

Victorville, California

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Victorville is a city located in the [Victor Valley](#) of western [San Bernardino County, California, USA](#). According to the [U.S. Census Bureau's](#) 2000 census, the city has a total population of 64,029. The May 1, 2007 population estimate from the State of [California](#) Department of Finance is 102,538. The High Desert Monthly Census of October 2007 has placed Victorville's population around 103,100, making it the 246th-largest city in the United States. However, the U.S. Census Bureau has not counted the city as such.

Geography

Victorville is located at 34°31′14″ North, 117°20′40″ West﻿ (34.520459, -117.344525)^{GR1}.

Victorville is located at the southern edge of the [Mojave Desert](#), 81 miles northeast of [Los Angeles](#), 34 miles south of [Barstow](#), 48 miles east of [Palmdale](#), and 37 miles north of [San Bernardino](#) through the [Cajon Pass](#) on [Interstate 15](#). Victorville has the Mojave Desert branch of the San Bernardino county government offices.

It is bordered by [Apple Valley](#) on the east, [Hesperia](#) on the south, and [Adelanto](#) on the west. The [Mojave River](#) flows through Victorville. The elevation at City Hall is approximately 2,950 feet above sea level. The summer climate for this area in the [Mojave Desert](#) may be hotter than the Los Angeles basin or the Inland Empire, but actually 10 or 15 degrees cooler than in the [Colorado Desert](#).

According to the [United States Census Bureau](#), the city has a total area of 189.8 km² (73.3 mi²). 188.5 km² (72.8 mi²) of it is land and 1.3 km² (0.5 mi²) of it is water. The total area is 0.71% water.

Demographics

As of 2005, there is an estimated population of 86,473 people, 30,000 households, and 21,000 families residing in the city. The [population density](#) is 339.7 /km² (879.7 /mi²). There are 22,498 housing units at an average density of 119.4 /km² (309.1 /mi²). The racial makeup of the city is 61.05% [White](#), 11.92% [African American](#), 1.11% [Native American](#), 3.48% [Asian](#), 0.20% [Pacific Islander](#), 16.26%

from [other races](#), and 5.98% from two or more races. 33.46% of the population are [Hispanic or Latino](#) of any race.

There are 30,000 households out of which 43.8% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 54.3% are [married couples](#) living together, 16.1% have a female householder with no husband present, and 24.0% are non-families. 19.4% of all households are made up of individuals and 8.5% have someone living alone who is 65 years of age or older. The average household size is 3.03 and the average family size is 3.47.

In the city the population is spread out with 34.2% under the age of 18, 8.6% from 18 to 24, 28.6% from 25 to 44, 17.4% from 45 to 64, and 11.2% who are 65 years of age or older. The median age is 31 years. For every 100 females there are 93.9 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there are 89.2 males.

The median income for a household in the city is \$36,187, and the median income for a family is \$39,988. Males have a median income of \$40,149 versus \$26,138 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the city is \$14,454. 18.7% of the population and 15.3% of families are below the [poverty line](#). Out of the total population, 24.6% of those under the age of 18 and 10.6% of those 65 and older are living below the poverty line.

History

About [1895](#) the town was named Victor after [California Southern Railroad](#) General Manager [Jacob Nash Victor](#). In [1901](#), the [United States Post Office Department](#) changed the name to Victorville to avoid confusion with the town of Victor, Colorado.

In [1926](#), [Route 66](#) was established and passed through Victorville. Today, the former route is the primary road through oldtown Victorville, forming Seventh Street.

In [1940](#), [Herman J. Mankiewicz](#) and [John Houseman](#) wrote the first two drafts of [Citizen Kane](#) in Victorville. [Orson Welles](#) sent the two of them to write in seclusion due to Mankiewicz's legendary drinking habits.^[6]

[Victorville Army Airfield](#) was constructed in 1941 and later named [George Air Force Base](#).

The city was incorporated on [September 21, 1962](#).

On [August 14, 1977](#), actor [Ron Haydock](#) was struck and killed while hitch-hiking near Victorville. Ron Haydock is also remembered for his hit rockabilly 45rpm single "99 Chicks".

The punk band C.U.R.S.E. formed in Victorville in 1985.

The punk band Futile Effort formed in Victorville in 1989. The members of Face to Face (Victoria Manor) used to watch Futile Effort play and tell the band that "punk was going nowhere".

The punk band [Face to Face](#) formed in Victorville in [1991](#) after cutting their hair and changing their heavy metal band, Victoria Manor, into a punk band.

In [1992](#), George AFB was deactivated and is now [Southern California Logistics Airport](#). The former base housing is now vacant, forming a ghost town that is used for military training purposes by troops from [Fort Irwin Military Reservation](#).

In [2003](#), the [Roy Rogers and Dale Evans Museum](#) was moved from Victorville to Branson, Missouri.

On [November 3, 2007](#), Victorville hosted the [DARPA Urban Challenge](#), a 6 hour autonomous robot driving contest through the streets of what was formerly [George Air Force Base](#) now the Southern California Logistics Airport. The Carnegie Mellon team, known as Tartan Racing, took the US\$2 million first prize, while the Stanford Racing Team received a \$1 million check for finishing second. Team Victor Tango, made up of faculty and students from Virginia Tech, whose vehicle number was 32 in honor of the 32 students killed at the university earlier this year in what is being called the [Virginia Tech massacre](#), received \$500,000 for taking third place. "Robots sometimes stun the world, inspire a lot of people and change the belief of what is possible," said William "Red" Whittaker, a Carnegie Mellon robotics professor and team leader of the university's Tartan Racing team. "We've seen that here and once the perception of what's possible changes it never goes back. This is a phenomenal thing for robotics."^[7]

Transportation

[Victor Valley Transit Authority \(VVTa\)](#)
[Victorville \(Amtrak station\)](#)

Notable people from Victorville

[Earl W. Bascom](#), Hall of Fame cowboy, international artist and sculptor.

[Trent Brendon](#), tennis player, Wake Forest University career wins leader.

[Ollie Butler](#), Legendary High School Basketball Coach from Victor Valley High School.

[Cuba Gooding, Jr.](#), actor (actually from Apple Valley).

[Dan Henderson](#), welterweight champion, was born in August 24, 1970 and went to Victor Valley High School.

[T. J. Houshmandzadeh](#), wide receiver for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals.

[Ron Johnson](#), bass player for Karl Denson's Tiny Universe and New Monsoon (actually from Adelanto).

[Al Jury](#), NFL Referee.

[Dave Lombardo](#), drummer of thrash metal band, [Slayer](#).

[Prem Reddy](#), MD, FACC, FCCP, Cardiologist, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist.

[Joe Stevenson](#), ultimate fighter who attended Silverado High School.

[Mike Mangold](#), 2005 Red Bull Air Race World Series Champion.

Places of Interest

Victorville is the current home of the [Route 66 Museum](#) and the [San Bernardino County Fair](#).

The [United States Penitentiary, Victorville](#), located north of I-15 just off US Highway 395 has been home to many notables, including [John Walker Lindh](#), the so-called "American Taliban" fighter.

Filming Location

"Grand Theft Auto" (1977) starring Ron Howard was filmed in Victorville, California.

The film [The Hills Have Eyes](#) (1977) was filmed in Victorville, California, but the remake which was made in 2006 was eventually filmed in [Morocco](#).

The film [The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift](#) (2006) was partly filmed in Victorville, California.

The [Contact \(film\)](#) (1997) was partly filmed in Victorville, California. Some local Victorville residents were used as extras.