

Approximately one-third of Huntington Beach's primary employment is in lower paying retail, hospitality, construction and service-related industries, with wages generally below the level necessary to afford to live in the city. The Census documents that 80 percent of the 61,000 persons employed within Huntington Beach commute in from outside the City limits, indicative of the shortage of local affordable housing opportunities for the community's workforce.

Workforce Housing Scorecard

In December 2012, the Orange County Business Council published the results of its second Workforce Housing Scorecard. This report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the current and future state of Orange County's housing supply and demand, and its effect on business competitiveness. The initial Workforce Scorecard published in 2008 identified the significant shortage of housing for the County's growing workforce, and its impact on the ability of employers to attract and maintain key workforce talent. The challenge for young families to afford housing in Orange County is apparent, with over 50,000 residents aged 20 to 34 leaving the County between 2000-2010 while the more affordable Inland Empire and San Diego regions experienced a 21 percent increase in this same age group. The Scorecard warns that the continued loss of this younger population will weaken Orange County's future workforce pool and negatively impact the long-term regional economy.

Based on the following criteria, the Scorecard rates each jurisdiction's record over the 1991-2010 period in addressing workforce housing needs:

- ✓ Number of jobs, rewarding cities that promote job growth
- ✓ Housing unit density
- ✓ Housing growth, rewarding cities that promote housing growth
- ✓ Jobs/housing balance

Of the 34 cities in Orange County, Huntington Beach ranked 4th in its success over the past two decades in generating both new jobs and the supply of homes necessary to house these new workers. In terms of future projections, the City's expansion of areas for higher density housing, such as in the *Beach and Edinger Corridors Specific Plan* and *Downtown Specific Plan*, contributes to the City's continued high rating under the Workforce Housing Scorecard, ranking 4th for the 2010-2035 period. The City also received the 2011 "Turning Red Tape into Red Carpet" Award of Excellence from the Orange County Business Council for the Huntington Beach Ten Point Plan for Local Business.



Plaza Almeria Mixed Use