Riverside County, California

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Riverside County (/rɪˈvɜrsaɪd/ riv-ur-SYDE) is a county in the southern portion of the U.S. state of California. As of the 2010 census, the population was 2,189,641,[1] making it the fourth-most populous county in California and the 10th-most populous county in the United States. The county seat is the city of Riverside, which is the most populous city in the Inland Empire.

Riverside County is part of the Riverside–San Bernardino–Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area, the seventh-largest MSA in the United States. The county was created by the California Legislature on February 17, 1893, from portions of San Diego and San Bernardino counties.[2] Riverside County is bordered by San Bernardino County to the north, Orange County to the northwest, Los Angeles County to the northwest, San Diego County to the southwest, Imperial County to the southeast, and the Colorado River and Arizona to the east. Geographically, the county is mostly inland from the coastal and western portions, but has a small portion that reaches the Pacific Ocean. The county's terrain is very diverse, with the Santa Ana Mountains in the west, the Pass area in the central portion, the Coachella Valley in the east, and the Chuckwalla and Chocolate Mountains in the southeast. Riverside County is also home to Lake Elsinore, California's largest natural freshwater lake.

Between 1987 and 2007, large numbers of Los Angeles area families moved to the county to take advantage of more affordable housing. Riverside County's population grew by 42% during that period, and it was the fastest-growing county in the United States with a population of 1 million or more during that period. Riverside County's population growth has slowed significantly since the housing bubble burst in 2007, but it still remains one of the fastest-growing counties in the United States.

Riverside County, California	
Capital	Riverside
Largest city	Riverside
Area	7,303 sq mi (18,915 km²)
Population	2,189,641
Density	300/sq mi (116/km²)
Established	February 17, 1893
Time zone	Pacific: UTC−8/−7
Website	www.rivcoeo.org

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