

# 20+ reasons to do business in ORANGE COUNTY

For more info on why OC is a great place to do business, visit [www.LocationOC.com](http://www.LocationOC.com).

## 1 LARGE AND DIVERSE MARKET

Orange County is the sixth largest county in the nation with over **3.1 million people** and more residents than 20 other states in the union. It's total civilian labor force is nearly **1.6 million participating in a diverse economy** with economic output and employment well-distributed among different sectors. Today, more workers commute from Los Angeles County – and every surrounding county – into Orange County workplaces, than the other way around.

## 2 GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

Orange County is located in **one of the most prime economic locations in the world** with Los Angeles County to the north, San Diego County to the south, and Riverside and San Bernardino counties to the east.

## 3 ETHNICALLY DIVERSE

An ethnically diverse region, Orange County has a **"minority majority" population, where no one ethnic group dominates**. Orange County has a larger proportion of foreign born residents than the national and state averages.

## 4 LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

Orange County's unemployment rate is consistently lower than that of the state and nation. For the last five years, **it has been the lowest in Southern California**.

## 5 HIGH HOUSEHOLD INCOME

One of the wealthiest counties in the nation, Orange County has a **median household income of \$82,000**. This is higher than the California and U.S. household averages.

## 6 HIGH-TECH PROWESS

According to the Milken Institute, Orange County is the second most diverse tech county with 16 high-tech industries and a higher employment concentration than the national average. According to Deloitte Tech 500, **six OC-based technology companies were among the fastest growing tech firms in North America**, all with more than 100 percent revenue growth in the past year.

## 7 ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

One of Orange County's greatest attributes is its vibrant entrepreneurial economic climate. In 2015, there were **2,851 patents granted to Orange County inventors**, marking an increase of 81 percent since 2008.

## 8 VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

According to research compiled by Dow Jones VentureSource, Orange County companies received **\$1.14 billion in venture capital investments in 2016**. Overall, 61 local deals received venture capital funding in a variety of industries including high-tech, medical devices, and biopharmaceuticals.

## 9 ATTRACTIVE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT MARKET

The Urban Land Institute's Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2017 named Orange County as one of the nation's top 10 real estate markets to watch, **ranking Orange County 8th overall among 78 U.S. metropolitan areas**.

## 10 GROWING INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Orange County's geographic location provides it with distinct **advantages regarding international trade** including its close proximity to major international ports and airports, a well-connected freeway system, road and rail line system, and a growing presence of an ethnically diverse population providing key contacts for international linkages.

# 11 FUNDING OC'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

In 2006, Orange County voters approved the renewal of a **one-half cent transportation dedicated sales tax**, infusing \$15 billion of investments in Orange County's transportation system during the next 30 years with improvements designed to **reduce traffic congestion**, strengthen the economy and improve our quality of life.

# 12 TOLL ROAD CAPITAL OF CALIFORNIA

**Fifty-one miles of Toll Roads provide traffic relief** to hundreds of thousands of drivers who travel through Orange County each day. Orange County's Toll Roads comprise California's largest toll road system and its 51 miles represent 20 percent of Orange County's highway network.

# 13 GREAT QUALITY OF LIFE

**Orange County is one of the most desirable places to live, work, and play** in the world. With over 42 miles of coastline, Orange County is often referred to as the "California Riviera." Orange County is home to world class amusement parks, shopping, entertainment, dining, open space, arts and culture, and professional sports franchises.

# 14 PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

Compared to other peer counties, **Orange County has the nation's lowest overall crime rate**, as well as the lowest violent and property crime rate. Since 2005, the reported crime rate in Orange County has dropped by 15 percent.

# 15 WORKFORCE TRAINING

Orange County's three Workforce Investment Boards provide local businesses with custom-tailored services such as employee recruitment, workforce training and development, financial incentives and labor market information.

# 16 AN EDUCATED WORKFORCE

Approximately 40 percent of Orange County residents over the age of 25 have a bachelor's degree or higher, **outperforming the state and national averages**.

# 17 NATIONALLY RENOWNED UNIVERSITIES

Orange County is **home to some of the top universities in the nation** including University of California, Irvine; California State University, Fullerton; Chapman University; Brandman University and Concordia University.

# 18 ROBUST COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Orange County's vibrant **network of nine community colleges** work with local companies on customized training in order to meet the business community's 21st century workforce needs helping to ensure that Orange County businesses have a deep and qualified talent pool from which to draw.

# 19 QUALITY HIGH SCHOOLS

The academic proficiency of Orange County's **high school students is among the best in the state**. OC's average SAT score of 1,560 was the highest in SoCal. U.S. News ranked seven OC public high schools in the top 100 in California.

# 20 BUSINESS SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

**Orange County's business-friendly climate** is bolstered by a strong contingent of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Associations. At the forefront in representing the interests of Orange County's business community is **Orange County Business Council, an organization dedicated to ensuring Orange County thrives** and its voice is heard at the local, state, and federal levels, helping to keep the county strong and competitive.

*And because **Nothing Rhymes with Orange** ...the **21<sup>st</sup>** reason to do business in Orange County is...*

# 21 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR LEADERS WORK TOGETHER

Orange County's business community enjoys a **long-standing culture of collaboration with pro-business leaders** in local government helping to foster economic growth through innovative programs and policies that cut regulations, reduce fees and streamline processes.