



2026 State of the Region Report

OVERVIEW

SCAG's "2026 State of the Region Report" looks at baseline conditions in the SCAG region to identify emerging issues and future regional planning needs, and tracks the progress of Connect SoCal implementation strategies across Southern California.

Findings from the report will inform the development of Connect SoCal 2050 and other future SCAG efforts to foster a healthy, prosperous, accessible, and connected region.

REPORT FINDINGS

Demographics

↑ The region added **2.2 million** people.
2000-2024



SCAG needs to plan for a changing population. In the past two decades, population growth in the region has slowed, while the number of households has increased and household size has declined. The region is also experiencing greater ethnic diversity, higher median age, and increased educational attainment.

Mobility

↑ Average travel time increased **2.3 minutes**.
2000-2024



Regional mobility is evolving. Travel mode share has shifted due to impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic, resulting in increased teleworking and declines in single-occupancy vehicle and transit use. Transportation safety is still a big concern in the SCAG region, with a need to reduce fatalities and serious injuries, especially for people walking and biking.

Communities

↑ Total housing increased by **1.1 million units**.
2000-2024



The region continues to face ongoing housing strain. For the past 24 years, the SCAG region has struggled to meet the housing needs of its diverse communities. As a result, many households, especially renters, are spending more on housing. Homeownership is also declining, and housing stock is aging.

Environment

↓ Vehicle miles traveled per capita decreased by **8%**.
2000-2023



The region needs to prepare for more environmental challenges. Air quality in the SCAG region improved significantly over the past two decades. However, extreme heat and drought are ongoing issues, and data suggests climate-related risks will continue to increase, adversely impacting many communities.

Economy

↑ Regional GDP increased to **\$1.3 trillion**.
2000-2023



The region is economically resilient. The SCAG regional economy is highly diversified with a growing workforce. The unemployment rate is significantly lower than in 2010, and the median household income is rising while the region's poverty rate is decreasing. These trends suggest the region's economy can handle and recover from shocks such as recessions, natural disasters, and global crises, while maintaining stability and growth.

“As the demographics of the SCAG region evolve, so does the collective vision of what the region should look like, what its priorities should be, and what course should be set for its future. The State of the Region Report is a tool to inform that process.”



Scan the QR code to learn more.