

San Bernardino County, California

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San Bernardino County is the largest [county](#) in the [United States](#) by area, containing more land than each of [nine states](#). The county is larger in area than the states of [Massachusetts](#), [Connecticut](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Delaware](#) combined. Any of those states could be replaced in the list by [New Jersey](#), [Vermont](#), or [New Hampshire](#).

However, if other county-equivalents are included, four of [Alaska's boroughs](#) are larger, with [North Slope Borough](#) the largest at nearly five times San Bernardino County's size. Though not a true county-equivalent, Alaska's [Unorganized Borough](#) is seventeen times larger. Alaska's boroughs notwithstanding, San Bernardino County is the largest county or county-equivalent in the [48 contiguous United States](#). [Coconino County, Arizona](#), is the second largest county in the United States, [Nye County, Nevada](#) is third, and [Elko County, Nevada](#) is fourth.

Located in the southeast of the [state](#) of [California](#), the deserts and mountains of this vast county stretch from the outskirts of the densely populated [Riverside-San Bernardino Area](#) to the [Nevada](#) border and the [Colorado River](#). The fast growing county had a 2007 population estimate by the [California Department of Finance](#) was 2,028,013 (12th in the country but only 4th in the state), largely located in its more populated southwestern portions. The [county seat](#) is [San Bernardino](#). The county records are located in [downtown San Bernardino](#). Its southwestern portions (the more urbanized part of San Bernardino County) are considered to be part of the [Inland Empire](#) region of [Southern California](#), a bicounty area.

History

Father Francisco Dumetz named San Bernardino on [May 20](#), 1810, feast day of St. Bernardino of Siena.

San Bernardino County was formed from parts of [Los Angeles County](#) in 1853. Parts of the county's territory were given to [Riverside County](#) in 1893.

The [Franciscans](#) gave the name San Bernardino to the snowcapped peak in [southern California](#), in honor of the saint and it is from him that the county derives its name.

Geography

The Mojave National Preserve covers some of the eastern desert, especially between [Interstate 15](#) and [Interstate 40](#). The desert portion also includes the cities of [Needles](#) next to the [Colorado River](#), and [Barstow](#) at the junction in [Interstate 15](#) and [Interstate 40](#). Trona is at the northwestern part of the county west of [Death Valley](#). This famous national park, mostly within [Inyo County](#), also has a small portion of land within the county. The largest metropolitan area in the [Mojave Desert](#) part of the county is the [Victor Valley](#) with the incorporated localities of [Apple Valley](#), [Victorville](#), [Adelanto](#), and [Hesperia](#). Further south, a portion of [Joshua Tree National Park](#) overlaps the county near [Twentynine Palms](#). Additional places near and west of Twentynine palms include [Yucca Valley](#), [Joshua Tree](#), and [Morongo Valley](#).

The mountains are home to the [San Bernardino National Forest](#), and include the communities of [Crestline](#), [Lake Arrowhead](#), [Running Springs](#), [Big Bear City](#), [Forest Falls](#), and [Big Bear Lake](#).

The [San Bernardino Valley](#) is at the eastern end of the [San Gabriel Valley](#), and is part of the [Inland Empire](#). The San Bernardino Valley includes the cities of [Ontario](#), [Chino](#), [Chino Hills](#), [Upland](#), [Fontana](#), [Rialto](#), [Colton](#), [Grand Terrace](#), [Rancho Cucamonga](#), [San Bernardino](#), [Loma Linda](#), [Highland](#), [Redlands](#), and [Yucaipa](#).

The [Inland Empire](#) area of Southern California is made up of the southwestern portion of San Bernardino County and western portion of Riverside county.

Incorporated communities

Adelanto	Montclair
Apple Valley	Needles
Barstow	Ontario
Big Bear Lake	Rancho Cucamonga
Chino	Redlands
Chino Hills	Rialto
Colton	San Bernardino
Fontana	Twentynine Palms
Grand Terrace	Upland
Hesperia	Victorville
Highland	Yucaipa

Loma Linda

Yucca Valley

Unincorporated communities

Amboy

Angelus Oaks

Baker

Baldwin Lake

Big Bear City

Big River

Bloomington

Bluewater

Cadiz

Cedar Glen

Crestline

Daggett

Devore

Devore Heights

Earp

Forest Falls

Fort Irwin

Goffs

Helendale

Hinkley (See related: Erin Brockovich)

Joshua Tree

Kramer Junction

Lake Arrowhead

Landers

Lenwood

Lucerne Valley

Lytle Creek

Mentone

Morongo Valley

Mountain View Acres

Muscoy

Nebo Center

Newberry Springs

Nipton

Oak Hills

Oro Grande

Phelan

Pinon Hills

Red Mountain

Running Springs

Rice

Rimforest

San Antonio Heights

Skyforest

Sugarloaf

Searles Valley

Trona

Twentynine Palms Base

Twin Peaks

Valley of Enchantment (VOE)

Wonder Valley

Wrightwood

Yermo

Adjacent counties

Inyo County, California- north

Clark County, Nevada- northeast
Mohave County, Arizona- east
La Paz County, Arizona- southeast
Riverside County, California- south
Orange County, California- southwest
Los Angeles County, California- west
Kern County, California- west

San Bernardino County, California, is one of the few counties in the United States to border as many as 8 counties.

Transportation infrastructure

Major highways

 Interstate 10

 Interstate 15

 Interstate 40

 Interstate 210

 Interstate 215

 U.S. Route 95

 U.S. Route 395

 State Route 18

 State Route 30

 State Route 38

 State Route 58

 State Route 62

 State Route 66

 State Route 127

 State Route 138

 State Route 210

 State Route 247

 State Route 330

Public transportation

Omnitrans provides transit service in the urbanized portion of San Bernardino County, serving the City of San Bernardino, as well as the area between Montclair and Yucaipa.

Foothill Transit connects the Inland Empire area to the San Gabriel Valley and downtown Los Angeles.

OCTA connects Chino to [Irvine](#) and [Brea](#).

[RTA](#) connects Montclair to Riverside County.

[Victor Valley Transit Authority](#) operates buses in Victorville, Hesperia, Adelanto, Apple Valley and the surrounding county area.

[Barstow Area Transit](#) serves Barstow and the surrounding county area.

[Mountain Area Regional Transit Authority](#) (MARTA) covers the Lake Arrowhead and Big Bear regions. Limited service is also provided to [Downtown San Bernardino](#).

[Morongo Basin Transit Authority](#) provides bus service in Yucca Valley, Joshua Tree and Twentynine Palms (including the Marine base). Limited service is also provided to Palm Springs.

San Bernardino County is also served by [Greyhound](#) buses and [Amtrak](#) trains. [Metrolink](#) commuter trains connect the urbanized portion of the county with Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties.

Airports

[San Bernardino International Airport](#) is being remodeled and is expected to serve the region as an international airport. The airport will have access through interstate I-215 and I-10 through Mill Street. The airport is going to have commercial passenger flights starting in June 2008

Commercial passenger flights are available at [L.A./Ontario International Airport](#). [Southern California Logistics Airport](#) (Victorville) is a major cargo and general aviation airport.

The County of San Bernardino owns six general aviation airports: [Apple Valley Airport](#), [Baker Airport](#), [Barstow-Daggett Airport](#), [Chino Airport](#), [Needles Airport](#), and [Twentynine Palms Airport](#).

Other general aviation airports in the county include: [Big Bear City Airport](#), [Cable Airport](#) (Upland), and [Redlands Municipal Airport](#)

Colleges and universities

[Barstow Community College](#)

[California State University, San Bernardino](#)

[Chaffey College](#)

[Crafton Hills College](#)

[Loma Linda University](#)

[San Bernardino Valley College](#)

[University of Redlands](#)

[Victor Valley College](#)

[University of La Verne](#)

Politics

San Bernardino County voter registration and voting patterns lean to the Republican Party, with [Lyndon Johnson](#) in 1964 being the last Democrat to win a majority in the county. However, the county is split between poorer, heavily Latino, heavily Democratic areas and wealthy suburbs. For example, the heavily Latino cities of Ontario and San Bernardino went for John Kerry in 2004. However, these cities had abysmal voter turnout; in 2006, San Bernardino's population exceeded 201,000, and in 2004, cast a mere 42,520 votes. In 2006, strongly Republican Rancho Cucamonga had over 145,000 people, and cast 53,054 votes.

Presidential election results			
Year	GOP	DEM	Others
2004	55.3% 289,306	43.6% 227,789	1.1% 5,682
2000	48.8% 221,757	47.2% 214,749	4.0% 18,387
1996	43.6% 180,135	44.4% 183,372	12.0% 49,848
1992	37.2% 176,563	38.7% 183,634	24.0% 113,873
1988	60.0% 235,167	38.5% 151,118	1.5% 5,723
1984	64.8% 222,071	34.0% 116,454	1.2% 4,180
1980	59.7% 172,957	31.7% 91,790	8.6% 25,065
1976	49.5% 113,265	47.9% 109,636	2.6% 5,984
1972	59.7% 144,689	35.5% 85,986	4.8% 11,581
1968	50.1% 111,974	40.0% 89,418	9.9% 22,224
1964	42.8% 92,145	57.1% 123,012	0.1% 243
1960	52.0% 99,481	47.5% 90,888	0.5% 944

In the [House of Representatives](#), all of California's 43rd congressional district and parts of the 25th, 26th, 41st, and 42nd districts are in the county. Except for the 43rd, which is held by Democrat [Joe Baca](#), every district is held by Republicans: [Buck McKeon](#), [David Dreier](#), [Jerry Lewis](#), and [Gary Miller](#) respectively.

In the [State Assembly](#), tiny parts of the 32nd and 34th districts, parts of the 36th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 63rd, and 65th districts, and all of the 62nd district are in the county. Except for the 61st and 62nd districts, which are represented by Democrats [Nell Soto](#) and [Wilmer Carter](#) respectively, every district is represented by a Republican: [Jean Fuller](#) (AD-32), [Bill Maze](#) (AD-34), [Sharon Runner](#) (AD-36), [Anthony Adams](#) (AD-59), [Bob Huff](#) (AD-60), [Bill Emmerson](#) (AD-63), and [Paul Cook](#) (AD-65).

In the [State Senate](#), parts of the 18th and 32nd districts, which are held by [Roy Ashburn](#) and [Gloria Negrete McLeod](#) respectively, are in the county.

Demographics

As of the [census](#)² of 2000, there were 1,709,434 people, 528,594 households, and 404,374 families residing in the county. The [population density](#) was 33/km² (85/sq mi). There were 601,369 housing units at an average density of 12/km² (30/sq mi). The racial makeup of the county was 58.91% [White](#), 9.09% [African American](#), 1.17% [Native American](#), 4.69% [Asian](#), 0.30% [Pacific Islander](#), 20.82% from [other races](#), and 5.03% from two or more races. 39.16% of the population were [Hispanic](#) or [Latino](#) of any race. 66.1% spoke [English](#), 27.7% [Spanish](#) and 1.1% [Tagalog](#) as their first language.

There were 528,594 households out of which 43.70% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 55.80% were married couples living together, 14.80% had a female householder with no husband present, and 23.50% were non-families. 18.40% of all households were made up of individuals and 6.60% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 3.15 and the average family size was 3.58.

The number of homeless in San Bernardino County grew from 5,270 in 2002 to 7,331 in 2007, a 39% increase.^[1]

In the county the population was spread out with 32.30% under the age of 18, 10.30% from 18 to 24, 30.20% from 25 to 44, 18.70% from 45 to 64, and 8.60% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 30 years. For every 100 females there were 99.60 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 97.20 males.

The median income for a household in the county was \$42,066, and the median income for a family was \$46,574. Males had a median income of \$37,025 versus \$27,993 for females. The [per capita income](#) for the county was \$16,856. About 12.60% of families and 15.80% of the population were below the [poverty line](#), including 20.60% of those under age 18 and 8.40% of those age 65 or over.

Median household income by community

[Chino Hills, California](#): \$95,990

San Antonio Heights, California: \$92,173
Rancho Cucamonga, California: \$78,428
Lake Arrowhead, California: \$60,826
Chino, California: \$55,401
Grand Terrace, California: \$53,649
Running Springs, California: \$50,524
Wrightwood, California: \$50,338
Upland, California: \$48,734
Redlands, California: \$48,155
Mountain View Acres, California: \$45,787
Fontana, California: \$45,782
Crestline, California: \$44,257
Ontario, California: \$42,452
Rialto, California: \$41,254
Highland, California: \$41,230
Mentone, California: \$41,225
Montclair, California: \$40,797
Apple Valley, California: \$40,421
Hesperia, California: \$40,201
Yucaipa, California: \$39,144

Nebo Center, California: \$39,028
Loma Linda, California: \$38,204
Victorville, California: \$38,187
Lenwood, California: \$37,845
Morongo Valley, California: \$36,357
Trona, California: \$35,883
Colton, California: \$35,777
Big Bear City, California: \$35,615
Barstow, California: \$35,069
Big Bear Lake, California: \$34,447
Bloomington, California: \$34,106
Adelanto, California: \$31,594
Twentynine Palms, California: \$31,178

Yucca Valley, California: \$30,240

Muscoy, California: \$26,635

Joshua Tree, California: \$26,535

Needles, California: \$26,108

Big River, California: \$23,488

Bluewater, California: \$18,750

Gang violence

The [Inland Empire](#) is well known for its [Chicano gangs](#). The most well-known gangs are the [Ontario Varrio Sur Black Angels gang](#) and the [West Side Verdugo gang](#), as well as the [South Side Verdugo Flats gang](#), in various parts of south [San Bernardino](#), particularly around Mount Vernon Avenue. Fuelled by [drug](#) money and the ease of communication brought on by affordable [cell phones](#), the street gangs have flourished and spread across and beyond the Inland Empire in the face of sporadic and ineffective [law enforcement](#) efforts and inadequate intervention strategies. Incidents of gang violence in San Bernardino County have increased since the [1960s](#), while at the same time growing more brutal. There are now an estimated 68,600 gang members in 287 gangs in the Inland Empire.^{[[citation needed](#)]}

Sergeant Phil Brown of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said the gangs are growing more violent in the farthest reaches of the county, including the [High Desert](#). Racial tensions among the Chicano gangs and the Afro-American gangs have heightened dramatically in the Inland Empire, causing even the most rural areas to be affected. "It's getting out in more remote areas," Brown said. "They go gang against gang. There's more gang violence to the general public and it's becoming more random.." [\[1\]](#)

Environmental quality

California Attorney General [Jerry Brown](#) sued the county in April 2007 under the state's [environmental quality act](#) for failing to account for the impact of [global warming](#) in the county's 25-year growth plan, approved in March. The [Center for Biological Diversity](#), [Sierra Club](#) and the [Audubon Society](#) also sued in a separate case. According to Brendan Cummings, a senior attorney for the [plaintiffs](#): "San

Bernardino has never seen a project it didn't like. They rubber-stamp development. It's very much of a frontier mentality." The plaintiffs want the county to rewrite its growth plan's [environmental impact](#) section to include methods to measure [greenhouse gases](#) and take steps to reduce them.^[2]

According to county spokesman David Wert, only 15% of the county is actually controlled by the county; the rest is cities and federal and state land. However, the county says it will make sure employment centers and housing are near transportation corridors to reduce traffic and do more to promote compact development and mass transit. The county has budgeted \$325,000 to fight the lawsuit.^[2]

Places of interest

[The Mojave National Preserve](#)

[Calico Ghost Town](#) northeast of Barstow via [Interstate 15](#)

[Zzyzx](#) (The name of a road and rural community in the County)

[Amboy](#), a ghost town along [Route 66](#)

[Joshua Tree National Park](#)

[San Bernardino National Forest](#) home to [Big Bear](#) outdoor activities

[Goldstone Deep Space Communications Complex](#)

Trivia

San Bernardino County is the only California County bordered by both [Nevada](#) and [Arizona](#).

Residents of note

Including current residents, as well as former residents who have made their mark in history.

[Glen Bell](#), founder of [Taco Bell](#)

[Landon Donovan](#), professional soccer player for the U.S. National Team and the [Major League Soccer Los Angeles Galaxy](#).

[Ricky Dominguez](#), actor

[James Cooksey Earp](#), one of the "Fighting Earps" of Dodge City, and Tombstone fame. Buried in Mountain View Cemetery, San Bernardino

Morgan Earp, US Marshall killed in Tombstone, Arizona, and buried in Hermosa Gardens Cemetery, Colton, California, one of the "Fighting Earps" of Tombstone fame.

Nicholas Porter Earp, Justice of the Peace, coroner, judge, preacher, saloon owner, gambler, father of the "Fighting Earps".

Virgil Earp, one of the "Fighting Earps" of Dodge City, and Tombstone fame. US Marshall, Arizona Territory. Lived in Vanderbilt, California.

Wyatt Earp, one of the "Fighting Earps" of Dodge City, and Tombstone fame. Lived in San Timeteo Canyon, Colton and Vidal. Earp, California and owned a gold mine in the nearby Whipple Mountains.

Jefferson Hunt, western pioneer

Eddie Lawson, four-time world champion Grand Prix motorcycle racer.

John Walker Lindh, the so-called "American Taliban" fighter now incarcerated in ADX Florence.

Dick and Mac McDonald, the fast food pioneering brothers of what became McDonald's Corporation

Tim Powers, fantasy author

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans

Spike (Peanuts), the fictional canine resident from the Needles area

Randy Rhoads, guitar prodigy who played with Ozzy Osbourne's Blizzard of Oz, is laid to rest in Mount View Cemetery