

California's Coastal and Inland Economies

California's coastal counties accounted for 90.1 percent of the state's 15.5 million nonfarm payroll jobs in 2014. Nearly 14 million jobs were located across the state's 29 coastal counties. Just over 1.5 million jobs were located in the state's inland counties. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a county is classified as coastal if at least 15 percent of a county's total land area is located within the Nation's coastal watershed; or a portion of or an entire county accounts for at least 15 percent of a coastal cataloging unit. Half of California's 58 counties are classified as coastal by the NOAA and the remaining 29 are inland.

- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that coastal counties made up 86.6 percent of the state's population in 2013 with the largest number of persons residing in Los Angeles (9.9 million), San Diego (3.1 million), and Orange (3.0 million). Inland counties made up more than 13 percent of the state's population and people were heavily concentrated in Fresno (940,000), Kern (848,000), and Stanislaus (518,000).
- Between 2010 and 2014, the state's coastal counties accounted for 90 percent or more of the state's nonfarm jobs. Over this four-year period, nonfarm job totals increased by 9.4 percent, as nonfarm jobs increased from 12.7 million to 13.9 million within coastal communities. The inland counties have held roughly 10 percent of the state's nonfarm payroll jobs from 2010 through 2014. Over this four-year period, roughly 124,000 jobs were added across inland counties, an increase of 8.7 percent.
- The coastal counties with the largest number of nonfarm payroll jobs in 2014 were Los Angeles (4.2 million), Orange (1.5 million), San Diego (1.3 million), Santa Clara (990,000), and Alameda (721,000). These five counties accounted for 57.3 percent of the nonfarm jobs in the state's economy.
- The five inland counties that supplied the largest number of jobs in 2014 are as follows: Fresno (313,000), Kern (257,000), Stanislaus (162,000), Placer (145,000), and Tulare (115,000). Nearly two out of every three inland county jobs derived from these five counties. The aforementioned counties held 64.6 percent of all inland county nonfarm jobs in 2014.
- California's coastal counties made up 90.5 percent of the state's nonfarm job gains between 2010 and 2014. Over this four-year period, the state added 1.3 million jobs and 1.2 million of these jobs were created in coastal counties and 124,000 in non-coastal counties. The counties that accounted for the largest percent share of these gains include: Los Angeles (25.8 percent), Santa Clara (10.5 percent), and San Diego (8.5 percent).
- In 2014, there were 1.3 million business establishments in California and 89.4 percent (1.2 million establishments) of those establishments were located in coastal counties according to Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) data from the California Employment Development Department. Roughly 11 percent (142,000 establishments) of the state's business establishments were located in inland counties. Between 2010 and 2014, the number of business establishments in coastal counties increased by 4.9 percent with the addition of 56,000 establishments. Over the past four years, inland counties lost 75 business establishments, a 0.1 percentage point decrease.
- Three of the nation's busiest ports reside in coastal counties. In terms of shipping volume, the ports of Long Beach, Los Angeles, and Oakland ranked among the top five in the nation in 2014. The port of Los Angeles was the nation's busiest port in 2014, as it handled more than 8.3 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). The port of Long Beach was ranked number two in the nation with the handling of 6.8 million TEUs that year. The state's coastal ports ship California-produced goods that range from fruits and nuts to advanced machinery to more than 200 countries worldwide.









California Labor Market Trends

California's Coastal Counties			California's Non-Coastal Counties		
County Name	2014 Nonfarm Jobs Totals	Percent Share of 2014 Statewide Nonfarm Jobs*	County Name	2014 Nonfarm Jobs Totals	Percent Share of 2014 Statewide Nonfarm Jobs*
Alameda County	721,100	4.7%	Alpine County	600	< 1.0%
Contra Costa County	343,900	2.2%	Amador County	11,000	< 1.0%
Del Norte County	7,700	< 1.0%	Butte County	76,200	< 1.0%
Humboldt County	46,900	< 1.0%	Calaveras County	8,300	< 1.0%
Los Angeles County	4,226,400	27.3%	Colusa County	6,500	< 1.0%
Marin County	140,000	< 1.0%	El Dorado County	50,100	< 1.0%
Mendocino County	30,700	< 1.0%	Fresno County	313,400	2.0%
Monterey County	130,700	< 1.0%	Glenn County	6,300	< 1.0%
Napa County	69,200	< 1.0%	Imperial County	53,700	< 1.0%
Orange County	1,575,600	10.2%	Inyo County	7,500	< 1.0%
Riverside County	616,700	4.0%	Kern County	256,800	1.7%
Sacramento County	599,400	3.9%	Kings County	37,400	< 1.0%
San Benito County	14,300	< 1.0%	Lake County	14,900	< 1.0%
San Bernardino County	668,500	4.3%	Lassen County	9,500	< 1.0%
San Diego County	1,348,000	8.7%	Madera County	36,900	< 1.0%
San Francisco County	639,200	4.1%	Mariposa County	5,400	< 1.0%
San Joaquin County	208,800	1.4%	Merced County	62,400	< 1.0%
San Luis Obispo County	110,000	< 1.0%	Modoc County	2,300	< 1.0%
San Mateo County	370,500	2.4%	Mono County	6,600	< 1.0%
Santa Barbara County	218,700	1.4%	Nevada County	29,800	< 1.0%
Santa Clara County	990,100	6.4%	Placer County	145,200	< 1.0%
Santa Cruz County	95,300	< 1.0%	Plumas County	6,300	< 1.0%
Siskiyou County	12,500	< 1.0%	Shasta County	62,400	< 1.0%
Solano County	128,000	< 1.0%	Sierra County	700	< 1.0%
Sonoma County	192,000	1.2%	Stanislaus County	161,700	1.0%
Sutter County	24,700	< 1.0%	Tehama County	15,600	< 1.0%
Trinity County	2,800	< 1.0%	Tulare County	114,600	< 1.0%
Ventura County	293,000	1.9%	Tuolumne County	16,800	< 1.0%
Yolo County	95,700	< 1.0%	Yuba County	15,200	< 1.0%
Total	13,920,400	90.1%	Total	1,534,000	9.9

Source: Current Employment Statistics, Annual Average Employment, not seasonally adjusted

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