Bakersfield, California

Indicators Report

by
The National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

April 20, 2024

Exploring the economics, demographics, and well-being of Bakersfield and its residents through indicators.

This report was produced by the:

National Economic Education Delegation
271 Arias St.
San Rafael, CA 94903
415-336-5705
www.NEEDEcon.org
Contact: Jon@NEEDEcon.org

Executive Summary

Assessing the City with Indicators

About this Report

This report provides background or summary information for the city of Bakersfield (the City) in the form of indicators.

Using this Report

Indicators are measures of various aspects of a regional economy. They help to provide an indication of the quality of life in a region and progress toward improving conditions in the local economy. This report focuses on indicators for changing demographics, incomes, housing markets, commute patterns, and employment in Bakersfield. These indicators are compared to Kern County (the County) as a whole, a broader region where one is well defined, California, and the United Sates.

This report is vital for understanding trends in the underlying economy. It does not provide forecasts, but Rob Eyler and Jon Haveman at Economic Forensics and Analytics are available to provide them if that is of interest.

Topics Covered:

- **Demographics:** A detailed snopshot of Bakersfield demographics is presented. This provides evidence on the size, age and sex, income and poverty status, race and ethnicity, housing status, living arrangements, education, health, and transportation choices of the population. Beyond the current population level, data on trends in local population growth, in comparison with other broader regions is presented, in both tabular and graphical form.
- **Employment Report:** Here, we provide a brief snapshot or employment and unemployment in Bakersfield and how the City's experience differs from broader regions.
- **Income and Earnings:** Vital to understanding the prosperity of a city relative to its surrounding area is information on income and earnings. We provide a ranking of the City's income relative to all cities in California as well as growth relative to local regions. Inequality and poverty status are also important indicators for the level of equity in the community. We provide evidence of trends in both, not only for all residents, but also for children separately.
- **Housing:** This section provides evidence on the cost and availability of housing. Both median home values and rental costs are included, along with detailed information on home ownership, by age and income, in particular. Further, evidence is provided on the housing burden in the City, again, in comparison with other broader regions. We also provide evidence on the rate at which new buildings and units are permitted along with a broader housing picture. Finally, we provide evidence on the age of the housing stock in Bakersfield, along with information on how long the City's residents have been in place.
- **Transportation:** Increasingly important, in the wake of the pandemic, is an understanding of the transportation patterns and choices of local residents. We provide detailed evidence on the proprotion of residents who work from home and on the various transportation choices of those who head to the office. This information is also provided for those who work in Bakersfield, but do not necessarily live in Bakersfield.
- **Migration:** Population changes comes primarily through organic causes: births and deaths. Migration between regions also plays a significant role in population growth. A final section of the report provides evidence on migration into and out of the City.

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Contents

Executive Summary **1**
Assessing the City with Indicators 1

Demographics **3**
A Demographic Snapshot 3
Current Population 4

Employment Report **7**
Citywide Employment and Unemployment 7
County Employment by Industry 8
Some Employee Detail 9

Income and Earnings **15**
Per Capita Personal Income Growth 15
Poverty and Inequality 18

Housing **20**
Housing Costs and Affordability 20
Housing Picture 24
Vintage of Residential Housing 26
Occupation of Residential Housing 28
Residential Permitting 30

Commute Patterns **33**
Mode of Transportation 33
Commute Times for Employed Residents 35
Commute Times for Those Employed in the City 36
Place of Work 37
Commute Mode by Income 39
Commute Mode by Poverty Status 40

Migration **41**
Overall Migration Flows 41
Demographics of Migration Flows 43

References and Sources **45**

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Demographics

Definition:

Data on the demographics of a city indicate the nature of the population, with a focus on age, gender, race and ethnicity, as well as household compositon.

Why is it important?

The characteristics and growth of Bakersfield's population are fundamental indicators of the city's growth potential.

A Demographic Snapshot

Statistic	2022	2019
POPULATION		
Population Estimate (#)	410,654.0	384,159.0
Veterans (#)	13,055.0	11,717.0
Foreign born persons (%, 5yr)	19.6	18.9
Population age 25+ (#)	249,442.0	232,621.0
AGE AND SEX		
Persons under 5 years (%)	7.5	7.7
Persons under 18 years (%)	29.7	29.8
Persons 65 years and over (%)	12.0	10.5
Female persons (%)	50.0	49.8
INCOME AND POVERTY		
Median household income ($)	72,017.0	62,402.0
Per capita income in past 12 months ($)	32,161.0	28,428.0
Persons in poverty (%)	16.3	14.6
Children age less than 18 in poverty (#)	25,972.0	21,668.0
Children age less than 18 in poverty (%)	21.5	19.4
RACE AND ETHNICITY		
White alone (%)	42.3	67.5
African American alone (%)	6.3	6.9
American Indian or Alaska Native alone (%, 5yr)	1.0	0.9
Asian alone (%)	8.0	7.7
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (%, 5yr)	0.3	0.2
Two or More Races (%)	23.4	4.3
Hispanic or Latino (%)	55.6	52.4
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino (%)	27.6	29.5
HOUSING		
Housing units (#)	135,363.0	124,863.0
Owner-occupied housing units (%)	59.6	59.4
Median value of owner-occupied housing units ($)	366,000.0	264,500.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage ($)	1,859.0	1,718.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage ($)	655.0	535.0
Median gross rent ($)	1,365.0	1,105.0
FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		
Households (#)	128,651.0	116,558.0
Persons per household (#)	3.2	3.3
Living in same house 1 year ago, % of persons age 1+	89.3	85.3
EDUCATION		
High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25+	81.5	81.0
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+	23.1	22.4
HEALTH		
With a disability, under age 65 years (#)	30,017.0	21,014.0
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years (%)	6.2	8.7
LABOR FORCE		
In civilian labor force, persons age 16+ (%)	63.7	62.1
In civilian labor force, women age 16+ (%)	55.4	55.1
Employed, persons age 16+ (%)	57.5	56.8
Self employed (%)	8.1	9.4
TRANSPORTATION		
Mean travel time to work, workers age 16+ (Mins.)	20.8	23.4
Using public transportation (%)	0.8	1.7
Drive alone in private vehicle (%)	78.4	83.8

Source: American Community Survey, Summary Files
Note: Data are from the 1-year files unless indicated by the notation 5yr.

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Current Population

The data in these two tables and the following two graphs are from the CA Department of Finance (DOF). The DOF produces population estimates for geographies around California twice a year: January and July. As estimates for cities are only available in January, these two tables are based on the January data. The remaining figures are from the American Community Survey (ACS), provided annually by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 1. Population Change by Region
(Thousands, January to January)

Region	2023 Population	% Change 1 Year	% Change 3 Year	% Change 5 Year
City				
Bakersfield	408,373	0.22	3.56	6.09
County and Broader Regions				
Kern County	907,476	−0.07	−1.02	0.10
South Central Valley	3,534,481	0.01	−0.90	0.05
California	38,940,231	−0.35	−1.79	−2.01

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

Table 2. County Population Change by City
(Thousands, January to January)

City	2022	2023	% Change Local	% Change South Central Valley	% Change California
Kern County	908.1	907.5	−0.07	0.01	−0.35
Bakersfield	407.5	408.4	0.22		
Delano	50.8	51.7	1.86		
Ridgecrest	28.1	27.9	−0.71		
Wasco	26.6	26.6	0.15		
Shafter	20.4	21.3	4.32		
Arvin	19.6	19.5	−0.44		
California City	15.0	14.8	−1.12		
McFarland	13.9	13.7	−0.82		
Tehachapi	12.4	12.0	−3.60		
Taft	7.0	7.0	−0.56		
Maricopa	1.0	1.0	−0.79		

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 1: Population Growth (1)

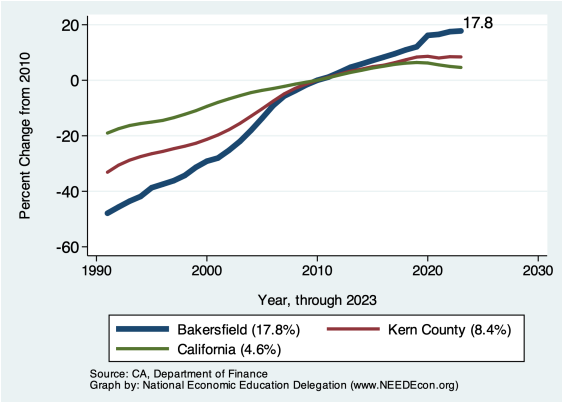
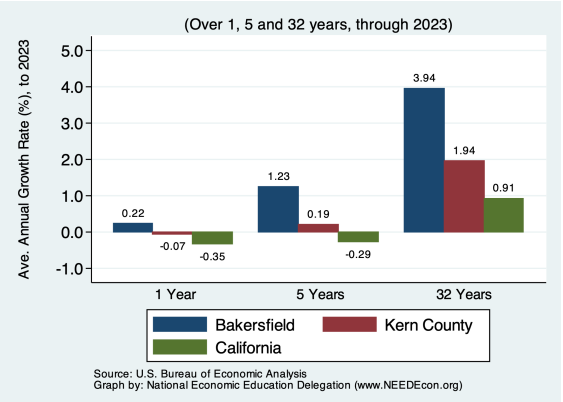
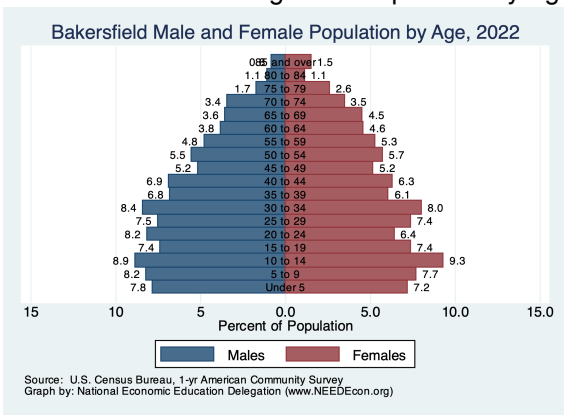


Figure 2: Population Growth (2)



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Figure 3: Population by Age - Detailed Age Categories



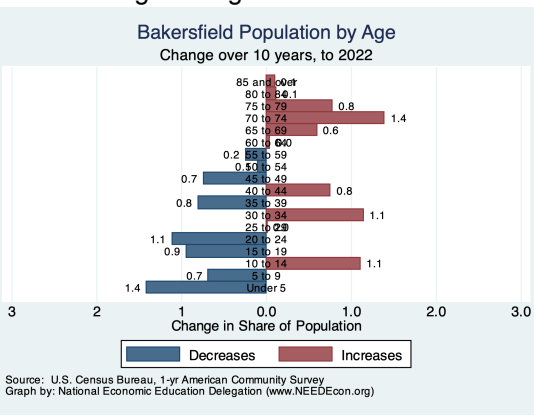
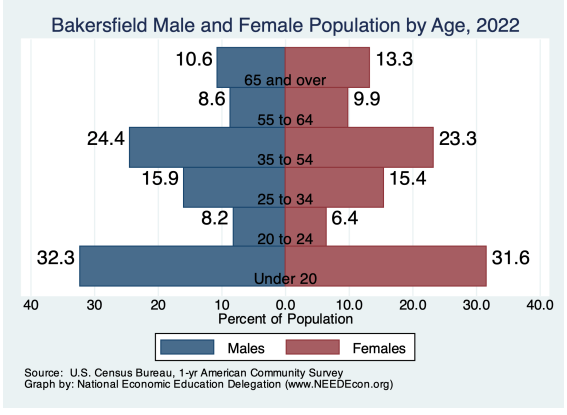


Figure 4: Population by Age - Broad Age Categories



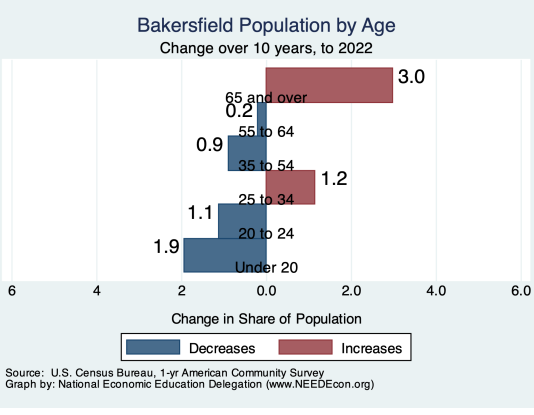
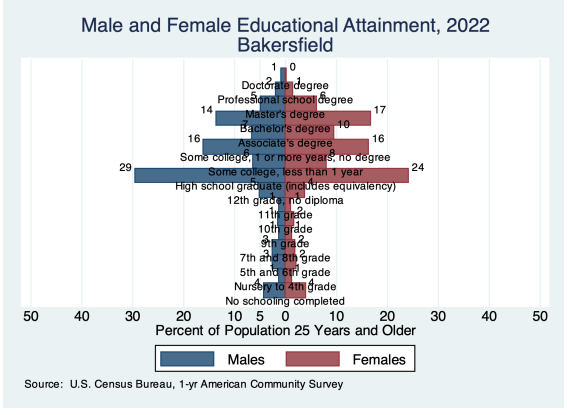
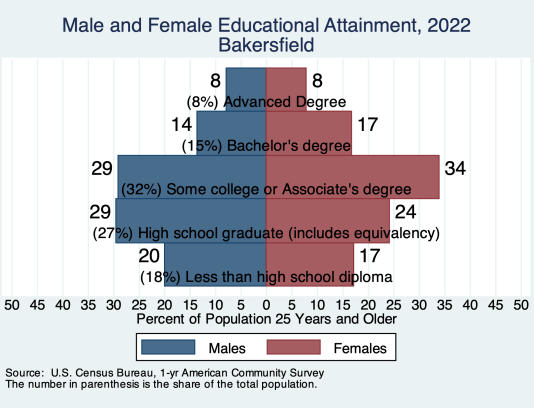


Figure 5: Population by Educational Attainment





Jon Haveman, Ph.D. ● National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org ● 415-336-5705

Figure 6: Population by Race/Ethnicity

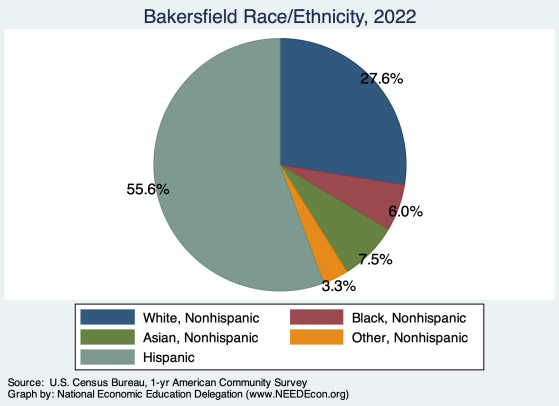
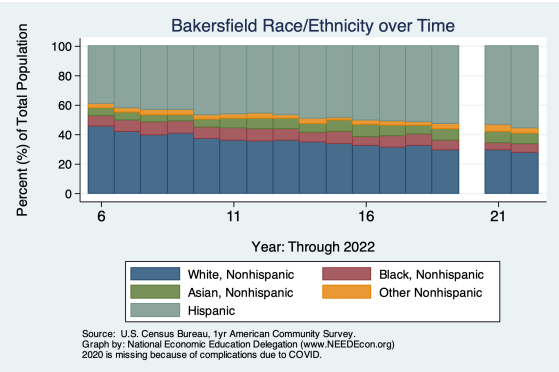


Figure 7: Population by Race/Ethnicity Over Time



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. ● National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org ● 415-336-5705

Employment Report

Citywide Employment and Unemployment

Definition:

Each month, California's Employment Development Division (EDD) publishes an update on employment in California and in MSAs, counties, and cities all across the state. The report focuses primarily on non-farm employment, providing estimates of changes in employment by industry as well as unemployment in each region. Data for cities is limited to aggregate employment, labor force, and unemployment data. Those are reported below.

Why is it important?

Employment growth is a fundamental indicator of the health of an economy.

Table 3. Bakersfield Summary for March, 2024

Category	Current Value	Change From: Last Month	Change From: 2 Months Ago	Change From: Last Year
Employment	8,924	-30	−53	-103
Labor Force	9,644	9	15	96
Number Unemployed	678	-4	21	97
Unemployment Rate	7.0	-0.0	0.2	0.9

Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 8: Historical Employment and Unemployment

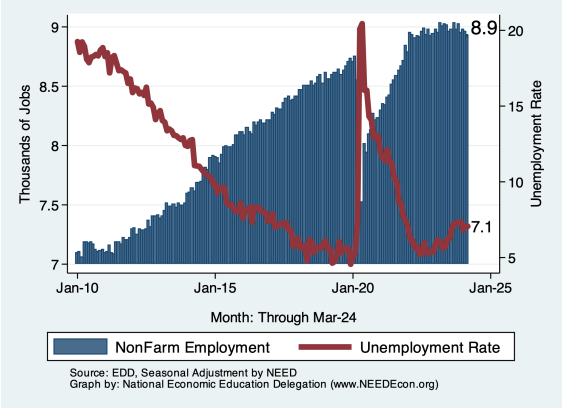


Figure 9: Employment and Unemployment - Last 12 Months

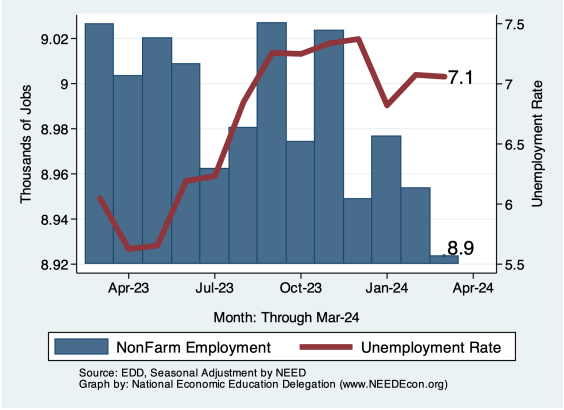


Figure 10: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2010

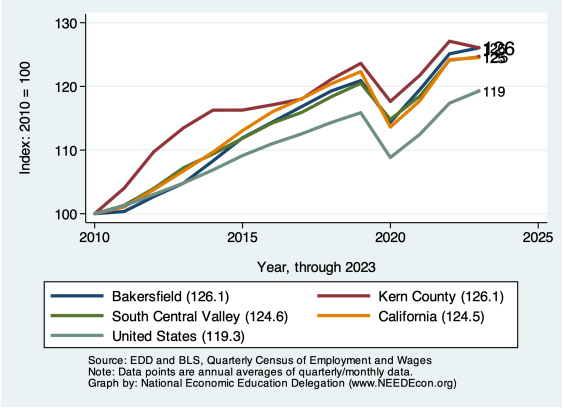
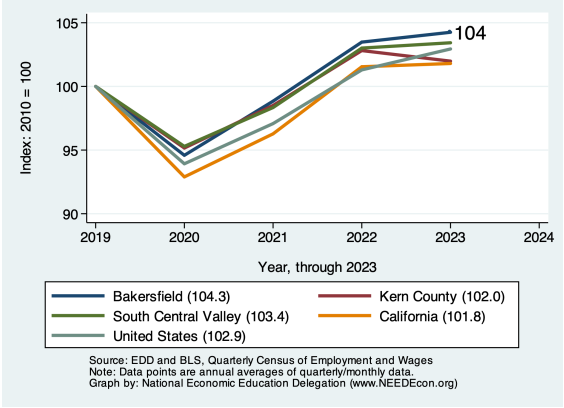


Figure 11: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2019



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

County Employment by Industry

California's Employment Development Division (EDD) does not regularly produce data on employment by industry for cities. However, we are able to report indsutry-level employment data for Kern County. The following table provides the latest data for the County.

Table 4. Employment Growth by Industry in Kern County for March, 2024

Industry	Employment	Share	Empl Growth	% Growth - Annualized Rate					
				Month	Qtr	6mo	1yr	3yr	5yr
Total Nonfarm	293,160	100.0	630.1	2.6	−0.1	1.9	1.2	3.8	1.6
Total Private	220,651	75.3	−4.4	−0.0	−2.4	0.8	−0.0	3.5	1.7
Goods Producing	36,034	12.3	156.6	5.4	−2.4	−0.1	−2.4	0.6	−1.4
Mining, Logging and Construction	23,579	8.0	207.6	11.2	−3.7	−0.9	−3.7	0.5	−1.6
Mining and Logging	7,600	2.6	−6.8	−1.1	−0.5	−0.7	−5.1	0.4	−4.1
Construction	15,995	5.5	178.0	14.4	−5.5	−0.9	−3.1	0.3	−0.2
Manufacturing	12,484	4.3	−16.6	−1.6	0.5	1.6	0.0	0.8	−0.8
Durable Goods	5,000	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.0
Non-Durable Goods	7,455	2.5	−17.9	−2.8	−1.4	2.1	0.1	−0.0	−1.3
Service Providing	257,132	87.7	594.1	2.8	0.2	2.1	1.7	4.3	2.1
Trade, Trans & Utilities	60,620	20.7	7.6	0.1	−2.7	−0.6	−2.3	2.2	3.1
Wholesale Trade	8,200	2.8	−51.6	−7.3	−5.2	−4.1	−3.7	2.9	0.6
Retail Trade	31,958	10.9	191.4	7.5	−3.8	−1.6	−1.9	0.3	0.6
Information	1,700	0.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	7.1	−3.0
Financial Activities	7,451	2.5	−141.5	−20.2	−6.1	−3.0	−1.3	−0.5	−0.6
Finance & Insurance	4,016	1.4	−70.2	−18.8	−7.4	−4.7	−2.5	−3.1	−2.2
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	3,432	1.2	−81.8	−24.6	−4.1	−0.2	−0.1	3.1	1.8
Professional & Business Srvcs	27,599	9.4	322.8	15.2	3.5	1.1	5.2	3.4	0.5
Prof, Sci, & Tech	11,593	4.0	19.2	2.0	−5.1	−3.8	5.5	5.8	4.2
Educational & Health Srvcs	48,887	16.7	56.8	1.4	2.4	3.5	4.5	6.1	4.4
Education Srvcs	2,200	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	21.0	4.8	12.5	4.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	46,666	15.9	67.5	1.8	2.0	2.9	4.5	5.9	4.4
Leisure & Hospitality	29,479	10.1	−89.0	−3.6	−4.0	−1.8	−3.3	6.8	1.4
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	2,813	1.0	95.0	51.0	32.4	15.3	−0.8	25.5	0.0
Accommodation & Food Srvcs	26,625	9.1	−267.5	−11.3	−7.8	−3.6	−3.7	5.3	1.4
Other Srvcs	8,959	3.1	−33.8	−4.4	−3.7	1.2	−0.1	7.0	1.5
Government	72,231	24.6	482.4	8.4	0.9	6.1	5.2	4.7	1.5
Federal	11,276	3.8	29.5	3.2	3.5	3.8	2.8	−0.3	0.9
State	9,452	3.2	71.3	9.5	−1.4	−4.5	−4.1	−1.3	−1.3
Local	51,525	17.6	391.5	9.6	0.0	8.2	7.7	7.6	2.2
County	10,893	3.7	46.1	5.2	2.8	3.2	4.9	2.8	1.7
City	3,119	1.1	−7.3	−2.8	6.4	8.7	10.9	6.6	2.2
Local Government Education	35,120	12.0	244.3	8.7	2.7	10.9	8.3	9.3	2.6

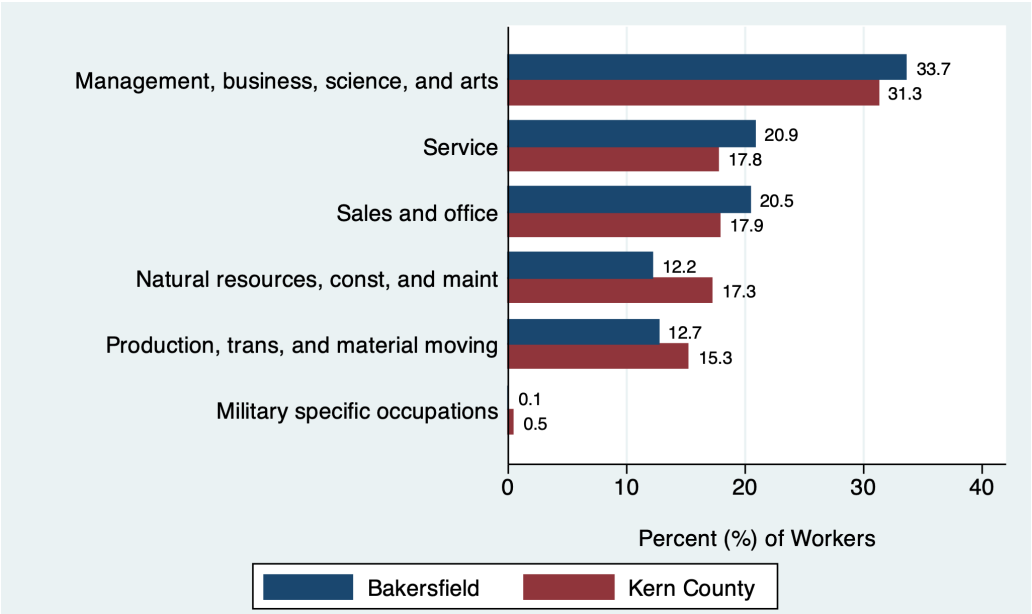
Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Some Employee Detail

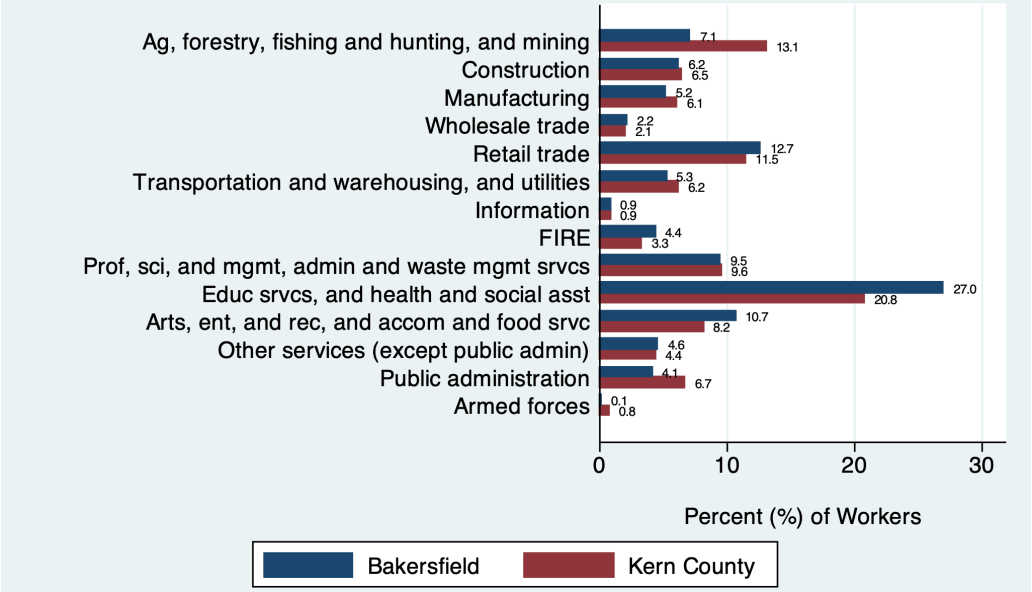
Employed in Bakersfield

Figure 12: Employment by Occupation



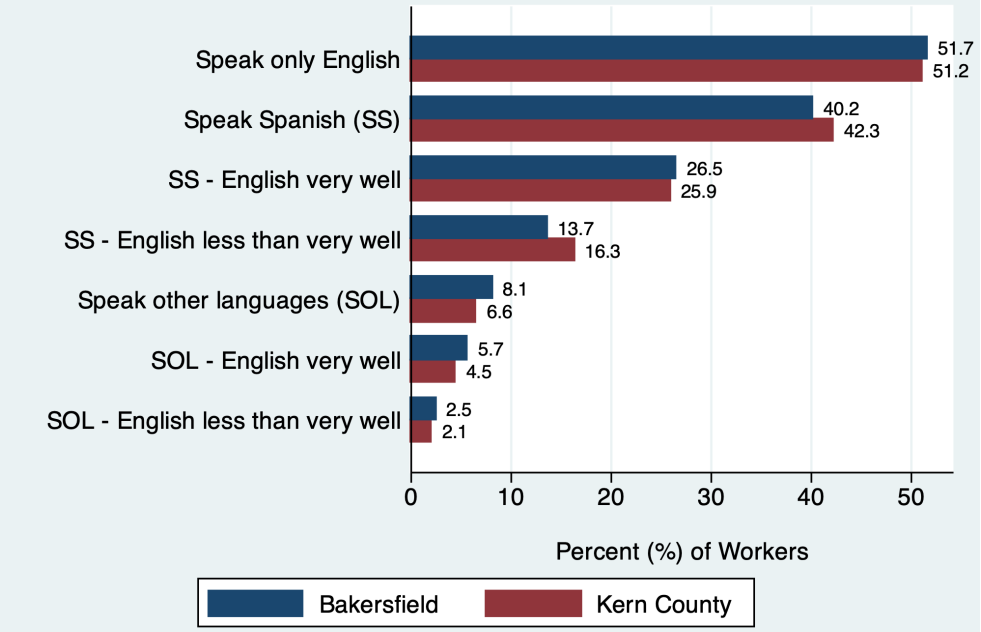
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 13: Employment by Industry



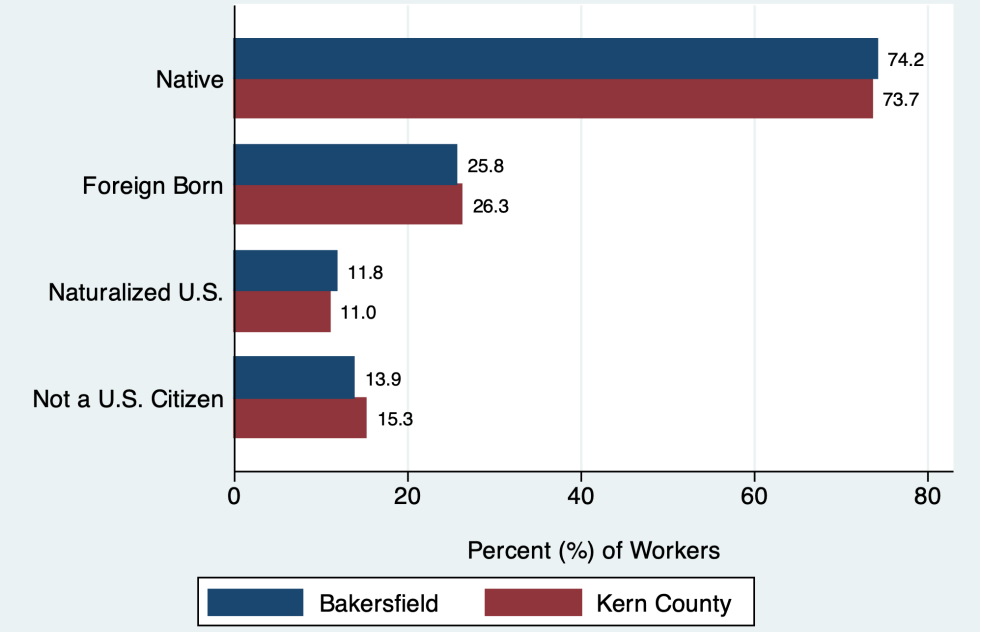
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 14: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

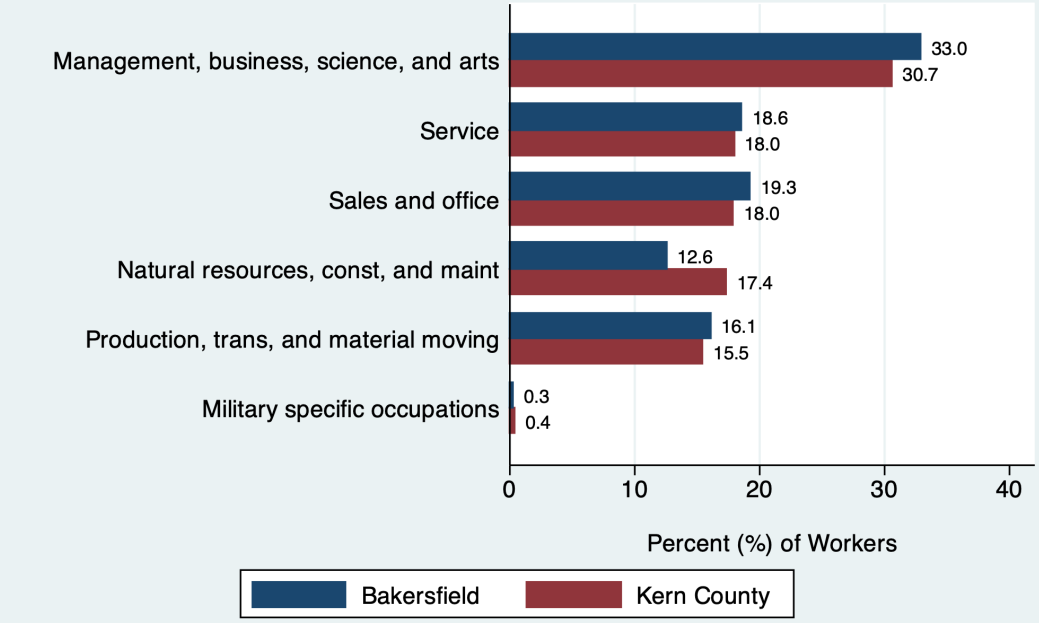
Figure 15: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

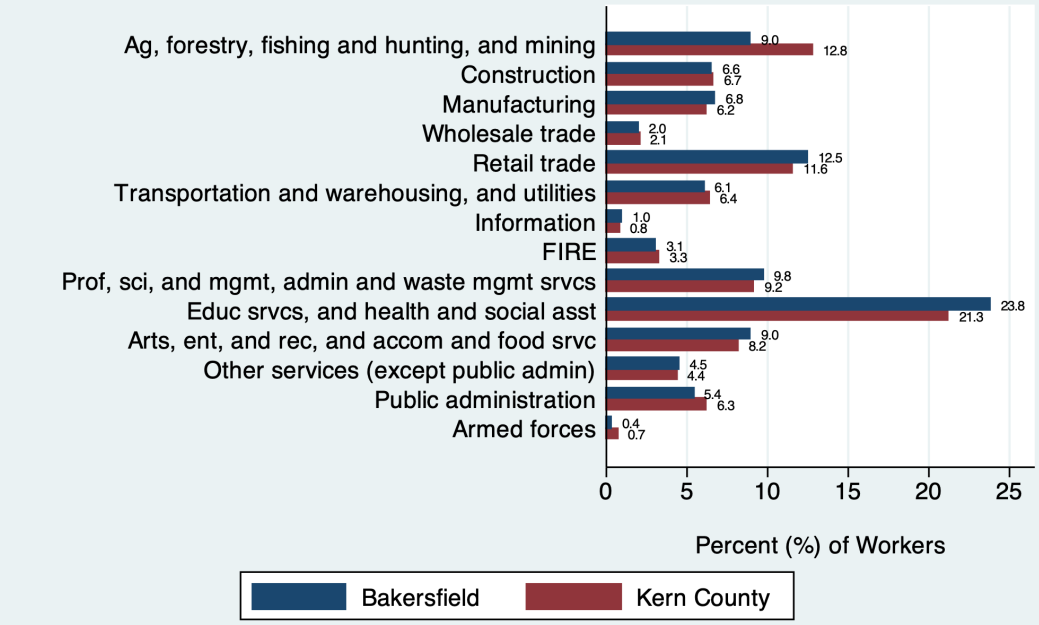
Employed Residents of Bakersfield

Figure 16: Employment by Occupation



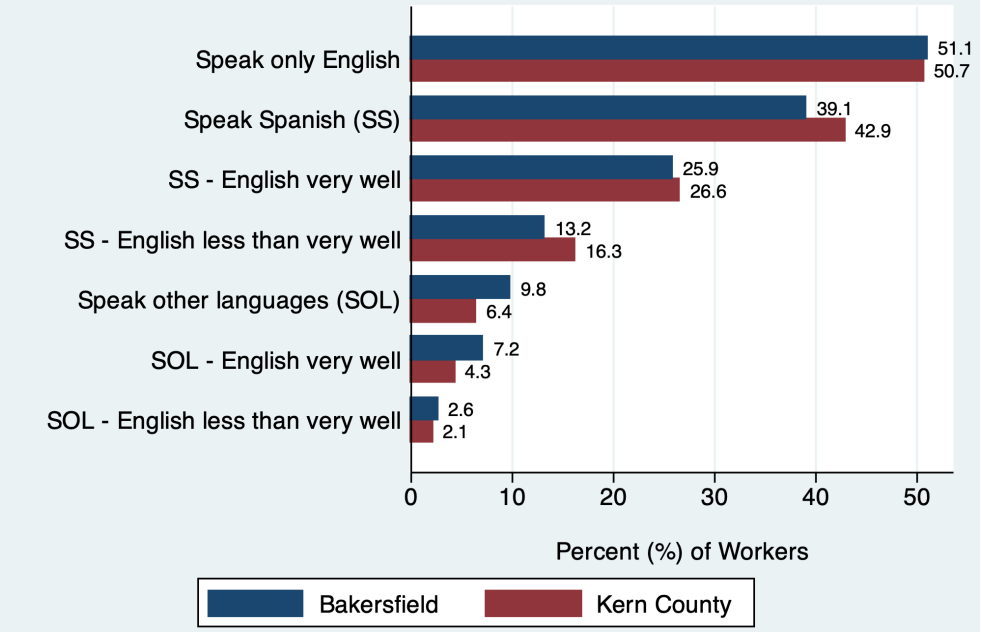
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 17: Employment by Industry



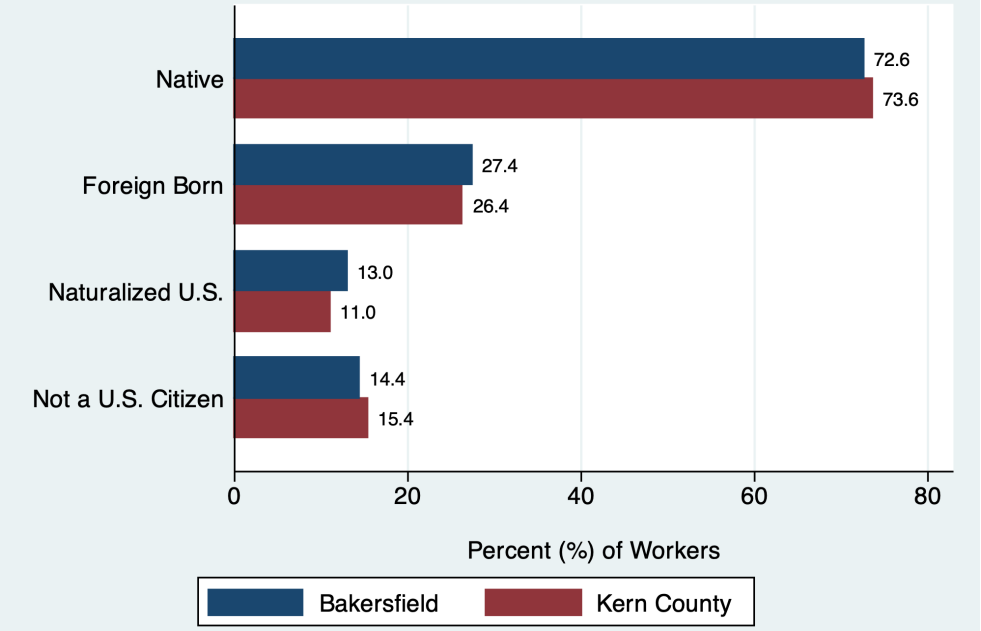
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 18: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

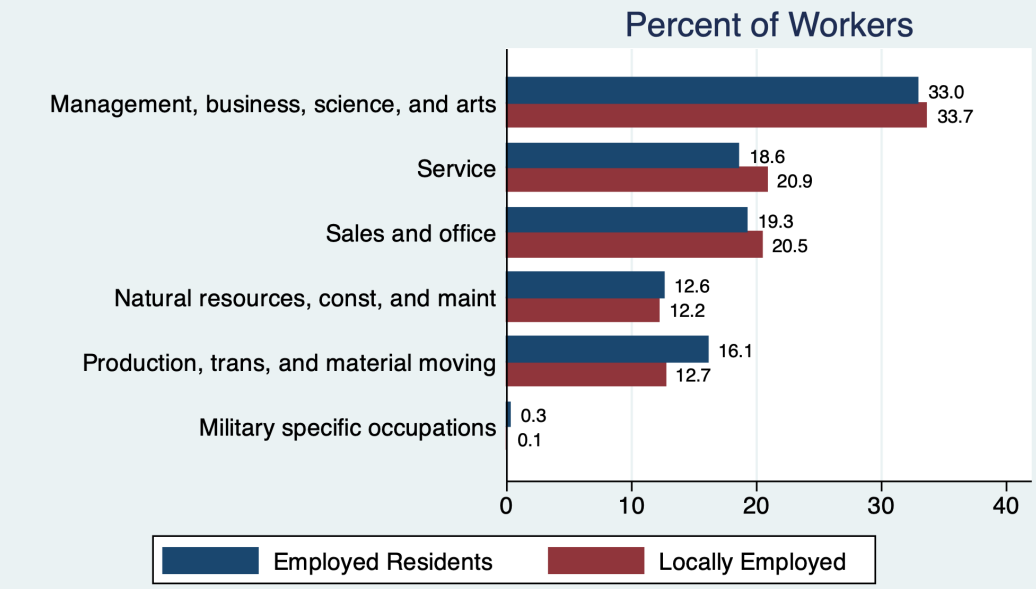
Figure 19: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

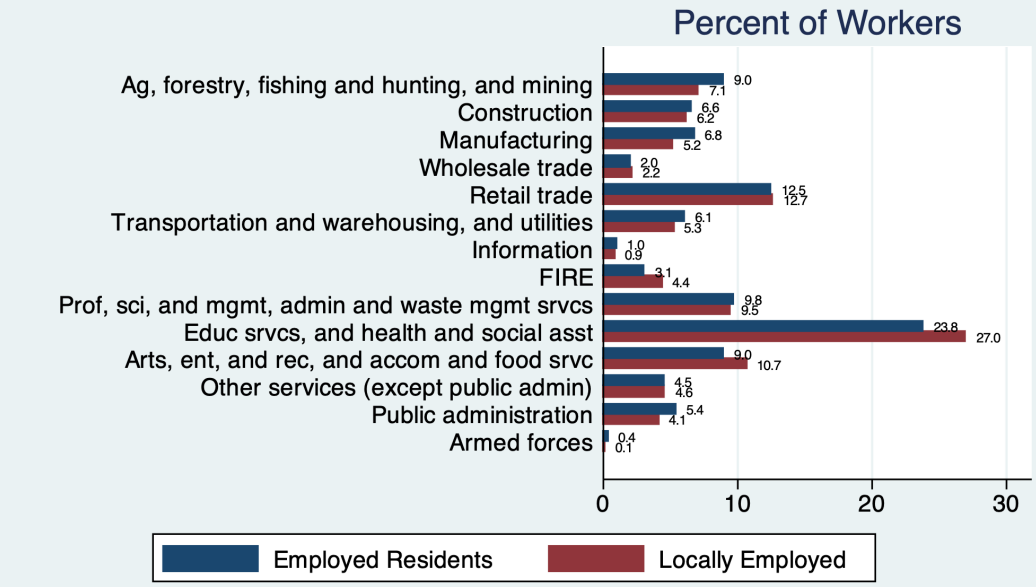
Employed Residents vs Workers in Bakersfield

Figure 20: Employment by Occupation



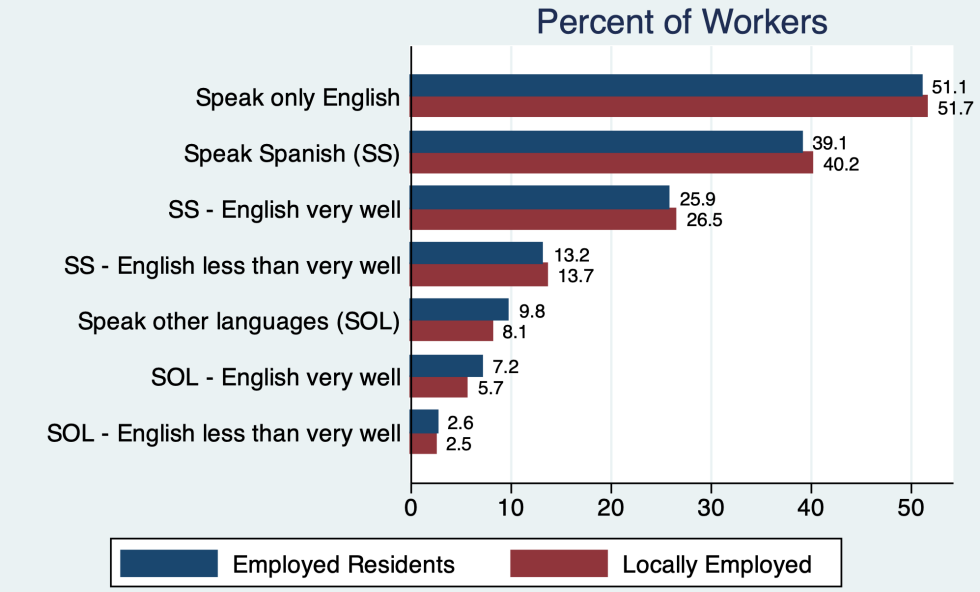
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 21: Employment by Industry



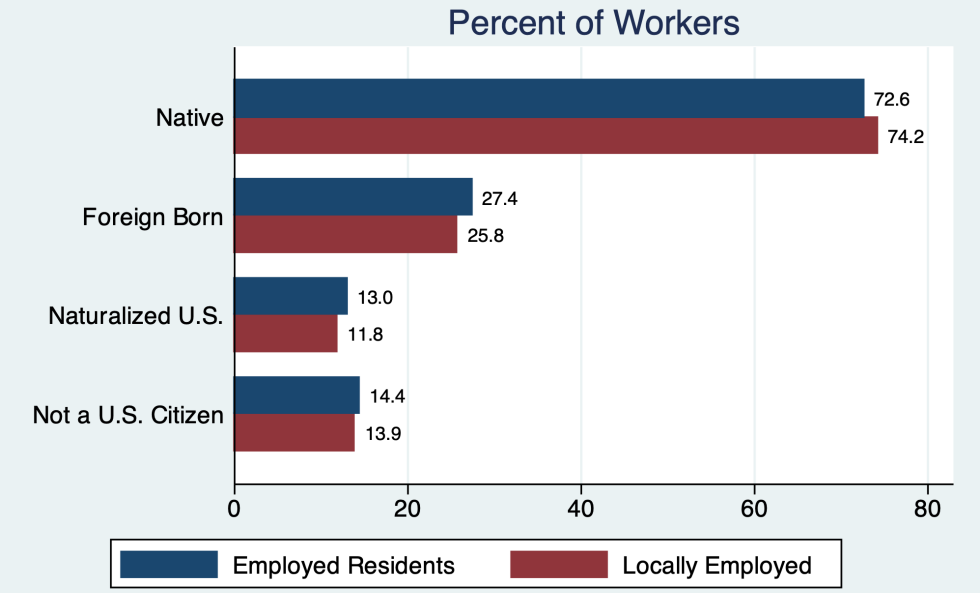
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 22: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 23: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 1-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Income and Earnings

Per Capita Income Growth

Definition:

Per capita income is the average income per person in Bakersfield. Personal income is the income received by, or on behalf of, all persons from all sources: from participation as laborers in production, from owning a home or unincorporated business, from the ownership of financial assets, and from government and business in the form of transfer receipts. Noncash government benefits are not included.

Why is it important?

Income is the money that is available to persons for consumption expenditures, taxes, interest payments, transfer payments to governments and the rest of the world, or for saving. As such, it is an important indicator of economic well-being in a community.

Figure 24: Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among California Cities

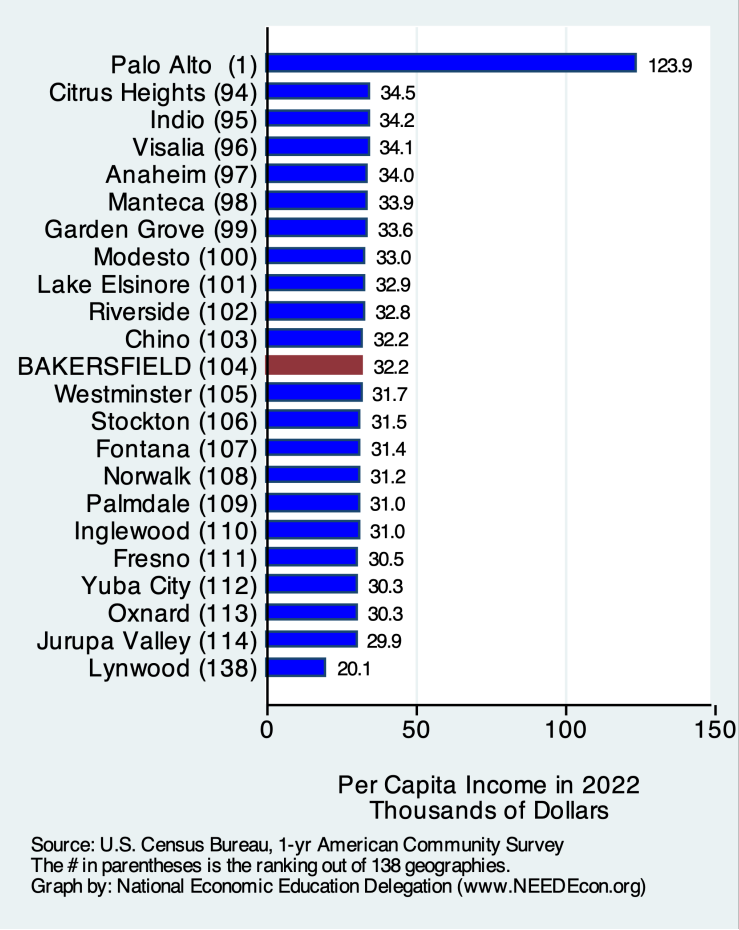
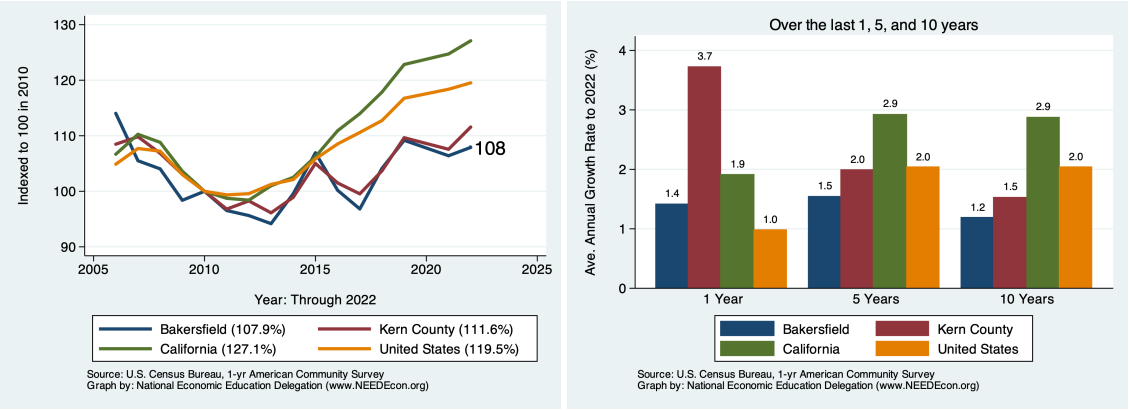


Figure 25: Regional Comparison of Growth over Time



Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among California Cities - w/Comparable Populations

Figure 26: Income Levels

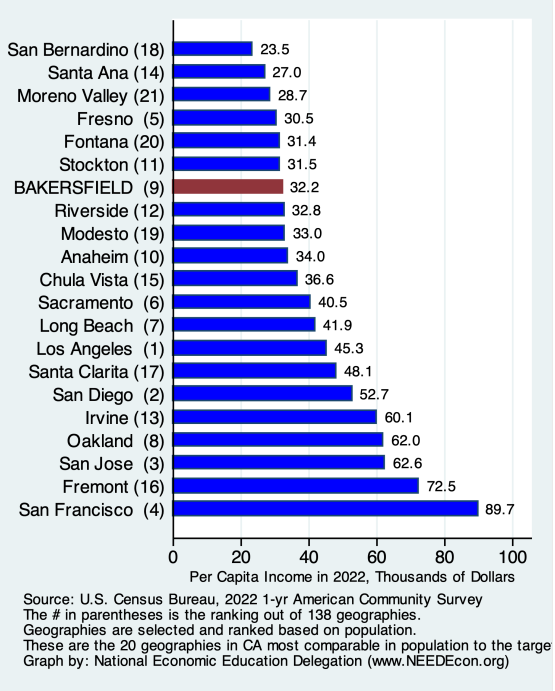
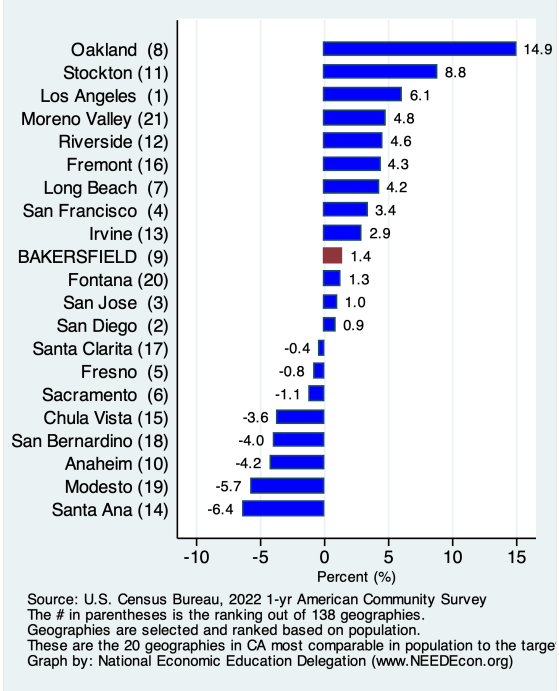


Figure 27: Growth over Time



Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among Cities in Kern County

Figure 28: Income Levels

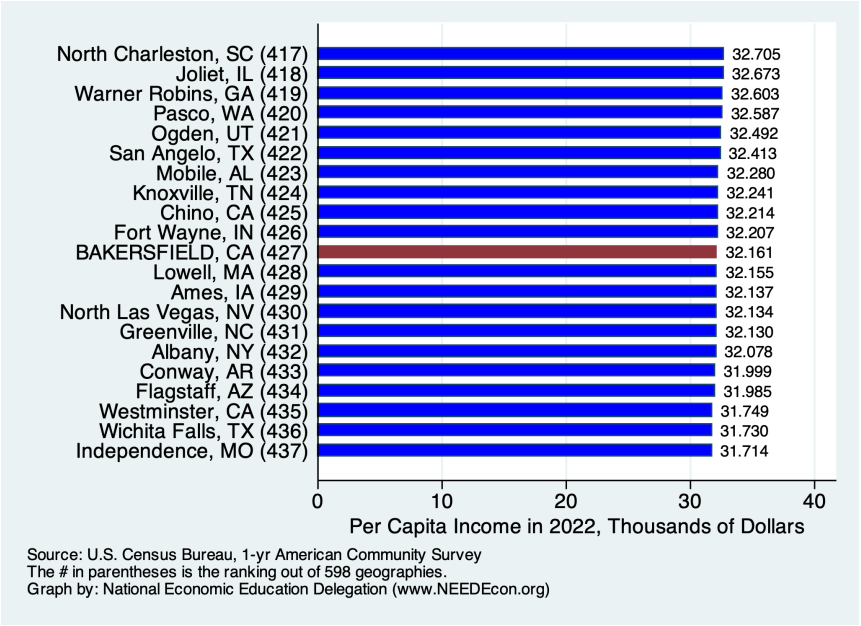
N/A

Figure 29: Growth over Time

N/A

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Figure 30: Comparison with All Cities Nationwide



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 598 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Poverty and Inequality

Definition:

The local poverty rate provides an indication of the well-being of those at the bottom of the income distribution. The federal poverty rate measures the proportion of households in the region that are classified as living in poverty. Also included are measures of the extent to which the City's children are impoverished. Measures of the income distribution provide further evidence on disparities in income in the region and how those disparities have changed over time.

Why is it important?

It is important to track measures of poverty and inequality to assess the extent of income disparities in the region, with an eye toward understanding how well the local economy is performing for all of its citizens.

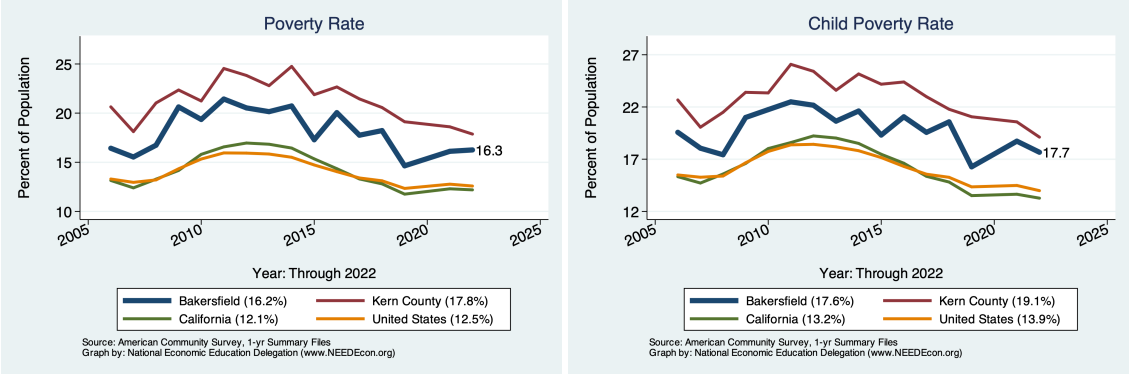
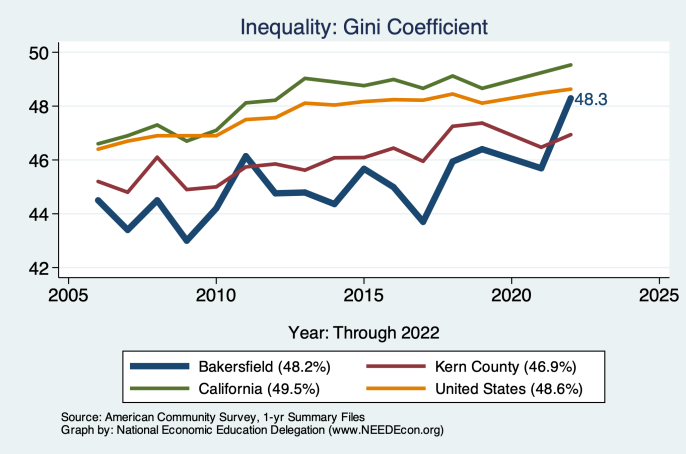
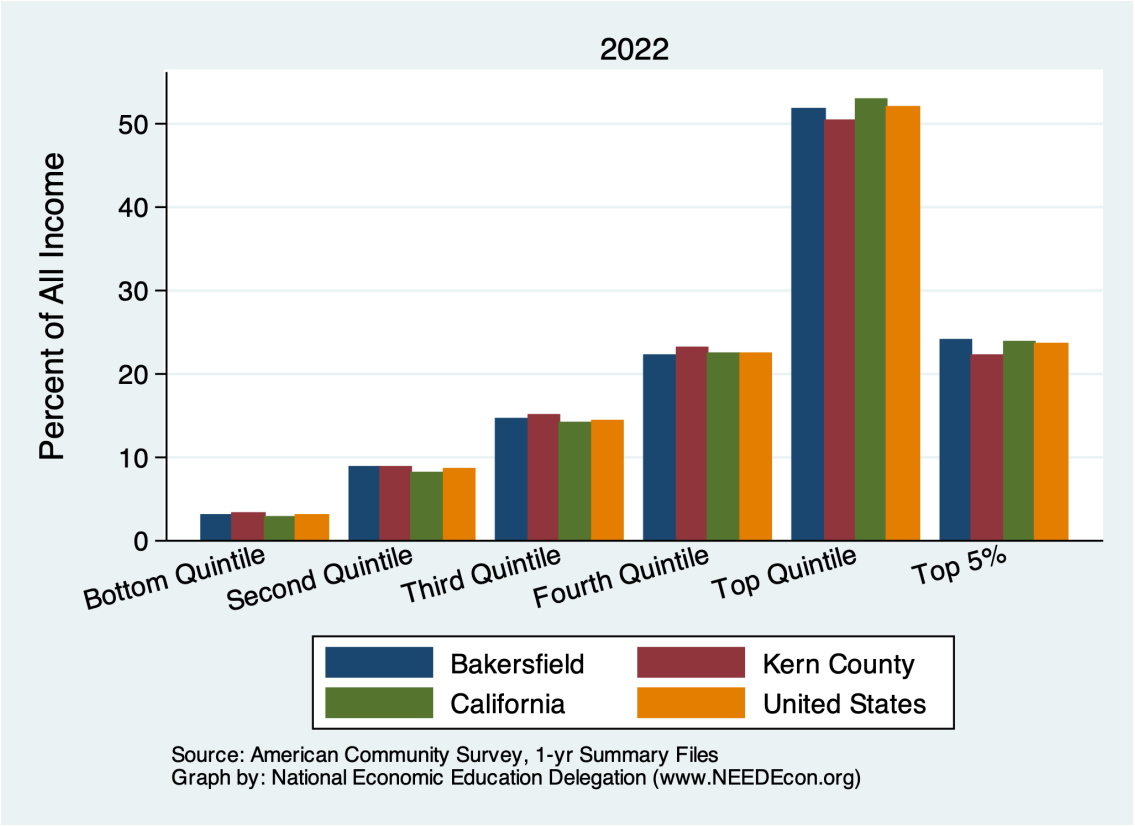


Figure 31: Inequality



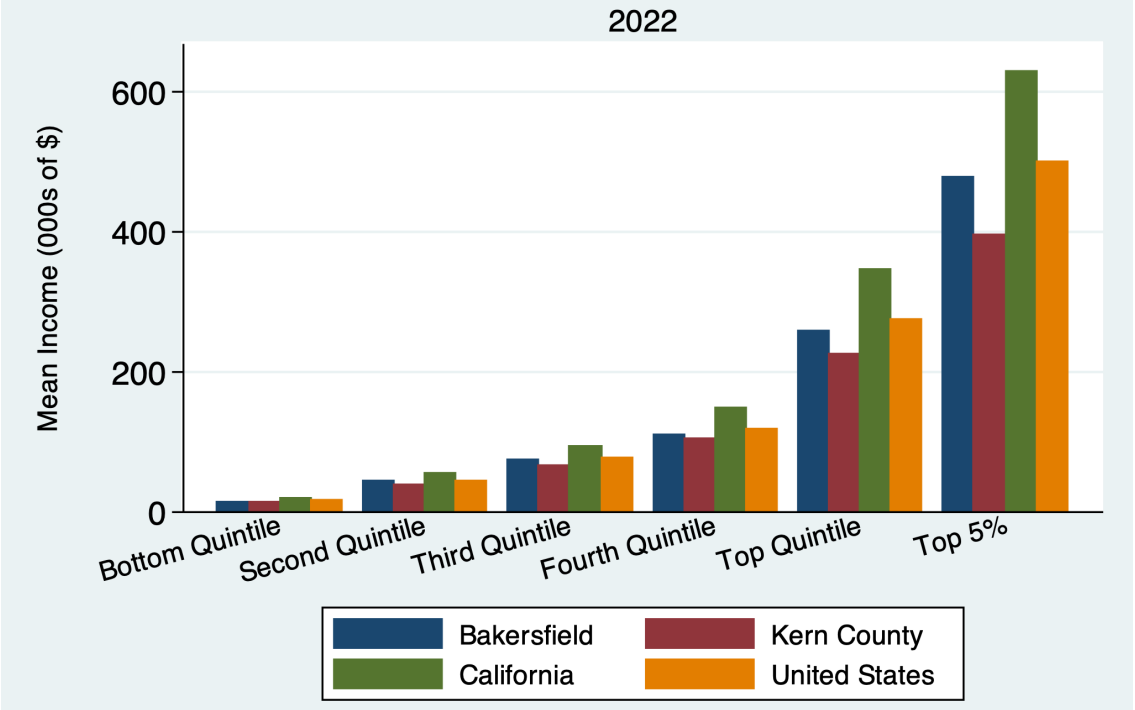
Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Figure 32: Shares Across the Income Distribution



Source: American Community Survey, 1-yr Summary Files
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 33: Means Across the Income Distribution



Source: American Community Survey, 1-yr Summary Files
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Housing

Housing Costs and Affordability

Definition:

Housing costs are measured in several different ways. First, we provide evidence on the evolution of median home prices, median rental price, and finally through evidence on the housing burden in the city and comparison regions. Housing burden is defined as a household needing to commit more than 30% of their household income toward housing costs. The median value is the amount in the middle. Fifty percent of units are above the median and 50 percent are below.

Why is it important?

Housing is one of three fundamental necessities, along with food and clothing. A measure of the cost of housing is an integral part of the measurement of the cost of living in a specific community. This is particularly true in cities and regions throughout the Bay Area, where housing costs are high relative to income.

Cost of Housing in Bakersfield and Broader Regions

Figure 34: Median Home Prices

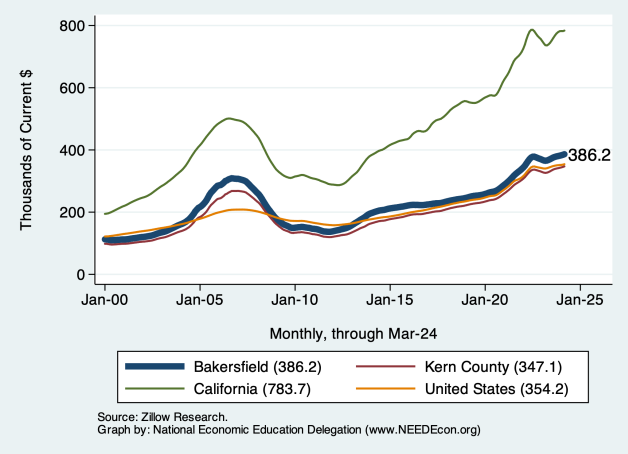
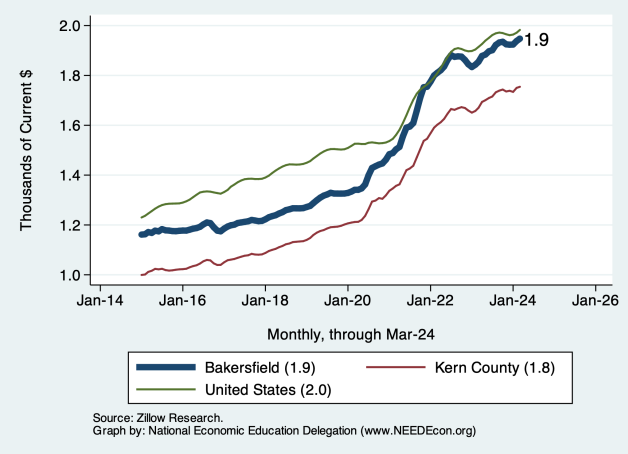


Figure 35: Median Rents



Housing Ownership in Bakersfield and Broader Regions

Figure 36: Home Ownership Rates

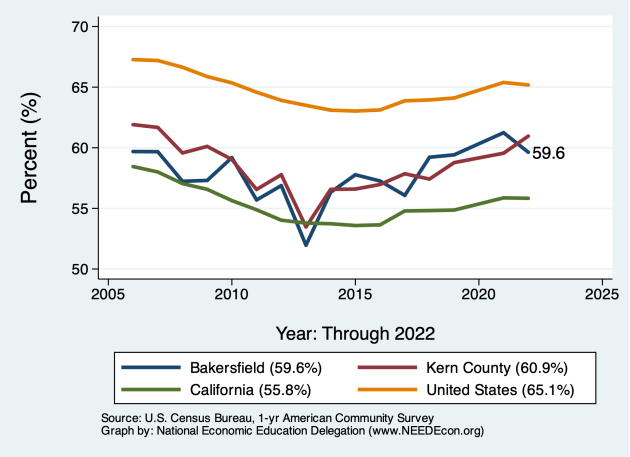


Figure 37: Home Ownership by Age

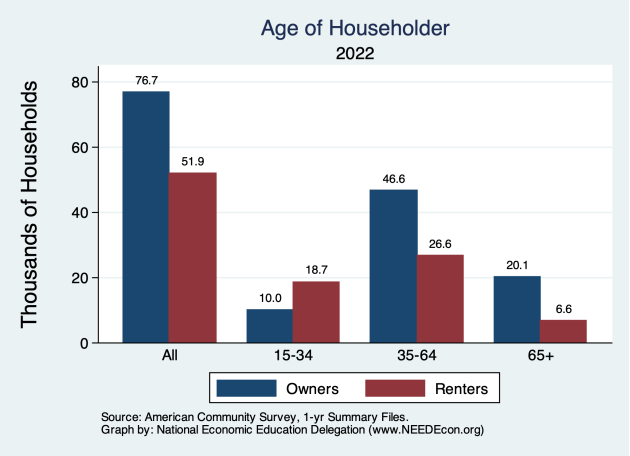
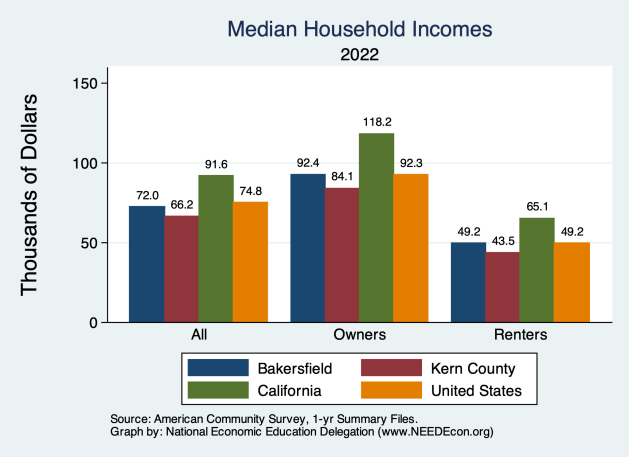


Figure 38: Income by Tenure



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Figure 39: Income Distribution by Tenure

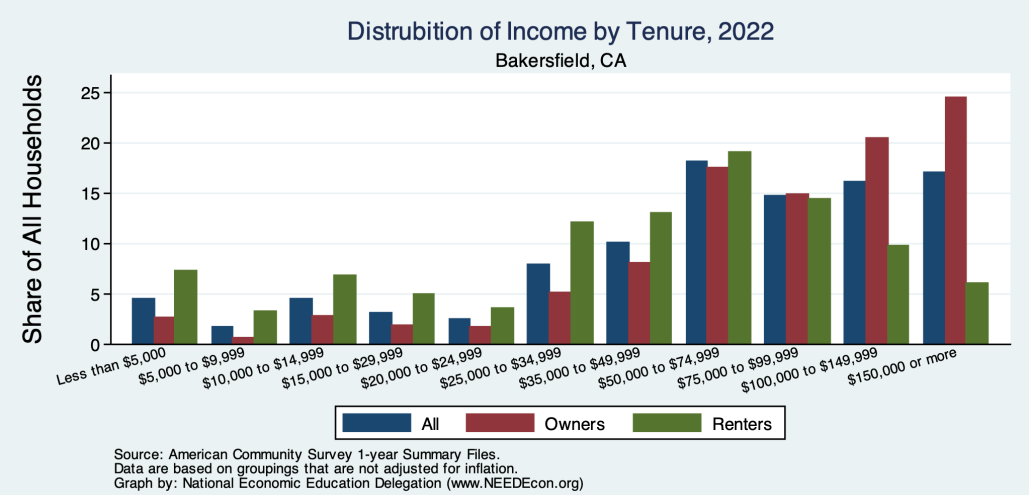


Figure 40: Income Distribution of Home Owners

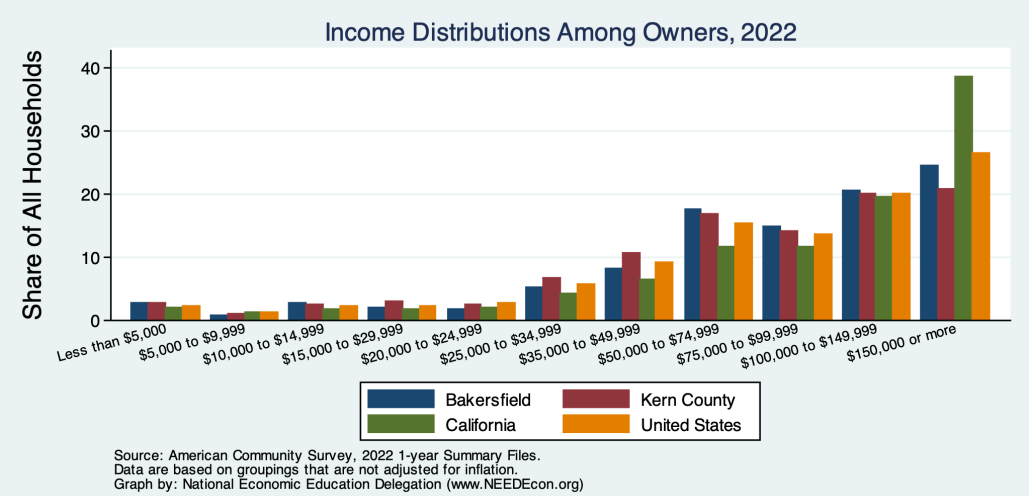
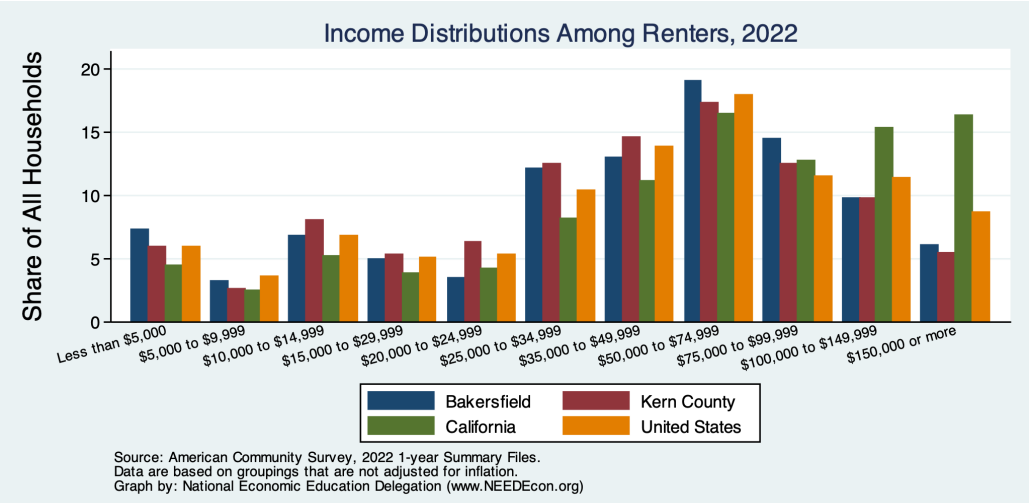


Figure 41: Income Distribution of Renters



Housing Burden in Bakersfield and Broader Regions

Figure 42: Home Owners w/ A Mortgage

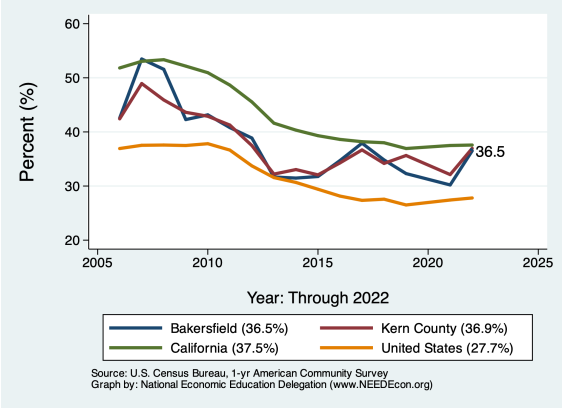


Figure 43: Home Owners w/o A Mortgage

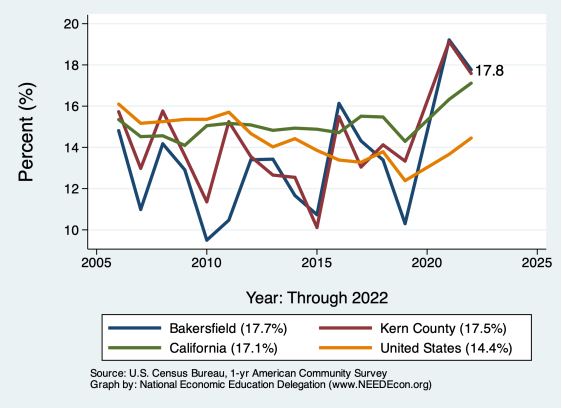


Figure 44: Renters

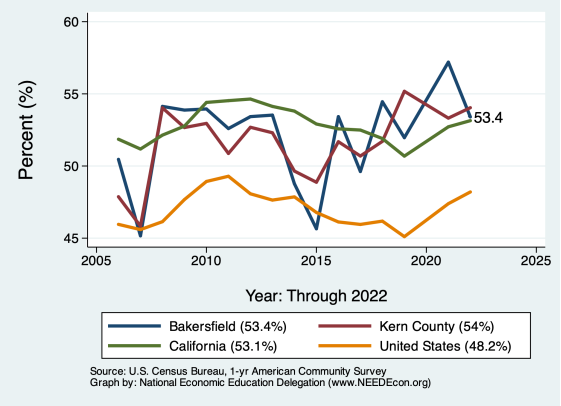
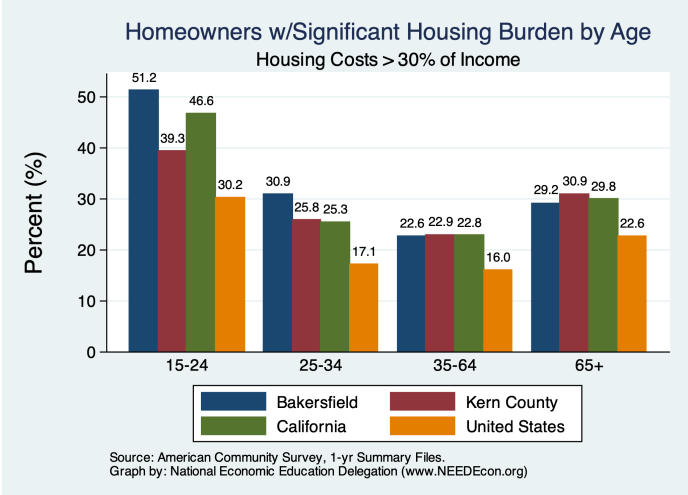


Figure 45: Homeowner Housing Burden by Age



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Housing Picture

Definition:

Housing costs are measured in several different ways. First, we provide evidence on the evolution of median home prices, median rental price, and finally through evidence on the housing burden in the city and comparison regions. The median value is the amount in the middle. Fifty percent of units are above the median and 50 percent are below.

Why is it important?

In areas where the rate of population growth exceeds the rate of housing growth, this is likely to reflect a tightening housing market. A tightening housing market will also likely be reflected in lower vacancy rates and higher occupancy rates. It may also be reflected in higher numbers of people per household.

Table 5. Housing Market Indicators

Indicator	2023	2019	2010	% Change from 2019	% Change from 2010
Total Population	408,373.0	387,236.0	347,483.0	5.5	17.5
Total # of Homes	137,327.0	130,122.0	120,725.0	5.5	13.8
# Occupied Units	132,193.0	121,996.0	111,132.0	8.4	19.0
Persons per Household	3.1	3.1	3.1	-2.6	-1.1
Vacancy Rate (%)	3.7	6.2	7.9	-40.1	-53.0

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by the National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 46: Housing Growth

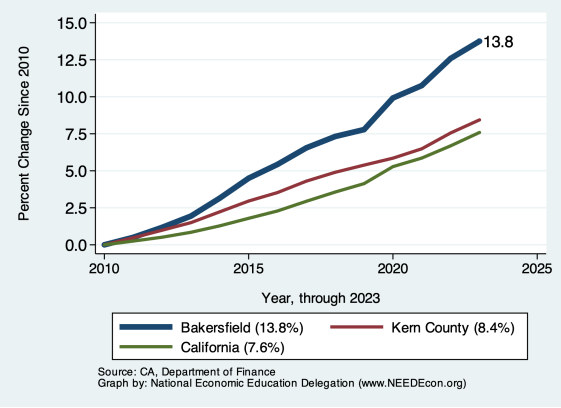


Figure 47: Persons per Household

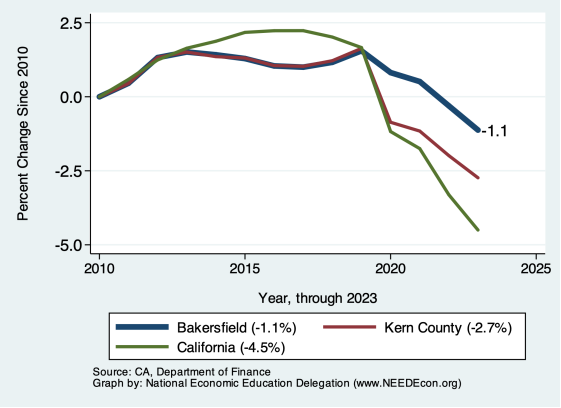


Figure 48: Vacancy Rates

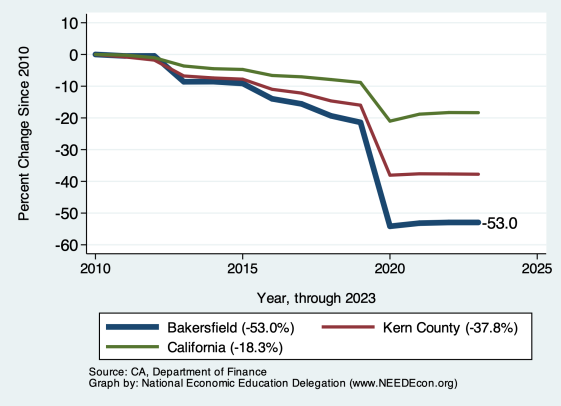
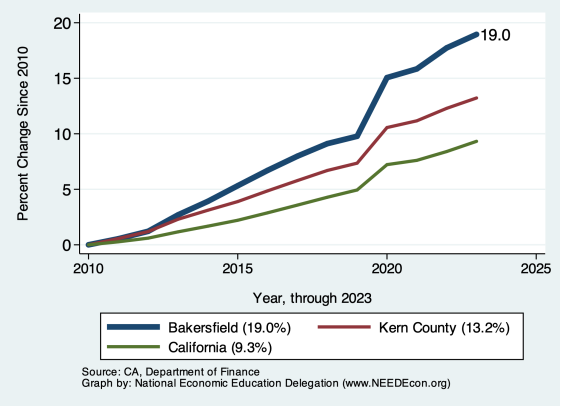


Figure 49: Number of Occupanied Units



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Trends in the Growth of Housing by Housing Type

Figure 50: Single Detached Homes

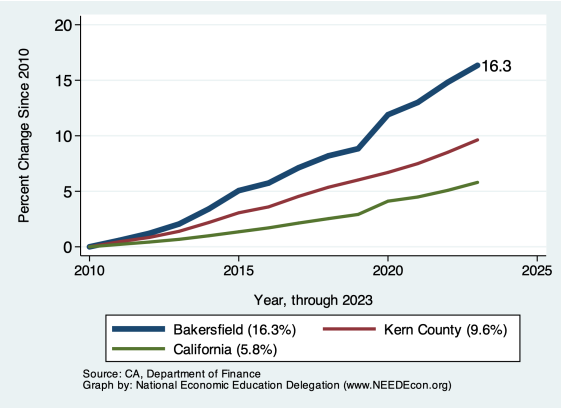


Figure 51: Single Attached Homes

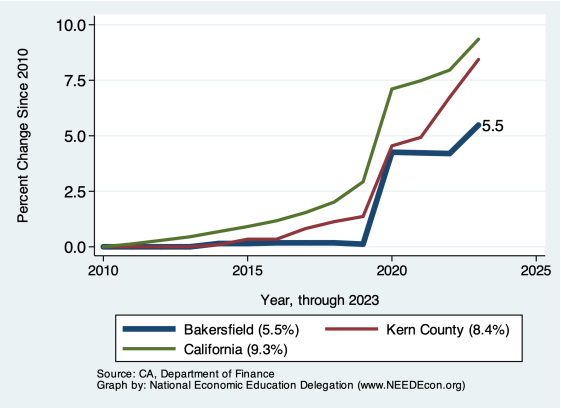


Figure 52: Housing in Buildings with Two to Four Units

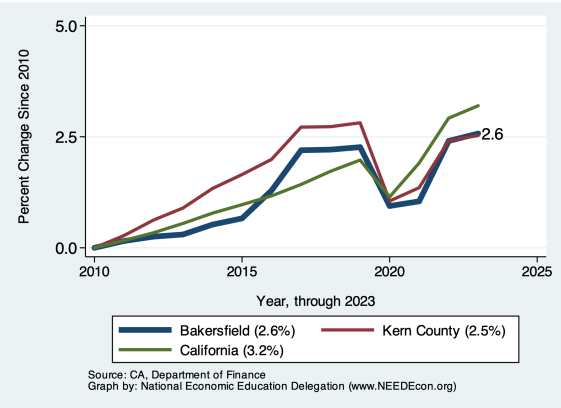
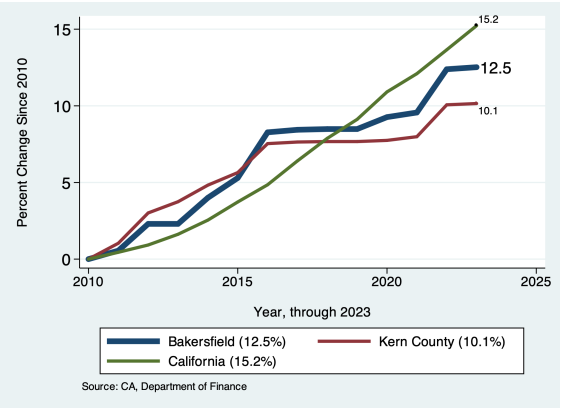


Figure 53: Housing in Buildings with Five or More Units



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. ● National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org ● 415-336-5705

Vintage of Residential Housing

Why is it important?

This section provides evidence on the year in which residential housing in Bakersfield was built. We break it down into owned versus rented residences and provide a comparison across Kern County and broader regions. A sense of the age of housing in a region provides an indication of the urgency with which a region might pursue additional housing. As the housing stock ages, an urgency with which renovations and rebuilds are permitted might result. All things equal, more recently constructed housing will be more likely to meet current codes and standards. Remodeling of existing units will be more desirable when existing units are, on average, older.

Figure 54: Distribution of Housing Construction

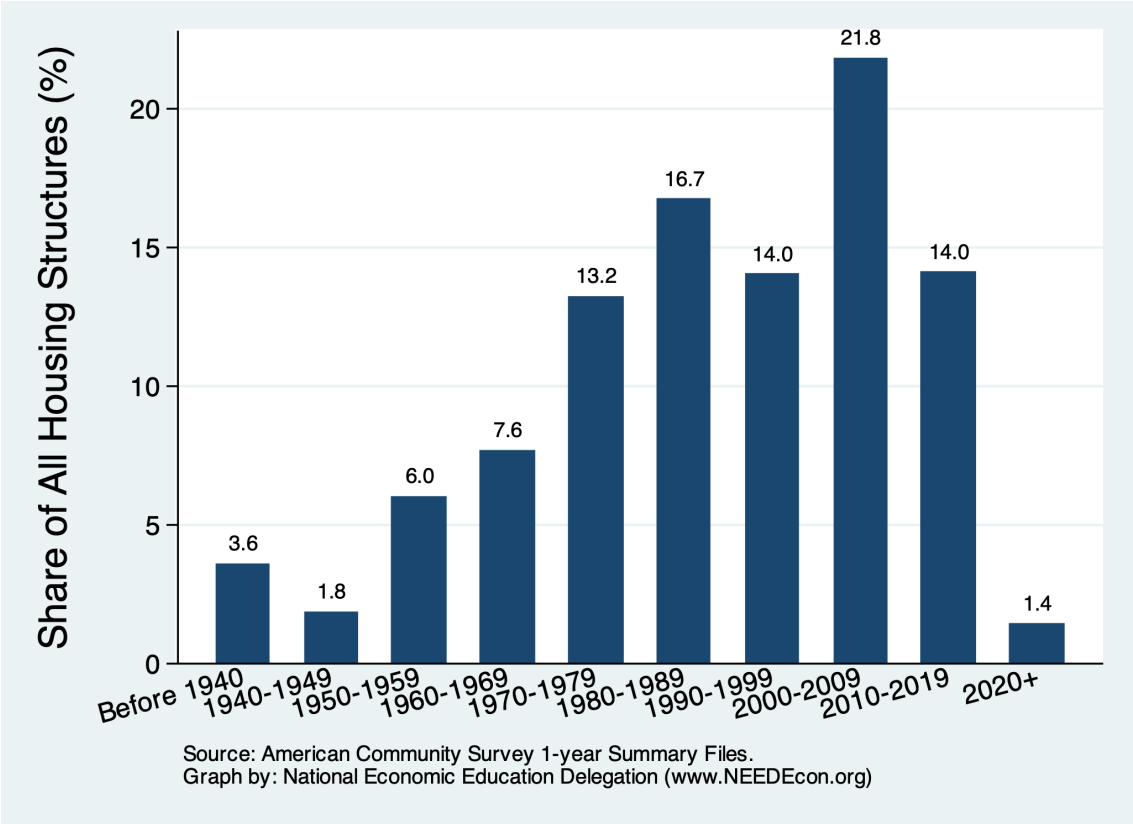


Figure 55: Housing Vintage across Regions

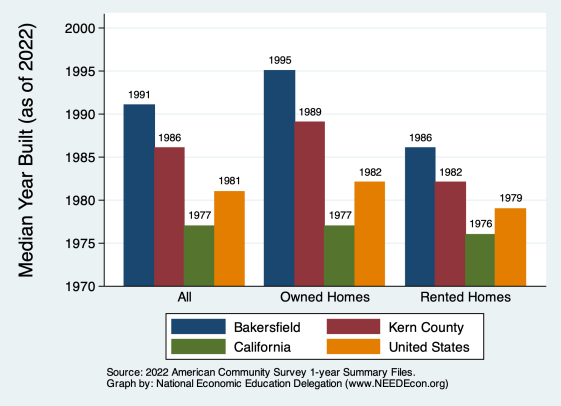


Figure 56: Housing Vintage by Tenure

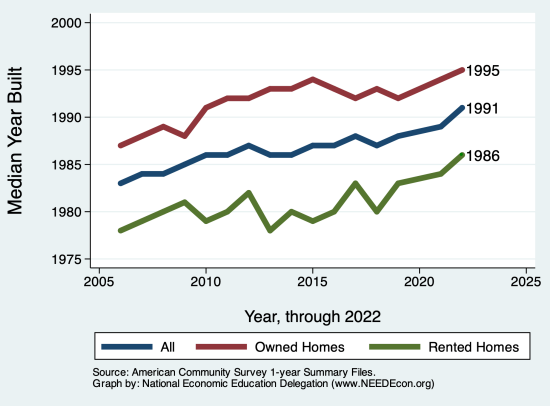


Figure 57: Vintage of Owned Residences

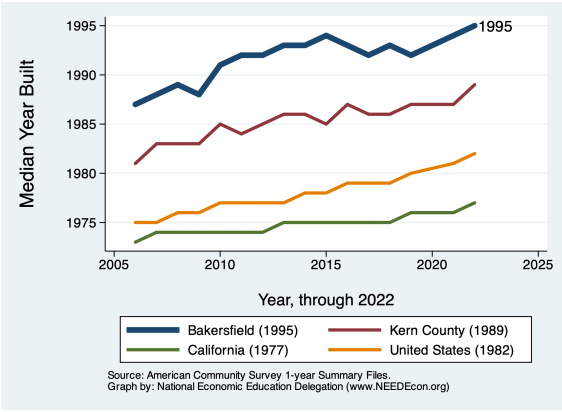


Figure 58: Vintage of Rented Residences

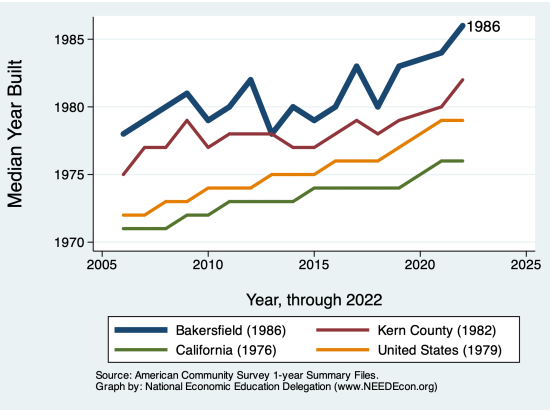
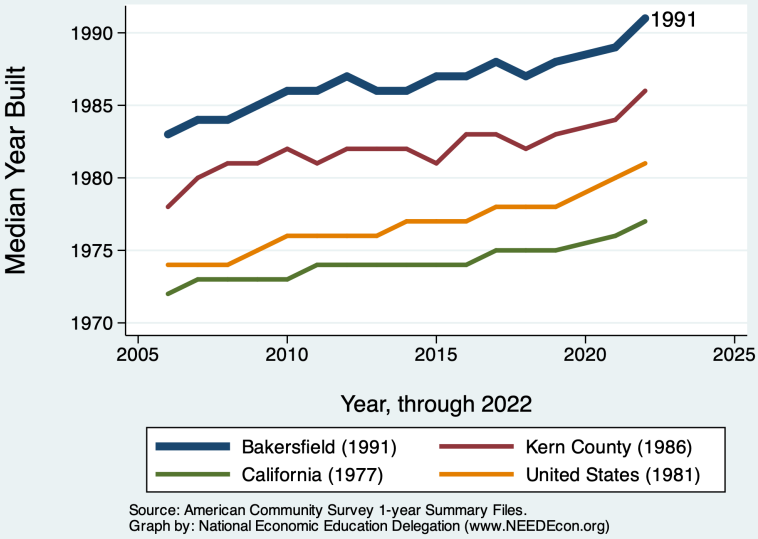


Figure 59: Vintage of All Residences



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Occupation of Residential Housing

Why is it important?

The duration of residence in a city is important for developing future policies regarding growing the local population. If a region is highly mobile, evidenced by most residences having been recently occupied, a city might propose policies to reduce that mobility, or ask why the mobility happens. Policies could be put in place to either reduce or increase migration.

Figure 60: Year Current Occupant Moved In

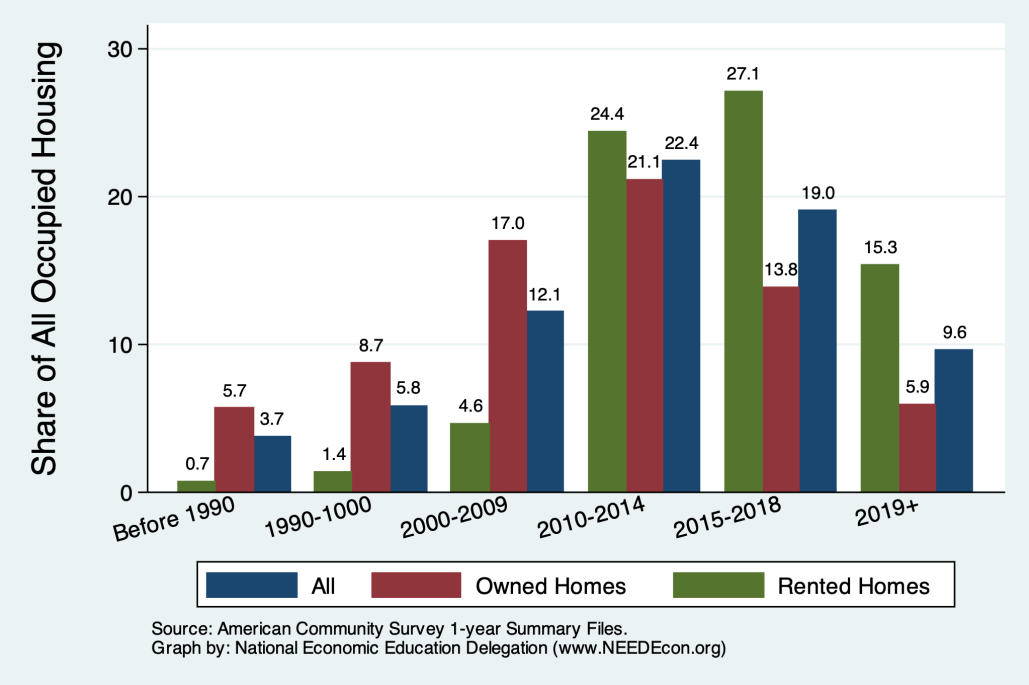


Figure 61: Year Occupied by Current Residents across Regions

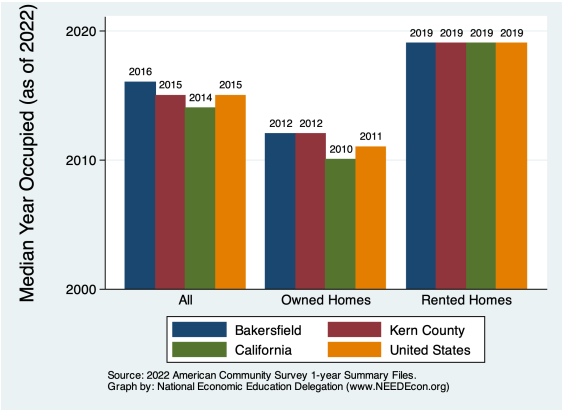
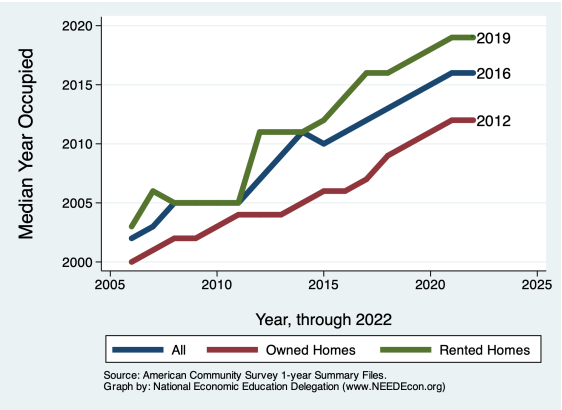


Figure 62: Year Occupied by Current Residents by Tenure



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Figure 63: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Owned Housing

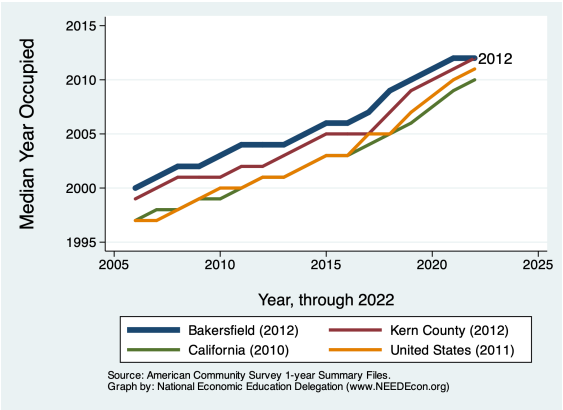


Figure 64: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Rented Housing

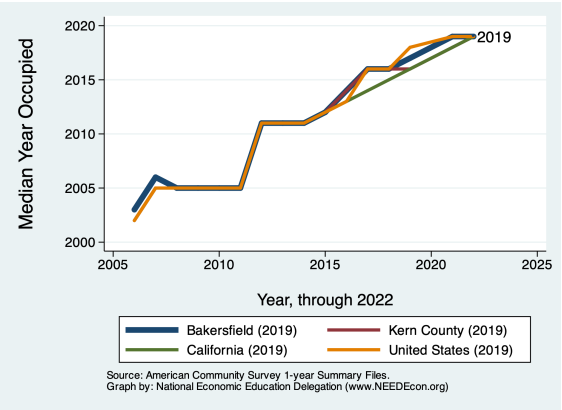
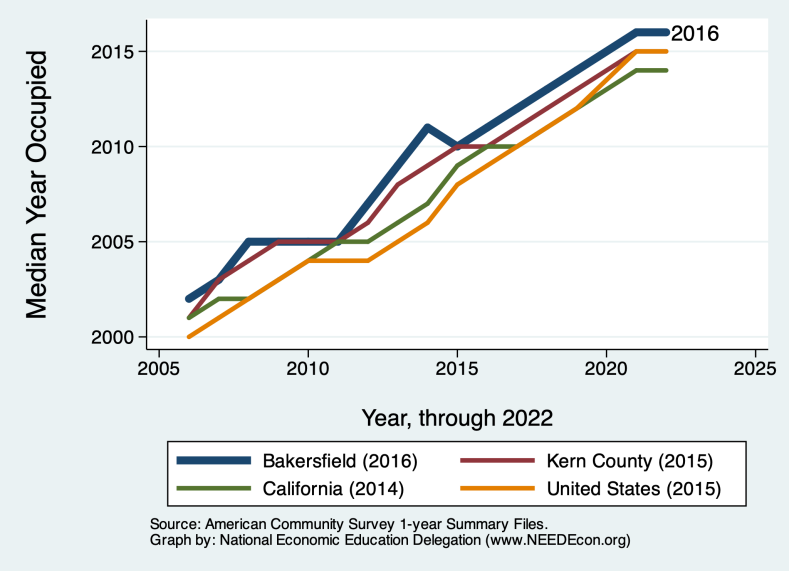


Figure 65: Year Occupied by Current Residents for All Housing



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Residential Permitting

Definition:

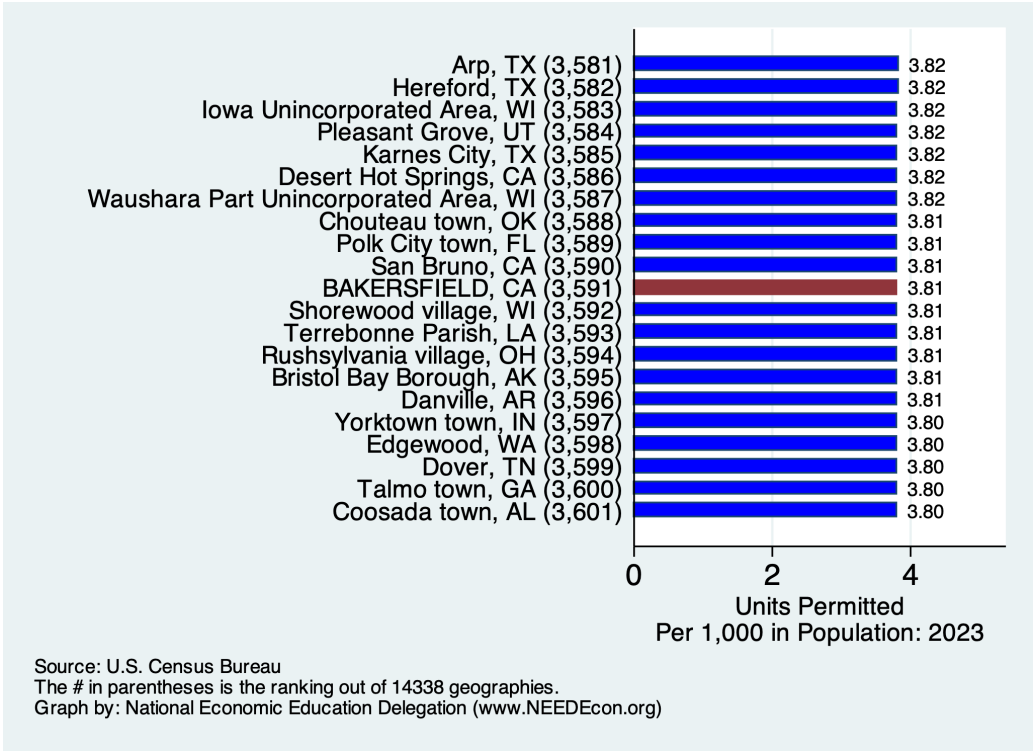
This indicator provides evidence on the number of residential buildings that are permitted for construction each year. Permit data for Bakersfield is compared with data from Kern County as a whole and broader regions. The statistic provided scales the number of permits by population. This is done to facilitate comparisons across regions.

Why is it important?

Building permits are the best indicator available of new units coming on the market. In order for a region's population to grow and flourish, new residential properties must be added to the existing stock. Building, both in the City and in the County more generally, is an indication of the extent to which new residences accommodate new residents or are affecting prices through increased supply.

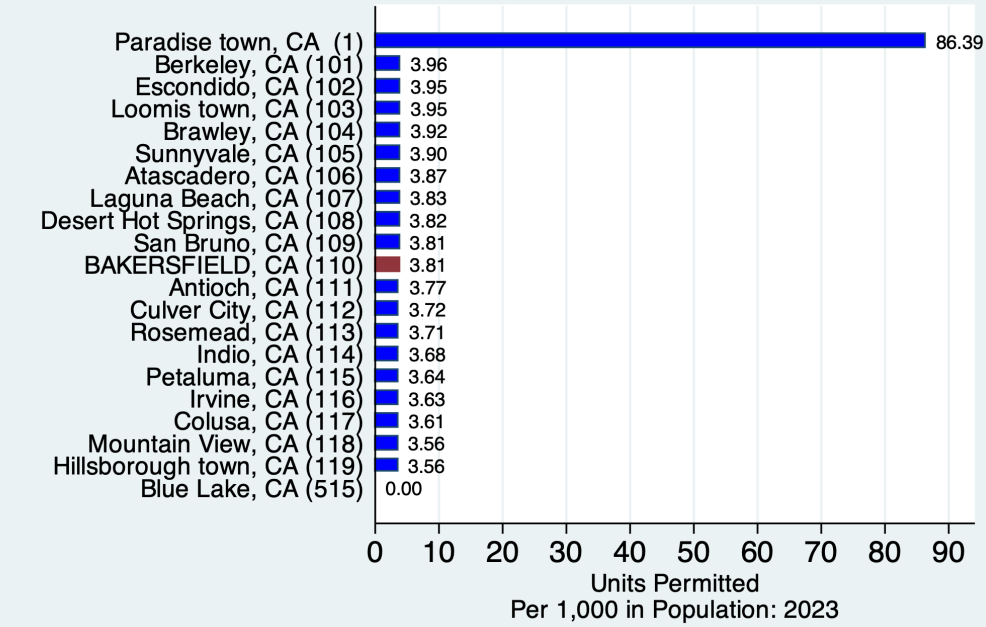
Bakersfield - Ranking Among Comparables

Figure 66: Number of Units Permitted - Nationwide Comparables (Rank)



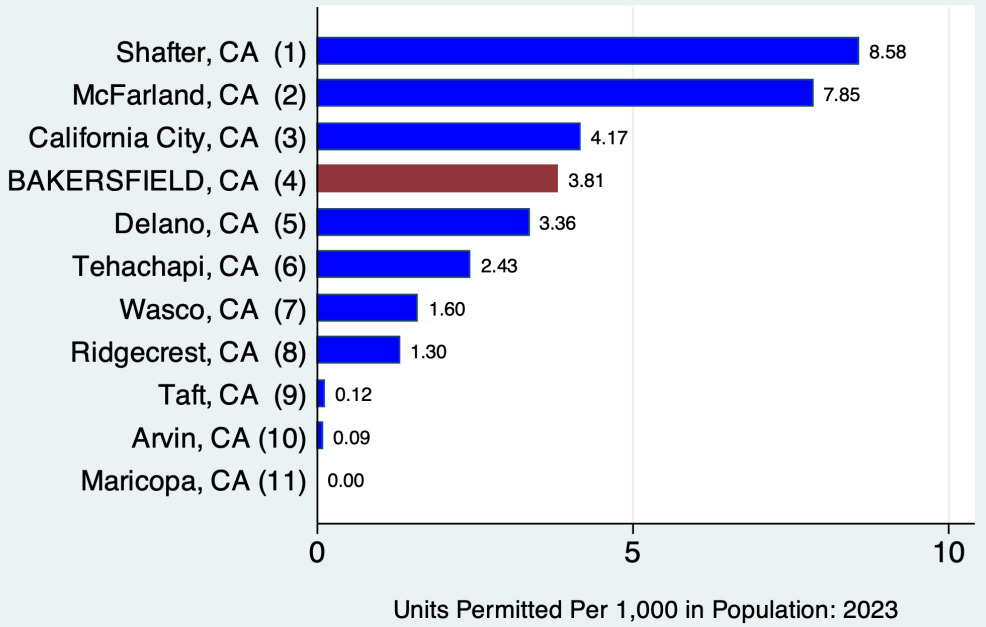
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 14338 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 67: Number of Units Permitted - California Comparables (Rank)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 515 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 68: Number of Units Permitted - Cities in Kern County (Rank)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 11 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Bakersfield - Permitting Activity

Annual Units Permitted - Per Capita in Bakersfield

Figure 69: Units Permitted Each Year

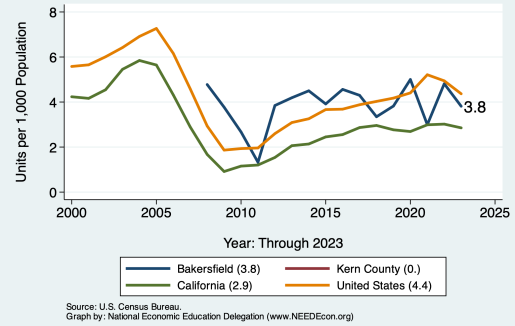
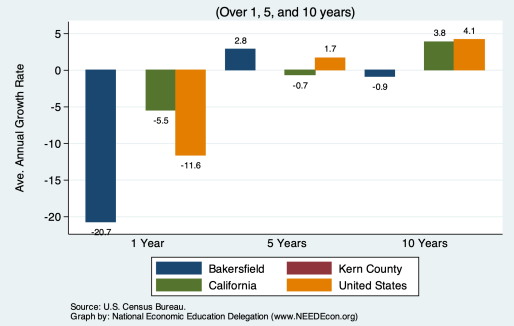


Figure 70: Average Annual Growth in Units Permitted



Annual Number of Buildings Permitted - Per Capita in Bakersfield

Figure 71: Units Permitted Each Year

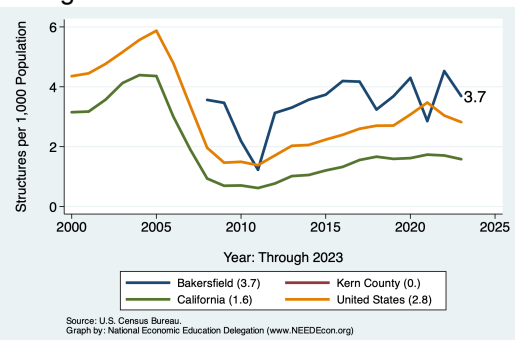
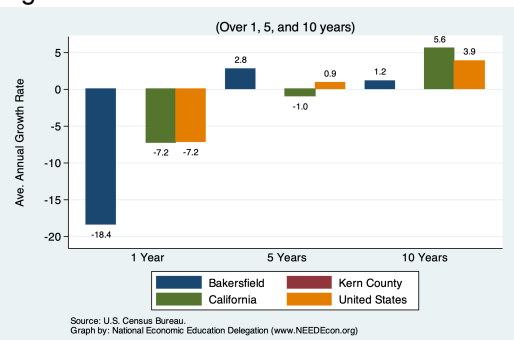


Figure 72: Average Annual Growth in Buildings Permitted



Annual Value of Property Permitted - Per Capita in Bakersfield

Figure 73: Value Permitted Each Year

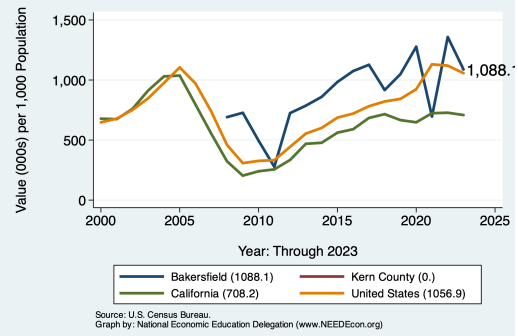
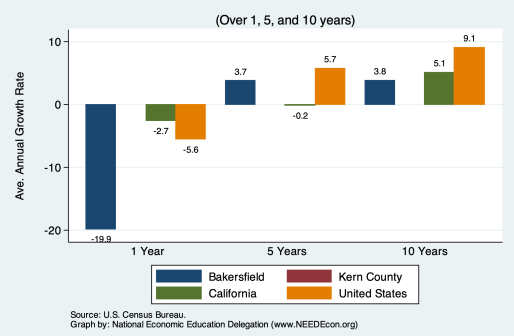


Figure 74: Average Annual Growth in Value Permitted



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Commute Patterns

During the recovery from the Great Recession, the period from 2010 to 2019, the Bay Area economy, and Silicon Valley in particular, has been growing at a pace roughly double that of the state as a whole and triple that of the nation. This growth has precipitated a tight housing market and also brought about some significant changes in commute patterns, many of which have been reversed by the pandemic. Recent years have seen significant changes in both the mode of transportation and commute times.

Mode of Transportation

Figure 75: Percent of Workers Commuting by Car Alone

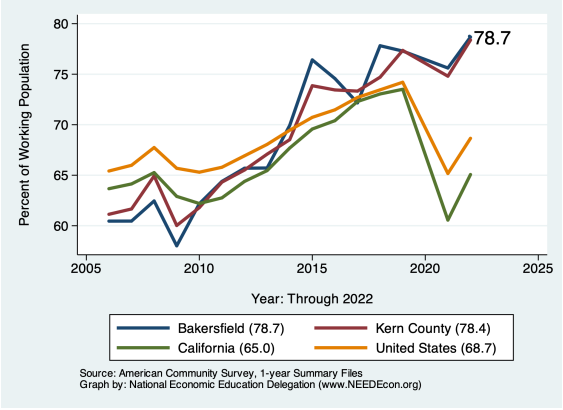


Figure 76: Percent of Workers Commuting by Carpool

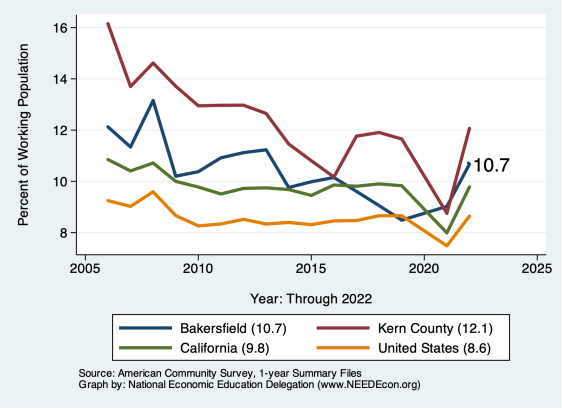


Figure 77: Percent of Workers using Public Transportation

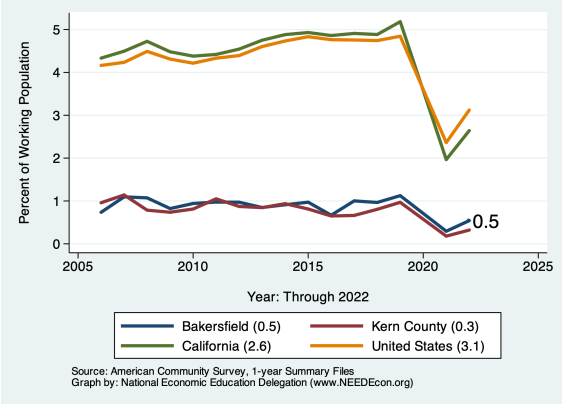
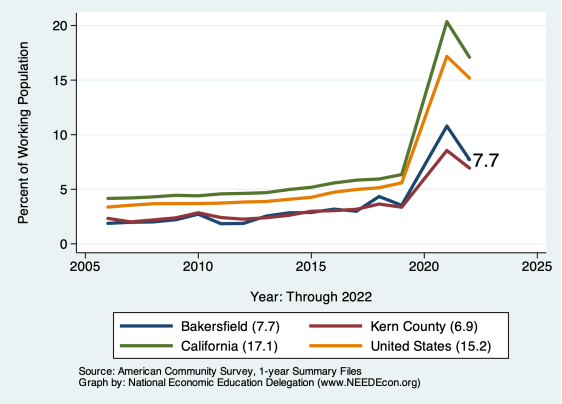


Figure 78: Percent of Workers Who Work From Home



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

The first table on this page presents data for those who LIVE in Bakersfield. The second provides data on those who work, but do not necessarily live in Bakersfield. The final two columns provide for a comparison of commute mode choices of people locally with those in California more broadly.

Table 6. SEX OF WORKERS BY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van:	89,031	91.1	65,161	84.6	154,192	89.4	75.3
Drove Alone	79,196	81.0	56,580	73.4	135,776	78.7	65.5
Carpooled:	9,835	10.1	8,581	11.1	18,416	10.7	9.8
In 2-person carpool	7,177	7.3	6,641	8.6	13,818	8.0	7.0
In 3-person carpool	1,706	1.7	863	1.1	2,569	1.5	1.7
In 4-or-more-person carpool	952	1.0	1,077	1.4	2,029	1.2	1.2
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	426	0.4	508	0.7	934	0.5	2.7
Bus or Trolley Bus	292	0.3	465	0.6	757	0.4	1.8
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.5
Subway or Elevated	134	0.1	43	0.1	177	0.1	0.2
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Ferryboat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	148	0.2	104	0.1	252	0.1	0.7
Walked	893	0.9	962	1.2	1,855	1.1	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	1,383	1.4	635	0.8	2,018	1.2	1.7
Worked at Home	5,877	6.0	7,435	9.7	13,312	7.7	17.2
Total:	97,758	100.0	74,805	97.1	172,563	100.0	

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 7. SEX OF WORKERS BY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van:	88,011	90.9	73,743	87.6	161,754	89.6	75.3
Drove Alone	78,578	81.2	64,340	76.5	142,918	79.1	65.5
Carpooled:	9,433	9.7	9,403	11.2	18,836	10.4	9.8
In 2-person carpool	7,012	7.2	7,504	8.9	14,516	8.0	7.0
In 3-person carpool	1,541	1.6	792	0.9	2,333	1.3	1.7
In 4-or-more-person carpool	880	0.9	1,107	1.3	1,987	1.1	1.2
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	292	0.3	516	0.6	808	0.4	2.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	292	0.3	516	0.6	808	0.4	1.8
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.5
Subway or Elevated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Ferryboat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	148	0.2	104	0.1	252	0.1	0.7
Walked	714	0.7	1,148	1.4	1,862	1.0	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	1,738	1.8	870	1.0	2,608	1.4	1.7
Worked at Home	5,877	6.1	7,435	8.8	13,312	7.4	17.2
Total:	96,780	100.0	83,816	99.6	180,596	100.0	

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File
The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Commute Times for Employed Residents

Table 8. SEX OF WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Less than 5 minutes	1,336	1.5	639	0.9	1,975	1.2	2.1
5 to 9 minutes	8,065	8.8	4,796	6.7	12,861	8.1	7.8
10 to 14 minutes	14,011	15.2	9,821	13.8	23,832	15.0	12.4
15 to 19 minutes	19,077	20.8	20,408	28.7	39,485	24.8	15.4
20 to 24 minutes	18,372	20.0	15,385	21.6	33,757	21.2	14.8
25 to 29 minutes	6,490	7.1	4,149	5.8	10,639	6.7	6.4
30 to 34 minutes	12,360	13.5	7,110	10.0	19,470	12.2	15.2
35 to 39 minutes	664	0.7	1,239	1.7	1,903	1.2	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	1,527	1.7	1,164	1.6	2,691	1.7	4.1
45 to 59 minutes	3,333	3.6	288	0.4	3,621	2.3	8.2
60 to 89 minutes	3,536	3.8	1,649	2.3	5,185	3.3	7.2
90 or more minutes	3,110	3.4	722	1.0	3,832	2.4	3.6
Total:	91,881	100.0	67,370	94.6	159,251	100.0	

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 79: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes

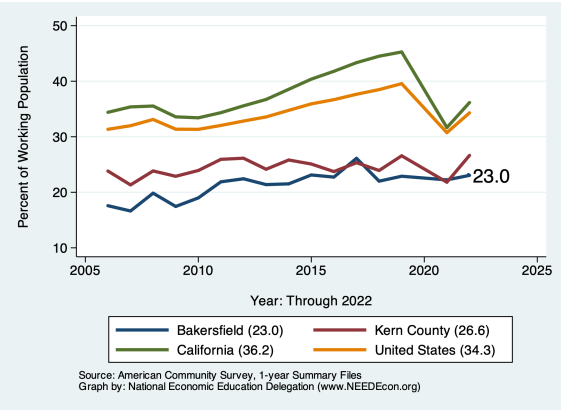


Figure 80: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

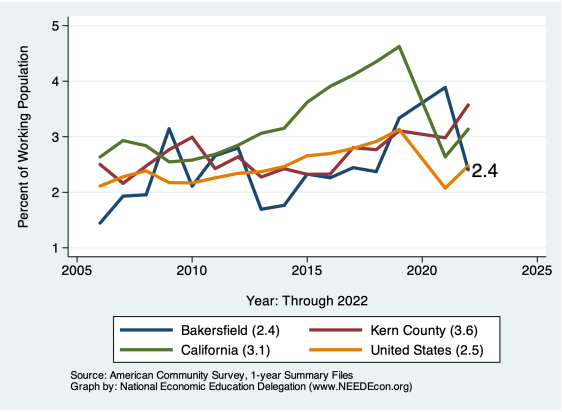
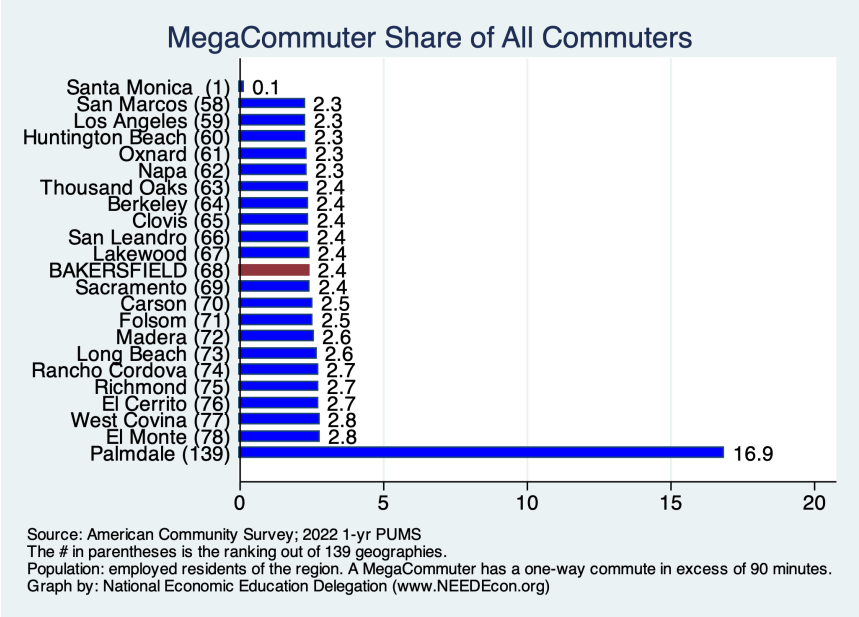


Figure 81: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Commute Times for Those Employed in the City

Table 9. SEX OF WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Less than 5 minutes	1,620	1.8	1,012	1.2	2,632	1.6	2.1
5 to 9 minutes	7,202	7.9	5,823	7.1	13,025	7.8	7.8
10 to 14 minutes	13,934	15.3	12,200	14.9	26,134	15.6	12.4
15 to 19 minutes	20,187	22.2	21,707	26.6	41,894	25.0	15.3
20 to 24 minutes	19,601	21.6	16,593	20.3	36,194	21.6	14.8
25 to 29 minutes	6,561	7.2	4,937	6.0	11,498	6.9	6.4
30 to 34 minutes	11,342	12.5	8,378	10.3	19,720	11.8	15.2
35 to 39 minutes	992	1.1	978	1.2	1,970	1.2	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	1,127	1.2	1,099	1.3	2,226	1.3	4.1
45 to 59 minutes	2,131	2.3	1,703	2.1	3,834	2.3	8.2
60 to 89 minutes	3,711	4.1	1,260	1.5	4,971	3.0	7.2
90 or more minutes	2,495	2.7	691	0.8	3,186	1.9	3.6
Total:	90,903	100.0	76,381	93.6	167,284	100.0	

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File
The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Figure 82: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes

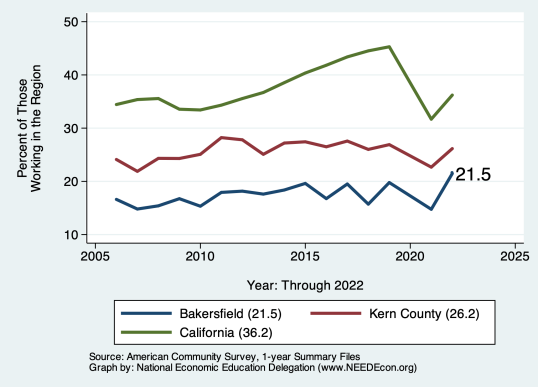


Figure 83: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

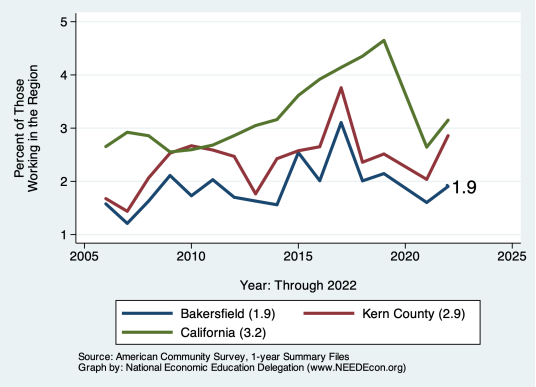
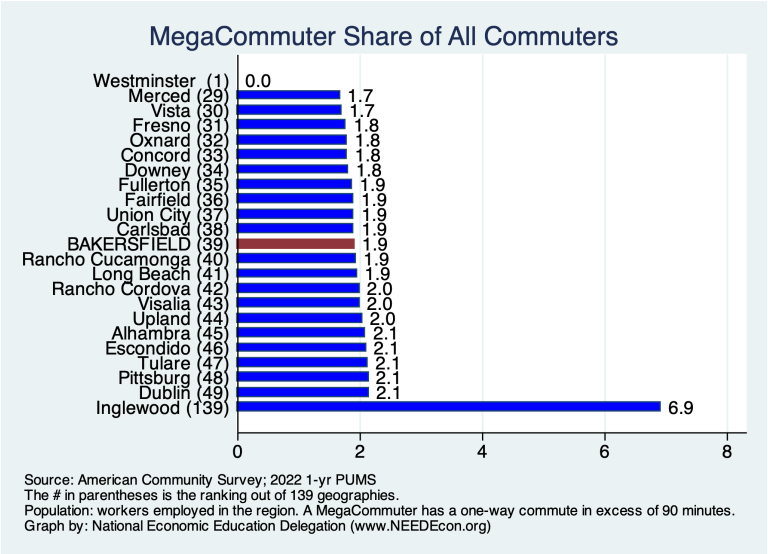


Figure 84: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Place of Work

This section provides evidence on where workers living in Bakersfield work. As evidenced in the first table, some of Bakersfield's employed workers work in the City, but many do not. The first table and graph pair provide evidence at the county level while the second provide evidence with regard to working outside of the Bakersfield city boundary.

Table 10. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK–STATE AND COUNTY LEVEL

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Place of Work	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Worked in state of residence:	97,233	99.5	74,805	97.1	172,038	99.7	99.6
Worked in county of residence	93,229	95.4	73,833	95.8	167,062	96.8	85.3
worked outside of county of residence	4,004	4.1	972	1.3	4,976	2.9	14.3
Worked outside state of residence	525	0.5	0	0.0	525	0.3	0.4
Total:	97,758	100.0	74,805	97.1	172,563	100.0	

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 85: Percent of Workers Employed Outside of Their County of Residence

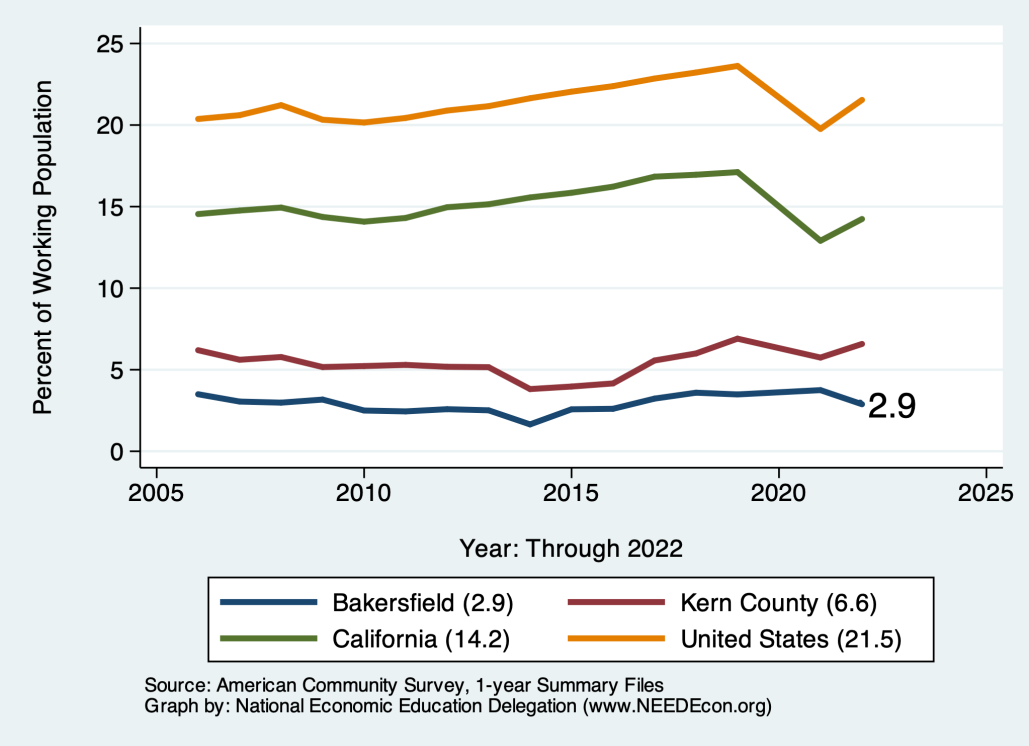
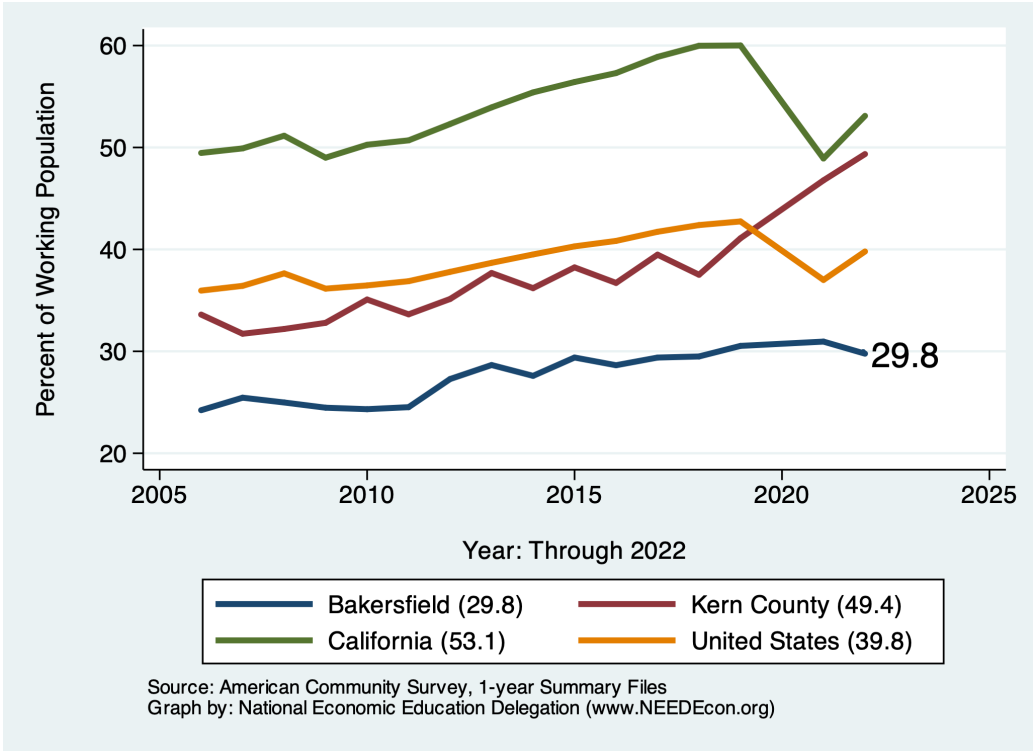


Table 11. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK–PLACE LEVEL

Place of Work	Male #	Male (%)	Female #	Female (%)	All Workers #	All Workers (%)	All of CA (%)
Living in a place:	97,758	100.0	74,805	97.1	172,563	100.0	95.8
Worked in place of residence	64,850	66.3	56,339	73.1	121,189	70.2	42.3
Worked outside place of residence	32,908	33.7	18,466	24.0	51,374	29.8	53.4
Not living in a place	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4.2
Total:	97,758	100.0	74,805	97.1	172,563	100.0	

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 86: Percent of Workers Employed Outside of Their Place of Residence



Commute Mode by Income

Table 12. MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

	City	California		United States	
	Median	*Median*	*Ratio*	*Median*	*Ratio*
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	40,603	48,335	105.3	45,677	103.7
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	32,442	35,926	113.2	34,518	109.6
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)	12,211	34,625	44.2	41,443	34.4
Walked	26,892	30,552	110.3	27,247	115.1
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	36,146	40,631	111.5	36,218	116.4
Worked from home	36,974	79,738	58.1	69,180	62.3
Total:	39,754	49,818	79.8	46,365	85.7

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Notes: 1) Ratio = the ratio of the regional median to either the CA or US median, relative to the Total ratio.
Values above 100 imply a high local median. Values below 100 imply a low local median.
For example, a value of 200 means that the local mean is 2x higher than would be expected.
For "Total:", ratio is simply the ratio of the medians.
2) For regions with more than one geography, the medians are averages weighted by working population.

Table 13. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY WORKERS' EARNINGS

	< $25,000		$25,000-$74,999		$75,000+		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	37,194	58.6	45,344	78.1	34,218	82.6	136,044	78.8	68.4
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	6,798	10.7	4,958	8.5	2,527	6.1	16,706	9.7	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	883	1.4	163	0.3	101	0.2	1,336	0.8	3.6
Walked	620	1.0	209	0.4	125	0.3	1,215	0.7	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	915	1.4	648	1.1	402	1.0	2,169	1.3	2.4
Worked at Home	3,402	5.4	3,033	5.2	4,030	9.7	11,924	6.9	13.6
Total:	49,812	78.5	54,355	93.6	41,403		169,394	98.2	100.0

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 14. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY WORKERS' EARNINGS FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	< $25,000		$25,000-$74,999		$75,000+		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	41,240	57.0	44,925	73.5	29,616	79.4	138,162	76.5	68.5
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	7,322	10.1	4,939	8.1	1,968	5.3	17,023	9.4	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	762	1.1	48	0.1	103	0.3	1,222	0.7	3.6
Walked	767	1.1	217	0.4	83	0.2	1,370	0.8	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	1,048	1.4	629	1.0	416	1.1	2,233	1.2	2.4
Worked at Home	3,402	4.7	3,033	5.0	4,030	10.8	11,924	6.6	13.6
Total:	54,541	75.4	53,791	88.0	36,216	97.1	171,934	95.2	

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Commute Mode by Poverty Status

Table 15. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY POVERTY STATUS

	In Poverty		100-149% of Pov		>150% of Pov		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	8,675	54.3	8,655	56.9	118,413	79.9	135,743	78.8	65.8
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	1,009	6.3	2,140	14.1	15,267	10.3	18,416	10.7	9.8
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	134	0.8	43	0.3	757	0.5	934	0.5	2.6
Walked	425	2.7	217	1.4	1,053	0.7	1,695	1.0	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	68	0.4	207	1.4	1,995	1.3	2,270	1.3	2.4
Worked at Home	1,383	8.7	1,067	7.0	10,734	7.2	13,184	7.7	17.2
Total:	11,694	73.2	12,329	81.1	148,219		172,242		

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 16. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY POVERTY STATUS FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	In Poverty		100-149% of Pov		>150% of Pov		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	8,966	46.2	11,121	68.5	122,798	80.4	142,885	79.3	65.8
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	1,589	8.2	2,193	13.5	15,054	9.9	18,836	10.4	9.8
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	51	0.3	32	0.2	725	0.5	808	0.4	2.6
Walked	496	2.6	349	2.2	857	0.6	1,702	0.9	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	122	0.6	158	1.0	2,580	1.7	2,860	1.6	2.4
Worked at Home	1,383	7.1	1,067	6.6	10,734	7.0	13,184	7.3	17.2
Total:	12,607	65.0	14,920	91.9	152,748		180,275		100.0

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File
The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Migration

Overall Migration Flows

Definition:

The United States is a country with an increasingly mobile population. People move, migrate, from one place to another with increasing frequency.

Why is it important?

Having a handle on whether or not Bakersfield is a net recipient (migration inflows) or donor (migration outflows) of population is very important for understanding trends in the City's development. This section outlines migration patterns by age, education, income, marital status, and housing tenure. Understanding recent trends is very important for making policy, investment, and other decisions about the future. Also, understanding the extent to which the population is stable, or experiences significant turnover each year is helpful for planning purposes.

Figure 87: Overall Movements of Residents

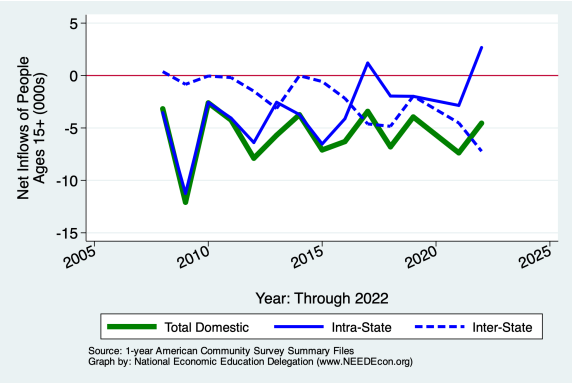


Table 17: Migration by Income

		Net Inflows				
			Same State			
Category	Population	All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
No income	55,643	−624	334	113	−1,922	851
With income	254,070	−2,369	2,722	−495	−5,297	701
$1 to $9,999 or loss	35,211	−2,642	−567	−1,350	−948	223
$10,000 to $14,999	26,651	−221	71	−42	−281	31
$15,000 to $24,999	37,974	87	176	558	−647	0
$25,000 to $34,999	32,494	−242	652	−214	−1,034	354
$35,000 to $49,999	36,416	30	1,066	−99	−998	61
$50,000 to $64,999	27,238	457	471	67	−81	0
$65,000 to $74,999	11,868	79	429	12	−362	0
$75,000 or more	46,218	83	424	573	−946	32
All:	309,713	−2,993	3,056	−382	−7,219	1,552

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File
Note: The data in this and other tables in this section are limited in that there is no information on the City's population that has moved abroad.
The "From Abroad" column is gross movements into the City from abroad.

Figure 88: Overall Movements of Low Income Residents

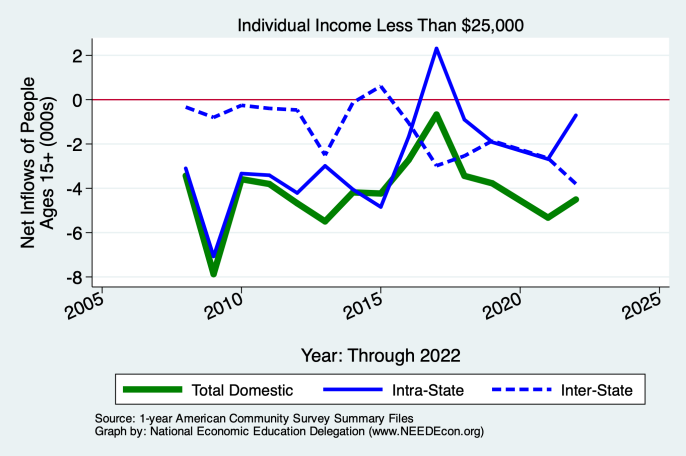


Figure 89: Overall Movements of Middle Income Residents

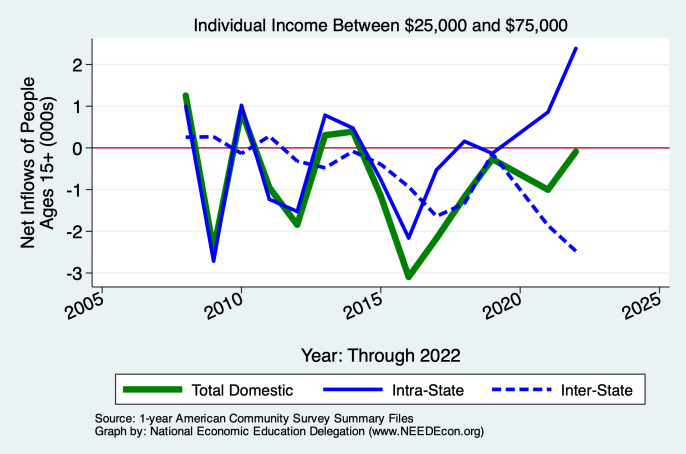
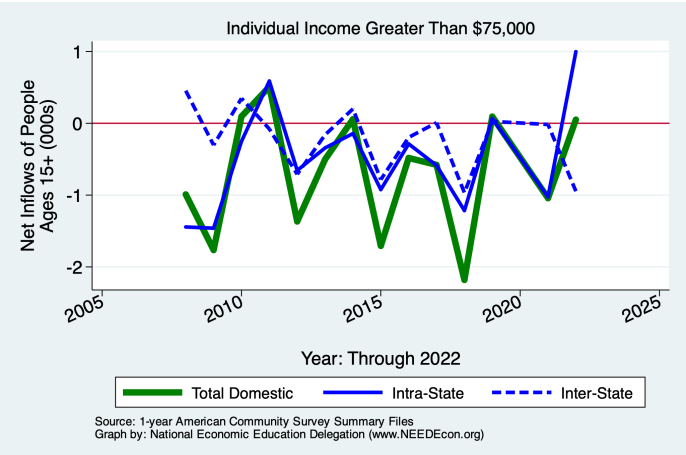


Figure 90: Overall Movements of High Income Residents



Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705

Demographics of Migration Flows

Table 18: Migration by Marital Status

Category	Population	Net Inflows: All Migration	Same State: W/in County	Same State: Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Never married	118,168	−2,669	1,532	−1,466	−3,358	623
Now married, except separated	142,127	948	1,491	2,074	−3,284	667
Divorced	26,609	−1,041	−262	−578	−201	0
Separated	6,239	233	227	−194	−14	214
Widowed	16,570	−464	68	−218	−362	48
Total:	309,713	−2,993	3,056	−382	−7,219	1,552

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 19: Migration by Tenure

Category	Population	Net Inflows: All Migration	Same State: W/in County	Same State: Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Householder lived in owner-occupied housing units	247,776	2,518	2,362	2,037	−2,454	573
Householder lived in renter-occupied housing units	152,185	−1,508	2,085	−118	−4,528	1,053
Total:	399,961	1,010	4,447	1,919	−6,982	1,626

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 91: Domestic Movements of Residents by Tenure

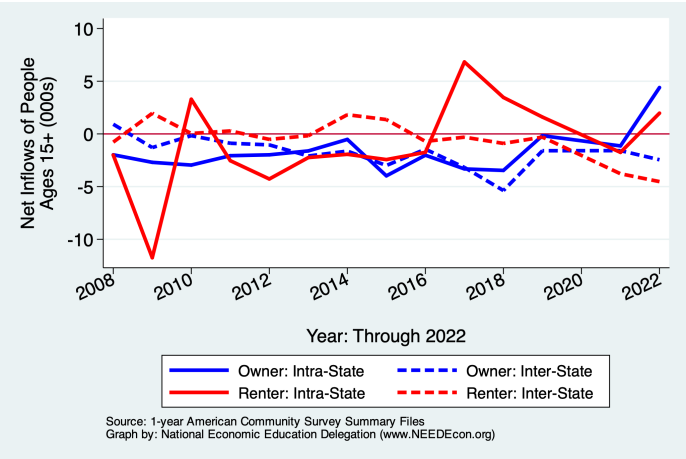


Table 20: Migration by Age

Category	Population	Net Inflows: All Migration	Same State: W/in County	Same State: Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
1 to 4 years	24,816	−438	359	−63	−734	0
5 to 17 years	90,890	467	1,087	442	−1,197	135
18 and 19 years	9,477	−2,651	−17	−719	−1,915	0
20 to 24 years	29,956	519	934	−385	−579	549
25 to 29 years	30,595	382	728	−90	−586	330
30 to 34 years	33,715	288	657	992	−1,453	92
35 to 39 years	26,485	−381	48	43	−472	0
40 to 44 years	27,093	−516	−122	127	−571	50
45 to 49 years	21,304	−123	182	−114	−223	32
50 to 54 years	23,090	−5	55	−76	−73	89
55 to 59 years	20,738	−402	197	−293	−306	0
60 to 64 years	17,302	247	187	346	−546	260
65 to 69 years	16,660	−224	−193	47	−228	150
70 to 74 years	14,220	−88	−13	85	−160	0
75 years and over	18,240	−279	0	−216	−63	0
Total Population:	404,581	−3,204	4,089	126	−9,106	1,687

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 21: Migration by Educational Attainment

Category	Population	Net Inflows: All Migration	Same State: W/in County	Same State: Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Less than high school graduate	46,104	269	282	122	−337	202
High school graduate (includes equiv)	66,864	520	1,287	−309	−918	460
Some college or assoc. degree	78,841	−1,821	418	354	−2,593	0
Bachelor's degree	37,847	−303	−133	74	−377	133
Graduate or professional degree	19,786	234	−128	610	−456	208
Total:	249,442	−1,101	1,726	851	−4,681	1,003

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 22: Median Income of Migration Flows

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	32,292	32,292
Moved Within Same County	35,355	31,159
Moved to Different County, Same State	25,344	11,629
Moved Between States	37,738	31,245
Moved from Abroad	26,257	
Total Population:	32,309	31,950

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 23: Median Age of Migration Flows

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	33.1	33.1
Moved Within Same County	26.8	28.7
Moved to Different County, Same State	32.7	27.9
Moved Between States	28.0	28.3
Moved from Abroad	29.1	
Total Population:	32.3	32.4

Source: 2022 1-year American Community Survey, Summary File

References and Sources

The majority of the data presented in this report are from the American Community Survey (ACS). For larger geographies, the 1-year Summary Files provide the data. For smaller communities, roughly those with less than 65,000 in population in 2021, the 5-year Summary Files provide the data.

The ACS data are supplemented by building permit data from the U.S. Census Bureau, population and housing data from the California Department of Finance, and home price and rental rates from Zillow.

U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year Summary Files. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/data-via-ftp.html. The 1-year data are released in September each year and the 5-year data are relased in January.

Zillow Research Data https://www.zillow.com/research/data/

U.S. Census Bureau. Building Permits Data, updated annually in February. https://www.census.gov/construction/bps/current.html

State of California, Department of Finance, E-5 Population and Housing Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State — January 1. Sacramento, California, May. https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/estimates/

State of California, Department of Finance, E-2. California County Population Estimates and Components of Change by Year, July 1, 2010-2021. Sacramento, California, December. https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/

State of California, Department of Finance, E-1 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State with Annual Percent Change — January 1. Sacramento, California, May. https://dof.ca.gov/forecasting/demographics/

Jon Haveman, Ph.D. • National Economic Education Delegation
Jon@NEEDEcon.org • 415-336-5705