

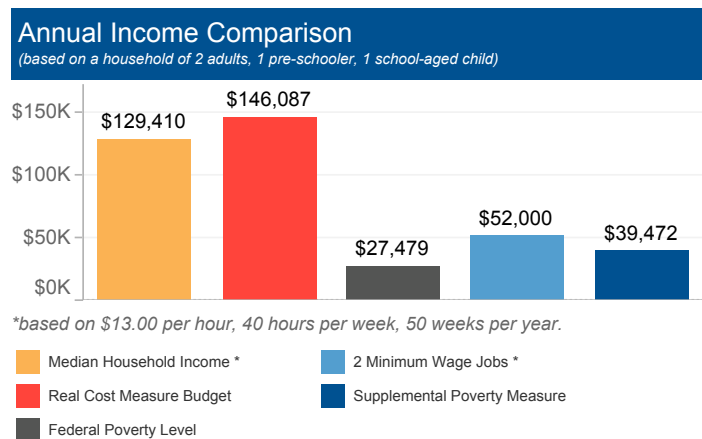
Marin County

The Real Cost Measure in California 2023

The Real Cost Measure (RCM) estimates the 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
24,188	28%	97%



Household Budgets

	1 Adult	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Pre-schooler, 1 School-aged child
Housing	\$28,200	\$35,076	\$42,636
Food	\$4,572	\$8,388	\$12,960
Health Care	\$2,640	\$5,292	\$10,572
Child Care	\$0	\$0	\$27,636
Transportation	\$5,772	\$11,544	\$11,544
Miscellaneous	\$4,116	\$6,024	\$10,536
Taxes/Credits	\$9,973	\$12,606	\$30,203
FINAL BUDGET	\$55,273	\$78,930	\$146,087

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 24,188 households below the Real Cost Measure, 5,018 are Latino.

Households with Young Children

A sufficient sample size is not available to report on the number of households with young children struggling below the Real Cost Measure.

Working Households

- 97% of households below RCM have at least one working adult.
- 64% 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 4 full time, minimum-wage jobs to achieve economic security.**

Housing Burden

- 40% 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.	8,614	43%
Bachelor's degree or higher	10,155	17%

Ethnicity

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Latino	5,018	57%
African American		
Asian American / Pacific Islander		
White	14,946	21%
Native American/Alaska Native		

Household Type

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Single Mothers		
Seniors	7,473	26%
Married Couples	6,151	18%
Informal Families	5,730	33%

Citizenship/Nativity

	# below RCM	% below RCM
Foreign Born, Non-Citizen		
Foreign Born, Naturalized		
Born a US Citizen	17,245	24%

** Minimum waged jobs based on \$13.00 per hour, 40 hours per week, 50 weeks per year. Median household earnings control for elder-led households and household led by persons with disabilities consistent with the Real Cost Measure.