

# **Laguna Beach, California**

## *Indicators Report*

by  
The National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

April 20, 2024

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

This report was produced by the:

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# Executive Summary

## *Assessing the City with Indicators*

### **About this Report**

This report provides background or summary information for the city of Laguna Beach (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 Laguna Beach. These indicators are compared to Orange County (the County) as a whole, a broader region where one is well defined, California, and the United States.

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 snapshot of Laguna Beach 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 of employment and unemployment in Laguna Beach 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 Laguna Beach, 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 proportion 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 Laguna Beach, but do not necessarily live in Laguna Beach.
- **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.

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# 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 composition.

**Why is it important?**

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

***A Demographic Snapshot***

Statistic	2022	2019
<b>POPULATION</b>		
Population Estimate (#, 5yr)	22,943.0	23,036.0
Veterans (#, 5yr)	1,121.0	1,284.0
Foreign born persons (% , 5yr)	10.5	13.2
Population age 25+ (#, 5yr)	18,318.0	17,871.0
<b>AGE AND SEX</b>		
Persons under 5 years (% , 5yr)	2.5	3.4
Persons under 18 years (% , 5yr)	15.7	16.6
Persons 65 years and over (% , 5yr)	28.2	24.5
Female persons (% , 5yr)	47.9	49.6
<b>INCOME AND POVERTY</b>		
Median household income (\$, 5yr)	141,875.0	129,983.0
Per capita income in past 12 months (\$, 5yr)	107,044.0	93,088.0
Persons in poverty (% , 5yr)	5.5	6.3
Children age less than 18 in poverty (#, 5yr)	107.0	147.0
Children age less than 18 in poverty (% , 5yr)	3.0	4.0
<b>RACE AND ETHNICITY</b>		
White alone (% , 5yr)	86.0	89.5
African American alone (% , 5yr)	0.4	0.8
American Indian or Alaska Native alone (% , 5yr)	0.2	0.1
Asian alone (% , 5yr)	3.2	3.8
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (% , 5yr)	0.3	0.0
Two or More Races (% , 5yr)	7.8	3.3
Hispanic or Latino (% , 5yr)	7.1	8.2
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino (% , 5yr)	82.9	83.4
<b>HOUSING</b>		
Housing units (#, 5yr)	13,745.0	13,362.0
Owner-occupied housing units (% , 5yr)	67.3	64.3
Median value of owner-occupied housing units (\$, 5yr)	2,000,001.0	1,771,600.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage (\$, 5yr)	4,001.0	4,001.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage (\$, 5yr)	1,202.0	830.0
Median gross rent (\$, 5yr)	2,701.0	2,299.0
<b>FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS</b>		
Households (#, 5yr)	10,618.0	10,235.0
Persons per household (#, 5yr)	2.2	2.2
Living in same house 1 year ago, % of persons age 1+ (5yr)	86.1	87.4
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	98.2	97.4
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	65.0	66.0
<b>HEALTH</b>		
With a disability, under age 65 years (#, 5yr)	873.0	801.0
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years (% , 5yr)	2.1	3.4
<b>LABOR FORCE</b>		
In civilian labor force, persons age 16+ (% , 5yr)	60.6	61.3
In civilian labor force, women age 16+ (% , 5yr)	49.4	54.1
Employed, persons age 16+ (% , 5yr)	54.3	54.1
Self employed (% , 5yr)	26.6	24.3
<b>TRANSPORTATION</b>		
Mean travel time to work, workers age 16+ (Mins., 5yr)	19.3	23.9
Drive alone in private vehicle (% , 5yr)	58.0	73.8
Using public transportation (% , 5yr)	1.8	2.0
Worked from home (% , 5yr)	30.6	17.4

Source: American Community Survey, Summary Files

Note: Data are from the 1-year files unless indicated by the notation 5yr.

## 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	3 Year	5 Year
<b>City</b>				
Laguna Beach	22,445	-0.27	-1.08	-4.38
<b>County and Broader Regions</b>				
Orange County	3,137,164	-0.47	-1.36	-2.37
Southern California	21,794,548	-0.41	-2.24	-2.84
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	Southern California	California
Orange County	3,151.9	3,137.2	-0.47	-0.41	-0.35
Anaheim	335.9	328.6	-2.19		
Irvine	305.7	303.1	-0.86		
Santa Ana	304.3	299.6	-1.52		
Huntington Beach	196.5	195.7	-0.38		
Garden Grove	171.2	171.2	-0.01		
Fullerton	143.0	142.9	-0.10		
Orange	138.2	139.1	0.66		
Costa Mesa	111.6	111.2	-0.42		
Mission Viejo	92.1	91.8	-0.30		
Westminster	90.7	90.5	-0.18		
Lake Forest	86.6	87.1	0.59		
Buena Park	83.4	83.5	0.19		
Newport Beach	83.7	83.4	-0.29		
Tustin	79.7	79.6	-0.17		
Yorba Linda	67.3	67.1	-0.32		
Laguna Niguel	65.0	64.7	-0.47		
San Clemente	63.4	63.2	-0.31		
La Habra	62.0	61.8	-0.33		
Fountain Valley	57.0	57.0	0.02		
Placentia	51.3	52.5	2.30		
Aliso Viejo	51.0	50.8	-0.49		
Cypress	49.9	49.8	-0.12		
Brea	46.9	48.2	2.63		
Rancho Santa Margarita	47.3	47.1	-0.49		
Stanton	39.0	39.1	0.25		
San Juan Capistrano	34.9	35.1	0.63		
Dana Point	33.0	33.2	0.44		
Laguna Hills	30.7	30.5	-0.46		
Seal Beach	24.9	24.6	-0.90		
Laguna Beach	22.5	22.4	-0.27		
Laguna Woods	17.5	17.4	-0.49		
La Palma	15.4	15.3	-0.45		
Los Alamitos	11.9	12.1	1.98		
Villa Park	5.8	5.8	-0.02		

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 1: Population Growth (1)

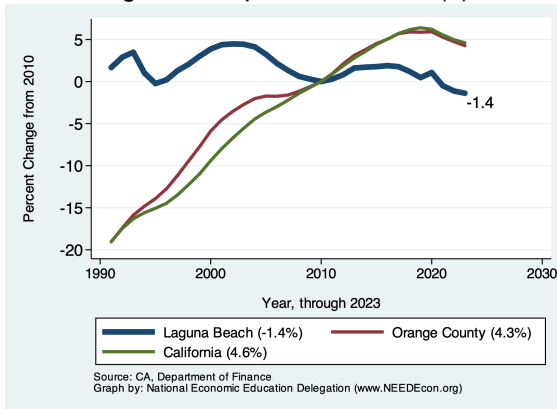


Figure 2: Population Growth (2)

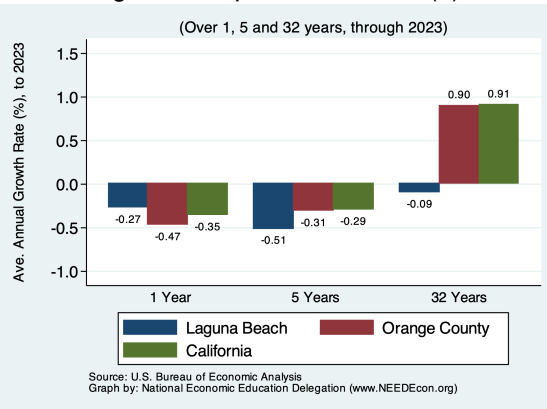


Figure 3: Population by Age - Detailed Age Categories

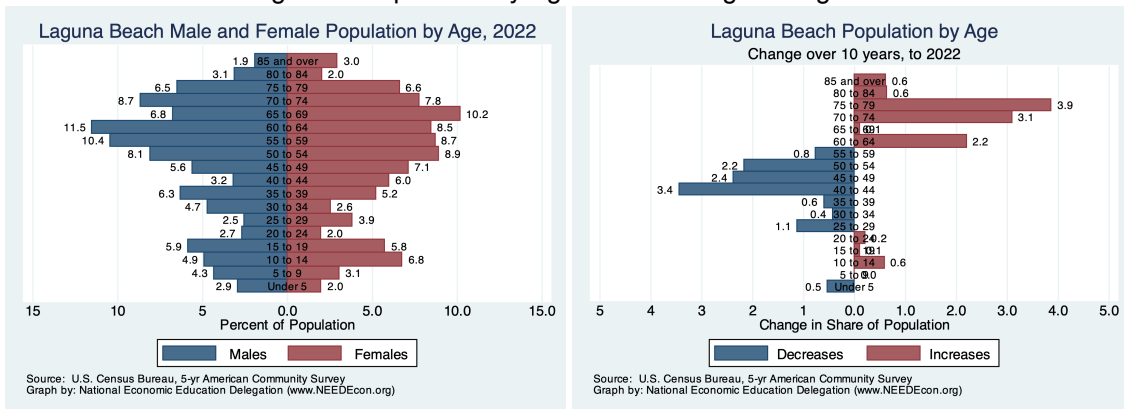


Figure 4: Population by Age - Broad Age Categories

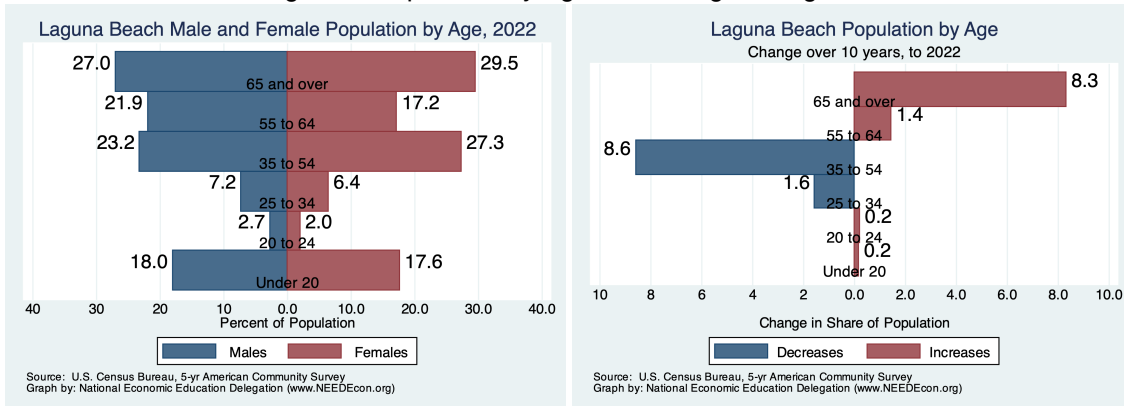


Figure 5: Population by Educational Attainment

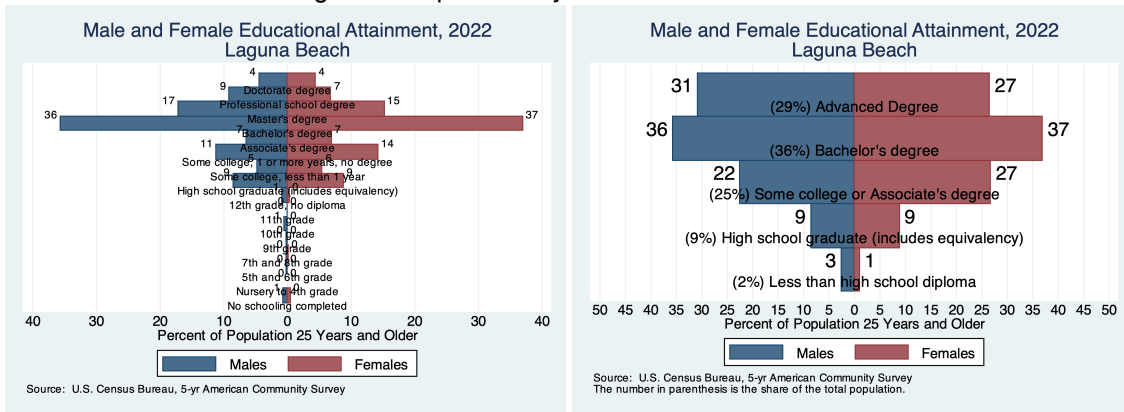


Figure 6: Population by Race/Ethnicity

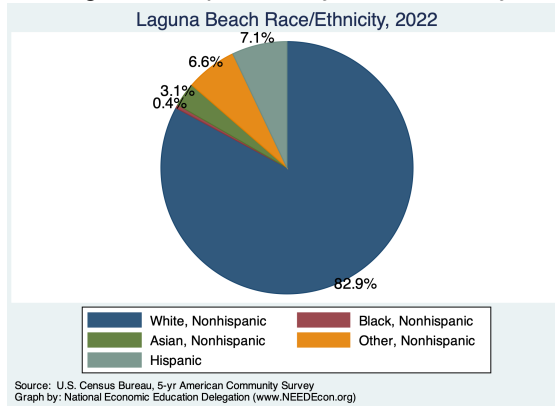
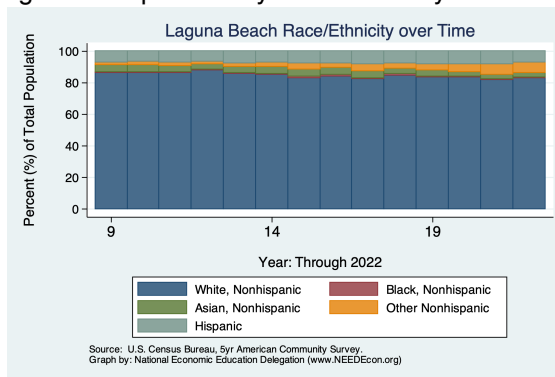


Figure 7: Population by Race/Ethnicity Over Time





# 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 em-

ployment 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. Laguna Beach Summary for March, 2024

Category	Current Value	Change From:		
		Last Month	2 Months Ago	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 - Last 12 Months

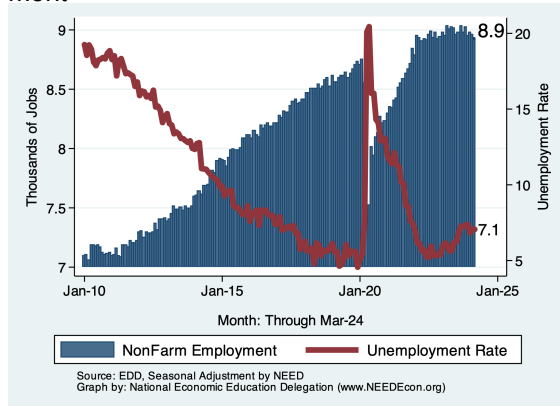


Figure 9: Employment and Unemployment - Last 12 Months

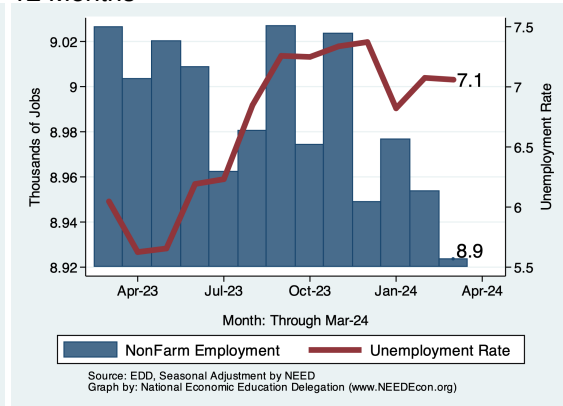


Figure 10: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2010

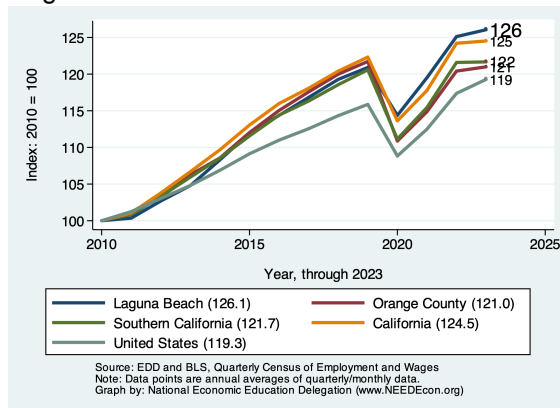
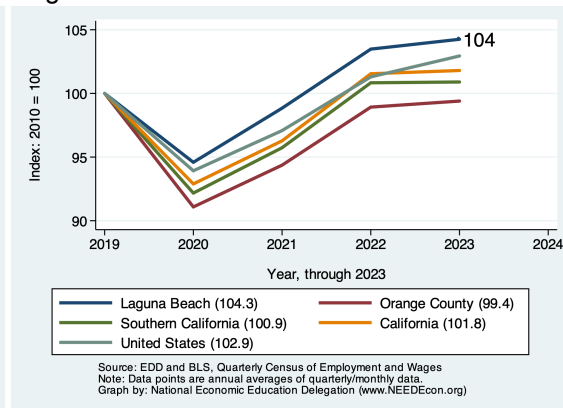


Figure 11: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2019



## 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 industry-level employment data for Orange County. The following table provides the latest data for the County.

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

Industry	Employment	Share	Empl Growth	% Growth - Annualized Rate					
				Month	Qtr	6mo	1yr	3yr	5yr
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	1,704,677	100.0	6,550.8	4.7	3.1	2.4	1.9	3.3	0.4
<b>Total Private</b>	1,541,986	90.5	6,278.0	5.0	3.2	2.5	1.8	3.4	0.5
<b>Goods Producing</b>	261,488	15.3	411.3	1.9	-1.9	-0.0	0.3	1.5	-0.4
Mining, Logging and Construction	106,369	6.2	1,018.8	12.2	-3.2	2.3	2.6	1.4	0.0
Mining and Logging	300	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-8.0
Construction	105,995	6.2	919.4	11.0	-3.6	2.1	2.6	1.4	0.0
Manufacturing	155,148	9.1	-444.4	-3.4	-1.1	-1.9	-1.2	1.5	-0.7
Durable Goods	116,767	6.8	-95.6	-1.0	1.2	-1.6	-0.9	1.8	-0.4
Non-Durable Goods	38,408	2.3	-327.6	-9.7	-5.8	-2.8	-1.8	0.6	-1.6
<b>Service Providing</b>	1,443,479	84.7	6,591.2	5.6	4.4	2.5	2.1	3.7	0.6
Trade, Trans & Utilities	262,337	15.4	562.6	2.6	0.5	0.2	0.0	1.5	0.1
Wholesale Trade	80,836	4.7	167.7	2.5	-0.7	-1.0	-0.1	1.5	-0.1
Retail Trade	146,647	8.6	369.0	3.1	0.1	1.1	0.5	0.8	-0.6
Trans & Warehousing	31,588	1.9	171.6	6.8	5.2	-1.8	-1.9	4.8	3.9
Information	21,685	1.3	55.2	3.1	-2.3	-4.7	-5.7	-2.6	-3.5
Financial Activities	103,389	6.1	-89.2	-1.0	0.9	-0.7	-0.8	-4.0	-2.2
Finance & Insurance	61,918	3.6	42.0	0.8	-0.0	-2.3	-2.9	-7.2	-3.9
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	41,527	2.4	-109.4	-3.1	2.1	2.7	2.5	2.6	0.9
Professional & Business Svcs	324,490	19.0	1,362.8	5.2	5.4	2.5	1.0	0.1	-0.1
Prof, Sci, & Tech	141,484	8.3	78.9	0.7	2.5	2.6	1.5	2.4	1.5
Admin & Support Svcs	139,656	8.2	1,147.2	10.4	10.0	2.6	0.1	-2.3	-1.5
Employment Svcs	63,712	3.7	840.6	17.3	14.1	2.2	-1.8	-7.3	-3.4
Educational & Health Svcs	274,719	16.1	1,424.2	6.4	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.9	3.8
Education Svcs	39,649	2.3	-189.7	-5.6	-1.1	1.9	3.9	11.9	5.4
Health Care & Social Assistance	234,185	13.7	1,519.1	8.1	5.0	4.8	6.4	4.9	3.5
Leisure & Hospitality	234,608	13.8	2,031.9	11.0	4.3	3.1	3.1	18.2	0.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	59,924	3.5	1,760.9	43.0	21.0	14.5	10.3	65.4	2.2
Accommodation & Food Svcs	174,745	10.3	281.9	2.0	-0.7	0.5	0.9	11.1	0.2
Other Svcs	56,860	3.3	193.3	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.0	8.7	2.1
<b>Government</b>	163,068	9.6	280.7	2.1	2.3	1.6	2.7	2.3	0.0
Federal	10,850	0.6	53.4	6.1	7.3	2.8	1.9	-0.9	-0.4
State	33,620	2.0	33.4	1.2	2.3	0.6	2.0	0.1	0.7
Local	118,731	7.0	304.5	3.1	2.6	1.4	3.0	3.3	-0.1
County	18,417	1.1	66.4	4.4	-6.8	-3.0	-1.7	0.7	-0.8
City	16,631	1.0	-49.0	-3.5	6.9	4.5	5.7	6.1	0.6
Local Government Education	75,924	4.5	261.8	4.2	3.5	1.5	3.4	3.5	-0.2

Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

## Some Employee Detail

### Employed in Laguna Beach

Figure 12: Employment by Occupation

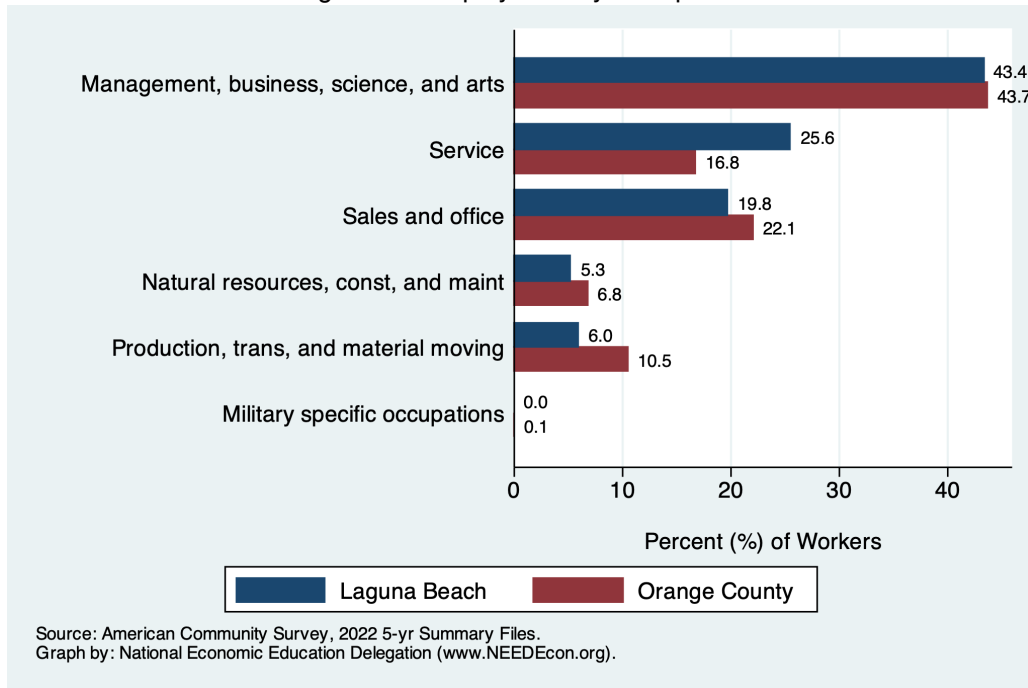


Figure 13: Employment by Industry

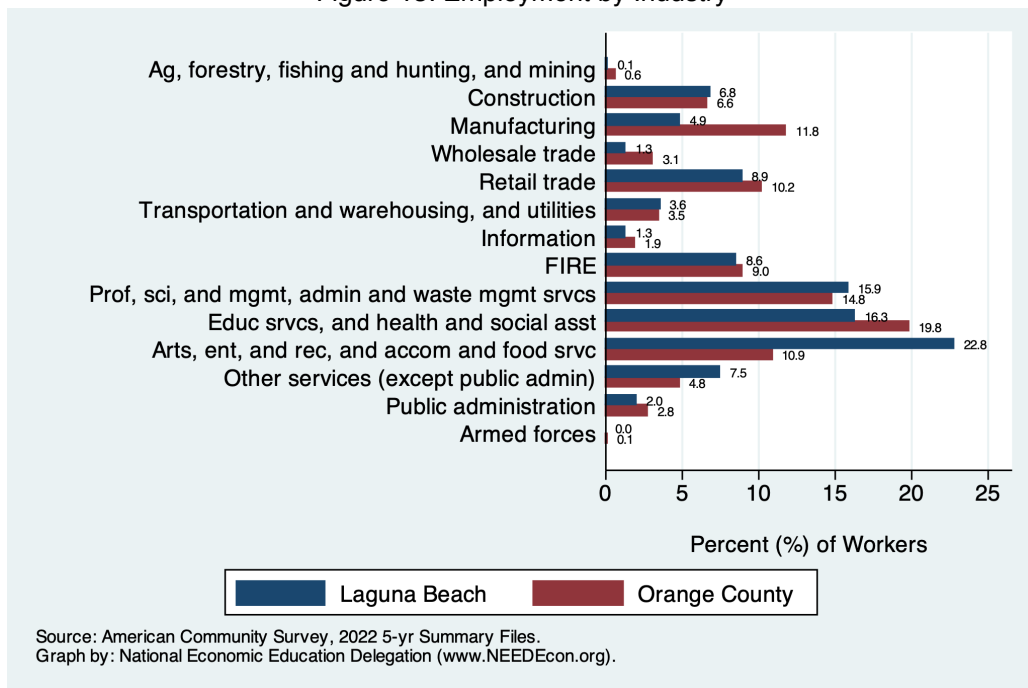
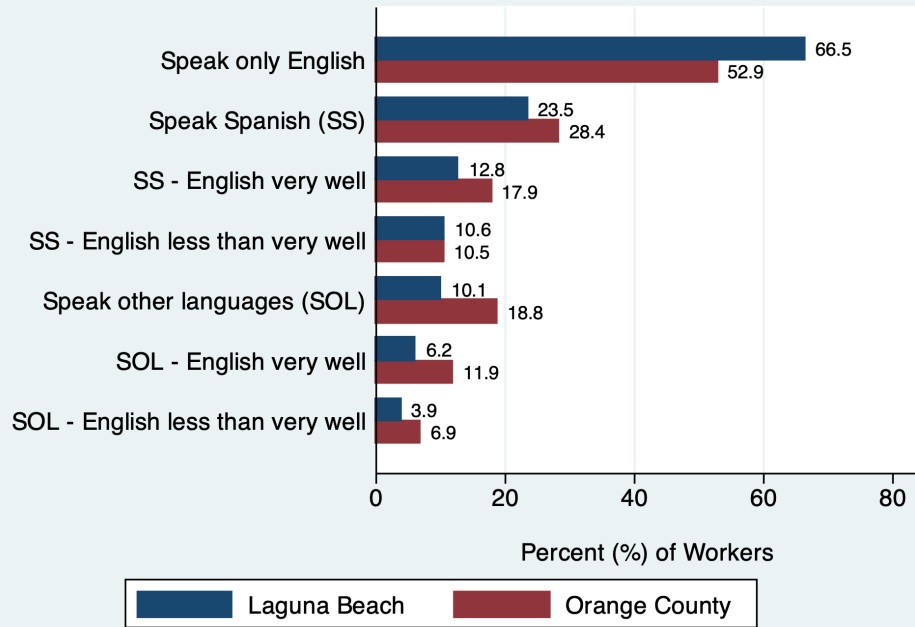
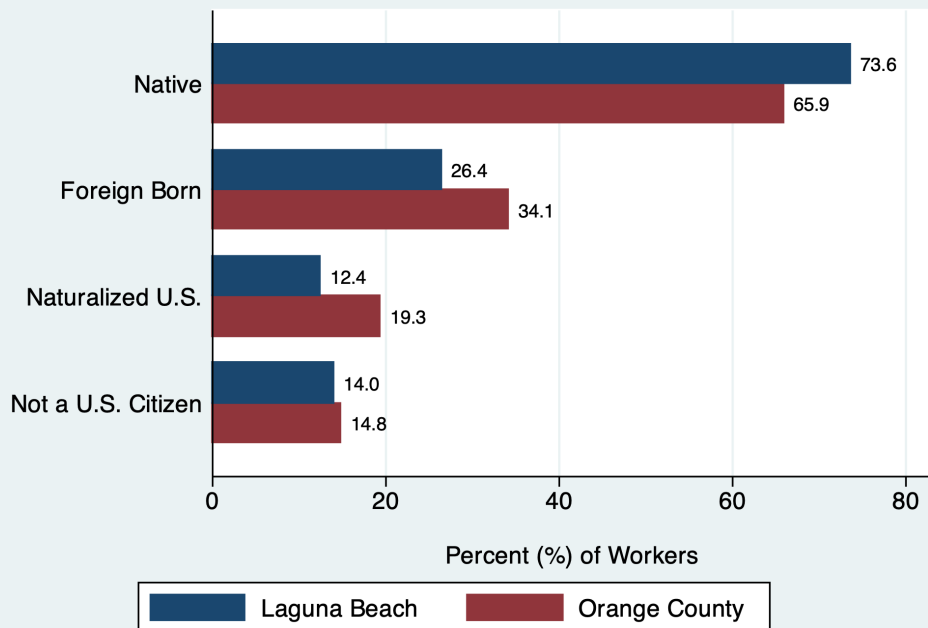


Figure 14: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.  
 Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation ([www.NEEDecon.org](http://www.NEEDecon.org)).

Figure 15: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.  
 Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation ([www.NEEDecon.org](http://www.NEEDecon.org)).

## Employed Residents of Laguna Beach

Figure 16: Employment by Occupation

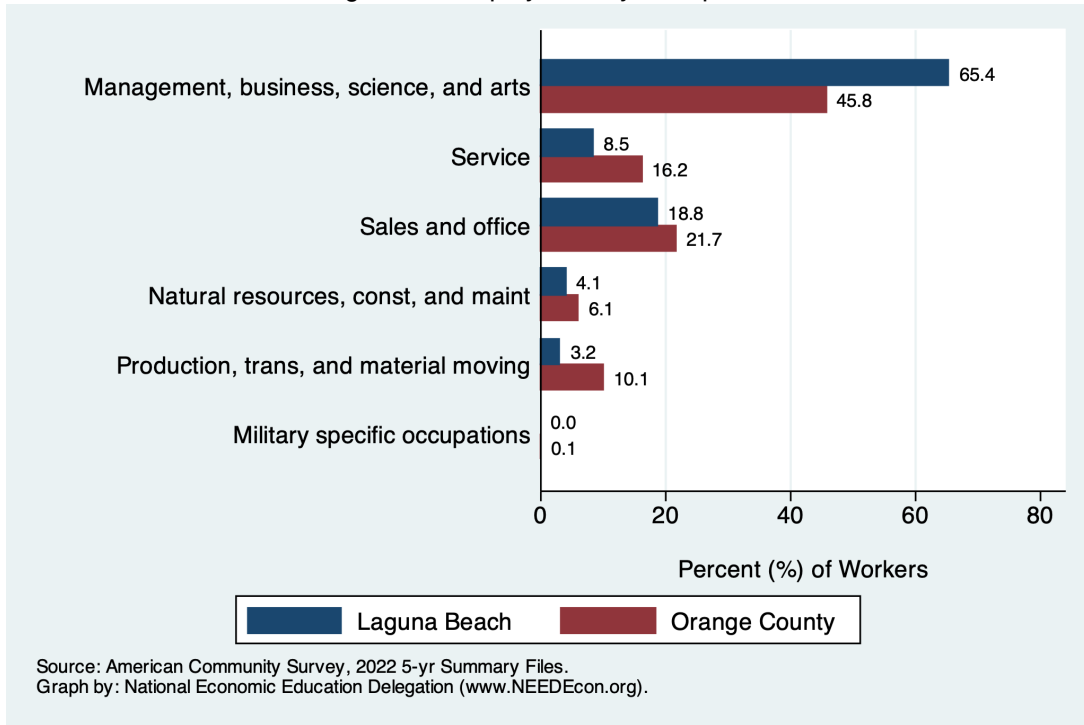


Figure 17: Employment by Industry

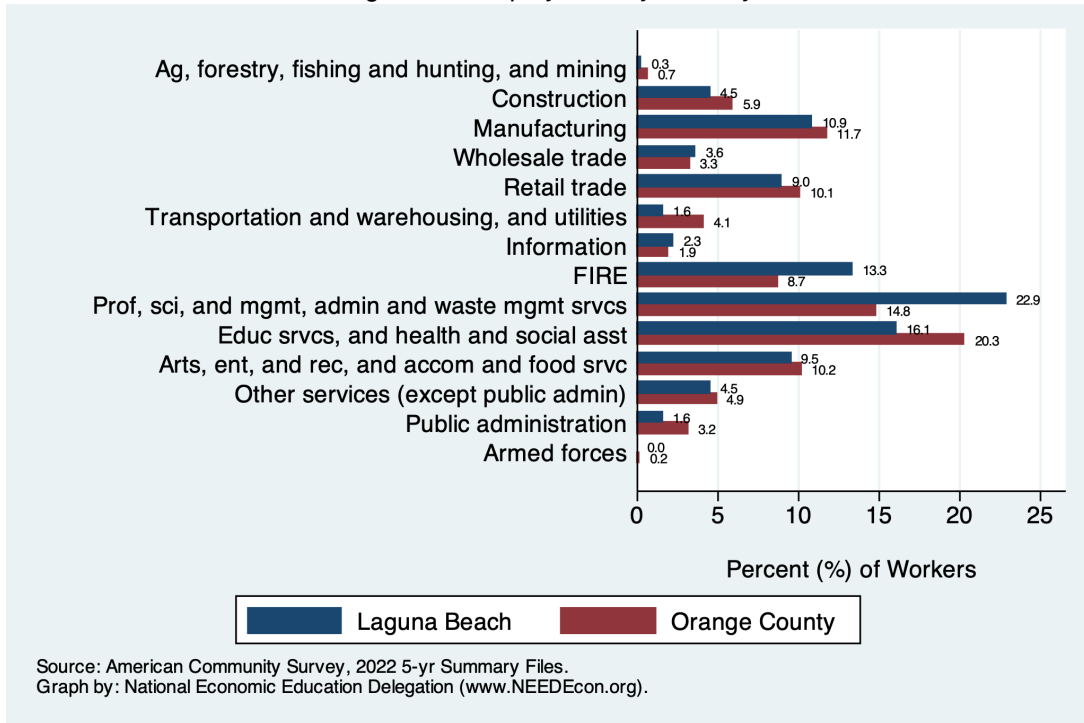


Figure 18: Language Spoken at Home

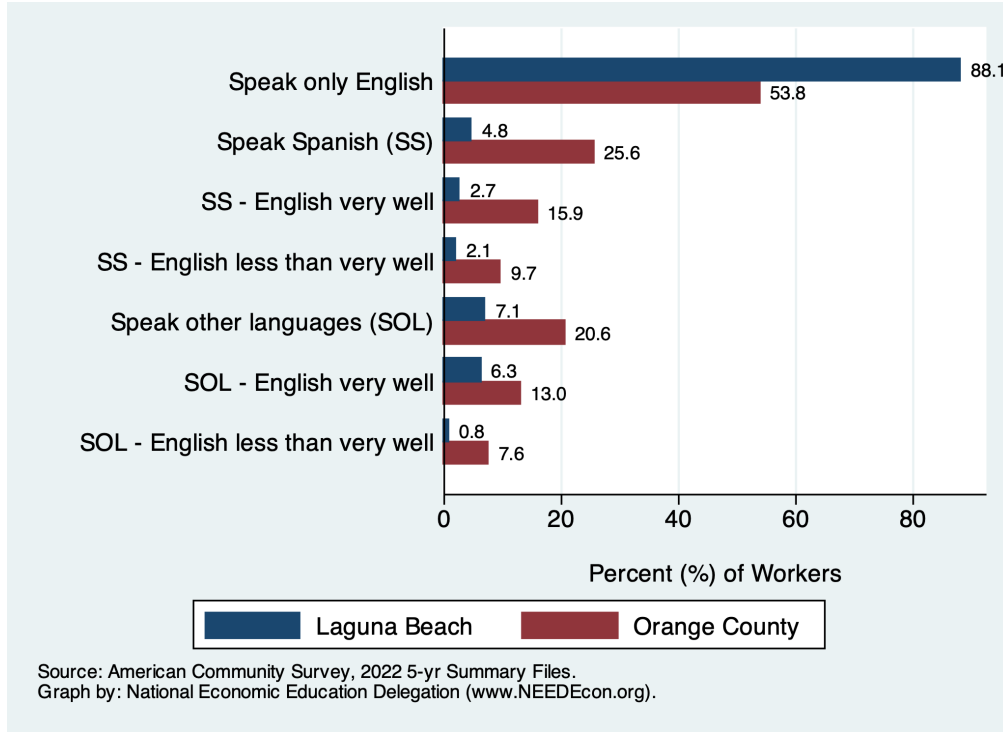
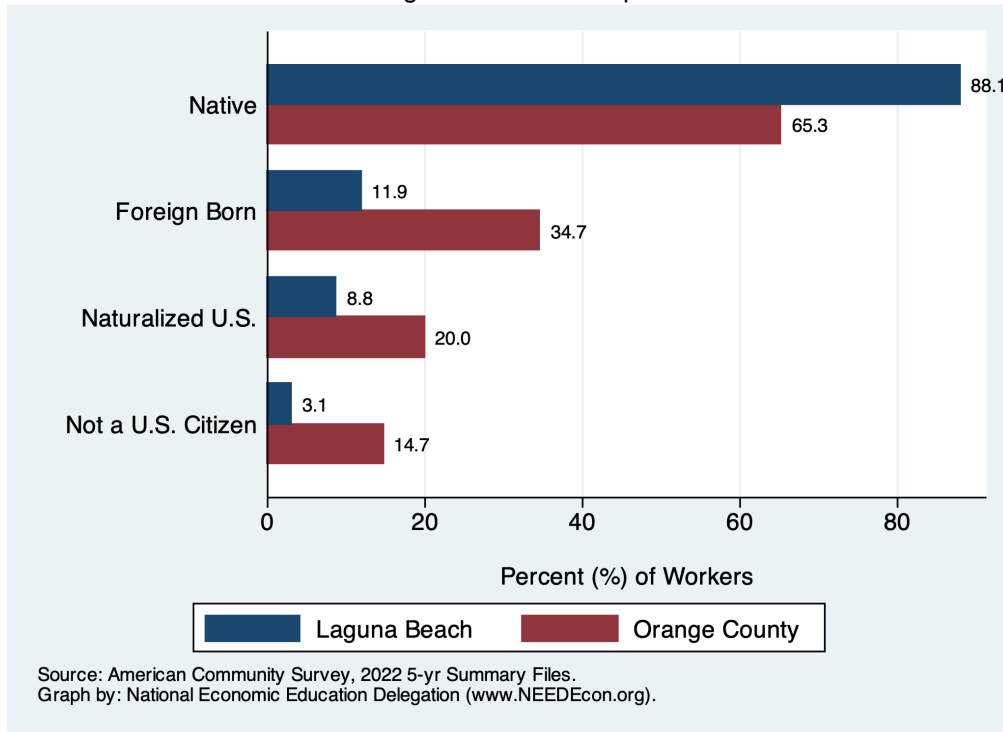


Figure 19: Citizenship



## Employed Residents vs Workers in Laguna Beach

Figure 20: Employment by Occupation

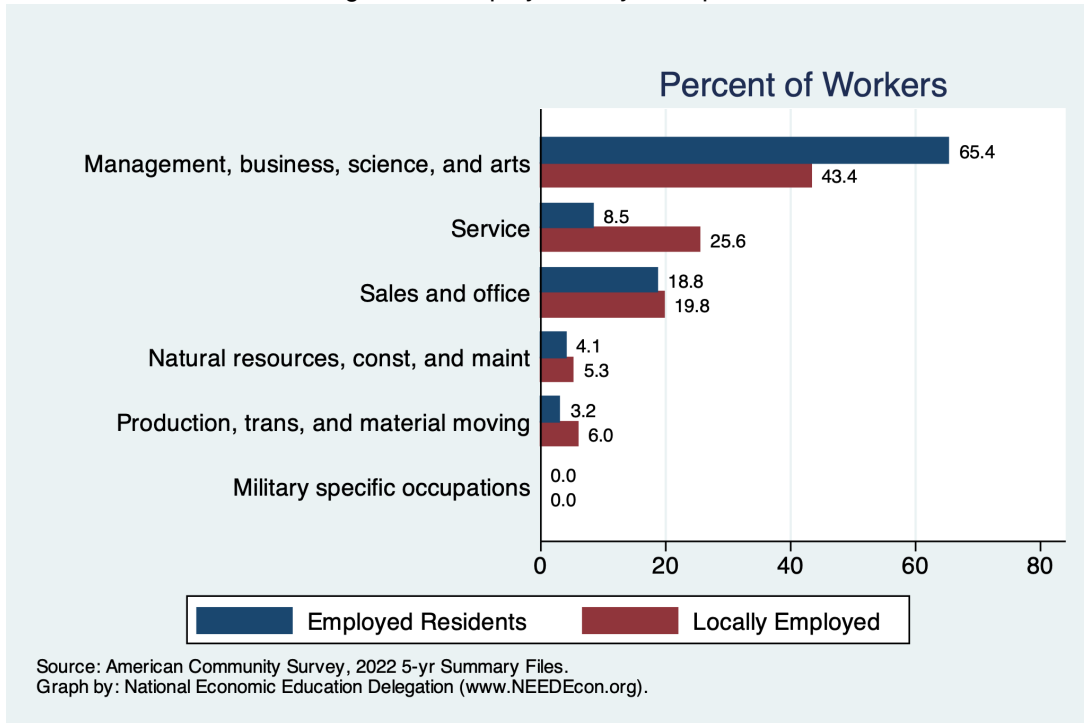


Figure 21: Employment by Industry

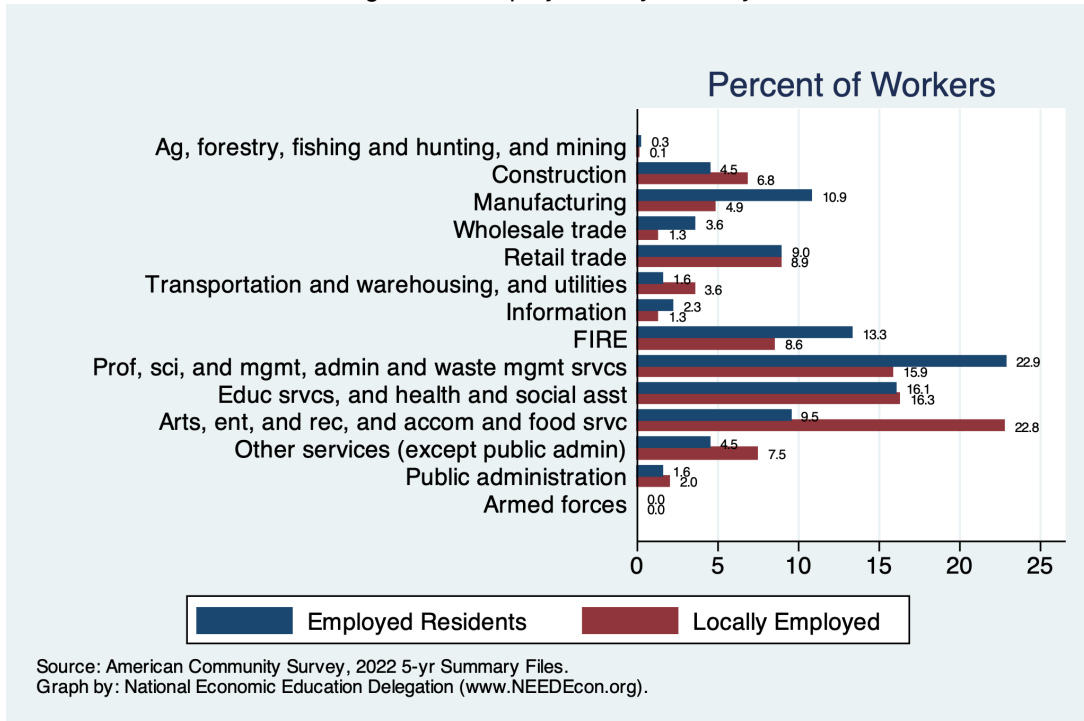


Figure 22: Language Spoken at Home

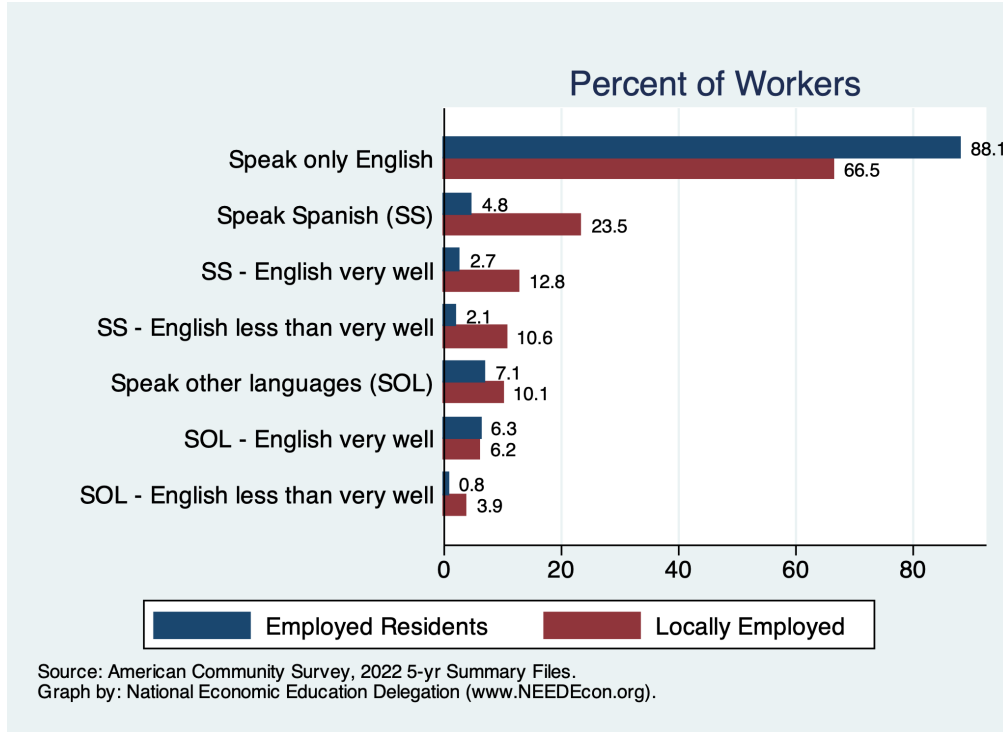
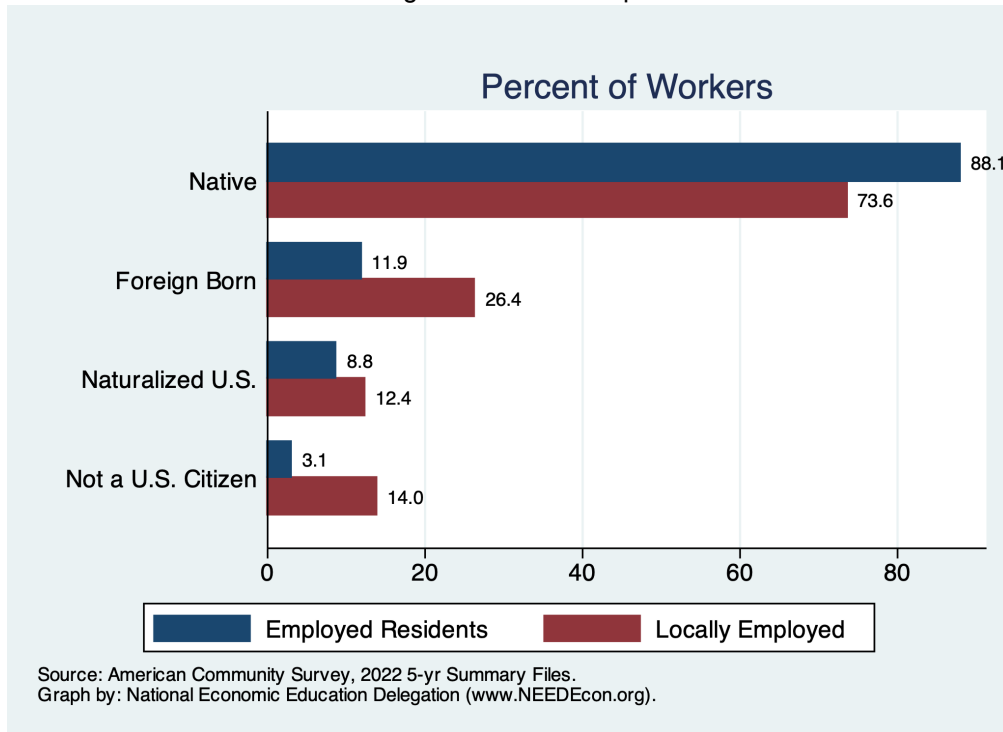


Figure 23: Citizenship





# Income and Earnings

## Per Capita Income Growth

### Definition:

Per capita income is the average income per person in Laguna Beach. 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. Non-cash 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

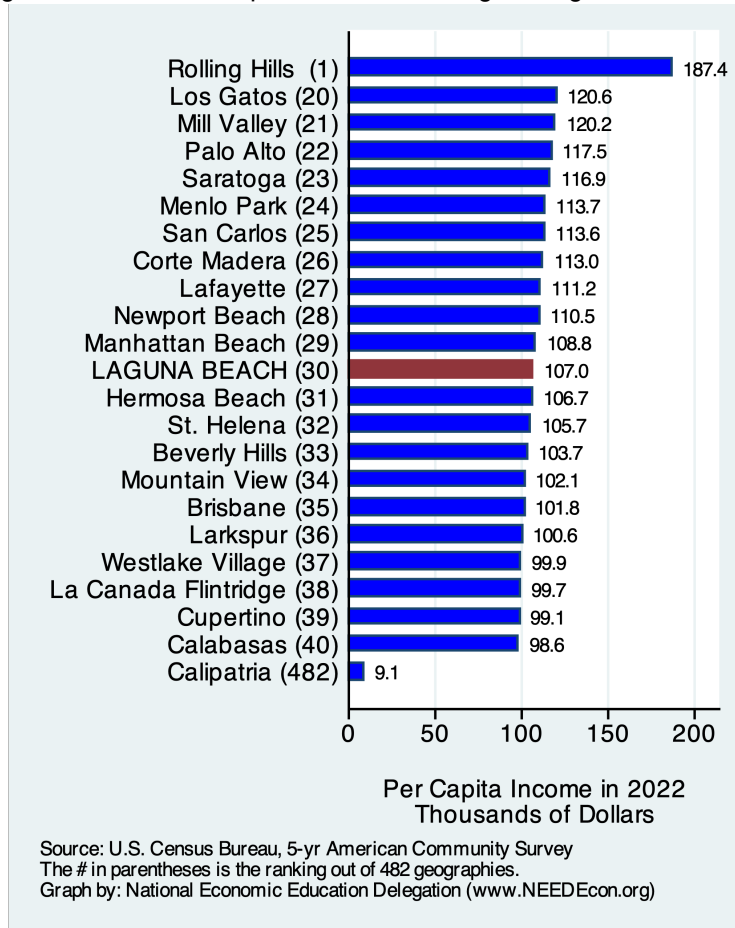
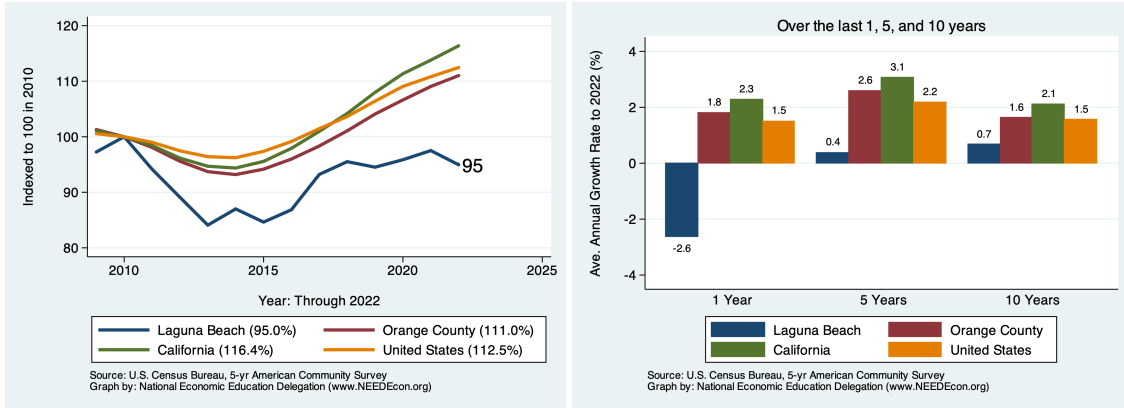


Figure 25: Regional Comparison of Growth over Time



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

Figure 26: Income Levels

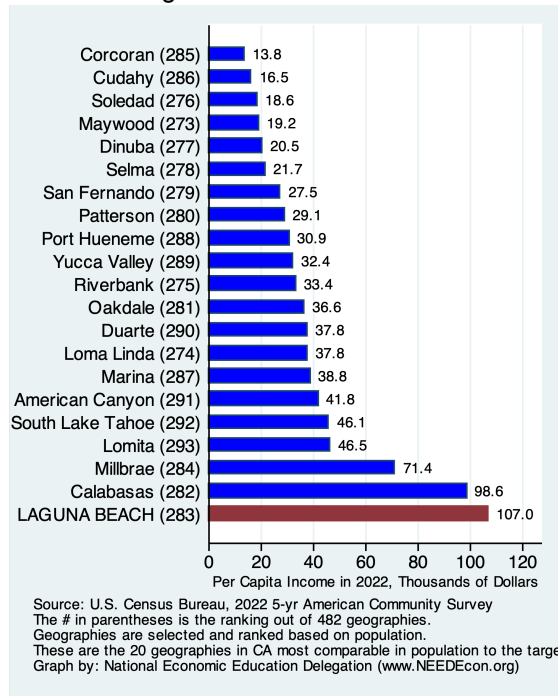
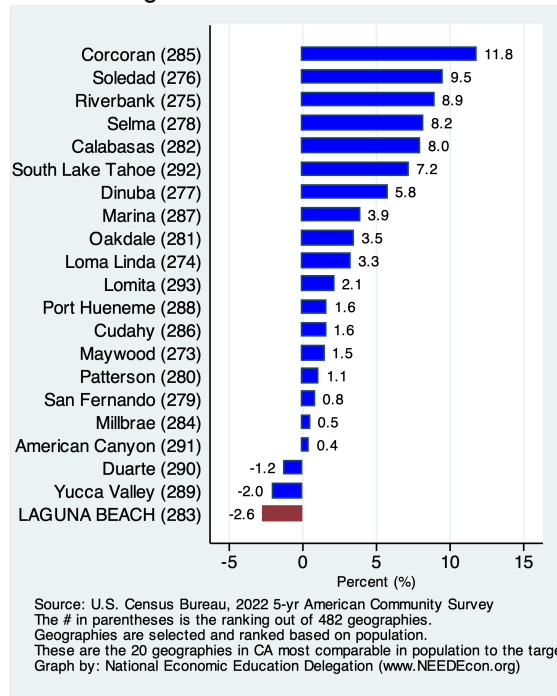
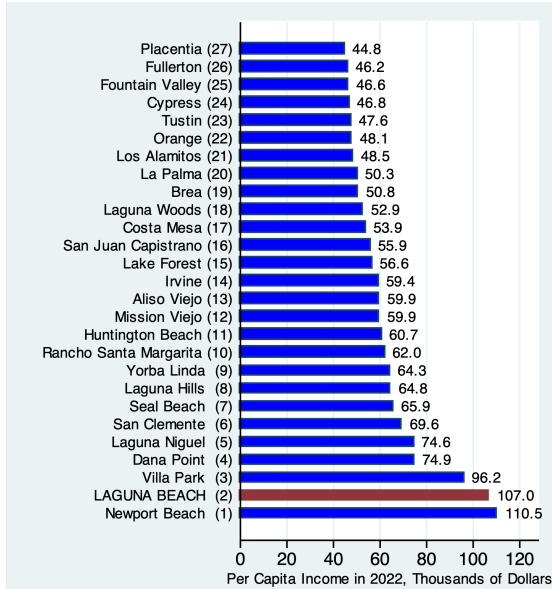


Figure 27: Growth over Time



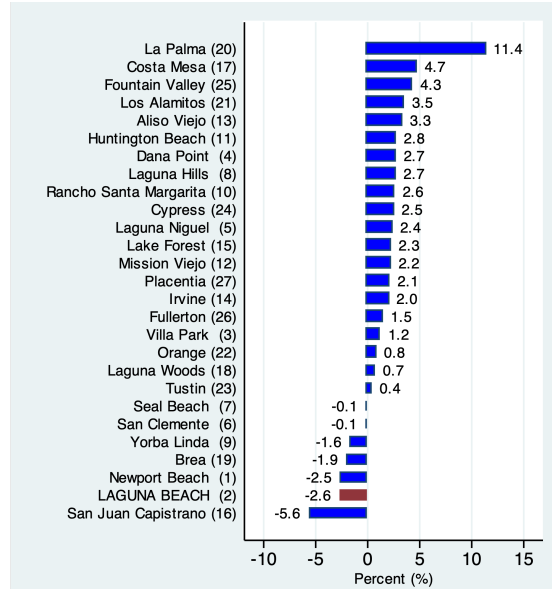
# Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among Cities in Orange County

Figure 28: Income Levels



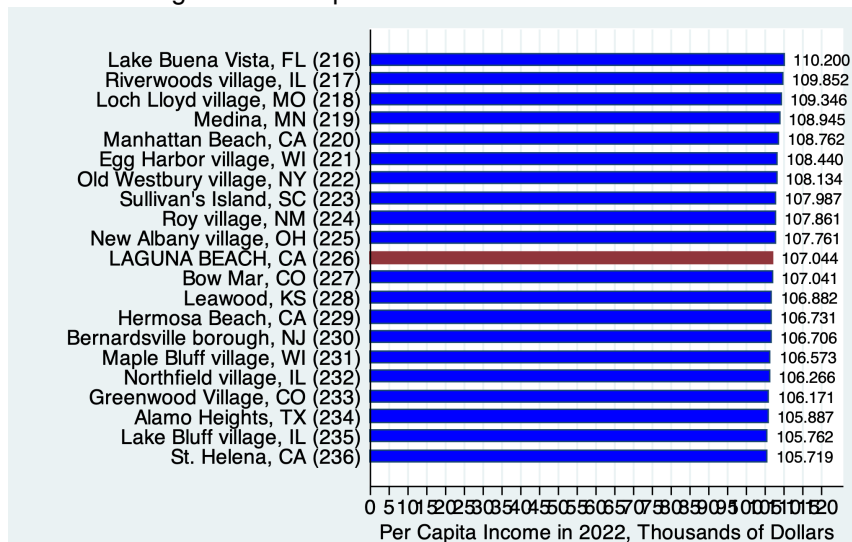
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 5-yr American Community Survey  
 The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 34 geographies.  
 Geographies are selected and ranked based on population.  
 These are the cities in the same county as the target city.  
 Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDecon.org)

Figure 29: Growth over Time



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 5-yr American Community Survey  
 The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 34 geographies.  
 Geographies are selected and ranked based on population.  
 These are the cities in the same county as the target city.  
 Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDecon.org)

Figure 30: Comparison with All Cities Nationwide



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey  
 The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 19,695 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.

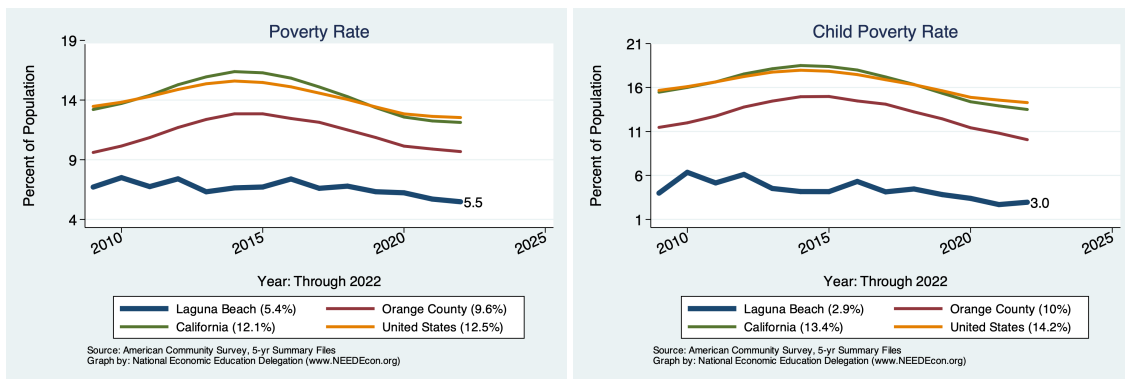


Figure 31: Inequality

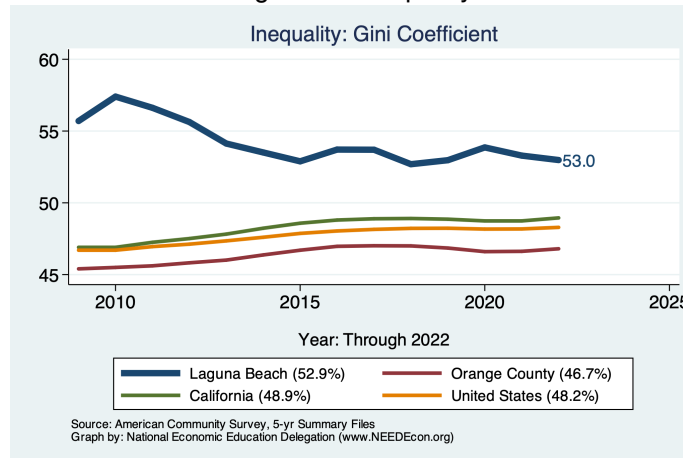


Figure 32: Shares Across the Income Distribution

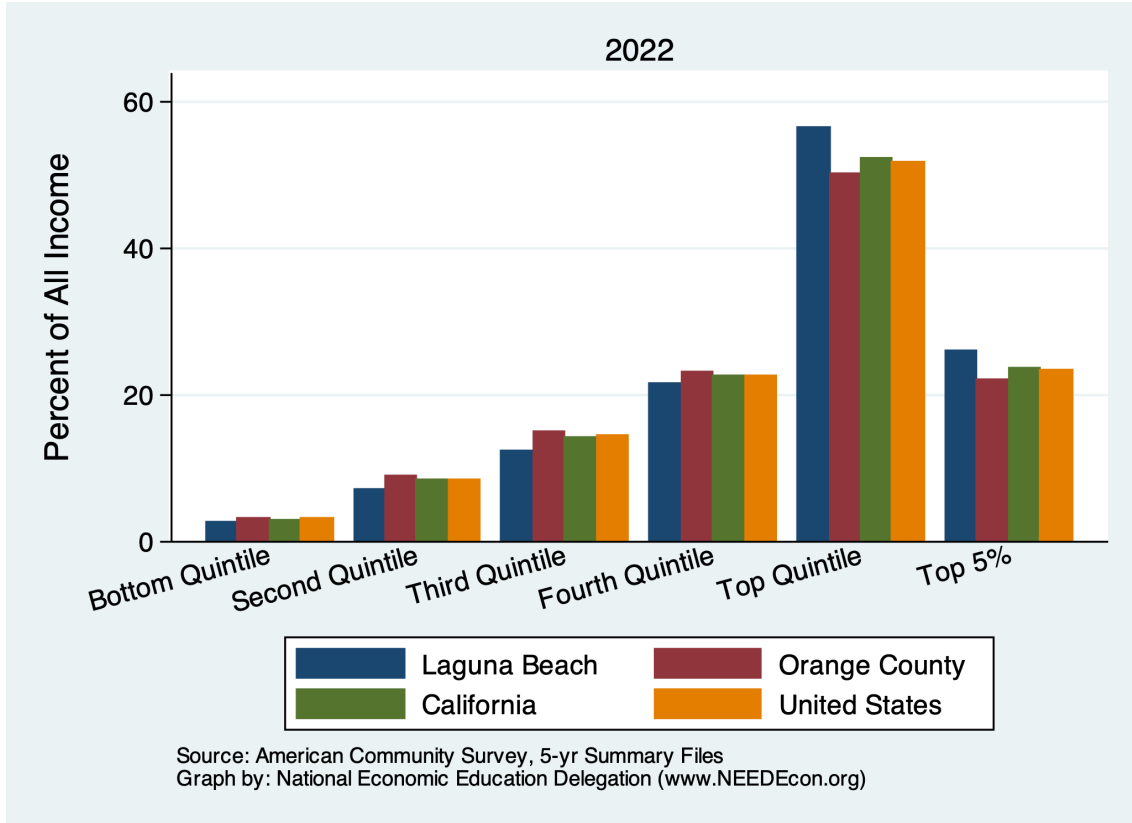
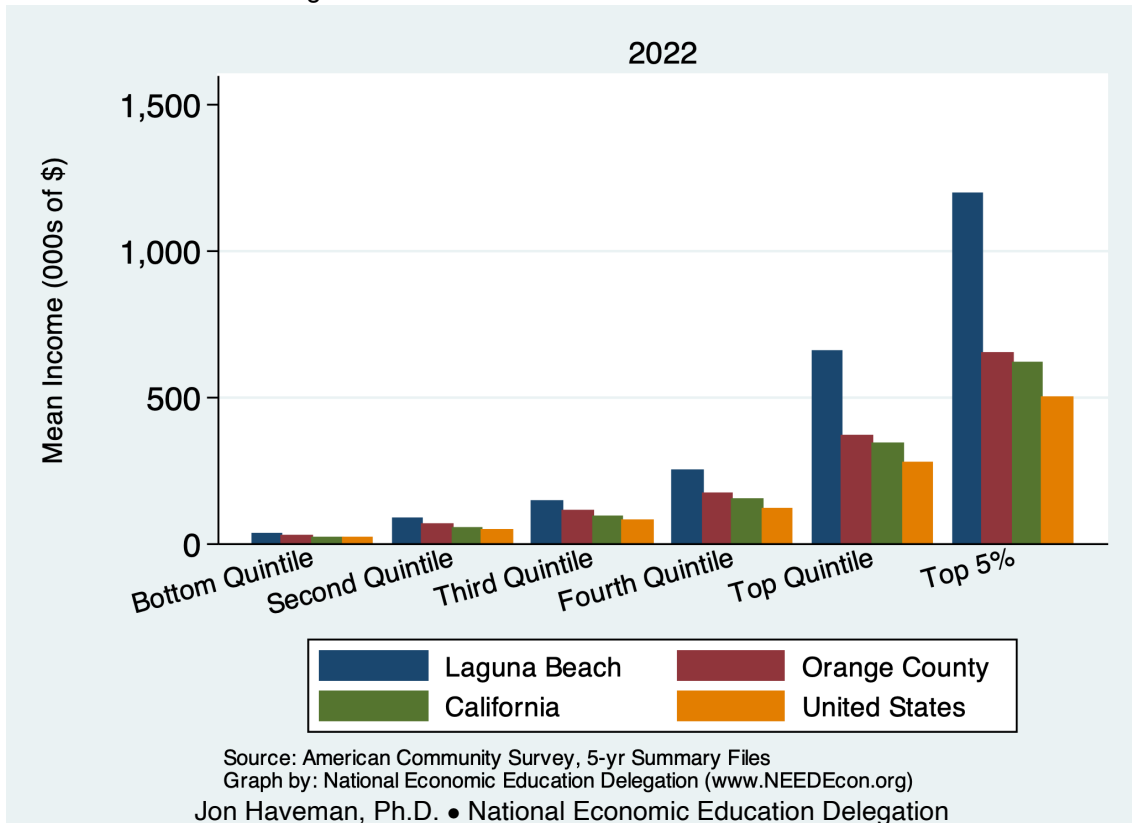


Figure 33: Means Across the Income Distribution



# 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 Laguna Beach and Broader Regions

Figure 34: Median Home Prices

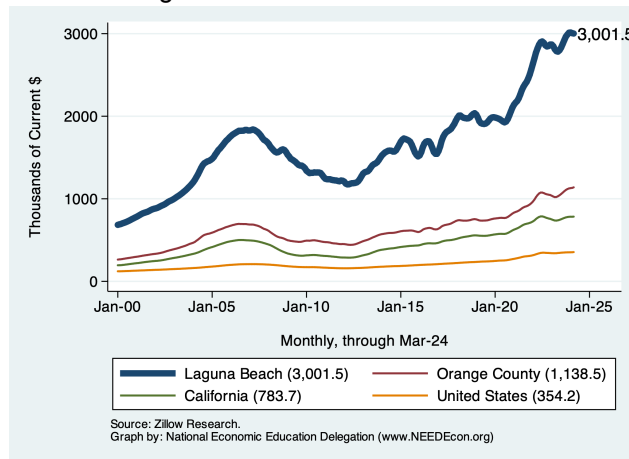
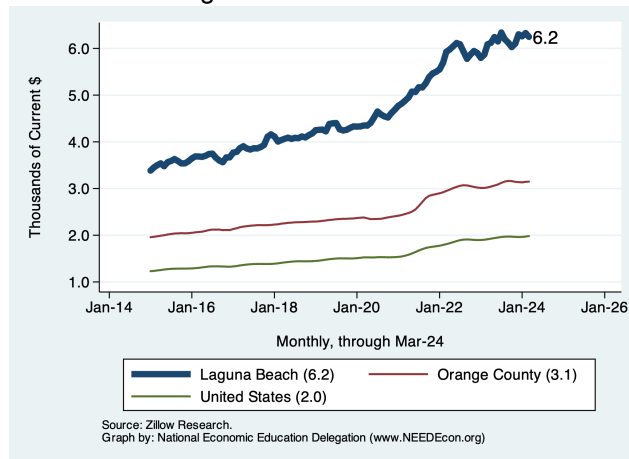


Figure 35: Median Rents



## Housing Ownership in Laguna Beach and Broader Regions

Figure 36: Home Ownership Rates

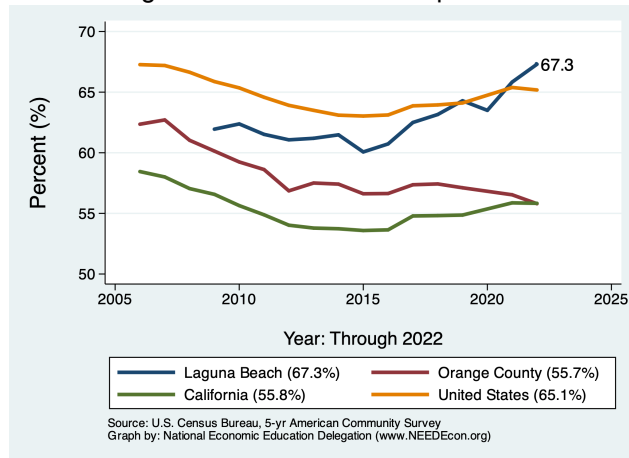


Figure 37: Home Ownership by Age

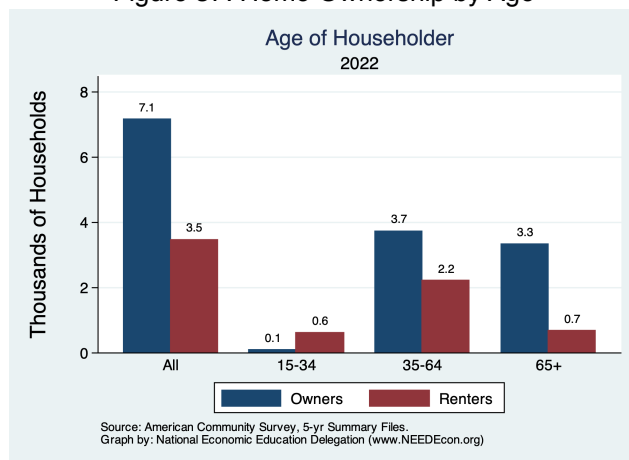


Figure 38: Income by Tenure

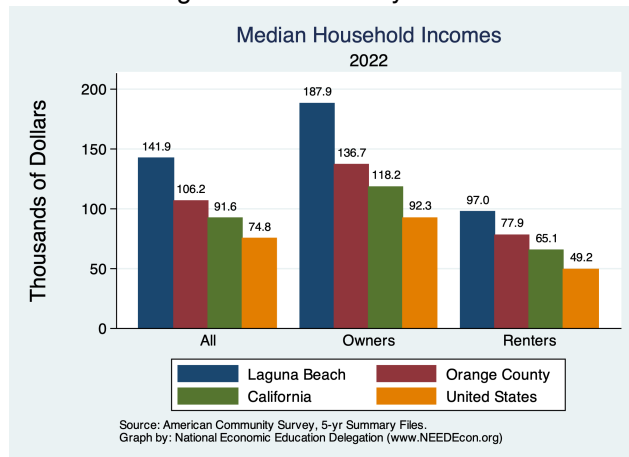


Figure 39: Income Distribution by Tenure

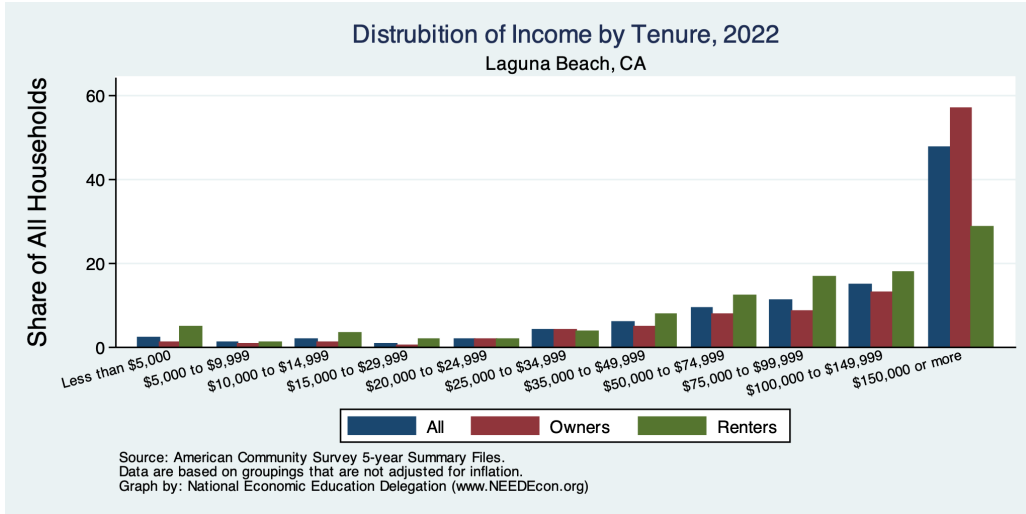


Figure 40: Income Distribution of Home Owners

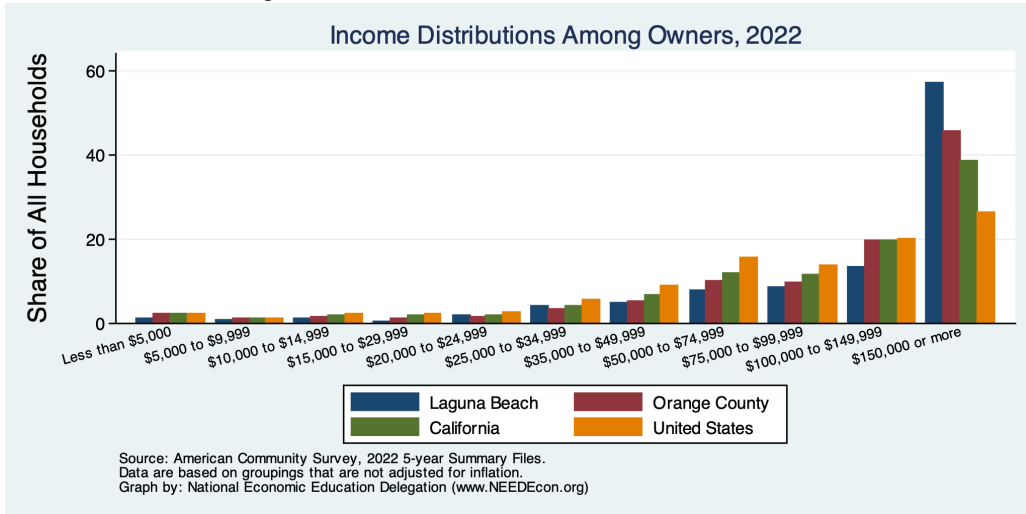
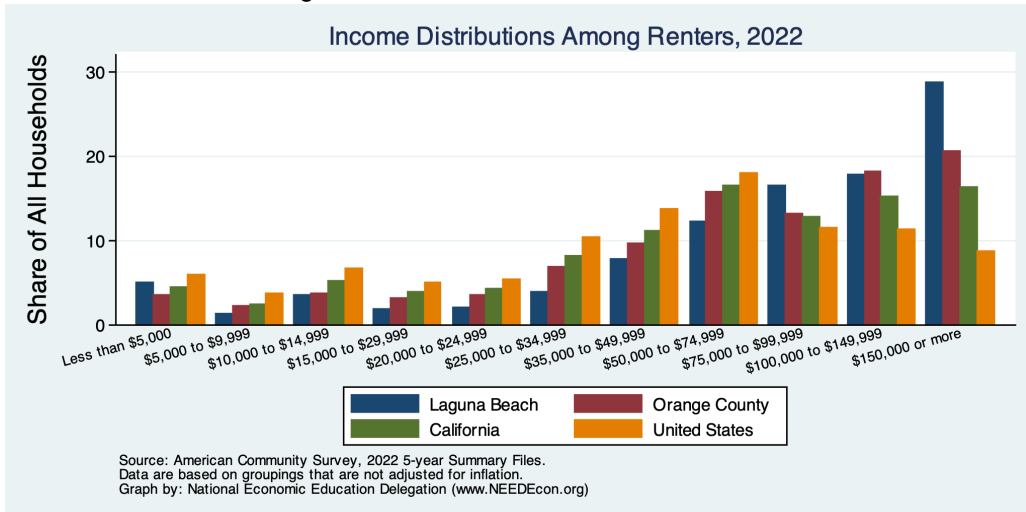


Figure 41: Income Distribution of Renters





## Housing Burden in Laguna Beach and Broader Regions

Figure 42: Home Owners w/ A Mortgage

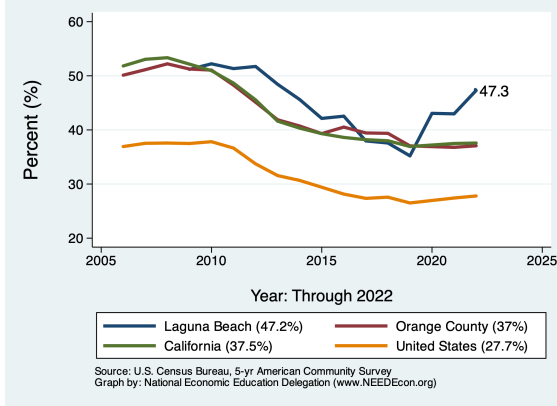


Figure 43: Home Owners w/o A Mortgage

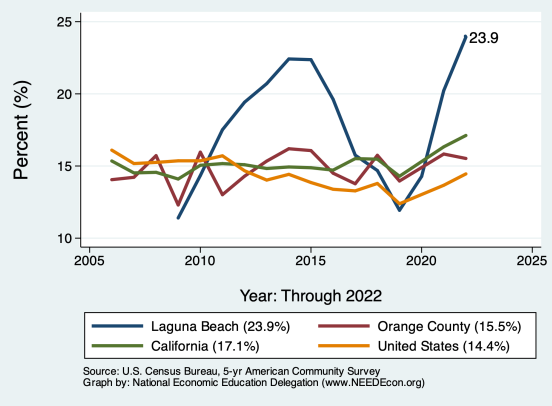


Figure 44: Renters

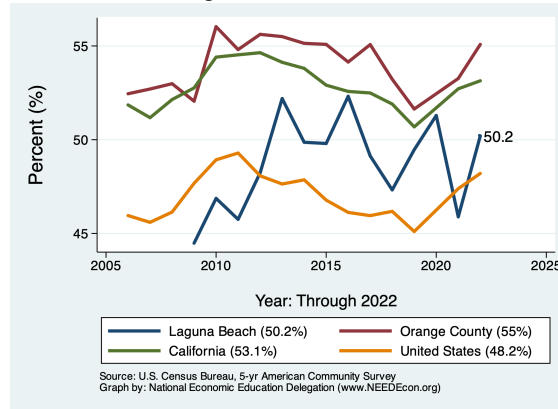
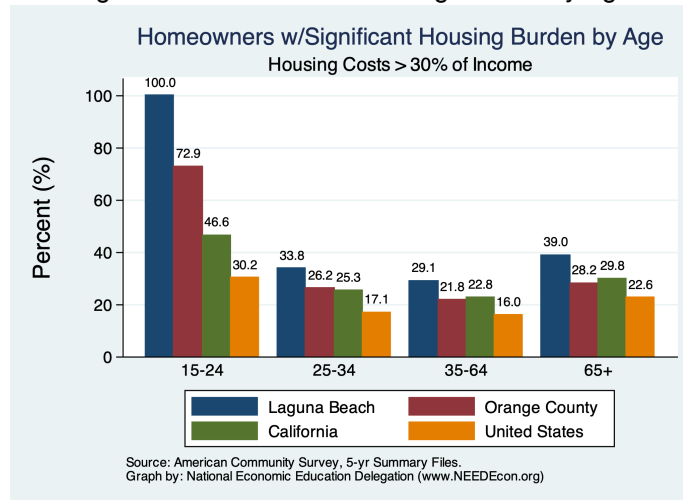


Figure 45: Homeowner Housing Burden by Age



# 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?

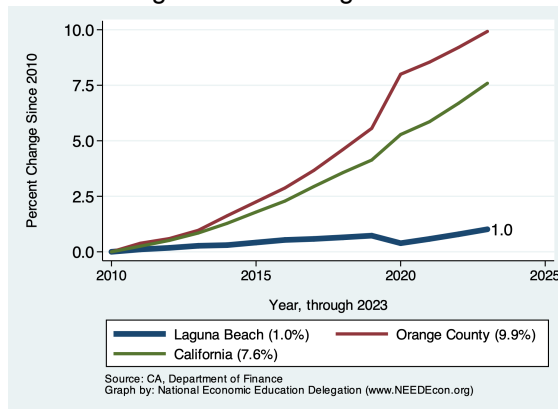
In areas where the rate of population growth exceeds the rate of housing growth, this is likely to reflect a tightening housing market. A tightening housing market will also likely be reflected in lower vacancy rates and higher occupancy rates. It may also be reflected in higher numbers of people per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

**Table 5. Housing Market Indicators**

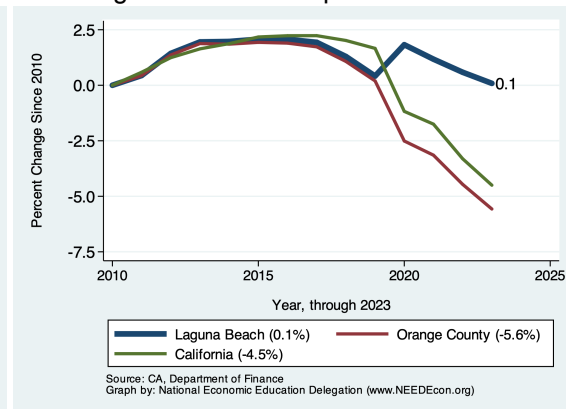
Indicator	2023	2019	2010	% Change from	
				2019	2010
Total Population	22,445.0	22,445.0	22,723.0	0.0	-1.2
Total # of Homes	13,054.0	13,017.0	12,923.0	0.3	1.0
# Occupied Units	10,678.0	10,644.0	10,821.0	0.3	-1.3
Persons per Household	2.1	2.1	2.1	-0.3	0.1
Vacancy Rate (%)	18.2	18.2	16.3	-0.2	11.9

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

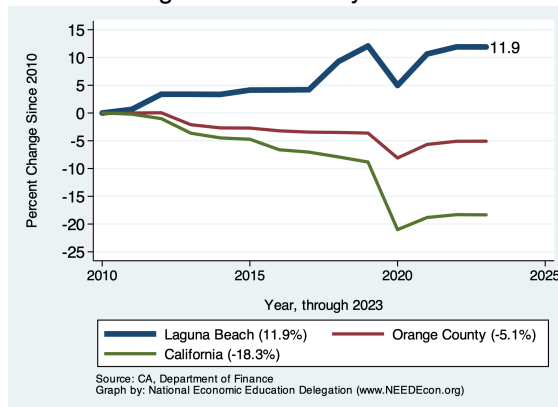
**Figure 46: Housing Growth**



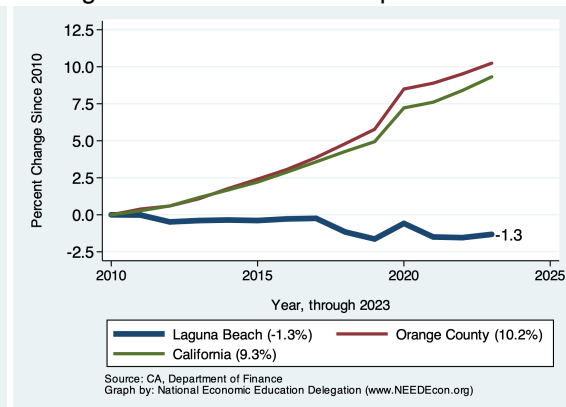
**Figure 47: Persons per Household**



**Figure 48: Vacancy Rates**



**Figure 49: Number of Occupanied Units**



## Trends in the Growth of Housing by Housing Type

Figure 50: Single Detached Homes

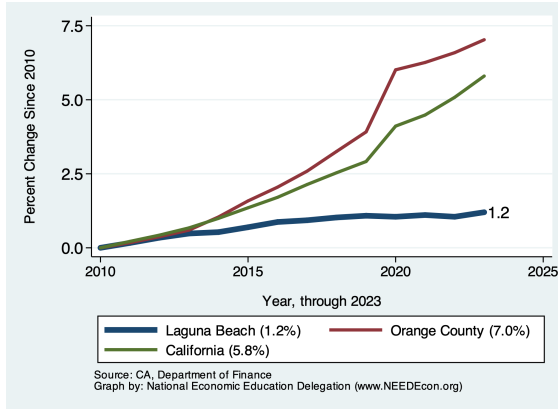


Figure 51: Single Attached Homes

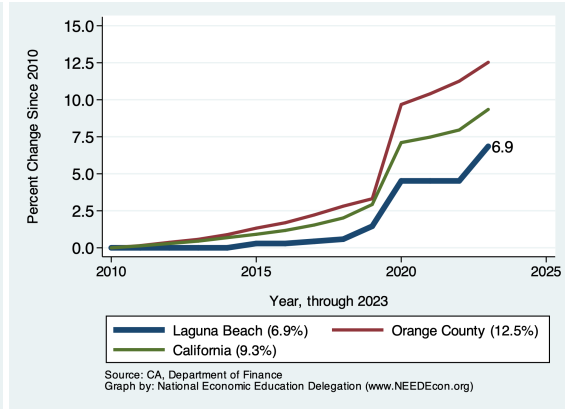


Figure 52: Housing in Buildings with Two to Four Units

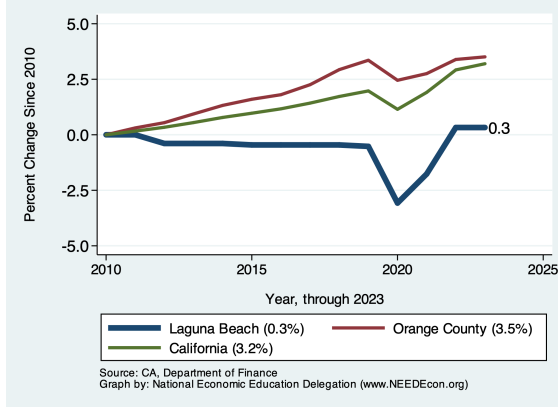
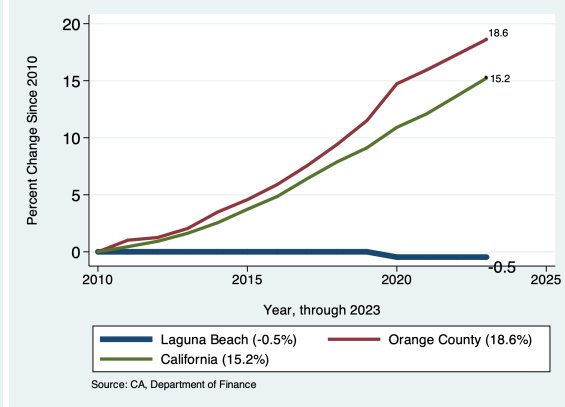


Figure 53: Housing in Buildings with Five or More Units



## Vintage of Residential Housing

### Why is it important?

This section provides evidence on the year in which residential housing in Laguna Beach was built. We break it down into owned versus rented residences and provide a comparison across Orange 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 hous-

ing. 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

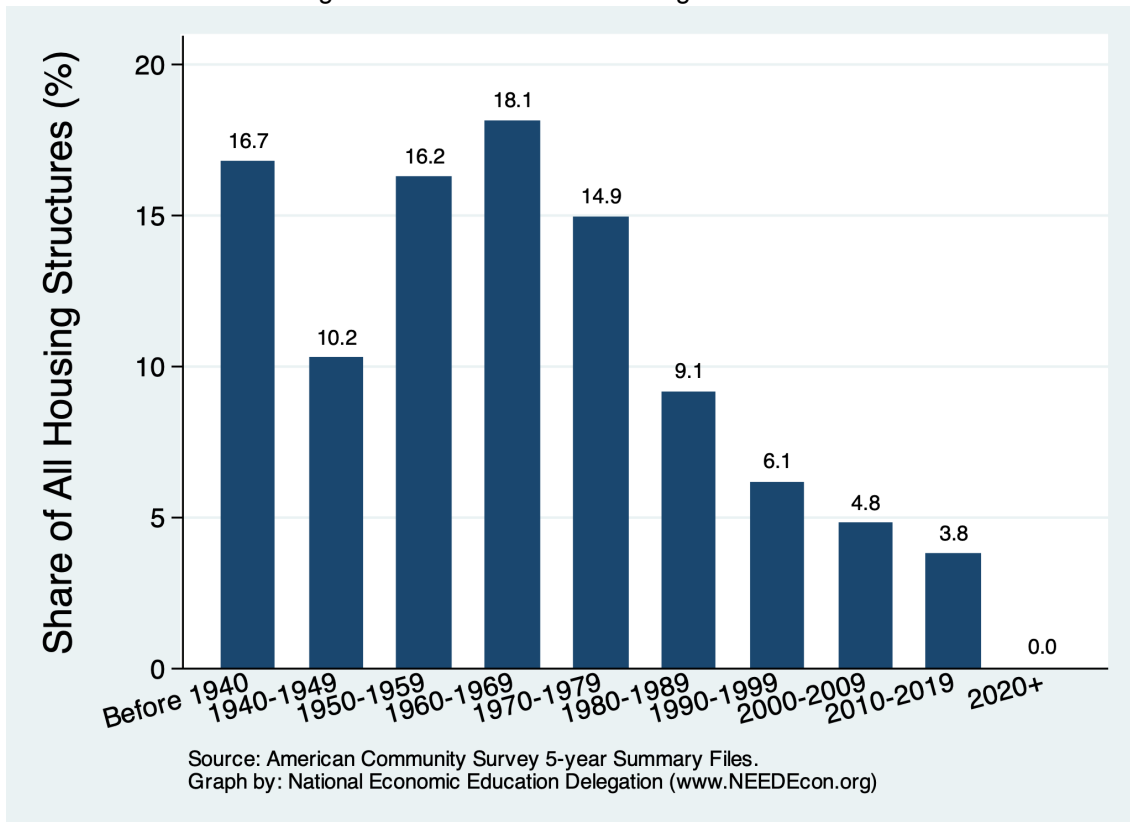


Figure 55: Housing Vintage across Regions

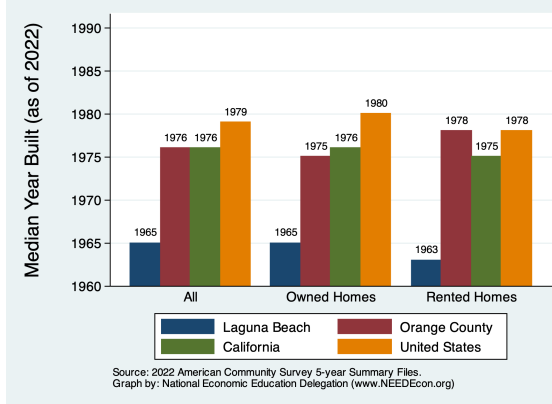


Figure 56: Housing Vintage by Tenure

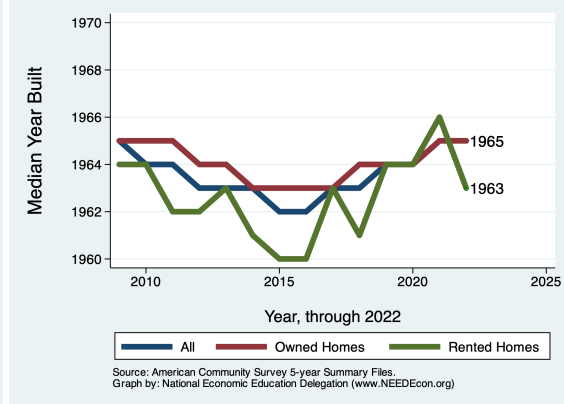


Figure 57: Vintage of Owned Residences

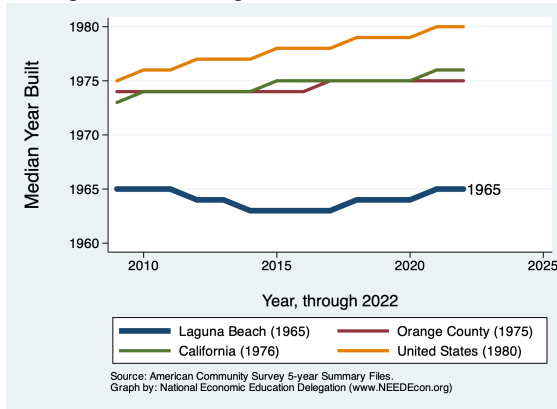


Figure 58: Vintage of Rented Residences

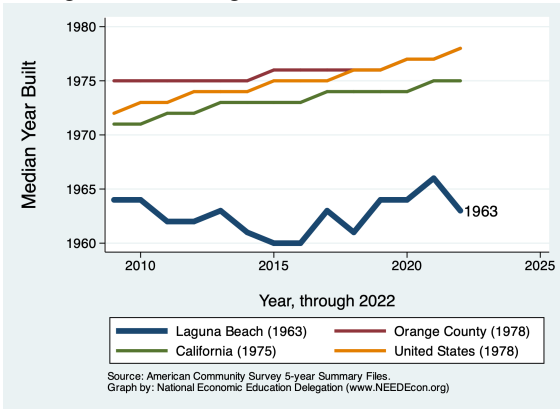
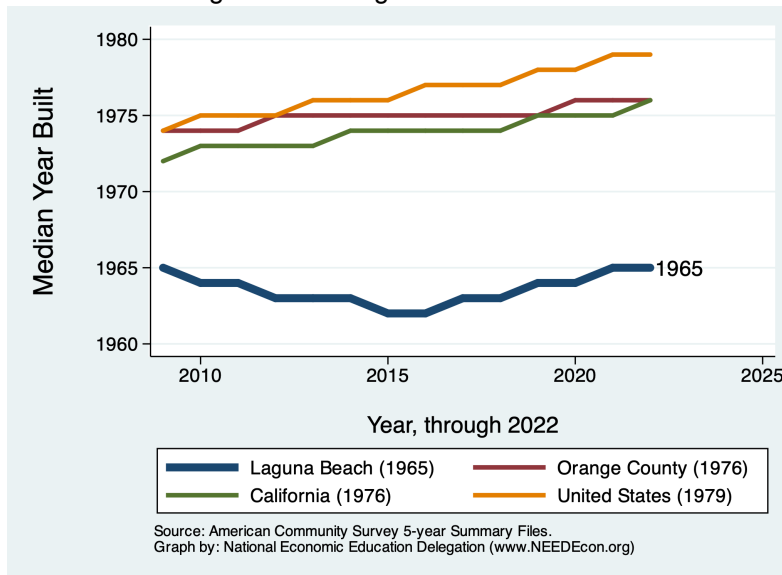


Figure 59: Vintage of All Residences



## 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

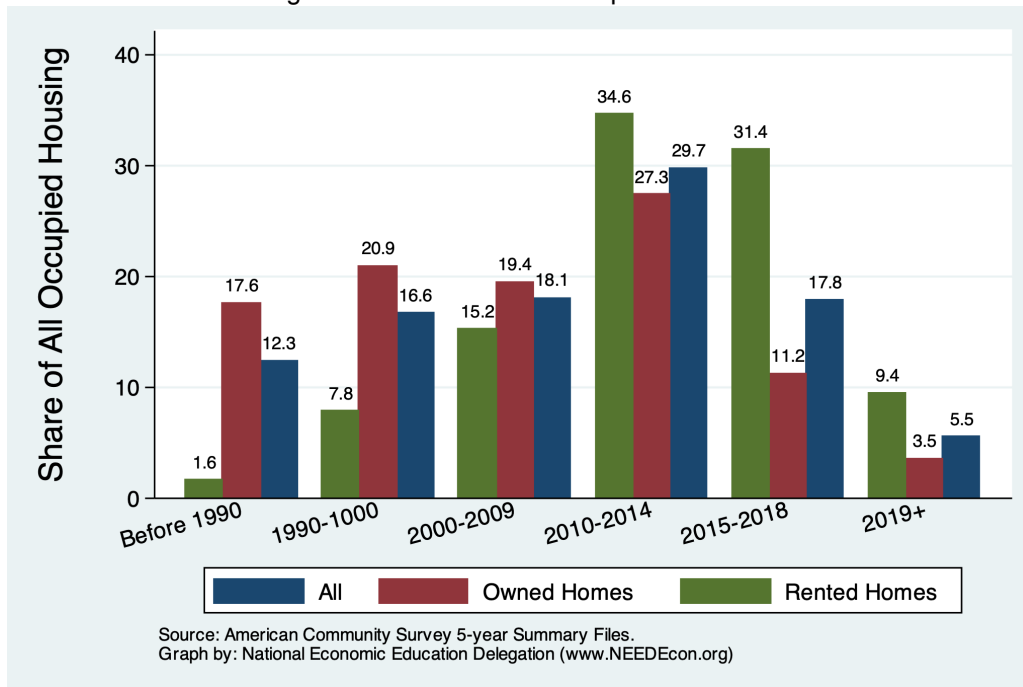


Figure 61: Year Occupied by Current Residents across Regions

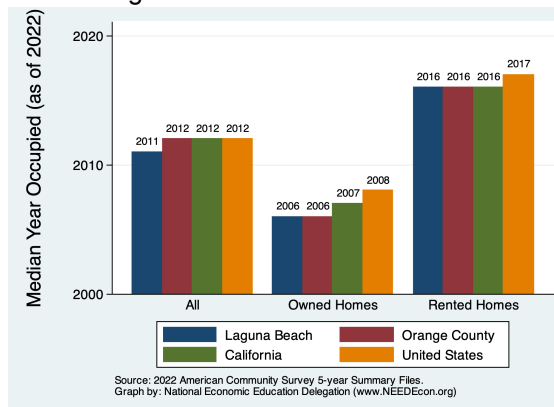


Figure 62: Year Occupied by Current Residents by Tenure

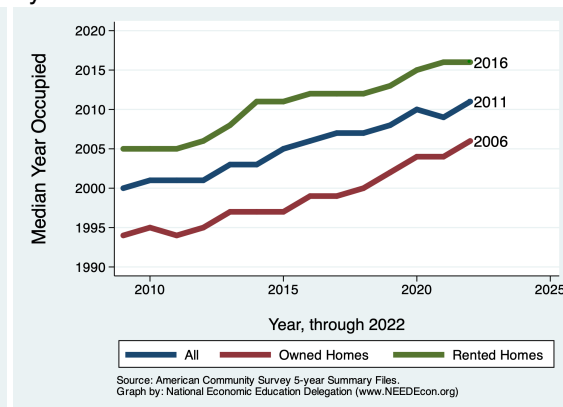


Figure 63: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Owned Housing

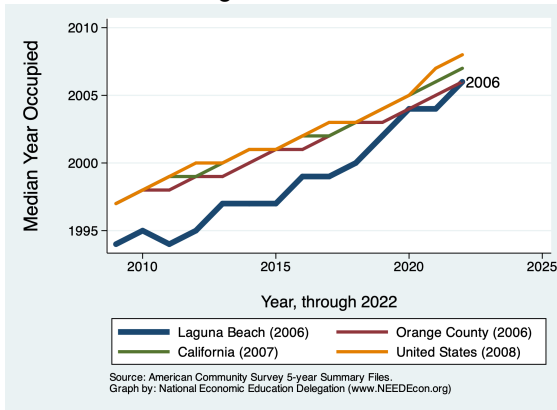


Figure 64: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Rented Housing

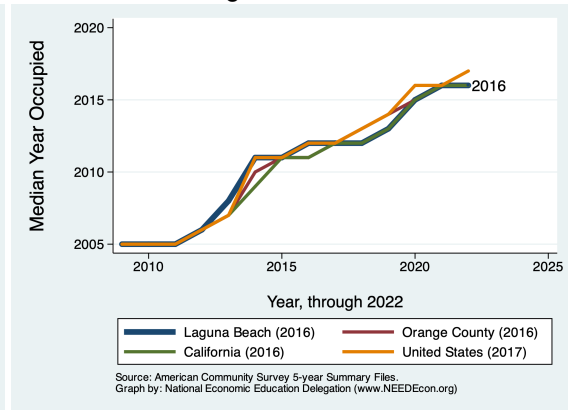
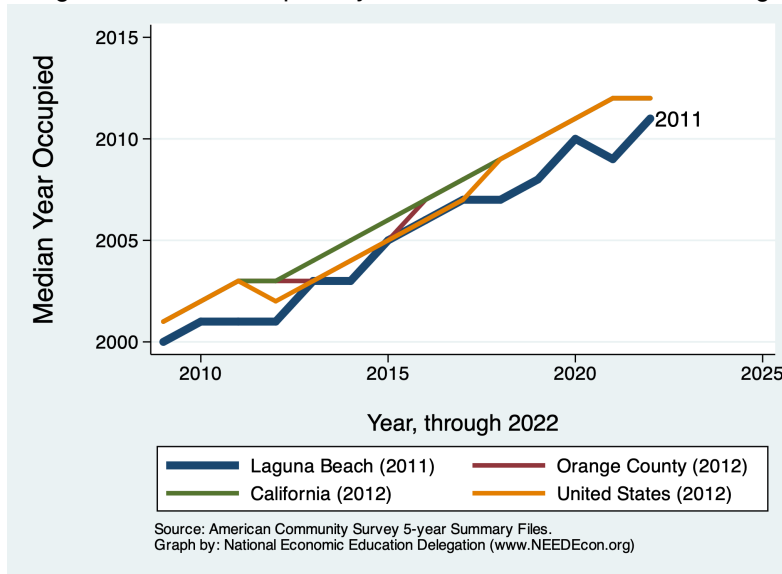


Figure 65: Year Occupied by Current Residents for All Housing



## Residential Permitting

### Definition:

This indicator provides evidence on the number of residential buildings that are permitted for construction each year. Permit data for Laguna Beach is compared with data from Orange 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.

### Laguna Beach - Ranking Among Comparables

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

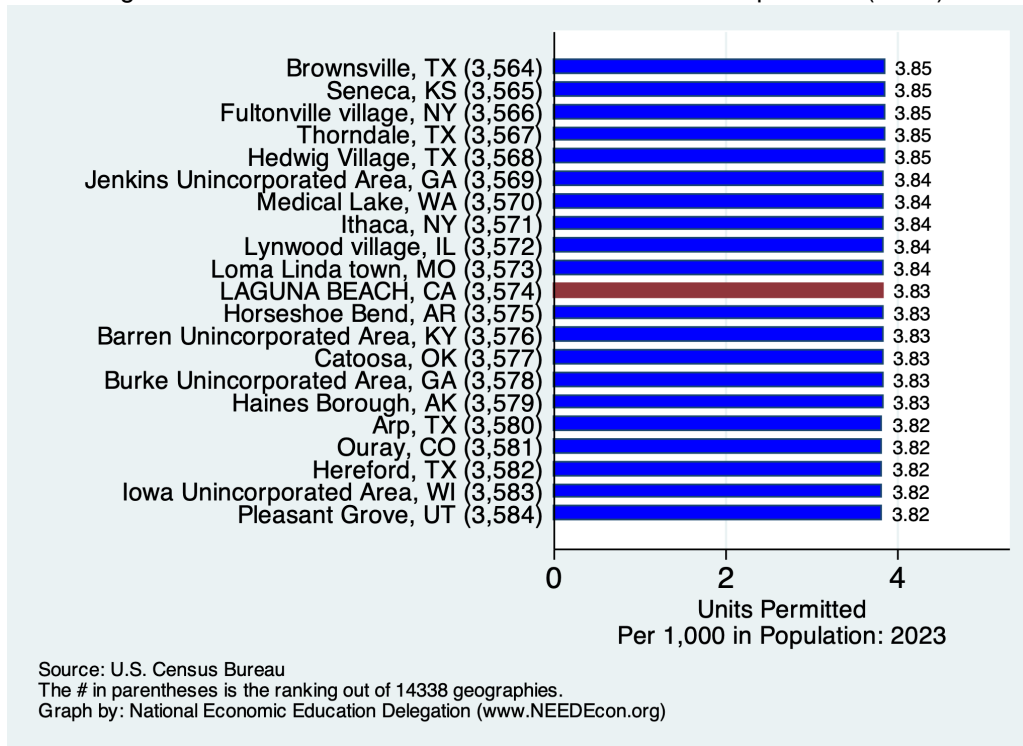
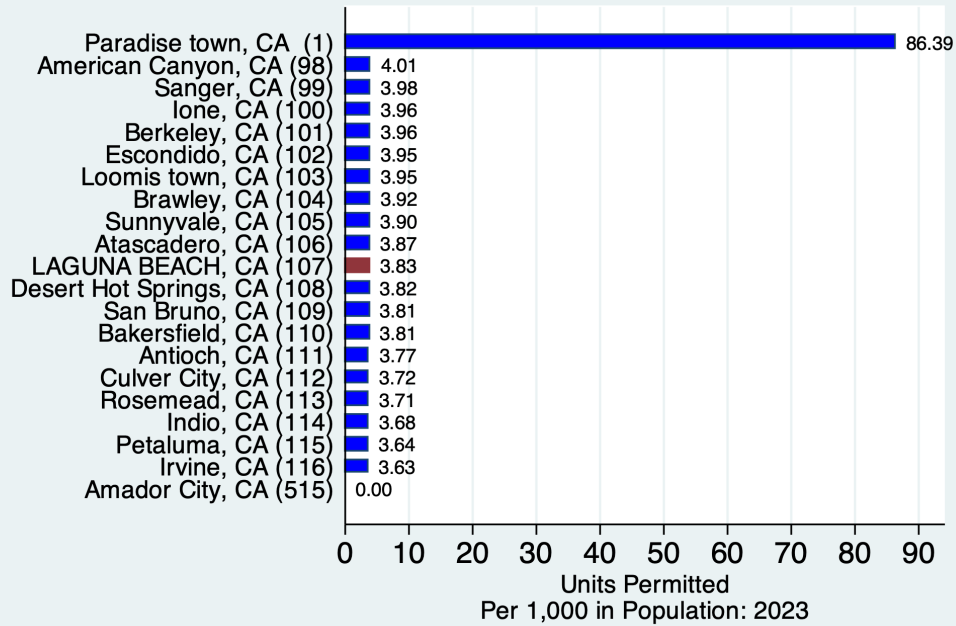


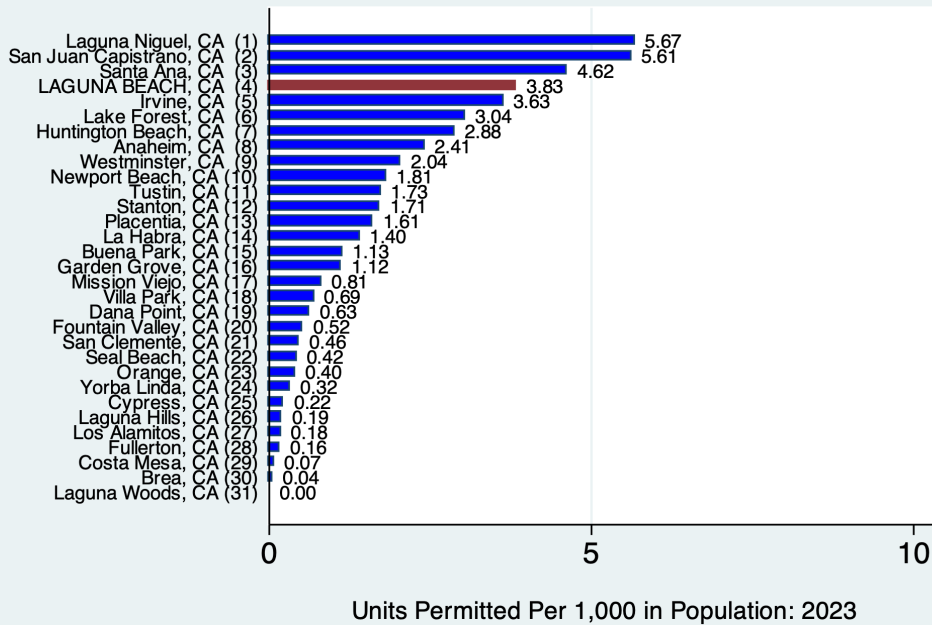


Figure 67: Number of Units Permitted - California Comparables (Rank)



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

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



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,  
 The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 34 geographies.  
 Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation ([www.NEEDecon.org](http://www.NEEDecon.org))

# Laguna Beach - Permitting Activity

## Annual Units Permitted - Per Capita in Laguna Beach

Figure 69: Units Permitted Each Year

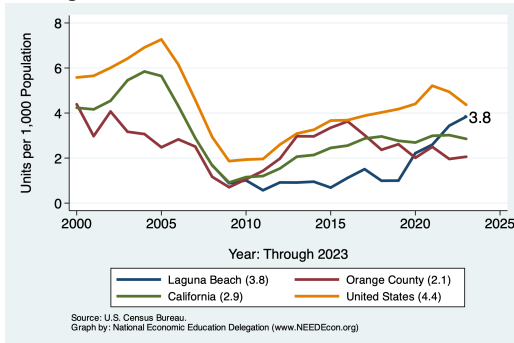
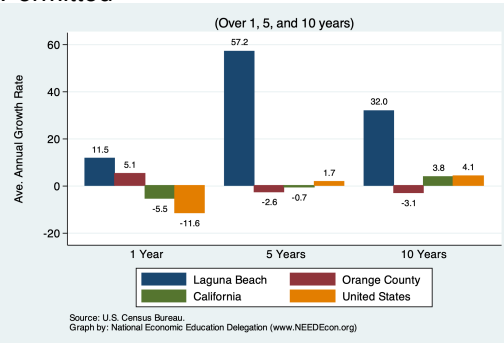


Figure 70: Average Annual Growth in Units Permitted



## Annual Number of Buildings Permitted - Per Capita in Laguna Beach

Figure 71: Units Permitted Each Year

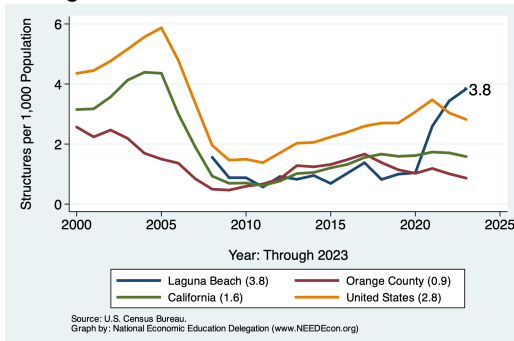
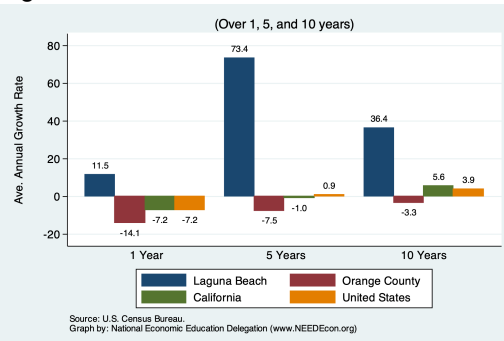


Figure 72: Average Annual Growth in Buildings Permitted



## Annual Value of Property Permitted - Per Capita in Laguna Beach

Figure 73: Value Permitted Each Year

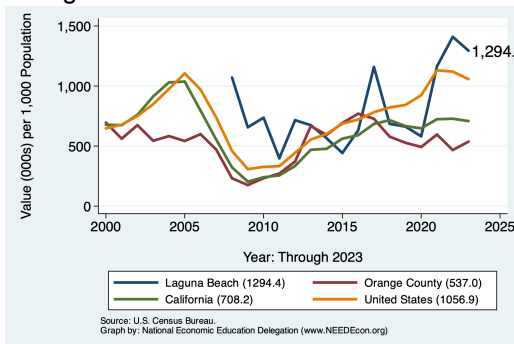
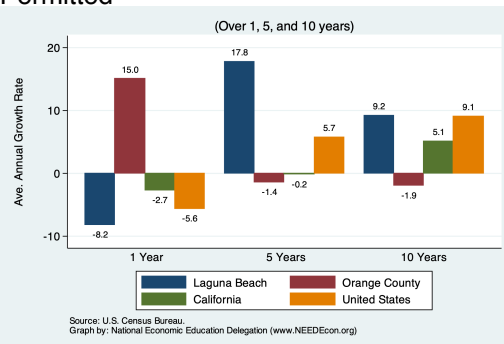


Figure 74: Average Annual Growth in Value Permitted



## 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 hous-

ing 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

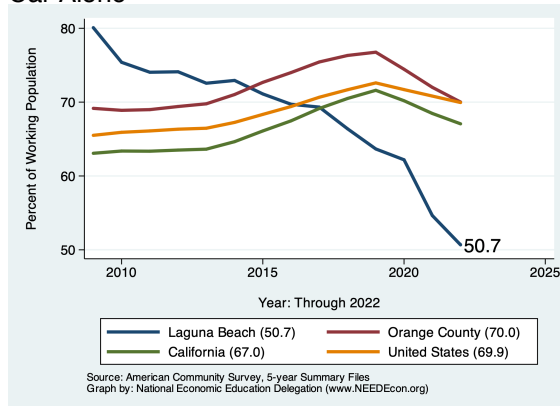


Figure 76: Percent of Workers Commuting by Carpool

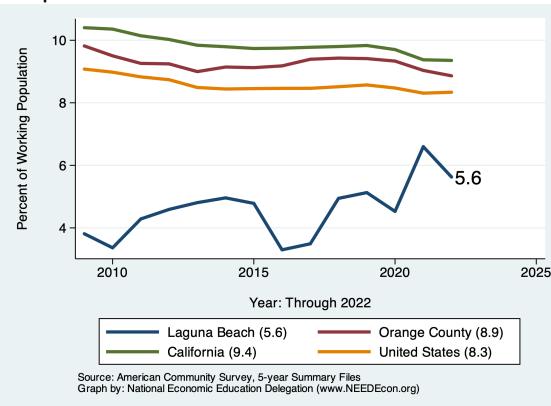


Figure 77: Percent of Workers using Public Transportation

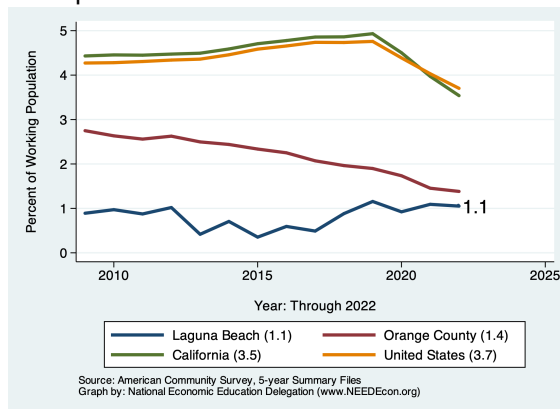
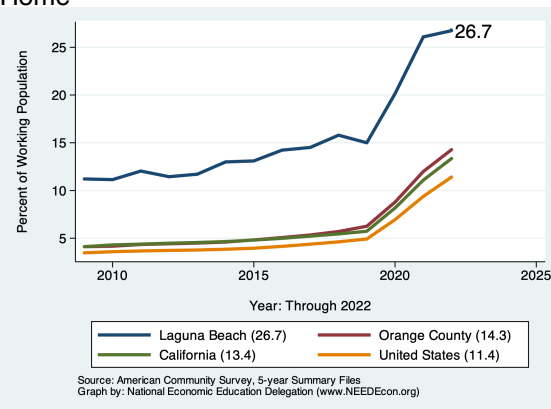


Figure 78: Percent of Workers Who Work From Home



The first table on this page presents data for those who LIVE in Laguna Beach. The second provides data on those who work, but do not necessarily live in Laguna Beach. 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**

Mode of Transit	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Car, Truck, or Van:	4,315	59.6	2,700	51.0	7,015	56.3	78.0
Drove Alone	4,056	56.1	2,258	42.6	6,314	50.7	68.4
Carpooled:	259	3.6	442	8.3	701	5.6	9.5
In 2-person carpool	163	2.3	244	4.6	407	3.3	6.9
In 3-person carpool	87	1.2	162	3.1	249	2.0	1.5
In 4-or-more-person carpool	9	0.1	36	0.7	45	0.4	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	67	0.9	64	1.2	131	1.1	3.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	9	0.1	42	0.8	51	0.4	2.3
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.8
Subway or Elevated	58	0.8	22	0.4	80	0.6	0.3
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2
Ferryboat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	61	0.8	0	0.0	61	0.5	0.7
Walked	178	2.5	119	2.2	297	2.4	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	90	1.2	49	0.9	139	1.1	1.7
Worked at Home	2,113	29.2	1,219	23.0	3,332	26.7	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,824</b>	<b>94.3</b>	<b>4,151</b>	<b>78.4</b>	<b>10,975</b>	<b>88.1</b>	

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

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

Mode of Transit	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Car, Truck, or Van:	5,907	67.8	5,146	67.2	11,053	70.3	78.0
Drove Alone	5,264	60.4	4,621	60.4	9,885	62.9	68.5
Carpooled:	643	7.4	525	6.9	1,168	7.4	9.5
In 2-person carpool	448	5.1	330	4.3	778	4.9	6.9
In 3-person carpool	126	1.4	146	1.9	272	1.7	1.5
In 4-or-more-person carpool	69	0.8	49	0.6	118	0.8	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	241	2.8	64	0.8	305	1.9	3.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	241	2.8	64	0.8	305	1.9	2.3
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.8
Subway or Elevated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.3
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2
Ferryboat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	45	0.5	0	0.0	45	0.3	0.7
Walked	131	1.5	117	1.5	248	1.6	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	135	1.5	32	0.4	167	1.1	1.7
Worked at Home	2,113	24.2	1,219	15.9	3,332	21.2	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	<b>8,572</b>	<b>98.3</b>	<b>6,578</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>15,150</b>	<b>96.3</b>	

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.

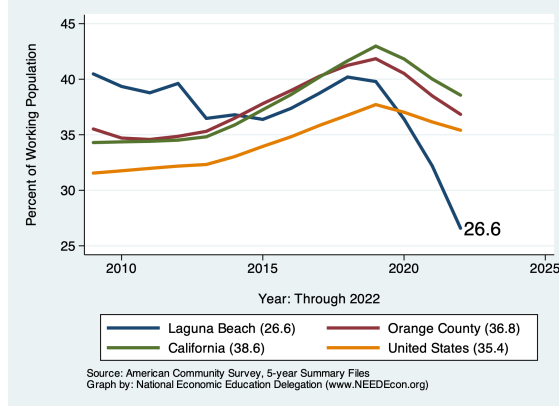
# Commute Times for Employed Residents

**Table 8. SEX OF WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK**

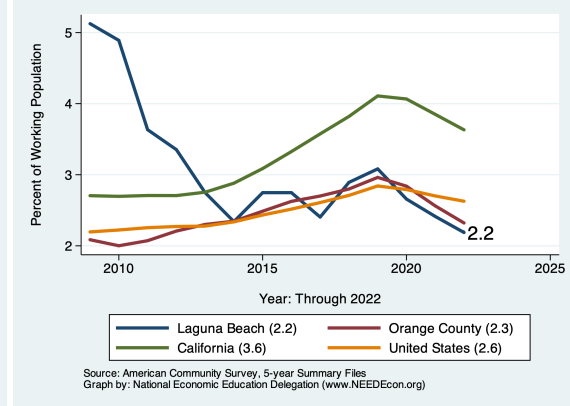
Mode of Transit	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Less than 5 minutes	233	3.6	94	2.0	327	3.0	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	501	7.7	598	13.0	1,099	9.9	7.5
10 to 14 minutes	357	5.5	285	6.2	642	5.8	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	508	7.8	188	4.1	696	6.3	15.0
20 to 24 minutes	801	12.4	470	10.2	1,271	11.5	14.3
25 to 29 minutes	469	7.2	198	4.3	667	6.0	6.3
30 to 34 minutes	561	8.7	518	11.3	1,079	9.8	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	197	3.0	69	1.5	266	2.4	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	191	2.9	96	2.1	287	2.6	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	427	6.6	229	5.0	656	5.9	8.6
60 to 89 minutes	272	4.2	139	3.0	411	3.7	7.9
90 or more minutes	194	3.0	48	1.0	242	2.2	4.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>4,711</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>2,932</b>	<b>63.9</b>	<b>7,643</b>	<b>69.1</b>	

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

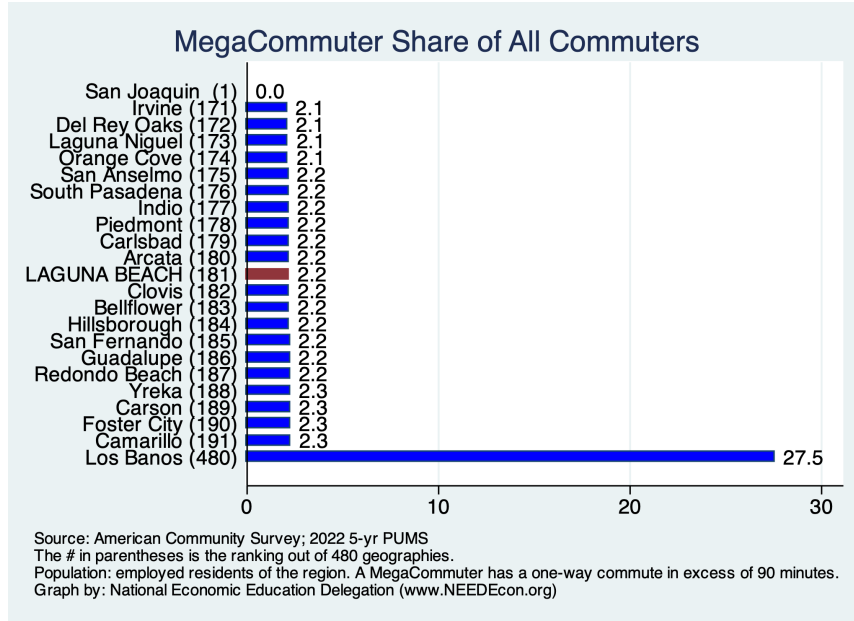
**Figure 79: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes**



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



**Figure 81: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies**



## Commute Times for Those Employed in the City

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

Mode of Transit	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Less than 5 minutes	131	1.8	75	1.1	206	1.5	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	472	6.6	619	9.3	1,091	8.1	7.5
10 to 14 minutes	513	7.1	388	5.8	901	6.7	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	1,053	14.6	489	7.3	1,542	11.4	15.0
20 to 24 minutes	998	13.9	730	10.9	1,728	12.8	14.3
25 to 29 minutes	315	4.4	547	8.2	862	6.4	6.3
30 to 34 minutes	1,258	17.5	1,334	20.0	2,592	19.2	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	198	2.8	196	2.9	394	2.9	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	214	3.0	183	2.7	397	2.9	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	584	8.1	463	6.9	1,047	7.8	8.6
60 to 89 minutes	440	6.1	187	2.8	627	4.7	7.9
90 or more minutes	283	3.9	148	2.2	431	3.2	4.0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>6,459</b>	<b>89.8</b>	<b>5,359</b>	<b>80.2</b>	<b>11,818</b>	<b>87.7</b>	

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.

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

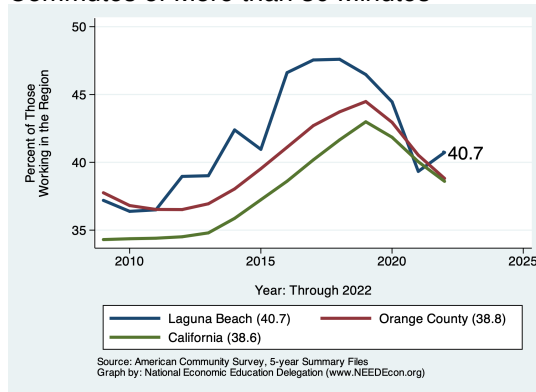


Figure 83: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

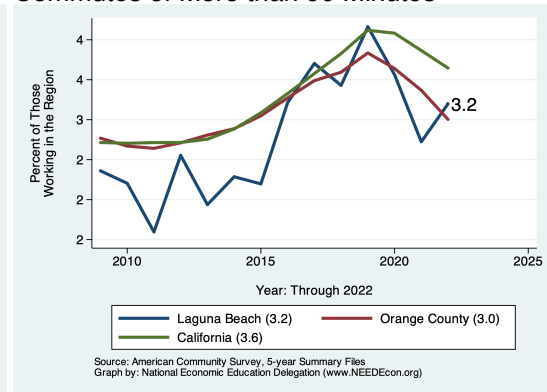
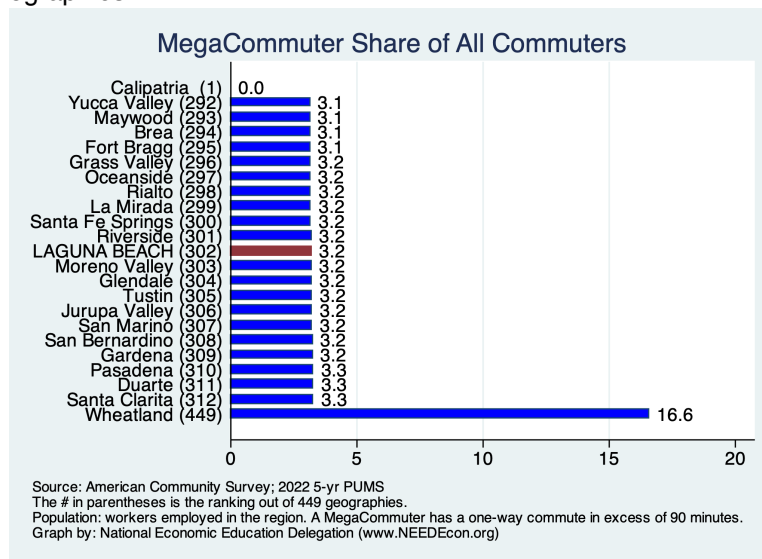


Figure 84: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



## Place of Work

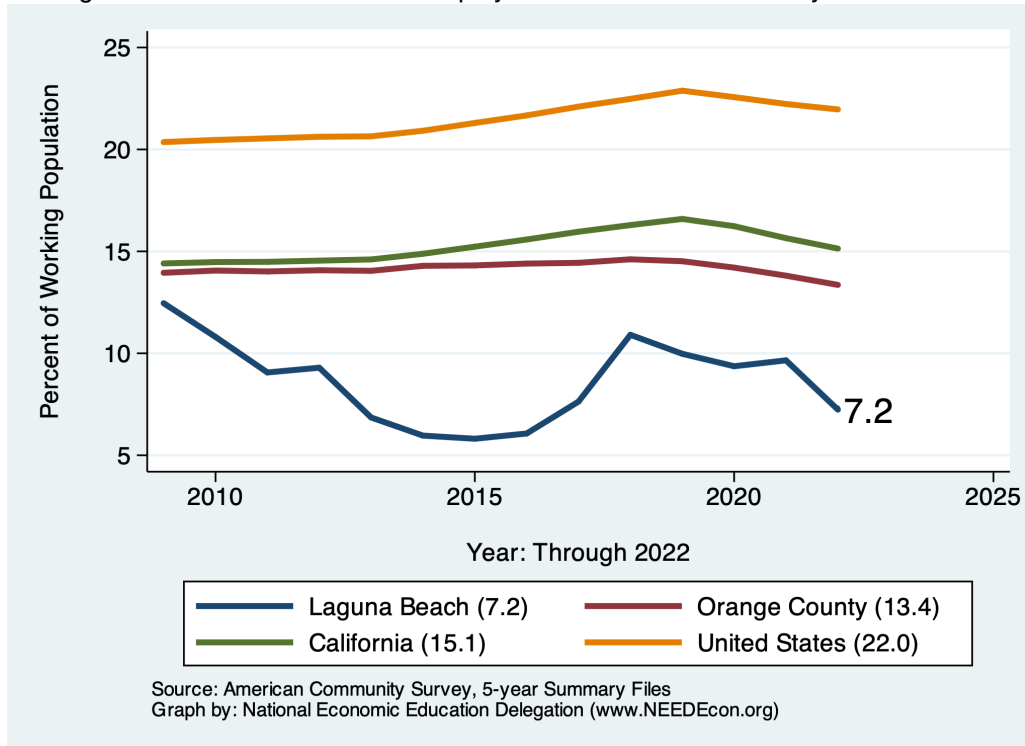
This section provides evidence on where workers living in Laguna Beach work. As evidenced in the first table, some of Laguna Beach’s employed workers work in the City, but many do not. The first table and graph pair provide evidence at the county level while the second provide evidence with regard to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

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

Place of Work	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Worked in state of residence:	6,770	93.6	4,119	77.7	10,889	87.4	99.6
Worked in county of residence	6,093	84.2	3,894	73.5	9,987	80.2	84.1
worked outside of county of residence	677	9.4	225	4.2	902	7.2	15.4
Worked outside state of residence	54	0.7	32	0.6	86	0.7	0.4
<b>Total:</b>	6,824	94.3	4,151	78.4	10,975	88.1	

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

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

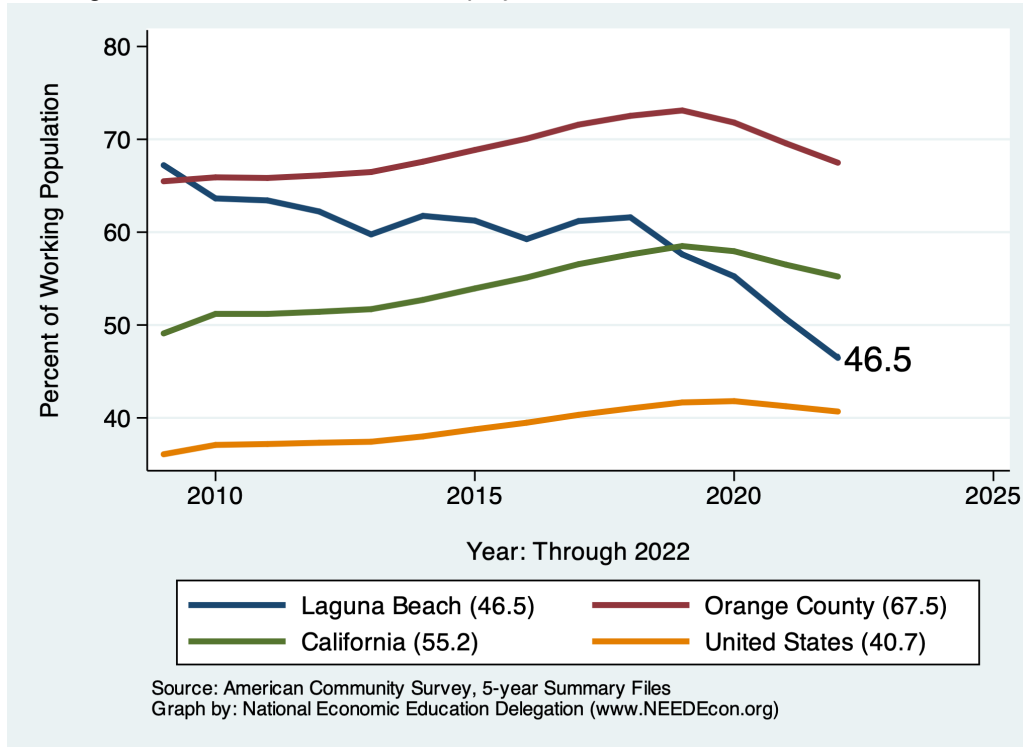


**Table 11. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK-PLACE LEVEL**

Place of Work	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Living in a place:	6,824	94.3	4,151	78.4	10,975	88.1	95.9
Worked in place of residence	3,197	44.2	1,989	37.5	5,186	41.6	39.5
Worked outside place of residence	3,627	50.1	2,162	40.8	5,789	46.5	56.4
Not living in a place	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4.1
<b>Total:</b>	6,824	94.3	4,151	78.4	10,975	88.1	

Source: 2022 5-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	Ratio	United States	
	Median	Median		Median	Ratio
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	101,058	48,566	116.6	46,171	116.0
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	100,893	36,463	155.1	34,487	155.0
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)		40,179		45,100	
Walked		29,366		27,142	
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	98,125	40,433	136.0	36,140	143.9
Worked from home	83,056	75,153	61.9	67,180	65.5
<b>Total:</b>	86,982	48,747	178.4	46,099	188.7

Source: 2022 5-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**

Mode of Transit	< \$25,000		\$25,000-\$74,999		\$75,000+		All		All of CA
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	908	36.0	1,369	38.0	3,797	60.7	6,314	50.7	68.4
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	152	6.0	117	3.2	423	6.8	701	5.6	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	59	2.3	23	0.6	49	0.8	131	1.1	3.6
Walked	117	4.6	31	0.9	136	2.2	297	2.4	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	11	0.4	69	1.9	112	1.8	200	1.6	2.4
Worked at Home	748	29.6	612	17.0	1,737	27.8	3,332	26.7	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	1,995	79.0	2,221	61.6	6,254		10,975	88.1	100.0

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

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

Mode of Transit	< \$25,000		\$25,000-\$74,999		\$75,000+		All		All of CA
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	2,544	43.2	3,087	70.4	2,863	56.6	9,885	62.9	68.5
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	365	6.2	317	7.2	302	6.0	1,168	7.4	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	58	1.0	212	4.8	0	0.0	305	1.9	3.6
Walked	82	1.4	55	1.3	98	1.9	248	1.6	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	26	0.4	103	2.3	58	1.1	212	1.3	2.4
Worked at Home	748	12.7	612	14.0	1,737	34.3	3,332	21.2	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	3,823	64.9	4,386		5,058		15,150	96.3	

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**

Mode of Transit	In Poverty		100-149% of Pov		>150% of Pov		All		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	169	37.4	74	29.7	6,071	51.6	6,314	50.7	68.7
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	3	0.7	0	0.0	698	5.9	701	5.6	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	28	6.2	0	0.0	103	0.9	131	1.1	3.6
Walked	15	3.3	24	9.6	258	2.2	297	2.4	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	8	3.2	192	1.6	200	1.6	2.4
Worked at Home	154	34.1	35	14.1	3,143	26.7	3,332	26.7	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	369	81.6	141	56.6	10,465	88.9	10,975	88.1	

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

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

Mode of Transit	In Poverty		100-149% of Pov		>150% of Pov		All		All of CA (%)
	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	375	42.4	415	42.0	9,095	64.1	9,885	62.9	68.7
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	65	7.4	40	4.0	1,063	7.5	1,168	7.4	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	20	2.3	0	0.0	285	2.0	305	1.9	3.6
Walked	15	1.7	24	2.4	209	1.5	248	1.6	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	8	0.8	204	1.4	212	1.3	2.4
Worked at Home	154	17.4	35	3.5	3,143	22.2	3,332	21.2	13.6
<b>Total:</b>	629	71.2	522	52.8	13,999	98.7	15,150	96.3	

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.

# 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 Laguna Beach 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

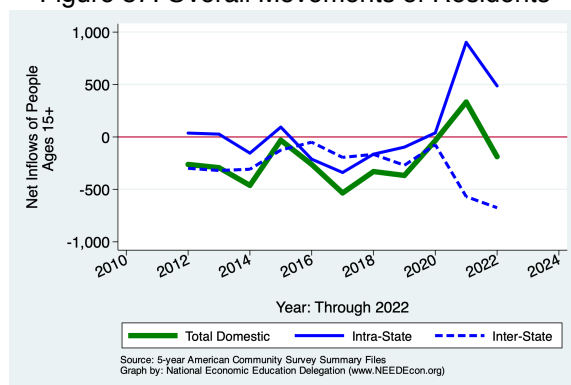


Table 17: Migration by Income

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
		All Migration	Same State		Across States	From Abroad
			W/in County	Between Counties		
No income	2,310	-34	2	60	-110	14
With income	17,880	-31	243	182	-565	109
\$1 to \$9,999 or less	2,092	-90	62	-118	-48	14
\$10,000 to \$14,999	907	-68	-8	-48	-35	23
\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,353	176	24	147	5	0
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,039	-53	-5	-2	-99	53
\$35,000 to \$49,999	1,390	-23	20	16	-59	0
\$50,000 to \$64,999	1,562	-85	12	9	-106	0
\$65,000 to \$74,999	628	-106	-87	-8	-11	0
\$75,000 or more	8,909	218	225	186	-212	19
<b>All:</b>	20,190	-65	245	242	-675	123

Source: 2022 5-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

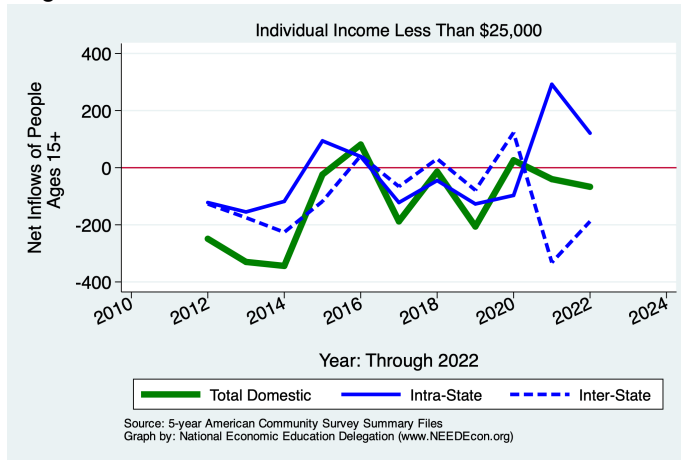


Figure 89: Overall Movements of Middle Income Residents

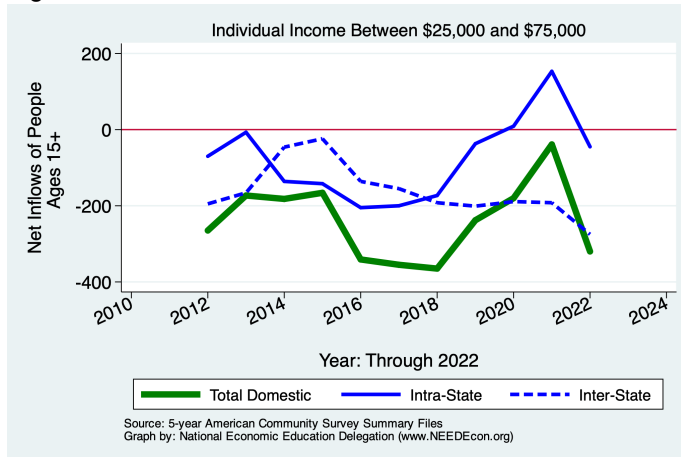
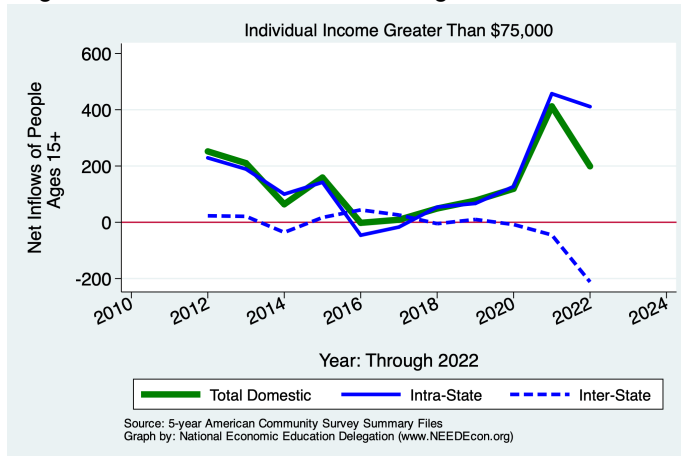


Figure 90: Overall Movements of High Income Residents



## Demographics of Migration Flows

**Table 18: Migration by Marital Status**

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
		All Migration	Same State		Across States	From Abroad
			W/in County	Between Counties		
Never married	4,994	-424	-37	-135	-308	56
Now married, except separated	11,244	263	301	320	-400	42
Divorced	2,709	16	-57	76	-3	0
Separated	250	63	37	0	26	0
Widowed	993	17	1	-19	10	25
<b>Total:</b>	20,190	-65	245	242	-675	123

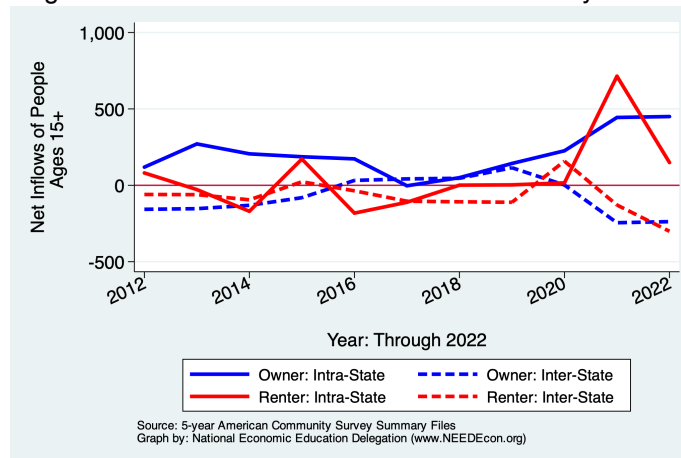
Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

**Table 19: Migration by Tenure**

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
		All Migration	Same State		Across States	From Abroad
			W/in County	Between Counties		
Householder lived in owner-occupied housing units	16,481	293	167	283	-238	81
Householder lived in renter-occupied housing units	6,225	-110	85	64	-301	42
<b>Total:</b>	22,706	183	252	347	-539	123

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

**Figure 91: Domestic Movements of Residents by Tenure**



**Table 20: Migration by Age**

Category	Population	Net Inflows					From Abroad
		All Migration	Same State			Across States	
			W/in County	Between Counties	Between Counties		
1 to 4 years	442	-97	-101	8	-4	0	
5 to 17 years	3,044	142	128	54	-40	0	
18 and 19 years	473	-205	2	-111	-96	0	
20 to 24 years	539	-196	-13	-78	-119	14	
25 to 29 years	724	25	33	9	-31	14	
30 to 34 years	847	-7	33	18	-58	0	
35 to 39 years	1,323	11	-55	58	-20	28	
40 to 44 years	1,042	11	-1	45	-56	23	
45 to 49 years	1,454	147	50	39	39	19	
50 to 54 years	1,950	22	15	10	-3	0	
55 to 59 years	2,202	31	108	-1	-76	0	
60 to 64 years	2,305	76	93	12	-29	0	
65 to 69 years	1,926	149	19	192	-62	0	
70 to 74 years	1,891	-73	-10	17	-105	25	
75 years and over	2,654	-52	-49	32	-35	0	
<b>Total Population:</b>	22,816	-16	252	304	-695	123	

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

**Table 21: Migration by Educational Attainment**

Category	Population	Net Inflows					From Abroad
		All Migration	Same State			Across States	
			W/in County	Between Counties	Between Counties		
Less than high school graduate	332	-73	0	-84	11	0	
High school graduate (includes equiv)	1,589	158	84	127	-53	0	
Some college or assoc. degree	4,490	70	40	120	-104	14	
Bachelor's degree	6,646	-47	49	57	-178	25	
Graduate or professional degree	5,261	232	63	211	-112	70	
<b>Total:</b>	18,318	340	236	431	-436	109	

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

**Table 22: Median Income of Migration Flows**

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	71,575	71,575
Moved Within Same County	80,972	75,333
Moved from Abroad	31,563	
<b>Total Population:</b>	73,110	69,716

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

**Table 23: Median Age of Migration Flows**

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	55.3	55.3
Moved Within Same County	45.4	39.2
Moved to Different County, Same State	45.8	24.6
Moved Between States	42.2	36.0
Moved from Abroad	43.2	
<b>Total Population:</b>	53.8	53.4

Source: 2022 5-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 released 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>

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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/>

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