

# San Luis Obispo County The Real Cost Measure in California 2023

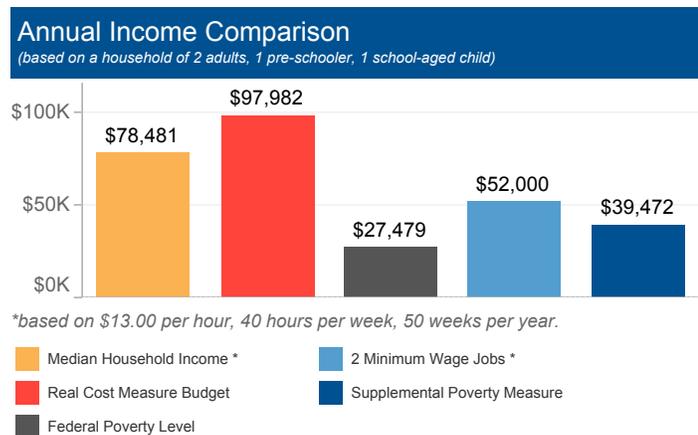


United Ways of California

The Real Cost Measure (RCM) estimates the amount of income required to meet basic needs including the costs of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and taxes. Unlike the official poverty measure which is primarily calculated based on the cost of food adjusted for inflation annually, the Real Cost Measure takes into account geographical differences in the cost of living throughout California.

If any results show blank values, that indicates the sample size is too small to illustrate Real Cost Measure results. Per our methodology, estimates with a cell size of greater than 5,000 are assumed to be accurate within +/-1% based on design factor analysis. Cell sizes less than 5,000 are suppressed.

# of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure with at least 1 Working Adult
<b>26,194</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>97%</b>



### Household Budgets

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Pre-schooler, 1 School-aged child
Housing	\$13,992	\$15,156	\$19,980
Food	\$4,956	\$9,096	\$14,064
Health Care	\$2,892	\$5,784	\$11,556
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$17,856
Transportation	\$6,348	\$12,696	\$12,696
Miscellaneous	\$2,820	\$4,272	\$7,620
Taxes/Credits	\$5,702	\$7,288	\$14,210
<b>FINAL BUDGET</b>	<b>\$36,710</b>	<b>\$54,292</b>	<b>\$97,982</b>

### Households of Color

Across the county, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Standard. In this area, of the 26,194 households below the Real Cost Measure, 6,248 are Latino.

### Households with Young Children

A sufficient sample size is not available to report on the number of households with young children struggling below the Real Cost Measure.

### Working Households

- 97% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 63% of heads of household who work are employed full time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, 1 infant, 1 school-aged child) would need to hold more than 3 full time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.\*\*

### Housing Burden

- 39% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

### Education

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Less than High School		
High School Diploma or Equivalent		
Some College, Assoc. or Voc.	13,046	39%
Bachelor's degree or higher	6,575	18%

### Ethnicity

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Latino	6,248	42%
African American		
Asian American / Pacific Islander		
White	18,938	29%
Native American/Alaska Native		

### Household Type

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Single Mothers		
Seniors	5,140	22%
Married Couples	8,355	25%
Informal Families	7,641	40%

### Citizenship/Nativity

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Foreign Born, Non-Citizen		
Born a US Citizen	21,587	29%
Foreign Born, Naturalized		

\*\* Minimum waged jobs based on \$13.00 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. Median household earnings control for elder-led households and household led by persons with disabilities consistent with the Real Cost Measure.

Findings drawn from *The Real Cost Measure in California 2023* by United Ways of California. Data calculated for this geographic profile is from 2021. For detailed methodology, please visit <https://www.unitedwaysca.org/realcost>.