

Culver City

People and Place

Location

Culver City is located at the intersection of Interstate Highway 405 and the Santa Monica Freeway in Los Angeles County. It is in west Los Angeles in the La Ballona Valley between Inglewood and Beverly Hills. Ballona Creek flows through the valley and empties into the Pacific Ocean near Marina del Rey (5 miles west). Culver City is considered part of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. It covers 4.99 square miles of land and less than one square mile of water. The geographic coordinates of Culver City are lat 34°00'59"N, long 118°23'03"W.

Demographic Profile

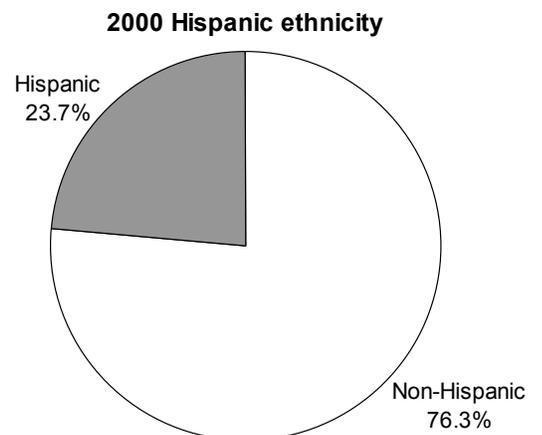
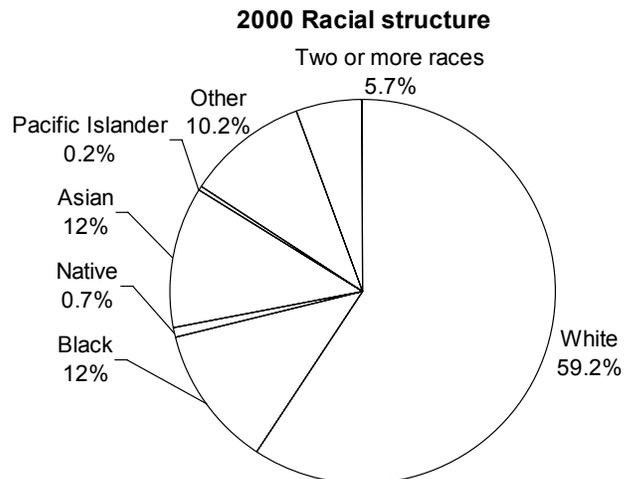
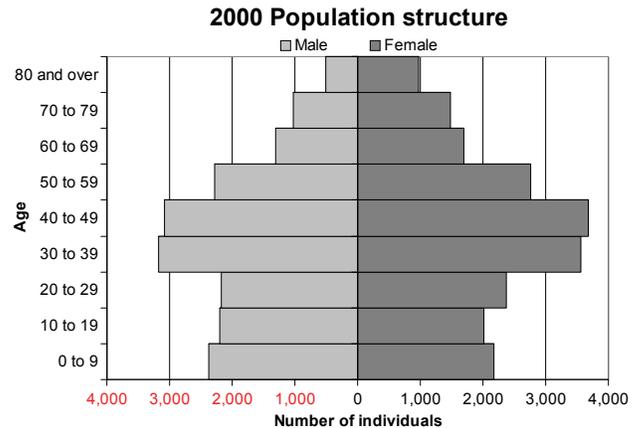
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Culver City was 38,816, a 0.1% increase from 1990. The gender composition was 53.3% female and 46.7% male. The median age was 39.1, compared to the national median of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 86.6% had a high school education or higher, 39.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 15.9% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the racial structure was white (59.2%), followed by Asian (12%), black (12%), individuals who identified with some other race (10.2%), individuals who identified with two or more races (5.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (0.7%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.2%). Ethnicity data indicate 23.7% identified as Hispanic. In 2000 26.6% of the population was foreign-born, of which 24.5% were from Mexico.

In 2000 76.0% of the population lived in family households.

History

Native Americans first inhabited the California coast about 13,000 years ago. The Los Angeles area was home to the Chumash Indians, whose territory spanned the California coast from Malibu to Pasa Robles.¹ The Chumash were hunter-gatherers and relied heavily on maritime resources, including clams, mussels, abalone and many fish species. They developed sophisticated technologies for harvesting marine resources, established large coastal villages, and traded extensively within their territory. Between 200 and 500 years ago, Tongva Indians migrated from the Mojave Desert region,



establishing 25 villages throughout what is today the Los Angeles County area. The Tongva also depended on marine resources.²

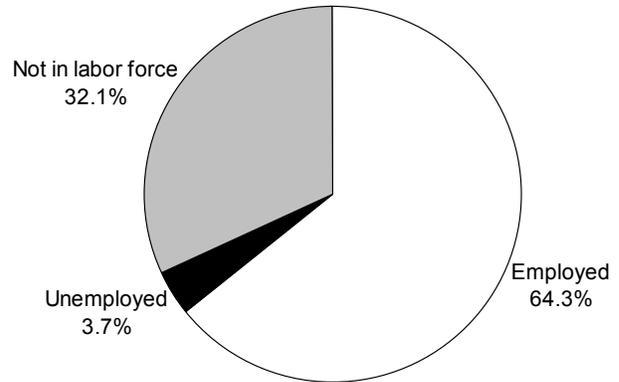
Indians in the vicinity of what is now Culver City relied heavily on Ballona Creek, which flows through the Ballona Valley toward the Playa del Rey River.³ They harvested fish from the creek and its surrounding marshes and constructed reed boats and wood plank canoes they sealed with asphaltum from the nearby La Brea Tar Pits. They also hunted sea lions and seals and took ocean fish and shellfish. After European settlement, native peoples in the Culver City area became known as the Gabrielenos, derived from the San Gabriel Mission. Today the Gabrieleno/Tongva Tribe is headquartered in San Gabriel, where it is seeking federal recognition and tribal fishing rights.

Europeans first settled the Culver City area in the 1780s when several prominent Spanish soldiers arrived with their families and constructed two large ranches, Rancho La Ballona and Rincón de Los Bueyes.⁴ They raised cattle and sheep and grew fruit and nut trees, vineyards, barley, corn, wheat, beans, and celery irrigated with water from Ballona Creek. In the late 1800s developers subdivided the ranches to build a series of seaside resorts and a port near the mouth of Ballona Creek. These efforts failed due to flooding. In 1935 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers channelized the creek to assist development.

Henry H. Culver, a real estate entrepreneur, founded Culver City in 1913. Culver chose the area because of its promising location between Los Angeles and the resort town of Venice. He designed the city to have a mix of residential and commercial uses. In 1915, he convinced film director Thomas Ince to move his film studio to Culver City. Other movie studios (including Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer) followed and the community became known as the “Heart of Screenland.” Culver aggressively promoted the community, attracting other businesses, lobbying for the construction of a freeway to link Los Angeles with the sea (the Santa Monica Freeway now serves this function), and annexing surrounding land.

Today Culver City is within the greater Los Angeles area but remains an independent community with its own city government. It is the headquarters of Sony Entertainment, which occupies the historic Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studio. To stave off economic decline, the Culver City Redevelopment Agency, a division of the city, has undertaken a plan to remove “blighting influences” (i.e., abandoned buildings, undeveloped lots).⁵ The city also supports a number of small businesses and schools that are well regarded in the West Los Angeles area.

2000 Employment structure



Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 64.3% of Culver City’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.7% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 5.4% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 32.1% were not in the labor force. Major employment sectors were education, health and social services (22.1%), local, state, or federal government (15.2%), professional, scientific, and technical services (13.8%), and retail trade (9.5%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 0.04%, but this may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

Culver City’s major employers include Sony Entertainment, Culver City, Culver City Unified School District, and Brotman Medical Center. Because the greater Los Angeles metro area surrounds Culver City, residents may also commute to jobs outside the city.

According to the 2000 U.S., Census, Culver City’s per capita income was \$29,025 in 1999, 34.5% above the national per capita income of \$21,587. The median household income was \$51,792, compared to a national median household income of \$41,994. In 1999 8.6% lived below the poverty level, compared to the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 Culver City had 17,130 housing units, of which 97.1% were occupied and 2.9% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 54.4% were by owner and 45.6% were by renter. Of the vacant housing, 31.6% were for rent and 21.6% were for sale.

Governance

Culver City incorporated as a general law city within Los Angeles County in 1917 but became a charter city in 1947. A five-member city council, mayor, city clerk, and city treasurer govern the community.⁶ Culver City levies an 8.25% sales and use tax. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in California.

The nearest California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region Field Office is 30 miles away in Los Alamitos. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Southwest Regional Office is in Long Beach (26 miles). Eight Coast Guard vessels are stationed at the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office/Group Los Angeles–Long Beach, located in San Pedro (25 miles). Delmar and San Diego, approximately 111 miles away, are the nearest cities hosting Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings. A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Office is in Los Angeles.

Facilities

The main thoroughfares connecting Culver City to the greater metropolitan area are Interstate Highway 405 and the Santa Monica Freeway, which intersect in the community. Culver City is accessible by land, sea, and air. Seventeen Amtrak trains serve Los Angeles' Union Station (9 miles from Culver City), making it the eighth busiest Amtrak station in the nation. Los Angeles International Airport (7 miles from Culver City) ranks No. 3 in the world based on passenger volume. Ontario International Airport, Bob Hope Airport, and Long Beach Airport also serve the Los Angeles area.⁷

Culver City is in the Culver City Unified School District, which has five elementary schools, one middle school, two high schools, and one adult education center. It is also home to three private grade schools and West Los Angeles College (a community college facility). Culver City provides water and sewer services and Southern California Edison and other private power companies supply electricity. The Brotman Medical Center is in the city. The Culver City Police and Fire departments and several Los Angeles fire companies administer law enforcement and emergency services.

The nearest noncommercial marine facility is 5 miles to the west in Marina del Rey, the world's largest man-made harbor for pleasure craft. Marina del Rey has berths for 5,000 vessels and offers public ramps, guest slips, and charter boat services.⁸ A number of deep-sea fishing and whale-watching businesses operate out of the facility, catering to sport fishermen and tourists.

The nearest commercial marine facilities are at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro Bay (25 miles away). This port complex, outfitted for both commercial and recreational purposes, stretches along 43 miles of waterfront and occupies 7,500 acres, of which 3,300 are water.⁹ The City of Los Angeles has jurisdiction over the port, which is directed by a five-member Board of Harbor Commission appointed by the mayor.¹⁰ The port has 29 state-of-the-art cargo facilities and 5 intermodal rail yards.¹¹ It also includes the Cabrillo Marina (with 1,100 slips pleasure craft), Cabrillo Beach (popular with swimmers), three museums, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and the *S.S. Lane Victory* (a national historic landmark). In 1997 a 47-acre terminal island transfer facility was completed allowing the direct transfer of containers from ships to trains.¹² There are a number of harbor cruise and whale-watching tours offered through the port.¹³ The port's World Cruise Center is the primary cruise passenger complex on the West Coast, capable of handling the world's largest cruise ships.¹⁴

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Culver City received no landings in 2000. However, a resident owned one commercial vessel that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Culver City residents in 2000 that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 0/0/2.¹⁵

Recorded data for 2000 indicates the number of Culver City residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish 0/0/1, highly migratory species NA/0/0, other species 0/0/2, and shellfish 0/0/NA.¹⁶

In 2000 Culver City residents held at least five commercial fishing permits, all of which were registered state permits. The number of state permits held by Culver City residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish 0/0/1, highly migratory species NA/0/0, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/4.¹⁷

According to available data, no seafood processors operated in Culver City in 2000, but Urbani Holdings (formerly Sattel Global Networks Inc.) operated a specialty food distribution company in Culver City. This company distributed products such as truffles, caviar, wild mushrooms, smoked fish, and specialty game to gourmet stores and specialty shops throughout the country.¹⁸

Sportfishing

A number of charter vessels operate out of the greater Los Angeles area targeting albacore tuna, rock cod, salmon, and other species. In 2002 Culver City had no operating charter businesses. There are two license agents selling sportfishing licenses in Culver City. In 2000 agents sold 76,385 resident sportfishing licenses, 59 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 164 sport salmon punch cards, and 174 abalone report cards in Los Angeles County. The two nearest commercial passenger fishing vessel ports consist of the Redondo, Marina Del Rey, and Malibu complex; and the Seal Beach, Long Beach, and San Pedro complex.

In 2000 13 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 63,765 anglers at the Redondo, Marina Del Rey, and Malibu port complex. The vessels reported 326,222 landings of more than two dozen species. Sea bass (various species), California scorpionfish, and rockfishes (unspecified) accounted for 39.9%, 22.7%, and 15.8% of the landings respectively. In 2000 54 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 148,977 anglers in the Seal Beach, Long Beach, and San Pedro port group. The vessels reported 883,806 landings of more than two dozen species. Sea bass (various species), barracuda, flatfishes (unspecified), and rockfishes (unspecified) accounted for 47.6%, 14.1%, 10.4%, and 9.2% respectively.

Subsistence

Local tribal and nontribal community members may engage in subsistence fishing in the Culver City area. However, specific information on subsistence fishing is not discussed in detail due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game uses the term “recreational” for fishermen who do not earn revenue from their catch, but fish for pleasure or to provide food for personal consumption. Information on subsistence fishing is captured to some degree in the sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 one resident held a North Pacific fisheries crew member license.

Sportfishing

In 2000 42 Culver City residents purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses.

Notes

1. The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. 2002. Chumash Indian life. Online at <http://www.sbnature.org/research/anthro/chumash/index.htm> [accessed 13 February 2007].
2. Los Angeles Almanac. 2004. Los Angeles County-Pre-history to 1799. Online at <http://www.laalmanac.com/history/hi01a.htm> [accessed 13 February 2007].
3. J. Cerra. No date. Culver City history. Online at <http://www.culvercity.org/cityinfo/history/index.html> [accessed 13 February 2007].
4. See note 3.
5. Culver City Redevelopment Agency. 2004. Culver City redevelopment plan. Online at http://www.culvercity.org/citygov/redevelop/RedevelopmentPlan_CulverCity.pdf [accessed 13 February 2007].
6. City of Culver City. 2005. City information. Online at <http://www.culvercity.org/cityinfo/history/factsheet.html> [accessed 13 February 2007].
7. LA Inc.: The Convention and Visitors Bureau. No date. Facts about Los Angeles: Transportation. Online at <http://www.lapressroom.info/factstransportation.aspx> [accessed 13 February 2007].
8. Marina del Rey Convention and Visitors Bureau. 2005. Home page. Online at <http://visithemarina.com> [accessed 13 February 2007].
9. Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: Home. Online at <http://www.portofla.org/index.htm> [accessed 13 February 2007].
10. Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: About the port. Online at <http://www.portofla.org/about.htm> [accessed 13 February 2007].
11. Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: Facilities. Online at <http://www.portofla.org/Facilities.htm> [accessed 13 February 2007].
12. The Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: A historical look. Online at http://www.portofla.org/about_history.htm [accessed 13 February 2007].
13. The Port of Los Angeles. 2001. The Port of Los Angeles: Recreation. Online at <http://www.portofla.org/recreation.htm> [accessed 13 February 2007].
14. LA Inc.: The Convention and Visitors Bureau. No date. LA world cruise center. Online at <http://www.cruisela.com/index.aspx> [accessed 13 February 2007].
15. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.
16. See note 15.
17. See note 15.
18. All Business Directory. 2005. Business directory. Online at http://www.allbusiness.com/biz-directory/index.asp?path=/directory/food_and_beverage/seafood&partner=allbiz [accessed 13 February 2007].