

A non-profit, non-partisan corporation of public spirited leaders who have joined together to be catalysts for the economic well-being of the Inland Empire region of California – San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

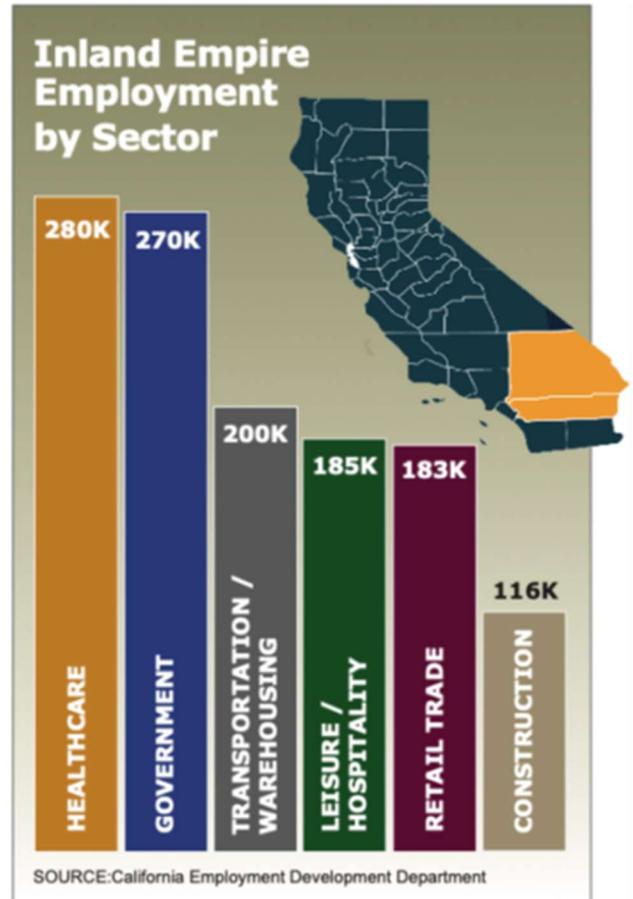
Key Regional Employment Sectors Face Risks

The Inland Empire is one of the fastest-growing regions in the state, with healthcare, logistics, and construction – among others – driving our economy. These sectors face a number of risks, with job losses due to AI and automation being a significant one. These risks are compounded by historically low educational attainment, putting the onus on our region to continue finding ways to address the shifting employment landscape.

All of that said, significant opportunities exist within the Inland Empire to play an increasingly vital role in the economic well-being of California and the nation:

- The region has become a leader in **transportation innovation**, creating a growing need for professionals and technical support in this critical industry.
- Other emerging employment sectors include **alternative energy production, cybersecurity, aerospace** and **business services**, among others.
- The two-county region now boasts a **civilian labor force of more than 2.2 million**.

There are currently two opportunities for Congress to act on in support of the region's economic growth: (1) Support for the workforce investment boards, and (2) A federal approach to AI integration as it affects the labor market.



WIOA Reauthorization

WIOA Reauthorization: H.R. 7148 continued funding, but a reauthorization would give our region the stability to plan ahead and keep pace with employer demand. WIOA is the backbone of how we prepare local workers for 21-century jobs. Many jobseekers face real barriers – transportation, housing instability, justice involvement, or being the first in their family to work in a career pathway. WIOA needs flexibility at the local level, paired with accountability that values progress and retention, not just quick placements. In the Inland Empire, that means paid work-based learning, strong employer partnerships, and credentials tied to regional industries.

AI

S. 3319 and H.R. 6621 – In order to ensure a workforce that is prepared for an AI driven economy, the region needs to increase educational attainment and job skills training. This legislation will help equip our existing post-secondary educational and job-training resources to prepare students for the jobs of the future.

S. 3339 – The drivers of the region's economy are initiating AI implementation. As leaders of the region, we appreciate legislation at the federal level that creates well-informed policy. We support this and other legislation that will lead to a better understanding of the effects of AI on employment.