

Ethnic Populations in Southern California Counties

The table presents the most basic numbers in 1990 and 2010 for the total population and the 34 ethnic groups we analyze. (Scroll down to see graph and table.) We show numbers for each of the five counties separately because readers may want to look more closely at the one or two counties in which they are most interested.

Los Angeles County, with ten million residents, has by far the largest population of the five counties. Although it added almost a million people between 1990 and 2010, its large base population is the reason why it grew by only 11 percent during those two decades. The fastest growth (87 percent) was in Riverside County, which includes Palm Springs and the Coachella Valley although they are too far east to show on our maps.

Because Whites were by far the largest group in the five counties a half-century ago, it's notable that their numbers have decreased since 1990 in all the counties except Riverside, which has seen numerous recent housing developments. Los Angeles County has 25 percent fewer Whites than in 1990, while people reporting English ancestry declined by almost half. This ethnic group, which once included many of the political, economic, and cultural leaders of Southern California, also decreased in the other four counties. Many people of English ancestry have joined thousands of others of various European ancestries in moving to smaller towns and cities in Arizona, Nevada, and other Western states, where they presumably found less traffic congestion and lower housing prices.

The only other Euro-American group that we cover is people of Russian ancestry. In *The Ethnic Quilt* we found this group was a good indicator of the residential distribution of Jews. The percentage change figures for Russian ancestry suggest that Jews have also been leaving L.A. County but more typically moving to the four outlying or suburban counties than leaving the entire region.

The number of Blacks declined in Los Angeles County, traditionally by far the largest center of African Americans in California. The fact that the Black population grew substantially in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties appears to represent a substantial move to the suburbs, many of which have lower housing prices than Los Angeles. The most dramatic growth of a mostly Black nationality group derived from recent immigration has been that of Nigerians, though in Los Angeles County they are outnumbered by people whose origin was Belize in Central America.

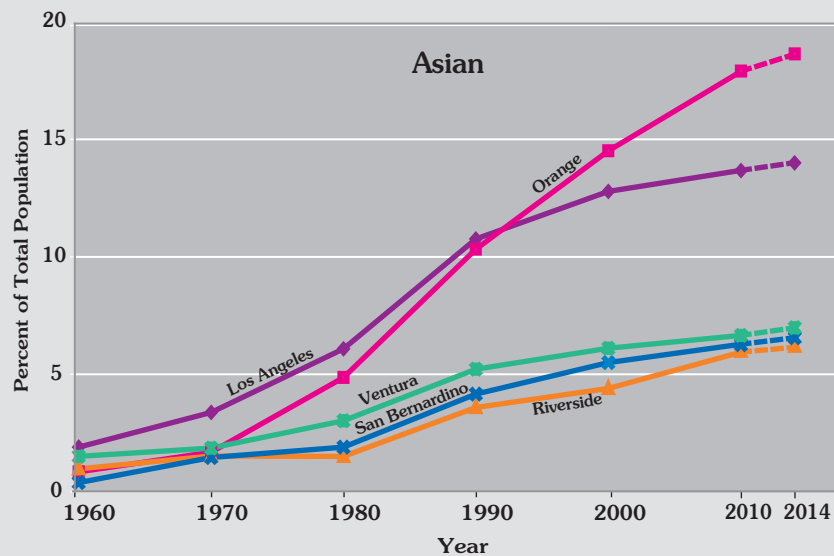
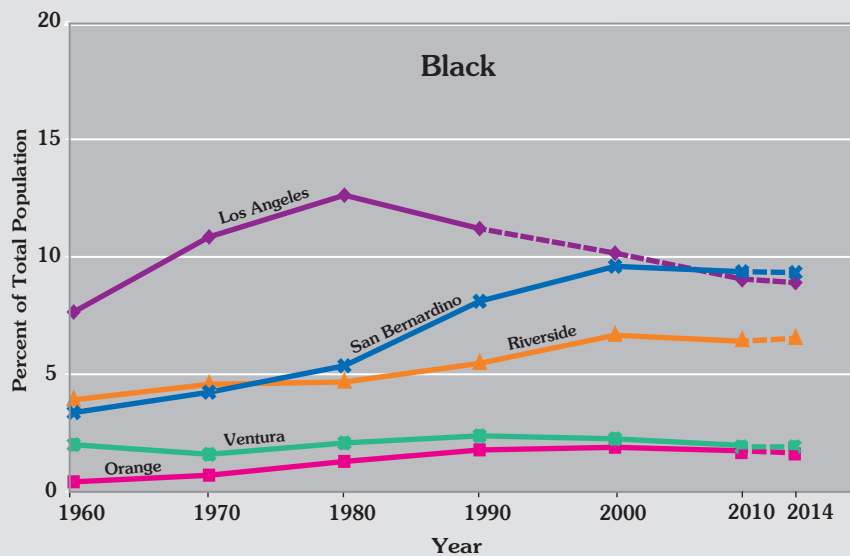
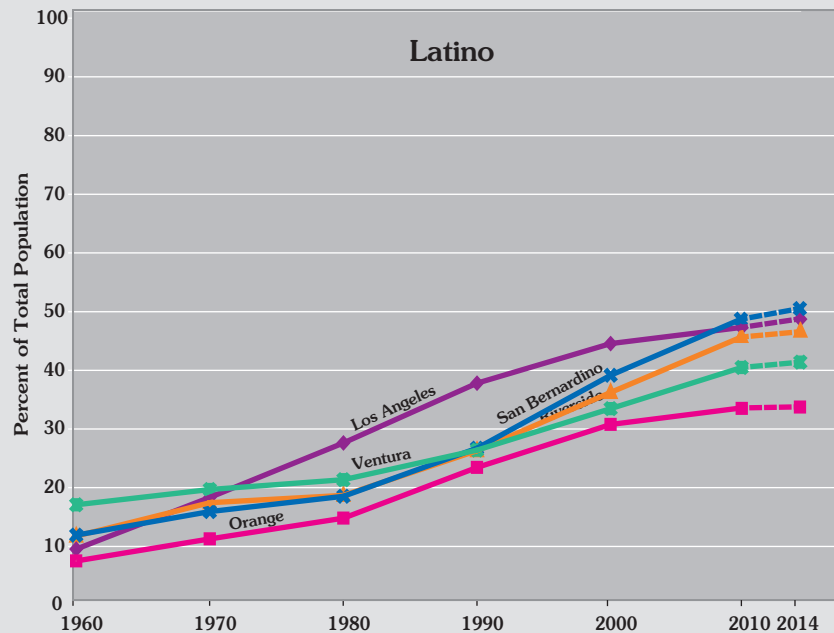
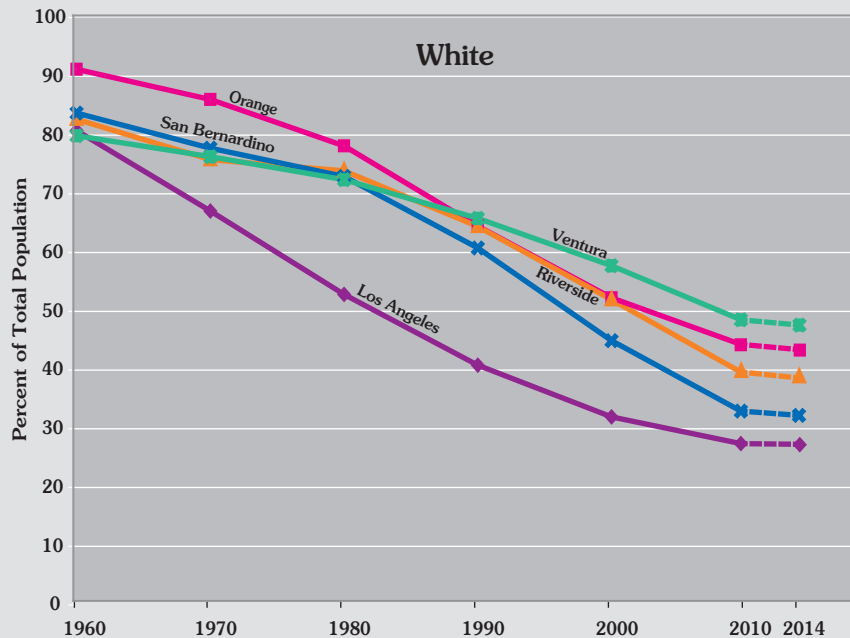
The growth of Asian populations has been dramatic, more than doubling in three outlying counties and almost quadrupling in Riverside County. Most of this growth was the result of immigration. Chinese and Filipino numbers continued to be easily the largest in all the counties, except for Vietnamese in Orange County. That concentration began in 1975 with refugees processed through Camp Pendleton being sponsored by Orange County churches, various resettlement organizations, and residents. Korean numbers also increased rapidly in all counties. Asian Indians doubled in Los Angeles County and tripled in Orange County, to some extent related to high-tech employment, which may also be part of the reason why Asian Indians in 2010 had easily the highest median household income of all the groups in our study.

People of Hispanic origin, commonly called Latinos, now outnumber Whites in our region as a whole. This growth has been fueled both by immigration and natural increase, although in the last couple of decades natural increase (the excess number of births over deaths) has been the larger factor. People of Mexican origin comprise 75 percent of Latinos in Los Angeles County, but in the four outlying counties Mexicans are even more dominant because almost a century ago many Mexican farm-working families were settling in those counties. Of the various Central and South American nationality groups, Salvadorans and Guatemalans are easily the most numerous in all five counties. They and Hondurans also have the lowest household incomes of all the groups, though not far below the averages for Mexicans and Blacks.

See graph and table below.

Change in Percent of Ethnic Population

By County
1960 - 2014



Ethnic Populations in Southern California Counties, 1990 and 2010

	Los Angeles County			Orange County			Riverside County			San Bernardino County			Ventura County			
	Pop. 1990	Pop. 2010	Percent Pop.Chg. 1990-2010	Pop. 1990	Pop. 2010	Percent Pop.Chg. 1990-2010	Pop. 1990	Pop. 2010	Percent Pop.Chg. 1990-2010	Pop. 1990	Pop. 2010	Percent Pop.Chg. 1990-2010	Pop. 1990	Pop. 2010	Percent Pop.Chg. 1990-2010	
<i>Races and Hispanics</i>																<i>Races and Hispanics</i>
Total Population	8,864,224	9,818,605	10.8	2,410,551	3,010,232	24.9	1,170,413	2,189,641	87.1	1,418,380	2,035,210	43.5	669,375	823,262	23.0	Total Population
Non-Hispanic White	3,614,475	2,728,321	24.5	1,554,469	1,328,499	14.5	754,140	869,068	15.2	862,113	677,598	21.4	440,875	400,828	9.1	Non-Hispanic White
Non-Hispanic Black	936,158	876,512	6.4	39,162	55,919	42.8	59,966	148,460	147.6	109,164	188,484	72.7	14,563	16,944	16.4	Non-Hispanic Black
American Indian *	29,071	38,892	33.8	8,584	15,470	80.2	8,393	19,309	130.1	10,018	16,768	67.4	3,431	6,182	80.2	American Indian *
Asian	907,406	1,456,043	60.5	240,752	590,075	145.1	38,349	152,592	297.9	55,383	145,993	163.6	32,684	65,936	101.7	Asian
Hispanic	3,355,794	4,687,889	39.7	564,856	1,012,973	79.3	307,514	995,257	223.6	378,583	1,001,145	164.4	176,967	331,559	87.4	Hispanic
Asian Indian	43,826	92,179	110.3	15,211	45,044	196.1	3,121	13,588	335.4	4,370	14,183	224.6	2,357	10,146	330.4	Asian Indian
Cambodian	27,792	32,125	15.6	3,977	5,718	43.8	791	2,820	256.5	1,638	3,202	95.5	175	412	135.4	Cambodian
Chinese (excl. Taiwanese)	245,016	449,538	83.5	41,403	98,840	138.7	4,704	22,941	387.7	8,460	28,899	241.6	4,992	12,072	141.8	Chinese (excl. Taiwanese)
Filipino	219,338	374,285	70.6	30,357	89,341	194.3	12,748	65,440	413.3	16,171	52,488	224.6	12,693	25,101	97.8	Filipino
Japanese	129,725	138,983	7.1	29,702	48,226	62.4	3,920	11,328	189.0	5,046	9,973	97.6	4,966	8,190	64.9	Japanese
Korean	145,423	230,876	58.8	35,917	93,710	160.9	3,877	14,384	271.0	6,288	16,027	154.9	2,925	5,213	78.2	Korean
Samoaan	11,904	12,115	1.8	2,978	3,632	22.0	691	2,135	209.0	1,159	2,476	113.6	567	486	14.3	Samoaan
Thai	19,050	25,014	31.3	2,227	4,015	80.3	724	1,965	171.4	1,737	2,332	34.3	472	672	42.4	Thai
Vietnamese	62,566	104,024	66.3	71,822	194,423	170.7	4,618	16,986	267.8	6,697	14,550	117.3	2,486	4,814	93.6	Vietnamese
Colombian	21,734	25,272	16.3	5,082	7,832	54.1	1,051	3,898	270.9	1,610	3,961	146.0	968	1,454	50.2	Colombian
Cuban	45,925	41,350	10.0	6,008	8,352	39.0	2,041	5,825	185.4	3,083	6,291	104.1	846	1,472	74.0	Cuban
Guatemalan	125,122	214,939	71.8	7,650	16,365	113.9	2,720	14,388	429.0	2,872	14,338	399.3	1,335	4,014	200.7	Guatemalan
Honduran	22,948	42,901	86.9	1,248	3,143	151.8	295	2,452	731.2	781	4,221	440.5	127	807	535.4	Honduran
Mexican	2,528,975	3,510,677	38.8	474,843	858,068	80.7	270,098	865,117	220.3	321,574	848,541	163.9	157,637	292,772	85.7	Mexican
Nicaraguan	33,843	37,205	9.9	2,410	3,402	41.2	913	3,631	297.7	2,368	6,162	160.2	422	893	111.6	Nicaraguan
Puerto Rican	40,037	44,609	11.4	7,773	11,090	42.7	4,882	13,622	179.0	7,345	14,179	93.0	1,927	3,194	65.8	Puerto Rican
Peruvian	21,921	34,135	55.7	4,529	9,333	106.1	836	4,161	397.7	1,374	4,257	209.8	683	1,841	169.5	Peruvian
Salvadoran	253,106	358,825	41.8	12,123	22,694	87.2	3,468	17,616	408.0	4,592	25,056	445.6	1,526	4,713	208.8	Salvadoran
<i>Ancestries</i>																<i>Ancestries</i>
Arab Nationality	49,328	66,258	34.3	12,854	25,014	94.6	3,449	11,392	230.3	5,136	13,450	161.9	2,256	4,554	101.9	Arab Nationality
Armenian	100,663	182,677	81.5	6,134	8,475	38.2	1,196	2,303	92.6	1,525	2,343	53.6	1,299	1,977	52.2	Armenian
Belizean	9,551	13,586	42.2	46	195	323.9	109	587	438.5	226	1,222	440.5	13	111	753.8	Belizean
English	464,055	240,036	48.3	218,355	146,682	32.8	109,537	99,576	9.1	120,026	73,151	39.1	68,255	45,814	32.9	English
Iranian	51,688	83,944	62.4	12,111	33,139	173.6	1,130	3,173	180.8	1,136	2,562	125.6	1,883	3,298	75.1	Iranian
Jamaican	7,959	7,857	1.3	665	1,209	81.8	498	1,925	286.5	914	1,721	88.3	146	206	41.0	Jamaican
Nigerian	4,079	9,385	130.1	215	1,014	371.6	304	1,533	404.3	376	2,595	590.2	39	49	25.6	Nigerian
Russian	150,312	115,935	22.9	23,209	23,433	1.0	7,334	10,255	39.8	5,230	5,962	14.0	8,821	10,353	17.4	Russian

Red numbers indicate a loss of population.

* American Indian count includes Alaska Natives.

2010 ancestry data are from the U. S. Census 2008-2012 American Community Survey (ancestry) that were aggregated from sampling over that five-year period.