

4.16 SOCIOECONOMICS/ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**4.16.1 Employment and Income Overview**

As reported by the Employment Development Department (EDD) of California, Los Angeles County has a labor force of 4,829,300, and the number of unemployed people is 298,900 (2004). On a larger scale, as a region, southern California experienced a significant decrease in job growth in 2001. In 2002, the region suffered a loss of about 22,000 jobs, bringing total wage and salary jobs below 6.9 million. This was the first time that southern California experienced job losses since the 1991-1993 period during which the region experienced the most severe recession since the Great Depression. However, the rate of job loss in the region at 0.3 percent in 2002 was lower than that of the rest of the state (1.3 percent). For both 2001 and 2002, southern California performed better relative to the rest of the state and the nation.

Los Angeles County lost more than 40,000 jobs in 2002, and total jobs in the county were still below its 1990 level even while the County's population increased by 1.1 million. Between 2000 and 2002, unemployment in Los Angeles rose from approximately 5 percent to a little over 6 percent.

In 2002, a family of four earning less than \$18,244 a year was classified as living in poverty. Poverty rates increased both in the nation and the state in 2002. In California, the poverty rate increased from 12.6 percent to 12.8 percent from 2001 to 2002. Minority households were impacted disproportionately based on national data. For example, the poverty rate among African American households rose from 22.7 percent in 2001 to about 24 percent in 2002, a 1.3 percent increase that was much higher than the 0.4 percent increase at the national level. Also based on the 2000 Census, poverty rates among Hispanic and African American households reached 23 percent but only 8 percent for non-Hispanic White households.

The 2002 Census found the region of southern California had the highest poverty rate among the nine largest metropolitan regions in the nation. Almost one in six persons in the region was in poverty. In addition, from 1990 to 2000, except for Washington DC, southern California was the only large metropolitan region where populations living in high-poverty neighborhoods increased.

4.16.2 Santa Clarita and Lancaster Economy

Santa Clarita's economic base is still developing as the area adds commercial and industrial space and attracts more residents wishing to work in the area. Figures in the City of Santa Clarita Housing Element Update (City of Santa Clarita, 1991c) show a steady growth of employment opportunities in the Santa Clarita Valley planning area. Santa Clarita contributes

about 79,198 people to the labor force, 3,788 of which were unemployed, which equates to 4.8 percent unemployment rate (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004a). The employment projections for the Santa Clarita, the Santa Clarita Valley, and Lancaster are presented below.

Jurisdiction	2000	2010	2015	2020
Lancaster	52,119	59,684	62,937	66,081
Santa Clarita	55,898	63,255	63,859	64,316
Unincorporated Santa Clarita Valley	29,142	62,646	80,686	98,221

Source: North Los Angeles County Subregion 2020 Growth Projection Report, October 1995.

The unemployment rate in Santa Clarita has also been quite low with annual averages over the past few years around 3 percent according to figures from the Employment Development Department of the state. The percent of families reported to be living at or under the poverty level in Santa Clarita is also extremely low (4.9 percent), relative to the county's poverty estimates (14.7 percent). The City of Lancaster contributes about 48,538 people to the labor force, 2,821 of which were unemployed as of February 2003, which equates to 5.81 percent unemployment rate (SCAG, 2004b).

The median household income in Santa Clarita in 1999 was \$66,717, and the median family income was \$73,588. The median household income in Lancaster in 1999 was \$41,127, and the median family income was \$44,681 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004b).

4.16.3 Ethnic Populations

Los Angeles County displays some of the greatest ethnic variety in the nation. According to the 2000 Census, close to half of the population is Hispanic or Latino as shown in Table 4.16-1.

The projected general and ethnic populations for Los Angeles County through 2050 are displayed below in Table 4.16-2 (CA Department of Finance, 2004b). By the year 2020, it is anticipated that over half of the County's population will be of Hispanic decent.

In the City of Santa Clarita, the population's ethnic mix is not as diverse as the County's population. Close to 80 percent of Santa Clarita's population describes itself as White. Approximately 22 percent of the City of Santa Clarita's population is Hispanic compared to approximately 46 percent of Los Angeles County and under one-third of the state. More than 8 in 10, or 83.7 percent of the population of Santa Clarita, are natives or U.S.-born. The remaining 16.3 percent of the population is foreign-born. Of the foreign-born:

**TABLE 4.16-1
ETHNIC MAKEUP OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY (2002)**

Ethnic Group	Population	Percentage
Total Population (All Races)	9,519,338	100.00%
One Race*	9,049,557	95.06%
One Race not Hispanic or Latino	5,277,125	55.44%
White*	4,637,062	48.71%
White not Hispanic or Latino	2,959,614	31.09%
Black or African American*	930,957	9.78%
Black or African American not Hispanic or Latino	901,472	9.47%
Asian*	1,137,500	11.95%
Asian Not Hispanic or Latino	1,124,569	11.81%
American Indian & Alaskan Native*	76,988	0.81%
American Indian & Alaskan Native*	25,609	0.27%
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander*	27,053	0.28%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander not Hispanic/Latino	23,265	0.24%
Some Other Race*	2,239,997	23.53%
Some Other Race not Hispanic or Latino	19,935	0.21%
Two or More Races*	469,781	4.94%
Two or More Races not Hispanic or Latino	222,661	2.34%
Hispanic or Latino	4,242,213	44.56%
Total Not Hispanic or Latino	5,277,125	55.44%

* Includes Hispanic or Latino.

**TABLE 4.16-2
PROJECTED ETHNIC MAKEUP OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY (2050)**

Year	Total	White	Hispanic	Asian	Pacific Islander	Black	American Indian	Multi-Race	
2000	#	9,559,635	3,056,684	4,264,140	1,139,396	24,132	916,140	27,691	131,452
	%	100.00%	31.97%	44.61%	11.92%	0.25%	9.58%	0.29%	1.38%
2010	#	10,461,007	3,078,169	5,060,274	1,131,189	24,842	969,868	35,866	160,799
	%	100.00%	29.43%	48.37%	10.81%	0.24%	9.27%	0.34%	1.54%
2020	#	10,885,092	2,832,727	5,650,010	1,197,401	27,606	942,273	54,961	180,114
	%	100.00%	26.02%	51.91%	11.00%	0.25%	8.66%	0.50%	1.65%
2030	#	11,236,734	2,614,550	6,221,668	1,214,042	29,101	886,468	73,120	197,785
	%	100.00%	23.27%	55.37%	10.80%	0.26%	7.89%	0.65%	1.76%
2040	#	11,380,841	2,373,749	6,689,252	1,183,877	29,517	807,261	89,334	207,851
	%	100.00%	20.86%	58.78%	10.40%	0.26%	7.09%	0.78%	1.83%
2050	#	11,423,198	2,163,318	7,079,074	1,121,185	29,314	717,093	104,295	208,919
	%	100.00%	18.94%	61.97%	9.81%	0.26%	6.28%	0.91%	1.83%

- 55.4% are from Latin America
- 25.6% are from Asia
- 12.1% are from Europe
- 4.2% are from Northern America
- 1.9% are from Africa
- 0.8% are from Oceania

In the City of Lancaster, about 63 percent of the population describes itself as White, and approximately 24 percent is Hispanic. Approximately 16 percent of the total population is black or African American, and only 4 percent is of Asian decent.