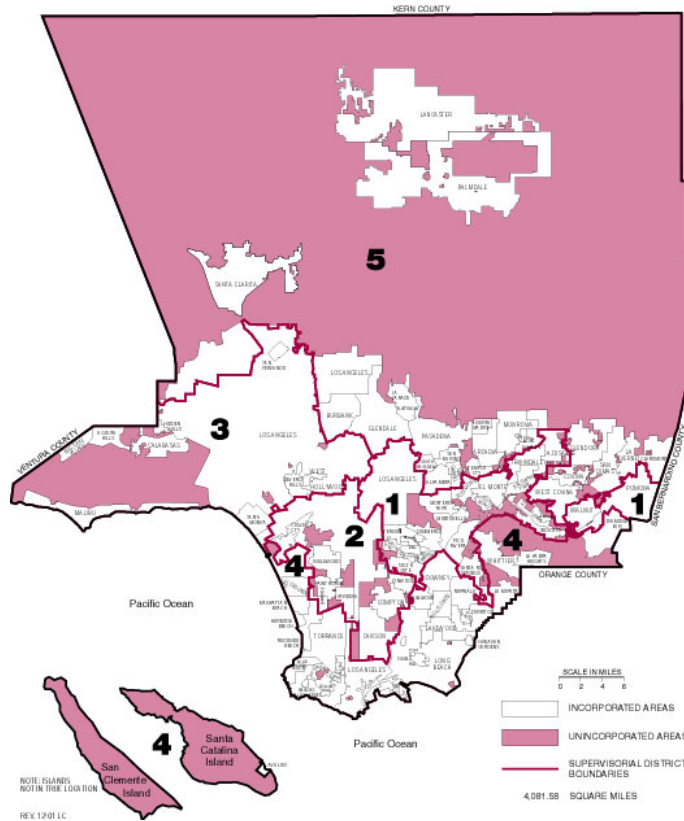


# The Greater Los Angeles Area Is greater than you think



## 2007 Edition

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## *Introduction*

The Greater Los Angeles Area (GLA) is greater than you think. We have more people, businesses, greater diversity in the makeup of population and geography, and more competition for employees than any other metropolitan area in the nation. However, most of us do not have the time or data to analyze and reflect on just how big and how important the GLA is in relation to other areas, the nation and the world.

Los Angeles is surging toward becoming the nation's largest and most dynamic city in the twenty-first century. With the region's population approaching 19 million and a gross domestic product that would rank as the world's tenth-largest nation, L.A.'s economy is being powered by trade with fast-growing economies in Asia, a rapidly multiplying multi-cultural workforce, and investments in high technology, manufacturing, communications, media and entertainment.

This booklet serves as a resource of facts and statistical data about California and the five counties that create the GLA, and can be used by government agencies for reports, proposals and presentations to convey information as it relates to the size and complexity of our GLA. We hope you find it useful.

This booklet was first produced as a Women Executive Leadership (WEL) project for the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board. It was a one-page fact sheet that quickly grew into the booklet you see here. This document is considered a “work in progress” as this type of data always change. The data was compiled from a variety of sources, most of which are shown at the end of the booklet.

The information in this booklet will be a valuable tool for the federal community and we welcome your assistance to help keep it up-to-date. Should you discover any errors, or if information should be added, please let us know. Send your comments to Kathrene Hansen Kin, Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board, [Kathrene.Hansen@dhs.gov](mailto:Kathrene.Hansen@dhs.gov).

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*Note: The Greater Los Angeles Area or GLA consists of the following counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura.*

## GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

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- Los Angeles County has the largest population (10,292,723 – July 2006) of any county in the nation and is exceeded by only eight states. Los Angeles County added \$1,432,423 people since 2001. Riverside County posted with the second largest numerical gain (3.4%) has a population of 1,953,330. Orange County had the third highest numerical growth, increasing 1,549,788 to a total of 3,056,865. (State of Calif.)
- Approximately 28% of California's residents live in Los Angeles County. (Los Angeles County Web site, [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov))
- The City of Murrieta in Riverside County which just surpassed the 50,000-person landmark in 2001, has 92, 933 people and is expected to surpass the 100,000 per mark in 2007. (State of Calif.)
- Of California's 58 counties, the two largest—Los Angeles and Orange — experienced growth rates of .7 and .9 percent respectively in 2006. (State of Calif.)
- Los Angeles County current population of 10,292,723 is greater than the populations of 30 other California counties. The county population itself, is larger than 42 US state populations. (State of Calif.)
- Los Angeles has a multi-ethnic population that includes people from 140 countries speaking nearly 100 different languages. (LACVB)
- If the GLA were a state, it would rank 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of population, behind California (including the area), Texas and New York. If Los Angeles County were a state, it would rank 8<sup>th</sup> in terms of population, a country, 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Los Angeles County is larger than the combined area of Delaware and Rhode Island, covering 4,752 square miles, including 76 miles of coastline. (Los Angeles County Web site, [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov))
- From a peak unemployment rate of 9.8 percent in 1982, an economic recovery has cut L.A. County joblessness to around 5.3 percent in 2006. (LA County Economic Development Corp.)
- The “Inland Empire,” a metropolitan area comprised of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties has a population of 3,909,300 (July 2005) which is an increase of 1,288,900 since 1990. Its population is larger than the Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale metropolitan area in Arizona.

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## GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

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- Almost half (45%) of L.A. County households are estimated to have net worth less than \$30,000 in 2006, while 34% have net worth of \$100,000 or more. 5% of households are in the top category of net worth of \$500,000 or more. There are more than 250,000 millionaires. (United Way of GLA)
- Los Angeles County is the nation's poverty capital, with the largest poverty population of any metropolitan area in the nation. The estimates of poverty have been adjusted to compensate for undercounting in the 1990 Census, with the result that poor people who had never been visible to policy makers now swell the poverty population. 2,228,000 residents of the county live in households with incomes below the poverty level in 2006. Over 40% of the population is poor. (United Way of GLA)
- Los Angeles County is one of the nation's most expensive housing markets, creating an especially difficult housing situation in view of the high proportion of poor and low-income residents. (United Way of GLA)
- Los Angeles County has a labor force of 4.5 million people, of which one million (24.9%) are college graduates (Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation)
- In the aftermath of the Northridge earthquake, Los Angeles received the largest federal relief program in American history. Some 12,625 single or multi-family housing units were repaired and the portion of the Santa Monica Freeway that collapsed during the earthquake was rebuilt. (LA Mayor's Office)
- The Greater Los Angeles area has a total of 1,299 zip codes.
- Los Angeles County has one of the largest flood control systems in the world, including 15 major dams, 2,400 miles of underground storm drains, 70,000 catch basins, and 500 miles of open channel. (County of Los Angeles)
- GLA Ranks 23rd in per capita crime in metropolitan areas according to a recent US Census Bureau Survey behind Atlanta, Phoenix, Las Vegas & Columbus, Ohio.
- Violent crime has decreased 43% in the last five years although gang violence has increased in 2006.
- The city of Los Angeles has an average daily temperature of 63 degrees with 329 days of sunshine per year.

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## GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

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### Geography

Land Area	4,081.58 Square Miles
Unincorporated Area	2,653.5 Square Miles
Flat Land	1,741 Square Miles
Mountains	1,875 Square Miles
Hilly Land	246 Square Miles
Islands	131 Square Miles
Mountain Valleys	59 Square Miles
Marsh Land	28 Square Miles

**Note: Santa Catalina & San Clemente Islands are part of Los Angeles County**

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### Population (January 1, 2001)

Total in Los Angeles County	10,292,723
Largest City (Los Angeles)	3,976,071
Smallest City (Vernon)	95
Living within cities (88 cities)	9,152,664
Living in unincorporated areas	1,092,908

### Registered Voters

As of November 7, 2006	3,899,397
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### Valuation

For the fiscal year 2006, Los Angeles County's net assessed valuation was \$914 billion.

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### Ethnic Makeup

Hispanic	44.6%
White	31.1%
Asian	12.3%
Black	9.7%
American Indian	.5%
Pacific Islander	.3%

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## GENERAL DEMOGRAPHICS

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### Predictions

- By 2010, when California's population reaches 50 million, population densities in coastal California will reach 1,050 people per square mile. (Long Beach Press Telegram 4/00)
- By 2020, Southern California will add 6.7 million people— equal to squeezing in the entire population of Chicago twice. This will put an even greater strain on already packed roads and freeways. (Southern California Rideshare Program)
- By 2020, California will need 4.3 million more housing units to accommodate the projected increase of 12.4 million people to its population. (HUD)
- Two-way trade flowing through the L.A. Customs District is expected to increase to a record \$329.4 billion. Exports will comprise 6% of that figure, totaling approximately \$197.6 billion. (LAEDC - April 2000)

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## **Regional Trade**

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- Los Angeles County is the largest international trade center in the United States. Perched on the edge of the Pacific Rim, its system of harbors, airports, and transcontinental railroads and freeways will make it possible for the country to capitalize on the near doubling of trade with Pacific Rim countries that is anticipated to occur over the next 15-20 years.
- In 1998, L.A. County took the lead as the nation's number-one manufacturing center in terms of employment, exceeding such traditional industrial cities as Chicago and Detroit. (LA's Business Team)
- The Greater Los Angeles area has a base of approximately 30,000 manufacturing enterprises and annual exports of over \$55.8 billion. (LATRADE)
- Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) has grown to be the country's second largest in terms of cargo traffic and the third busiest in the world for passenger traffic. (Los Angeles World Airports)
- LAX is the world's #1 O&D (in the trade that means "origination and destination"). In other words, more people *begin* and *end* their trip there than *any other* airport in the world! (Los Angeles World Airports)
- Los Angeles County's San Pedro Bay Ports - comprised of the Los Angeles and Long Beach shipping harbors - is the largest port complex in the United States and is currently undergoing expansion. The complex ranks third in the world in terms of containers moved, after Singapore and Hong Kong. (LAEDC - April 2000)
- Los Angeles County's two main ports, the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach, form the busiest port in the United States and the third-busiest port in the world. (LA County Economic Development Corp.)
- The largest private-sector employer in the Greater Los Angeles Area is Boeing, with 38,000 people in five major facilities in L.A. and Orange counties. (LAEDC)
- L.A. County continues to be a leader in the development and application of stealth technology. (LAEDC)
- In 2006, the Los Angeles Customs District retained its ranking as the nation's top district, surpassing New York. (LAEDC - April 2000)

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## ***Regional Trade***

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- L.A. County is number one in the nation in apparel design, manufacturing and wholesaling employment. (LAEDC)
- Los Angeles County is the largest manufacturing center with 470,400 jobs. This figure is larger than the number of people employed in Indianapolis and San Diego and is very close to Pittsburgh. (LAEDC - 8/12/98)
- Los Angeles County is the source of television and film product for much of the world, the largest manufacturing center in the U.S., and a leading source of design and lifestyle products and services.

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## The Economy

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- Los Angeles is the largest international trade center in the U.S., with nearly \$329.4 billion in imports and exports coming through the Los Angeles Customs District in 2006. (LA's Business Team)
- LAX is one of the two economic drivers of the Southern California economy. The other is the newly opened Alameda Corridor, joining the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the downtown rail yards. (Los Angeles World Airports)
- LAX has an annual economic impact on the area of more than \$80.2 billion; is responsible for more than 59,000 jobs on or near the airport with about 485,100 jobs spread throughout the region. One in 20 jobs in Southern California is attributable to LAX operations. (Los Angeles World Airports)
- If the Los Angeles five-county metro area were a separate nation, its \$477 billion gross product would be exceeded by only 10 nations. (LA's Business Team -1997)
- Business management services, health services and tourism are the top three industries in Los Angeles County. (Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation)
- Small companies account for 99.4% of all businesses that pay taxes in Los Angeles County, and they employ more than 70% of the county's 4 million payroll workers. (State of California)
- The total economic impact of the visitor industry in Los Angeles County is more than \$36 billion, including \$8.2 billion in household income. (Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau)

Direct revenues from the entertainment industry in Los Angeles County reached \$35 billion in 2006, compared with only \$4.6 billion for New York City. (Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation)

- More than 60 percent of the toys sold in U.S. retail stores are distributed from Los Angeles, making it the nation's top toy distribution center. (L.A. County Economic Development Corp.)
- Los Angeles is the creative center of the entertainment industry, pumping \$37 billion into the local economy in 2006. Entertainment product was the state's second-largest international export in dollar value after technology. (Entertainment Industry Development Corporation)

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## Area Diversity

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- Los Angeles County Ethnic Makeup: 43.9% Hispanic, 33.5% White, 12.3% Asian, 10.0% Black, 0.3% American Indian (Los Angeles County Web site, [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov))
- Los Angeles has the largest Latino population of any major American city. It is also home to more Koreans than anywhere else outside of North and South Korea, and more Filipinos than anywhere outside Manila. As America's most populated county, L.A. County is also the third-most racially diverse county in the United States. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- Most Latino-owned businesses in L.A. County are located in the city of Los Angeles, with 188,472 Latino firms in 2002. Other counties with large numbers of Latino-owned businesses are Riverside (48,756) and Orange (30,137). (American Dream Makers: Latino Profiles Study Report, January 2000: UCLA, United Way)
- In 2002, there were 52,674 African-American owned businesses in L.A. County, with \$4,987,970 in sales and receipts (U.S. Census Bureau, 1992)
- Out of the 10 largest counties nationwide with African-American- owned firms, Los Angeles County had the largest number of African- American owned businesses in 2002. (U.S. Census Bureau)
- 32% of Asian-Pacific Islanders are in managerial and professional occupations, compared to 28% of the general L.A. County population (Asian Pacific Factfinder, 1996: United Way of Greater LA)
- In 2002, the L.A. County was home to 140,411 businesses owned by Asians, Pacific Islanders, Alaskan natives and American Indians - the largest concentration of such businesses of any metropolitan area in the country (U.S. Census Bureau)
- In 2002, the Census Bureau counted 265,919 firms owned by women in Los Angeles County, with receipts totaling \$41.8 billion and employing 263,209 people.
- Out of the 10 largest counties and 10 largest metropolitan areas nationwide in 2002, Los Angeles County and the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area ranked highest in the number of women-owned firms. (U.S. Census Bureau)

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## ***Area Diversity***

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- The Los Angeles area leads the nation for the number of firms owned by several ethnic groups. Many have built small businesses into multi-million dollar enterprises and are models of success for business owners of every background. Nearly four out of 10 small firms in Los Angeles County are owned by minorities. (U.S. Census Bureau)

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## Transportation

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- Los Angeles is the nation's most traffic-congested for the 19<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Trips take 50% longer during rush hour than during off-peak hours. (Southern Calif. Rideshare Program)
- Traffic congestion costs Angelenos an average of \$1,370 annually. (Metro Investment Report 11/99)
- In 2006 more than 67.9 million passengers traveled through LAX. Cargo traffic was more than two million tons, with international freight about 50% of that total. LAX handled 75% of the passengers, 78% of the air cargo and 100% of the international passengers in the five-county Southern California region.
- California currently enjoys the highest seat belt use rate in the nation at 91.1 percent, as well as the highest child safety seat use rate at 87.6 percent.
- In 2001, California also received the only "A" grade from the National Safety Council and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign for its occupant protection laws. Mothers Against Drunk Drivers graded California with an "A" in their "Rating the States" report.
- The commuting time in 2005 in the Los Angeles area of 34 minutes.
- *Nonworktrips* constitute 43 percent of the morning rush hour in greater Los Angeles and 56 percent of the afternoon rush hour.
- The GLA has an extensive freeway system, with 20 major freeways. Los Angeles County is the home of the first freeway, the Pasadena Freeway (Interstate 110), which was dedicated on December 30, 1940.

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## Education

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- There are 215 colleges and universities in the GLA; 138 are in Los Angeles County.
- If the GLA were a state, it would rank 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation in terms of number of colleges and universities. Following behind the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> ranked states of California, New York, and Pennsylvania. If Los Angeles County were a state, it would rank 7<sup>th</sup>.
- The GLA has 4 medical *schools* (*UC Irvine, UCLA, USC and Loma Linda*), 2 dental schools (*UCLA and USC*), plus many specialized research facilities including the City of Hope in San Dimas, the Doheny Eye Clinic at USC, and the Stein Eye Center at UCLA.
- The GLA has the second largest school district in the nation.
- 73.2% of the population of the GLA are high school graduates or more. The average by county is: Los Angeles – 70%, Orange – 80%, Riverside – 74%, San Bernardino – 75.4%, and Ventura – 79%.
- 21.8% of the people in the GLA have BA's or more; the national average is 20.3%. The average by county is: Los Angeles – 22%, Orange – 28%, Riverside – 14.6%, San Bernardino – 15%, and Ventura – 23%.
- California has more scientists and engineers than the next two most scientifically peopled states combined. The GLA has the greatest concentration of mathematicians, scientists, engineers, and skilled technicians in the country.
- Los Angeles County has 841 museums and art galleries.

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## ***Related Federal Government***

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- There are 88 cities within the County, each with its own city council.
- More than 65% of the County is unincorporated. For the 1 million people living in those areas, the Board of Supervisors is their "city council" and County departments provide the municipal services.
- The 2006-2007 County budget is approximately \$21 billion. Twenty-four percent of the revenue comes from the state, 22% from the federal government, 20% from property taxes, and 34% from other sources. The largest percentage - 27% - of the budget goes to pay for social services, while 25% is spent on public protection and 27% on health services.
- The County, with 100,633 budgeted employees, is the largest employer in the five-county region. Of these, 30,360 of the positions are in law and justice; 29,471 are in health services; and 21,686 are in social services. The spectrum of job listings - from clerk to truck driver, sanitarian to psychiatrist, scientist to scuba diver, attorney to helicopter pilot - encompasses nearly every trade and profession, and illustrates the complexity of county government.
- As of November 7, 2006, Los Angeles County included 3,899,397 registered voters. (Los Angeles County Web site, [www.lacounty.gov](http://www.lacounty.gov))
- California legislature reflects the state's changing ethnic and racial mix. The state legislature that convened in January 2002, a sizable proportion of state assembly seats (34%) and state senate seats (23%) will be held by Latinos, blacks, and Asians. There will be 36 state legislators from these three ethnic and racial groups, with Latinos (75%) making up by far the largest share.
- The state assembly is more ethnically and racially diverse than either the state senate or the House delegation: one in four assembly members will be Latino. Twelve of the 52 members of California's congressional delegation are Latino, black, or Asian. Forty-one percent of the Democrats elected to legislative offices in the state assembly, state senate, or congressional delegation are Latino, black, or Asian. In contrast, 94 percent of the GOP legislators in the state are white.
- Geography divides California's legislative representatives. Reflecting their share of the state's population today, the urban coastal regions of Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay area are home to about half of California's legislative representatives. In Los Angeles County, 12 of 15

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House seats, 10 of 11 state senate seats, and 21 of 25 assembly seats are Democratic. In contrast, Republicans hold most of the legislative seats in the rest of Southern California. The partisan balance is roughly equal in the Central Valley and rural parts of the state.

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## LA Geography

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There are many names that can be applied to the five counties in the southern half of California. They can be called Southern California, the Los Angeles Five County Area, the Greater Los Angeles Area (GLA), or in official Census Bureau Terminology, the Los Angeles-Anaheim-Riverside Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area. These five counties, (*Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura*) make up a group of four metropolitan areas (*Riverside and San Bernardino are combined into one area*). They sprawl over more than 35,000 square miles, stretching from the Pacific Ocean on the west to the California/Nevada/Arizona border on the east. They encompass 178 separate incorporated cities, 33 of which have populations of over 100,000.

The Los Angeles-Long Beach Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) covers 4,752 square miles and has great geographic diversity. It includes over 69 miles of coastline, deserts, three major valleys (*San Fernando, San Gabriel and Antelope*), a variety of foothills and mountain ranges (*the San Gabriel Mountains include Mt. San Antonio at 10,064 feet. and Mt. Wilson at 5,710 feet, shorter but where all the TV transmitters are located*) and one island - Santa Catalina. Geographic boundaries are created by rivers (*there are 3*), and freeways (*there are 19*).

The Anaheim-Santa Ana PMSA covers 948 square miles and has 40 miles of Mediterranean like coastline. The eastern portion of the county is mountainous, while the south coast area has foothills that come right up to the coast. Seven freeways service Orange County's 32 incorporated cities.

Riverside-San Bernardino Area is a two county area that is also known as the Inland Empire. Riverside County covers 7,304 square miles while San Bernardino County covers a whopping 20,106 square miles. The eastern boundary of both is the California state line with Nevada and Arizona. This area includes serious mountains (Mt. San Gorgonio at 11,499 feet and Mt. San Jacinto at 10,804 feet) with winter resort areas. Just to the east of the mountains is the desert resort area that includes Palm Springs and Palm Desert, among others. There are 24 cities in the two counties.

Ventura County, the smallest of the 5 counties at 2,208 square miles, also has great geographic diversity. The county has over 20 miles of coastline, a coastal plain and mountains to the south and east. There are 10 incorporated cities in Ventura County.

Eight National Parks and Forests are located within the GLA. They include all or part of four National Forests (Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino), two National Parks (Channel Islands and Joshua Tree), one National Preserve (Mojave) and one National Recreation Area (Santa Monica Mountains).

Los Angeles's full name is "El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula" and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size "LA".

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## Sources of Statistical Information

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U.S. Bureau of the Census	<a href="http://www.census.gov">www.census.gov</a>
Federal Interagency Council on Statistical Policy	<a href="http://www.fedstats.gov">www.fedstats.gov</a>
Federal Bureau of Investigation	<a href="http://www.fbi.gov/ucr.crimesus/crimes.htm">www.fbi.gov/ucr.crimesus/crimes.htm</a>
State of California	<a href="http://www.ca.gov">www.ca.gov</a>
California Department of Finance	<a href="http://www.dof.ca.gov/html/demograp/druhpar.htm">www.dof.ca.gov/html/demograp/druhpar.htm</a>
Los Angeles World Airports	<a href="http://www.lawa.org">www.lawa.org</a>
Los Angeles Economic Development Corp.	<a href="http://www.laedc.org">www.laedc.org</a>
United Way of Greater Los Angeles	<a href="http://www.unitedwayla.org">www.unitedwayla.org</a>
Bureau of Labor Statistics	<a href="http://www.bls.gov">www.bls.gov</a>

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