

California

The Golden State



Very diverse climate (coast, mountains, desert)
Temperature ranges from 45°F – 95°F, varies from North to South

Snapshot

California is the most populous state in the United States and one of the world’s largest and most diverse economies. The State’s capital is Sacramento. From Silicon Valley to Hollywood and from vast agricultural regions to major ports of trade, California plays a critical role in shaping the social and economic landscape of the nation.

Metropolitans	Population	Demographics
Los Angeles San Francisco Bay Area Inland Empire	The most populous state in the U.S., with over 39 million residents	White 33.6% - Hispanic or Latino 40.8% - African American 6.4% - Asian 17%

Economic Indicators

Gross State Product	\$3.3 Trillion (2024)
Major industries	Technology & software, Entertainment & media, Agriculture & food production.
Job sectors with highest growth and pay	Tech, healthcare, and clean energy are among the fastest-growing and well-paid sectors in California.
State Taxes	PIT from 1% to 13.3%. Base state sales tax rate is 7.25%, combined average sale tax 8.82%.
Median house value	\$695,400
Wage/Income	Average annual pay (\$92,145), Per Capita Income (\$86,232)
Minimum wages	\$19.6 (statewide); Many cities (Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Francisco) have higher local minimum wages
Cost of living	\$3,400 to \$6,000/month for a typical single person, depends heavily on city and lifestyle
Child Care Annual Cost (Center-based)	Infant \$20,039, Toddler \$14,225 (2023)

Top Colleges and Universities



Photo by RDNE Stock project: <https://www.pexels.com/photo/man-and-woman-sitting-at-the-table-8419513/>

Stanford University - California Institute of Technology - UC Berkeley - University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) - University of Southern California (USC)

On average, it costs \$2,600 for in-state tuition and \$12,200 for out-of-state tuition at public institutions, \$31,200 for private not-for-profits, and \$15,000 for private for-profit institutions.

State Health Coverage for Low Income

Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid)	Very low-income adults & families
Covered California (ACA marketplace)	Lawfully present immigrants can enroll
Safety-net programs	Run by counties and cities, provide low-cost or free care regardless of immigration status
Qualified Health Plan	Low/moderate income adults above other program limits
Emergency Medi-Cal	Emergency care for anyone regardless of status

Other things to know about California

Like New York, California has been ranked among the top of states with a very welcoming environment for immigrants. California restricts state/local law-enforcement from using resources to assist federal immigration enforcement. The State issues driver's licenses or permits regardless of immigration status. Immigrants in California also have access to affordable healthcare, in-state tuition, and other public services as long as they meet residency requirements.

Places to visit

Golden Gate Bridge - Yosemite National Park

Hollywood - Huntington Beach - Channel Islands National Park