Ridgecrest, California.

Current market data.

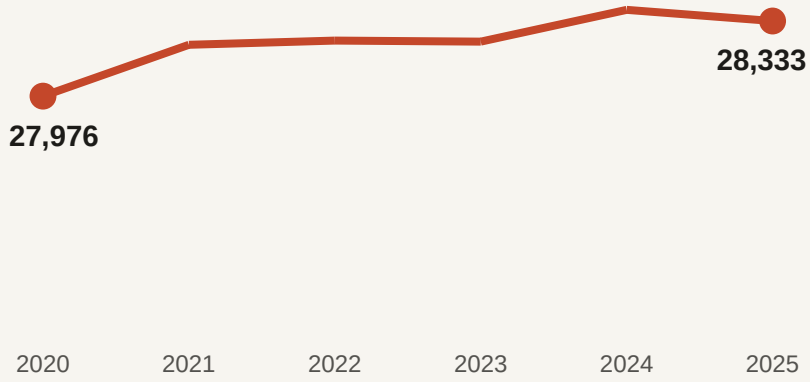
11 cards. Every number sourced and dated. Data as of Oct 30, 2026.

POPULATION

Growing. Up 1.3% since 2020.

28,333

people, the 252nd-largest of California's cities and towns.



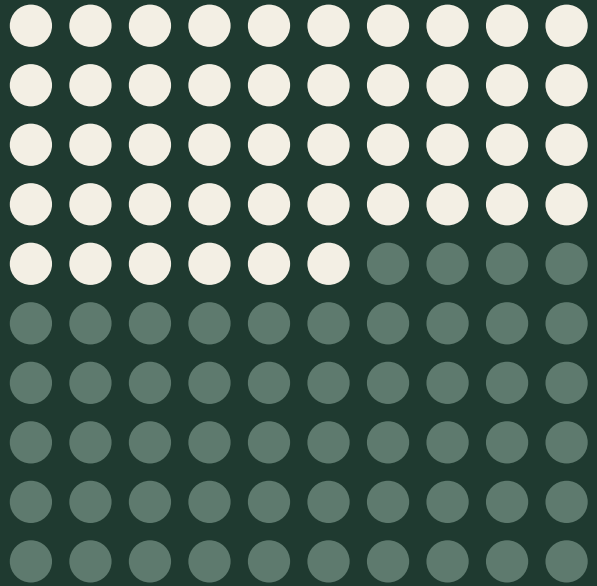
Source: Census Population Estimates, 2025

THE WORKDAY

5 in 10 jobs here go to people who live somewhere else.

46.3%

of 7,306 jobs located in Ridgecrest are filled by in-commuters.



Each dot is 1% of jobs. Filled: held by in-commuters.

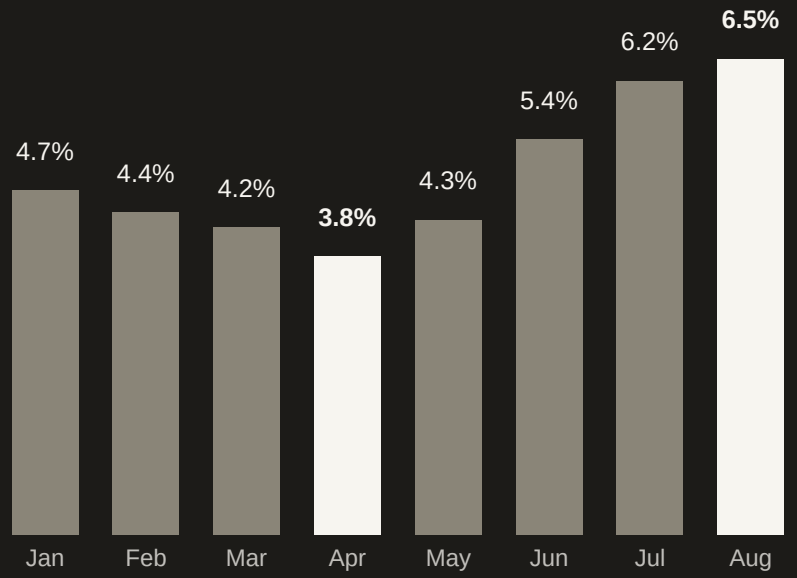
Source: Census LEHD LODES, 2023

UNEMPLOYMENT, 2026

The low came in April: 3.8%.

6.5%

in August 2026, the latest month released. A year earlier it was 5.3%.



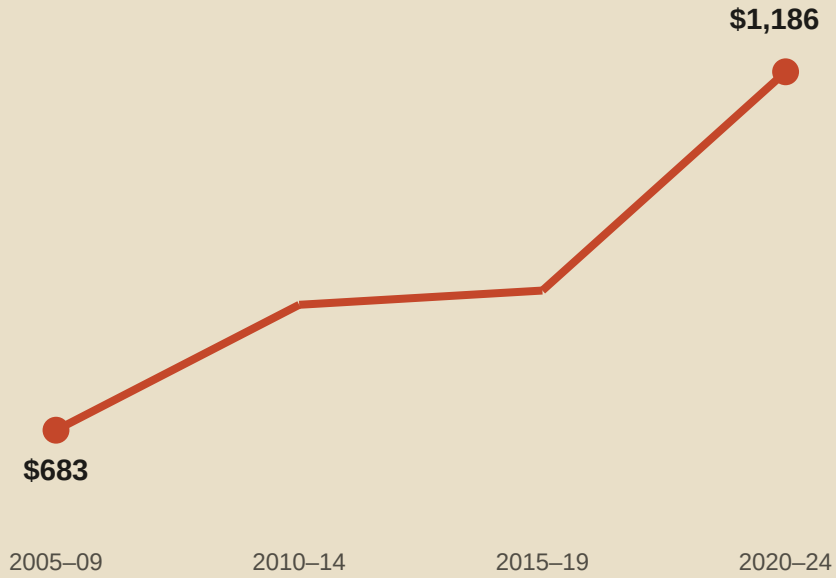
Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2026-08

RENT

Median rent is up 74% since the 2005–2009 survey, before inflation.

$1,186

a month. California's median is $2,036.

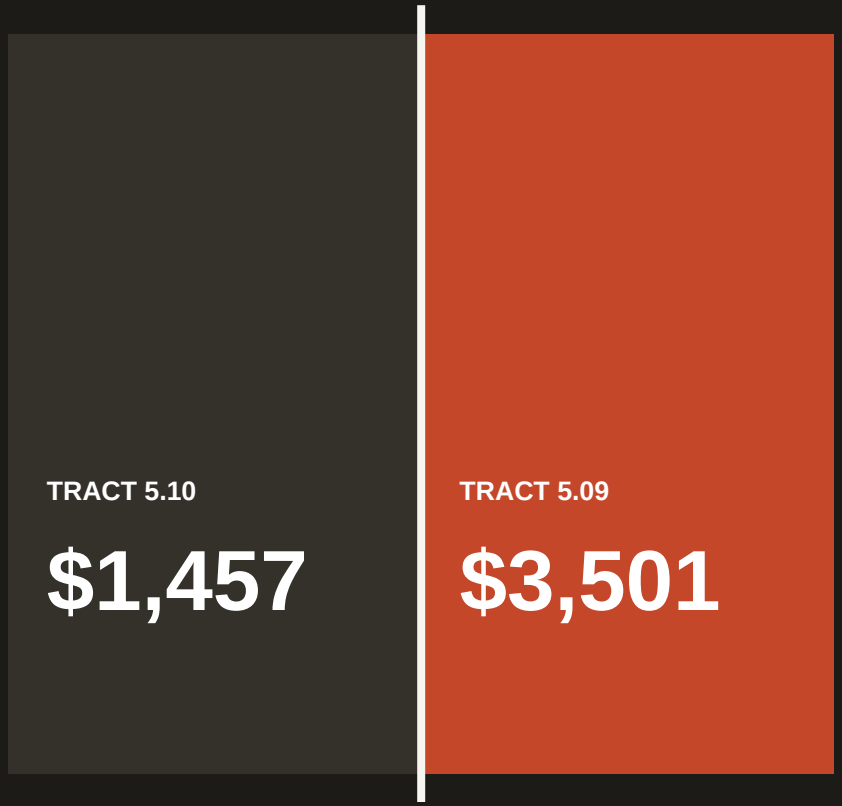


Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THE SEAM

Cross one tract line and median rent doubles.

A $2,044 gap between neighbors, the sharpest rent edge between adjacent tracts in Kern County.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

ROOM TO BUILD

The median rent sits inside what local wages can carry.

is the monthly rent range local workforce wages support.

Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

BUILDING

Most of the housing here is older than 2000.

236

homes permitted, 2022–2025

57%

of those were in multifamily buildings

89%

of all homes were built before 2000

Source: Census Building Permits Survey, 2022-2025; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

UNITS NEEDED

Closing the gap would add 0.4–0.6% to the 12,155 homes here.

48–73

is the estimated number of missing housing units, from the lowest to the highest of three estimates.

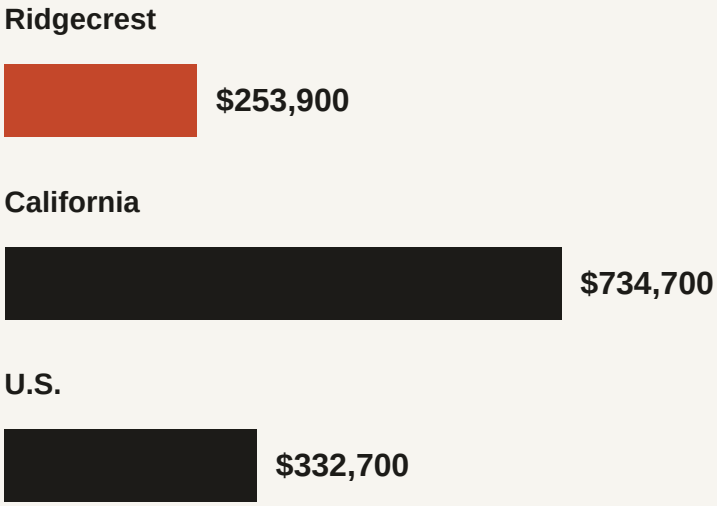
Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023

HOME VALUE

A median home costs 65% less than California's.

$253,900

median home value in Ridgecrest.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THAT WAS RIDGECREST'S 2026

Every number came from a public source, with its date.

New Census data usually lands in December. The next Edition follows it.

See this Edition at **almanacdata.ai/e/ca/ridgecrest/**