

[Login](#) | [Register](#)

Search Archives Here...

[HOME](#) [SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) [BACK ISSUES](#) [ADVERTISING](#) [EVENTS](#) [LOCAL](#) [STATE](#) [NATIONAL](#) [COMMENTARY](#) [SUBMIT NEWS](#) [INDUSTRY NEWS](#) [LEADS](#) [NOTICES](#)

[Agriculture](#) [Construction](#) [Education](#) [Employment](#) [Energy](#) [Finance](#) [Government](#) [Health](#) [Manufacturing](#) [Real Estate](#) [Retail](#) [Tech](#) [Tourism](#)

County breakdown shows true cost of living



WRITTEN BY BUSINESS JOURNAL STAFF

TUESDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2011 08:28

Share

0

4

Living in California is not cheap. Just how much it costs to get by in the state is outlined in new data showing the necessary incomes for families to meet their basic needs.

The 2011 Self-Sufficiency Standard, released by the Oakland-based research organization Insight Center for Community Economic Development, takes into account 156 different family compositions in each county and gives an idea of what they would have to make to pay for housing, food, child care, transportation and other household expenses.

In Fresno County, for example, a family with two school-aged children would need wages of \$12.72 per hour and a minimum annual income of \$53,745 to get by, while the number drops to \$39,203 when the children are teenagers.

Farther south in Tulare County, a single parent of an infant would have to make \$15.73 an hour, or \$33,220 a year, to be sufficient, and \$44,385 for two infants.

A family of two adults and four children in Madera County would need to bring in \$82,479 a year in order to support everyone.

The Self-Sufficiency Standard is often seen as a better tool to revealing economic need and considers more factors than the Federal Poverty Level, which is based on the cost of food.

A family of four in California would need an average of more than \$63,000 a year — nearly triple the federal poverty level — to cover its basic needs.

County-by-county income information is broken down [here](#).

LAST UPDATED ON TUESDAY, 04 OCTOBER 2011 11:10



Weekly Poll

Should businesses be required to use E-Verify to check their employees' employment eligibility?

- Yes, it would weed out illegal immigrants.
- No, it would devastate the local economy.
- Not sure

[Vote](#)

[Results](#)

[HOME](#) [SUBSCRIPTIONS](#) [BACK ISSUES](#) [ADVERTISING](#) [EVENTS](#) [LOCAL](#) [STATE](#) [NATIONAL](#) [COMMENTARY](#) [SUBMIT NEWS](#) [INDUSTRY NEWS](#) [LEADS](#) [NOTICES](#)

HOME

eJournal
About Us
Contact Us
Twitter
Facebook
RSS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Find Newsstands
Contact Circulation Dept.

ADVERTISING

Public Notices
Web Advertising
Newspaper Advertising
Reader Demographics
Ad Specs
Rate Card
Contact Advertising Dept.

SEARCH ARCHIVES

EVENTS
Sponsorships

SUB NAVIGATION

Agriculture
Construction
Education
Employment
Energy
Finance & Banking
Government
Health
Manufacturing

SUB NAVIGATION Cont.

Real Estate
Retail
Technology
Tourism

INDUSTRY NEWS

Local Update
California Update
National Updates

LOGIN / LOGOUT

SUBMIT NEWS
View Editorial Calendar
Opinion, Letter or
Op-ed
Tips/Press Releases
Contact Editorial Staff