

UCI Takes Over as Largest Orange County Employer

Govt, Retail, Health Dominate as Disney Slips

■ By PETER J. BRENNAN

Orange County's largest employer is no longer a private sector company. The **University of California, Irvine** took over the top spot on the Business Journal's annual list of the largest OC employers by growing 2.6% to 26,182.

It surpassed **The Walt Disney Co.**, which employs 25,000 at its Anaheim theme parks, down from an estimated 28,000 a year ago and 32,000 two years ago, prior to the pandemic.

"In the last few years, UCI has seen dramatic growth in many areas, including the number of students we educate, the number of patients we treat at our medical center and satellite health offices, and the amount of life-enhancing research we pursue," UCI Chancellor **Howard Gillman** said in an email.

"The size of the UCI employee population has also increased as it provides outstanding support and service to our community and region."

Wild Ride

The past 18 months has been a wild ride for OC employers. The local unadjusted jobless rate increased to a once unthinkable 13.8% in April 2020. Unemployment has steadily fallen since to 5% as of September. Two years ago, the October unemployment rate was



UCI adding on-and off-campus jobs at a rapid clip

2.6%.

Overall, the 45 companies on the list, each with more than 1,755 local workers, reduced combined total staff numbers by about 2,255, or 1%, to a cumulative 229,714.

Last year's 45 largest cut nearly 3,500 employees in total.

The list shows, again, the importance of small companies in employment. These largest employers accounted for only 14% of Orange County 1.6 million employees as of September.

Reductions

About 16 companies on this year's list reduced their headcount, while 13 increased it.

The largest industry on this list by cumulative employment was the government sector with three entities combining to provide jobs for 48,864.

The second largest industry sector em-

ployer was retail chains with 47,834 employees. These chains include No. 6 **Albertsons Southern California Division**, with 7,853 employees, and No. 29 **In-N-Out Burger Inc.**, with 2,748.

The 12 retail-related entries on the list were by far the most of any type.

Eight healthcare systems, including four on the top 10, were on the list, totaling 47,512 employees. The largest was No. 4 **Providence Southern California**, with 13,079 employees here.

Eight financial firms made the list, employing 22,775. The largest was No. 11 **Bank of American Corp.**, with 4,800 local employees.

Bank of America's local operations are in flux, as the company recently disclosed plans to leave its longtime call center in Brea next year. At its peak, that facility employed more than 3,000 and was Brea's largest employer.

The Business Journal last week was first to report on **Amazon** buying the Brea site, with an eye on future redevelopment for its own uses.

Notables

■ Companywide, the firms and institutions on the list employed 8.2 million, an 8.2% rise from a year ago.

The biggest reason for the increase was Santa Ana-based **Allied Universal**, which earlier this year tripled its workforce to 800,000 by acquiring London-based G4S

PLC, making it the world's largest private security firm both by employee count and annual revenue around \$18 billion.

"The plan is to grow to \$25 billion in annual sales by 2026," Chief Executive **Steve Jones** told the Business Journal earlier this year.

Earlier this month, Allied Universal expanded its janitorial services unit by acquiring The Millard Group LLC, a Morton Grove, Ill.-based commercial facility services company with 2,150 employees.

No. 12 Allied Universal also grew 18% in Orange County to 4,887.

■ The fastest grower was **Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Corp.** which increased its headcount 25% to 3,136. The New Brunswick, N.J.-based company made the biggest leap, climbing six spots to No. 26.

■ Aerospace giant **Boeing**, with local operations in Seal Beach and Huntington Beach, continues to be hard hit by the pandemic as well as its problems with its 737 MAX. Its workforce is estimated to have fallen to 4,880.

■ **Edwards Lifesciences Corp.**, the county's second-largest publicly traded company (NYSE: EW), increased its headcount 5.2% to 4,745. A large expansion of its local campus continues, which will likely lead to hundreds of more jobs over the coming years.

■ The only technology-based company on the list was **Blizzard Entertainment Inc.**, the maker of video games including "World of Warcraft" and the largest software maker in Orange County. It checked in at No. 29 as its local employee number fell by 6.9% to 2,700 (see story, page 1). ■



THE LIST EMPLOYERS



KIMBERLY C. CRIFE
CEO and President
CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County)



HOWARD GILLMAN
Chancellor
University of California, Irvine



STEVE JONES
Global Chairman and CEO
Allied Universal



JULIE MURPHY
Executive VP of People
Walmart Inc.



LYNSI SNYDER
President
In-N-Out Burger Inc.



FRAMROZE "FRAM" VIRJEE
President
California State University, Fullerton

THE LIST EMPLOYERS

Rank	Company •Address •Phone/fax	Company logo	OC employees •yearly % change	Companywide employees •yearly % change	Operations in Orange County	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax	
1 (2)	University of California, Irvine Irvine 92697-3125 Headquarters: Irvine		26,182 3%	26,182 3%	University of California, Irvine; UCI Health	Howard Gillman chancellor (949) 824-5111	
2 (1)	The Walt Disney Co. 1313 S. Harbor Blvd. Anaheim 92802-2309 Headquarters: Burbank		25,000 NA	180,000 4%	Disneyland Park, Disney California Adventure Park, Disneyland Hotel, Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, Downtown Disney District	Ken Potrock president, Disneyland Resort (714) 781-1580	
3 (3)	County of Orange 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd. Santa Ana 92701-4084 Headquarters: Santa Ana		18,139 -2%	18,139 -2%	Regional service provider and planning agency whose core businesses include public safety, public health, environmental protection, regional planning, public assistance, social services and aviation	Frank Kim county executive officer (714) 834-2345	
4 (4)	Providence Southern California 3345 Michelson Drive, Ste. 100 Irvine 92612-0693 Headquarters: Renton, Wash.		13,079 2%	120,000 0%	Providence health system regional headquarters, Providence St. Joseph Hospital, Providence St. Jude Medical Center, Providence Mission Hospital, Providence Home and Community Care, Providence Express Care, St. Joseph Heritage Medical Group, St. Jude Heritage Medical Group, Mission Heritage Medical Group	Kevin P. Manemann CEO, Providence Southern California (949) 381-4000	
5 (6)	Kaiser Permanente 3460 E. La Palma Ave. Anaheim 92806-2020 Headquarters: Oakland		8,800 9%	216,776 0%	Kaiser Permanente hospitals, medical offices, regional offices	Mark Costa senior VP/area manager (714) 644-4100	
6 (5)	Albertsons Southern California Division 1421 S. Manhattan Ave. Fullerton 92831-5221 Headquarters: Fullerton		7,853 -4%	270,000 -11%	Albertsons, Vons, Pavilions, Sav-on Pharmacy, distribution centers	Kevin Curry division president (714) 300-6000	
7 (7)	Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian⁽¹⁾ 1 Hoag Drive Newport Beach 92658-6100 Headquarters: Newport Beach		7,051 6%	7,051 6%	Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Hoag Hospital Newport Beach, Hoag Hospital Irvine, Hoag Medical Group, Hoag Health Centers, Hoag Urgent Care Centers	Robert T. Braithwaite CEO/president (949) 764-4624	
<div style="background-color: #f4a460; padding: 20px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="color: white; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">We're here with all of the care and convenience you need. Choose MemorialCare.</div> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>MemorialCare memorialcare.org</p> </div> </div>							
8 (8)	Walmart Inc. 702 SW Eighth St. Bentonville 72716-8611 Headquarters: Bentonville, Ark.		6,300 -2%	2,200,000 0%	Walmart Supercenters, Walmart stores, Neighborhood Markets, Sam's Club stores	Julie Murphy executive VP, People (479) 273-4000	
9 (9)	Target Corp. 1000 Nicollet Mall Minneapolis 55403-2542 Headquarters: Minneapolis		6,000 ⁽²⁾ NA	409,000 17%	Target stores, distribution center; regional, group and district offices	Brian Cornell chairman/CEO (800) 440-0680/(612) 761-5555	
10 (11)	MemorialCare 17360 Brookhurst St. Fountain Valley 92708-3720 Headquarters: Fountain Valley		5,490 0%	10,900 -1%	MemorialCare headquarters, Saddleback Medical Center, Orange Coast Medical Center, MemorialCare Medical Foundation, MemorialCare Medical Group, Greater Newport Physicians, MemorialCare Select Health Plan	Barry Arbuckle CEO/president (714) 377-2900	
11 (17)	Allied Universal 1551 N. Tustin Ave., Ste. 650 Santa Ana 92705-8664 Headquarters: Santa Ana		4,887 18%	800,000 240%	Manned guarding services, highly advanced tech solutions, risk advisory and consulting, security and safety training, event, staffing and janitorial services	Steve Jones global chairman/CEO (714) 619-9700/(714) 619-9701	
12 (13)	Boeing Co. 2201 Seal Beach Blvd. Seal Beach 90740-5603 Headquarters: Chicago		4,880 ⁽²⁾ NA	141,014 -12%	Boeing Defense, Space & Security, Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Boeing Global Services	Naveed Hussain CTO/VP, general manager, Boeing Research & Technology (562) 797-2020	

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Photos show the first top official listed

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⁽¹⁾ Includes Hoag Hospital Irvine
⁽²⁾ Business Journal estimate

Researched by Meghan Kliever

THE LIST EMPLOYERS

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RANKED BY NUMBER OF OC EMPLOYEES

Rank	Company Prev. Rank	Company logo	OC employees •yearly % change	Companywide employees •yearly % change	Operations in Orange County	Top local official(s) •Title •Phone/fax	
13	Bank of America Corp. (13) 520 Newport Center Drive, 11th floor Newport Beach 92660-7020 Headquarters: Charlotte, N.C.		4,800 -4%	213,000 4%	Retail, preferred and small business, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management, private bank, business banking, global commercial banking, global corporate and investment banking, global markets	Allen Staff president, Orange County (949) 287-0456	
14	Edwards Lifesciences Corp. (12) 1 Edwards Way Irvine 92614-5688 Headquarters: Irvine		4,745 5%	16,105 5%	Headquarters, heart valve production, R&D	Mike A. Mussallem chairman/CEO (949) 250-2500/(949) 250-2525	
15	CHOC (Children's Hospital of Orange County) (18) 1201 W. La Veta Ave. Orange 92868-3874 Headquarters: Orange		4,558 -3%	4,558 -3%	CHOC Children's Hospital-Orange, CHOC Children's at Mission Hospital, CHOC Children's Specialists, CHOC Orange Clinic, Clinica Para Ninos, CHOC Clinic at the Santa Ana Boys & Girls Club, CHOC Clinic in Garden Grove, CHOC Health Center at Hoag/Newport Beach, CHOC Health Center at Mission Viejo, CHOC Medical Foundation, CHOC Children's Network	Kimberly C. Cripe CEO/president (714) 997-3000/(714) 509-8477	
16	Costco Wholesale Corp. (19) 999 Lake Drive Issaquah 98027-8990 Headquarters: Issaquah, Wash.		4,303 7%	288,072 5%	Costco stores	Caton Frates senior VP, Los Angeles regional office (800) 774-2678	
17	Home Depot Inc. (16) 2455 Paces Ferry Road Atlanta 30339-1834 Headquarters: Atlanta		4,300 ⁽¹⁾ NA	500,000 11%	Home Depot stores, regional offices	Ann-Marie Campbell executive VP, U.S. Stores & International Operations (800) 466-3337	
18	California State University, Fullerton (15) 800 N. State College Blvd. Fullerton 92831-3547 Headquarters: Fullerton		4,182 -4%	4,182 -4%	California State University, Fullerton, Grand Central Art Center in Santa Ana	Framroze 'Fram' Virjee president (657) 278-3611	
19	loanDepot Inc. (20) 26642 Towne Centre Drive Foothill Ranch 92610-2808 Headquarters: Foothill Ranch		4,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	9,892 NA	loanDepot, LDWholesale, LDEscrow, imortgage	Anthony Hsieh founder/chairman/CEO (949) 330-8791	
20	Automobile Club of Southern California (23) 3333 Fairview Road Costa Mesa 92626-1610 Headquarters: Costa Mesa		3,700 0%	14,000 0%	Administrative offices, branches for travel and insurance sales, call centers	John Boyle CEO/president (714) 885-2333	
21	Ralphs and Food 4 Less, divisions of The Kroger Co. (22) 1100 W. Artesia Blvd. Compton 90220-5108 Headquarters: Cincinnati		3,677 -2%	500,000 0%	Ralphs, Food 4 Less	Tom Schwilke/Bryan Kaltenbach president, Ralphs/president, Food 4 Less (310) 884-9000	
22	CVS Health (25) 1 CVS Drive Woonsocket 02895-6146 Headquarters: Woonsocket, R.I.		3,400 ⁽¹⁾ NA	300,000 0%	CVS Pharmacy stores and distribution centers, Aetna Insurance offices	Karen S. Lynch CEO/president (401) 765-1500	
22	Tenet Healthcare Corp. (24) 14201 Dallas Parkway Dallas 75254-2916 Headquarters: Dallas		3,400 0%	100,000 -11%	Fountain Valley Regional Hospital and Medical Center, Placentia-Linda Hospital, Los Alamitos Medical Center, Conifer Health Solutions, regional offices, imaging and surgery centers	Bryan Rogers group CEO, OCLA market (469) 893-2000	
24	Starbucks Corp. (26) 2401 Utah Ave. S., Ste. 800 Seattle 98134-1435 Headquarters: Seattle		3,300 ⁽¹⁾ NA	349,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Starbucks coffeehouses; regional development, design operations	Kevin Johnson CEO/president (800) 782-7282	
25	Applied Medical Resources Corp. (27) 22872 Avenida Empresa Rancho Santa Margarita 92688-2650 Headquarters: Rancho Santa Margarita		3,268 7%	4,664 9%	Headquarters, medical device maker	Said Hilal CEO (949) 713-8000/(949) 713-8200	
26	Johnson & Johnson Medical Devices Companies (32) 31 Technology Drive Irvine 92618-2346 Headquarters: New Brunswick, N.J.		3,136 25%	58,700 -3%	Johnson & Johnson Vision, Acclarent, Mentor Worldwide LLC, Cerenovus, Biosense Webster	Shlomi Nachman company group chairman, Cardiovascular & Specialty Solutions Group, Johnson & Johnson Vision (732) 524-0400	
27	UnitedHealth Group Inc. (21) 3110 W Lake Center Drive Santa Ana 92704-6917 Headquarters: Minnetonka, Minn.		2,900 -26%	340,000 6%	Pacificare, UnitedHealthcare, UnitedHealthcare Behavioral Health, UnitedHealthcare Dental and Vision, Secure Horizons, Optum Rx	Elizabeth Winsor CEO, UnitedHealthcare national accounts (800) 328-5979	

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(1) Business Journal estimate

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28	(31)	In-N-Out Burger Inc. 4199 Campus Drive, ninth floor Irvine 92612-8604 Headquarters: Irvine		2,748 7%	30,770 6%	Headquarters, In-N-Out restaurants, operations	Lynsi Snyder president (949) 509-6200/(949) 854-3675	
29	(28)	Blizzard Entertainment Inc. 1 Blizzard Way Irvine 92618-3628 Headquarters: Santa Monica		2,700 -7%	4,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Blizzard Entertainment Inc.	Mike Ybarra leader (949) 955-1380/(949) 737-2000	
30	(30)	Wells Fargo & Co. 2030 Main St., Ste. 94 Irvine 92614-7219 Headquarters: San Francisco		2,600 ⁽¹⁾ NA	253,871 -8%	Wells Fargo bank branches, regional offices	Keith Kobata Orange County region bank president (949) 251-6088	
31	(29)	KPC Healthcare Inc. 1301 N. Tustin Ave. Santa Ana 92705-8619 Headquarters: Corona		2,497 -11%	4,584 -8%	Orange County Global Medical Center, Anaheim Global Medical Center, Chapman Global Medical Center, South Coast Global Medical Center	Peter Baronoff CEO (714) 953-3652	
32	(33)	Irvine Company 550 Newport Center Drive Newport Beach 92660-7010 Headquarters: Newport Beach		2,439 ⁽¹⁾ NA	4,860 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Headquarters, workplace communities, retail centers, apartment communities, resort and hotels, golf course, community development	Donald Bren chairman (949) 720-2000	
33	(34)	Stater Bros. Holdings Inc. 301 S. Tippecanoe Ave. San Bernardino 92408-0121 Headquarters: San Bernardino		2,400 ⁽¹⁾ NA	18,000 0%	Stater Bros. stores	Pete Van Helden CEO (855) 782-8377	

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⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate

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34 (37)	Northgate González Market 1201 N. Magnolia Ave. Anaheim 92801-2609 Headquarters: Anaheim		2,100 ⁽¹⁾ NA	5,900 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Headquarters, support center, warehouse, stores	Miguel González co-president (714) 778-3784/(714) 778-3295	
35 (43)	Capital Group 6455 Irvine Center Drive Irvine 92618-4518 Headquarters: Los Angeles		2,040 7%	8,300 11%	Accounting, finance, customer service, facilities, human resources, information technology, other functions	Laura Muller chair, Irvine site leadership team (949) 975-4543	
36 (39)	B. Braun Medical Inc. 2525 McGaw Ave. Irvine 92614-5841 Headquarters: Melsungen, Germany		2,000 -3%	64,000 ⁽³⁾ 0%	B. Braun Medical Inc.	Pete Klaes VP/general manager (949) 660-2000	
36 (40)	Cedar Fair LP 1 Cedar Point Drive Sandusky 44870-5259 Headquarters: Sandusky, Ohio		2,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	47,000 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Knott's Berry Farm, Knott's Soak City Water Park, Knott's Berry Farm Resort Hotel	Richard Zimmerman CEO/president (419) 627-2233/(419) 627-2260	
36 (40)	Raytheon Technologies Corp. 1801 Hughes Drive Fullerton 92833-2200 Headquarters: Waltham, Mass.		2,000 0%	180,000 -8%	Aerospace and defense operations	Roy Azevedo president, Raytheon Intelligence & Space (714) 446-3232	
39 (36)	Panasonic Avionics Corp. 26200 Enterprise Way Lake Forest 92630-8400 Headquarters: Lake Forest		1,980 -10%	3,500 ⁽¹⁾ NA	Panasonic Avionics Corp.	Ken Sain CEO (949) 672-2000/(949) 462-7100	

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⁽¹⁾ Business Journal estimate
⁽³⁾ Reflects the parent company

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40 (NR)	Quest Diagnostics Inc. 33608 Ortega Highway, Ste. B San Juan Capistrano 92675-2042 Headquarters: Secaucus, N.J.		1,933 6%	47,000 0%	Local office, diagnostic information services	Stephen H. Rusckowski chairman/CEO/president (949) 728-4000/(949) 728-4985	
41 (44)	First American Financial Corp. 1 First American Way Santa Ana 92707-5913 Headquarters: Santa Ana		1,852 -1%	20,817 9%	First American corporate headquarters; title insurance; data services; property and casualty insurance; banking, trust and investment advisory services	Dennis Gilmore CEO (714) 250-3000/(714) 250-3151	
42 (NR)	JPMorgan Chase & Co. 3 Park Plaza Irvine 92614-8505 Headquarters: New York		1,800 ⁽¹⁾ NA	265,790 4%	Chase bank retail branches; business banking; corporate offices; commercial banking; treasury services; government, healthcare, nonprofit banking; private banking	Ethan Morgan chairman, OC market leadership team/ managing director, market director, JPMorgan Private Bank (949) 833-4888	
43 (38)	Pacific Life Insurance Co. 700 Newport Center Drive Newport Beach 92660-6397 Headquarters: Newport Beach		1,783 -14%	3,842 -6%	Headquarters, retirement solutions, life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, institutional services, real estate, investments, Pacific Life Foundation	Jim Morris chairman/CEO/president (949) 219-3011	
44 (34)	Safran 5701 Bolsa Ave. Huntington Beach 92647-2063 Headquarters: Paris		1,756 NA	76,000 -17%	Zodiac Pacific Precision Products, Zodiac Galleys USA, Zodiac OEM Cabin Interiors, Zodiac Electrical Inserts USA, Zodiac Inflight Innovations	Peter Lengyel CEO/president, USA (714) 934-0000/(714) 934-0088	
44 (10)	Yum Brands Inc. 1900 Colonel Sanders Lane Louisville 40213-1970 Headquarters: Louisville, Ky.		1,756 4%	38,000 12%	Taco Bell headquarters; Habit Restaurants headquarters; Taco Bell, KFC, Pizza Hut, Habit restaurants	David Gibbs CEO (502) 874-8300	

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