

# IMPERIAL COUNTY ECONOMIC FORECAST

Imperial County is located at the extreme southeastern edge of California, adjacent to San Diego County. It is the home of the Salton Sea, the largest lake in the state. Imperial County has a population of 181,100 people and a total of 64,500 wage and salary jobs. The income per capita is \$32,219 and the average salary per worker is \$45,715, both of which represent the lowest levels among all Southern California counties.

Imperial County's economy is heavily agricultural. With approximately 10,700 farm workers, the county is responsible for more than \$2 billion of agricultural output per year. Its most prevalent commodities are cattle, alfalfa, broccoli, and lettuce. The public sector also plays a large role in the region's economy, and with 17,900 workers, it is the county's largest employment sector. A substantial number of the government jobs in Imperial County are related to the two state correctional facilities, which employ a combined total of 2,300 staff and house 6,700 inmates.

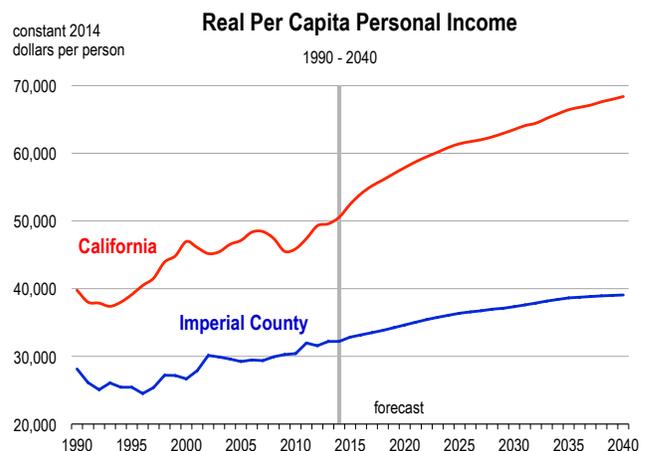
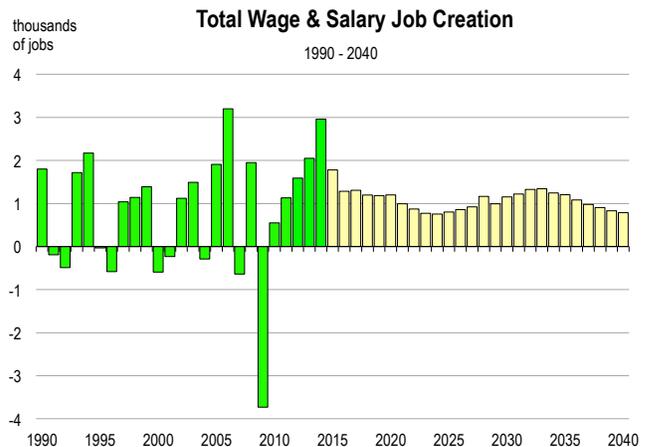
Across Southern California, employment increased by 2.6 percent in 2014. Imperial County gained 3,000 wage and salary jobs, representing a growth rate of 4.8 percent. Farm employment increased by 6.6 percent, while non-farm employment grew by 4.5 percent. Although the unemployment rate remains very high, it improved substantially, falling from 24.9 percent in 2013 to 23.6 percent in 2014.

In 2014, the largest employment gains were observed in wholesale and retail trade (+1,200 jobs), education and healthcare (+1,100 jobs), agriculture (+660 jobs), and construction (+340 jobs). The largest losses were observed in manufacturing (-800 jobs).

Between 2009 and 2014, the Imperial County population grew at an average rate of 0.9 percent per year. This growth was entirely due to the natural increase (new births), as overall net migration was negative.

## FORECAST HIGHLIGHTS

- Total employment is expected to increase by 2.8 percent in 2015. From 2015 to 2020, the growth rate will average 1.8 percent per year. Over the same period, agricultural employment will be relatively flat.
- Average salaries are currently well below the California state average, and will remain so over the forecast horizon. Adjusted for inflation, average salaries in Imperial County will rise by an average of 0.9 percent per year from 2015 to 2020.
- The sectors that will create the most jobs between 2015 and 2020 are education and healthcare, government, and wholesale and retail trade. Together, these industries will account for 85 percent of net job creation in the county.

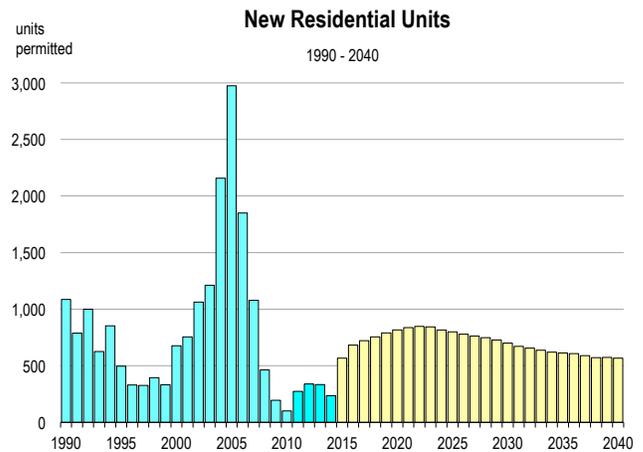
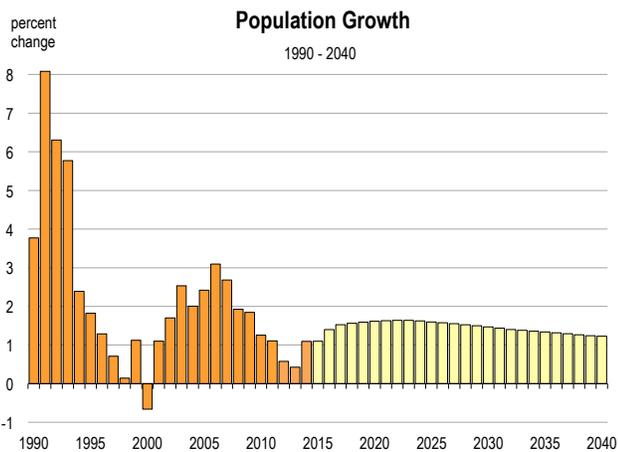


- The population will continue to grow faster than the state average. Annual growth in the 2015 to 2020 period will average 1.5 percent.
- Net migration is expected to turn positive in 2016. Over the 2015-2020 period, an average of 530 net migrants will enter the county each year.
- Real income per capita, adjusted for inflation, is projected to increase by 1.9 percent in 2015. Between 2015 and 2020, growth will average 1.1 percent per year.
- Total taxable sales, adjusted for inflation, are expected to increase by an average of 1.7 percent per year between 2015 and 2020.
- Industrial production is expected to increase by 4.9 percent in 2015. From 2015 to 2020, the growth rate of industrial production is expected to average 4.0 percent per year.
- Farm production is forecasted to increase by 0.3 percent per year between 2015 and 2020. The principal farm products in the county are cattle and leaf lettuce.

# Imperial County Economic Forecast

## 2006-2014 History, 2015-2040 Forecast

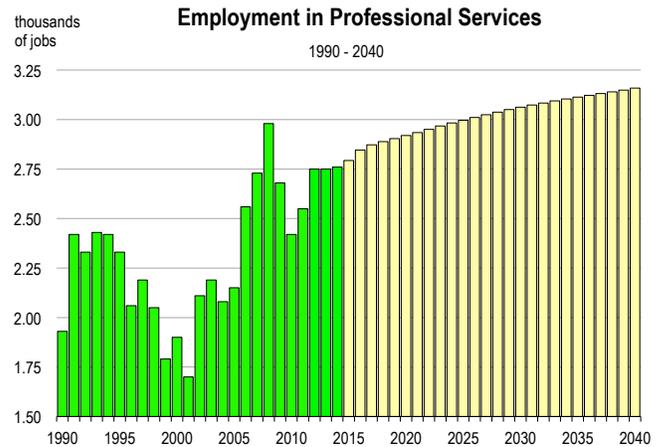
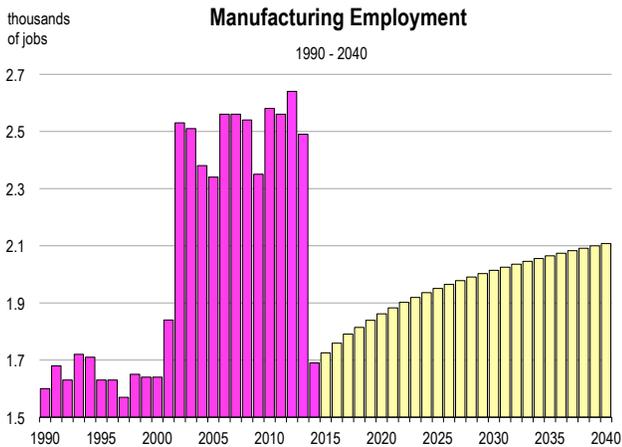
	Population (people)	Net Migration (people)	Registered Vehicles (thousands)	Households (thousands)	New Homes Permitted (homes)	Total Taxable Sales (billions)	Personal Income (billions)	Real Per Capita Income (dollars)	Inflation Rate (% change in CPI)	Real Farm Crop Value (billions)	Real Industrial Production (billions)	Unemploy- ment Rate (percent)
2006	162,532	2,845	144.6	46.0	1,850	\$2.15	\$4.16	\$29,463	4.3	1.57	0.76	15.4
2007	166,894	2,132	145.0	48.2	1,079	\$2.25	\$4.40	\$29,384	3.3	1.55	0.77	18.0
2008	170,104	857	147.7	48.5	464	\$2.18	\$4.73	\$29,937	3.5	1.81	0.82	22.3
2009	173,241	847	151.5	49.0	195	\$1.77	\$4.83	\$30,262	-0.8	1.58	0.81	27.8
2010	175,418	4	155.8	49.1	102	\$1.97	\$4.97	\$30,396	1.2	1.72	0.87	29.1
2011	177,359	-187	157.3	49.2	274	\$2.18	\$5.43	\$31,973	2.7	2.05	0.83	29.1
2012	178,382	-1,030	160.2	49.3	339	\$2.36	\$5.49	\$31,556	2.0	1.99	0.87	27.5
2013	179,142	-1,268	166.4	49.6	334	\$3.66	\$5.69	\$32,192	1.1	2.19	0.86	24.9
2014	181,103	-117	171.5	49.8	236	\$3.37	\$5.83	\$32,219	1.3	2.20	0.71	23.6
2015	183,091	-214	172.9	50.0	567	\$3.33	\$6.07	\$32,844	0.9	2.20	0.74	22.0
2016	185,653	265	176.1	50.5	683	\$3.49	\$6.40	\$33,180	3.0	2.21	0.77	20.1
2017	188,485	485	179.2	51.1	722	\$3.66	\$6.77	\$33,517	3.1	2.21	0.79	19.1
2018	191,430	569	182.2	51.8	756	\$3.83	\$7.14	\$33,845	2.8	2.22	0.82	18.6
2019	194,475	631	185.3	52.6	790	\$4.00	\$7.53	\$34,237	2.7	2.23	0.86	18.3
2020	197,617	685	188.2	53.3	817	\$4.18	\$7.95	\$34,629	2.8	2.23	0.90	18.2
2021	200,837	721	191.1	54.1	837	\$4.36	\$8.41	\$35,023	2.9	2.24	0.94	18.2
2022	204,128	746	193.9	55.0	848	\$4.55	\$8.90	\$35,432	2.9	2.25	0.98	18.3
2023	207,472	758	196.4	55.8	844	\$4.73	\$9.35	\$35,771	2.5	2.26	1.03	18.4
2024	210,841	754	198.8	56.6	816	\$4.91	\$9.81	\$36,080	2.4	2.26	1.07	18.5
2025	214,205	719	201.2	57.4	800	\$5.10	\$10.31	\$36,375	2.6	2.27	1.11	18.5
2026	217,582	696	203.3	58.2	779	\$5.29	\$10.81	\$36,572	2.7	2.28	1.15	18.6
2027	220,959	670	205.3	59.0	763	\$5.49	\$11.32	\$36,731	2.7	2.28	1.20	18.6
2028	224,326	652	207.4	59.7	748	\$5.71	\$11.85	\$36,972	2.5	2.29	1.25	18.5
2029	227,688	632	209.4	60.5	728	\$5.91	\$12.34	\$37,101	2.3	2.30	1.31	18.4
2030	231,033	616	211.5	61.2	701	\$6.13	\$12.87	\$37,325	2.2	2.30	1.36	18.3
2031	234,353	585	213.7	61.9	672	\$6.37	\$13.42	\$37,595	2.1	2.31	1.42	18.2
2032	237,636	555	215.9	62.5	656	\$6.63	\$14.02	\$37,865	2.3	2.32	1.48	18.0
2033	240,917	541	218.2	63.2	637	\$6.89	\$14.60	\$38,186	1.9	2.32	1.54	17.8
2034	244,189	525	220.4	63.8	620	\$7.16	\$15.19	\$38,411	2.1	2.33	1.60	17.7
2035	247,457	512	222.4	64.4	613	\$7.44	\$15.82	\$38,631	2.2	2.34	1.66	17.6
2036	250,712	506	224.3	65.0	607	\$7.73	\$16.48	\$38,745	2.6	2.34	1.73	17.6
2037	253,953	504	226.0	65.6	590	\$8.03	\$17.17	\$38,821	2.7	2.35	1.80	17.6
2038	257,165	485	227.7	66.2	572	\$8.31	\$17.87	\$38,933	2.5	2.36	1.87	17.6
2039	260,356	464	229.3	66.8	574	\$8.61	\$18.60	\$39,006	2.7	2.37	1.94	17.7
2040	263,553	466	230.9	67.3	567	\$8.90	\$19.35	\$39,081	2.6	2.37	2.05	17.8

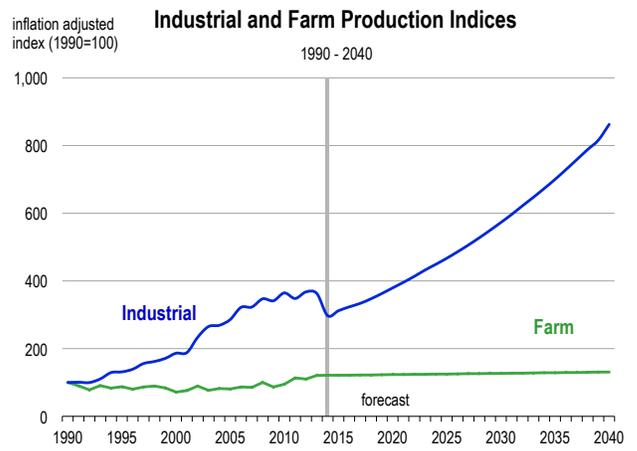
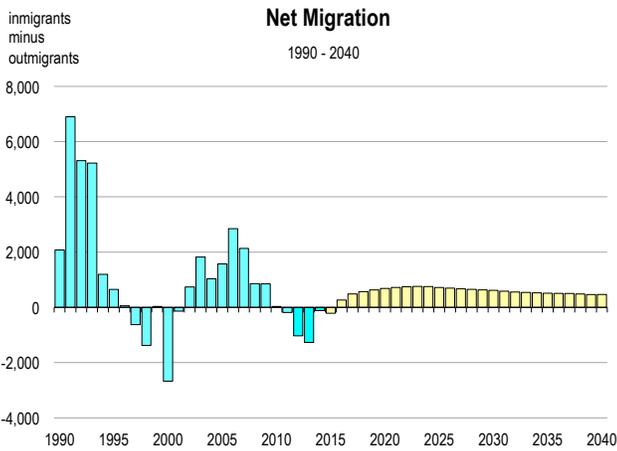
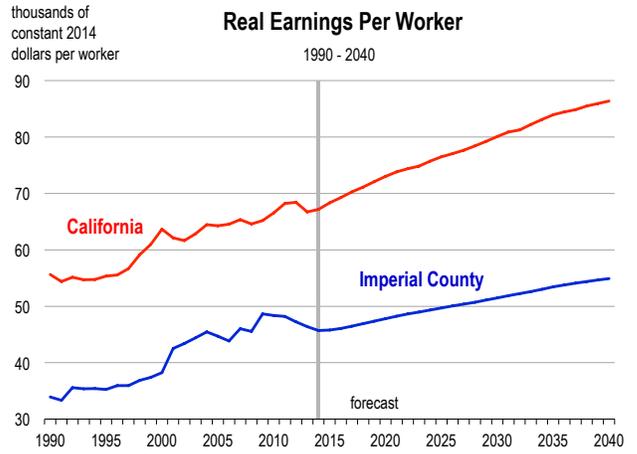
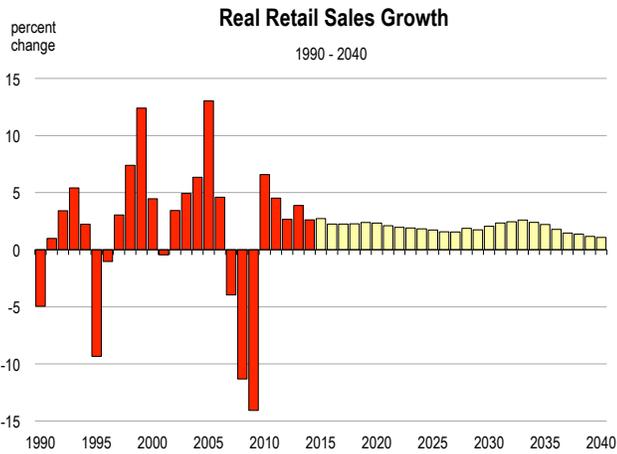


# Imperial County Employment Forecast

## 2006-2014 History, 2015-2040 Forecast

	Total Wage & Salary	Farm	Construction	Manufacturing	Transportation & Utilities	Wholesale & Retail Trade	Financial Activities	Professional Services	Information	Health & Education	Leisure	Government
-----employment (thousands of jobs)-----												
2006	58.6	11.5	2.0	2.6	1.8	9.4	1.4	2.6	0.4	5.3	3.3	17.4
2007	58.0	9.7	1.8	2.6	1.8	9.4	1.4	2.7	0.4	5.5	3.5	18.1
2008	59.9	10.3	1.6	2.5	1.8	9.5	1.3	3.0	0.4	6.4	3.6	18.5
2009	56.2	7.6	1.3	2.4	1.8	8.7	1.3	2.7	0.4	7.1	3.4	18.8
2010	56.7	9.1	1.2	2.6	1.8	8.6	1.3	2.4	0.4	6.8	3.3	18.4
2011	57.9	10.4	1.4	2.6	1.8	8.7	1.3	2.6	0.4	6.6	3.4	18.1
2012	59.5	10.3	1.5	2.6	1.8	9.4	1.3	2.8	0.4	6.8	3.6	17.9
2013	61.5	10.1	2.0	2.5	2.0	10.2	1.4	2.8	0.3	7.9	3.9	17.7
2014	64.5	10.7	2.4	1.7	2.1	11.3	1.4	2.8	0.3	9.1	4.1	17.9
2015	66.2	10.6	2.4	1.7	2.2	11.5	1.4	2.8	0.3	9.6	4.2	18.7
2016	67.5	10.5	2.4	1.8	2.2	11.6	1.4	2.8	0.3	10.2	4.3	19.0
2017	68.8	10.5	2.4	1.8	2.3	11.8	1.4	2.9	0.3	10.8	4.4	19.3
2018	70.0	10.5	2.4	1.8	2.4	11.9	1.4	2.9	0.3	11.4	4.4	19.6
2019	71.2	10.6	2.4	1.8	2.4	12.0	1.4	2.9	0.3	12.0	4.5	20.0
2020	72.4	10.6	2.3	1.9	2.5	12.2	1.4	2.9	0.3	12.6	4.5	20.3
2021	73.4	10.6	2.3	1.9	2.6	12.3	1.4	2.9	0.3	13.1	4.5	20.5
2022	74.3	10.6	2.3	1.9	2.6	12.4	1.4	3.0	0.3	13.6	4.5	20.6
2023	75.0	10.6	2.3	1.9	2.7	12.5	1.4	3.0	0.3	14.0	4.5	20.6
2024	75.8	10.7	2.3	1.9	2.8	12.6	1.4	3.0	0.3	14.4	4.4	20.7
2025	76.6	10.7	2.3	2.0	2.8	12.7	1.4	3.0	0.3	14.8	4.4	20.9
2026	77.5	10.7	2.3	2.0	2.9	12.8	1.4	3.0	0.3	15.3	4.4	21.0
2027	78.4	10.7	2.3	2.0	3.0	12.9	1.4	3.0	0.3	15.8	4.5	21.2
2028	79.5	10.7	2.3	2.0	3.1	13.1	1.4	3.0	0.3	16.3	4.5	21.6
2029	80.5	10.8	2.3	2.0	3.1	13.2	1.4	3.1	0.3	16.8	4.5	21.8
2030	81.7	10.8	2.3	2.0	3.2	13.3	1.4	3.1	0.3	17.3	4.5	22.2
2031	82.9	10.8	2.3	2.0	3.3	13.5	1.4	3.1	0.3	17.8	4.6	22.6
2032	84.2	10.8	2.3	2.0	3.3	13.6	1.4	3.1	0.3	18.4	4.6	23.0
2033	85.6	10.8	2.3	2.0	3.4	13.8	1.4	3.1	0.3	18.9	4.6	23.5
2034	86.8	10.9	2.3	2.1	3.5	14.0	1.4	3.1	0.3	19.4	4.6	23.9
2035	88.0	10.9	2.3	2.1	3.5	14.2	1.4	3.1	0.3	19.9	4.7	24.2
2036	89.1	10.9	2.3	2.1	3.6	14.3	1.4	3.1	0.3	20.4	4.7	24.6
2037	90.1	10.9	2.3	2.1	3.7	14.4	1.4	3.1	0.3	20.8	4.7	24.9
2038	91.0	10.9	2.3	2.1	3.8	14.5	1.4	3.1	0.3	21.2	4.7	25.1
2039	91.8	11.0	2.3	2.1	3.8	14.6	1.4	3.1	0.3	21.5	4.7	25.3
2040	92.6	11.0	2.3	2.1	3.9	14.7	1.4	3.2	0.3	21.9	4.8	25.5





## County Economic and Demographic Indicators

### Projected Economic Growth (2015-2020)

Expected retail sales growth:	12.0%
Expected job growth:	9.3%
Fastest growing jobs sector:	Education and Healthcare
Expected personal income growth:	13.8%

Expected population growth:	7.9%
Net migration to account for:	18.1%
Expected growth in number of vehicles:	8.9%

### Demographics (2015)

Unemployment rate (March 2015):	19.9%
County rank* in California (58 counties):	57th
Working age (16-64) population:	63.3%

Population with B.A. or higher:	13.1%
Median home selling price (2014):	\$171,500
Median household income:	\$40,239

### Quality of Life

Violent crime rate (2013):	289 per 100,000 persons
County rank* in California (58 counties):	22nd
Average commute time to work (2015):	23.9 minutes

High School drop out rate (2014):	5.5%
Households at/below poverty line (2015):	21.4%

\* The county ranked 1st corresponds to the lowest rate in California