

Indian Wells Valley (IWV) / Ridgecrest Campus

The Indian Wells Valley campus (IWV) is in Ridgecrest in Kern County, about 130 miles northeast of Los Angeles and 120 miles east of Bakersfield. Indian Wells Valley Campus (IWV) is the largest of the college’s campuses at about 320 acres and serves as the main campus for Cerro Coso. The IWV campus serves about half of Cerro Coso’s student population and houses most of the college’s administration.

The IWV campus market is defined geographically as a 25-mile radius around the main campus.

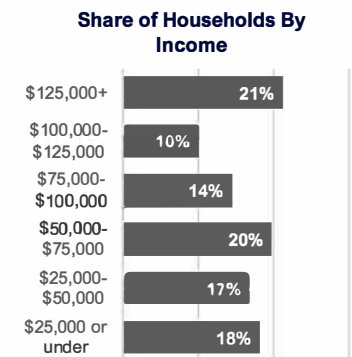
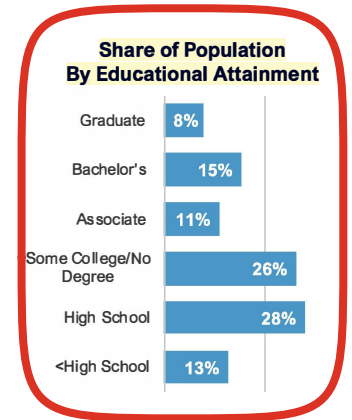
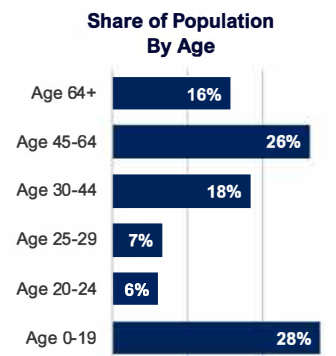
Population

The total population (2020) of the IWV campus market was 47,536 people, with much of that concentrated in the city of Ridgecrest. 34 percent of the population in the IWV/Ridgecrest campus market is under the age of 25 (see Figure 14). 66 percent of adults aged 25 and older have not completed a college degree. 11 percent have an associate degree, 15 percent have a bachelor’s degree, and eight percent hold graduate degrees. Household income levels are varied, with about 55 percent of households making under \$75,000 annually and 45 percent of household making over \$75,000.

Labor Force

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total employment in May 2021 in the IWV campus center market was 15,149. The largest occupations were farmworkers, home health and personal care aides, and cashiers. Eight of the largest 10 occupations have mean annual wages below \$40,000. The highest-paid occupations among the top 10 are registered nurses (\$107,360), followed by truck drivers (\$49,335). The highest-paying occupations in the IWV Campus Center market were physicians, pharmacists, and petroleum engineers, although employment levels are much lower. The fastest-growing occupations, measured by average annual growth over the past three years, span a wide variety of fields, including retail, healthcare, and trades (see Figure C in the Appendix for detailed data).

Figure 14



Source: Gray Associates’ analysis of data from the US Census Bureau.

East Kern/Tehachapi Campus

The East Kern/Tehachapi campus center is in Tehachapi, CA, in Kern County. Tehachapi is situated in the Tehachapi Mountains, which are part of the southern Sierra Nevada mountains. The city is approximately 35 miles southeast of Bakersfield, 100 miles north of Los Angeles, and about 75 miles southwest of Ridgecrest.

The East Kern/Tehachapi campus market is defined geographically as a 50-mile radius around the campus center in Tehachapi. This geography extends to include the town of Lake Isabella to the north, Santa Clarita to the south, and parts of Bakersfield to the west. It also includes Edwards Air Force Base, Mojave, California City, Rosamond, Kernville/Lake Isabella, and portions of Antelope Valley.

Population

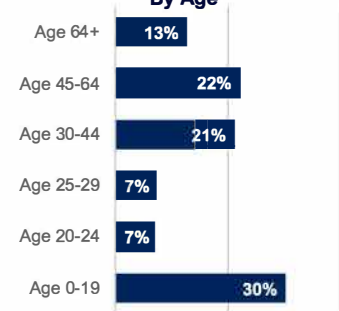
The total population of the East Kern/Tehachapi campus center market is the largest of all of Cerro Coso’s campus markets at almost 1.4 million people. 37 percent of the population is under the age of 25. In terms of educational attainment, 46 percent of adults aged 25 or older have a high school diploma or less; 70 percent have less than an associate degree. Nine percent of the adult population has an associate degree, and 22 percent have a bachelor’s degree or above. 37 percent of households have an income below \$50,000, 31 percent have an income between \$50,000 and \$100,000, and 32 percent of households have incomes above \$100,000.

Labor Force

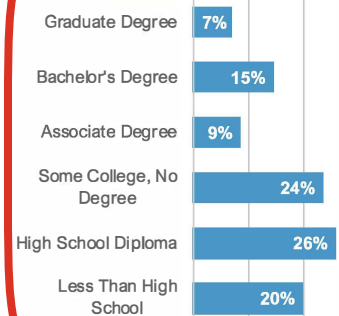
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total employment in May 2021 in the East Kern/Tehachapi campus center market was 513,026. The top occupations include farm workers and laborers, home health/personal care aides, cashiers and fast food workers, freight movers, retail salespersons, and nurses. Seven of the top 10 occupations have mean annual wages below \$40,000. The highest-paid jobs in the largest 10 occupations are general/operations managers (123,021) and registered nurses (\$111,963). The highest-paying occupations include physicians and other types of doctors, chief executives, nurse anesthetists, lawyers, and architectural/engineering managers. The fastest-growing occupations, measured by average annual growth over the past three years, include forest and conservation technicians, special education teachers, computer scientists, and physicists, among others (see Figure D in the Appendix for detailed data).

Figure 15

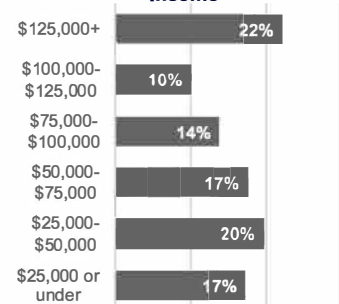
Share of Population By Age



Share of Population By Educational Attainment



Share of Households By Income



Source: Gray Associates’ analysis of data from the US Census Bureau.

ESCC / Bishop

The ESCC/Bishop Campus Center is one of two campuses in Cerro Coso’s Eastern Sierra Campus Center (ESCC). The ESCC/Bishop campus is in Bishop, CA in Inyo County. The campus market is defined geographically as a 25-mile radius around the Bishop campus, extended to include the towns of Big Pine, Independence, and Lone Pine.

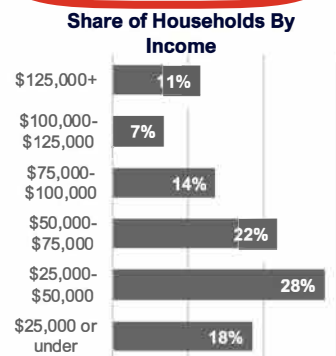
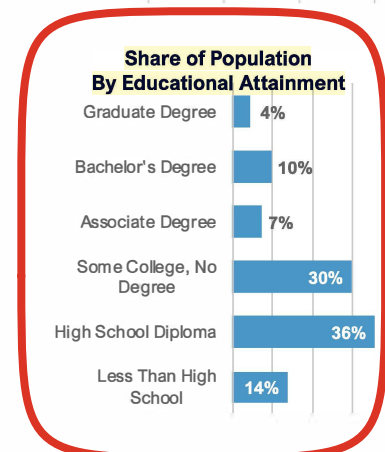
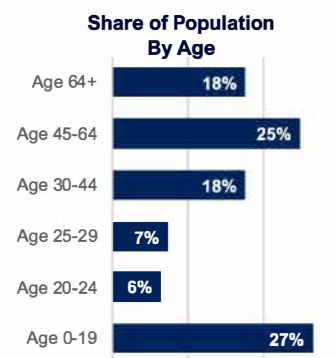
Population

The total population of the Bishop campus market is just over 17,000 people. One-third (33 percent) of the population is under the age of 25. In terms of educational attainment, almost half (49 percent) of adults aged 25 or older have a high school diploma or less; 79 percent have less than an associate degree. 7 percent of the adult population has an associate degree, and 14 percent have a bachelor’s degree or above. 46 percent of households have a median income below \$50,000.

Labor Force

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the total employment in May 2021 in the Bishop campus center market was 5,329. Top occupations include relatively low-wage jobs such as cashiers, home health/personal care aides, fast food workers, retail salespersons, and maids/housekeeping cleaners. The highest paid jobs among the largest 10 occupations are correctional officers (\$85,580) general/operations managers (\$108,220), and nurses (\$109,990). The highest-paying occupations in this market include surgeons and medical/health services managers, chief executives, lawyers, and K-12 education administrators. The fastest-growing occupations, measured by average annual growth over the past three years, include food service supervisors, home health/personal care aides, and property managers, among others (see Figure E in the Appendix for detailed data).

Figure 16



Source: Gray Associates’ analysis of data from the US Census Bureau.