

Marin County

THE REAL COST MEASURE IN CALIFORNIA 2025



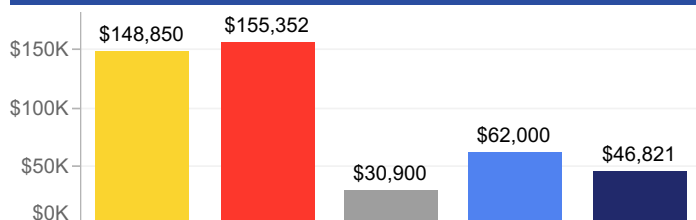
The Real Cost Measure (RCM) estimates the minimum amount of income required to meet basic needs including the costs of housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and taxes. Unlike the official poverty measure which is primarily calculated based on the cost of food adjusted for inflation annually, the Real Cost Measure takes into account geographical differences in the cost of living throughout California.

If any results show blank values, that indicates the sample size is too small to illustrate Real Cost Measure results. Per our methodology, estimates with a cell size of greater than 5,000 are assumed to be accurate within +/-1% based on design factor analysis. Cell sizes less than 5,000 are suppressed.

# of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure	% of Households below Real Cost Measure with at least 1 Working Adult
20,662	24%	98%

Annual Income Comparison

Based on a Household of 2 Adults, 1 Pre-Schooler, 1 School-Aged Child



*based on \$15.50 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year.



Household Budgets

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Pre-Schooler, 1 School-Aged Child
Housing	\$25,872	\$31,980	\$38,256
Food	\$5,628	\$10,320	\$15,888
Health Care	\$3,240	\$6,480	\$12,948
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$29,064
Transportation	\$7,920	\$15,840	\$15,840
Miscellaneous	\$4,260	\$6,456	\$11,196
Taxes/Credits	\$10,311	\$13,755	\$32,160
FINAL BUDGET	\$57,231	\$84,831	\$155,352

Households of Color

- Across the county, African Americans and Latinos have a disproportionate number of households with incomes below the Standard. In this area, of the 20,662 households below the Real Cost Measure, None are Latino.

Households with Young Children

- None of households with children under six struggle, a rate much greater than that of the rest of the county.
- Single mothers are most likely to struggle. None in the county are below the Real Cost Measure.

Working Households

- 98% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 83% of heads of household who work are employed full time and year round.
- A family of four (2 adults, 1 infant, 1 school-aged child) would need to hold more than 3 full time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.**

Housing Burden

- 36% of all households in the county spend more than 30% of their income on housing.

Education

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Less than High School		
High School Diploma or Equivalent		
Some College, Assoc. or Voc.	6,635	35%
Bachelor's degree or higher	8,221	15%

Ethnicity

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Latino		
African American		
Asian American / Pacific Islander		
White	13,024	19%

Household Type

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Single Mothers		
Seniors	5,301	20%
Married Couples	6,864	20%
Informal Families		

Citizenship/Nativity

	# Below RCM	% Below RCM
Foreign Born, Non-Citizen		
Foreign Born, Naturalized		
Born a US Citizen	12,697	19%

**Minimum waged jobs based on \$15.50 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. Median household earnings control for elder-led households and household led by person with disabilities consistent with the Real Cost Measure.