

MAID VIP · RESEARCH

California House Cleaning & Domestic Worker Statistics (2026)

Wages, employment, who hires, what households pay, what the law requires, and the housing stock — for Los Angeles and Ventura County. Sixty-plus statistics, each attributed to its publisher, dated, and linked.

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Corrections: contact@maidvip.com · (805) 380-5586 · 844 Masterson Dr, Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

About this report. Maid VIP compiled these figures because the numbers people quote about house cleaning in California usually trace back to another roundup rather than to the agency, study, or statute that produced them. Every statistic here traces to its source; nothing is estimated by us. Where a figure is a company's own data (marketplace-posted rates, Maid VIP's published prices) it is labelled as such. The web version at maidvip.com is the one we update — when BLS publishes the next Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics release each spring, and when California's minimum wage and the IRS household-employee threshold change each January.

Key Takeaways

- House cleaners in California earn a median **\$20.51 an hour (\$42,660 a year)** — 20% above the U.S. median of \$17.07 (\$35,510). BLS, May 2025.
- The U.S. employs **860,670** maids and housekeeping cleaners; California employs **103,430**, the most of any state. BLS, May 2025.
- In the Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura metro, the median cleaner wage is **\$18.05 an hour**; the top 10% earn more than **\$60,160** a year. BLS, May 2025.
- An estimated **2 million California households — 16%** — employ domestic workers, and **54%** of them hire for housecleaning. UCLA Labor Center.
- **73%** of California households that hire domestic help found the worker through friends and family; **51%** set pay and hours without consulting any source. UCLA Labor Center.
- California has roughly **324,829** employed domestic workers; **34%** work in Los Angeles, and **87%** of house cleaners are Latina or Latino. UCLA Labor Center, 2022.
- California's minimum wage is **\$16.90** (January 1, 2026); the City of Los Angeles is **\$18.42** (July 1, 2026). DIR; City of LA.
- A live-out house cleaner employed directly by a household earns overtime after **8 hours a day or 40 a week**, and double time after 12 hours. DIR, Wage Order 15.
- A household becomes a California employer at **\$750 in cash wages in a quarter**, and owes federal Social Security and Medicare tax at **\$3,000 a year** (2026). EDD; IRS.
- Provider-posted starting rates on Care.com average **\$23.90/hour in California** and **\$26.29/hour in Thousand Oaks** (June 2026), against a U.S. average of \$21.23.
- A California landlord may deduct cleaning from a deposit only to restore **move-in cleanliness**, must itemize within **21 days**, and since April 1, 2025 must **photograph** the unit before and after. Civ. Code §1950.5.
- Los Angeles County has **3,416,449 households** and a **45.9%** owner-occupancy rate; Ventura County has **280,360** households and **64.6%**. U.S. Census Bureau, 2020–2024.

What Do House Cleaners Earn in California and Los Angeles?

The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks house cleaners under occupation 37-2012, “Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners,” which also includes hotel and hospital housekeepers and excludes the self-employed. The May 2025 release is the latest.

AREA (BLS OEWS, MAY 2025)	EMPLOYMENT	MEDIAN HOURLY	MEDIAN ANNUAL	90TH PERCENTILE ANNUAL
United States	860,670	\$17.07	\$35,510	—
California	103,430	\$20.51	\$42,660	\$63,450
Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura metro	1,540	\$18.05	\$37,530	\$60,160

Sources: BLS OEWS national table, May 2025; BLS OEWS California, May 2025; BLS OEWS Oxnard-Thousand Oaks-Ventura, May 2025. National mean wage \$17.83/hour (\$37,080/year). California’s 10th-percentile annual wage is \$35,680, so the bottom of the California distribution sits above the U.S. median.

- The Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim metro employed **30,750** maids and housekeeping cleaners at a mean of **\$20.18/hour (\$41,980/year)** — the second-largest metro count in the country after New York. [BLS OEWS, May 2023](#).
- Nationally, **397,640** of these workers (about 46%) are in hotels and other traveler accommodation; **83,040** work for “services to buildings and dwellings,” the industry that includes residential cleaning companies, at a mean of \$16.59/hour. [BLS OEWS, May 2023](#).
- First-line supervisors of housekeeping and janitorial workers in the Los Angeles metro number **5,190** and earn a median **\$61,270 (\$29.46/hour)**, 25% above the U.S. median for the role. [BLS OEWS Los Angeles metro, May 2025](#).
- The broader group of janitors and building cleaners held about **2.4 million** U.S. jobs in 2025 at a median **\$17.71/hour**, with employment projected to grow **2%** from 2025 to 2035, slower than average. [BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook](#).
- BLS wage estimates are employer-reported and **exclude self-employed cleaners and workers hired directly by private households**, so they describe the employee benchmark, not the independent-cleaner rate — which is why the provider-posted rates further down run higher.

Who Does Domestic Work in California?

The UCLA Labor Center's 2022 *Profile of Domestic Workers in California*, built from American Community Survey data, is the most detailed public count of the state's house cleaners, nannies, and homecare attendants.

- California has an estimated **324,829** employed domestic workers; the report notes government statistics most likely undercount the sector. **34%** work in Los Angeles. [UCLA Labor Center, 2022](#).
- By occupation: **64%** are homecare attendants, **26%** housecleaning workers, and **10%** childcare providers. [UCLA Labor Center, 2022](#).
- **87%** of California house cleaners are Latinx (versus 51% of all domestic workers and 37% of all other workers); **66%** of house cleaners are foreign-born. [UCLA Labor Center, 2022](#).
- **80%** of domestic workers work year-round (47 or more weeks); about **half** work full-time; **77%** are low-wage earners. [UCLA Labor Center, 2022](#).
- In 2018, **three-quarters** of California's domestic workers were Latinx, Asian American/Pacific Islander, or Black women. [UCLA Labor Center, 2022](#).

Who Hires Domestic Help in California, and How?

The UCLA Labor Center's *Profile, Practices and Needs of California's Domestic Work Employers* (501 randomly dialed phone surveys) is the only comprehensive study of the households on the other side of the arrangement.

- An estimated **2 million households — 16% of California households** — employ domestic workers. [UCLA Labor Center](#).
- Of those employers, **54%** hire for housecleaning, **27%** for homecare support, and **19%** for childcare; excluding households receiving state-funded IHSS care, housecleaning rises to **60%**. [UCLA Labor Center](#); [UCLA employer brief](#).
- **73%** found their worker through their own friends and family. [UCLA employer brief](#).
- **58%** hire for a few hours a month, seasonally, or on call rather than on a fixed schedule. [UCLA employer brief](#).
- **51%** consulted no source when setting pay, hours, and benefits; **77%** do not pay an hourly rate. [UCLA employer brief](#).
- **10%** of employers hire live-in workers and **6%** require 24-hour care. [UCLA Labor Center](#).
- Many housecleaning employers sit in the moderate- and high-income brackets, while many homecare and nanny employers have low incomes; over half of employers identify

as white and 43% as Latino, African American, Asian American, or mixed race. [UCLA employer brief](#).

What Do Households Pay for House Cleaning?

Two kinds of price data exist: rates posted by individual providers on marketplaces, and prices published by companies. The first is what Care.com reports from its listings; the second is scarce enough that Maid VIP built a separate [price transparency report](#) to count it.

CARE.COM POSTED HOUSE-CLEANING RATES (JUNE 2026)	AVERAGE STARTING RATE	AVERAGE MAXIMUM RATE
United States	\$21.23/hr	—
California	\$23.90/hr	\$30.47/hr
Thousand Oaks	\$26.29/hr	\$32.71/hr
Newbury Park	\$26.38/hr	\$35.75/hr
Agoura Hills	\$26.00/hr	\$31.50/hr
Encino	\$27.25/hr	\$31.13/hr
West Hills	\$27.40/hr	\$30.80/hr
Beverly Hills	\$27.17/hr	\$33.17/hr
Culver City	\$27.60/hr	\$34.47/hr
Manhattan Beach	\$27.42/hr	\$32.83/hr

Sources: [Care.com](#), [Newbury Park cost guide](#); [Care.com](#), [Manhattan Beach cost guide](#). Figures are averages of rates posted by providers listed on Care.com, last updated June 2026; they are individual-cleaner asking rates, not company prices.

- Care.com’s *housekeeping* category (broader than house cleaning) shows Simi Valley at **\$27.18/hr**, Ventura at **\$26.45/hr**, Oxnard at **\$24.53/hr**, Camarillo at **\$20.50/hr**, and Sherman Oaks at **\$24.83/hr** starting. [Care.com, Oxnard](#); [Care.com, Sherman Oaks](#).
- Thousand Oaks’ posted starting rate is **24% above** the U.S. average and **10% above** California’s, per Care.com’s own comparison.
- Company pricing is a different market: a two-person crew in the 805 typically bills **\$60–\$100 an hour**, and most companies quote hourly rather than flat. [Maid VIP, hourly vs. flat-rate guide](#).

- Of the Los Angeles and Ventura County cleaning companies surveyed for Maid VIP's 2026 report, only a small minority publish prices at all; the report counts them and lists Maid VIP's own in full. [Price Transparency Report, 2026](#).

What Does California Law Require When You Pay a House Cleaner?

The rules differ depending on whether the cleaner is your employee, an independent professional, or a company's employee. These are the thresholds that apply when a household pays a worker directly.

RULE	THRESHOLD OR RATE	AUTHORITY
California minimum wage, all employers, from January 1, 2026	\$16.90/hour (was \$16.50)	DIR, Dec. 5, 2025
City of Los Angeles minimum wage, from July 1, 2026	\$18.42/hour (was \$17.87)	LA Office of Wage Standards, Jan. 30, 2026
Overtime, live-out domestic worker who is not a personal attendant (house cleaner)	1.5× after 8 hours/day or 40/week; 2× after 12 hours/day	DIR, Wage Order 15
Overtime, live-in domestic worker	1.5× after 9 hours/day; 2× after 9 hours on the 6th or 7th day	DIR, Wage Order 15
Overtime, personal attendant (caregiver/nanny)	1.5× after 9 hours/day or 45/week	Domestic Worker Bill of Rights, Labor Code §§1450-1454
Register as a California household employer	Within 15 days of paying \$750 in cash wages in a calendar quarter	EDD
State Disability Insurance withholding	\$750-\$999.99 cash wages in a quarter	EDD
Unemployment Insurance + Employment Training Tax	\$1,000 or more cash wages in a quarter	EDD
Federal Social Security and Medicare (FICA), 2026	\$3,000 or more cash wages to one worker in the year; 7.65% employer + 7.65% employee	IRS Topic 756

RULE	THRESHOLD OR RATE	AUTHORITY
Federal unemployment tax (FUTA)	\$1,000 or more cash wages in any quarter; on the first \$7,000 per worker	IRS Publication 926

- A “personal attendant” is a worker who spends at least **80%** of their time supervising, feeding, or dressing a child or a person who needs supervision; a worker doing more than 20% housecleaning is **not** a personal attendant and gets the standard 8/40 overtime. [DIR FAQ](#).
- The 2026 FICA threshold rose **\$200** from 2025’s \$2,800; it is indexed annually to the national average wage. [IRS Publication 926](#).
- A domestic referral agency is defined by **Civil Code §1812.5095**: it refers domestic workers to clients and is not the worker’s employer when statutory conditions are met — the workers set their own rates, control the work, and may work for others. [California Civil Code §1812.5095](#); how that applies in practice is in [the referral-agency explainer](#).

What Can a California Landlord Deduct for Cleaning?

- Civil Code **§1950.5** permits deposit deductions for cleaning only to return the unit to **the level of cleanliness it had at the start of the tenancy**, never for ordinary wear and tear. [Cal. Civ. Code §1950.5](#).
- The landlord must send an itemized statement and the balance within **21 days** of move-out, with receipts for any deduction over **\$125**. [Cal. Civ. Code §1950.5](#).
- For tenancies ending on or after **April 1, 2025**, the landlord must photograph the unit before and after any cleaning or repair charged to the deposit, and for tenancies beginning on or after **July 1, 2025**, at move-in as well (AB 2801). [Cal. Civ. Code §1950.5](#).
- Professional cleaning may be charged only when **reasonably necessary** to restore move-in condition — an automatic cleaning fee in a lease is not enforceable on its own (AB 2801). [Cal. Civ. Code §1950.5](#).
- Bad-faith retention exposes a landlord to statutory damages of up to **twice** the deposit. [Cal. Civ. Code §1950.5](#).
- Since **July 1, 2024**, security deposits are generally capped at **one month’s rent**, with a limited exception for small landlords (AB 12). [Cal. Civ. Code §1950.5](#).
- Small claims court hears deposit disputes up to **\$12,500** for individuals and **\$6,250** for businesses (limits raised January 1, 2024); filing fees run **\$30–\$100**. [California Courts Self-Help](#).

Housing and Households in Los Angeles and Ventura County

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU QUICKFACTS	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	VENTURA COUNTY
Population, July 1, 2025 estimate	9,694,934	830,851
Households, 2020–2024	3,416,449	280,360
Housing units, July 1, 2025	3,726,923	302,075
Owner-occupied housing rate	45.9%	64.6%
Median value, owner-occupied home	\$834,200	\$822,700
Median gross rent	\$1,954	\$2,317
Persons per household	2.81	2.94
Median household income (2024 dollars)	\$90,112	\$109,797
Persons 65 and over	17.1%	20.0%
Foreign-born persons	33.4%	22.2%
Language other than English at home	55.1%	38.4%

Sources: [Census QuickFacts, Los Angeles County](#); [Census QuickFacts, Ventura County](#). Multi-year figures are 2020–2024 American Community Survey estimates.

- Ventura County’s owner-occupancy rate is **18.7 points higher** than Los Angeles County’s, which is the single largest structural difference between the two markets for recurring residential cleaning.
- One in five Ventura County residents is **65 or older**, versus roughly one in six in Los Angeles County — the population most likely to buy recurring housekeeping and senior-care support.

How Much Do U.S. Households Spend on the Home?

- Average annual expenditures for all U.S. consumer units were **\$78,535** in 2024, up 1.8% from 2023, on average pre-tax income of **\$104,207**. [BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2024](#).
- Housing is the largest category at **\$26,266 a year (33.4%)** — \$2,189 a month; housing and transportation together are half of all spending. [BLS, The Economics Daily](#).

- Households spent an average of **\$877** on housekeeping supplies in 2024, up from \$818 in 2023. [BLS via FRED, series CXUHKPGSUPPLB0101M](#).
- There were **135.76 million** consumer units in 2024, averaging 2.4 people; the highest income quintile spent **\$150,342** against **\$35,046** for the lowest. [BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2024](#).

Maid VIP First-Party Data

These are Maid VIP’s own published figures, included so the page can be cited for a full local price stack. They are company data, not survey data, and are labeled as such.

- Published recurring-cleaning prices, standard tier, September 2026: **\$250-\$300** under 1,500 sq ft; **\$300-\$450** for 1,500–2,500; **\$450-\$650** for 2,500–4,000; **\$650+ or \$320 per professional per day** for estates. Deep and move-out cleaning from **\$450**; upholstery from **\$75 a piece** with a \$150 visit minimum.
- Every referred professional passes an interview, reference check, and background screening, with general-liability insurance verified before the first visit and re-confirmed after; **200+** background checks since 2014. [Vetting methodology](#).
- Rated **4.6 of 5 across 82 Google reviews** on the Thousand Oaks headquarters profile; seven offices across Los Angeles and Ventura County. [Reviews](#).

Sources and Methodology

Every statistic on this page traces to the entity that produced it — a government agency, a university research center, a statute, or a platform reporting its own data — and each number appears once. Secondary roundups were not used. Where a figure is a company’s own data (Care.com listings, Maid VIP prices) it is labeled as such. Where BLS metro and state figures are quoted, they are the May 2025 OEWS release published May 2026; the Los Angeles metro occupation figure is the May 2023 release because the May 2025 metro profile for that occupation had not been re-published at the time of writing. Dates are the publisher’s. This page was compiled September 14, 2026, and is reviewed when BLS publishes the next OEWS release (spring) and when California’s minimum wage and the IRS household-employee threshold change (January).

SOURCE	WHAT IT PROVIDES	DATE
U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, OEWS national table	Employment, mean and median wages, occupation 37-2012	May 2025 (released May 2026)

SOURCE	WHAT IT PROVIDES	DATE
BLS OEWS, California · Oxnard–Thousand Oaks–Ventura · Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim	State and metro employment and wage distributions	May 2025
BLS OEWS occupation profile, May 2023	Los Angeles metro occupation figures; industry employment	May 2023
BLS Occupational Outlook Handbook	Janitors and building cleaners employment, wage, 2025–35 projection	2025
UCLA Labor Center, Profile of Domestic Workers in California	Domestic-worker counts, demographics, work patterns	April 2022
UCLA Labor Center, Profile, Practices and Needs of California’s Domestic Work Employers · employer brief	Household-employer survey (n=501)	2016; brief 2018
California Department of Industrial Relations	2026 state minimum wage	Dec. 5, 2025
City of Los Angeles Office of Wage Standards	City minimum wage effective July 1, 2026	Jan. 30, 2026
DIR, Domestic Worker Bill of Rights FAQ	Overtime rules under Wage Order 15 and Labor Code §§1450–1454	Current
California EDD, Household Employer	Registration and payroll-tax thresholds	Current
IRS Topic 756 · IRS Publication 926	2026 household-employee FICA and FUTA thresholds	2026
California Civil Code §1950.5 · §1812.5095	Security-deposit rules; domestic referral agency definition	As amended by AB 12 (2024) and AB 2801 (2025)
California Courts Self-Help, Small Claims	Jurisdictional limits and fees	Current
U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, Los Angeles County · Ventura County	Population, households, housing, income	2025 estimates; 2020–2024 ACS
BLS Consumer Expenditure Survey · Economics Daily · FRED series	Household spending, 2024	Dec. 19, 2025
Care.com cost guides	Provider-posted hourly rates by city	June 2026

SOURCE	WHAT IT PROVIDES	DATE
Maid VIP research and published prices	Company price data and local market survey	September 2026

Citing This Report

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Maid VIP is a California domestic referral agency under Civil Code §1812.5095: it refers independent, vetted cleaning professionals — background-screened, with general-liability insurance verified before and after the first visit — to homes across Los Angeles and Ventura County, with a flat quote before the visit and a written 24-hour re-clean policy. Offices in Thousand Oaks (HQ), Woodland Hills, Beverly Hills, Malibu, Calabasas, Camarillo, and Simi Valley. Nothing in this report is legal or tax advice. www.maidvip.com