Rancho Santa Margarita, California

Indicators Report

by
The National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

April 20, 2024

Exploring the economics, demographics, and well-being of Rancho Santa Margarita 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 Rancho Santa Margarita (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 Rancho Santa Margarita. These indicators are compared to Orange 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 Rancho Santa Margarita 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 Rancho Santa Margarita 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 Rancho Santa Margarita, 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 Rancho Santa Margarita, but do not necessarily live in Rancho Santa Margarita.
- **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 compositon.

Why is it important?

The characteristics and growth of Rancho Santa Margarita's population are fundamental indicators of the city's growth potential.

A Demographic Snapshot

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Statistic	2022	2019
POPULATION		
Population Estimate (#, 5yr)	47,702.0	48,503.0
Veterans (#, 5yr)	1,571.0	1,896.0
Foreign born persons (%, 5yr)	20.8	16.5
Population age 25+ (#, 5yr)	33,004.0	32,578.0
AGE AND SEX		
Persons under 5 years (%, 5yr)	5.7	6.6
Persons under 18 years (%, 5yr)	22.9	24.8
Persons 65 years and over (%, 5yr)	10.4	9.2
Female persons (%, 5yr)	50.4	51.8
INCOME AND POVERTY		
Median household income ($, 5yr)	150,146.0	121,017.0
Per capita income in past 12 months ($, 5yr)	62,035.0	54,066.0
Persons in poverty (%, 5yr)	3.9	3.6
Children age less than 18 in poverty (#, 5yr)	522.0	509.0
Children age less than 18 in poverty (%, 5yr)	4.8	4.2
RACE AND ETHNICITY		
White alone (%, 5yr)	68.4	76.9
African American alone (%, 5yr)	1.7	3.2
American Indian or Alaska Native alone (%, 5yr)	0.5	0.5
Asian alone (%, 5yr)	12.5	11.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (%, 5yr)	0.1	0.1
Two or More Races (%, 5yr)	11.7	6.0
Hispanic or Latino (%, 5yr)	20.4	20.6
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino (%, 5yr)	59.4	60.8
HOUSING		
Housing units (#, 5yr)	17,150.0	17,541.0
Owner-occupied housing units (%, 5yr)	72.9	70.8
Median value of owner-occupied housing units ($, 5yr)	861,100.0	662,200.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage ($, 5yr)	3,283.0	2,952.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage ($, 5yr)	913.0	746.0
Median gross rent ($, 5yr)	2,441.0	2,084.0
FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		
Households (#, 5yr)	16,798.0	17,192.0
Persons per household (#, 5yr)	2.8	2.8
Living in same house 1 year ago, % of persons age 1+ (5yr)	87.7	86.5
EDUCATION		
High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	94.7	95.5
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	49.9	51.1
HEALTH		
With a disability, under age 65 years (#, 5yr)	2,451.0	2,112.0
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years (%, 5yr)	3.7	3.7
LABOR FORCE		
In civilian labor force, persons age 16+ (%, 5yr)	74.3	74.6
In civilian labor force, women age 16+ (%, 5yr)	67.7	67.0
Employed, persons age 16+ (%, 5yr)	69.2	69.9
Self employed (%, 5yr)	11.2	10.1
TRANSPORTATION		
Mean travel time to work, workers age 16+ (Mins., 5yr)	22.6	27.8
Drive alone in private vehicle (%, 5yr)	71.5	84.0
Using public transportation (%, 5yr)	0.4	0.8
Worked from home (%, 5yr)	18.5	8.1

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

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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				
Rancho Santa Margarita	47,066	−0.49	−3.37	−4.41
County and Broader Regions				
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	% Change Southern California	% Change 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)

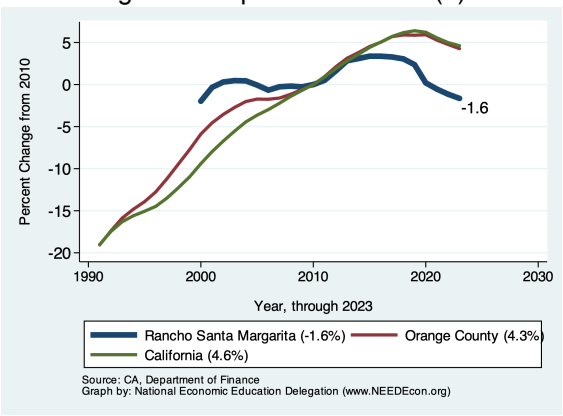


Figure 2: Population Growth (2)

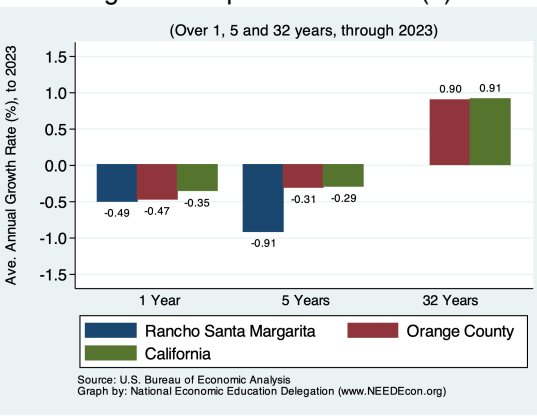
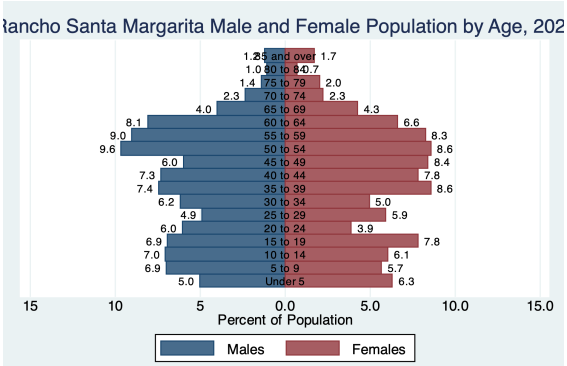


Figure 3: Population by Age - Detailed Age Categories



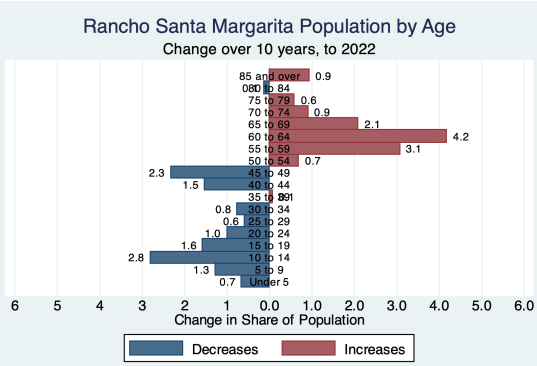
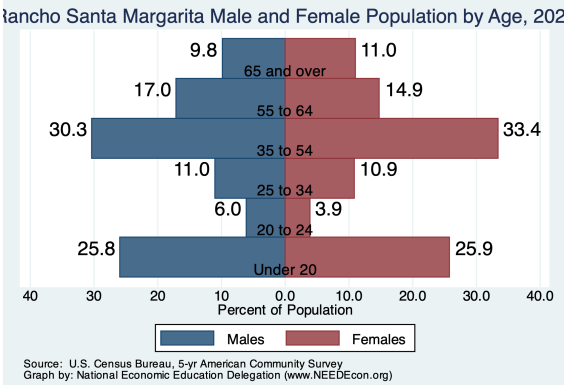


Figure 4: Population by Age - Broad Age Categories



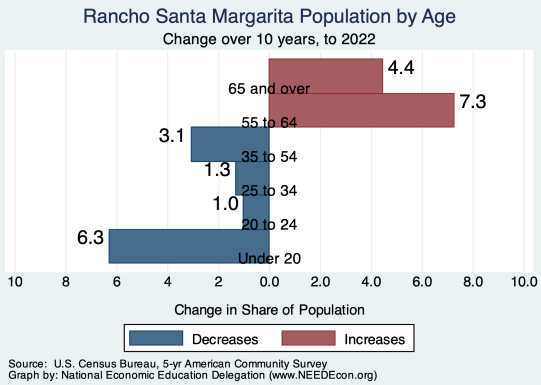


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Figure 5: Population by Educational Attainment

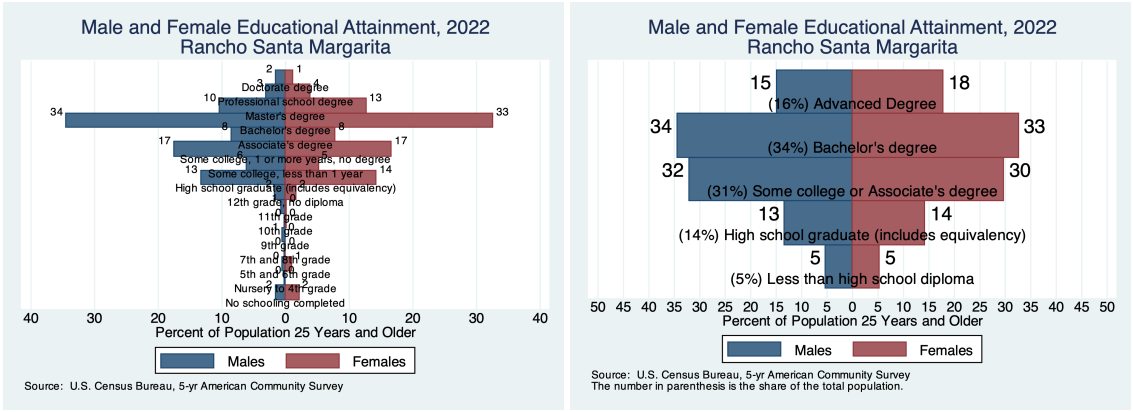


Figure 6: Population by Race/Ethnicity

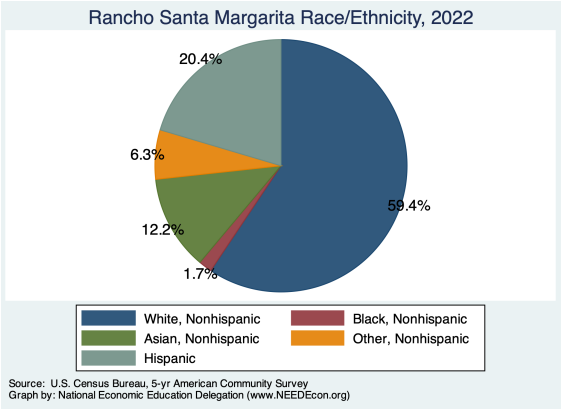
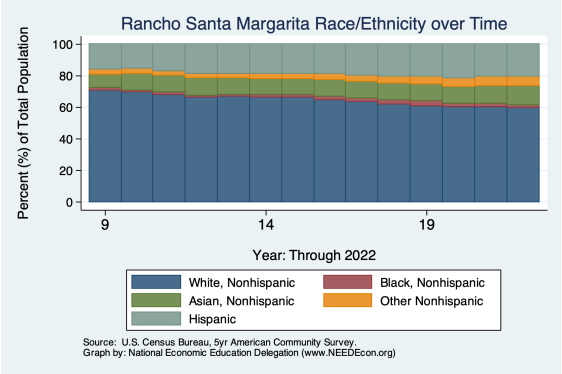


Figure 7: Population by Race/Ethnicity Over Time



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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. Rancho Santa Margarita 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

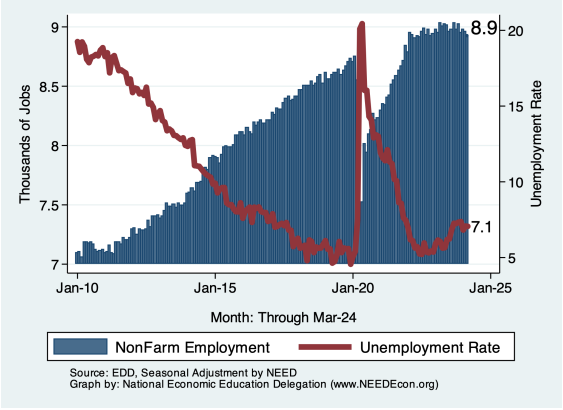


Figure 9: Employment and Unemployment - Last 12 Months

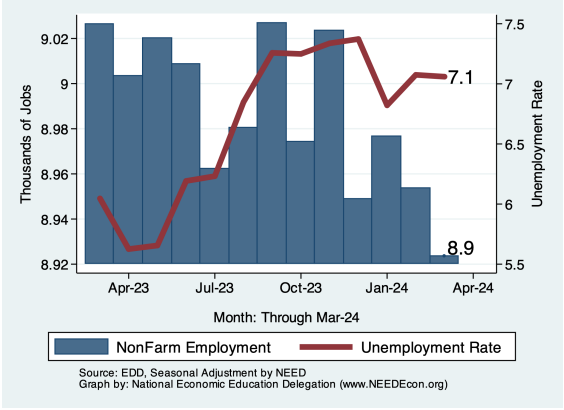


Figure 10: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2010

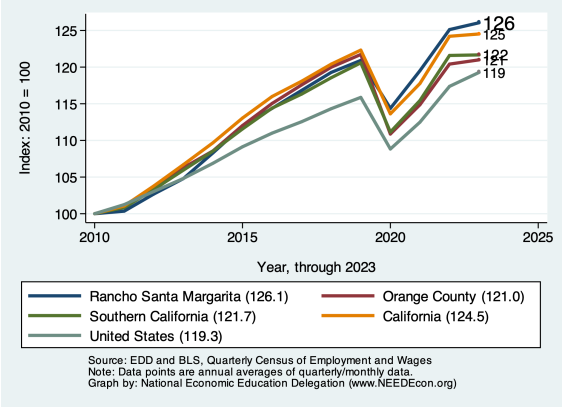
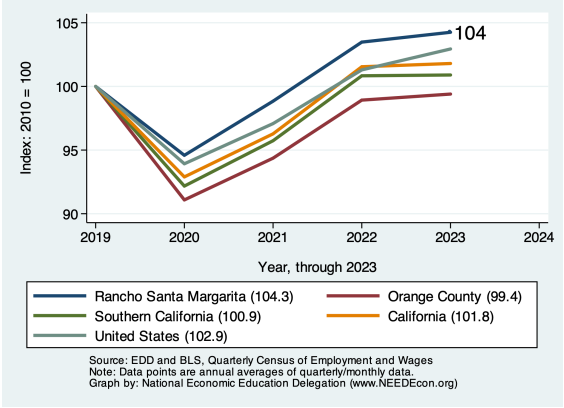


Figure 11: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2019



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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 Orange County. The following table provides the latest data for the County.

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

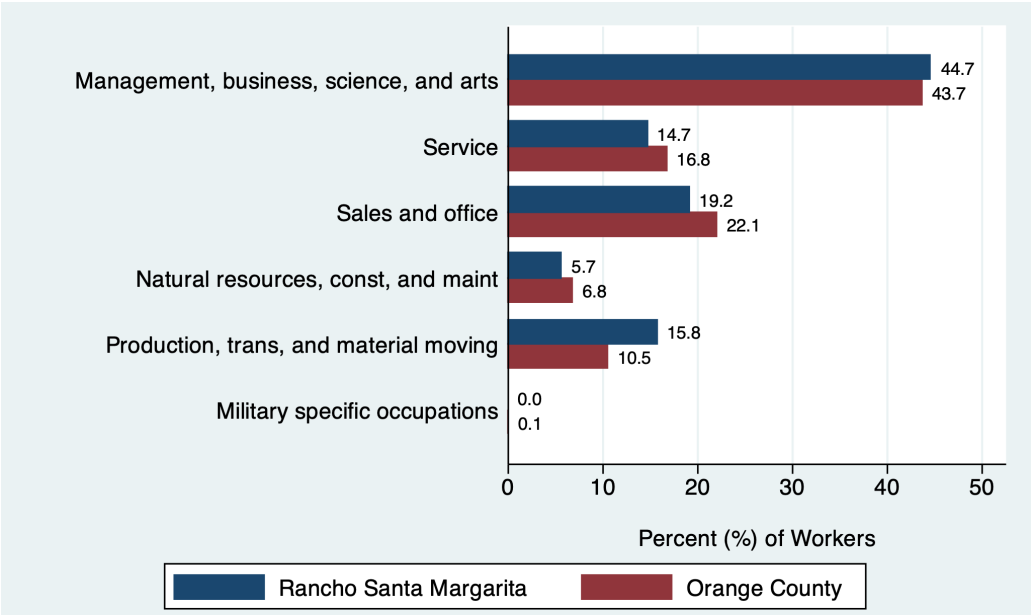
Industry	Employment	Share	Empl Growth	% Growth - Annualized Rate					
				Month	Qtr	6mo	1yr	3yr	5yr
Total Nonfarm	1,704,677	100.0	6,550.8	4.7	3.1	2.4	1.9	3.3	0.4
Total Private	1,541,986	90.5	6,278.0	5.0	3.2	2.5	1.8	3.4	0.5
Goods Producing	261,488	15.3	411.3	1.9	−1.9	−0.0	0.3	1.5	−0.4
Mining, Logging 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
Service Providing	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 Srvcs	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 Srvcs	139,656	8.2	1,147.2	10.4	10.0	2.6	0.1	−2.3	−1.5
Employment Srvcs	63,712	3.7	840.6	17.3	14.1	2.2	−1.8	−7.3	−3.4
Educational & Health Srvcs	274,719	16.1	1,424.2	6.4	5.3	5.3	6.0	5.9	3.8
Education Srvcs	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 Srvcs	174,745	10.3	281.9	2.0	−0.7	0.5	0.9	11.1	0.2
Other Srvcs	56,860	3.3	193.3	4.2	4.1	3.8	4.0	8.7	2.1
Government	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

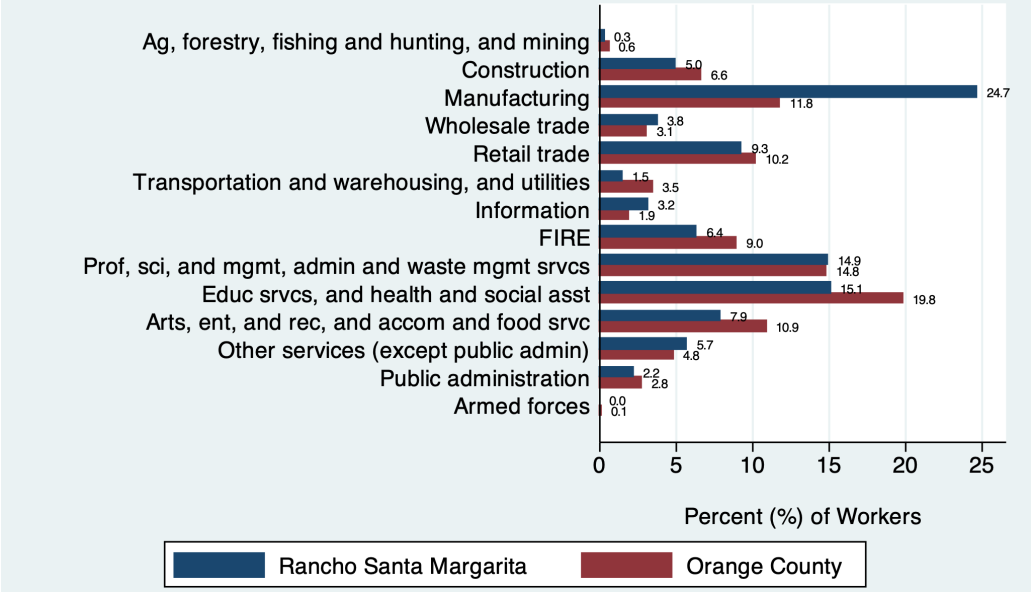
Employed in Rancho Santa Margarita

Figure 12: Employment by Occupation



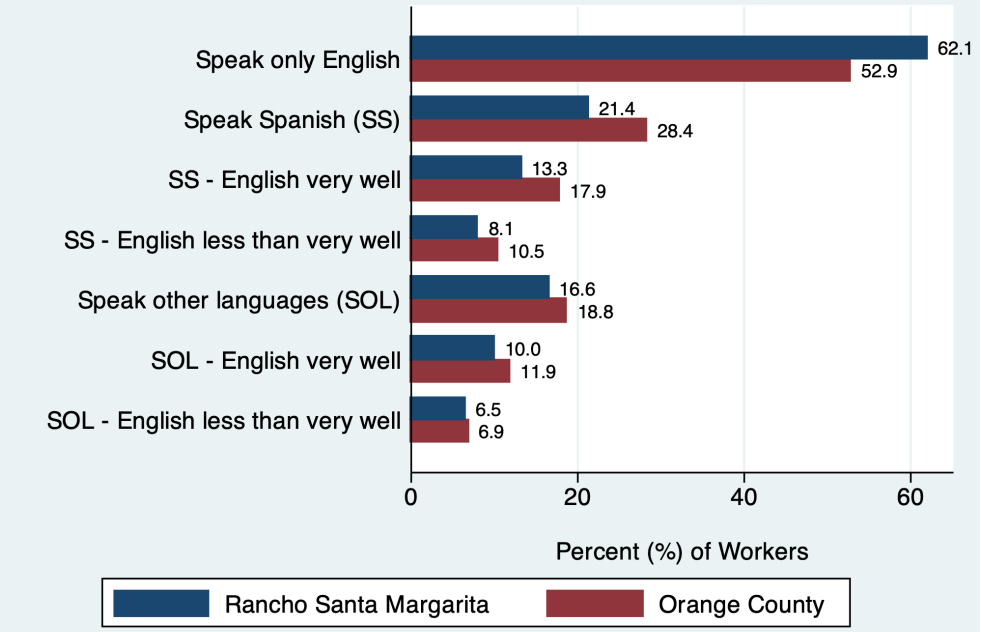
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 13: Employment by Industry



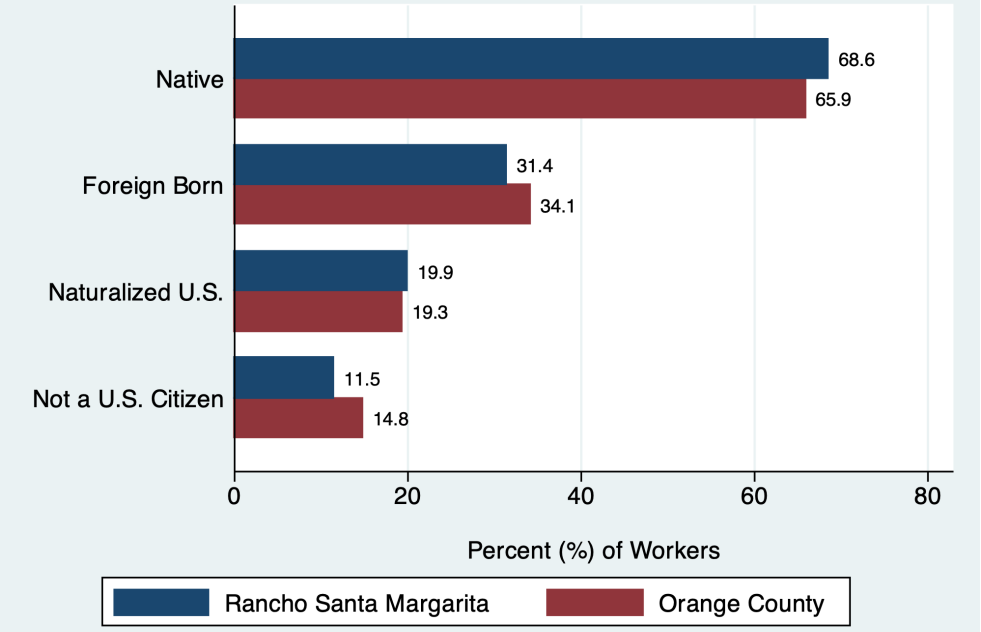
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 14: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

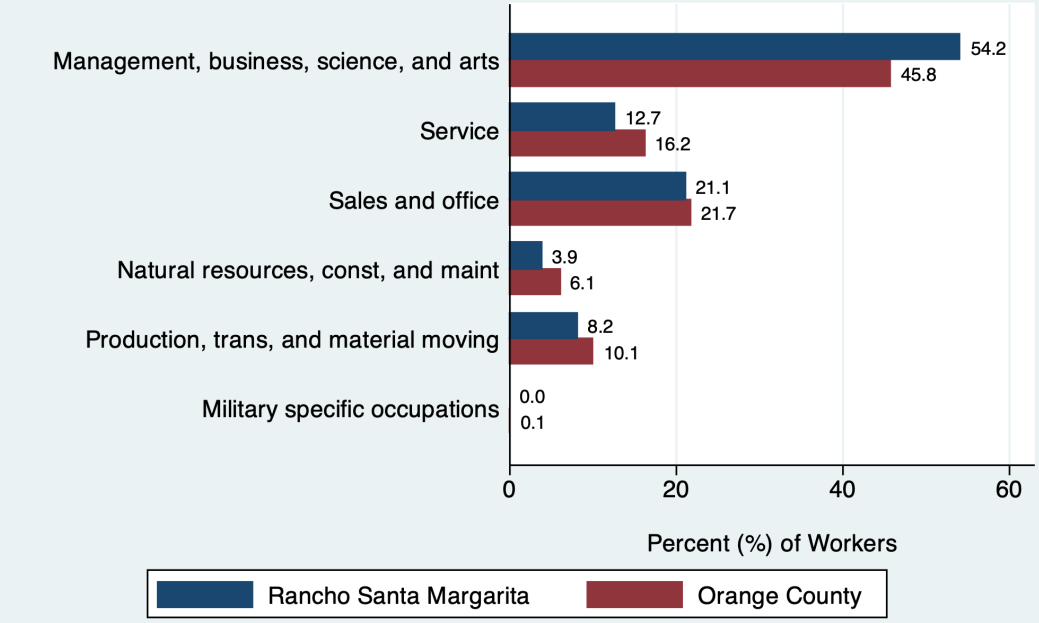
Figure 15: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

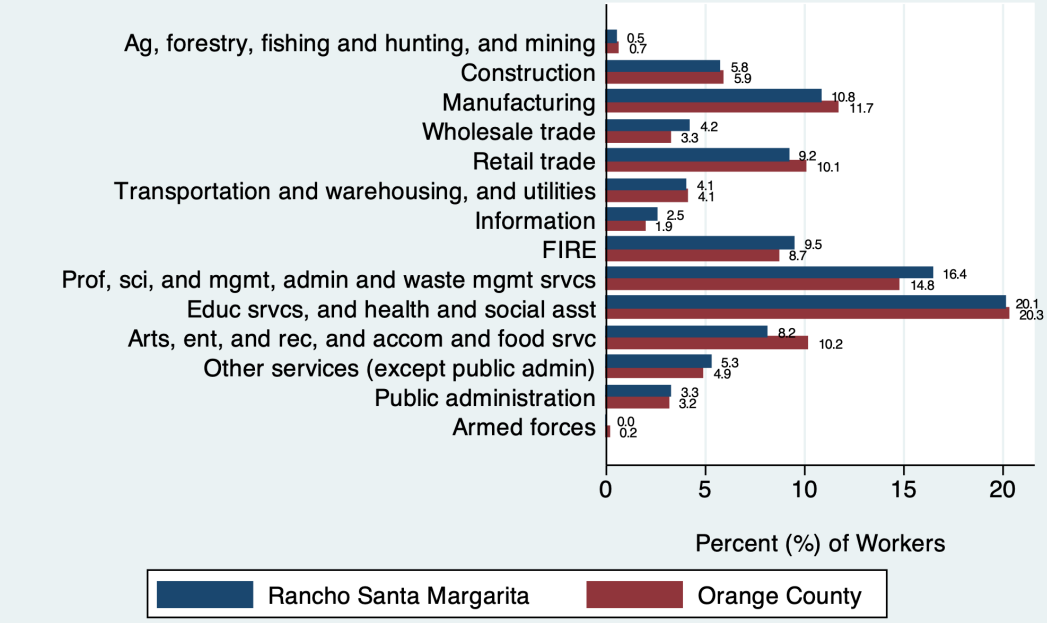
Employed Residents of Rancho Santa Margarita

Figure 16: Employment by Occupation



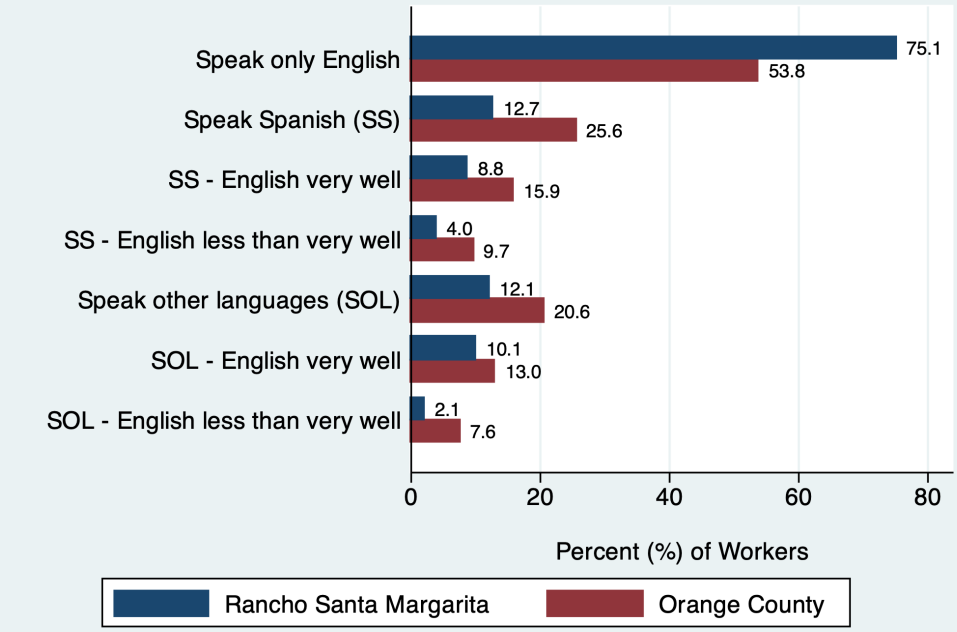
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 17: Employment by Industry



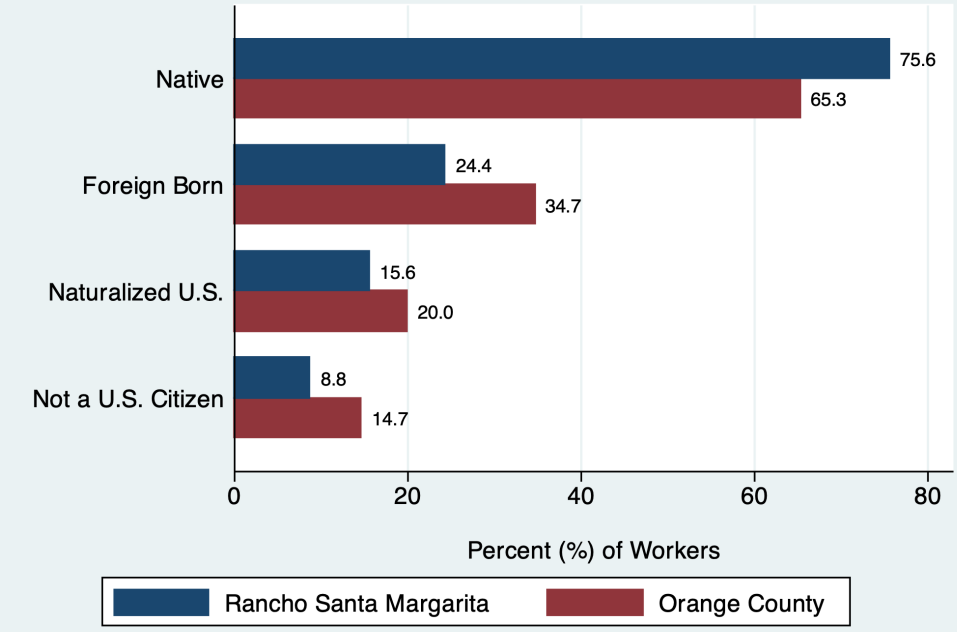
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 18: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

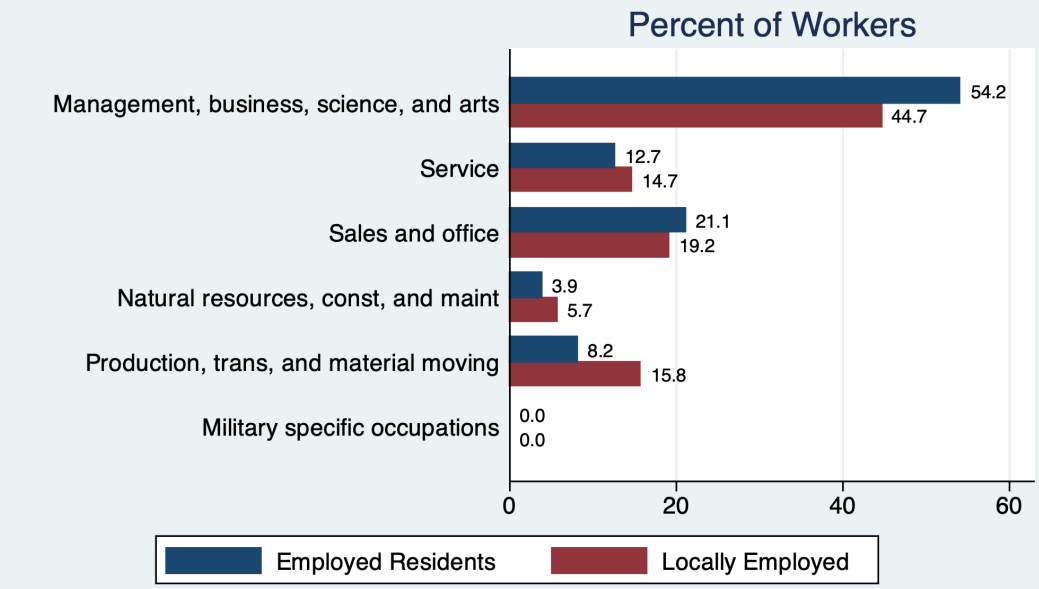
Figure 19: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

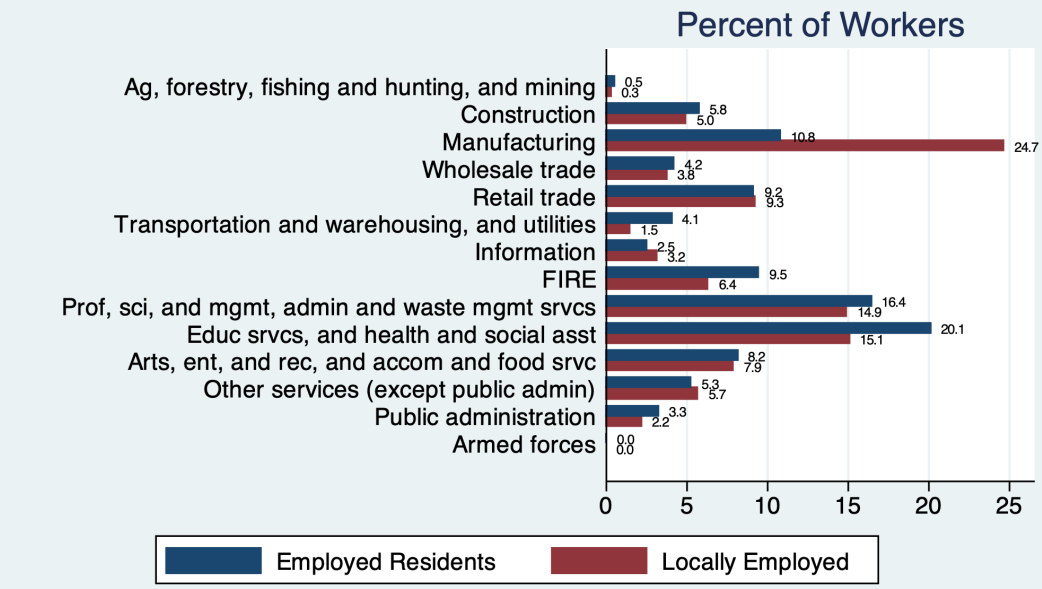
Employed Residents vs Workers in Rancho Santa Margarita

Figure 20: Employment by Occupation



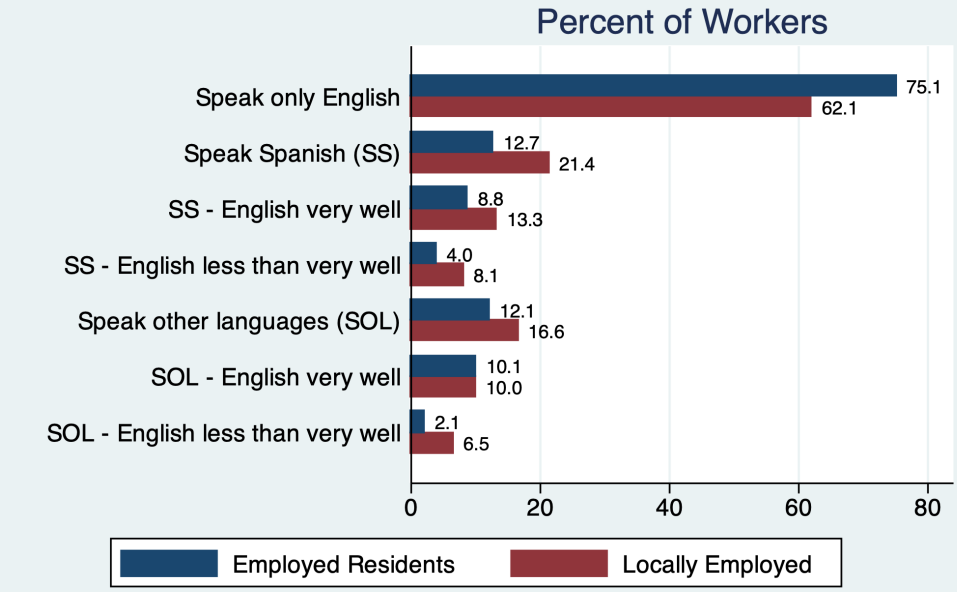
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 21: Employment by Industry



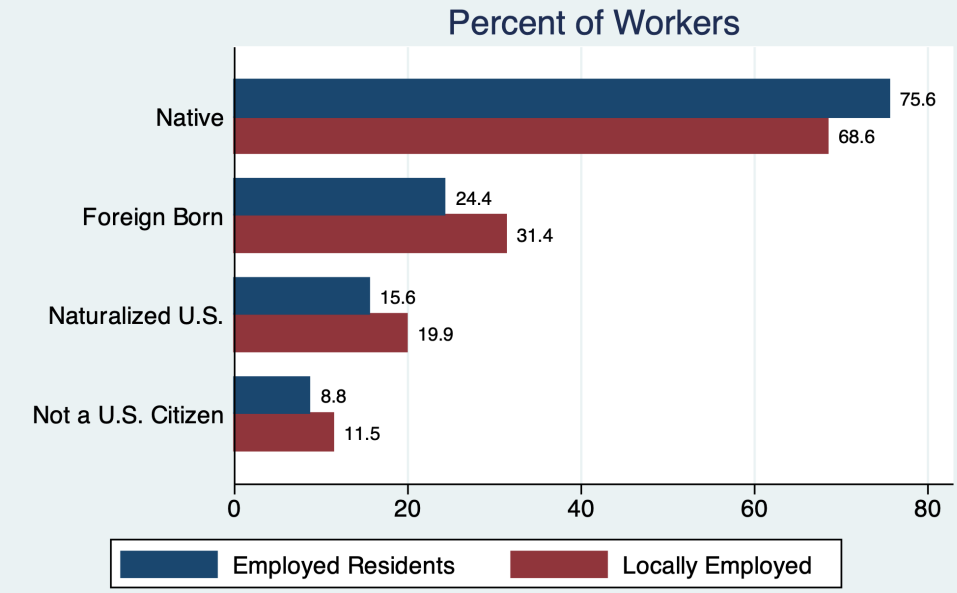
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 22: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 23: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-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 Rancho Santa Margarita. 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

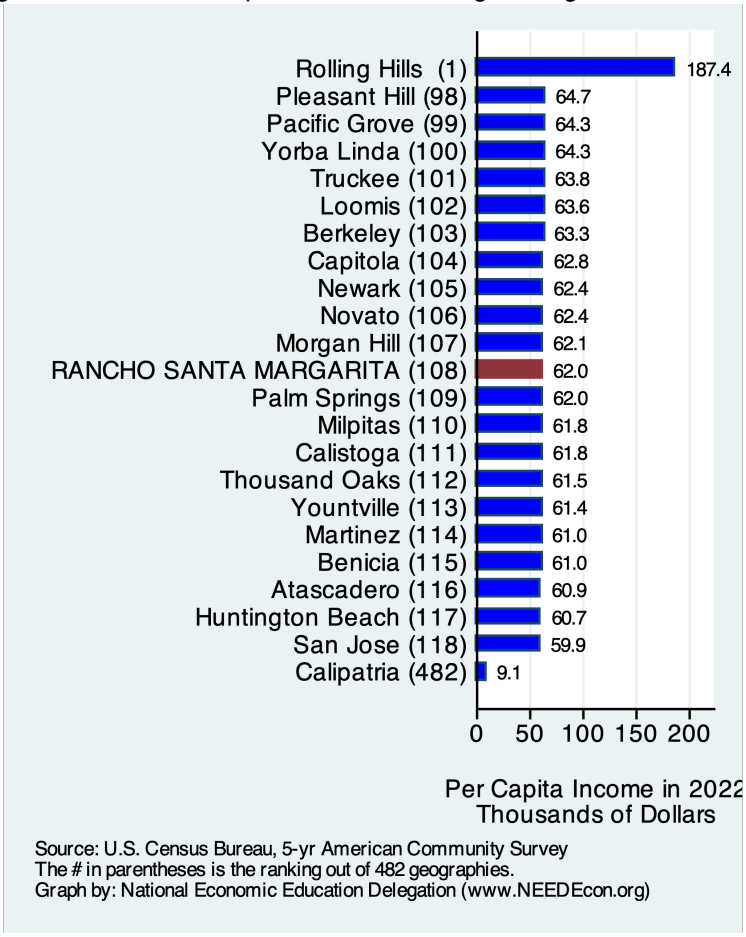
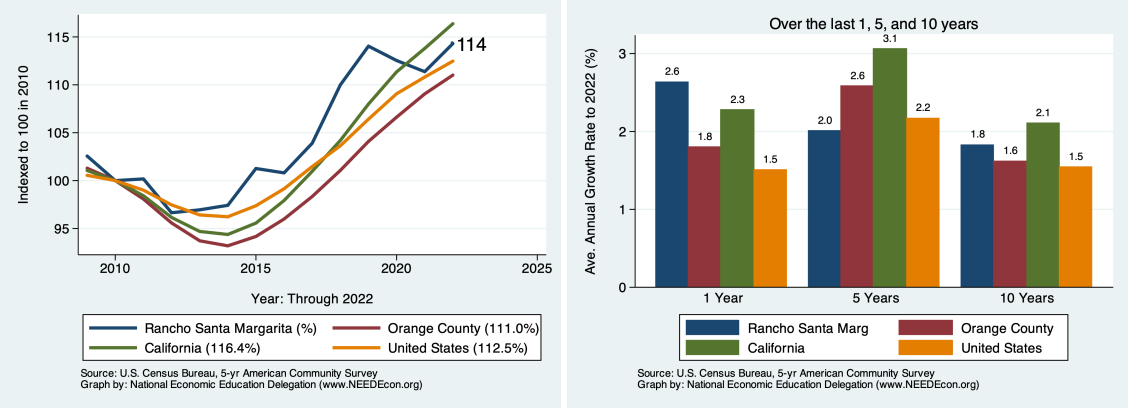


Figure 25: Regional Comparison of Growth over Time



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

Figure 26: Income Levels

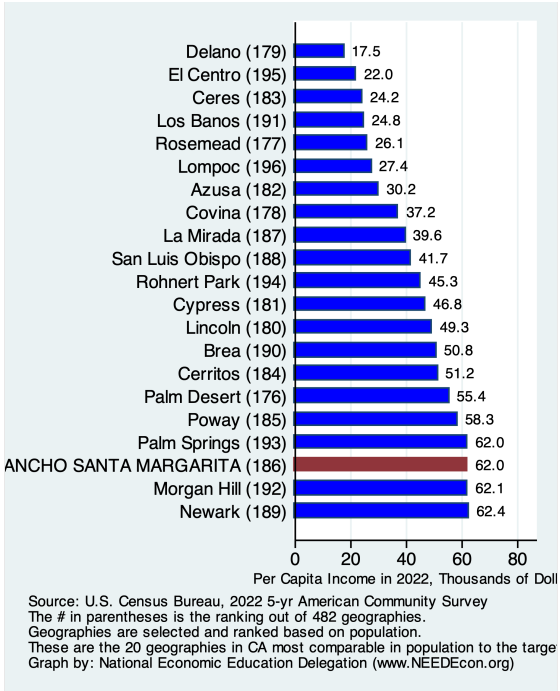
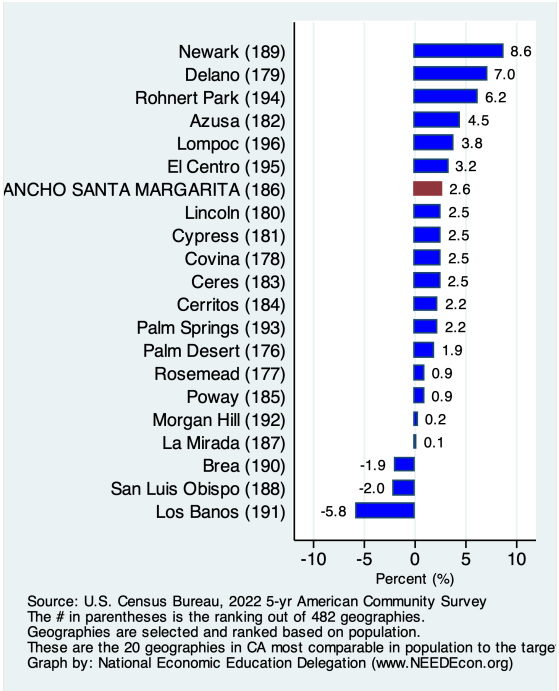


Figure 27: Growth over Time



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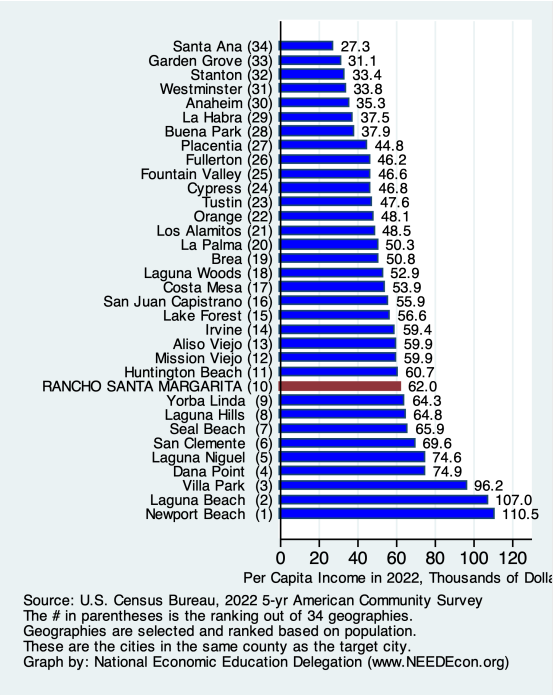
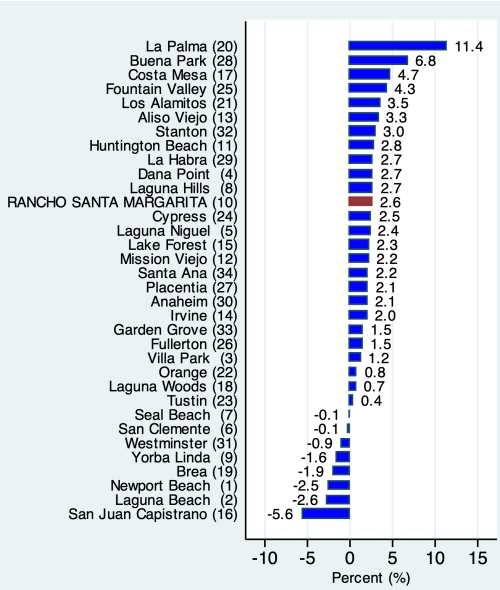
Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among Cities in Orange County

Figure 28: Income Levels



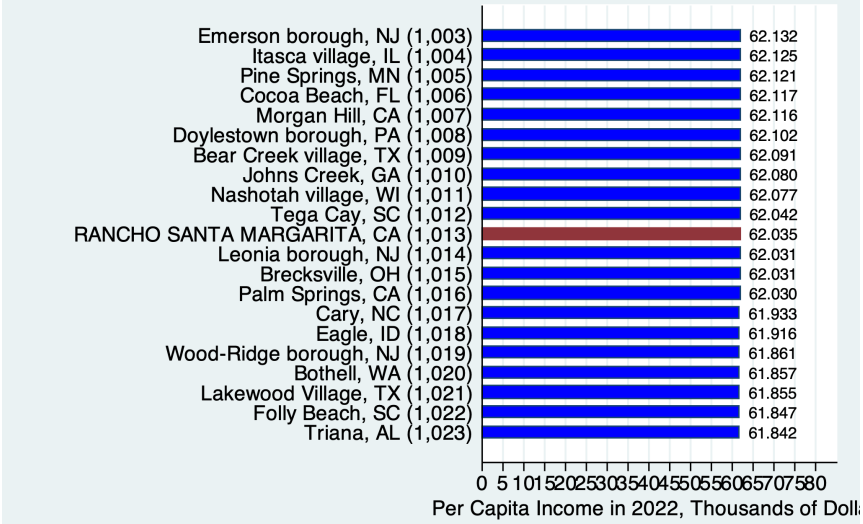
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 34 geographies.
Geographies are selected and ranked based on population.
These are the cities in the same county as the target city.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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)

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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.

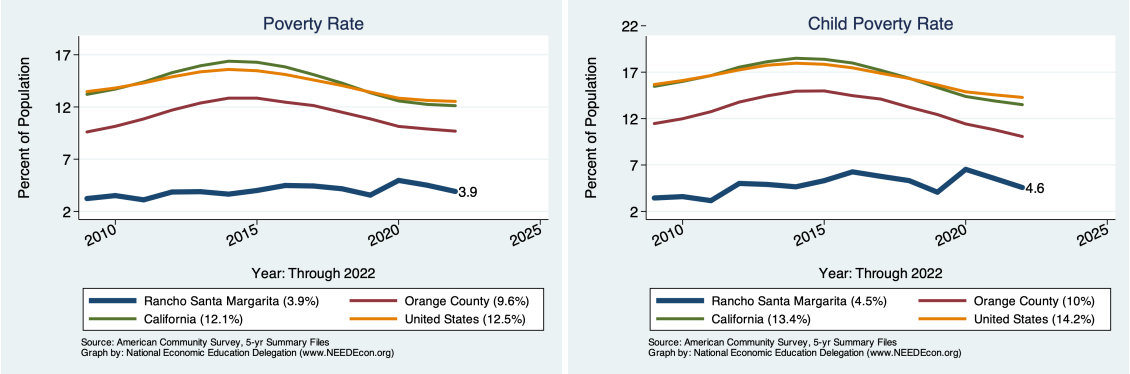


Figure 31: Inequality

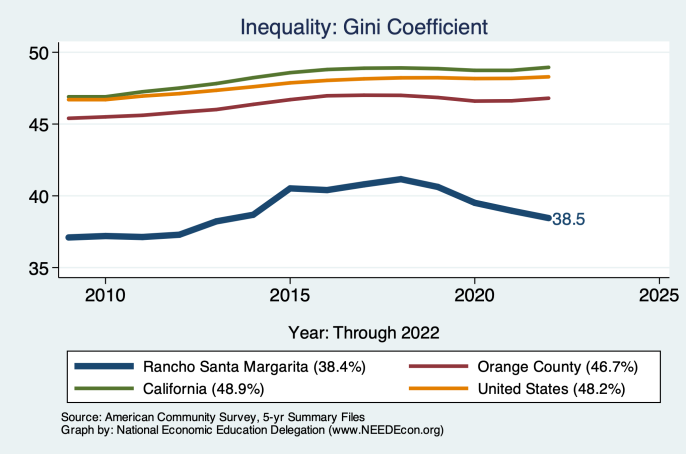
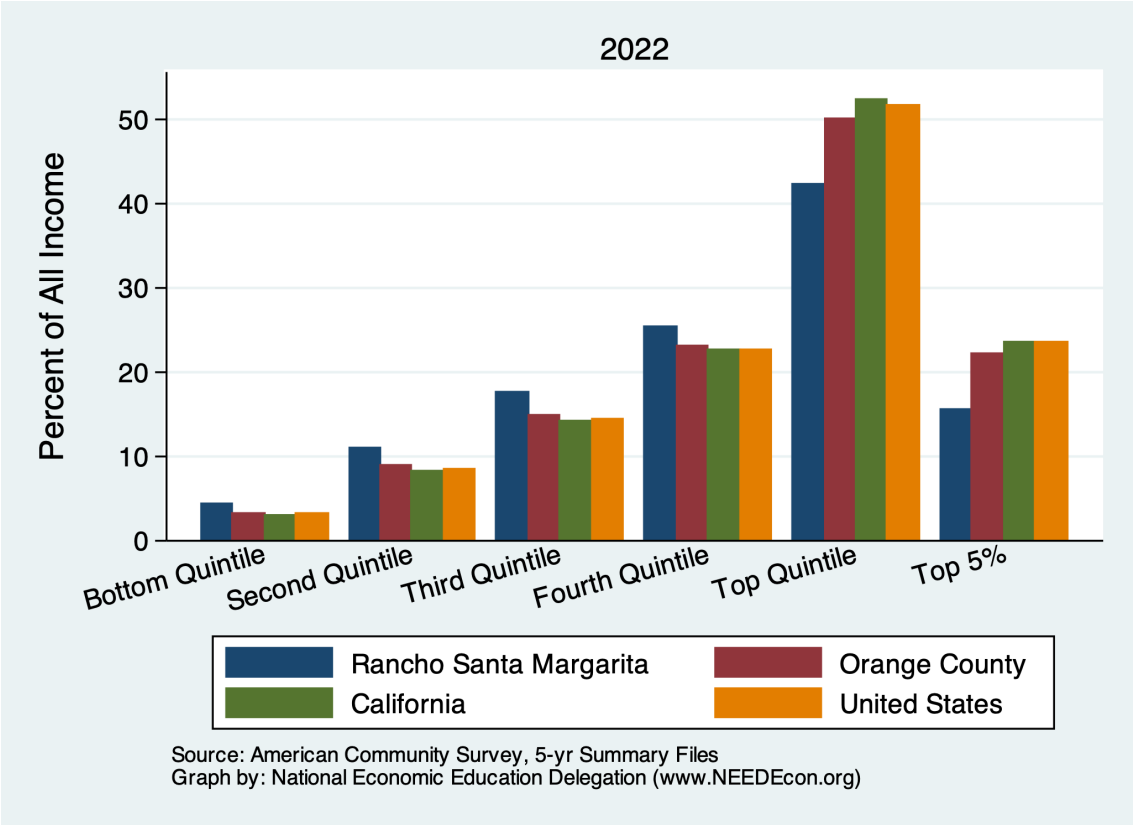
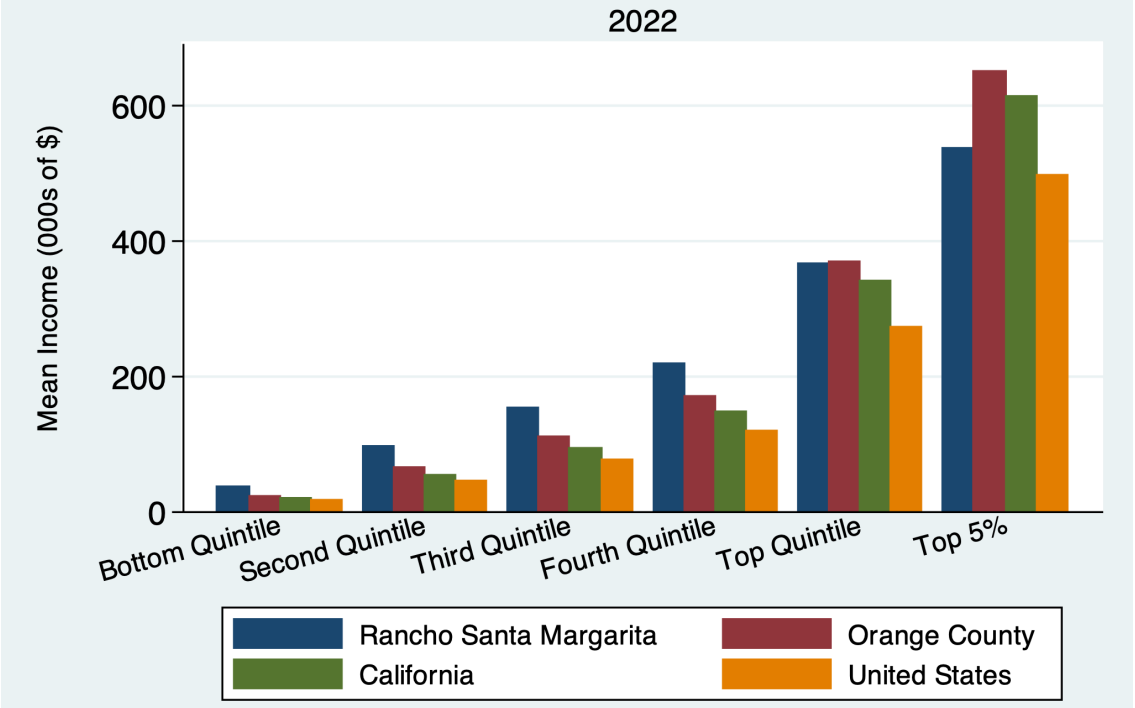


Figure 32: Shares Across the Income Distribution



Source: American Community Survey, 5-yr Summary Files
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 33: Means Across the Income Distribution



Source: American Community Survey, 5-yr Summary Files
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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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 Rancho Santa Margarita and Broader Regions

Figure 34: Median Home Prices

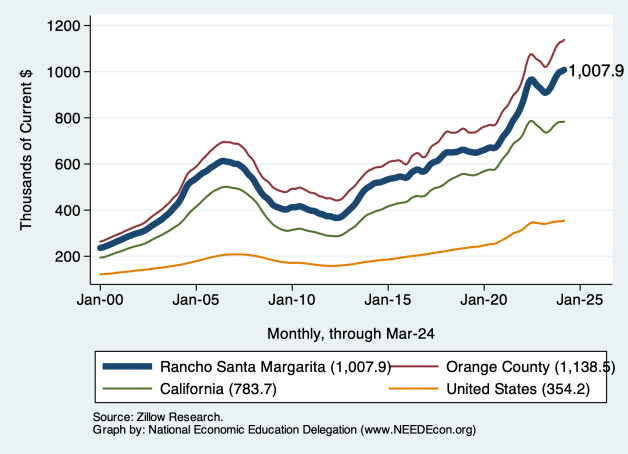
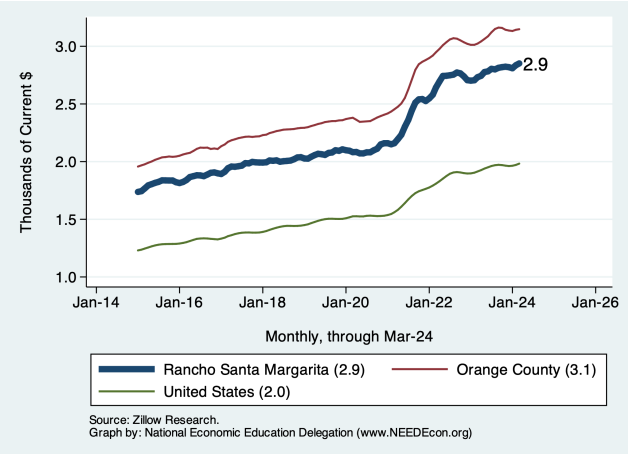


Figure 35: Median Rents



Housing Ownership in Rancho Santa Margarita and Broader Regions

Figure 36: Home Ownership Rates

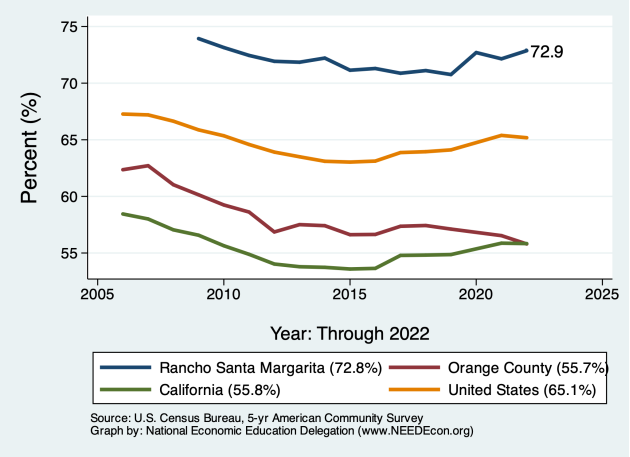


Figure 37: Home Ownership by Age

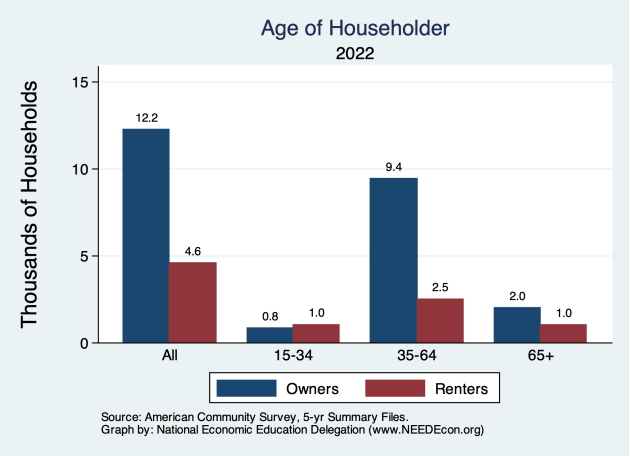


Figure 38: Income by Tenure

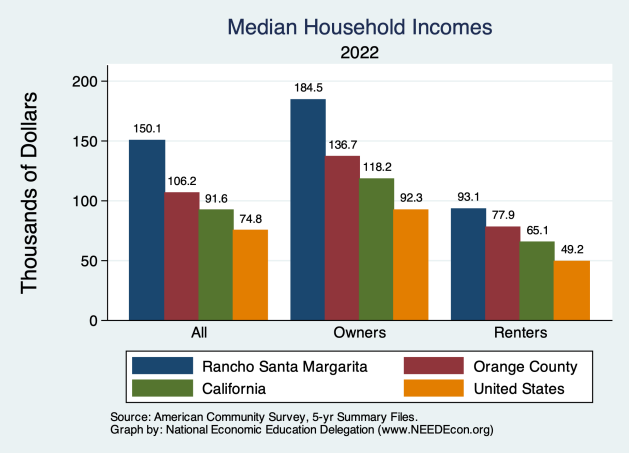


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Figure 39: Income Distribution by Tenure

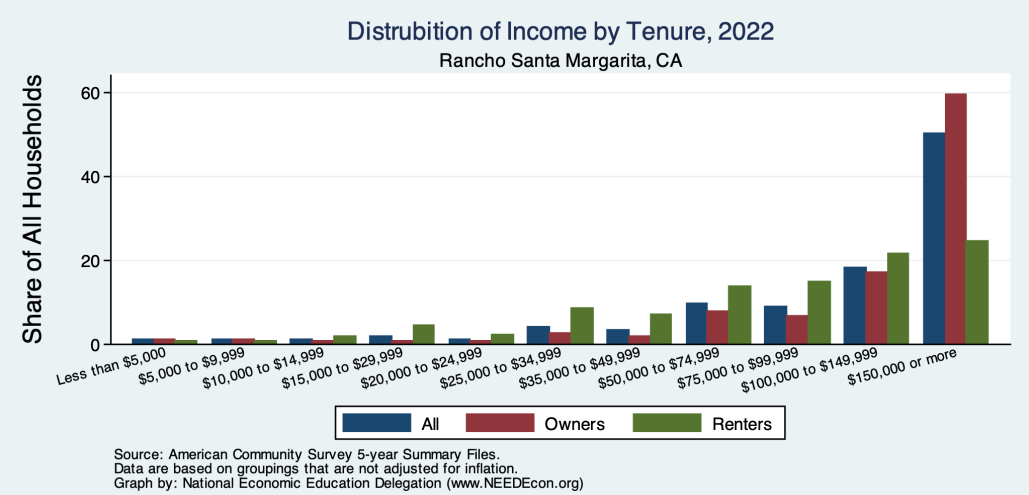


Figure 40: Income Distribution of Home Owners

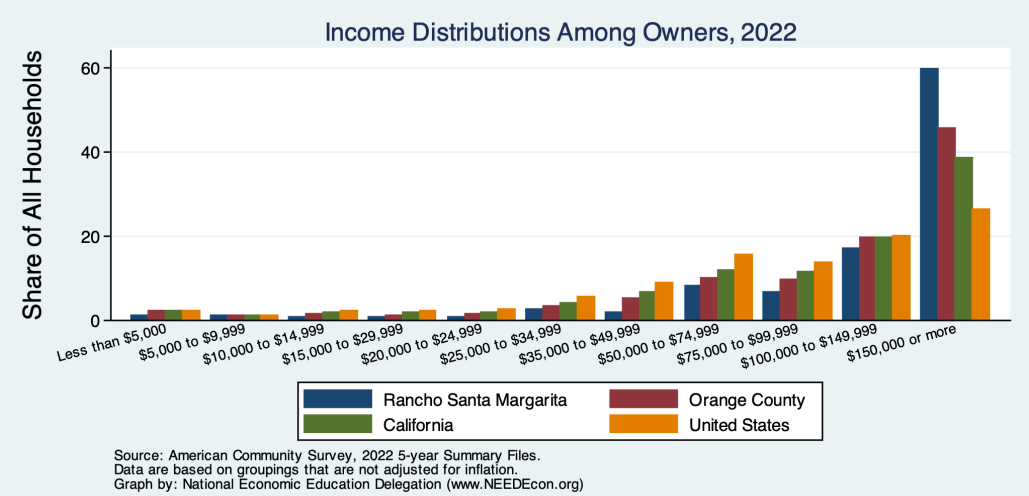
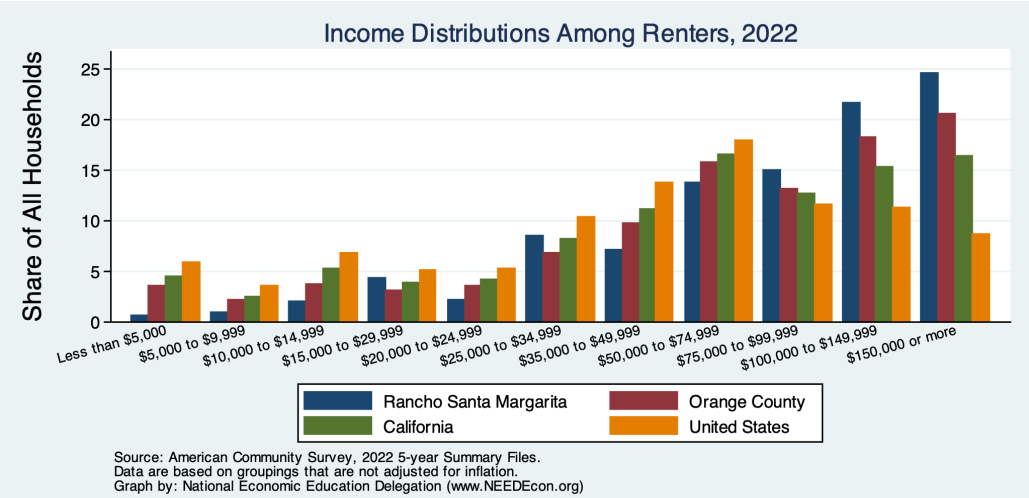


Figure 41: Income Distribution of Renters



Housing Burden in Rancho Santa Margarita and Broader Regions

Figure 42: Home Owners w/ A Mortgage

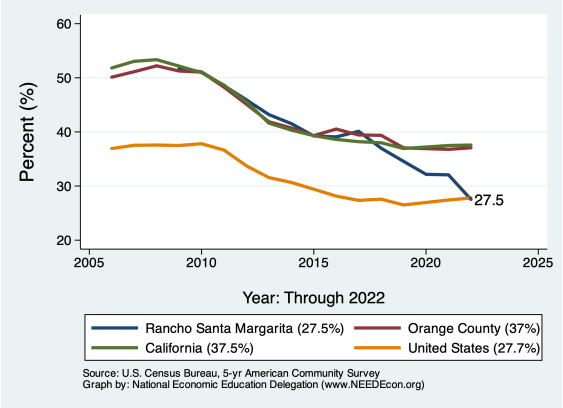


Figure 43: Home Owners w/o A Mortgage

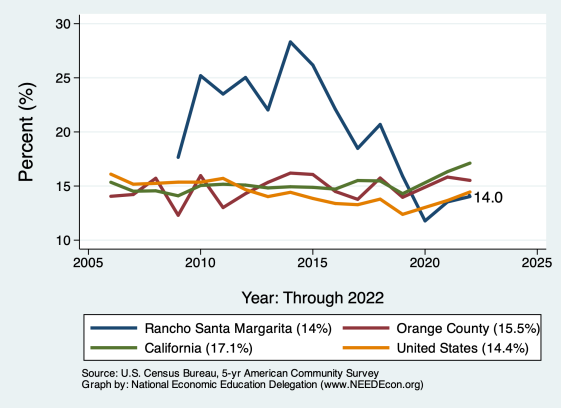


Figure 44: Renters

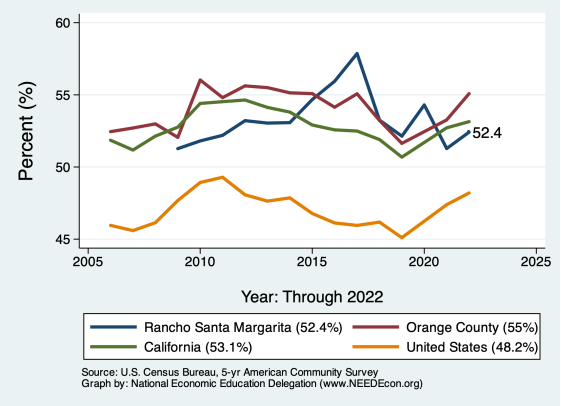
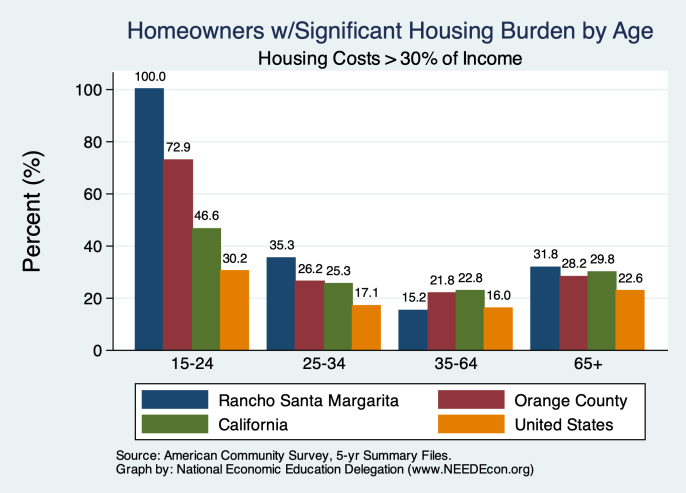


Figure 45: Homeowner Housing Burden by Age



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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	47,066.0	49,051.0	47,853.0	-4.0	-1.6
Total # of Homes	17,606.0	17,345.0	17,260.0	1.5	2.0
# Occupied Units	17,166.0	17,014.0	16,665.0	0.9	3.0
Persons per Household	2.7	2.9	2.9	-4.9	-4.5
Vacancy Rate (%)	2.5	1.9	3.4	31.0	-27.5

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

Figure 46: Housing Growth

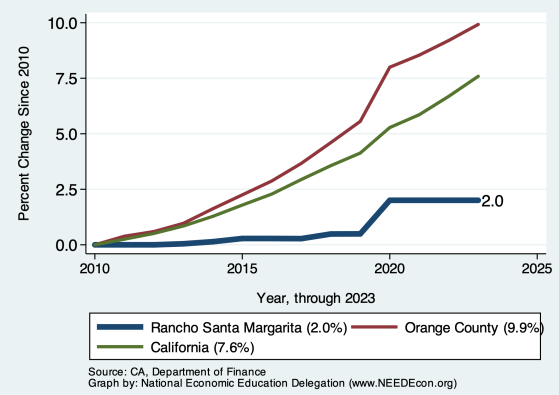


Figure 47: Persons per Household

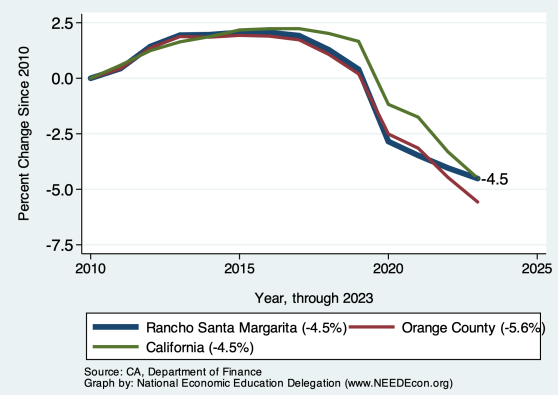


Figure 48: Vacancy Rates

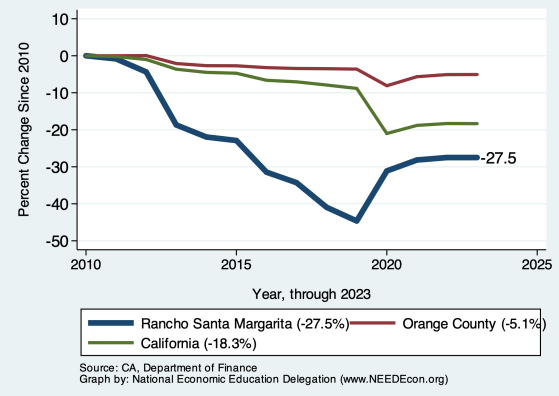
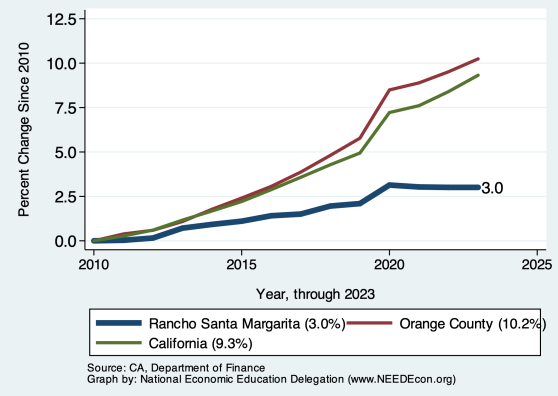


Figure 49: Number of Occupanied Units



Trends in the Growth of Housing by Housing Type

Figure 50: Single Detached Homes

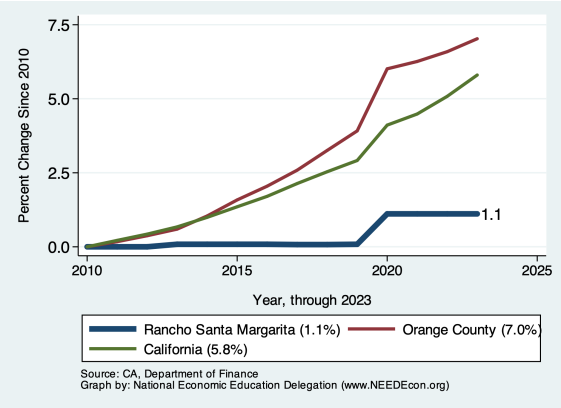


Figure 51: Single Attached Homes

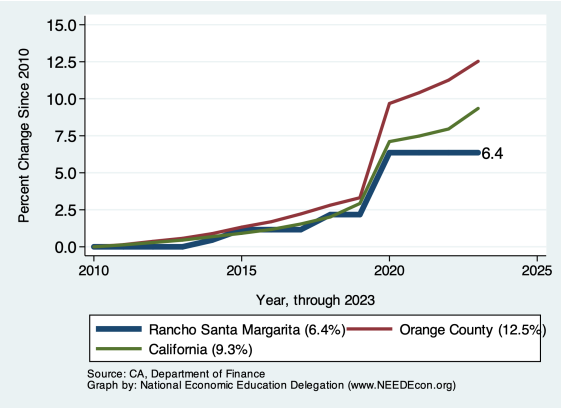


Figure 52: Housing in Buildings with Two to Four Units

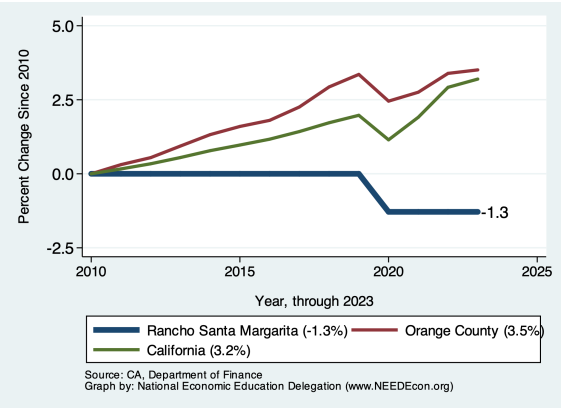
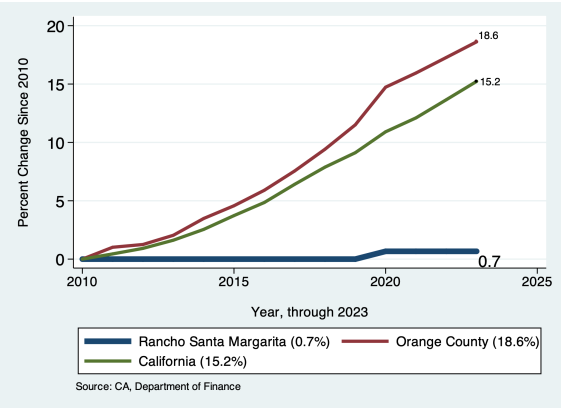


Figure 53: Housing in Buildings with Five or More Units



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Vintage of Residential Housing

Why is it important?

This section provides evidence on the year in which residential housing in Rancho Santa Margarita 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 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

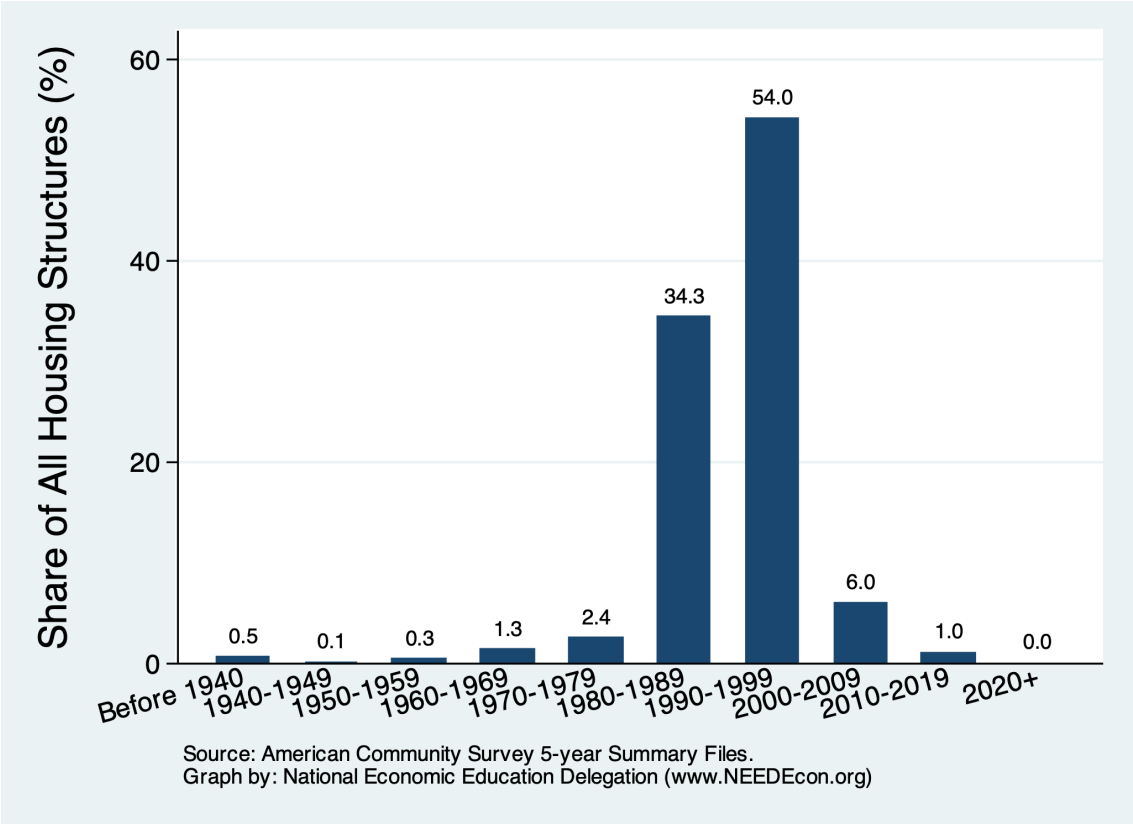


Figure 55: Housing Vintage across Regions

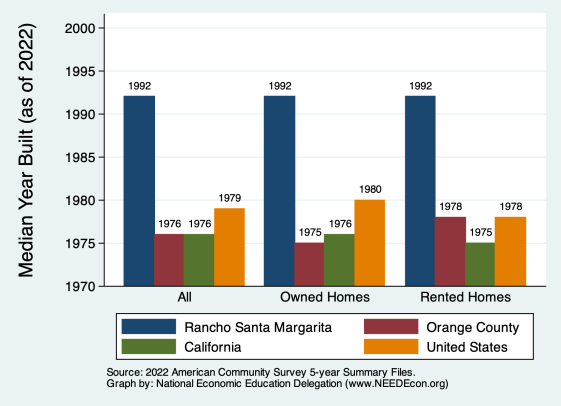


Figure 56: Housing Vintage by Tenure

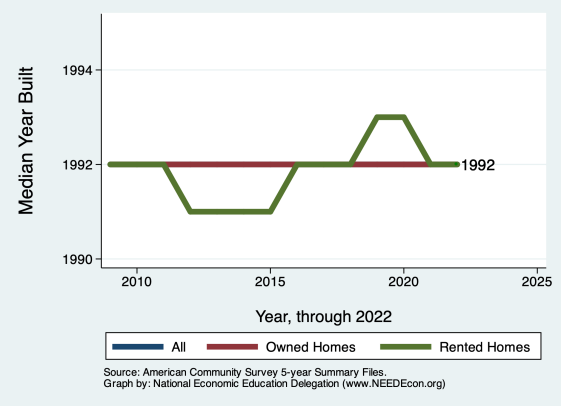


Figure 57: Vintage of Owned Residences

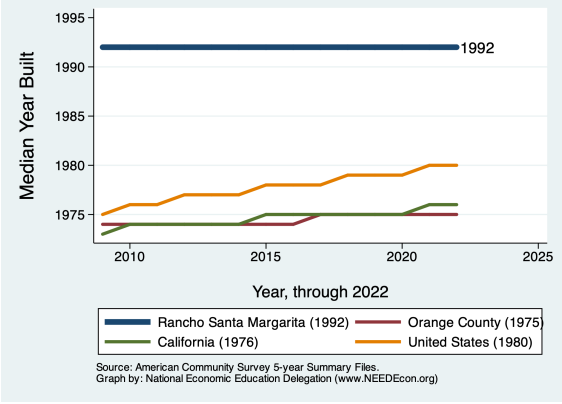


Figure 58: Vintage of Rented Residences

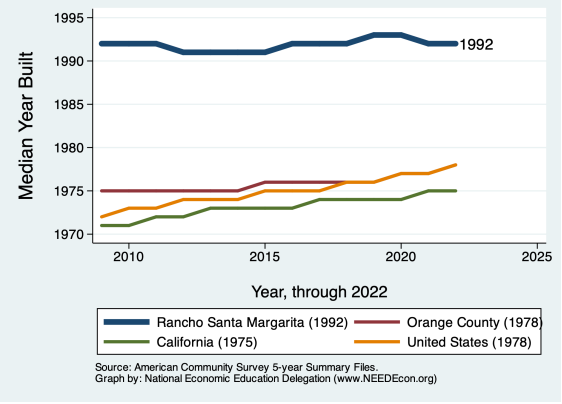
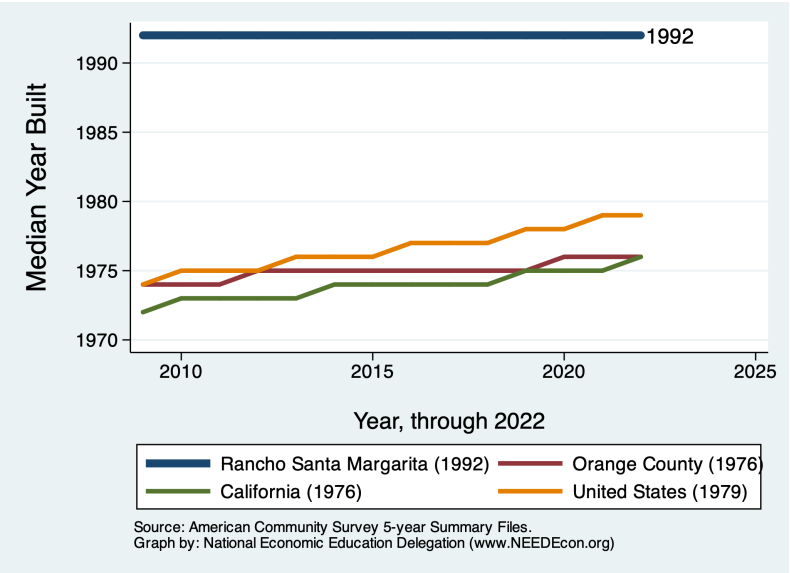


Figure 59: Vintage of All Residences



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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

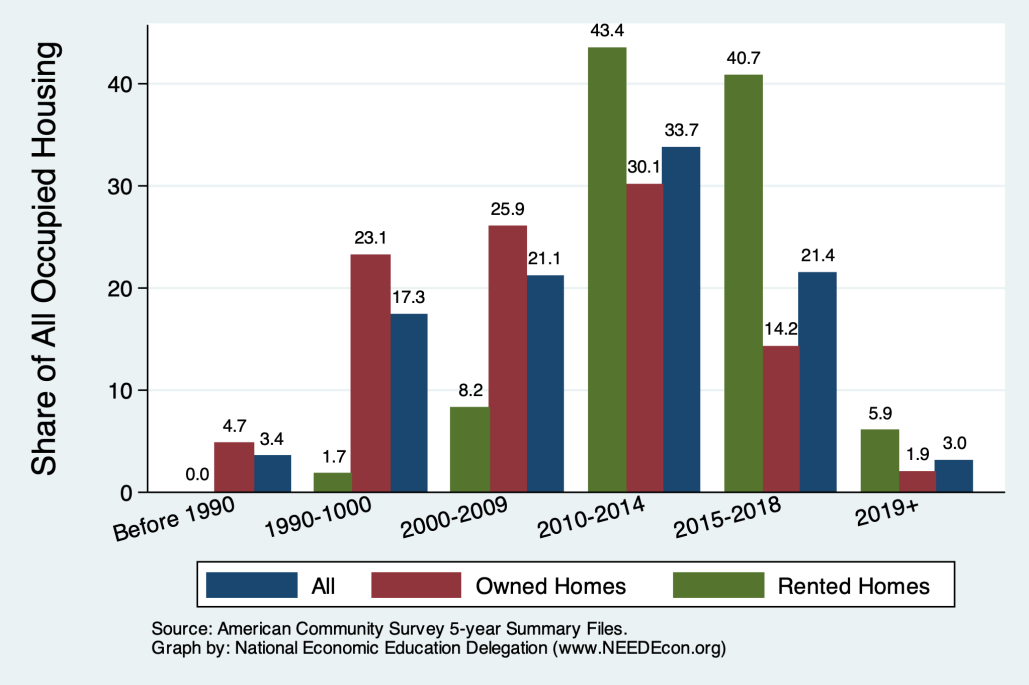

Figure 61: Year Occupied by Current Residents across Regions

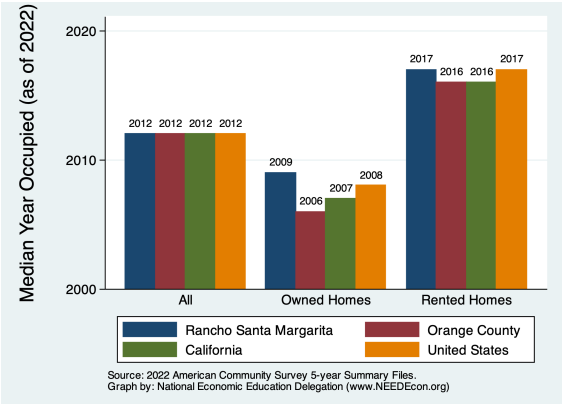

Figure 62: Year Occupied by Current Residents by Tenure

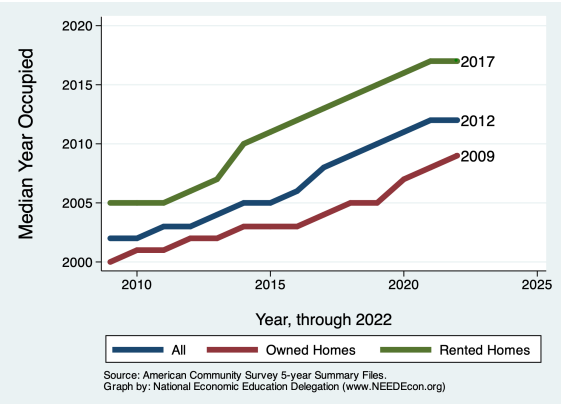

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Figure 63: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Owned Housing

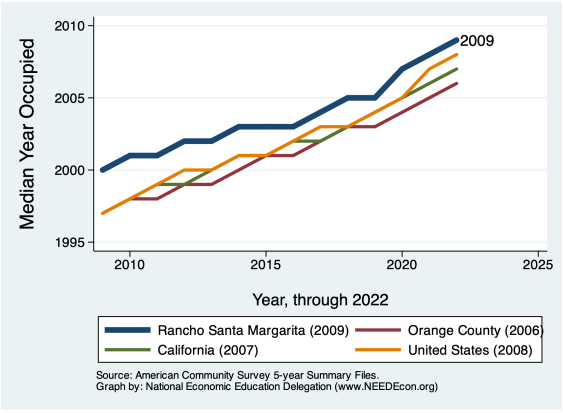


Figure 64: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Rented Housing

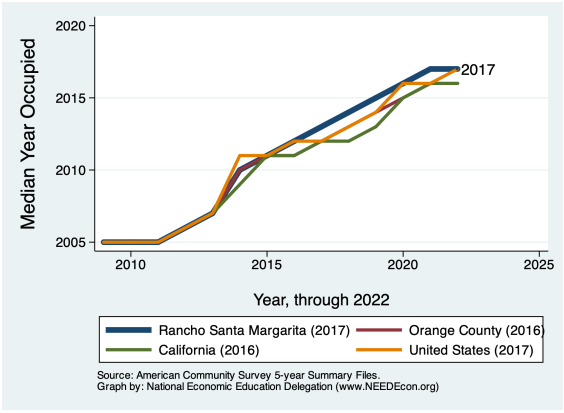
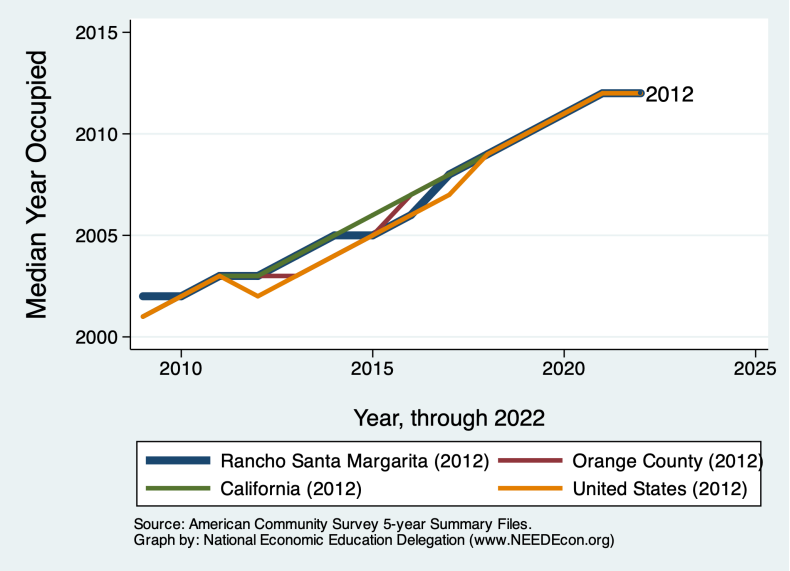


Figure 65: Year Occupied by Current Residents for All Housing



Residential Permitting

Definition:

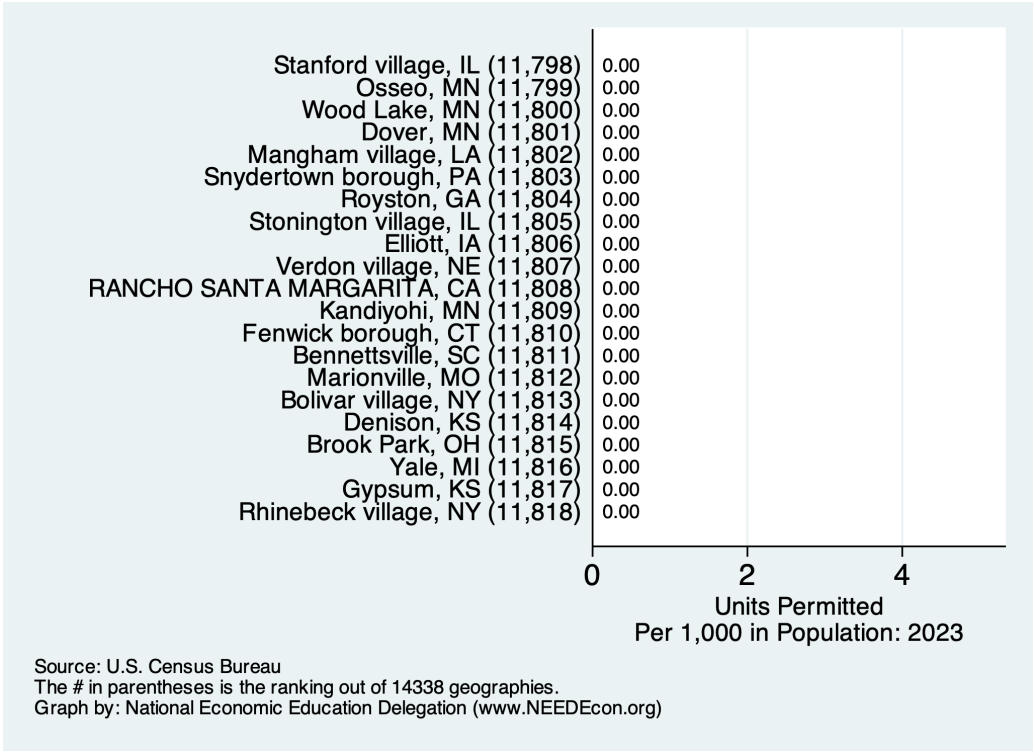
This indicator provides evidence on the number of residential buildings that are permitted for construction each year. Permit data for Rancho Santa Margarita is compared with data from Orange County as a whole and broader regions. The statistic provided scales the number of permits by population. This 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.

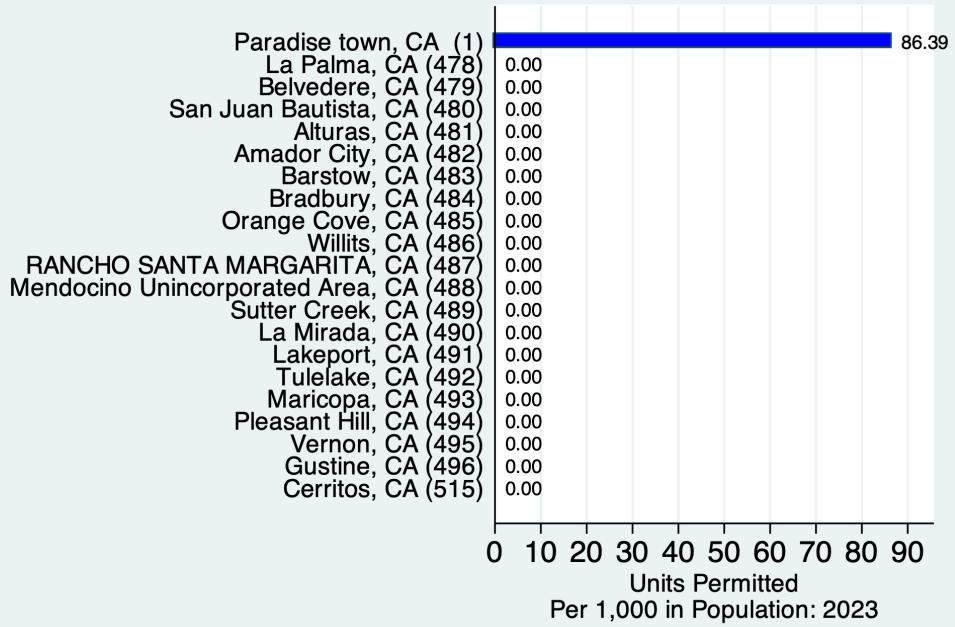
Rancho Santa Margarita - Ranking Among Comparables

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



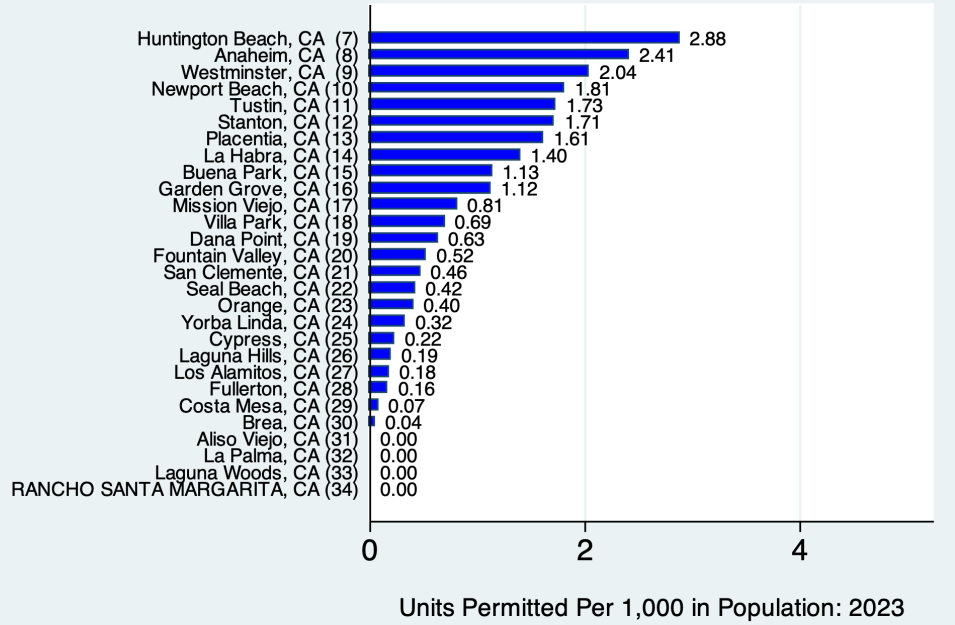
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 14338 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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 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)

Rancho Santa Margarita - Permitting Activity

Annual Units Permitted - Per Capita in Rancho Santa Margarita

Figure 69: Units Permitted Each Year

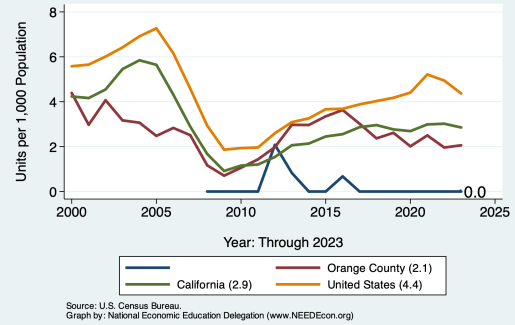
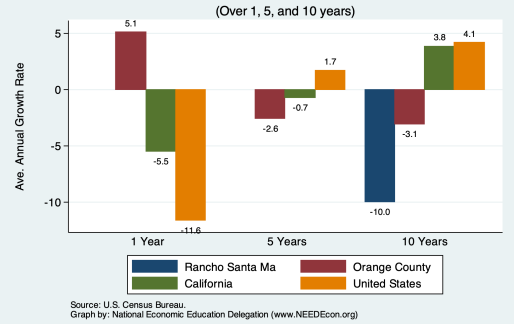


Figure 70: Average Annual Growth in Units Permitted



Annual Number of Buildings Permitted - Per Capita in Rancho Santa Margarita

Figure 71: Units Permitted Each Year

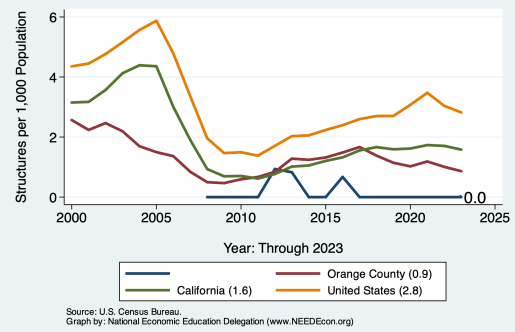
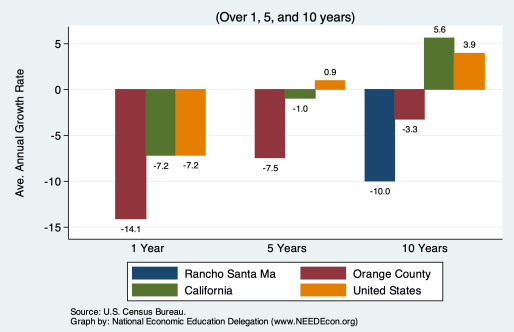


Figure 72: Average Annual Growth in Buildings Permitted



Annual Value of Property Permitted - Per Capita in Rancho Santa Margarita

Figure 73: Value Permitted Each Year

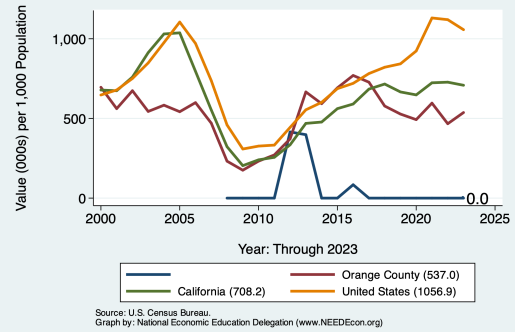
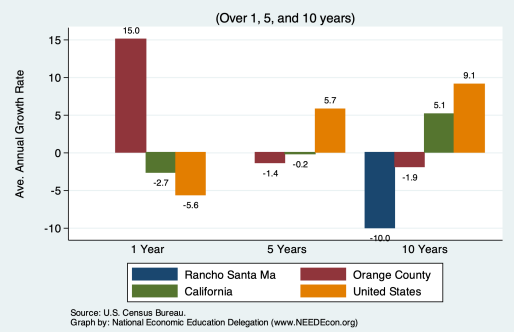


Figure 74: Average Annual Growth in Value Permitted



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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

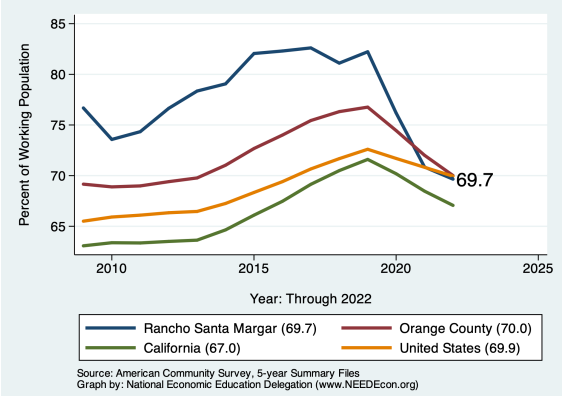


Figure 76: Percent of Workers Commuting by Carpool

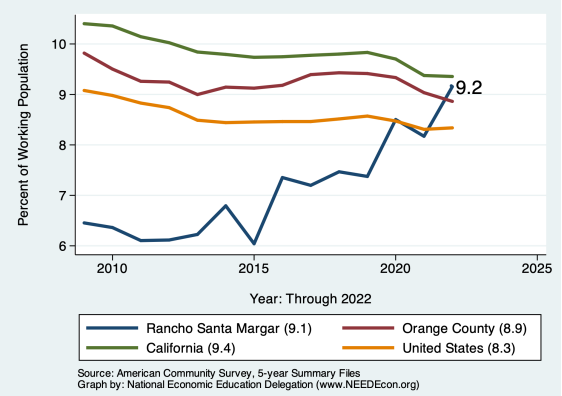


Figure 77: Percent of Workers using Public Transportation

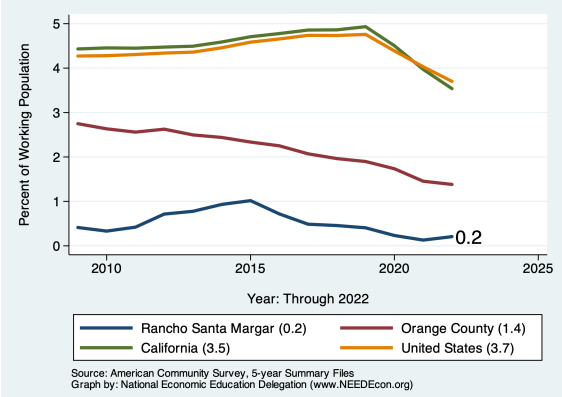
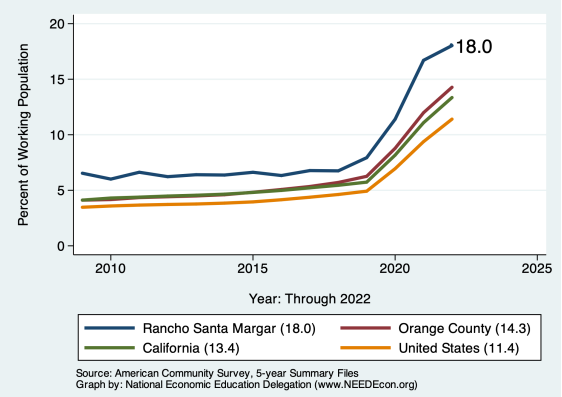


Figure 78: Percent of Workers Who Work From Home



The first table on this page presents data for those who LIVE in Rancho Santa Margarita. The second provides data on those who work, but do not necessarily live in Rancho Santa Margarita. 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:	11,440	77.6	9,953	79.6	21,393	78.8	78.0
Drove Alone	10,188	69.1	8,720	69.7	18,908	69.7	68.4
Carpooled:	1,252	8.5	1,233	9.9	2,485	9.2	9.5
In 2-person carpool	799	5.4	909	7.3	1,708	6.3	6.9
In 3-person carpool	113	0.8	70	0.6	183	0.7	1.5
In 4-or-more-person carpool	340	2.3	254	2.0	594	2.2	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	49	0.3	7	0.1	56	0.2	3.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	27	0.2	0	0.0	27	0.1	2.3
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	7	0.1	7	0.0	0.8
Subway or Elevated	10	0.1	0	0.0	10	0.0	0.3
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2
Ferryboat	12	0.1	0	0.0	12	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	62	0.4	6	0.0	68	0.3	0.7
Walked	353	2.4	33	0.3	386	1.4	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	226	1.5	10	0.1	236	0.9	1.7
Worked at Home	2,398	16.3	2,496	20.0	4,894	18.0	13.6
Total:	14,528	98.6	12,505	100.0	27,033	99.6	

Source: 2022 5-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:	7,411	72.4	6,296	70.5	13,707	71.5	78.0
Drove Alone	6,366	62.2	5,564	62.3	11,930	62.2	68.5
Carpooled:	1,045	10.2	732	8.2	1,777	9.3	9.5
In 2-person carpool	804	7.9	567	6.3	1,371	7.2	6.9
In 3-person carpool	124	1.2	110	1.2	234	1.2	1.5
In 4-or-more-person carpool	117	1.1	55	0.6	172	0.9	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	0	0.0	14	0.2	14	0.1	3.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	0	0.0	14	0.2	14	0.1	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	5	0.0	17	0.2	22	0.1	0.7
Walked	285	2.8	38	0.4	323	1.7	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	142	1.4	71	0.8	213	1.1	1.7
Worked at Home	2,398	23.4	2,496	27.9	4,894	25.5	13.6
Total:	10,241	100.0	8,932	100.0	19,173	100.0	

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

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Less than 5 minutes	412	3.0	109	0.9	521	2.1	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	787	5.7	985	8.5	1,772	7.0	7.5
10 to 14 minutes	1,115	8.0	1,226	10.6	2,341	9.3	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	1,379	10.0	1,789	15.5	3,168	12.6	15.0
20 to 24 minutes	1,150	8.3	1,509	13.0	2,659	10.5	14.3
25 to 29 minutes	1,285	9.3	1,062	9.2	2,347	9.3	6.3
30 to 34 minutes	2,508	18.1	1,390	12.0	3,898	15.4	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	577	4.2	258	2.2	835	3.3	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	395	2.9	500	4.3	895	3.5	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	1,398	10.1	681	5.9	2,079	8.2	8.6
60 to 89 minutes	793	5.7	437	3.8	1,230	4.9	7.9
90 or more minutes	331	2.4	63	0.5	394	1.6	4.0
Total:	12,130	87.5	10,009	86.5	22,139	87.7	

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

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

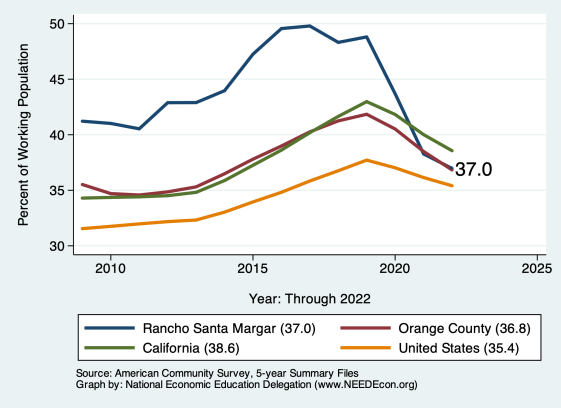


Figure 80: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

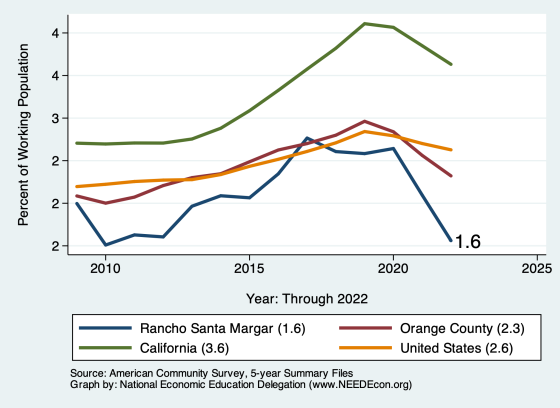
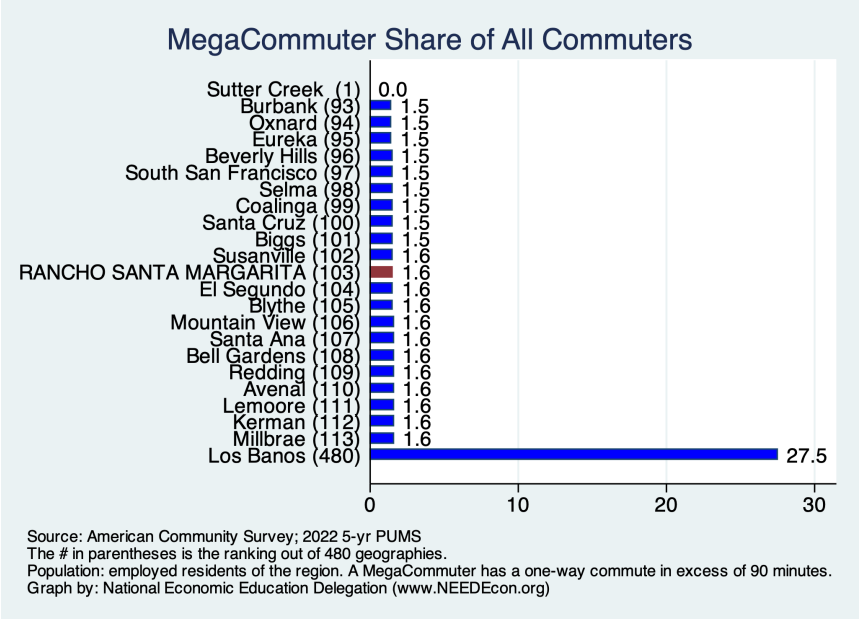


Figure 81: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Commute Times for Those Employed in the City

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

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Less than 5 minutes	308	3.8	87	1.4	395	2.7	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	872	10.8	942	14.6	1,814	12.6	7.5
10 to 14 minutes	952	11.8	1,349	21.0	2,301	16.0	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	908	11.3	922	14.3	1,830	12.7	15.0
20 to 24 minutes	851	10.6	874	13.6	1,725	12.0	14.3
25 to 29 minutes	612	7.6	480	7.5	1,092	7.6	6.3
30 to 34 minutes	1,016	12.6	686	10.7	1,702	11.8	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	181	2.2	160	2.5	341	2.4	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	439	5.4	232	3.6	671	4.7	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	762	9.5	405	6.3	1,167	8.1	8.6
60 to 89 minutes	760	9.4	192	3.0	952	6.6	7.9
90 or more minutes	182	2.3	107	1.7	289	2.0	4.0
Total:	7,843	97.3	6,436	100.0	14,279	99.2	

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.

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

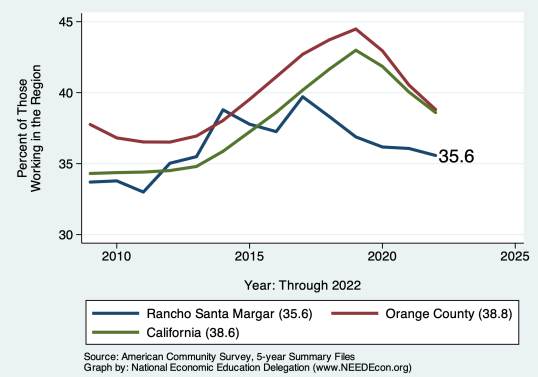


Figure 83: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

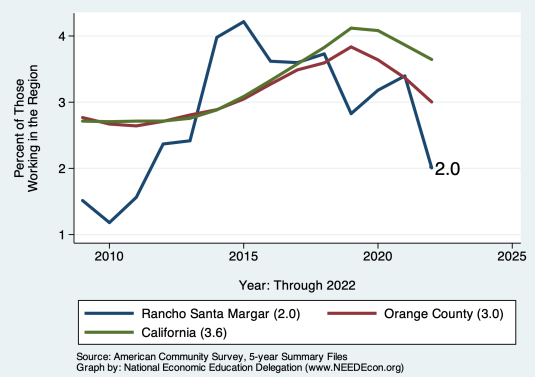
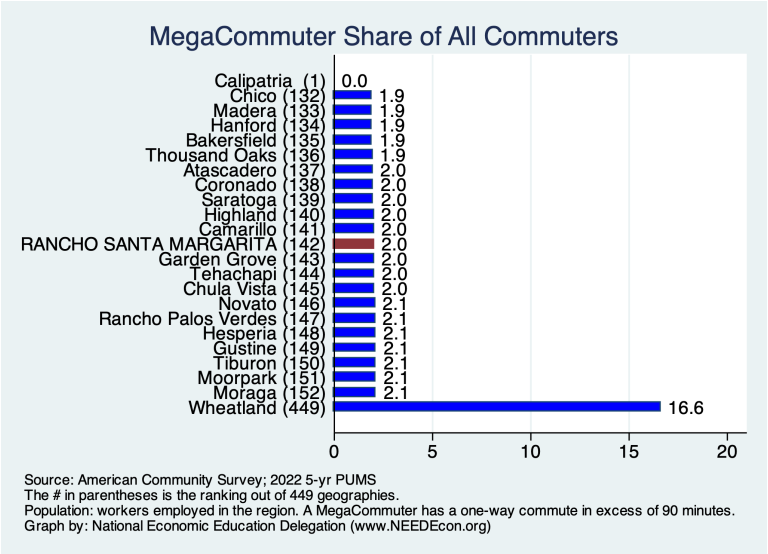


Figure 84: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Place of Work

This section provides evidence on where workers living in Rancho Santa Margarita work. As evidenced in the first table, some of Rancho Santa Margarita'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 Rancho Santa Margarita 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:	14,419	97.8	12,475	99.8	26,894	99.1	99.6
Worked in county of residence	13,570	92.1	12,067	96.5	25,637	94.4	84.1
worked outside of county of residence	849	5.8	408	3.3	1,257	4.6	15.4
Worked outside state of residence	109	0.7	30	0.2	139	0.5	0.4
Total:	14,528	98.6	12,505	100.0	27,033	99.6	

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

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

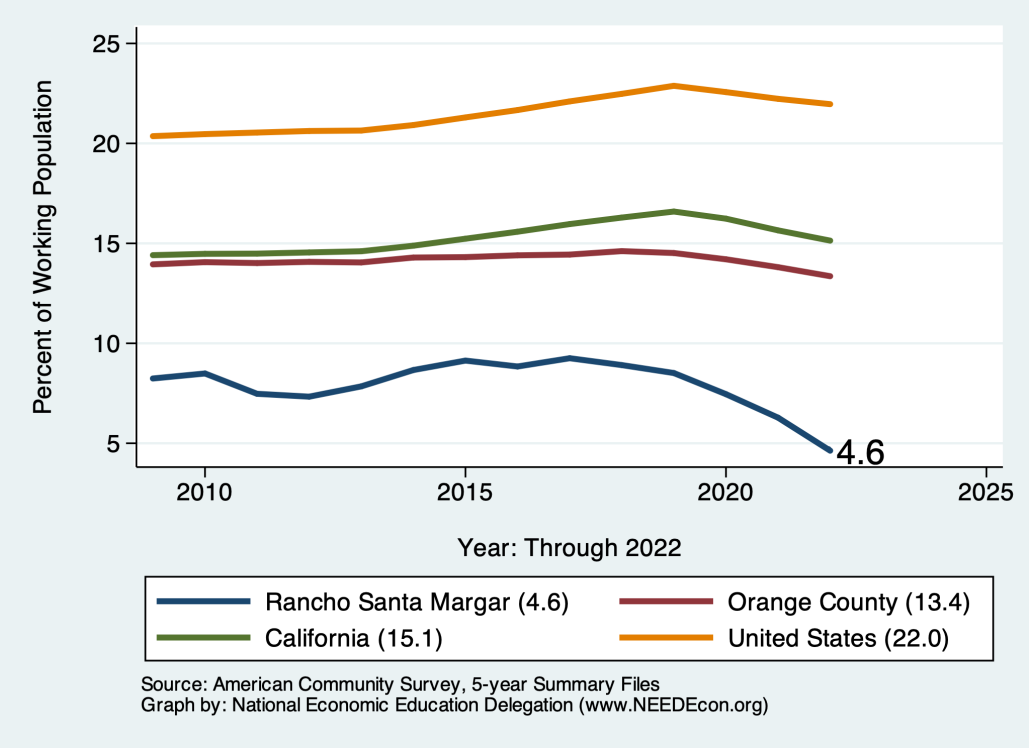
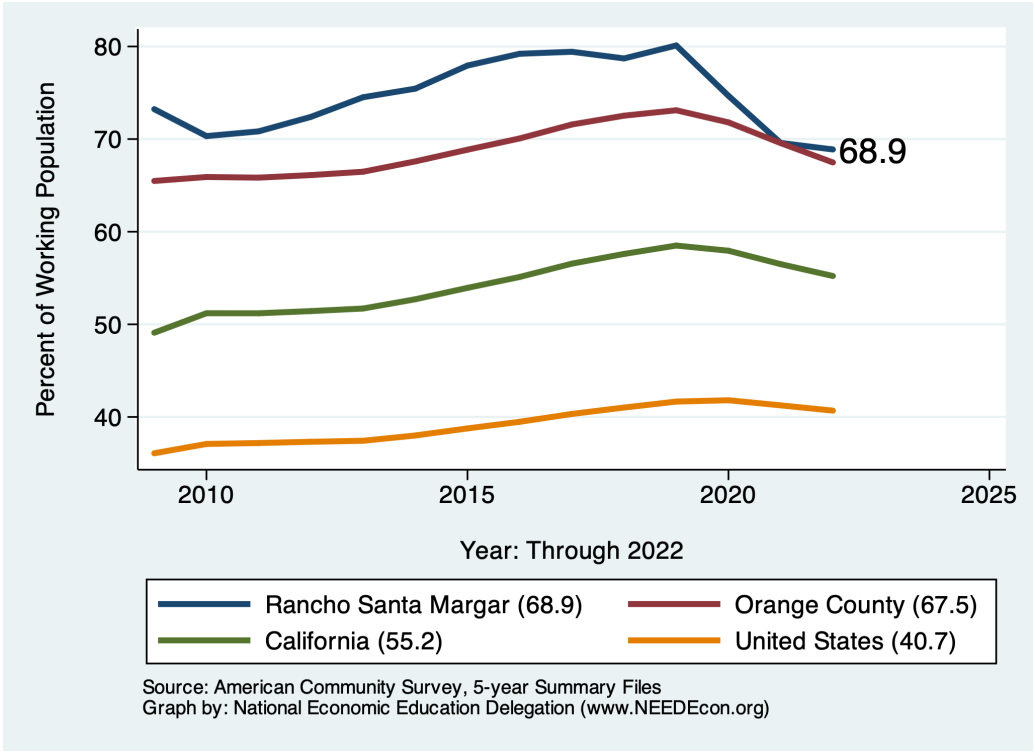


Table 11. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK–PLACE LEVEL

Place of Work	Male #	Male (%)	Female #	Female (%)	All Workers #	All Workers (%)	All of CA (%)
Living in a place:	14,528	98.6	12,505	100.0	27,033	99.6	95.9
Worked in place of residence	4,085	27.7	4,249	34.0	8,334	30.7	39.5
Worked outside place of residence	10,443	70.9	8,256	66.0	18,699	68.9	56.4
Not living in a place	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4.1
Total:	14,528	98.6	12,505	100.0	27,033	99.6	

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		United States	
	Median	*Median*	*Ratio*	*Median*	*Ratio*
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	69,277	48,566	97.0	46,171	96.5
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	61,420	36,463	114.5	34,487	114.5
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)		40,179		45,100	
Walked		29,366		27,142	
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	106,957	40,433	179.8	36,140	190.3
Worked from home	95,463	75,153	86.4	67,180	91.4
Total:	71,702	48,747	147.1	46,099	155.5

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

	< $25,000		$25,000-$74,999		$75,000+		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	3,317	45.0	5,428	63.7	8,768	66.8	18,908	69.7	68.4
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	736	10.0	639	7.5	992	7.6	2,485	9.2	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	19	0.3	0	0.0	37	0.3	56	0.2	3.6
Walked	195	2.6	76	0.9	38	0.3	386	1.4	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	51	0.7	10	0.1	243	1.9	304	1.1	2.4
Worked at Home	553	7.5	1,066	12.5	3,046	23.2	4,894	18.0	13.6
Total:	4,871	66.0	7,219	84.7	13,124		27,033	99.6	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	2,498	39.2	4,529	73.0	3,518	50.0	11,905	62.2	68.5
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	824	12.9	403	6.5	354	5.0	1,777	9.3	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	14	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	0.1	3.6
Walked	169	2.7	95	1.5	38	0.5	323	1.7	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	23	0.4	60	1.0	78	1.1	235	1.2	2.4
Worked at Home	553	8.7	1,066	17.2	3,046	43.3	4,894	25.6	13.6
Total:	4,081	64.0	6,153	99.2	7,034		19,148		

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	373	50.3	329	28.8	18,206	70.4	18,908	69.7	68.7
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	213	28.7	36	3.1	2,236	8.6	2,485	9.2	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	0	0.0	0	0.0	56	0.2	56	0.2	3.6
Walked	7	0.9	58	5.1	321	1.2	386	1.4	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	0	0.0	304	1.2	304	1.1	2.4
Worked at Home	52	7.0	140	12.2	4,702	18.2	4,894	18.0	13.6
Total:	645	87.0	563	49.3	25,825	99.8	27,033	99.6	

Source: 2022 5-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	408	55.7	624	64.9	10,898	61.5	11,930	62.2	68.7
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	176	24.0	4	0.4	1,597	9.0	1,777	9.3	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	0	0.0	0	0.0	14	0.1	14	0.1	3.6
Walked	5	0.7	58	6.0	260	1.5	323	1.7	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	0	0.0	235	1.3	235	1.2	2.4
Worked at Home	52	7.1	140	14.6	4,702	26.6	4,894	25.5	13.6
Total:	641	87.6	826	86.0	17,706		19,173		

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 Rancho Santa Margarita 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

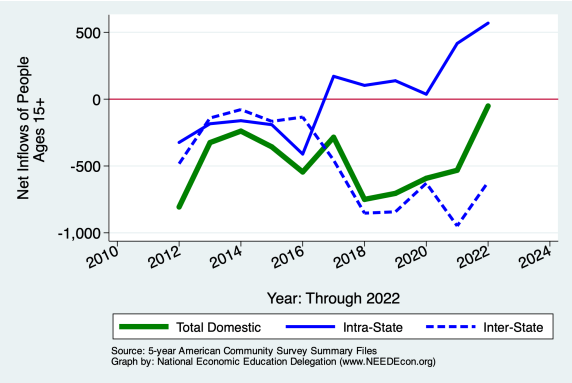


Table 17: Migration by Income

		Net Inflows				
			Same State			
Category	Population	All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
No income	5,114	291	247	−49	51	42
With income	33,766	−207	535	−164	−671	93
$1 to $9,999 or loss	3,786	−68	172	−59	−202	21
$10,000 to $14,999	1,847	−151	−46	−56	−49	0
$15,000 to $24,999	2,577	−75	0	−35	−73	33
$25,000 to $34,999	2,307	−80	−11	−37	−32	0
$35,000 to $49,999	3,659	130	223	8	−114	13
$50,000 to $64,999	3,027	14	73	−13	−46	0
$65,000 to $74,999	1,664	100	143	−33	−10	0
$75,000 or more	14,899	−77	−19	61	−145	26
All:	38,880	84	782	−213	−620	135

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

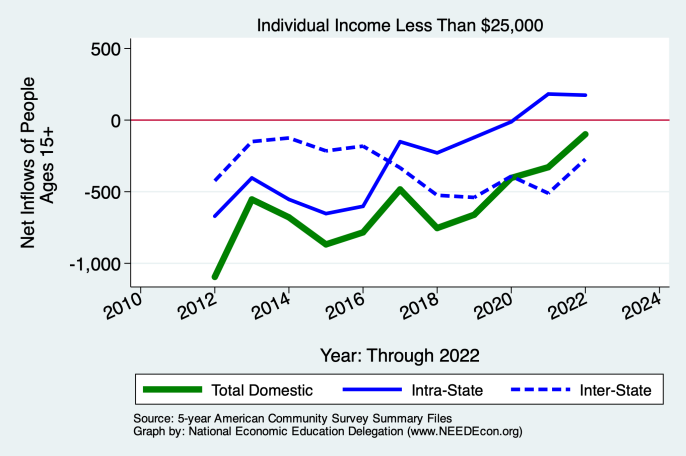


Figure 89: Overall Movements of Middle Income Residents

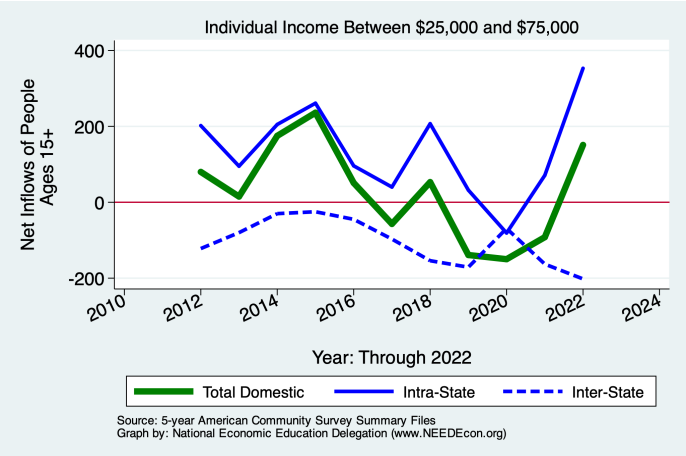
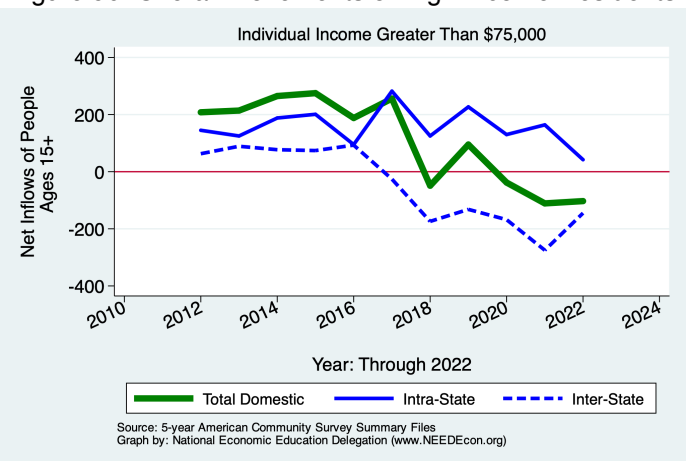


Figure 90: Overall Movements of High Income Residents



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Demographics of Migration Flows

Table 18: Migration by Marital Status

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Never married	10,972	−485	−50	−36	−411	12
Now married, except separated	23,193	690	862	−143	−130	101
Divorced	3,256	−59	−7	−41	−11	0
Separated	290	−25	−16	−9	0	0
Widowed	1,169	−37	−7	16	−68	22
Total:	38,880	84	782	−213	−620	135

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

Table 19: Migration by Tenure

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Householder lived in owner-occupied housing units	35,402	−9	542	−49	−567	65
Householder lived in renter-occupied housing units	11,844	314	431	−95	−117	95
Total:	47,246	305	973	−144	−684	160

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

Figure 91: Domestic Movements of Residents by Tenure

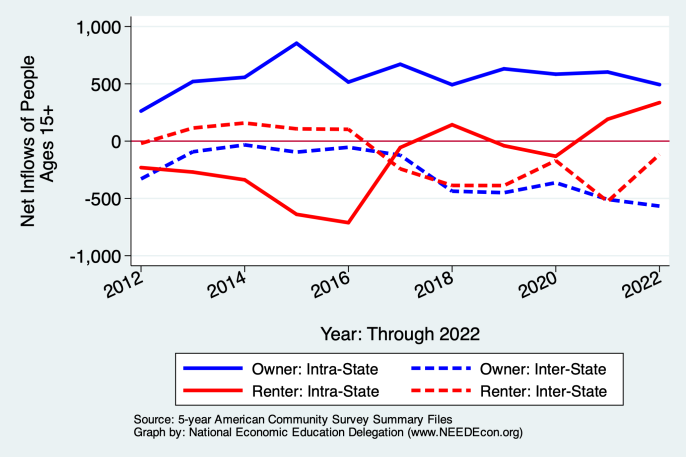

Table 20: Migration by Age

		Net Inflows				
			Same State			
Category	Population	All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
1 to 4 years	2,247	19	83	−8	−69	13
5 to 17 years	8,232	129	227	−20	−90	12
18 and 19 years	1,400	−142	15	−83	−74	0
20 to 24 years	2,366	8	93	−38	−47	0
25 to 29 years	2,575	−72	−10	−3	−74	15
30 to 34 years	2,648	72	160	−11	−89	12
35 to 39 years	3,817	134	73	45	16	0
40 to 44 years	3,604	25	88	11	−98	24
45 to 49 years	3,431	208	221	−19	6	0
50 to 54 years	4,339	−68	4	−35	−61	24
55 to 59 years	4,114	−245	−159	−61	−25	0
60 to 64 years	3,499	61	108	−23	−46	22
65 to 69 years	1,963	53	106	0	−63	10
70 to 74 years	1,092	−103	−44	3	−80	18
75 years and over	1,922	8	−16	−1	15	10
Total Population:	47,249	87	949	−243	−779	160

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

Table 21: Migration by Educational Attainment

		Net Inflows				
			Same State			
Category	Population	All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Less than high school graduate	1,750	12	16	8	−34	22
High school graduate (includes equiv)	4,561	331	246	−30	105	10
Some college or assoc. degree	10,209	90	246	19	−193	18
Bachelor's degree	11,063	−57	158	−55	−245	85
Graduate or professional degree	5,421	−303	−135	−36	−132	0
Total:	33,004	73	531	−94	−499	135

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	63,945	63,945
Moved Within Same County	58,947	72,639
Moved to Different County, Same State	71,667	29,487
Total Population:	63,351	62,620

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	41.1	41.1
Moved Within Same County	34.5	35.8
Moved to Different County, Same State	35.4	34.6
Moved Between States	39.1	32.3
Moved from Abroad	54.2	
Total Population:	40.3	40.5

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 relased in January.

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

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