



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Los Angeles County Profile

- **Los Angeles County** (Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metro Division) covers 4,084 square miles, and had a January 1, 2008 population of 10,363,800 residents; an increase of 844,500 persons since 2000. The County's population would make it the eighth largest state in the nation, just behind Ohio and ahead of Michigan. (California Department of Finance)
- A quick **demographic profile** of Los Angeles County indicates that: 47.3% of the population is Hispanic, 28.8% white non-Hispanic, 14.4% Asian-Pacific Islander, and 9.6% black. About 75% of the population has a high school diploma or more, while 28% has a bachelor's degree or more. (American Community Survey 2007)
- Los Angeles County has a diverse **economic base** (based on the concept of "industry clusters"). Measured by 2007 employment, the leading industries are: 1.) tourism and hospitality with 456,000 workers; 2.) professional and business services with 288,000 workers; 3.) direct international trade with 281,000 workers; 4.) entertainment (motion picture/TV production) with 244,000 workers; and 5.) wholesale trade and logistics with 199,000 workers.
- The "**new economy**" of Los Angeles County is largely technology driven. This cluster includes bio-medical, digital information technology, and environmental technology, all of which build on the vibrant technological research capabilities of the County. Another key driver is creativity. There is a growing fusion between technology and creativity such as in video games and film production.
- Los Angeles is the largest **manufacturing center** in the U.S., employing 376,500 workers in 2007. The most important sectors are: apparel with 56,700 workers; fabricated metals with 49,100 workers; food products with 43,000 workers; aerospace products & parts with 38,100 workers; and search, detection & navigation products with 26,987 workers.
- **International trade** is a major driver of the area's economy. The Los Angeles Customs District—which includes the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, Port Hueneme, and Los Angeles International Airport—is the nation's largest. The value of two-way trade passing through Los Angeles totaled \$357.3 billion in 2008, compared with \$353.4 billion for second-place New York. Major investments are under way to expand the ports, LAX airport and related transportation facilities in Los Angeles County.
- **Higher and specialized education** is a strength of Los Angeles County, with 112 public and private colleges and universities. These range from UCLA, USC, California Institute of Technology, and the Claremont Colleges to top-rated specialized institutions, like the California Institute for the Arts, the Art Center College of Design, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, and the Otis College of Art. Medical education is also a strong point; Los Angeles has two each of medical schools, dental schools, and eye institutes, plus specialized research and treatment facilities like the City of Hope. The County's community colleges offer many innovative programs, including culinary arts, fashion design, multimedia, and computer assisted design and manufacturing.
- Los Angeles County's **transportation** network is extensive. In addition to the ports and LAX airport, there are two other busy commercial airports (Bob Hope in Burbank and Long Beach). The freeway system is well-known. In addition, there are many mass transit options including Amtrak, Metrolink (commuter heavy rail), and MetroRail (subway & light rail). Rail freight service is provided by Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the Union Pacific.



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- **Quality of life** options are numerous in Los Angeles County. Recreation opportunities range from professional sports to personal recreation at beaches, marinas, and mountain resorts. The number of fine and performing arts activities is growing, as well as special festivals including the renowned Tournament of Roses. Notable landmarks include the Getty Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, California Science Center and the Staples Center sports arena all in downtown Los Angeles, and the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach.

A large, light gray watermark of the LAEDC logo is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. It consists of the letters "LAEDC" in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a light gray square that is rotated 30 degrees clockwise, matching the orientation of the main logo.