

These commuting patterns build the economic linkages among counties in Southern California and diversify the employment options to Riverside County residents. For transportation planning and infrastructure development considerations, these patterns increase the importance of corridors within western Riverside County and linking County residents with surrounding areas.

3.3.4 Housing

The study area contained nearly 90,000 housing units in 2000, 92 percent of which were occupied, including 72 percent by the property owner, as shown in the graph at right. This suggests that the study area has a proportion of available housing inventory slightly lower than Riverside County, though on par with the state-wide average.

SCAG's 2000 *State of the Region Report* concluded that the Southern California region still falls short in terms of meeting regional housing needs and traffic congestion. SCAG graded the region's housing (C-), noting "the Southern California housing market continues to be one of the nation's most expensive. Housing permits and housing construction lag far behind short- and long-term regional housing needs" (Southern California Association of Governments, 2000). The high activity in the construction sector described earlier, and the residential housing currently being built throughout the study area, evidence rapid changes in housing inventory.