Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, it is the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program that produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities and towns and estimates of housing units for states and counties.

Households and Families

In 2011 there were 376,000 households in Contra Costa County, California. The average household size was 2.8 people.

Families made up 71 percent of the households in Contra Costa County, California. This figure includes both married-couple families (54 percent) and other families (18 percent). Of other families, 6 percent are female householder families with no husband present and own children under 18 years. Nonfamily households made up 29 percent of all households in Contra Costa County, California. Most of the nonfamily households were people living alone, but some were composed of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

In Contra Costa County, California, 38 percent of all households have one or more people under the age of 18; 26 percent of all households have one or more people 65 years and over.

Among persons 15 and older, 54 percent of males and 50 percent of females are currently married.
In Contra Costa County, California, 23,000 grandparents lived with their grandchildren under 18 years old. Of those grandparents, 30 percent of them had financial responsibility for their grandchildren.

**Nativity and Foreign Born**

Seventy-seven percent of the people living in Contra Costa County, California in 2011 were native residents of the United States. Fifty-seven percent of these residents were living in the state in which they were born.

Twenty-three percent of the people living in Contra Costa County, California in 2011 were foreign born. Of the foreign born population, 50 percent were naturalized U.S. citizens, and 68 percent entered the country before the year 2000. Thirty-two percent of the foreign born entered the country in 2000 or later.

Foreign born residents of Contra Costa County, California come from different parts of the world.

![Regions of the World](image)

**Language**

Among people at least five years old living in Contra Costa County, California in 2011, 33 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of those speaking a language other than English at home, 53 percent spoke Spanish and 47 percent spoke some other language; 40 percent reported that they did not speak English "very well."
Geographic Mobility

In 2011, 85 percent of the people at least one year old living in Contra Costa County, California were living in the same residence one year earlier.
Education

In 2011, 20 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 39 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eleven percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in Contra Costa County, California was 292,000 in 2011. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 31,000 and elementary or high school enrollment was 181,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 81,000.
Disability
In Contra Costa County, California, among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in 2011, 10 percent reported a disability. The likelihood of having a disability varied by age - from 3 percent of people under 18 years old, to 8 percent of people 18 to 64 years old, and to 37 percent of those 65 and over.

Employment Status and Type of Employer
In Contra Costa County, California, 58 percent of the population 16 and over were employed; 35 percent were not currently in the labor force.

Seventy-seven percent of the people employed were private wage and salary workers; 15 percent were federal, state, or local government workers; and 9 percent were self-employed in their own (not incorporated) business.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of worker</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>368,327</td>
<td>76.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal, state, or local government workers</td>
<td>70,448</td>
<td>14.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed workers in own not incorporated business</td>
<td>42,561</td>
<td>8.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Industries
In 2011, the civilian employed population 16 years and older in Contra Costa County, California worked in the following industries:
Occupations

Occupations for the civilian employed population 16 years and over in Contra Costa County, California in 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Civilian employed population 16 years and over</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management, business, science, and arts occupations</td>
<td>208,910</td>
<td>43.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service occupations</td>
<td>87,231</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales and office occupations</td>
<td>111,210</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations</td>
<td>40,536</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production, transportation, and material moving occupations</td>
<td>33,841</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Commuting to Work

Seventy-one percent of Contra Costa County, California workers drove to work alone in 2011, and 10 percent carpooled. Among those who commuted to work, it took them on average 33 minutes to get to work.
**Income**

The median income of households in Contra Costa County, California was $74,353. Eight percent of households had income below $15,000 a year and 20 percent had income over $150,000 or more.
Eighty-one percent of the households received earnings and 18 percent received retirement income other than Social Security. Twenty-six percent of the households received Social Security. The average income from Social Security was $17,129. These income sources are not mutually exclusive; that is, some households received income from more than one source.
Poverty and Participation in Government Programs

In 2011, 12 percent of people were in poverty. Fifteen percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with 7 percent of people 65 years old and over. Nine percent of all families and 21 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.
Health Insurance
Among the civilian noninstitutionalized population in Contra Costa County, California in 2011, 88 percent had health insurance coverage and 12 percent did not have health insurance coverage. For those under 18 years of age, 6 percent had no health insurance coverage. The civilian noninstitutionalized population had both private and public health insurance, with 73 percent having private coverage and 26 percent having public coverage.

Population
In 2011, Contra Costa County, California had a total population of 1.1 million - 546,000 (51 percent) females and 520,000 (49 percent) males. The median age was 38.4 years. Twenty-four percent of the population was under 18 years and 13 percent was 65 years and older.
For people reporting one race alone, 68 percent were White; 10 percent were Black or African American; 1 percent were American Indian and Alaska Native; 15 percent were Asian; 1 percent were Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and 7 percent were Some other race. Five percent reported Two or more races. Twenty-five percent of the people in Contra Costa County, California were Hispanic. Forty-seven percent of the people in Contra Costa County, California were White non-Hispanic. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**Housing Characteristics**

In 2011, Contra Costa County, California had a total of 401,000 housing units, 6 percent of which were vacant. Of the total housing units, 75 percent were in single-unit structures, 24 percent were in multi-unit structures, and 2 percent were mobile homes. Twenty-five percent of the housing units were built since 1990.
The median number of rooms in all housing units in Contra Costa County, California is 6. Of these housing units, 65 percent have three or more bedrooms.

**Occupied Housing Unit Characteristics**

In 2011, Contra Costa County, California had 376,000 occupied housing units - 247,000 (66 percent) owner occupied and 130,000 (35 percent) renter occupied. Sixty-five percent of householders of these units had moved in since 2000. Seventy-seven percent of the owner occupied units had a mortgage. One percent of the households did not have telephone service. Six percent had no vehicles available and another 26 percent had three or more.

Homes in Contra Costa County, California were heated in the following ways:
Housing Costs

The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was $2,498, nonmortgaged owners $544, and renters $1,279. Forty-eight percent of owners with mortgages, 17 percent of owners without mortgages, and 57 percent of renters in Contra Costa County, California spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey

Explanation of Symbols:

1. An ‘***’ entry in the margin of error column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the margin of error. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An ‘-’ entry in the estimate column indicates that either no sample observations or too few sample observations were available to compute an estimate, or a ratio of medians cannot be calculated because one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
3. An ‘-’ following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
4. An ‘+’ following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An ‘*****’ entry in the margin of error column indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
6. An ‘*****’ entry in the margin of error column indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test for sampling variability is not appropriate.
7. An ‘N’ entry in the estimate and margin of error columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.
8. An ‘(X)’ means that the estimate is not applicable or not available.