



Economic Overview

Kern County, California



County of Kern

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Demographic Profile

The population in Kern County, California was 906,883 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022.

The region has a civilian labor force of 391,833 with a participation rate of 58.3%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Kern County, California, 18.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.8% in the nation.

The median household income in Kern County, California is \$63,883 and the median house value is \$282,800.

Summary¹

| Demographics | Percent | | | Value | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|-------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Kern County, California | California | USA | Kern County, California | California | USA |
| Population (ACS) | — | — | — | 906,883 | 39,356,104 | 331,097,593 |
| Male | 51.2% | 50.1% | 49.6% | 464,093 | 19,708,947 | 164,200,298 |
| Female | 48.8% | 49.9% | 50.4% | 442,790 | 19,647,157 | 166,897,295 |
| Median Age ² | — | — | — | 32.2 | 37.3 | 38.5 |
| Under 18 Years | 28.8% | 22.3% | 22.1% | 261,013 | 8,774,570 | 73,213,705 |
| 18 to 24 Years | 10.2% | 9.5% | 9.4% | 92,536 | 3,738,836 | 31,282,896 |
| 25 to 34 Years | 15.2% | 15.0% | 13.7% | 137,936 | 5,884,283 | 45,388,153 |
| 35 to 44 Years | 13.1% | 13.6% | 12.9% | 118,637 | 5,350,976 | 42,810,359 |
| 45 to 54 Years | 11.0% | 12.6% | 12.4% | 99,663 | 4,977,216 | 41,087,357 |
| 55 to 64 Years | 10.4% | 12.1% | 12.9% | 94,395 | 4,764,923 | 42,577,475 |
| 65 to 74 Years | 6.9% | 8.7% | 9.7% | 62,939 | 3,427,460 | 32,260,679 |
| 75 Years and Over | 4.4% | 6.2% | 6.8% | 39,764 | 2,437,840 | 22,476,969 |
| Race: White | 56.1% | 48.1% | 65.9% | 509,039 | 18,943,660 | 218,123,424 |
| Race: Black or African American | 5.2% | 5.6% | 12.5% | 46,915 | 2,202,587 | 41,288,572 |
| Race: American Indian and Alaska Native | 1.1% | 1.0% | 0.8% | 9,970 | 394,188 | 2,786,431 |
| Race: Asian | 5.0% | 15.1% | 5.8% | 44,904 | 5,949,136 | 19,112,979 |
| Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander | 0.2% | 0.4% | 0.2% | 1,708 | 150,531 | 624,863 |
| Race: Some Other Race | 15.5% | 16.2% | 6.0% | 140,344 | 6,388,999 | 20,018,544 |
| Race: Two or More Races | 17.0% | 13.5% | 8.8% | 154,003 | 5,327,003 | 29,142,780 |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 55.3% | 39.7% | 18.7% | 501,705 | 15,617,930 | 61,755,866 |
| Population Growth | | | | | | |
| Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴ | — | — | — | 913,820 | 38,965,193 | 334,914,895 |
| Population Annual Average Growth ⁴ | 0.6% | 0.2% | 0.6% | 5,109 | 71,143 | 1,885,495 |
| People per Square Mile ⁴ | — | — | — | 112.3 | 250.0 | 94.8 |
| Economic | | | | | | |
| Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over) | 58.3% | 63.6% | 63.3% | 391,833 | 20,011,853 | 167,857,207 |
| Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54) | 73.9% | 82.0% | 82.8% | 261,899 | 13,219,214 | 106,380,520 |
| Armed Forces Labor Force | 0.4% | 0.5% | 0.5% | 2,492 | 156,809 | 1,236,378 |
| Veterans, Age 18-64 | 3.4% | 2.8% | 4.3% | 18,346 | 694,459 | 8,636,019 |
| Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64 | 75.7% | 76.4% | 77.1% | 13,879 | 530,489 | 6,656,238 |
| Median Household Income ² | — | — | — | \$63,883 | \$91,905 | \$75,149 |
| Per Capita Income | — | — | — | \$27,976 | \$45,591 | \$41,261 |
| Mean Commute Time (minutes) | — | — | — | 23.9 | 29.2 | 26.7 |
| Commute via Public Transportation | 0.6% | 3.6% | 3.8% | 2,179 | 662,772 | 5,945,723 |
| Educational Attainment, Age 25-64 | | | | | | |
| No High School Diploma | 23.1% | 14.8% | 10.1% | 104,260 | 3,102,710 | 17,373,867 |
| High School Graduate | 28.1% | 20.5% | 25.1% | 126,501 | 4,301,348 | 43,176,248 |
| Some College, No Degree | 23.0% | 20.1% | 19.7% | 103,508 | 4,225,814 | 33,916,989 |

Summary¹

| | Percent | | | Value | | |
|--|----------------------------|------------|-------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|
| | Kern County, California | California | USA | Kern County, California | California | USA |
| Associate's Degree | 7.7% | 7.9% | 9.2% | 34,499 | 1,653,189 | 15,886,884 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 12.2% | 23.1% | 22.4% | 54,809 | 4,844,003 | 38,451,123 |
| Postgraduate Degree | 6.0% | 13.6% | 13.4% | 27,054 | 2,850,334 | 23,058,233 |
| Housing | | | | | | |
| Total Housing Units | — | — | — | 301,687 | 14,424,442 | 140,943,613 |
| Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5} | — | — | — | \$282,800 | \$659,300 | \$281,900 |
| Homeowner Vacancy | 1.2% | 0.9% | 1.1% | 1,964 | 70,543 | 931,393 |
| Rental Vacancy | 3.7% | 4.0% | 5.5% | 4,329 | 250,250 | 2,623,236 |
| Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units) | 40.4% | 44.4% | 35.2% | 112,026 | 5,908,461 | 44,238,593 |
| Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units) | 6.4% | 6.9% | 8.3% | 17,883 | 922,535 | 10,474,870 |
| Total Owner Occupied Housing units | 59.6% | 55.6% | 64.8% | 165,473 | 7,407,361 | 81,497,760 |
| Social | | | | | | |
| Poverty Level (of all people) | 19.3% | 12.1% | 12.5% | 170,013 | 4,685,272 | 40,521,584 |
| Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP | 17.9% | 10.3% | 11.5% | 49,679 | 1,373,232 | 14,486,880 |
| Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population) | 2.0% | 1.5% | 1.4% | 18,025 | 591,072 | 4,476,703 |
| Disconnected Youth ³ | 2.9% | 1.7% | 2.5% | 1,572 | 36,399 | 430,795 |
| Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children) | 38.8% | 33.1% | 34.0% | 95,991 | 2,767,482 | 23,568,955 |
| Uninsured | 7.8% | 7.1% | 8.7% | 68,569 | 2,752,067 | 28,315,092 |
| With a Disability, Age 18-64 | 10.4% | 8.3% | 10.5% | 54,388 | 2,022,803 | 20,879,820 |
| With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size | 38.9% | 45.5% | 45.5% | 21,147 | 919,685 | 9,492,098 |
| Foreign Born | 19.7% | 26.5% | 13.7% | 178,616 | 10,442,880 | 45,281,071 |
| Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over) | 17.6% | 17.1% | 8.2% | 148,208 | 6,358,142 | 25,704,846 |

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2018-2022, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

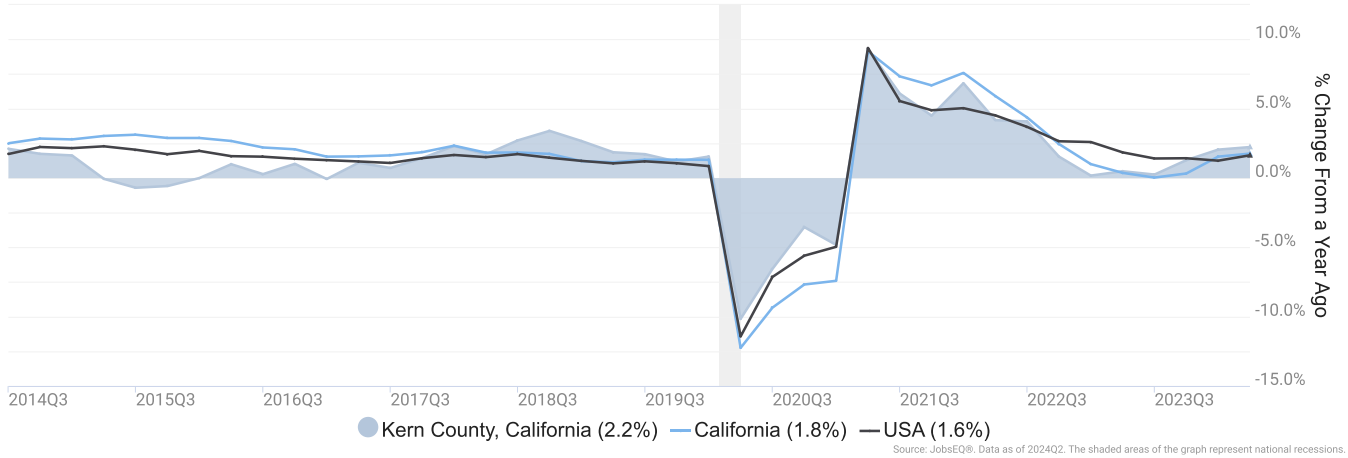
4. Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

As of 2024Q2, total employment for Kern County, California was 366,420 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q2, employment increased 2.2% in the region.

Employment for Kern County, California

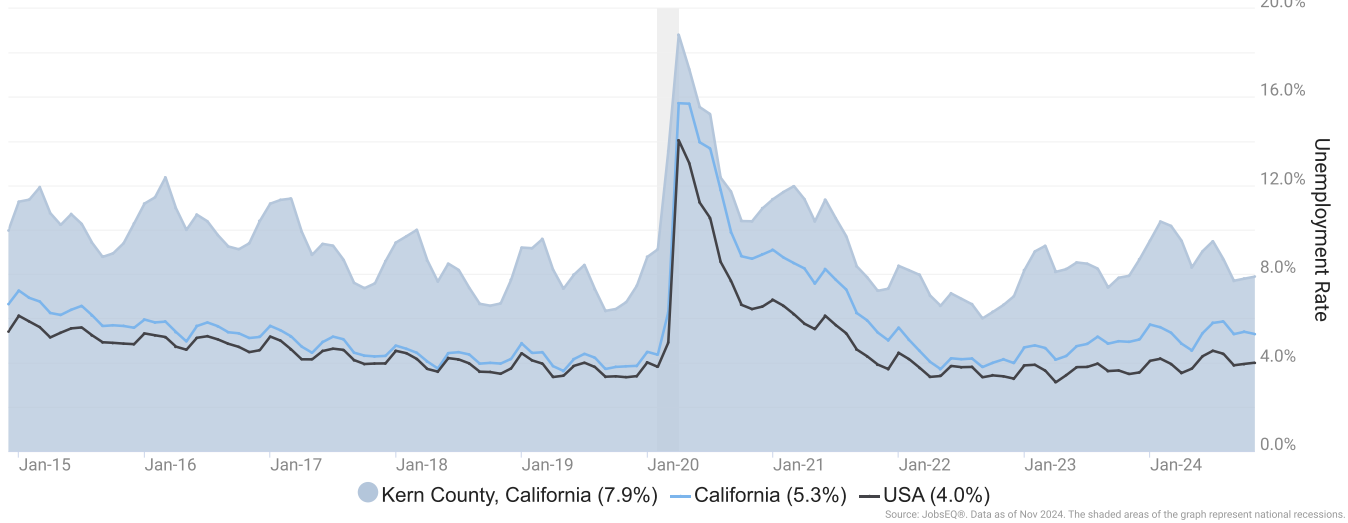


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q2.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Kern County, California was 7.9% as of November 2024. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 4.0%. One year earlier, in November 2023, the unemployment rate in Kern County, California was 7.9%.

Unemployment Rate for Kern County, California

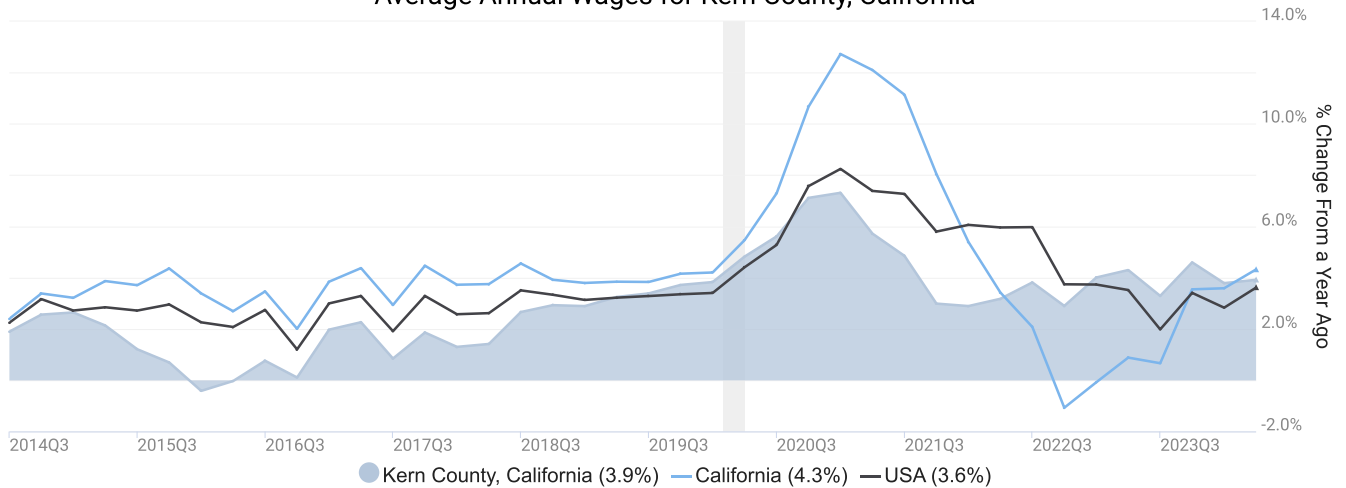


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through November 2024.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Kern County, California earned annual wages of \$59,091 as of 2024Q2. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.9% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$72,405 in the nation as of 2024Q2.

Average Annual Wages for Kern County, California



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q2.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 11.7% higher in Kern County, California than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

| | Annual Average Salary | Cost of Living Index (Base US) | US Purchasing Power |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Kern County, California | \$59,091 | 111.7 | \$52,902 |
| California | \$88,024 | 141.2 | \$62,333 |
| USA | \$72,405 | 100.0 | \$72,405 |

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

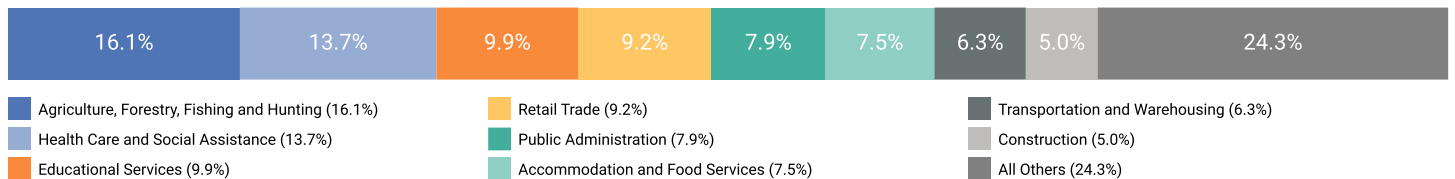
Data as of 2024Q2

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2024Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Kern County, California is Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, employing 58,942 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (50,025 workers) and Educational Services (36,226). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (LQ = 13.15), Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (5.32), and Public Administration (1.69).

Total Workers for Kern County, California by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®
 Data as of 2024Q2
 Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q2.

Sectors in Kern County, California with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$149,144), Utilities (\$128,860), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$110,328). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+8,915 jobs), Transportation and Warehousing (+7,968), and Educational Services (+3,822).

Over the next 1 year, employment in Kern County, California is projected to expand by 2,212 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Utilities with a +2.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+723 jobs), Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (+276), and Accommodation and Food Services (+170).

Kern County, California, 2024Q2¹

| NAICS | Industry | Current | | | 5-Year History | | 1-Year Forecast | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Empl | Avg Ann Wages | LQ | Empl Change | Ann % | Total Demand | Exits | Transfers | Empl Growth | Ann % Growth |
| 11 | Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting | 58,942 | \$43,857 | 13.15 | -4,955 | -1.6% | 7,505 | 3,421 | 3,808 | 276 | 0.5% |
| 62 | Health Care and Social Assistance | 50,025 | \$56,382 | 0.92 | 8,915 | 4.0% | 5,613 | 2,228 | 2,662 | 723 | 1.4% |
| 61 | Educational Services | 36,226 | \$64,400 | 1.23 | 3,822 | 2.3% | 3,425 | 1,534 | 1,855 | 36 | 0.1% |
| 44 | Retail Trade | 33,860 | \$39,657 | 0.94 | 921 | 0.6% | 4,576 | 1,939 | 2,680 | -43 | -0.1% |
| 92 | Public Administration | 28,931 | \$88,641 | 1.69 | 793 | 0.6% | 2,756 | 1,062 | 1,588 | 106 | 0.4% |
| 72 | Accommodation and Food Services | 27,652 | \$26,778 | 0.87 | 2,701 | 2.1% | 5,086 | 2,094 | 2,822 | 170 | 0.6% |
| 48 | Transportation and Warehousing | 23,196 | \$66,501 | 1.27 | 7,968 | 8.8% | 2,674 | 1,019 | 1,497 | 158 | 0.7% |
| 23 | Construction | 18,499 | \$70,073 | 0.85 | -188 | -0.2% | 1,708 | 584 | 998 | 126 | 0.7% |
| 56 | Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services | 14,754 | \$52,653 | 0.66 | -2,030 | -2.5% | 1,767 | 669 | 1,007 | 91 | 0.6% |
| 31 | Manufacturing | 13,609 | \$77,262 | 0.47 | 112 | 0.2% | 1,467 | 506 | 868 | 93 | 0.7% |
| 54 | Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services | 12,788 | \$77,955 | 0.48 | 1,422 | 2.4% | 1,153 | 382 | 649 | 122 | 1.0% |
| 81 | Other Services (except Public Administration) | 12,563 | \$41,208 | 0.81 | 701 | 1.2% | 1,514 | 584 | 844 | 86 | 0.7% |
| 42 | Wholesale Trade | 8,495 | \$77,115 | 0.62 | 302 | 0.7% | 883 | 316 | 532 | 35 | 0.4% |
| 21 | Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction | 7,095 | \$110,328 | 5.32 | -1,970 | -4.8% | 697 | 226 | 431 | 40 | 0.6% |
| 52 | Finance and Insurance | 4,376 | \$84,676 | 0.30 | -295 | -1.3% | 383 | 139 | 223 | 22 | 0.5% |
| 53 | Real Estate and Rental and Leasing | 4,206 | \$69,225 | 0.65 | 328 | 1.6% | 422 | 178 | 224 | 21 | 0.5% |
| 71 | Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation | 3,846 | \$28,677 | 0.51 | 259 | 1.4% | 600 | 226 | 341 | 34 | 0.9% |
| 55 | Management of Companies and Enterprises | 2,912 | \$149,144 | 0.51 | -823 | -4.9% | 272 | 92 | 154 | 27 | 0.9% |
| 22 | Utilities | 2,341 | \$128,860 | 1.24 | 372 | 3.5% | 258 | 76 | 130 | 52 | 2.2% |
| 51 | Information | 2,076 | \$59,835 | 0.29 | -217 | -2.0% | 184 | 66 | 114 | 4 | 0.2% |
| 99 | Unclassified | 27 | \$78,010 | 0.04 | 8 | 7.7% | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0.6% |
| Total - All Industries | | 366,420 | \$59,091 | 1.00 | 18,146 | 1.0% | 42,016 | 16,382 | 23,423 | 2,212 | 0.6% |

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.chmuraecon.com/jobseq)

Data as of 2024Q2

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Kern County, California is Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations, employing 41,929 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (38,859 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (33,085). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (LQ = 19.65), Educational Instruction and Library Occupations (1.27), and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (1.22).

Occupation groups in Kern County, California with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations (\$131,700), Management Occupations (\$130,000), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$117,400). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 2.0% among Legal Occupations to 13.1% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in Kern County, California is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+367 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+271). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations (6,468 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (5,456).

Kern County, California, 2024Q2¹

| SOC | Occupation | Current | | | | | 5-Year History | | | 1-Year Forecast | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| | | Empl | Mean Ann Wages ² | LQ | Unempl | Unempl Rate | Online Job Ads ³ | Empl Change | Ann % | Total Demand | Exits | Transfers | Empl Growth | Ann % Growth |
| 45-0000 | Farming, Fishing, and Forestry | 41,929 | \$36,900 | 19.65 | 5,034 | 11.6% | 5 | -3,485 | -1.6% | 6,613 | 2,649 | 3,819 | 144 | 0.3% |
| 53-0000 | Transportation and Material Moving | 38,859 | \$49,300 | 1.22 | 6,017 | 12.9% | 758 | 6,565 | 3.8% | 5,173 | 1,873 | 3,029 | 271 | 0.7% |
| 43-0000 | Office and Administrative Support | 33,085 | \$51,200 | 0.77 | 2,531 | 6.7% | 1,119 | -377 | -0.2% | 3,542 | 1,574 | 2,006 | -38 | -0.1% |
| 35-0000 | Food Preparation and Serving Related | 28,074 | \$39,000 | 0.93 | 4,482 | 13.1% | 790 | 2,662 | 2.0% | 5,616 | 2,373 | 3,083 | 160 | 0.6% |
| 41-0000 | Sales and Related | 25,402 | \$51,000 | 0.79 | 3,045 | 10.4% | 1,921 | -438 | -0.3% | 3,423 | 1,503 | 1,953 | -33 | -0.1% |
| 25-0000 | Educational Instruction and Library | 25,105 | \$74,200 | 1.27 | 1,423 | 5.8% | 616 | 2,741 | 2.3% | 2,315 | 1,047 | 1,218 | 51 | 0.2% |
| 11-0000 | Management | 24,412 | \$130,000 | 0.86 | 903 | 3.7% | 1,647 | 1,567 | 1.3% | 2,266 | 817 | 1,226 | 224 | 0.9% |
| 31-0000 | Healthcare Support | 18,702 | \$38,600 | 1.11 | 1,716 | 8.0% | 553 | 5,241 | 6.8% | 3,029 | 1,257 | 1,405 | 367 | 2.0% |
| 29-0000 | Healthcare Practitioners and Technical | 17,866 | \$117,400 | 0.82 | 614 | 3.4% | 4,879 | 1,857 | 2.2% | 1,209 | 528 | 488 | 193 | 1.1% |
| 13-0000 | Business and Financial Operations | 17,122 | \$90,400 | 0.73 | 950 | 5.5% | 1,165 | 1,613 | 2.0% | 1,553 | 495 | 916 | 142 | 0.8% |
| 47-0000 | Construction and Extraction | 16,354 | \$68,900 | 1.00 | 2,239 | 11.2% | 237 | -1,453 | -1.7% | 1,560 | 502 | 927 | 131 | 0.8% |
| 49-0000 | Installation, Maintenance, and Repair | 12,673 | \$65,200 | 0.89 | 802 | 5.7% | 792 | 429 | 0.7% | 1,232 | 455 | 669 | 108 | 0.9% |
| 51-0000 | Production | 12,050 | \$53,200 | 0.60 | 1,396 | 9.3% | 268 | -587 | -0.9% | 1,413 | 502 | 857 | 54 | 0.4% |
| 37-0000 | Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance | 9,920 | \$43,700 | 0.83 | 1,446 | 11.5% | 250 | 118 | 0.2% | 1,407 | 581 | 770 | 57 | 0.6% |
| 33-0000 | Protective Service | 9,290 | \$76,100 | 1.18 | 645 | 6.6% | 246 | -64 | -0.1% | 1,089 | 443 | 623 | 22 | 0.2% |
| 39-0000 | Personal Care and Service | 7,590 | \$41,600 | 0.81 | 842 | 9.6% | 113 | 484 | 1.3% | 1,386 | 513 | 819 | 54 | 0.7% |

Kern County, California, 2024Q2¹

| SOC | Occupation | Current | | | | | | 5-Year History | | 1-Year Forecast | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | Empl | Mean Ann Wages ² | LQ | Unempl | Unempl Rate | Online Job Ads ³ | Empl Change | Ann % | Total Demand | Exits | Transfers | Empl Growth | Ann % Growth |
| 21-0000 | Community and Social Service | 7,295 | \$65,900 | 1.08 | 409 | 5.9% | 882 | 775 | 2.3% | 737 | 271 | 376 | 89 | 1.2% |
| 15-0000 | Computer and Mathematical | 6,167 | \$110,600 | 0.53 | 314 | 4.9% | 931 | 495 | 1.7% | 442 | 139 | 228 | 75 | 1.2% |
| 17-0000 | Architecture and Engineering | 5,064 | \$112,500 | 0.87 | 215 | 4.5% | 440 | -80 | -0.3% | 369 | 122 | 209 | 39 | 0.8% |
| 19-0000 | Life, Physical, and Social Science | 3,918 | \$90,600 | 1.18 | 168 | 4.7% | 415 | 89 | 0.5% | 380 | 65 | 283 | 32 | 0.8% |
| 27-0000 | Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media | 3,735 | \$72,500 | 0.56 | 298 | 8.3% | 218 | 15 | 0.1% | 386 | 149 | 216 | 21 | 0.6% |
| 23-0000 | Legal | 1,808 | \$131,700 | 0.59 | 37 | 2.0% | 107 | -21 | -0.2% | 112 | 44 | 59 | 10 | 0.6% |
| Total - All Occupations | | 366,420 | \$64,400 | 1.00 | 35,526 | 8.8% | 18,350 | 18,146 | 1.0% | 45,292 | 17,901 | 25,178 | 2,212 | 0.6% |

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.jobseq.com)

Data as of 2024Q2 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

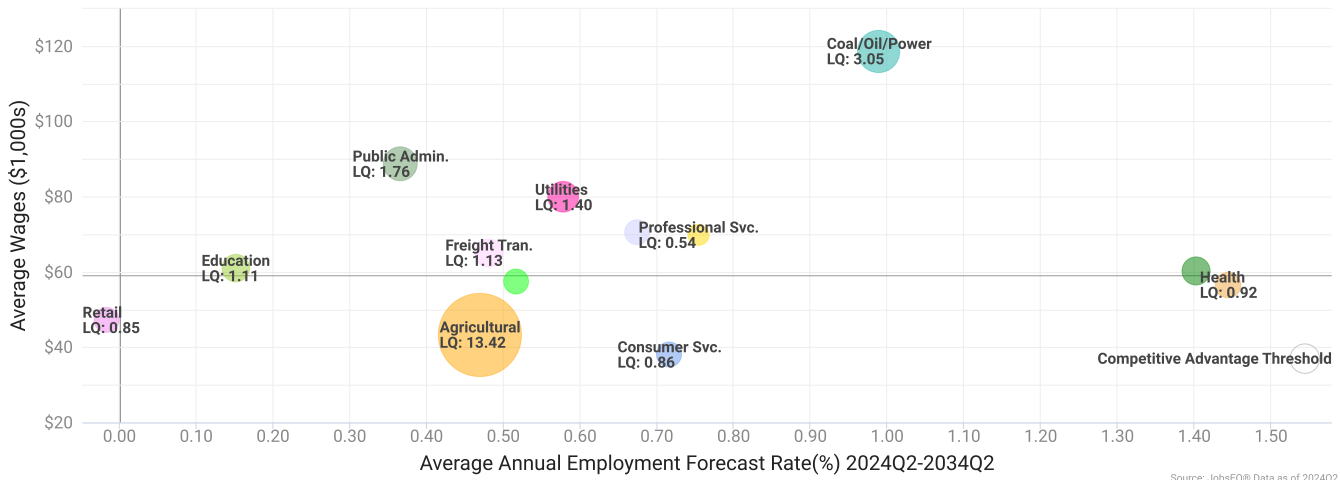
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2024Q1, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q2. Wages by occupation are as of 2024 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in Kern County, California with the highest relative concentration is Agricultural with a location quotient of 13.42. This cluster employs 59,206 workers in the region with an average wage of \$43,364. Employment in the Agricultural cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.5% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Kern County, California as of 2024Q2



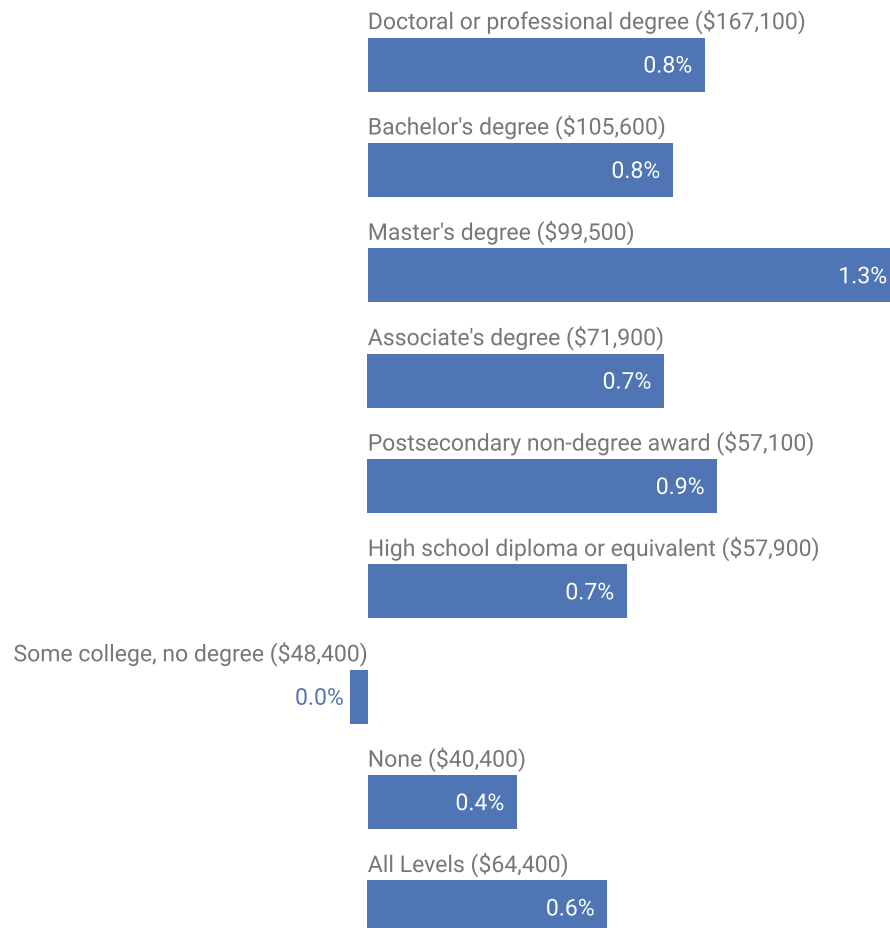
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2024Q2

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2024Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in Kern County, California is projected to grow 0.6% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.8% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to grow 0.8% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.7% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

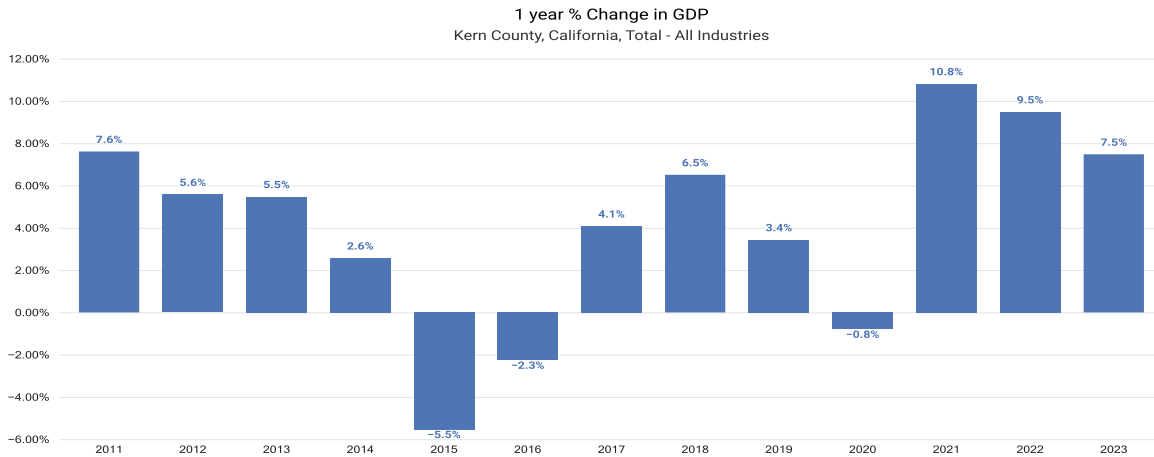


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q2

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2024Q2. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2023, nominal GDP in Kern County, California expanded 7.5%. This follows growth of 9.5% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in Kern County, California was \$49,184,898,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Of the sectors in Kern County, California, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, \$5,155,779,000. The next-largest contributions came from Public Administration (\$4,760,271,000); Health Care and Social Assistance (\$4,037,843,000); and Manufacturing (\$3,780,261,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Kern County, California, 2023

Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (11)



Public Administration (92)



Health Care and Social Assistance (62)



Manufacturing (31)



Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



Retail Trade (44)



Educational Services (61)



Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (21)



Transportation and Warehousing (48)



Construction (23)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Kern County, California Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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