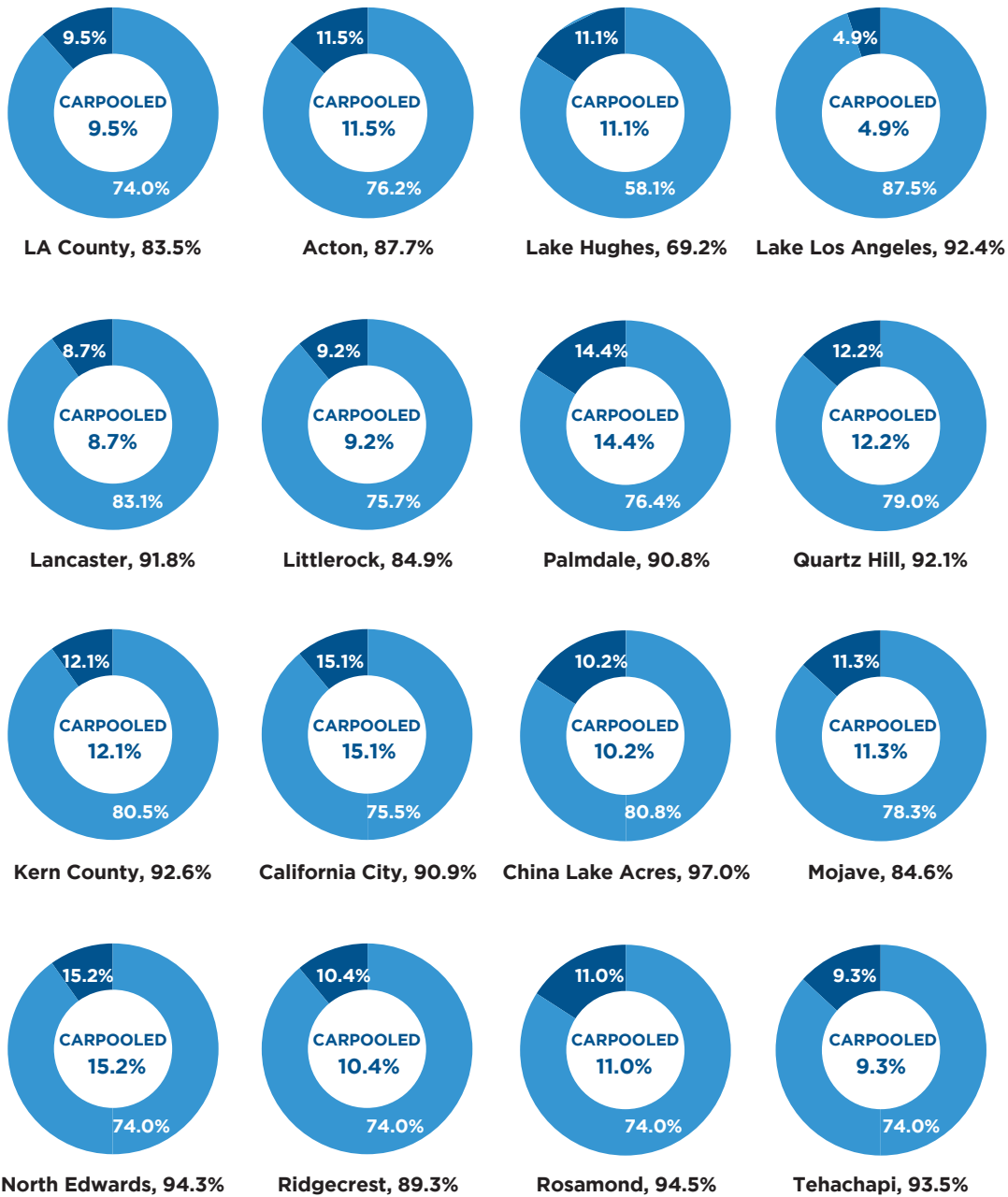
Among the residents who drove their own vehicles to work, 79% of them commuted alone. Of those who did not drive alone, the majority rode in a two-person carpool. Overall, in California, 73.6% of workers commute alone for an average 28.8-minute commute.

Means of Transportation to Work

	Workers 16 years and over	Mean Travel Time to Work	Car, truck, or van	Public transportation	Taxicab, motorcycle, other	Worked from home	Walked/ Bicycle
AV-LA County	4,811,408	31.8	83.5%	5.8%	1.6%	5.6%	3.5%
Acton	3,357	54.2	87.7%	0.8%	0.5%	10.5%	0.4%
Lake Hughes	234	60.3	69.2%	0.0%	0.0%	30.8%	0.0%
Lake Los Angeles	3,295	47.7	92.4%	0.7%	1.0%	5.6%	0.3%
Lancaster	56,541	32.2	91.8%	1.7%	0.8%	4.6%	1.0%
Littlerock	304	60.2	84.9%	0.0%	0.0%	15.1%	0.0%
Palmdale	61,755	43.7	90.8%	2.0%	1.3%	5.0%	1.0%
Quartz Hill	4,094	31.0	92.1%	1.4%	1.2%	5.3%	0.0%
AV-Kern County	337,438	23.3	92.6%	0.8%	1.8%	3.4%	1.3%
California City	3,940	38.0	90.9%	1.3%	1.3%	3.8%	2.6%
China Lake Acres	638	43.4	97.0%	0.0%	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Edwards AFB	1,022	13.2	88.0%	0.0%	2.0%	3.2%	6.8%
Mojave	1,282	21.3	84.6%	1.2%	1.7%	9.2%	3.3%
North Edwards	349	24.6	94.3%	0.0%	0.0%	5.7%	0.0%
Ridgecrest	12,331	14.7	89.3%	0.1%	1.4%	5.3%	3.9%
Rosamond	8,300	28.8	94.5%	0.9%	1.1%	1.7%	1.8%
Tehachapi	3,285	24.6	93.5%	0.4%	2.2%	2.7%	1.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Carpooling among Those who Drive a Car, Van, or Truck to Work



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

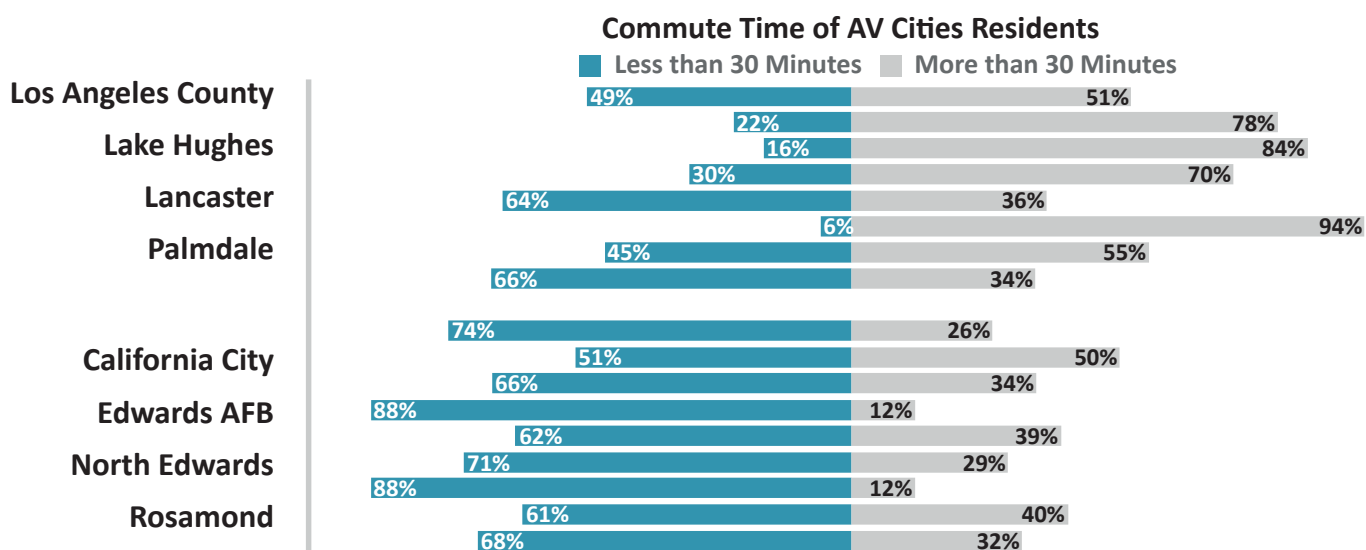
Six out of eight of the Kern County communities in the Antelope Valley tended to have longer commutes than the county overall (see the next table). Five out of the seven Los Angeles County communities in the Antelope Valley tended to have longer commutes than the county. Compared to California as a whole, Los Angeles County residents tended to have longer commutes, and Kern County residents tended to have shorter commutes.

Travel Time for Antelope Valley Cities

	% of Workers who did not work from home	Less than 15 Minutes	15 to 29 Minutes	30 to 44 Minutes	45 to 59 minutes	60 or more minutes
LA County	94%	17%	32%	26%	11%	15%
Acton	90%	7%	15%	21%	12%	46%
Lake Hughes	69%	7%	9%	38%	0%	46%
Lake Los Angeles	94%	5%	25%	33%	6%	32%
Lancaster	95%	25%	39%	8%	7%	21%
Littlerock	85%	6%	0%	20%	11%	63%
Palmdale	95%	17%	29%	7%	11%	36%
Quartz Hill	95%	21%	45%	8%	9%	18%
Kern County	97%	29%	46%	15%	5%	6%
California City	96%	20%	31%	17%	9%	23%
China Lake Acres	100%	29%	37%	13%	3%	18%
Edwards AFB	97%	72%	16%	7%	2%	3%
Mojave	91%	50%	11%	28%	4%	7%
North Edwards	94%	14%	57%	12%	14%	2%
Ridgecrest	95%	62%	26%	6%	1%	4%
Rosamond	98%	11%	49%	29%	3%	8%
Tehachapi	97%	34%	35%	11%	12%	8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Within the Antelope Valley, residents of Ridgecrest and Edwards AFB appeared to have the shortest commutes (88% were under 30 minutes). In Littlerock, Lake Hughes, Acton, Lake LA, and Palmdale, more than half of the employed residents had a commute time longer than 30 minutes with the residents of the southern parts having the longest commute times.



Job Destination

How many people live in the Antelope Valley and work elsewhere? The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on where people work relative to where they live. In contrast to other Census data, in this database, the unit of analysis is the job, rather than the person; people often have multiple jobs in varied locations, after all. Based on these data, it is not possible to say definitively how many people are in each category, but it is still possible to see some overall trends.

Of the people living in the Antelope Valley, it appears the majority have employment of at least one job outside the area.

Job Travel Direction		Total All Jobs	Less than 10 miles	10 to 24 miles	25 to 50 miles	Greater than 50 miles
North	Count	9,165	6,597	1,273	740	555
	Share	100.0%	72.0%	13.9%	8.1%	6.1%
Northeast	Count	8,493	6,359	794	395	945
	Share	100.0%	74.9%	9.3%	4.7%	11.1%
East	Count	10,688	7,376	985	999	1,328
	Share	100.0%	69.0%	9.2%	9.3%	12.4%
Southeast	Count	19,350	5,869	1,194	2,908	9,379
	Share	100.0%	30.3%	6.2%	15.0%	48.5%
South	Count	53,184	5,369	2,430	27,538	17,847
	Share	100.0%	10.1%	4.6%	51.8%	33.6%
Southwest	Count	33,273	3,978	2,136	23,825	3,334
	Share	100.0%	12.0%	6.4%	71.6%	10.0%
West	Count	13,601	6,830	1,030	3,043	2,698
	Share	100.0%	50.2%	7.6%	22.4%	19.8%
Northwest	Count	18,539	7,186	2,285	757	8,311
	Share	100.0%	38.8%	12.3%	4.1%	44.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Where do these residents work and in which industries do they work? Residents, regardless of whether they work in or out of the Antelope Valley, most jobs are in service sectors of the economy rather than in goods producing sectors or trade, transportation, and utilities (See the following table).

Work Area Profile Report			Home Area Profile Report		
Total All Jobs	102,902	100.0%	Total All Jobs	166,293	100.0%
Jobs by Earnings					
\$1,250 per month or less	26,585	25.8%	\$1,250 per month or less	38,986	23.4%
\$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	35,364	34.4%	\$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	58,426	35.1%
More than \$3,333 per month	40,953	39.8%	More than \$3,333 per month	68,881	41.4%
Jobs by NAICS Industry Sector					
Health Care and Social Assistance	22,505	21.9%	Health Care and Social Assistance	30,503	18.3%
Educational Services	13,932	13.5%	Retail Trade	17,191	10.3%
Retail Trade	13,270	12.9%	Educational Services	16,157	9.7%
Accommodation and Food Services	11,483	11.2%	Accommodation and Food Services	16,066	9.7%
Manufacturing	9,879	9.6%	Manufacturing	15,668	9.4%
Public Administration	5,040	4.9%	Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	10,146	6.1%
Administration & Support, Waste Management and Remediation	4,830	4.7%	Construction	8,886	5.3%
Transportation and Warehousing	4,272	4.2%	Public Administration	8,284	5.0%
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,170	4.1%	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	7,871	4.7%
Construction	3,967	3.9%	Transportation and Warehousing	6,846	4.1%
Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	2,529	2.5%	Wholesale Trade	4,841	2.9%
Finance and Insurance	1,430	1.4%	Other Services (excluding Public Administration)	4,620	2.8%
Wholesale Trade	1,361	1.3%	Information	4,251	2.6%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,209	1.2%	Finance and Insurance	3,643	2.2%
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	1,105	1.1%	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,163	1.9%
Information	939	0.9%	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,509	1.5%
Utilities	454	0.4%	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,972	1.2%
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	313	0.3%	Management of Companies and Enterprises	1,754	1.1%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	135	0.1%	Utilities	1,365	0.8%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	79	0.1%	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	557	0.3%
Jobs by Worker Educational Attainment					
Educational attainment not available (workers aged 29 or younger)	26,366	25.6%	Educational attainment not available (workers aged 29 or younger)	39,991	24.0%
Some college or Associate degree	24,526	23.8%	Some college or Associate degree	39,245	23.6%
High school or equivalent, no college	18,577	18.1%	High school or equivalent, no college	29,635	17.8%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	17,038	16.6%	Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	29,107	17.5%
Less than high school	16,395	15.9%	Less than high school	28,315	17.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

For Antelope Valley residents, 23.4% of the jobs held in the Valley, pay \$1,250 per month or less – quite a bit lower than the regional living wage (see the following table). These may be part-time jobs, but in any case, people will need to hold multiple jobs to reach the living wage within the Antelope Valley and are likely willing to commute to do so. Lancaster and Palmdale are the sites of most jobs, together accounting for more than 75 percent of the jobs in the Antelope Valley.

	Salary			
		\$1,250 per month or less	\$1,251 to \$3,333 per month	More than \$3,333 per month
Acton	Count	903	1,169	2,100
	Share	21.6%	28.0%	50.3%
Palmdale	Count	14,686	22,784	25,813
	Share	23.2%	36.0%	40.8%
Lancaster	Count	14,776	21,325	24,696
	Share	24.3%	35.1%	40.6%
Quartz Hill	Count	1,247	1,607	2,637
	Share	22.7%	29.3%	48.0%
Sun Village	Count	1,150	1,839	1,832
	Share	23.9%	38.1%	38.0%
Ridgecrest	Count	1,848	3,183	3,627
	Share	21.3%	36.8%	41.9%
Rosamond	Count	1,226	1,928	2,427
	Share	22.0%	34.5%	43.5%
Tehachapi	Count	815	1,289	1,600
	Share	22.0%	34.8%	43.2%
California City	Count	869	1,182	1,373
	Share	25.4%	34.5%	40.1%
Mojave	Count	315	504	461
	Share	24.6%	39.4%	36.0%
All Other Cities	Count	1,151	1,616	2,315
	Share	22.6%	31.8%	45.6%
All Cities	Count	38,986	58,426	68,881
	Share	23.4%	35.1%	41.4%

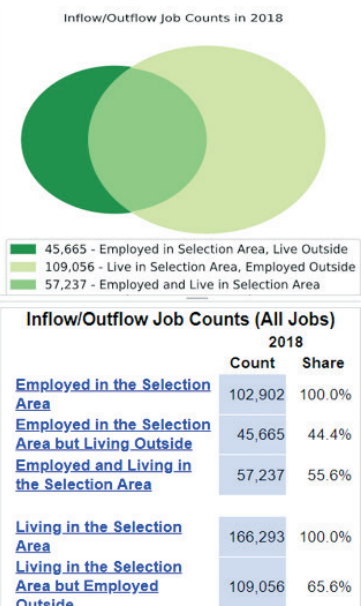
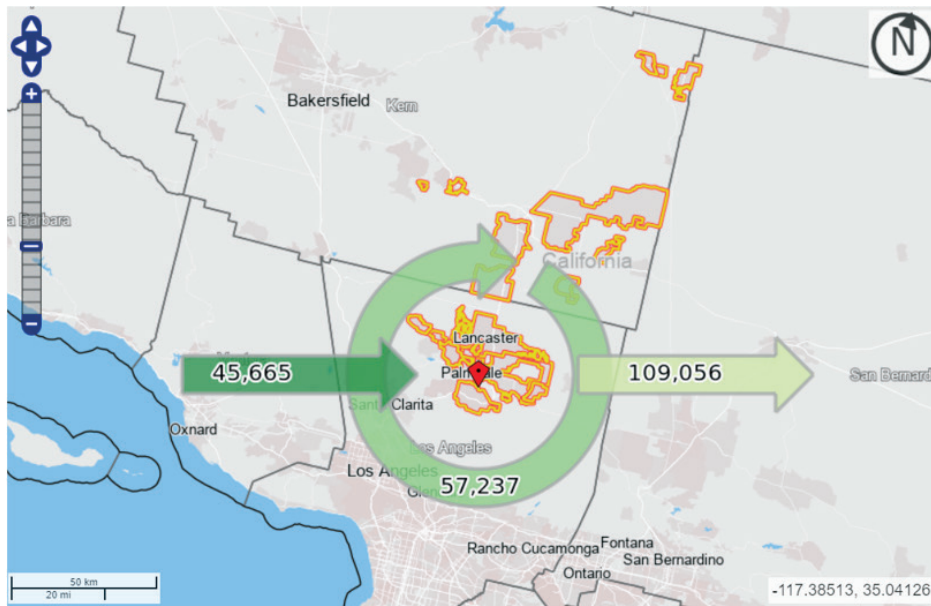
Education Level			
Less than high school	High school or equivalent, no college	Some college or Associate degree	Bachelor's degree or advanced degree
504	661	1,086	1,069
12.1%	15.8%	26.0%	25.6%
12,132	10,998	14,357	10,435
19.2%	17.4%	22.7%	16.5%
9,991	10,968	14,639	10,469
16.4%	18.0%	24.1%	17.2%
744	969	1,363	1,212
13.5%	17.6%	24.8%	22.1%
983	832	999	758
20.4%	17.3%	20.7%	15.7%
1,057	1,670	2,169	1,699
12.2%	19.3%	25.1%	19.6%
882	1,042	1,322	959
15.8%	18.7%	23.7%	17.2%
581	711	909	655
15.7%	19.2%	24.5%	17.7%
540	647	827	552
15.8%	18.9%	24.2%	16.1%
215	248	299	190
16.8%	19.4%	23.4%	14.8%
686	889	1,275	1,109
13.5%	17.5%	25.1%	21.8%
28,315	29,635	39,245	29,107
17.0%	17.8%	23.6%	17.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

In-Area Labor Force Efficiency (All Jobs)

Antelope Valley residents currently commute in large numbers. If matched with employment growth within the region, over 100,000 commuters could improve their quality of life by working locally.

	2018		2016		2014		2012		2010		2008	
	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share	Count	Share
Living in the Selection Area	166,293	100%	157,340	100%	145,053	100%	138,107	100%	130,652	100%	129,395	100%
Living and Employed in the Area	57,237	34.4%	54,235	34.5%	48,495	33.4%	45,049	32.6%	44,789	34.3%	42,391	32.8%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	109,056	65.6%	103,105	65.5%	96,558	66.6%	93,058	67.4%	85,863	65.7%	87,004	67.2%

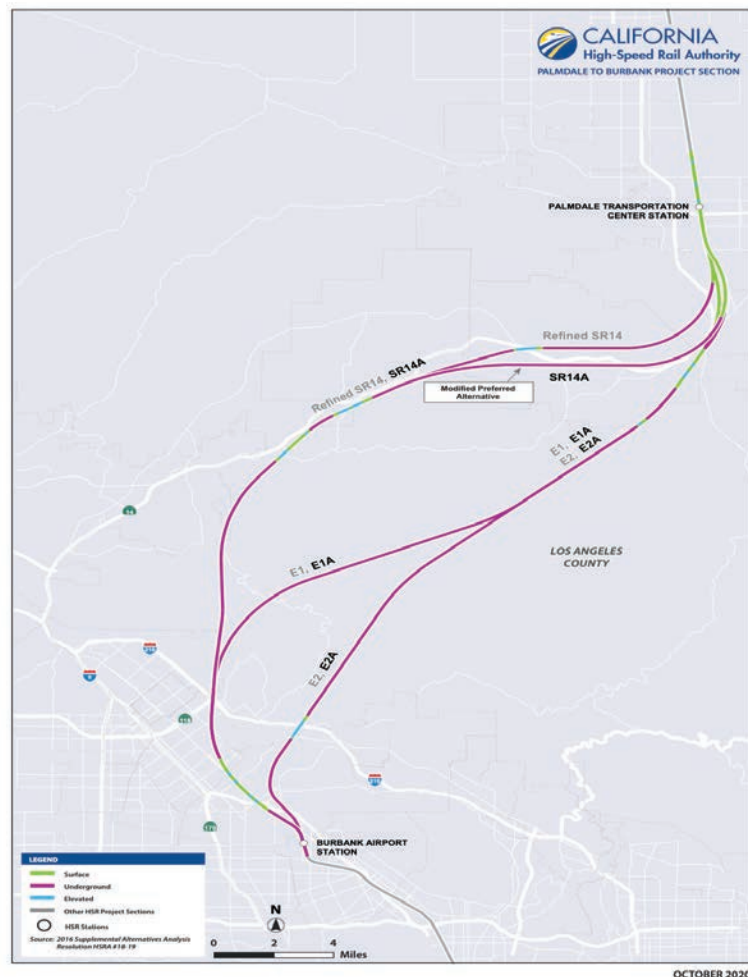


Addressing this disparity will reap economic and environmental benefits throughout the Antelope Valley and Los Angeles County while easing the burden on our transportation infrastructure.

California High-Speed Rail

The California High-Speed Rail (Cal-HSR) project appears to be progressing despite delays and economic concerns due to escalating costs. Roughly 2,500 construction workers are helping to build the largest infrastructure project in the country. A goal of the project is to improve access to and from the Antelope Valley. The Cal-HSR is slated to connect Palmdale with Southern California and Northern California, and connect to a privately funded Las Vegas high-speed rail.

The Palmdale to Burbank section will connect two key population centers in Los Angeles County with multi-modal transportation hubs at the Palmdale Transportation Center Station and at the Hollywood Burbank Airport Station. This portion will significantly decrease travel times between the Antelope Valley and Los Angeles Basin. These station locations will provide an additional link between the Antelope Valley and the Los Angeles Basin with rest of the state and nation through eventual connections to the Burbank Airport and other high-speed trains. This project would reduce traffic and air pollution in addition to the facilitation of in-flow and out-flow of labor and economic development. What is now almost a ninety-minute ride from Palmdale to Burbank on Metrolink may become a much shorter trip without highway congestion.



Education

K-12 Students by School District and Race/Ethnicity

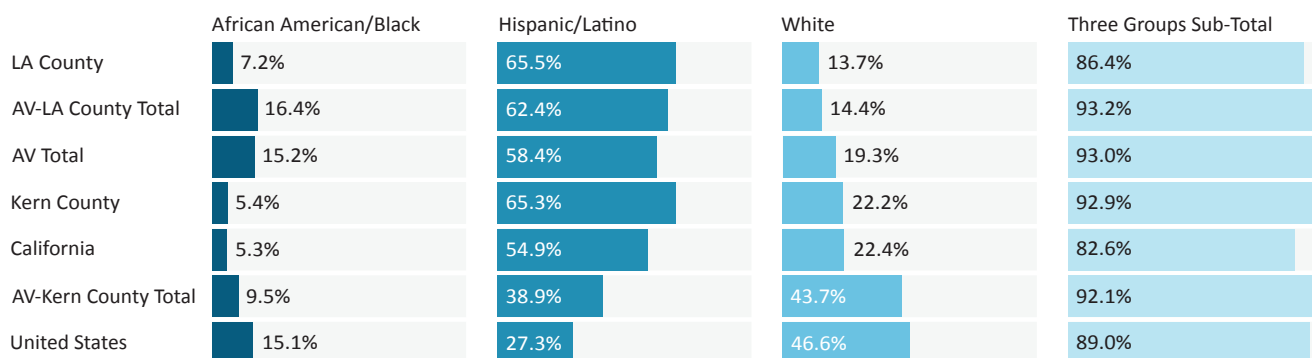
During the 2019-2020 academic year, 106,263 students attended public schools in the Antelope Valley: 4,119 fewer than two years ago. In 2020-2021, the total enrollment 101,588 (4,648 fewer students as compared to the prior year). Consistent with the previous years, 16% of K-12 students lived in Kern County and 84% lived in Los Angeles County. The Antelope Valley's largest school districts are in Los Angeles County. The Antelope Valley Joint Union High School District, Palmdale School District and Lancaster Elementary School District serve over half (58%) of the K-12 students in the Antelope Valley.

		Hispanic / Latinx	African American / Black	White	Multiracial	Asian & Filipino	American Indian_AK Native	Native HI / Pacific Islander	Total
Kern County	Mojave Unified	1,367	879	420	150	25	10	9	2,860
		47.8%	30.7%	14.7%	5.2%	0.9%	0.3%	0.3%	100.0%
	Muroc Joint Unified	526	134	727	221	44	7	17	1,676
		31.4%	8.0%	43.4%	13.2%	2.6%	0.4%	1.0%	100.0%
	Sierra Sands Unified	1,507	255	2,685	194	214	58	32	4,945
		30.5%	5.2%	54.3%	3.9%	4.3%	1.2%	0.6%	100.0%
LA County	Southern Kern Unified	2,002	300	839	131	52	15	6	3,345
		59.9%	9.0%	25.1%	3.9%	1.6%	0.4%	0.2%	100.0%
	Tehachapi Unified	1,426	62	2,310	85	55	20	8	3,966
		36.0%	1.6%	58.2%	2.1%	1.4%	0.5%	0.2%	100.0%
	Acton / Agua Dulce Unified	6,808	909	3,392	699	372	47	22	12,249
		55.6%	7.4%	27.7%	5.7%	3.0%	0.4%	0.2%	100.0%
	Antelope Valley Union High	14,777	3,734	2,525	1,066	588	56	32	22,778
		64.9%	16.4%	11.1%	4.7%	2.6%	0.2%	0.1%	100.0%
	Eastside Union Elementary	2,089	720	199	91	49	6	10	3,164
		66.0%	22.8%	6.3%	2.9%	1.5%	0.2%	0.3%	100.0%
	Hughes / Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary	50	2	122	4	0	0	0	178
		28.1%	1.1%	68.5%	2.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%
	Lancaster Elementary	8,021	4,167	1,448	686	300	69	27	14,718
	54.5%	28.3%	9.8%	4.7%	2.0%	0.5%	0.2%	100.0%	
Palmdale Elementary	16,507	2,902	1,105	388	271	120	52	21,345	
	77.3%	13.6%	5.2%	1.8%	1.3%	0.6%	0.2%	100.0%	
Westside Union Elementary	4,602	962	2,679	520	369	18	8	9,158	
	50.3%	10.5%	29.3%	5.7%	4.0%	0.2%	0.1%	100.0%	
Wilsona Elementary	942	86	123	41	1	13	0	1,206	
	78.1%	7.1%	10.2%	3.4%	0.1%	1.1%	0.0%	100.0%	
Total		60,624	15,112	18,574	4,276	2,340	439	223	101,588
		59.7%	14.9%	18.3%	4.2%	2.3%	0.4%	0.2%	100.0%

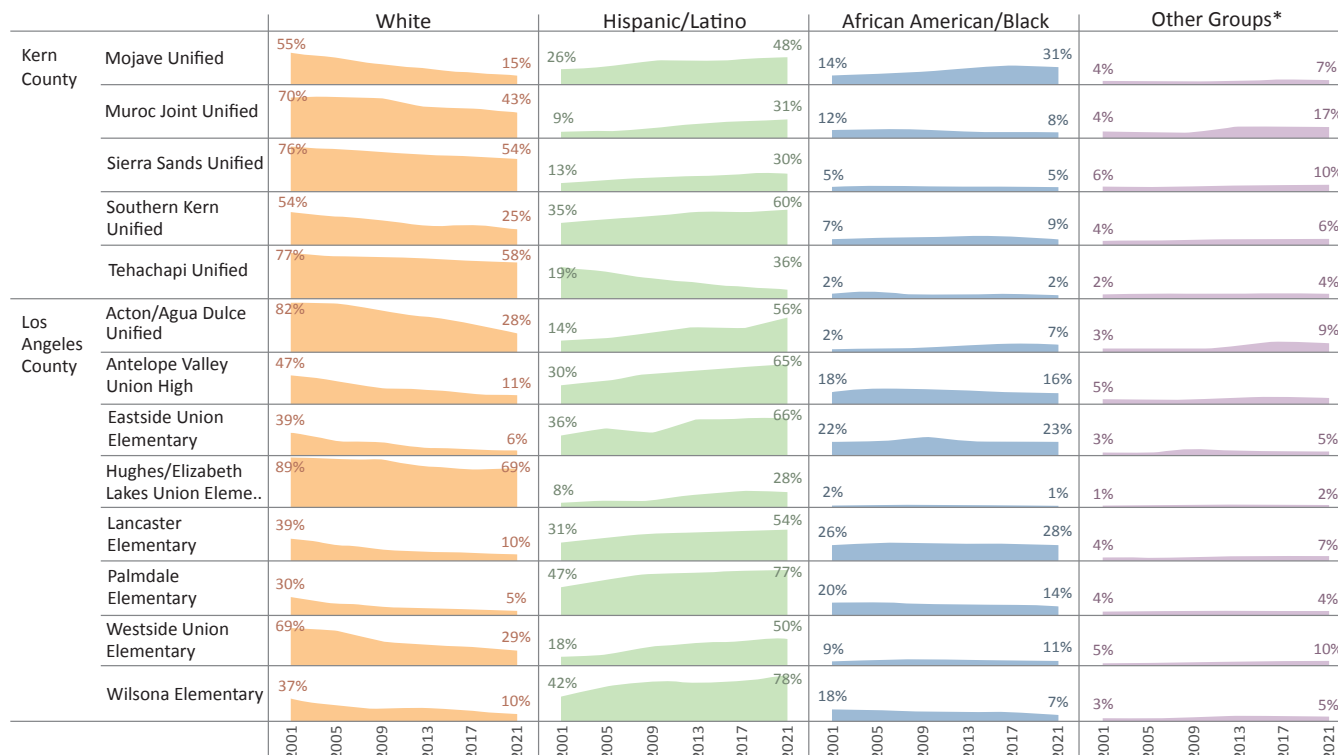
Data Source: Kidsdata.org, California Dept. of Education, DataQuest; National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics (September 2022).

The table above shows the racial/ethnic makeup of the K-12 students in the Antelope Valley, separated by school districts in Kern and Los Angeles Counties. The table also shows the demographic composition of students in Kern and Los Angeles Counties as a whole, as well as for the state of California and nationwide. The majority of students (59.7%) in the Antelope Valley were Hispanic/Latino, followed by white students (18.3%) and Black/African American students (14.9%) in 2021.

As can be seen in the chart below, the overall racial/ethnic composition of the public-school students in the Antelope Valley parallels that of California as a whole and that the demographic makeup of the AV's K-12 students closely parallels that of California as a whole.



Public School Enrollment by Race and Ethnicity (Major Groups) from 2001 to 2021

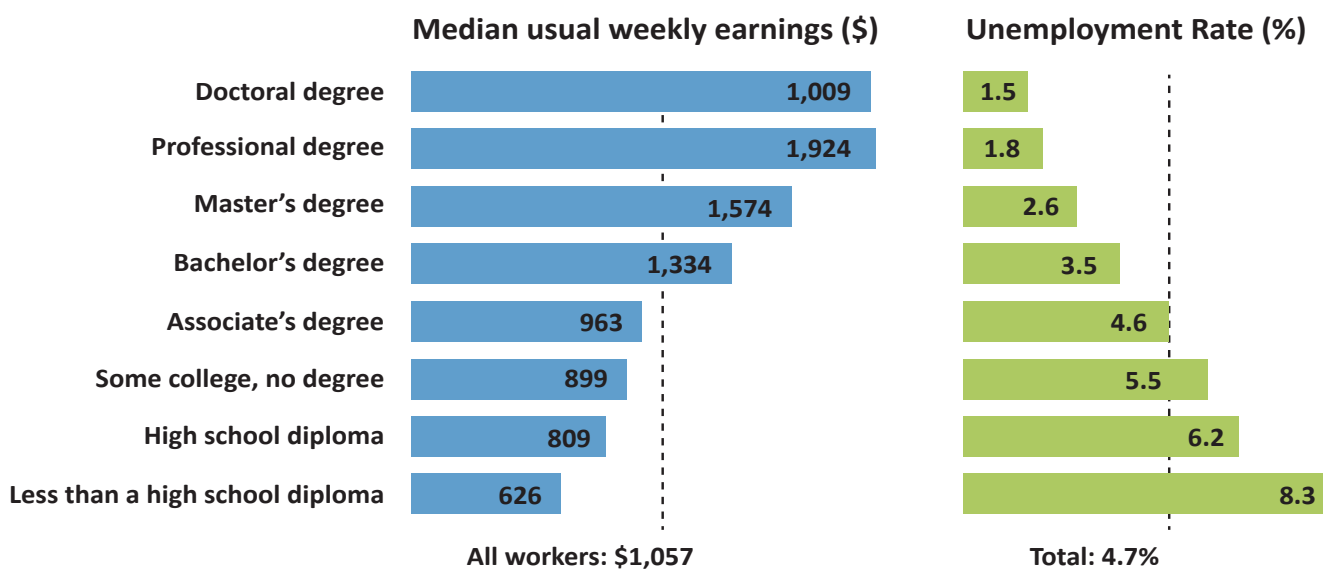


Data Source: California Dept. of Education, DataQuest; National Center for Education Statistics, Digest of Education Statistics (August, 2021).

Education Levels

Education has never been more critical for a skilled workforce and a successful life. Education and training tend to pay off substantially over a lifetime and unemployment rates tend to decrease with increasing levels of education.

Earnings and unemployment rates by education level, 2021



Note: Data are for persons age 25 and over. Earnings are for full-time wage and salary workers.
Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey.

<https://www.bls.gov/emp/chart-unemployment-earnings-education.htm>

Those employees with professional degrees had the highest median weekly earnings at \$1,924 and the second lowest unemployment rate of 1.8% and those with doctoral degrees had the lowest unemployment rates of 1.5% and the second highest median weekly earnings at \$1,909.

The unemployment rate for high school graduates was 6.2% in 2021 versus 3.5% for those with a college degree. The majority of the population from Antelope Valley cities, aged 25 years or more, possess less than an Associate's degree. Since higher levels of education are generally associated with lower levels of unemployment and higher levels of pay (see the following table and median earnings chart), the Antelope Valley region could benefit from increased opportunities for education, training, and capitalization on partnerships with institutions of higher education.

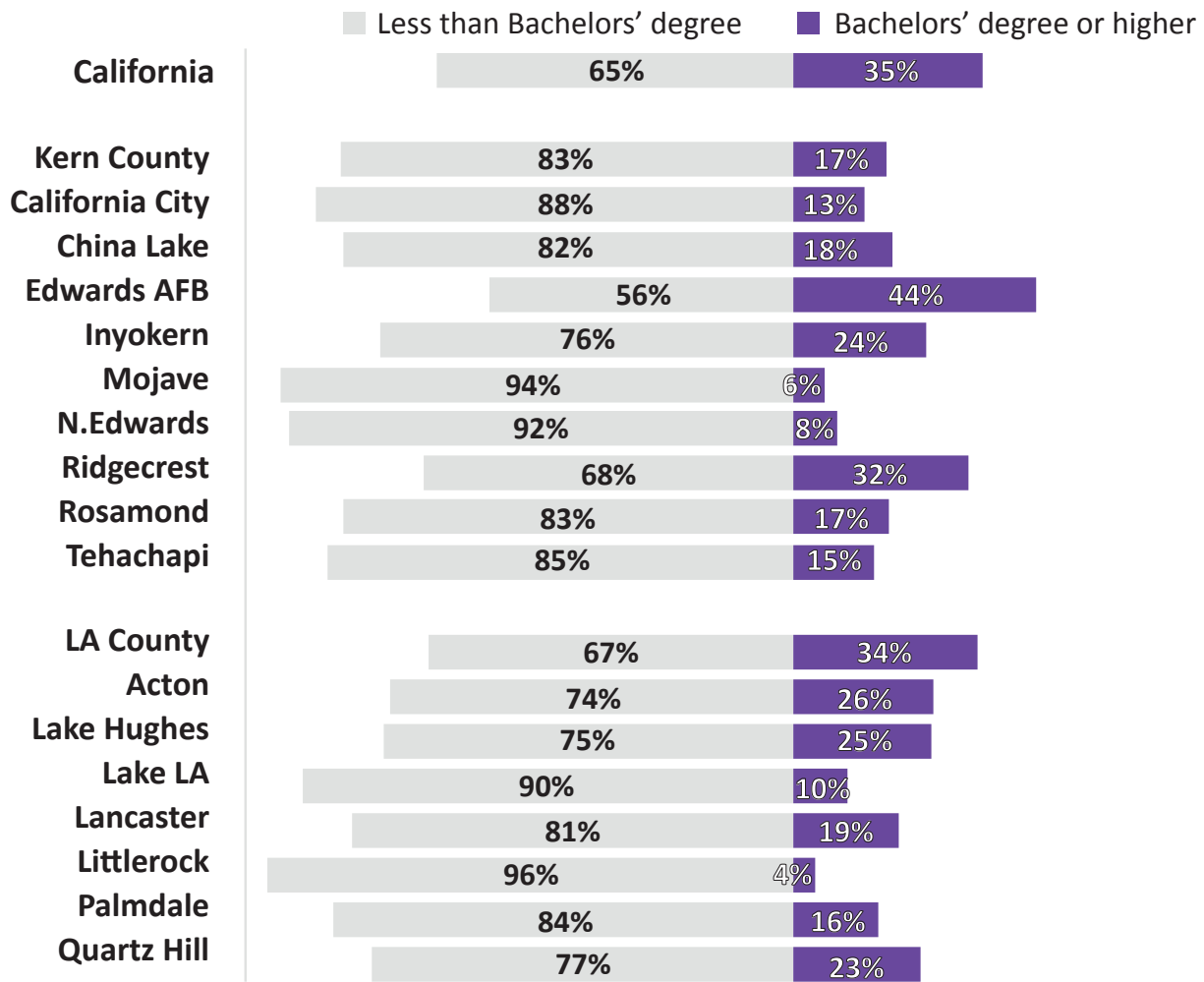
Population Over 25 & Education Level by City

	Population 25 years and over	Less than High School Diploma	High school graduate (includes equivalency)	Some College / Associates	Bachelor's degree	Graduate or professional degree
Kern County	543,837	24.7%	27.5%	30.7%	11.4%	5.7%
California City	9,449	21.6%	34.2%	31.7%	7.1%	5.5%
China Lake Acres	1,491	21.3%	30.5%	30.3%	12.7%	5.2%
Edwards AFB	1,302	0.8%	11.7%	43.2%	20.0%	24.4%
Inyokern	424	0.0%	29.0%	46.7%	14.2%	10.1%
Mojave	2,452	21.6%	39.3%	33.5%	3.9%	1.7%
North Edwards	717	4.1%	40.0%	48.0%	4.6%	3.3%
Ridgecrest	19,679	8.8%	20.5%	38.6%	21.1%	11.0%
Rosamond	12,693	20.1%	30.3%	32.3%	10.5%	6.9%
Tehachapi	9,608	19.9%	28.2%	37.2%	8.5%	6.2%
LA County	6,909,179	20.2%	20.4%	25.9%	21.8%	11.7%
Acton	5,291	7.6%	24.2%	42.6%	19.5%	6.1%
Lake Hughes	523	13.0%	16.6%	45.3%	18.2%	6.9%
Lake Los Angeles	7,353	27.8%	34.4%	28.1%	7.0%	2.8%
Lancaster	98,478	17.9%	29.8%	33.2%	11.9%	7.2%
Littlerock	471	24.8%	34.8%	36.5%	3.8%	0.0%
Palmdale	91,601	24.4%	28.4%	31.5%	10.9%	4.8%
Quartz Hill	7,180	11.6%	22.4%	43.0%	14.8%	8.2%
California	26,665,143	16.1%	20.4%	28.9%	21.6%	13.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Although the majority of the population of Antelope Valley cities that is over 25 years of age graduated from high school or has some college, this is not the case for bachelor's degrees and beyond. With the increasing need for an educated workforce, and society, this presents both challenges and opportunities for local government, educational entities, business and industry to collaborate on the development of skilled and successful individuals who elect to stay here and contribute productively to the growth and sustainability of the valley for themselves as well as future generations.

Proportions of the Adult Population with and without Bachelor's Degrees



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2016-2020 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Public Post-Secondary Education in the Antelope Valley

The plentiful opportunities available for higher education include Antelope Valley College, Cerro Coso Community College, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and Caltech, Pepperdine, Purdue, UAV, UCLA, USC, and four CSU satellite locations.

Antelope Valley College

Antelope Valley College (AVC), which opened its doors in 1929, is the region's oldest institution of higher education. The College serves most of the region's community college students with locations in both Lancaster and Palmdale. AVC's Palmdale location, which opened in fall 2017, has seen a steady enrollment increase since then. The Lancaster campus also hosts the Antelope Valley Center of California State University, Bakersfield. This close proximity of a public university allows easy transition to upper-level coursework, including baccalaureate and graduate degrees.

In fall 2022, 12,186 students were enrolled in 1,442 credit sections at AVC. In 2021-2022, the annual enrollment was 15,006. AVC awarded 3,800 total degrees (1,335 Associate of Arts and Associate of Science, 837 Associate Degree for Transfer), 1,557 total certificates, and 13 bachelor's degrees. Additionally, in 2020-2021, 577 students transferred into the four-year California State University (CSU) system. Over 70 students transferred to the University of California (UC) system. During the pandemic, the college continued to provide its programs and services through remote means primarily, but has reopened the campus and based on student needs, returned to an increasing number of face-to-face offerings, as well as online classes, as of the 2021-2022 academic year.

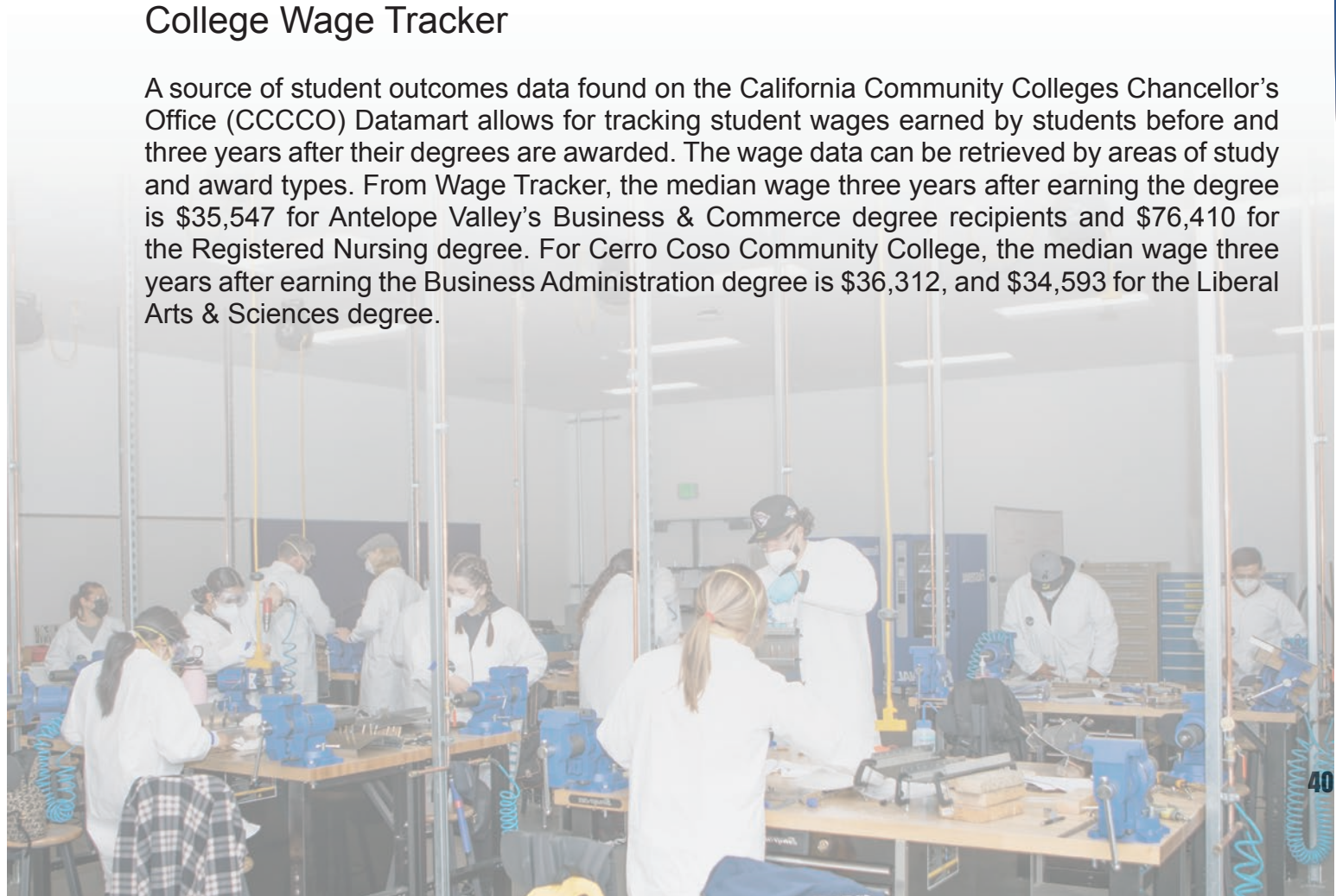
Cerro Coso Community College

Cerro Coso Community College, which was established in 1973, serves most of the Kern County portion of the Antelope Valley region. It consists of five instructional sites, and its East Kern Campus is located on Edwards Air Force Base. This campus serves both military families and civilian residents in neighboring communities including Mojave, California City, Boron, and others.

In fall 2021, Cerro Coso College enrolled 4,903 students. The college awarded 898 total degrees and certificates with 483 A.A. and A.S. degrees, 173 associate degrees for transfer, and 242 certificates in 2021-22. Additionally, in 2020-2021, 58 transfer students enrolled into the four-year CSU system and 14 students transferred to the University of California (UC) system. During the pandemic, the college continued to provide its programs and services through remote means.

College Wage Tracker

A source of student outcomes data found on the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Datamart allows for tracking student wages earned by students before and three years after their degrees are awarded. The wage data can be retrieved by areas of study and award types. From Wage Tracker, the median wage three years after earning the degree is \$35,547 for Antelope Valley's Business & Commerce degree recipients and \$76,410 for the Registered Nursing degree. For Cerro Coso Community College, the median wage three years after earning the Business Administration degree is \$36,312, and \$34,593 for the Liberal Arts & Sciences degree.



Salary Surfer

The CCCCCO also provides comparative information about the earnings of recent graduates who received an award in a specific program areas at California community colleges. The Salary Surfer uses the aggregated earnings of graduates from a five-year period to provide an estimate on the potential wages to be earned two years and five years after receiving a certificate or degree in certain disciplines.

It is available at <http://salarysurfer.cccco.edu/SalarySurfer.aspx>. Examples from Salary Surfer of health-related degrees and certificates and median earnings include:

Area of Study	Award Type	Median Annual Salary		
		2 Years Before	2 Year After	5 Years After
Aeronautical and Aviation Technology	Degree	\$21,258	\$46,178	\$68,344
Physician's Assistant	Certificate	\$37,872	\$109,345	\$121,166
Psychiatric Technician	Certificate	\$24,492	\$57,911	\$65,673
Manufacturing & Industrial Tech	Degree	\$22,813	\$46,173	\$63,275
Accounting	Degree	\$28,448	\$35,862	\$42,448
Radiologic Technology	Degree	\$17,796	\$68,954	\$77,305

Partnerships with Institutions of Higher Education

In addition to these two community colleges, the Antelope Valley has many partnerships with other institutions of higher education including satellite campuses of Caltech, Pepperdine, UAV, UCLA, CSU campuses, USC and Purdue. For example, CSU Bakersfield educates students in baccalaureate and graduate degree programs at its Antelope Valley Center. The University has two sites to serve the AV community, the Lancaster University Center, and a co-located campus with Antelope Valley College. This encourages advanced educational opportunities for the Antelope Valley and will help meet the need for an increasingly skilled workforce.

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City of California City

<http://www.californiacity.com/>

City of Ridgecrest

<http://ci.ridgecrest.ca.us/>

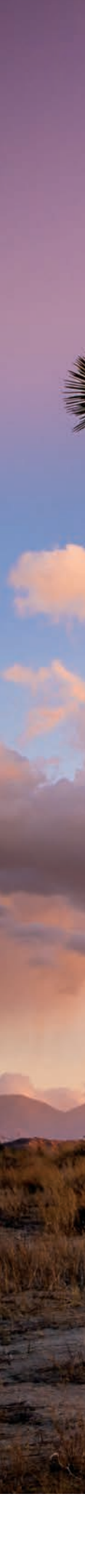
City of Tehachapi

<http://www.tehachapicityhall.com/>

Counties and Regional Organizations

County of Kern

<http://www.co.kern.ca.us/>



County of Los Angeles
<http://lacounty.gov/>

Greater Antelope Valley Economic Alliance
<http://www.aveconomy.org/>

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<http://www.laedc.org/>

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<http://www.kedc.com/>

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<http://www.KidsData.org>



WELCOME TO LANCASTER

Lancaster is the third largest city in LA County, the 28th largest city in California, and is home to 157,000 people. Within a 20-mile radius of city limits is a population of 430,000 people.

Known as a "City of Firsts," Lancaster provides a world of opportunity and is home to:

- Fortune 500 Companies
- Affordable Land
- Opportunity Zones
- Multiple Colleges and Universities

AT A GLANCE

94 Square Miles

32 Median Age

\$94k Average Income

7,000 Businesses Strong

68,057 Labor Force

CONNECT WITH US

City of Lancaster
Economic Development:

✉ EconDev@cityoflancasterca.gov

📞 661-723-6128

📍 44933 Fern Ave.
Lancaster, CA 93534



PALMDALE

Flourishing

in Southern California

Top Local Industries

Aerospace | Military | Distribution
Health | Technology | Manufacturing

Key Benefits

- Located in L.A. County, home to close to 10 million residents
- Two-Time Award Winner Los Angeles County Most Business-Friendly City
- Palmdale offers some of the most affordable housing in Southern California
- Excellent filming locations close to Hollywood and studios

Distance

- 67 miles to LAX
- 50 miles to Hollywood Burbank Airport
- 55 miles to Los Angeles
- 85 miles to the Port of Los Angeles

People

32.6 MEDIAN AGE

180K POPULATION

500K VALLEY POPULATION

95K MEDIAN INCOME

Connect With Us

City of Palmdale | Economic Development
EconomicDevelopment@cityofpalmdale.org

661-267-5125

