

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.

1 LARGE AND DIVERSE MARKET

With a diverse population of **over three million people**, Orange County is the **sixth largest county** in the nation, with more residents than 20 of the country's states. With a total civilian labor force of 1.6 million, OC enjoys a diverse **economy**, with economic output and employment well-distributed among 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

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

3 ETHNICALLY DIVERSE

An ethnically diverse region, Orange County has a “majority minority” population. In fact, Orange County has a **larger proportion of foreign born residents** than both the national and state average.

4 LOW UNEMPLOYMENT

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

5 HIGH HOUSEHOLD INCOME

One of the wealthiest counties in the nation, Orange County has an average **household income of \$74,163**. This is **higher than the California and U.S.** household averages.

6 HIGH-TECH PROWESS

Compared to several states with well-known high-tech centers, Orange County is the third most diverse with 16 high-tech industries having a higher employment concentration than the national average. According to Deloitte Tech 500, 10 OC-based technology companies were among the **fastest growing tech firms** in North America, all with more than **150% revenue growth** in the past year.

7 ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRIT

One of Orange County's greatest attributes is its **vibrant entrepreneurial economic climate**. In 2014, there were over **3,500 patents granted to Orange County inventors**, marking a year-over-year increase of 13%.

8 VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

As reported by *The Orange County Business Journal*, according to research compiled by Dow Jones VentureSource, Orange County companies received **\$702 million in venture capital investments in 2014**. Overall, 65 local deals received venture capital funding in a variety of industries including high-tech, medical devices, and energy.

9 ATTRACTIVE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT MARKET

The Urban Land Institute's Emerging Trends in Real Estate 2015 named Orange County as one of the “Top 20” real estate markets to watch, ranking Orange County **12th overall** among 75 U.S. metropolitan areas surveyed.

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 highway and rail line system, and a growing ethnically diverse population. In 2013, OC ranked 10th among U.S. metro areas for total exports.

11 FUNDING OC'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS

In 2006, Orange County voters approved the renewal of a one-half cent transportation dedicated sales tax, infusing **\$1.5 billion of investments** into 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 % 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, entertaining, dining, open space, arts and culture, and professional sports franchises.

14 PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST

Compared to other peer regions, Orange County has the **nation's lowest overall crime rate**, as well as the **lowest violent and property crime rate.** Over the past 10 years, the reported crime rate in Orange County **dropped 21%.**

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

Of Orange County residents over the age of 25, 37 % 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 continues to be among the best in the state, with *Newsweek Magazine* ranking 11 Orange County public high schools in the top 50 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 the **Orange County Business Council**, an organization dedicated to ensuring Orange County thrives and its voice is heard at the local, state and federal levels, keeping the county **strong and competitive** in a 21st century global economy.

*And because **Nothing Rhymes with Orange** ...the **21st** 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.**