

State of Kern County's Economy



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State of Kern County's Economy

- ❑ Kern County has a dynamic and youthful population.
- ❑ Kern County has a highly diverse population.
- ❑ Kern County's labor force growth is stagnant, while its employment has declined sharply.

Demographic Structure

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Population growth	1.5%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%
Median age	30.3	32.5	34.6	36.5
Under 18 years	31.2%	30.0%	26.0%	24.6%
Between 18 and 64 years	59.9%	59.6%	63.1%	62.8%
Over 65 years	8.9%	10.4%	10.9%	12.6%

Demographic Structure

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
White	64.6%	71.1%	61.3%	74.5%
African American	5.7%	4.3%	6.2%	12.4%
American Indian, Asian, & others	29.7%	24.6%	32.5%	13.1%
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	46.1%	43.0%	36.1%	15.1%

Labor Market

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Labor force growth	0.0%	1.7%	0.0%	-0.2%
Employment growth	-2.0%	-0.3%	-1.2%	-0.6%
Participation rate	58.7%	59.4%	64.2%	64.5%
Unemployment rate	16.1%	16.4%	12.4%	9.1%

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- ❑ Kern County has a relatively smaller private sector, but a larger public sector.
- ❑ Kern County residents should strive for better education.
- ❑ Kern County's standard of living is in need of improvement and its "gender earnings gap" must shrink.

Labor Market

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Private wage & salary workers	73.0%	73.2%	76.7%	78.6%
Government workers	19.5%	18.5%	14.3%	14.6%
Self-employed workers	7.5%	8.3%	9.0%	6.8%

Educational Attainment

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
High school education, no diploma	28.6%	28.0%	19.5%	15.5%
High school graduate	27.5%	27.2%	21.9%	29.3%
College education, no degree	22.2%	22.9%	21.2%	20.3%
College degree, all levels	21.7%	21.9%	37.4%	34.9%

Income and Earnings

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Median family income	\$50,800	\$52,900	\$68,900	\$62,400
Per capita income	\$20,000	\$20,400	\$29,000	\$27,000
Median earnings: male, full-time workers	\$43,100	\$40,400	\$48,300	\$45,400
Median earnings: female, full-time workers	\$31,500	\$32,900	\$40,300	\$35,200
Gender earnings gap	\$11,600	\$7,500	\$8,000	\$10,200
	37%	23%	20%	29%

State of Kern County's Economy

- ❑ Kern County's family size is relatively large and many local families earn insufficient income.
- ❑ Kern County faces a serious problem of poverty.
- ❑ Kern County alleviates poverty by providing assistance to the poor, disabled, unemployed, and retired.

Family Income Distribution

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Average family size (persons)	3.6	3.6	2.9	3.2
Low-income families: < \$50,000	49.3%	47.6%	36.0%	39.5%
Middle-income families: \$50,000 to \$100,000	30.9%	32.8%	31.8%	34.8%
High-income families: > \$100,000	19.8%	19.5%	32.2%	25.7%

Family Poverty

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
All families	16.7%	14.1%	9.8%	9.9%
Married with related children < 18 years	13.9%	14.3%	8.3%	15.3%
Female householder, no husband present with related children < 18 years	46.0%	42.5%	32.2%	37.1%

Social Assistance

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Mean social security income	\$14,000	\$13,800	\$14,800	\$15,000
Mean supplemental security income	\$8,600	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$7,900
Mean cash public assistance income	\$5,100	\$5,700	\$5,500	\$3,400

State of Kern County's Economy

- ❑ Kern County residents save time commuting to work and many residents carpool to work.
- ❑ Kern County offers the most affordable housing prices when compared to the region, state and nation.

Commuting to Work

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	23.0	26.0	27.0	25.2
Driving alone	75.0%	73.7%	73.0%	75.9%
Carpooling	17.2%	15.1%	12.0%	10.5%
Riding public transportation	1.2%	1.3%	5.1%	5.0%
Walking & other means	3.9%	5.7%	5.1%	4.6%
Working at home	2.7%	4.2%	4.8%	4.0%

Housing Market

Indicator	Kern	SJV	CA	US
Median price (2010)	\$130,000	\$145,200	\$262,000	\$174,100
Median price per square foot (2010)	\$93	\$104	\$187	\$124
Median Rent	\$782	\$805	\$1,116	\$419
Structure built 1990 & after	30.7%	31.0%	20.2%	25.5%

Kern Economic Journal

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