

ORANGE COUNTY WORKFORCE INDICATORS 2011/2012

Key Findings

Demographics

Orange County continues to become increasingly older and more diverse

- In a trend that has been termed the “Senior Tsunami,” during the next several decades Orange County’s 55+ age cohorts are expected to grow rapidly, while younger age groups will decline as a proportion of Orange County’s population.
- In a decade’s time, almost 100,000 more residents left Orange County to move to other parts of the nation than have moved into the county. Children being born to families already in Orange County make up the vast majority of Orange County’s population growth.
- By 2020, Latinos are projected to replace Whites as the majority in Orange County. Latinos currently make up 33.7% of Orange County’s population, growing to over 50% by 2050. The growth rate of Orange County’s Asian population, while smaller in total numbers, outpaces Latino growth rates. From 1990-2010, the Asian or Pacific Islander population increased by 115.8%, while Latinos increased by 79.3%.

Economic and Workforce Trends

Orange County’s economy is outperforming neighboring counties and the state

- Orange County has the lowest unemployment rate of any metropolitan county in California, performing better than neighboring counties and the state, and has become the economic engine of the Southern California economy.
- Orange County’s total industry sector employment is expected to increase by 8.4% or 135,000 jobs from 2008 to 2018, primarily driven by Business and Professional Services, Health Care, and Leisure and Hospitality.
- Median household income for Orange County in 2010 was estimated at \$73,380, 22.9% higher than the state average and 41% higher than the national average.

Education Trends

Orange County stands out amongst its peers in most academic areas

- In 2009-2010, Orange County had the lowest high school drop-out rate at 11.2% when compared to peer counties and the state.
- With the exception of Santa Clara County, Orange County scored better on the SAT than peer counties, the state and the nation.
- Looking at Orange County’s UC/CSU eligibility rates by ethnicity, Asians had the highest levels of eligibility at 63% for 2009-2010, followed by Filipinos at just below 50%, and Whites at 40.8%. Latinos had the lowest rates of eligibility at 19.8%. Orange County’s overall UC/CSU eligibility rate slipped from 40.3% to 36.2%.
- After a decline in 2008, the number of tech-related degrees increased by 8.5% in 2009, accounting for roughly 18% of total undergraduate degrees granted. While STEM degrees are increasing steadily, the rate of increase is outpaced by the rate of Orange County employers’ need for even greater numbers of STEM workforce.