Santa Ana

People and Place

Location

Santa Ana is located in Orange County along Interstate Highway 5. It is east of Long Beach, about 32 miles south of Los Angeles and 89 miles north of San Diego. The community covers 27.14 square miles of land and 0.3 square mile of water. Santa Ana’s geographic coordinates are lat 33°44'44"N, long 117°52'01"W.

Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Santa Ana was 337,977, a 15.1% increase from 1990. The gender composition was 48.2% female and 51.8% male. The median age in 2000 was 26.5, considerably lower than the national median of 35.3. About 34.2% were under the age of 18 and 44.6% were between 22 and 49. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 44.5% had a high school education or higher, 7.8% had a bachelor’s degree or higher, and 2.3% had a graduate or professional degree; lower than the national averages of 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The racial composition was predominantly white (42.7%), followed by individuals who identified with some other race (40.6%), Asian (8.8%), individuals who identified with two or more races (4.6%), black (1.7%), American Indian and Alaska native (1.2%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.3%). Ethnicity data indicate 76.1% identified as Hispanic. About 53.3% were foreign-born, of which 78.8% were born in Mexico and 9% in Vietnam. In 2000 92.3% of the population lived in family households.

History

In 1769 Don Gaspár de Portolá, leader of a Spanish expedition, discovered a valley and river that he named Santa Ana. José Antonio Yorba, an expedition soldier, and his nephew Juan Peralta received a land grant from the Spanish authority and developed Rancho Santiago de Santa Ana for grazing cattle and farming. A century later in 1869, William H. Spurgeon purchased 70 acres from the Yorba family and plotted a town site, naming it Santa Ana. The city incorporated in 1886. Three years later Orange County was formed by annexing a portion of Los Angeles County. Santa Ana was designated the county seat. At formation Orange County had three incorporated cities: Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Orange.
During World War II, the Santa Ana Army Air Base was an important site for military operations. The population of Santa Ana boomed immediately after World War II as local industry grew, creating more jobs. Trolley services to Los Angeles made commuting possible, beginning the era of suburbanization as the population of the greater Los Angeles metropolitan area spilled over into small cities like Santa Ana. Growth throughout Orange County continued through the latter half of the twentieth century, aided by construction of the freeway system. Today Santa Ana is a satellite community to Los Angeles and an important administrative and financial center in its own right.¹

**Infrastructure**

**Current Economy**

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.7% of Santa Ana’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 4.7% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 8.0% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 40.6% were not in the labor force. The primary employment sectors were manufacturing (24.7%), education, health, and social services (10.4%), retail trade (10.4%), local, state, or federal government (7.7%), and the armed forces (< 1.0%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed 1.5%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

According to the California Employment Development Department, the major employers in Santa Ana are First American Title Insurance, Ingram Micro Inc., and Santa Ana College.²

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Santa Ana’s per capita income in 1999 was $12,152 and the median household income was $43,412. About 19.8% lived below the poverty level, higher than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 Santa Ana had 74,588 housing units, of which 97.9% were occupied and 2.1% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 49.3% were by owner and 50.7% were by renter. Of the vacant units, 44.1% were for rent and 18.4% were for sale.

**Governance**

Santa Ana is the county seat of Orange County and has a council-manager government, consisting of six council members and an elected mayor. The sales and use tax is 7.25% based on the standard statewide rate. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in California.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has an office in Santa Ana. The National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Coast Guard all have offices in Long Beach, 22 miles west. Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held in Del Mar, about 70 miles south, and the nearest North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held in Portland, Oregon, nearly 1,000 miles north.

**Facilities**

Santa Ana is accessible by Interstate Highway 5, which runs north and south through the city, and by air at John Wayne Orange County Airport, located within Santa Ana. Los Angeles International Airport is about 33 miles north. Greyhound and Amtrak provide bus and rail service respectively to nearby communities and links to metropolitan areas.

Santa Ana has 43 elementary schools, 12 middle schools, 9 high schools, 32 private schools of all levels, 4 junior colleges or higher education centers, and 3 universities or colleges.³ Santa Ana’s Public Works Agency provides water and wastewater services and collects garbage. Southern California Edison supplies electric utilities, and the Santa Ana Police Department and the Orange County Sheriff’s Office administer local law enforcement. Santa Ana has its own fire department, and is home to three major hospitals: Western Medical Center, Coastal Communities Hospital, and Children’s Hospital of Orange County. The city also has a variety of smaller medical clinics, surgery centers, and hospice care facilities. Lodging accommodations include 22 hotels and motels, and one bed and breakfast.
Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Landings data for Santa Ana were recorded as part of the Other Los Angeles and Orange County Ports port group which includes the nearby communities of: Alhambra, Anaheim, Avalon, Balboa, Beaumont, Bell Gardens, Bloomington, Capistrano, Carson, Catalina Island, Chatsworth, Corona Del Mar, Costa Mesa, Covina, El Segundo, Elsinore, Fountain Valley, Fullerton, Gardena, Glendale, Granada Hills, Harbor City, Hawaiian Gardens, Hermosa Beach, Huntington Beach, Inglewood, Irvine, La Canada, Laguna, Lancaster, Los Alamitos, Los Angeles Area, Los Angeles, Lynwood, Malibu, Manhattan Beach, Mission Viejo, Newhall, Norco, Norwalk, Ocean Park, Ontario, Orange, Pacific Palisades, Paramount, Pasadena, Playa Del Ray, Point Dume, Rancho Palos Verdes, Redondo Beach, Reseda, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Clemente, Santa Monica, Seal Beach, South Gate, Sunset Beach, Topanga Canyon, Torrance, Upland, Venice, Vernon, Walnut, West Lost Angeles, Westminster, and Whittier.

Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic 73 t/$54,656/13; crab 16 t/$53,799/14; groundfish 38 t/$196,068/24; highly migratory species 4 t/$22,968/18; shrimp 6 t/$110,054/5; and other species 91 t/$431,800/52. Santa Ana had no seafood processors in 2000. See the Costa Mesa community profile for additional information.

No vessels delivered landings to Santa Ana in 2000, however a Santa Ana resident owned a commercial vessel that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Santa Ana 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).4

The number of Santa Ana residents holding permits 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 (0/0/6).5

In 2000 Santa Ana residents held at least 10 commercial fishing permits, all state registered. The number of state permits held by Santa Ana 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 0/0/9.6

Sportfishing

A number of charter vessels operate out of the area, targeting albacore and yellowfin tuna, rock cod, sharks, salmon, and other species. Many also offer seasonal whale watching tours. In 2002 at least two charter businesses served sport fishermen and tourists, and three agents sold sportfishing licenses in Santa Ana. Vendors in Orange County sold 26,250 resident sportfishing licenses, 47 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 7 sport salmon punch cards, and 29 abalone report cards. In the port group around Newport Beach, 27 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 57,515 anglers in 2000, making 2,427,746 landings composed of more than two dozen species. Sea bass (unspecified) and California barracuda accounted for 59.1% and 8.8% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Local tribal and nontribal community members may engage in subsistence fishing in the Santa Ana 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 six Santa Ana residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

In 2000 124 Santa Ana community members purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses.

Notes

4. 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.
5. See note 4.