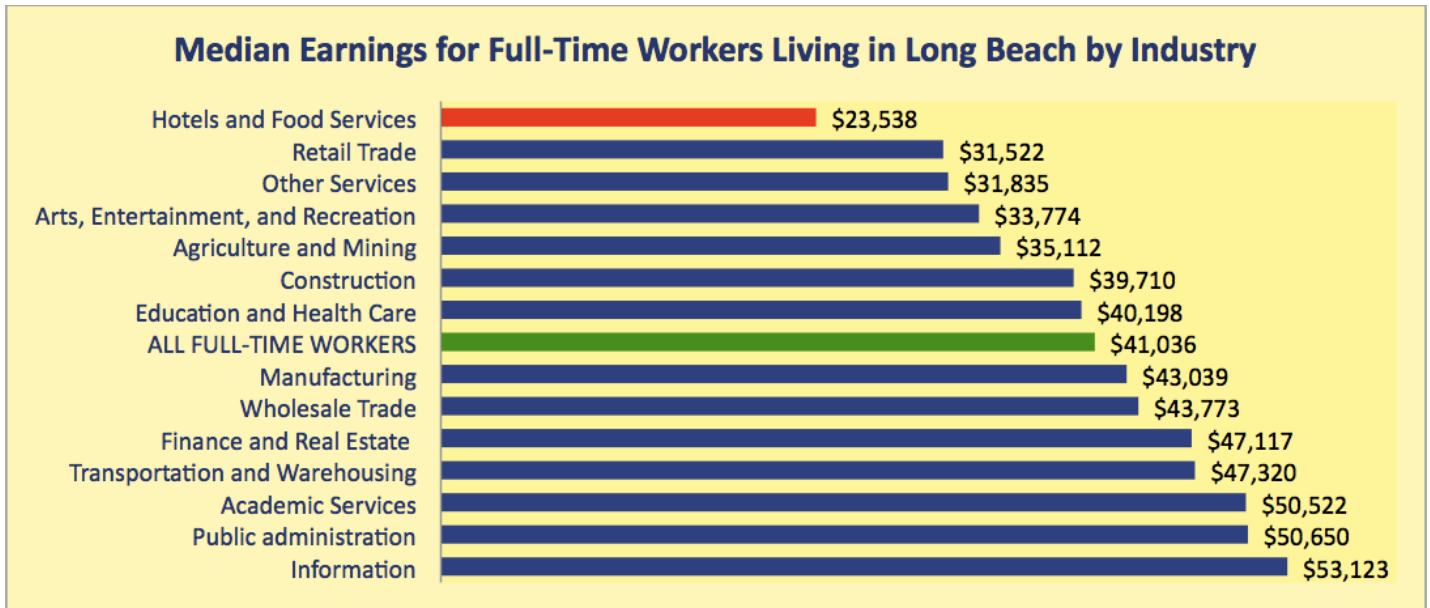




Poverty Jobs in Long Beach's Hospitality Industry



Nearly 26% of Long Beach's full-time workers earned less than \$25,000 per year in 2009.

Hotels and food service were amongst the lowest-paying sectors of the economy. Median earnings for full-time workers in hotels and food service were substantially lower than for other industries in Long Beach, with workers averaging less than \$24,000 per year.

Long Beach has invested nearly \$750 million into the tourism industry since the early 1980s to reinvent its Downtown area as an attractive destination for tourists and convention attendees.

Nearly 83% of Long Beach hotel workers live in Long Beach. According to a 2008 survey, 41% of hotel workers in Long Beach relied on some form of public assistance in order to meet their basic needs and more than one in five held a second job, working an average of 65 hours per week. Long Beach hospitality workers were eligible for over \$6.4 million in public assistance annually.



I've worked at the Hilton Long Beach for over a decade, but I still have to use food stamps and get reduced-price school meals in order to feed my children. I can't afford full medical coverage for my family. I work hard. I should be able to support my family, but the pay I get makes it difficult for me to even get by.

- Maria Patlan, Long Beach Resident