

Summary: Californians Today

Where Californians Live

Over 34 million people live in California. The state has more people than any other state in the nation. California has 24 of the 100 biggest cities in the United States.

Some of the larger cities are part of a metropolitan area that includes several cities and their suburbs. Nearly two-thirds of California's people live in the largest metropolitan areas around San Francisco and Los Angeles. San Francisco's population density is over 16,000 people per square mile.

Cities are centers of business, government, and culture. People move to cities or their suburbs to find work. Some places in California have fewer jobs, and people. A region can be analyzed to see where most of the people are located. This is called population distribution. It's important for leaders to know how population distribution is changing. If a city grows, it needs more services. The age of the population is important. More young people could mean a need for more schools.

Californians at Work

Californians work in many different industries. The most famous, the entertainment industry employs more than 100,000 people. It is part of the service industry, which provides services, such as banks and hospitals. Almost half of Californians over age 16 work in service industries.

The next biggest industry is trade and transportation. Many people in this industry work in stores. About one in ten people work in manufacturing industries, which make goods such as computers or auto parts. In defense industries, people produce goods for military use. Other industries include mining, agriculture, and construction. The communication industry, which has been growing for decades, produces the technology and products that people use to communicate with each other. Cell phones and e-mails have had a big impact on this industry.

More than 22 million people in California work. They need skills to do different jobs. But most people look for work they enjoy.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

population density *noun*, the average number of people who live in a certain area

metropolitan area *noun*, an area that includes one or more big cities and their suburbs

population distribution *noun*, the pattern of where groups of people live

service industry *noun*, an industry that provides services



After You Read

REVIEW Why do so many people settle near San Jose and Sacramento?

Underline the sentence that explains the reasons for people settling in San Jose and Sacramento.

REVIEW What type of industry provides the largest number of jobs in California? Circle the sentence that names the industry.