

## Riverside County, California General Information



Riverside County  
Reference: Wikipedia.com

Riverside County is located in the southeastern part of California. It spans from Orange County on the west, to the Colorado River on the eastern border with Arizona. It is located approximately 120 miles east of Los Angeles, 100 miles north of San Diego, and 270 miles west of Phoenix. It borders San Bernardino County to the north, Orange County to the West, San Diego County and Imperial County to the south. It was originally created from parts of San Bernardino and San Diego counties. The City of Riverside is the county seat, and the largest city in Riverside County.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Riverside County has a total area of 7,303 square miles, of which 7,207 square miles is land, and 96 square miles (or just 1.31%) is water. The majority of the water is found in the Salton Sea, located at the south end of the county, which was created when the Colorado River flooded in 1918. (The lake's shores fall within multiple counties.)

There are four general geographic areas within the county:

- The “Inland Empire” is an area that includes cities from both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties; it is an urban area on the west side of the county that contains the highest concentration of commercial and industrial activity, and has the highest population density.
- The mountain region has Mt. San Jacinto and parts of the San Bernardino National Forest, and is host to numerous small communities that cater to tourists and second-home owners. One of the best known is the village of Idyllwild, on the borders of Mt. San Jacinto State Park.
- The Salton Sea a rural area with agriculture as its economic base. The area also hosts a National Guard facility. The primary city in the area is Salton City, but a large part of the city (and the Sea) are in Imperial County.
- The desert region has both developed and undeveloped regions. The Coachella Valley is in the western part of Riverside County; it is best known as a destination resort area, with the cities of Palm Springs at the north, and La Quinta in the southeast. The valley offers more than 135 golf courses and has a tourist-oriented economy. In the central and high-desert areas are numerous small communities and Parts of Joshua Tree National Park. (Most of the park is in San Bernardino County) The eastern part has a few small communities but is mostly undeveloped, wide-open desert; this is a very inhospitable area - with summer temperatures exceeding 120 degrees.

## Riverside County City Data

Riverside County Cities	Year Incorporated	Population, 2007	Median Income, As Of 2006
Banning	1913	28,272	\$41,268
Beaumont	1912	28,250	\$39,553
Blythe	1916	22,178	\$45,302
Calimesa	1990	7,415	\$47,406
Canyon Lake	1990	10,939	\$70,106
Cathedral City	1981	51,081	\$50,654
Corona	1896	144,661	\$72,162
Coachella	1946	35,207	\$33,402
Desert Hot Springs	1963	22,011	\$33,263
Hemet	1910	69,544	\$31,749
Indian Wells	1967	4,865	\$120,074
Indio	1930	71,654	\$45,143
Lake Elsinore	1888	40,985	\$54,595
La Quinta	1982	38,340	\$71,127
Menifee	2008	60,000	--
Moreno Valley	1984	174,565	\$52,426
Murrieta	1991	92,933	\$75,102
Norco	1964	27,262	\$62,652
Palm Desert	1973	49,539	\$61,789
Palm Springs	1938	46,437	\$46,399
Perris	1911	47,139	\$35,338
Rancho Mirage	1973	16,672	\$78,434
Riverside	1883	287,820	\$52,023
San Jacinto	1888	31,066	\$39,235
Temecula	1989	93,923	\$71,754
Wildomar	2008	14,064	\$49,081

## Population

Until the economic upheaval of 2008-2009, Riverside County was one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, adding approximately 145 new residents a day. The Riverside County Center for Demographic Research projected the population to be 2.5 million by 2015, 2.8 million by 2020 and 3.3 million by 2030.