



Economic Overview

Palm Desert city, CA



Demographic Profile..... 3
Employment Trends 5
Wage Trends..... 6
Cost of Living Index..... 7
Industry Snapshot..... 8
Occupation Snapshot 10
Industry Clusters..... 12
Education Levels..... 13
Palm Desert city, CA Regional Map 14
FAQ 15

Demographic Profile

The population in the Palm Desert city, CA was 51,551 per American Community Survey data for 2019-2023.

The region has a civilian labor force of 22,322 with a participation rate of 49.3%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Palm Desert city, CA, 36.3% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in the Palm Desert city, CA is \$79,508 and the median house value is \$491,600.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Palm Desert city, CA	California	USA	Palm Desert city, CA	California	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	51,551	39,242,785	332,387,540
Male	47.3%	50.0%	49.5%	24,406	19,605,882	164,545,087
Female	52.7%	50.0%	50.5%	27,145	19,636,903	167,842,453
Median Age ²	—	—	—	56.7	37.6	38.7
Under 18 Years	13.3%	22.2%	22.2%	6,864	8,729,012	73,645,238
18 to 24 Years	6.1%	9.1%	9.1%	3,149	3,572,575	30,307,641
25 to 34 Years	9.9%	14.9%	13.7%	5,121	5,834,867	45,497,632
35 to 44 Years	9.8%	13.8%	13.1%	5,027	5,398,975	43,492,887
45 to 54 Years	9.1%	12.6%	12.3%	4,668	4,939,309	40,847,713
55 to 64 Years	14.5%	12.2%	12.8%	7,488	4,773,561	42,626,382
65 to 74 Years	17.0%	9.0%	10.0%	8,772	3,534,613	33,293,127
75 Years and Over	20.3%	6.3%	6.8%	10,462	2,459,873	22,676,920
Race: White	68.3%	44.0%	63.4%	35,197	17,248,779	210,875,446
Race: Black or African American	2.2%	5.5%	12.4%	1,132	2,173,343	41,070,890
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.8%	1.1%	0.9%	433	445,219	2,924,996
Race: Asian	4.1%	15.3%	5.8%	2,135	5,997,069	19,352,659
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.4%	0.2%	110	147,827	629,292
Race: Some Other Race	7.3%	17.4%	6.6%	3,751	6,820,303	21,940,536
Race: Two or More Races	17.1%	16.3%	10.7%	8,793	6,410,245	35,593,721
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	26.0%	39.8%	19.0%	13,429	15,630,830	63,131,589
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	49.3%	63.7%	63.3%	22,322	19,982,482	168,567,852
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	83.1%	82.2%	83.0%	12,304	13,219,947	107,055,165
Work from Home	14.1%	15.5%	13.5%	2,884	2,832,962	21,267,373
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.5%	0.5%	4	161,596	1,287,774
Veterans, Age 18-64	2.8%	2.7%	4.2%	707	663,587	8,410,268
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	67.6%	76.5%	77.0%	478	507,749	6,478,181
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$79,508	\$96,334	\$78,538
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$57,793	\$47,977	\$43,289
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	22.4	29.0	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.7%	3.2%	3.5%	140	593,434	5,528,841
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	9.8%	14.6%	10.0%	2,196	3,062,649	17,176,172
High School Graduate	16.9%	20.5%	25.0%	3,777	4,289,900	43,057,491
Some College, No Degree	26.2%	19.7%	19.3%	5,849	4,120,561	33,315,654
Associate's Degree	10.7%	7.8%	9.2%	2,395	1,632,614	15,894,085
Bachelor's Degree	23.7%	23.5%	22.8%	5,275	4,912,919	39,256,774
Postgraduate Degree	12.6%	14.0%	13.8%	2,812	2,928,069	23,764,438
Housing						

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Palm Desert city, CA	California	USA	Palm Desert city, CA	California	USA
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	36,584	14,532,683	142,332,876
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$491,600	\$695,400	\$303,400
Homeowner Vacancy	2.6%	0.9%	1.0%	420	65,471	850,724
Rental Vacancy	8.2%	4.1%	5.5%	801	256,828	2,605,688
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	35.6%	44.2%	35.0%	8,599	5,940,036	44,590,828
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	64.4%	55.8%	65.0%	15,546	7,494,811	82,892,037
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.0%	7.0%	8.3%	968	939,021	10,602,826
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	11.3%	12.0%	12.4%	5,785	4,610,600	40,390,045
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	9.5%	11.4%	11.8%	2,282	1,526,052	15,004,950
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	0.5%	1.5%	1.3%	281	586,281	4,405,676
Disconnected Youth ³	0.0%	1.7%	2.4%	0	35,015	420,352
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	42.0%	33.3%	34.0%	2,772	2,771,257	23,701,745
Uninsured	5.9%	6.9%	8.6%	3,011	2,682,732	28,000,876
With a Disability, Age 18-64	11.3%	8.6%	10.7%	2,857	2,071,682	21,269,700
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	46.8%	47.0%	47.0%	1,337	972,817	10,001,264
Foreign Born	17.4%	26.7%	13.9%	8,995	10,479,526	46,108,901
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	7.1%	17.3%	8.4%	3,553	6,400,397	26,299,012

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2019-2023, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

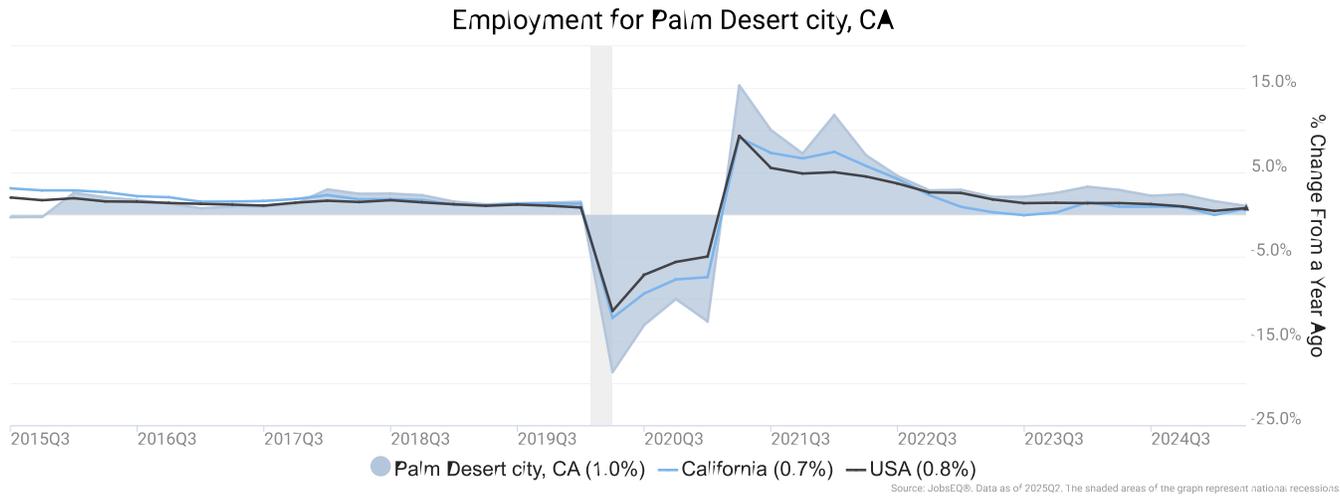
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2024, annual average growth rate since 2014.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

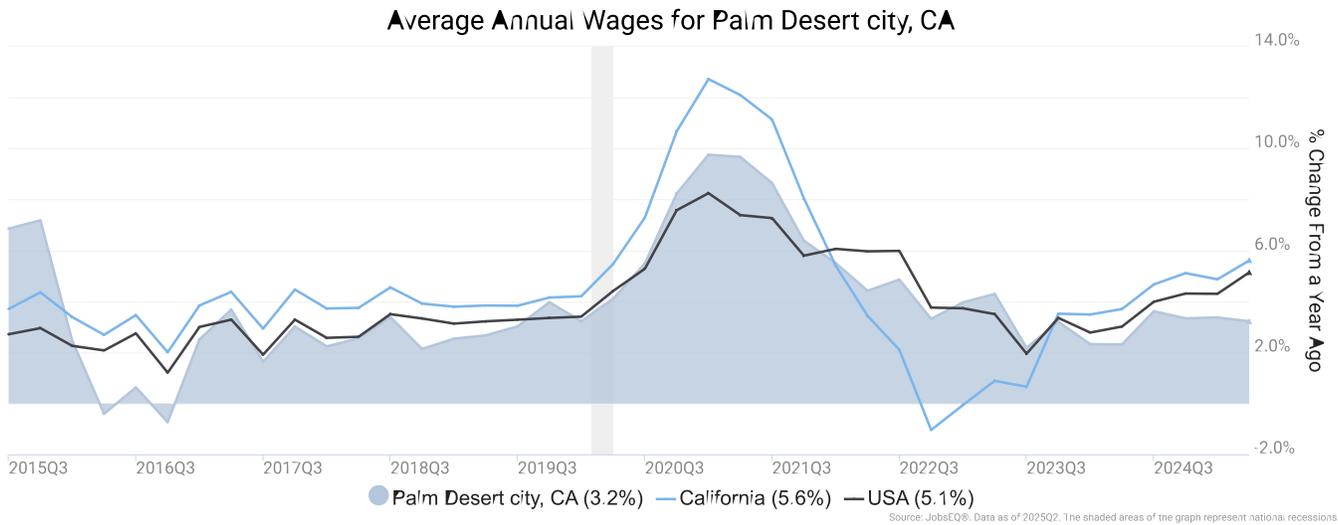
As of 2025Q2, total employment for the Palm Desert city, CA was 34,961 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2025Q2, employment increased 1.0% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q2.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the Palm Desert city, CA earned annual wages of \$56,521 as of 2025Q2. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.2% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$75,686 in the nation as of 2025Q2.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q2.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 37.0% higher in Palm Desert city, CA than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Palm Desert city, CA	\$56,521	137.0	\$41,246
California	\$92,433	141.8	\$65,202
USA	\$75,686	100.0	\$75,686

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

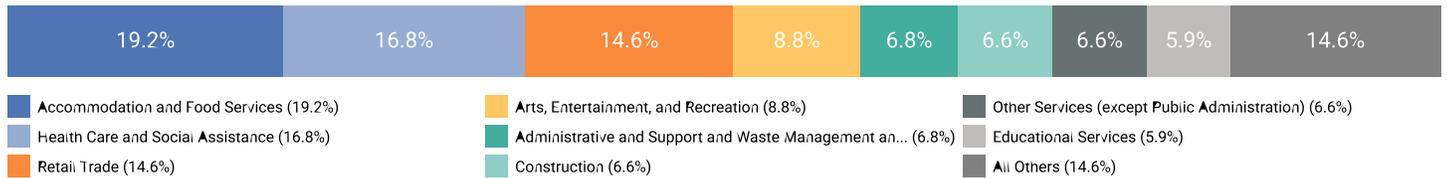
Data as of 2025Q2

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2025Q2, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Palm Desert city, CA is Accommodation and Food Services, employing 6,723 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (5,889 workers) and Retail Trade (5,105). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (LQ = 4.17), Accommodation and Food Services (2.22), and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (1.82).

Total Workers for Palm Desert city, CA by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®
 Data as of 2025Q2
 Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q2.

Sectors in the Palm Desert city, CA with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$151,041), Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$105,563), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$102,250). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+1,256 jobs), Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (+857), and Accommodation and Food Services (+458).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Palm Desert city, CA is projected to expand by 446 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +2.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+132 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+78), and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (+45).

Palm Desert city, CA, 2025Q2¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
72	Accommodation and Food Services	6,723	\$33,062	2.22	458	1.4%	1,243	518	648	78	1.2%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	5,889	\$53,792	1.10	1,256	4.9%	702	274	296	132	2.2%
44	Retail Trade	5,105	\$44,761	1.52	-146	-0.6%	724	313	374	36	0.7%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,085	\$40,604	4.17	857	6.7%	487	188	254	45	1.5%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	2,391	\$45,909	1.14	-50	-0.4%	295	116	153	27	1.1%
23	Construction	2,298	\$70,558	1.10	322	3.1%	219	76	114	29	1.2%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	2,292	\$44,095	1.54	183	1.7%	286	114	144	29	1.2%
61	Educational Services	2,058	\$68,368	0.73	141	1.4%	204	94	100	10	0.5%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	1,604	\$75,479	0.63	73	0.9%	147	51	76	20	1.3%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,114	\$62,925	1.82	94	1.8%	119	51	56	13	1.1%
52	Finance and Insurance	561	\$88,818	0.41	-182	-5.5%	52	19	26	6	1.1%
42	Wholesale Trade	540	\$81,574	0.42	112	4.8%	59	22	31	6	1.1%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	448	\$58,214	0.25	106	5.5%	52	21	26	5	1.1%
31	Manufacturing	324	\$67,638	0.12	11	0.7%	35	13	20	3	0.8%
92	Public Administration	230	\$89,968	0.14	32	3.1%	23	9	12	2	1.0%
51	Information	153	\$71,089	0.23	-15	-1.9%	14	5	8	1	1.0%
22	Utilities	66	\$151,041	0.36	22	8.4%	5	2	3	-1	-1.0%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	51	\$105,563	0.09	3	1.3%	5	2	2	1	1.2%
99	Unclassified	12	\$58,454	0.21	12	n/a	1	1	1	0	1.1%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	10	\$67,413	0.02	-2	-3.0%	1	1	1	0	0.8%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	7	\$102,250	0.05	0	0.7%	1	0	0	0	1.4%
Total - All Industries		34,961	\$56,521	1.00	3,288	2.0%	4,186	1,651	2,089	446	1.3%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2025Q2

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average.

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2025Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Palm Desert city, CA is Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations, employing 5,781 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (3,911 workers) and Healthcare Support Occupations (3,647). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Personal Care and Service Occupations (LQ = 2.19), Healthcare Support Occupations (2.16), and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (2.01).

Occupation groups in the Palm Desert city, CA with the highest average wages per worker are Legal Occupations (\$175,300), Management Occupations (\$136,500), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$126,800). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.9% among Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations to 9.7% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Palm Desert city, CA is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.5% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Support Occupations (+91 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+68). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1,088 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (542).

Palm Desert city, CA, 2025Q2¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	5,781	\$42,800	2.01	169	8.1%	n/a	761	2.9%	1,156	484	604	68	1.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	3,911	\$53,200	1.29	143	6.4%	n/a	-197	-1.0%	565	255	287	23	0.6%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	3,647	\$40,000	2.16	72	4.5%	n/a	992	6.6%	614	266	257	91	2.5%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	2,942	\$54,800	0.74	122	4.6%	n/a	-163	-1.1%	358	161	180	16	0.5%
11-0000	Management	2,252	\$136,500	0.82	52	2.6%	n/a	383	3.8%	218	67	118	33	1.5%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	2,083	\$51,400	0.70	74	7.8%	n/a	246	2.5%	313	122	161	29	1.4%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	1,978	\$43,900	2.19	111	8.3%	n/a	401	4.6%	386	146	212	28	1.4%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	1,684	\$46,500	1.47	45	7.0%	n/a	-327	-3.5%	254	113	123	18	1.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	1,509	\$82,600	0.79	37	3.8%	n/a	145	2.0%	155	73	72	10	0.7%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	1,502	\$74,900	0.95	27	6.6%	n/a	160	2.3%	141	49	73	20	1.3%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	1,486	\$91,900	0.65	62	3.8%	n/a	158	2.3%	142	47	74	20	1.4%
33-0000	Protective Service	1,217	\$70,200	1.58	41	6.0%	n/a	319	6.3%	186	73	99	14	1.2%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	1,072	\$68,900	0.80	19	4.1%	n/a	104	2.1%	114	44	56	14	1.3%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	1,001	\$126,800	0.48	28	1.9%	n/a	94	2.0%	77	32	28	17	1.7%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	775	\$77,300	1.26	58	6.1%	n/a	96	2.7%	87	35	43	9	1.2%
51-0000	Production	649	\$51,700	0.35	17	6.0%	n/a	-7	-0.2%	87	36	45	6	0.9%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	491	\$74,800	0.75	17	4.2%	n/a	68	3.0%	57	21	26	10	2.0%

Palm Desert city, CA, 2025Q2¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	407	\$115,100	0.37	26	4.0%	n/a	32	1.6%	29	9	14	6	1.5%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	230	\$108,700	0.42	11	3.1%	n/a	-6	-0.5%	19	6	9	3	1.2%
23-0000	Legal	191	\$175,300	0.65	4	2.3%	n/a	10	1.0%	13	5	7	2	1.2%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	105	\$99,000	0.33	11	4.7%	n/a	13	2.7%	11	2	6	2	1.5%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	48	\$41,600	0.24	10	9.7%	n/a	6	2.8%	8	3	4	0	1.0%
Total - All Occupations		34,961	\$68,200	1.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,288	2.0%	4,993	2,049	2,499	445	1.3%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2025Q2 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

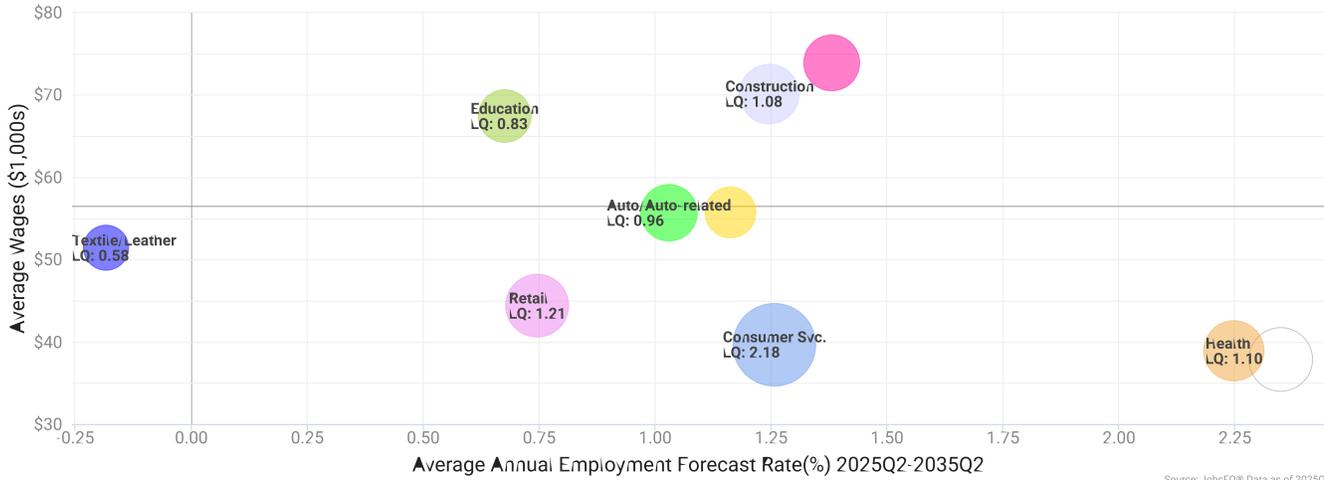
2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2025Q1, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q2. Wages by occupation are as of 2025 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Palm Desert city, CA with the highest relative concentration is Consumer Svc. with a location quotient of 2.18. This cluster employs 11,927 workers in the region with an average wage of \$39,691. Employment in the Consumer Svc. cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.3% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Palm Desert city, CA as of 2025Q2



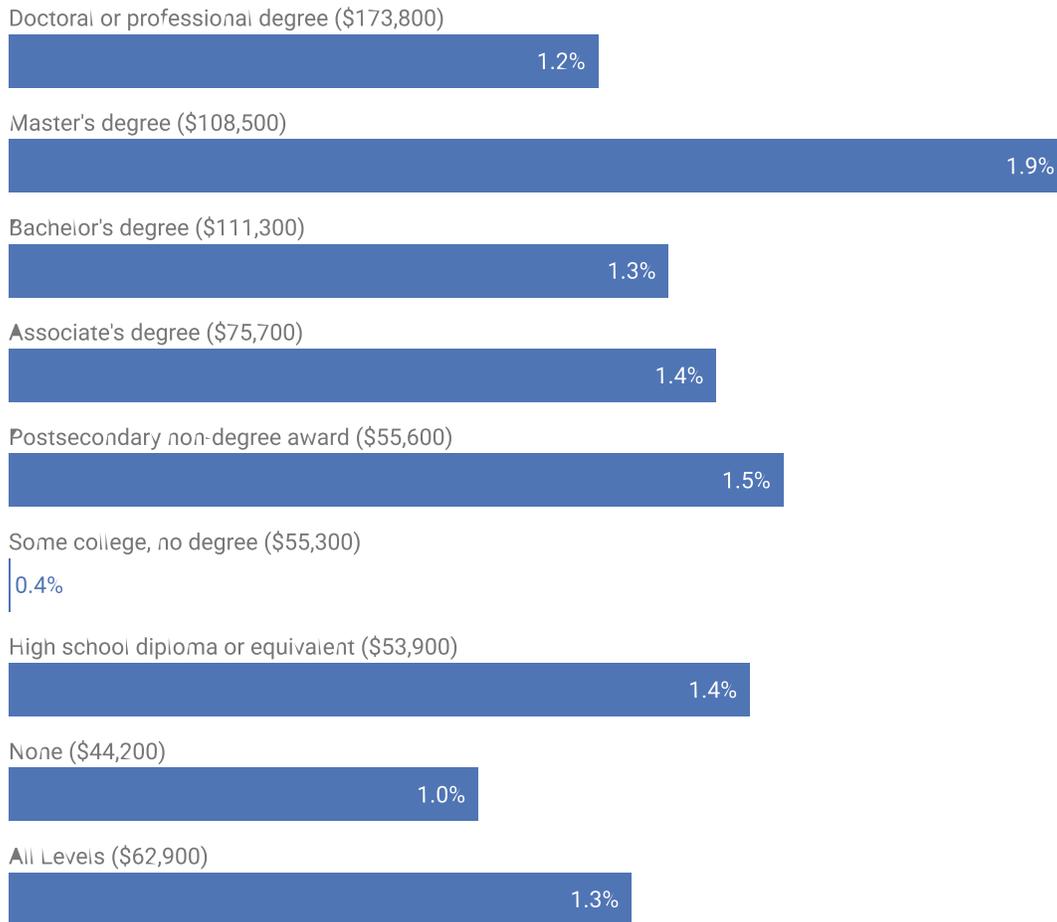
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2025Q2

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2025Q1 with preliminary estimates updated to 2025Q2. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Palm Desert city, CA is projected to grow 1.3% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.2% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.3% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.4% per year.

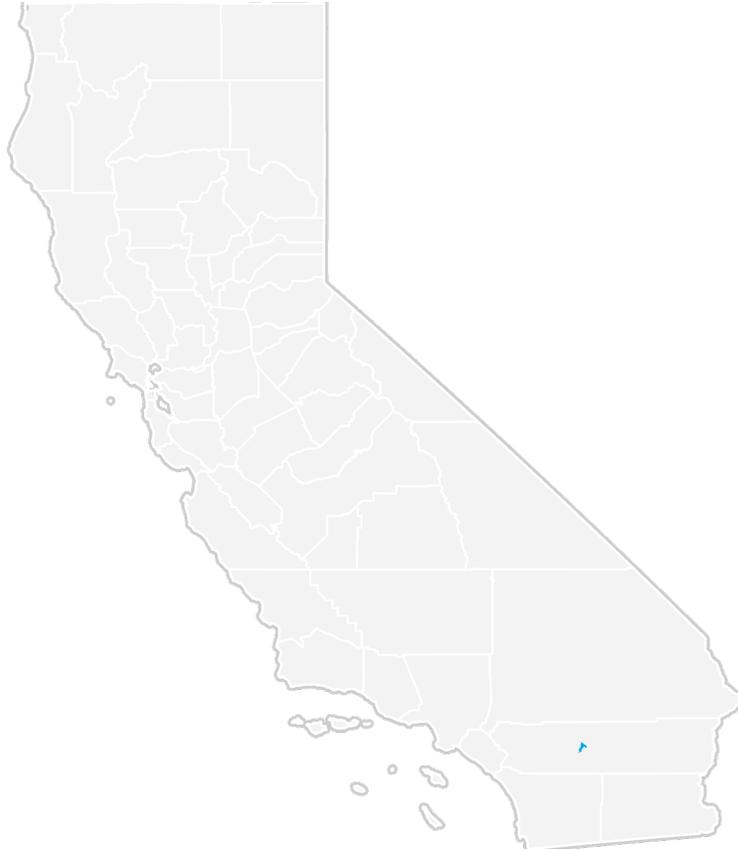
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2025Q2

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2025Q2. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Palm Desert city, CA Regional Map



FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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