

# Orange County

## THE REAL COST MEASURE IN CALIFORNIA 2025



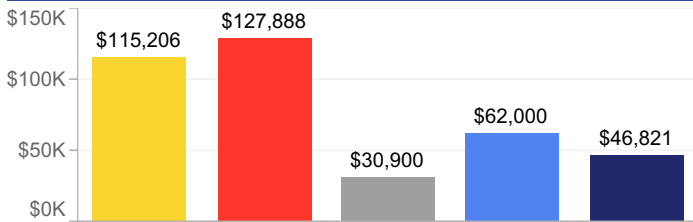
The Real Cost Measure (RCM) estimates the minimum amount of income required to meet basic needs including the costs of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and taxes. Unlike the official poverty measure which is primarily calculated based on the cost of food adjusted for inflation annually, the Real Cost Measure takes into account geographical differences in the cost of living throughout California.

If any results show blank values, that indicates the sample size is too small to illustrate Real Cost Measure results. Per our methodology, estimates with a cell size of greater than 5,000 are assumed to be accurate within +/-1% based on design factor analysis. Cell sizes less than 5,000 are suppressed.

<b># of Households below Real Cost Measure</b>	<b>% of Households below Real Cost Measure</b>	<b>% of Households below Real Cost Measure with at least 1 Working Adult</b>
<b>311,862</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>98%</b>

### Annual Income Comparison

Based on a Household of 2 Adults, 1 Pre-Schooler, 1 School-Aged Child



\*based on \$15.50 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.

- Median Household Income
- Real Cost Measure Budget
- Official Poverty Measure
- 2 Minimum Wage Jobs\*
- Supplemental Poverty Measure

### Household Budgets

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Pre-Schooler, 1 School-Aged Child
Housing	\$23,268	\$25,356	\$30,468
Food	\$5,460	\$10,008	\$15,408
Health Care	\$3,048	\$6,084	\$12,168
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$22,476
Transportation	\$7,476	\$14,952	\$14,952
Miscellaneous	\$3,924	\$5,640	\$9,552
Taxes/Credits	\$9,171	\$11,234	\$22,864
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$52,347</b>	<b>\$73,274</b>	<b>\$127,888</b>

### Households of Color

- Across the county, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Standard. In this area, of the 311,862 households below the Real Cost Measure, 128,967 are Latino.

### Households with Young Children

- 52% of households with children under six struggle, a rate much greater than that of the rest of the county.
- Single mothers are most likely to struggle. 70% in the county are below the Real Cost Measure.

### Working Households

- 98% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 80% of heads of household who work are employed full time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, 1 infant, 1 school-aged child) would need to hold more than 3 full time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.\*\*

### Housing Burden

- 41% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

### Education

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Less than High School	59,147	71%
High School Diploma or Equivalent	65,204	54%
Some College, Assoc. or Voc.	92,237	39%
Bachelor's degree or higher	95,274	20%

### Ethnicity

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Latino	128,967	53%
African American	5,239	32%
Asian American / Pacific Islander	72,667	34%
White	103,338	23%
Native American/Alaska Native		

### Household Type

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Single Mothers	35,988	70%
Seniors	47,557	27%
Married Couples	126,801	31%
Informal Families	60,504	31%

### Citizenship/Nativity

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Foreign Born, Non-Citizen	75,295	60%
Foreign Born, Naturalized	79,537	35%
Born a US Citizen	157,030	27%

\*\*Minimum waged jobs based on \$15.50 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. Median household earnings control for elder-led households and household led by person with disabilities consistent with the Real Cost Measure.