

THIS!!!



THE LOCAL NEWS

Local News / Area Happenings / Opinion / Entertainment / Common Sense & Humor

16 CALIFORNIA COUNTIES HAD ECONOMIES TRIPLE IN SIZE THIS CENTURY

California's fastest-growing economies so far this century are in the Bay Area or inland.

My trusty spreadsheet compared county-level gross domestic product stats for 2024, the latest available, and 2001, the oldest numbers in the dataset, to identify the Golden State's hottest busi-

- **San Francisco:** 281% growth rate that ranked 330 nationally to \$268 billion in 2024 - No. 5 statewide and No. 11 in the U.S.

- **Madera:** 276% growth - No. 353 U.S. - to \$8.9 billion in 2024 - No. 34 state, No. 482 U.S.

- **Modoc:** 274% growth - No. 359 U.S. - to \$688 million in 2024 - No. 55 state, No. 2149 U.S.

- **Riverside:** 269% growth - No. 379 U.S. - to \$135 billion in 2024 - No. 10 state, No. 41 U.S.

- **Santa Clara:** 264% growth - No. 396 U.S. - to \$438 billion in 2024 - No. 2 state, No. 6 U.S.

- **Imperial:** 254% growth - No. 434 U.S. - to \$13 billion in 2024 - No. 29 state, No. 353 U.S.

- **Solano:** 242% growth - No. 493 U.S. - to \$38 billion in 2024 - No. 19 state, No. 154 U.S.

- **Placer:** 239% growth - No. 511 U.S. - to \$34.3 billion in 2024 - No. 21 state, No. 172 U.S.

- **San Bernardino:** 230% growth - No. 568

U.S. - to \$138 billion in 2024 - No. 8 state, No. 36 U.S.

- **Colusa:** 223% growth - No. 610 U.S. - to \$2 billion in 2024 - No. 47 state, No. 1265 U.S.

- **Kern:** 223% growth - No. 621 U.S. - to \$63 billion in 2024 - No. 14 state, No. 92 U.S.

- **Merced:** 213% growth - No. 712 U.S. - to \$13 billion in 2024 - No. 28 state, No. 348 U.S.

- **Fresno:** 205% growth - No. 786 U.S. - to \$64 billion in 2024 - No. 13 state, No. 89 U.S.

- **Kings:** 204% growth - No. 790 U.S. - to \$9 billion in 2024 - No. 33 state, No. 464 U.S.

- **Yuba:** 201% growth - No. 821 U.S. - to \$4.5 billion in 2024 - No. 39 state, No. 743 U.S.

Nationally speaking

The fastest-growing counties in the U.S., 2024 vs. 2001...

- Loving, Texas, up 8,628% to \$11 billion.

- Culberson, Texas, up 6,724% to \$4 billion.

- Martin, Texas, up 6,599% to \$16 billion.

- Reeves, Texas, up 3,581% to \$14 billion.

- Dunn, Texas, up 3,177% to \$2 billion.

Jonathan Lansner is the business columnist for the Southern California News Group. He can be reached at jlansner@scng.com

IF YOU PAY TAXES, READ THIS OR PARRISH -Get Smart along with the IRS

The IRS is scaling back high-end enforcement and heavily reducing staff, relying instead on automation and artificial intelligence to bridge the gap. Faced with successive Congressional budget cuts and rescinded funding, the agency is prioritizing operational efficiency, system interoperability, and transparency. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Key Resource Policies and Focus Areas

• **Automation Over Personnel:** The administration is pivoting away from large-scale personnel hiring, specifically attempting to offset reduced enforcement headcounts with artificial intelligence and machine learning to review and target noncompliance.

• **IT Transformation and Legacy Upgrades:** The IRS is focused on replacing obsolete legacy systems and improving system interoperability. By building new APIs, the agency is trying to seamlessly connect previously isolated tax systems and eliminate burdensome paper processes.

• **Enhanced Transparency:** Treasury initiatives (such as revisions to Form 990) are shifting resources toward stricter accountability for tax-exempt organizations and detecting fraud in government grants and contracts.

• **Budget Contractions:** Recent bipartisan budget deals cut the IRS's base budget and stripped nearly two-thirds of the multi-year funding originally provided by the Inflation Reduction Act. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8]

Current Actionable Links

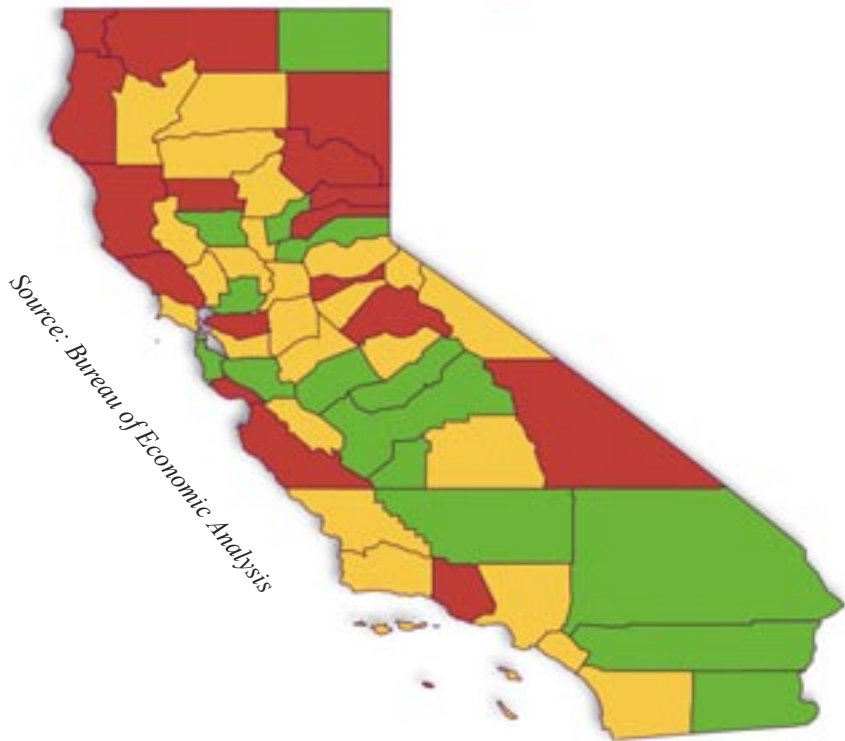
• Review all available options for managing your taxes and payments on the IRS Payments hub.

• Explore year-specific tax inflation adjustments and standard deduction updates on the IRS Newsroom.

Continued on pg 11

California's fastest-growing county economies

2021-24 GDP GROWTH: 200%-plus 150%-199% Below 150%



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

ness climates. The growth rates, not adjusted for inflation, were compared with the expansion pace of all U.S. counties tracked.

There were 16 California counties in which GDP tripled in the 23 years. Four of these fast-growth counties were around the Bay Area, and the other 12 were inland.

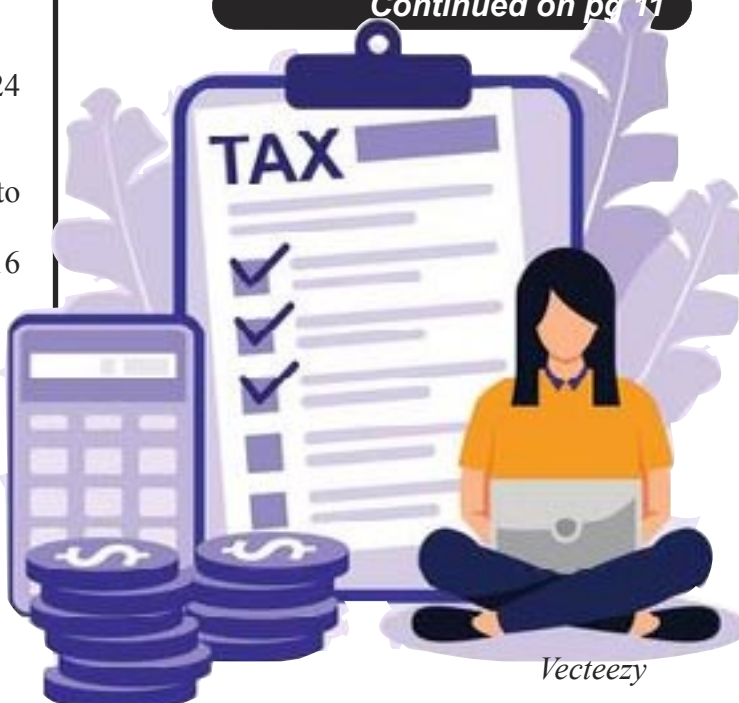
San Mateo was California's top growth county, with GDP up 379% between 2001 and 2024. The expansion pace ranked 142nd fastest nationwide.

San Mateo's increase put its 2024 GDP at \$217 billion - No. 6 among the state's counties and No. 15 in the nation.

By the way, the statewide GDP almost tripled in this period - up 195% to \$4 trillion. And the nation's GDP grew 176% to \$29 trillion.

Here's how the other counties where GDP at least tripled fared, ranked among the state's 58 counties by their growth rates:

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The Weak That Was America: Home of the Free because of the Brave



Dave Garofalo
Publisher

INSPIRATION

"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

— Winston Churchill

sad truth

"Of all the words of mice and men, the saddest are, 'It might have been.'"

— Kurt Vonnegut

DID YOU KNOW WHERE THIS IDIOM COMES FROM?

Fly off the handle

The idiom "to fly off the handle" is used to describe someone who is not in full control of their emotions: Someone might fly off the handle if they angrily and suddenly overreact to a minor inconvenience.

You might be inclined to think that the titular handle is one found in an everyday tool like a frying pan or a wok, but it in fact

comes from the world of lumberjacks: According to historians, this idiom comes from badly manufactured axes, out of which poorly fastened axe heads would sometimes come off flying. Since this outcome is obviously dangerous, this idiom perfectly describes unpredictable and potentially unpleasant situations.



Image: Toyfiqu barbutiya

DID YOU KNOW

Your tongue print is completely unique to you

Surprising Sports Facts That You Never Would've Guessed



SPORTS

For ten straight NBA Finals (1994 - 2003), the champion teams had either Steve Kerr or Robert Horry on their teams.

Robert Earnshaw is the only player to have scored a hat-trick in all three divisions of the English Football League, the Premier League, the League Cup, FA Cup, and for his country at International level.

In Michael Jordan's entire career with the Chicago Bulls, Jordan only scored in single digits one time. This was because he was recovering from a broken foot and was playing for only 16 minutes.

These crazy, ridiculous, and almost unbelievable statistics will make you question everything



Banana is a happy fruit. Eating just one can help relieve irritable emotions, anger and or depression.

If Animals Could Talk



The Best Advice Dad Ever Gave Me

"Don't Tell Mom."

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Newspaper Publication Policy: The Local News is a bi-monthly digital publication. Generally, we try to publish on the 1st & 15th of each month. We publish approximately 24 times per year not including Special Editions. The only exceptions are those months with 5 weeks. We distribute a 12-month production schedule each January showing exact dates for news, ads, digital and distribution dates.

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PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

This space is created for all area non-profit organizations to be listed as a LIVE link to the following organizations...

ORGANIZATION NAME For Live Web Site Click below

CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

City of Huntington Beach, California - Home (huntingtonbeachca.gov)

KIWANIS OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Kiwanis Club of Huntington Beach (kiwanishb.org)

ASSISTANCE LEAGUE OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Assistance League - Huntington Beach

GREATER HB INTERFAITH COUNCIL

Interfaith | The Greater Huntington Beach Interfaith Council | Huntington Beach (ghbic1.org)

HB COMMUNITY POLICE FOUNDATION

Huntington Beach Police Community Foundation | Our Programs (hbpcf.org)

HB FIRE OUTREACH FOUNDATION

(20+) Huntington Beach Fire Outreach Foundation | Huntington Beach CA | Facebook

HB POLICE AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Huntington Beach Police and Community Foundation | Our Programs (hbpcf.org)

HB FIRE DEPARTMENT

City of Huntington Beach, CA - Huntington Beach Fire Department (huntingtonbeachca.gov)

CITY OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

The City of Fountain Valley | Official Website

KIWANIS OF FOUNTAIN VALLEY

Fountain Valley - Kiwanis International (kiwanisfv.org)

FOUNTAIN VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Home - Fountain Valley Chamber of Commerce, CA (fvchamber.com)

HUNTINGTON BEACH HOST LIONS CLUB

www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/huntingtonbeachca/

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www.robynesnest.org

BOLSA CHICA CONSERVANCY

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ALZHEIMER'S FAMILY CENTER

www.afscenter.org

SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

<https://soroptimisthuntingtonbeach.org/>

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	Mandic Motors	\$20 Off ANY Automotive Repair or Tow	18881 Gothard St	HB	714.536.6585
	McKenna VW	\$500 off of any new car	18711 Beach Blvd	HB	866.925.0602
	Norm Reeves Honda	10% off parts and labor, \$300 discount on any new or pre-owned vehicle	19131 Beach Blvd	HB	800.306.6472
	Surf City Nissan	Check with Merchant	17331 Beach Blvd	HB	800.615.9640
	Toyota of HB	15% off Parts & Service, • \$300 off New Car	18881 Beach Blvd	HB	888.433.1447
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	Beauty Supply Zone	10% off products and 25% off hair services Brian, Jillian or Kristen	16277 Bolsa Chica St	HB	714.840.0159
	Surf City Debt Relief	15% off total fees with enrollment into one of our Debt Relief programs	5267 Warner Ave #183	HB	657.464.9683
	Bella Vita Salon Boutique & Spa	\$45 Hydrating Aromatherapy Steam Facial	301 Main St#108	HB	714.960.8100

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"If I outlive my life expectancy, the lender will evict me."

MYTH SIX

"A reverse mortgage will affect my government benefits."

MYTH SEVEN:

"There are no objective advisors available to seniors trying to decide if a reverse mortgage suits their needs."

MYTH EIGHT:

"My children will be responsible for the repayment of the loan."

MYTH NINE

"Reverse mortgage lenders take advantage of seniors."

MYTH TEN::

"I cannot get a reverse mortgage if I have an existing mortgage."

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Charles Hewlett of Seapointe Properties helped us sell our home during the spring of 2025. We could not have been happier with the service and care we received from Charles. He was extremely knowledgeable about the neighborhood and local market and made the whole process stress free. He guided us through each step of the process, making sure we understood all the details each step of the way.

Charles was extremely effective in helping us prepare the home for listing; he put us into contact with several contractors that were responsive, efficient, and charged a fair price. Charles also devised a sensible strategy for listing the house that led to a rapid sale. Finally, Charles found an excellent buyer and negotiated a good price for the home.

On a personal note, Charles is a kind and thoughtful individual who responds quickly to calls and questions and is eager to help whenever needed. He is highly professional and experienced, and the most helpful broker we have worked with.

We cannot recommend Charles Hewlett and Seapointe Properties highly enough.

During this uncertain time in the real estate market, we are very grateful for Charles's hard work and dedication. His professionalism, knowledge, and kindness made the whole experience a joy. He went above and beyond and exceeded our expectations.

Thank you!
Julianne and Erik Altenbernd

Wishing that I could help more nice folks like these. It always makes us feel good when I know I have done a good job for someone that needed my help selling or buying a home.

At Seapointe Properties we make every effort to ensure that our clients are always happy with the results of their real estate transaction. Repeat and word of mouth business is the primary part of our success. We love living in Orange County and feel blessed to have so many great friends to share gatherings and meals together.

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IF YOU PAY TAXES, READ THIS OR PARRISH -Get Smart along with the IRS

- Track official updates on tax administration and procedural guidance on the IRS Priority Guidance Plan. [1, 2, 3, 4]

At the same time, the IRS is becoming far more selective in how it conducts audits and investigations. Rather than broad-based enforcement, the agency is increasingly concentrating on cases with the highest potential revenue recovery and the clearest digital audit trail. High-income individuals, large partnerships, flow-through entities, cryptocurrency transactions, offshore reporting issues, and businesses with substantial discrepancies between reported income and lifestyle indicators remain primary enforcement targets. Automated matching systems now compare W-2s, 1099s, brokerage reporting, banking activity, payroll filings, and digital payment platform information with increasing sophistication.

Conversely, the IRS appears to be easing pressure on many ordinary wage earners and smaller routine filings unless there are obvious inconsistencies, repeated nonfiling patterns, or unusually aggressive deductions. Staffing shortages and budget reductions have forced the agency to prioritize efficiency over volume, resulting in fewer traditional field audits and a greater reliance on correspondence audits, automated notices, and AI-assisted case selection. In practical terms, this means many taxpayers may experience less direct scrutiny, but the cases that are pursued are often more data-driven and targeted.

The future of IRS administration will likely involve a hybrid system combining reduced human staffing with expanded technological oversight. Artificial intelligence, predictive analytics, and machine learning are expected to continue driving audit selection, fraud detection, and taxpayer service automation. However, multiple government oversight reports have warned that the IRS may lack sufficient experienced personnel and technical infrastructure to fully implement these ambitions effectively. Significant reductions in staffing — particularly among enforcement and technology personnel — have created concerns about slower response times, diminished institutional knowledge, and uneven enforcement capabilities.

For taxpayers and businesses, the environment ahead is likely to become increasingly digital, automated, and documentation-driven. The IRS of the future may conduct fewer traditional investigations, but it will depend more heavily on algorithmic identification of anomalies, electronic records, and third-party reporting systems. Taxpayers who maintain accurate records, timely filings, and transparent reporting will likely face less risk than in prior decades. Those operating in cash-intensive industries, utilizing complex pass-through structures, or engaging in aggressive tax strategies may continue to receive disproportionate scrutiny despite the agency's overall downsizing.



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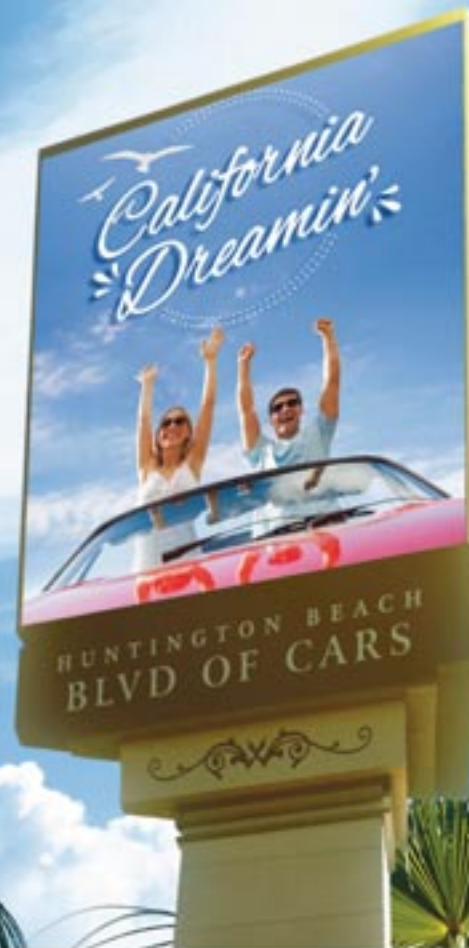
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