



*Economic Vitality,
Trade & Jobs*

ORANGE COUNTY PROFILE

- **Orange County** (Orange County PMSA) covers 948 square miles, and has a July 1, 2005 population of 3,061,100, an increase of 649,100 persons since 1990. This would make the County larger than the St. Louis MO-IL MSA.
- A quick **demographic profile** of Orange County indicates that: 51.3% of the population is white non-Hispanic; 30.8% is Hispanic; 13.8% is Asian-Pacific Islander; and 1.5% is black. 80% of the population have a high school diploma or more, while 31% have a bachelor's degree or more. (2000 Census)
- There is a diverse **economic base** in Orange County (based on the concept of "export" of goods or services) using 2005 average employment as a measure. The leading industries were: 1.) tourism with 132,100 jobs; 2.) technology with 112,200; 3.) business & professional services with 59,600; 4.) wholesale trade & logistics with 53,400; and 5.) health services/bio-medicine with 46,300.
- **Technology** is a vital force in the Orange County economy, with several "clusters" of activity, including Irvine (around both the Spectrum and UC Irvine), and in the mid-county area. Areas of emphasis include computer software, semiconductors and bio-med applications.
- Orange County is also a **major manufacturing center**, with 182,700 workers in 2005. This puts the County just behind Dallas (197,800) and ahead of Atlanta (177,400). The largest components are: computer & electronic products with 42,500 jobs; fabricated metal products with 22,800; transportation equipment with 17,000; textile mill products & apparel with 12,600; and machinery with 11,000.
- Orange County businesses have been very aggressive in **international trade**, and utilize the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, as well as Los Angeles International Airport, Ontario International Airport, and other support activities.
- The **higher educational assets** of Orange County are extensive, including the University of California Irvine (including a medical school), California State University Fullerton, Chapman University, and the Southern California College of Optometry. There are also several well-regarded community colleges.
- **Transportation** service in Orange County is well developed. Besides the freeway system, there is rail mass transit with service by Amtrak and Metrolink, and bus service offered by the Orange County Transit Authority. Commercial air service is offered at Orange County-John Wayne Airport.
- **Quality of life** is a strong point for the County, with nearly 40 miles of coast line with three small craft harbors. The mountains on the east side of the county offer outdoor recreational opportunities. There is also an array of fine and performing arts opportunities at the Orange County Performing Arts Center in Costa Mesa, plus professional baseball and ice hockey. And the modern theme park was born at Disneyland in Anaheim, which now includes a second park called California Adventure that's geared toward a more mature audience. There is also the Knott's Berry Farm and its sibling, Soak City USA.

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May 2006