

# The Critical Role of the Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy in Economic Competitiveness and Quality of Life

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# The Public Foundations for Economic Competitiveness

- The 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) have important implications for economic growth.
- The RTP and SCS are critical for the region to be attractive to entrepreneurs and talented people so they will want to work and live here.
- These are important **public foundations** to attract **private investment** and **talent** who will do **the heavy lifting of sustaining economic growth.**

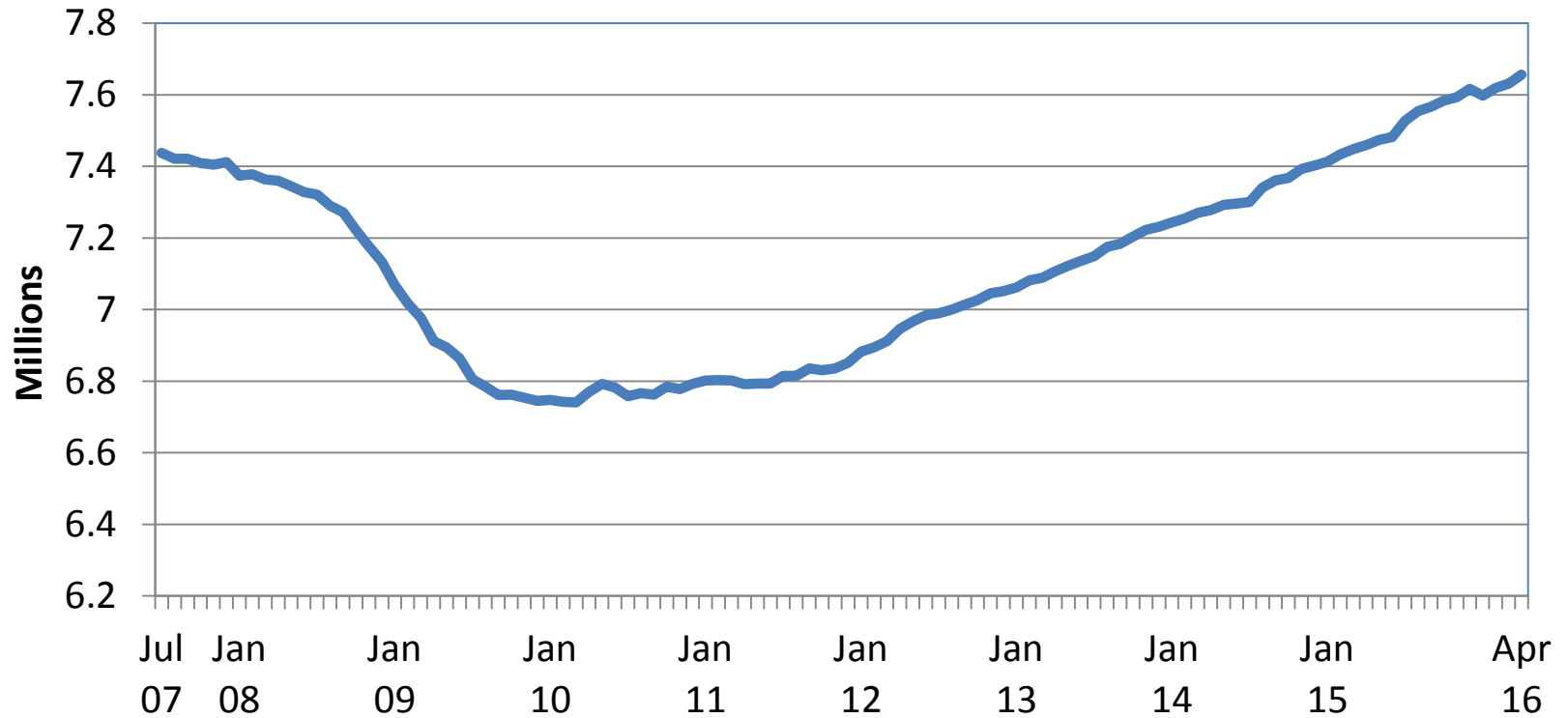
# Outline

A Review of Economic Progress and Remembering Those Still Left Out

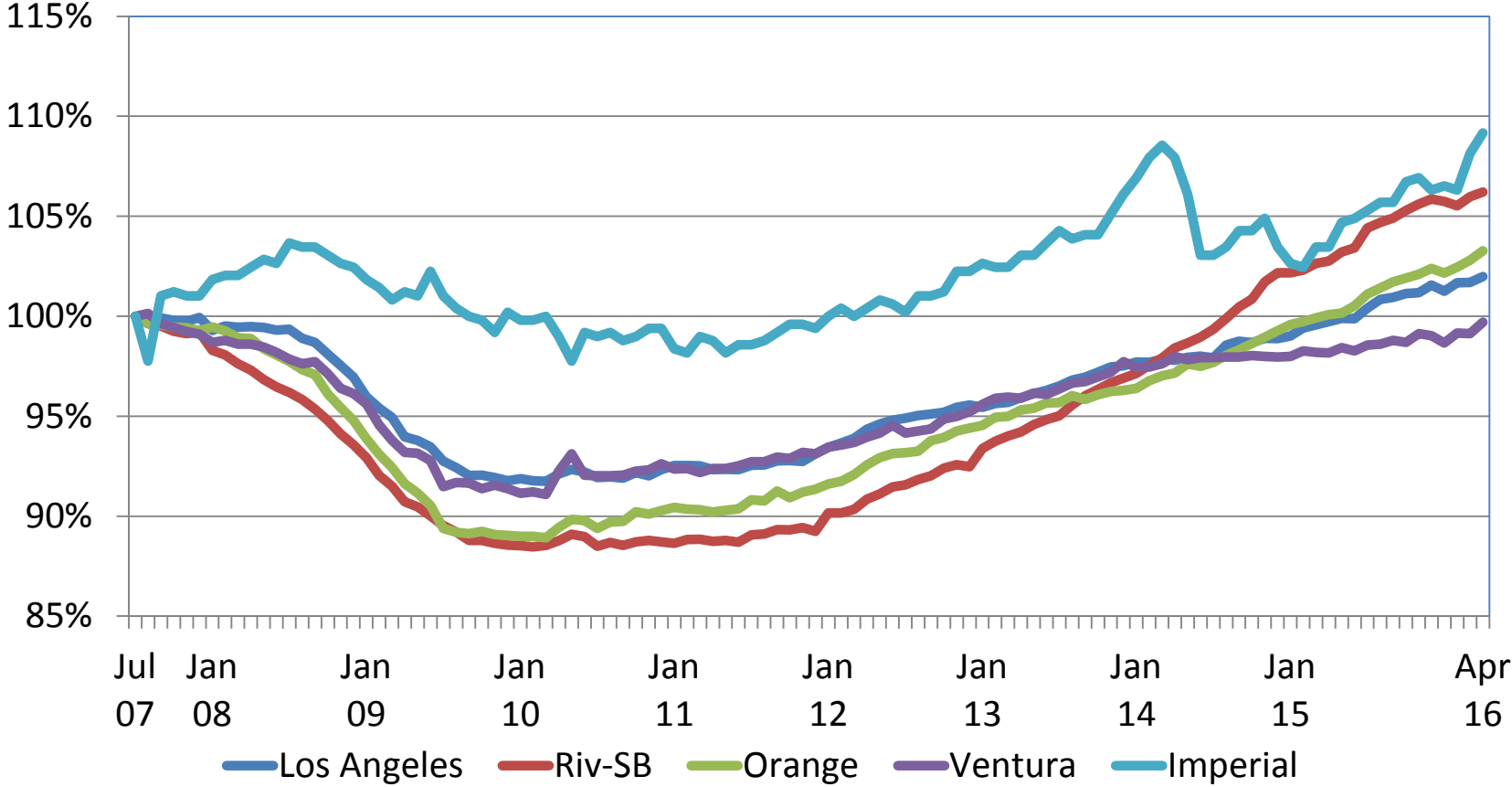
Thinking About the Future for Our Economy, Competitiveness and Quality of Life—Role of the RTP and SCS—The Same Policies Improve the Economy and Environment

Local and State Actions in Support of the RTP and SCS

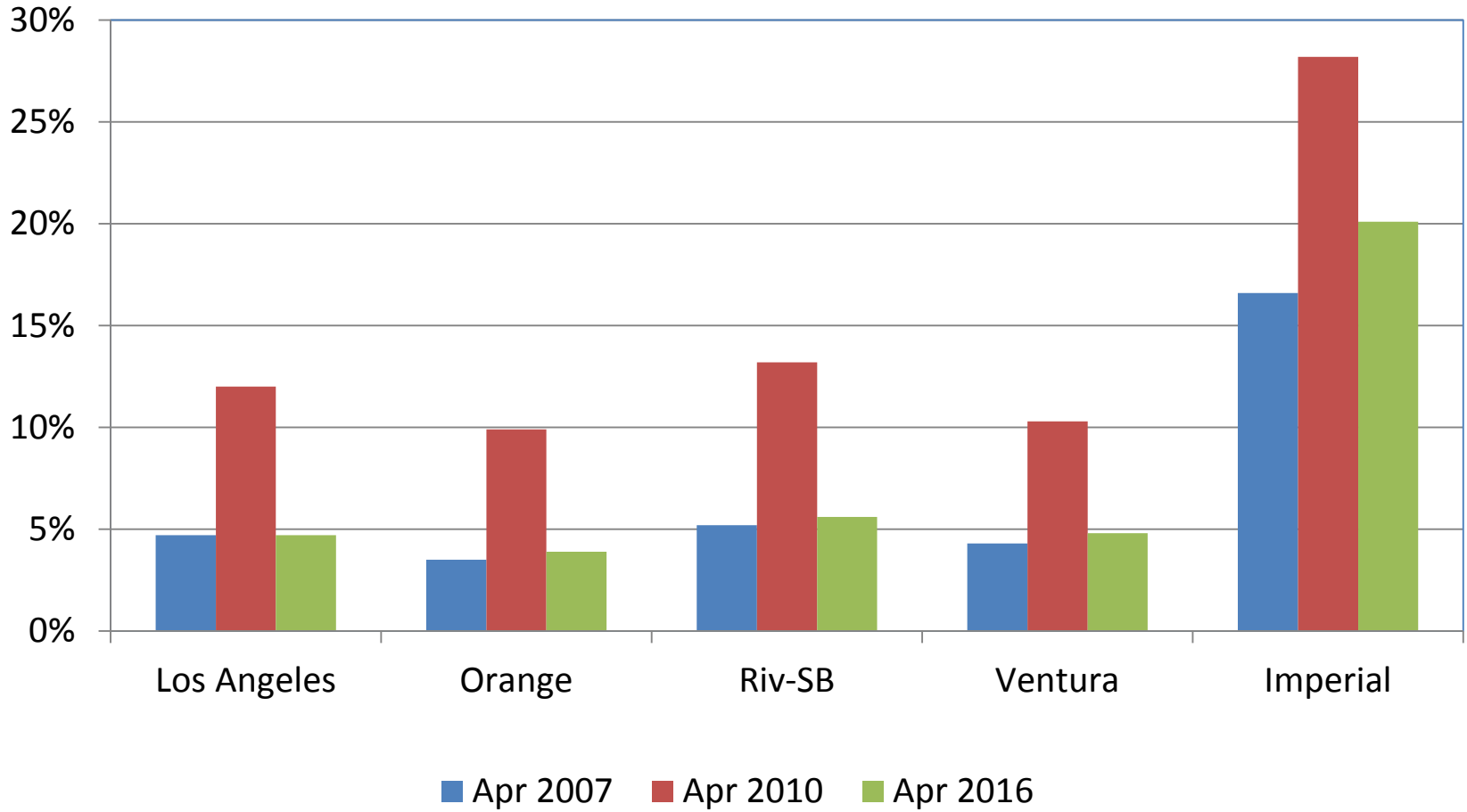
# SCAG Region Wage and Salary Jobs (Millions)



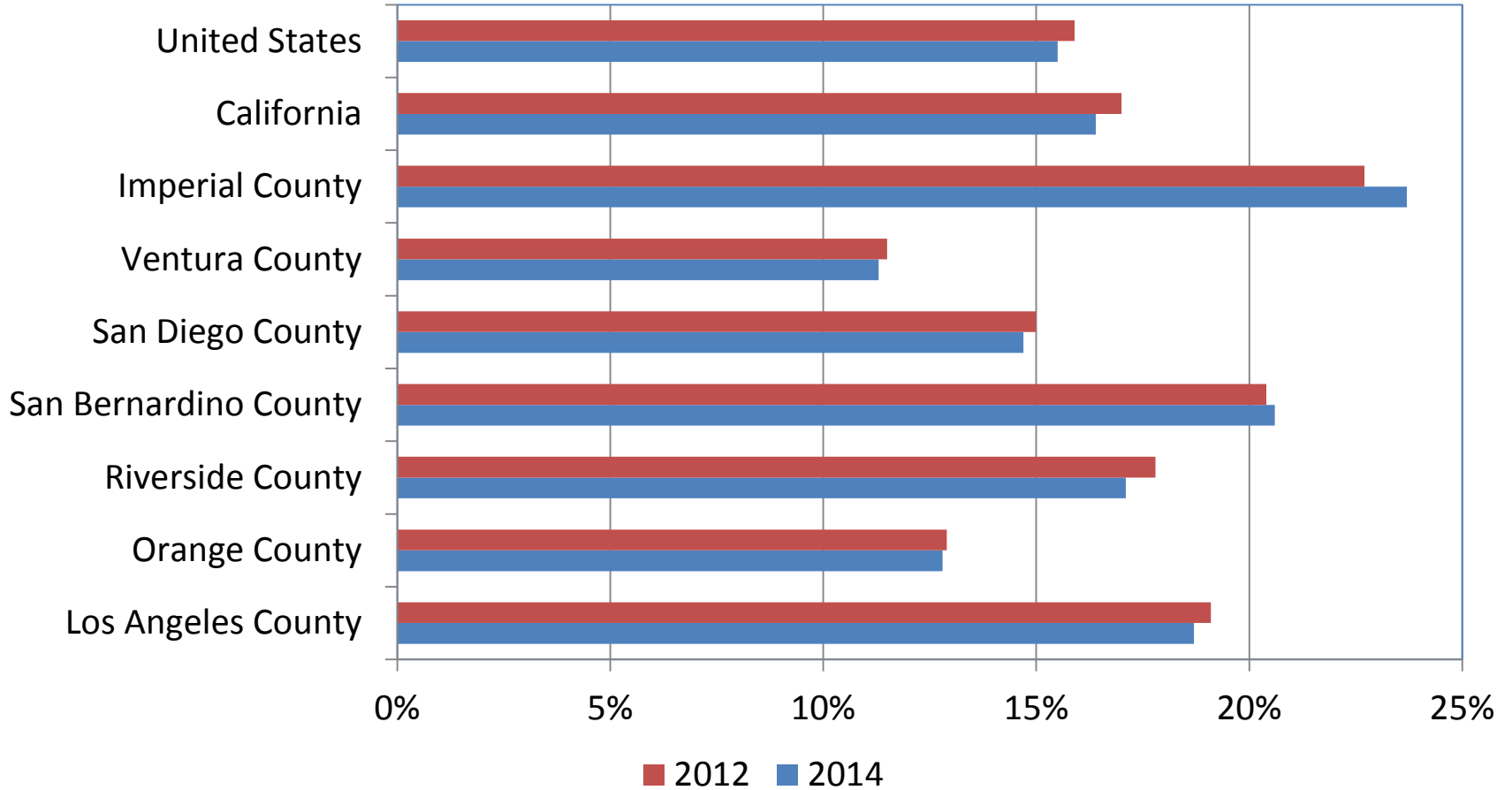
# Job Trends: SCAG Region Metro Areas (July 2007=100%)



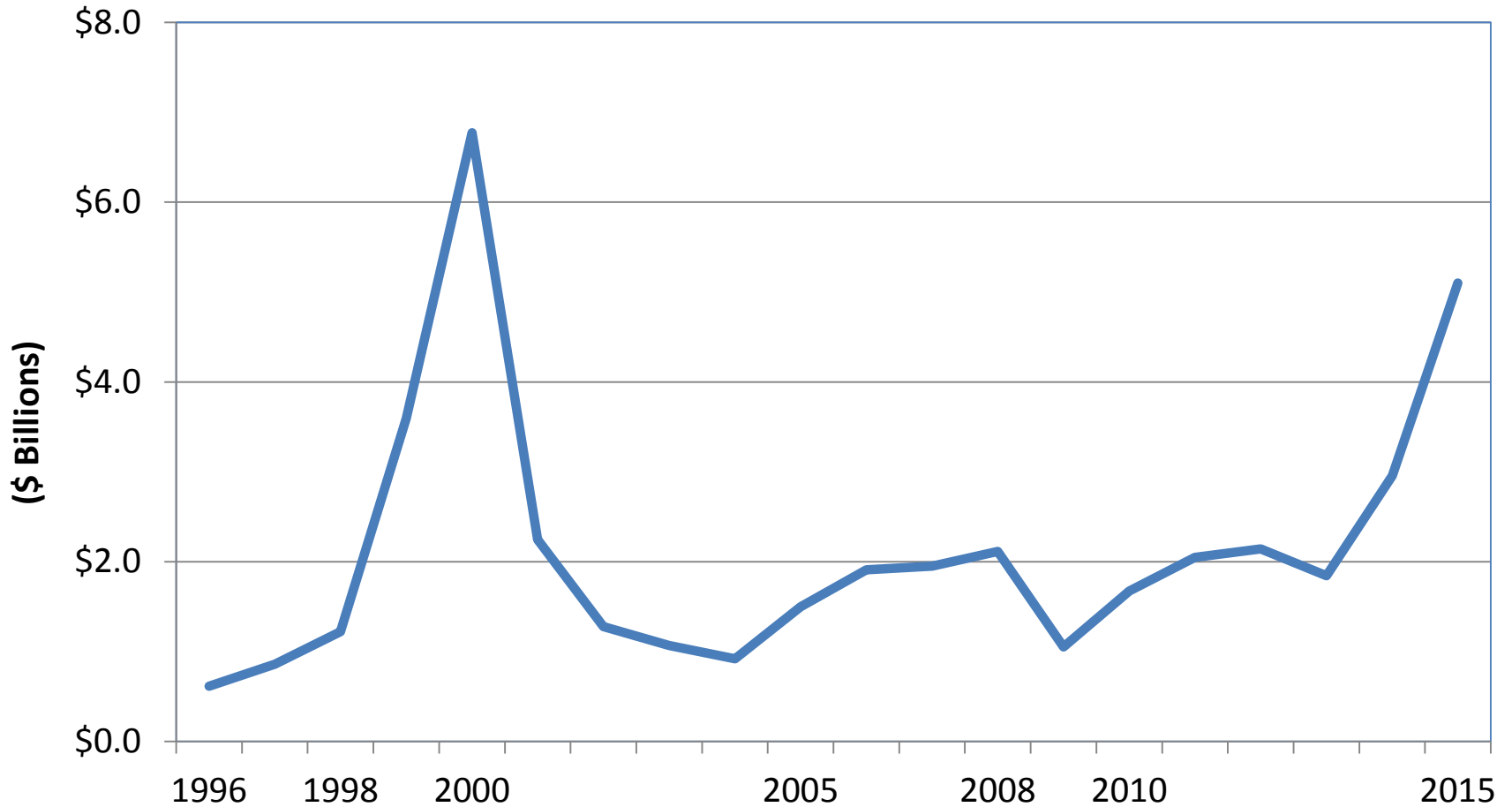
# Unemployment Rate Trends



# Poverty Rates

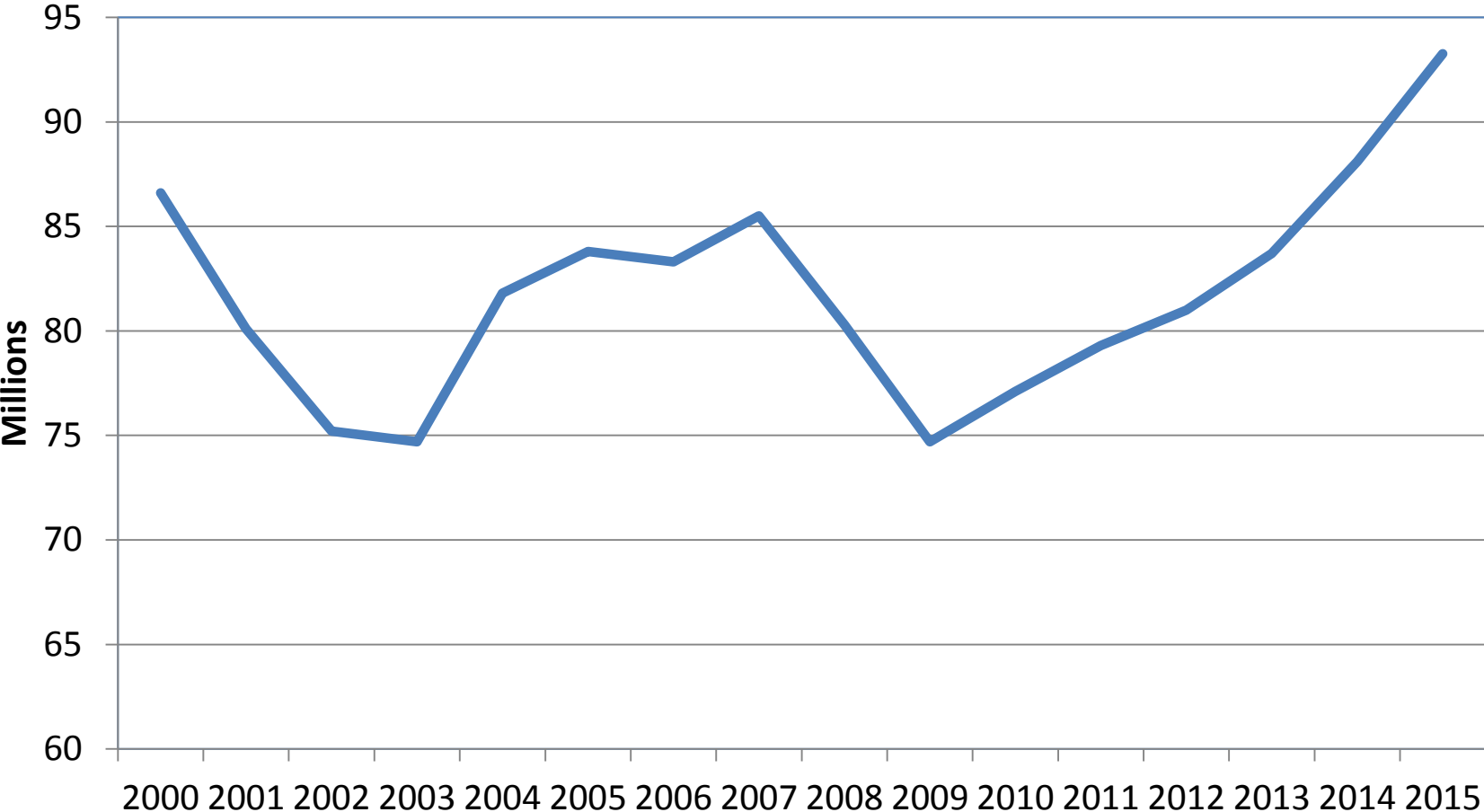


# So Cal VC Funding—2015 was a Breakout Year—Second highest ever

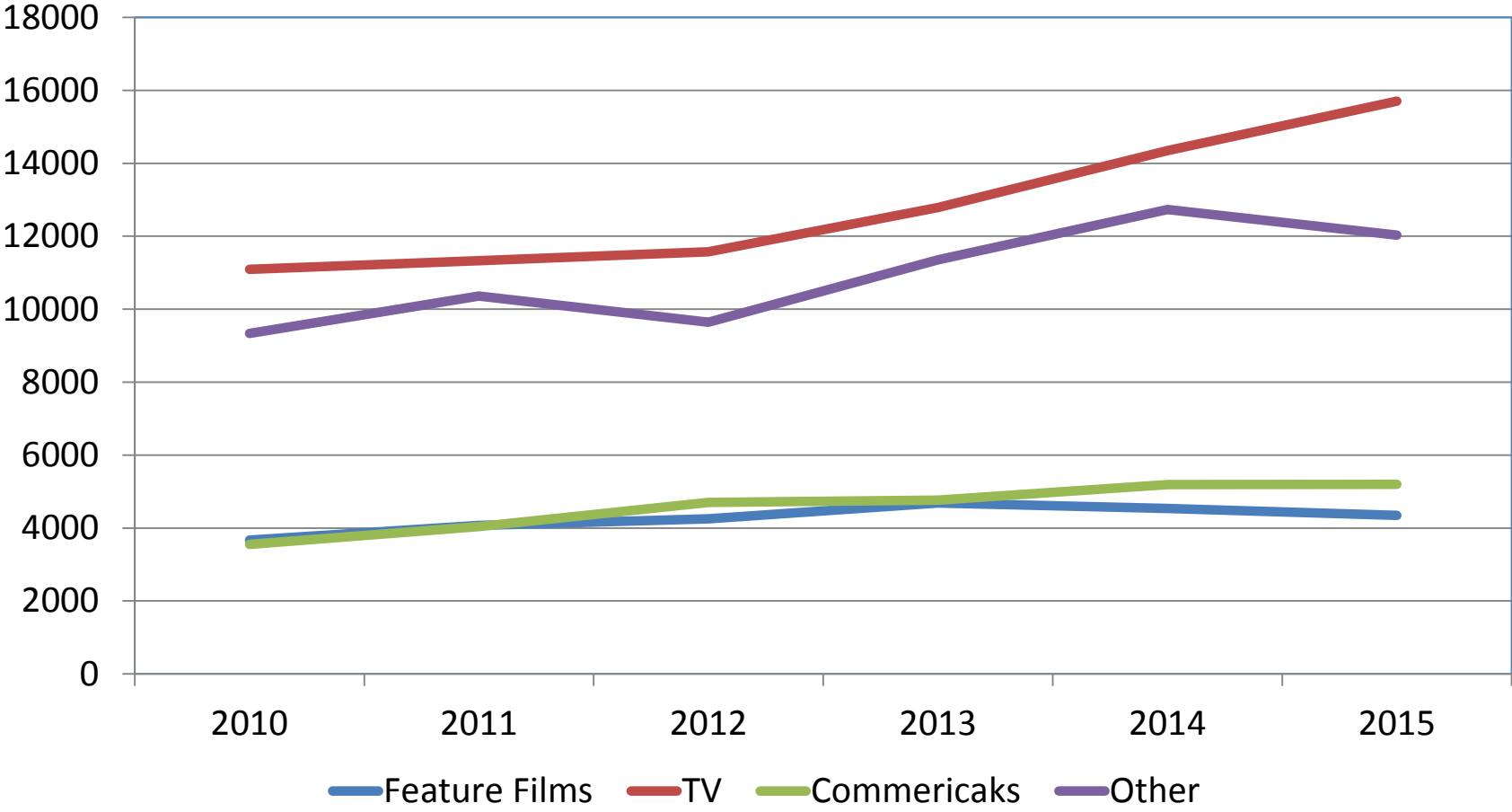




# Passengers at Major SCAG Region Airports

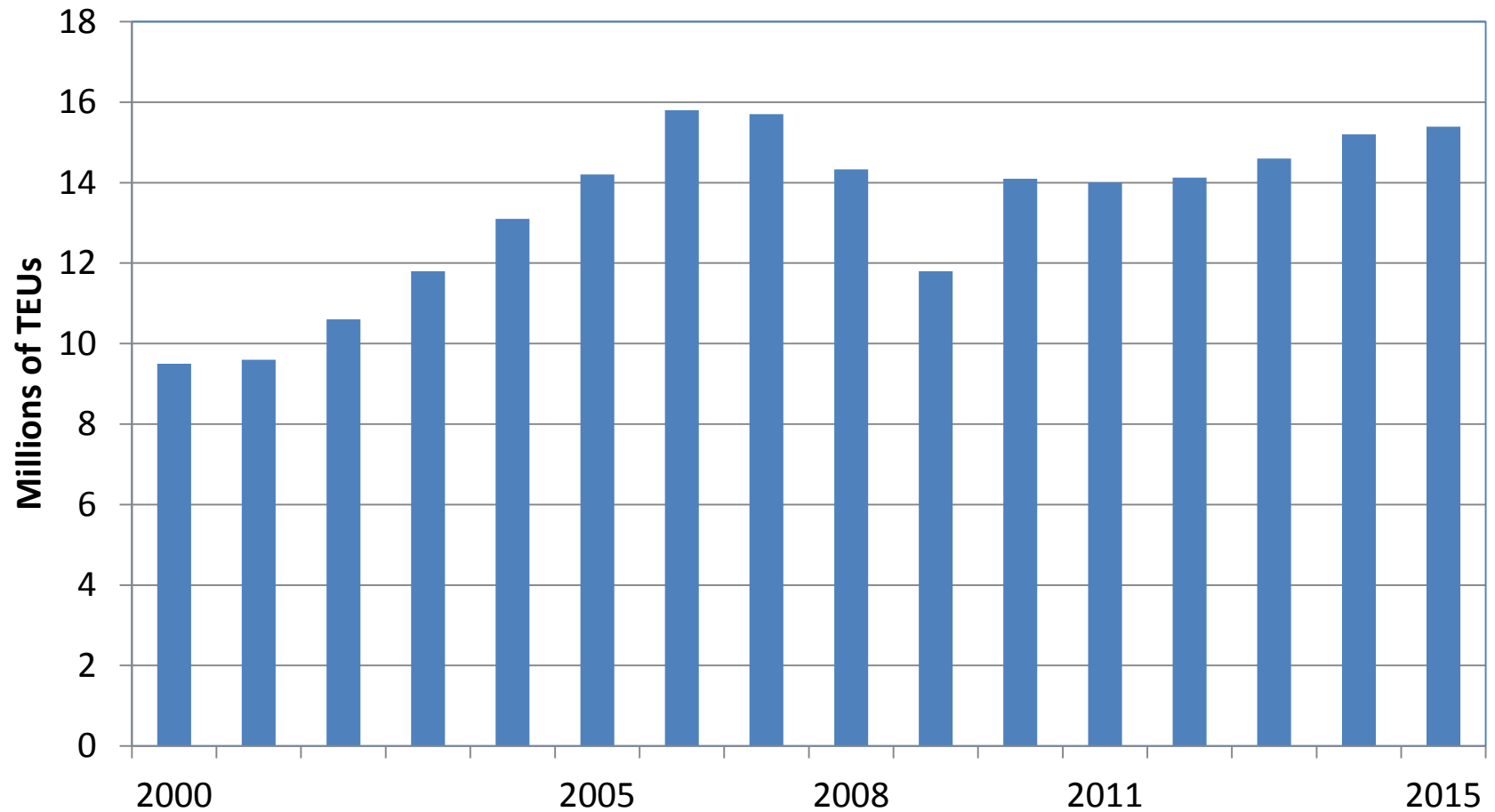


# Filming Shoot Days in Los Angeles Area



# Container Shipments

## Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports



# Now Let's Turn to the Longer Term

- Message 1: The SCAG projected growth is not automatic. It depends on policies that make the region a great place to live and work.
- Message 2: The RTP and SCS are pro economy strategies and anti-poverty strategies.
- Message 3: Progress in housing, transportation/mobility and quality of life help existing residents **BUT ALSO** incentivize firms to invest here and talented people to make this their home—and thus improve our economic competitiveness.

# How do the RTP/SCS Affect Jobs?

- The technical term in the plan is “amenity benefits”. What does that mean in lay terms?
- Amenity benefits are what makes the region a great place to live and work—to attract talent and investment. They are REALLY important to support the projected growth.
- On the other hand declining attractiveness could lead to job growth BELOW projected levels.

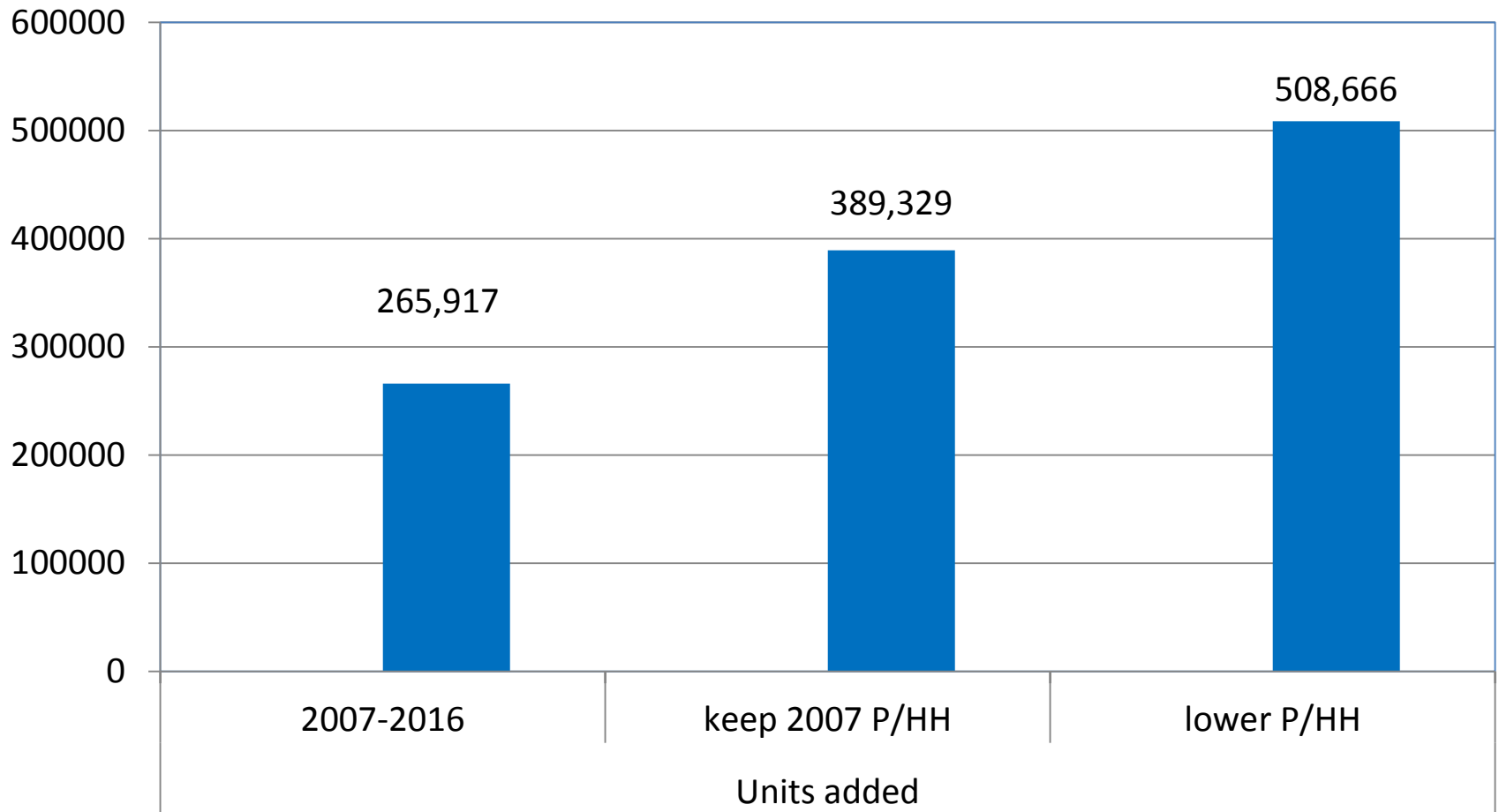
# The RTP and SCS Work Together by Integrating Land Use and Transportation Planning—Making Great Places to Live and Work

- By concentrating new housing in areas where auto travel is lessened, we can absorb growth without increasing congestion
- By building the transit, bike and walkable options for people, they will be attracted to where we want most housing to go.
- By providing for growth with increased mobility and housing choices consistent with meeting environmental goals and a high quality of life.

# Housing Challenges

- Shortage of supply
- Rapidly rising prices and rents
- Causing doubling up and eating into disposable income
- And reducing our region's economic competitiveness

# Measures of A Regional Housing Shortage 2007-2016





# Can We Make Progress on Expanding Housing Choices

- In sufficient numbers, in the right places and of the right types
- Think of seniors and millennials and what they want—and funds for subsidized housing
- The shortfall is great, local resistance remains in some places but we can make changes to local and state laws and zoning to help

# What Can Cities Do?--Location

- Most cities have a downtown that can be a focal point for locating jobs and housing and connecting to transit options—beyond buses and Metrolink, can we be creative with shuttles and services like Lyft and Uber?
- Many cities have a second or third area with concentrations of services, shopping and transit--without intruding on single family neighborhoods.

# What Can Cities Do—Size, Zoning, Parking Requirements

- Zone to allow more smaller units--studios, micro units, 2<sup>nd</sup> units and 1 bedroom apartments.
- Relax height and density limits in selected areas like downtowns.
- Focus on adding choices for seniors as they age—our fastest growing population group.
- Reduce parking requirements as millennials and seniors are driving less and owning fewer cars.
- Bonds and other support for low income housing

# But More is Needed--Possible State Policies to Support Housing

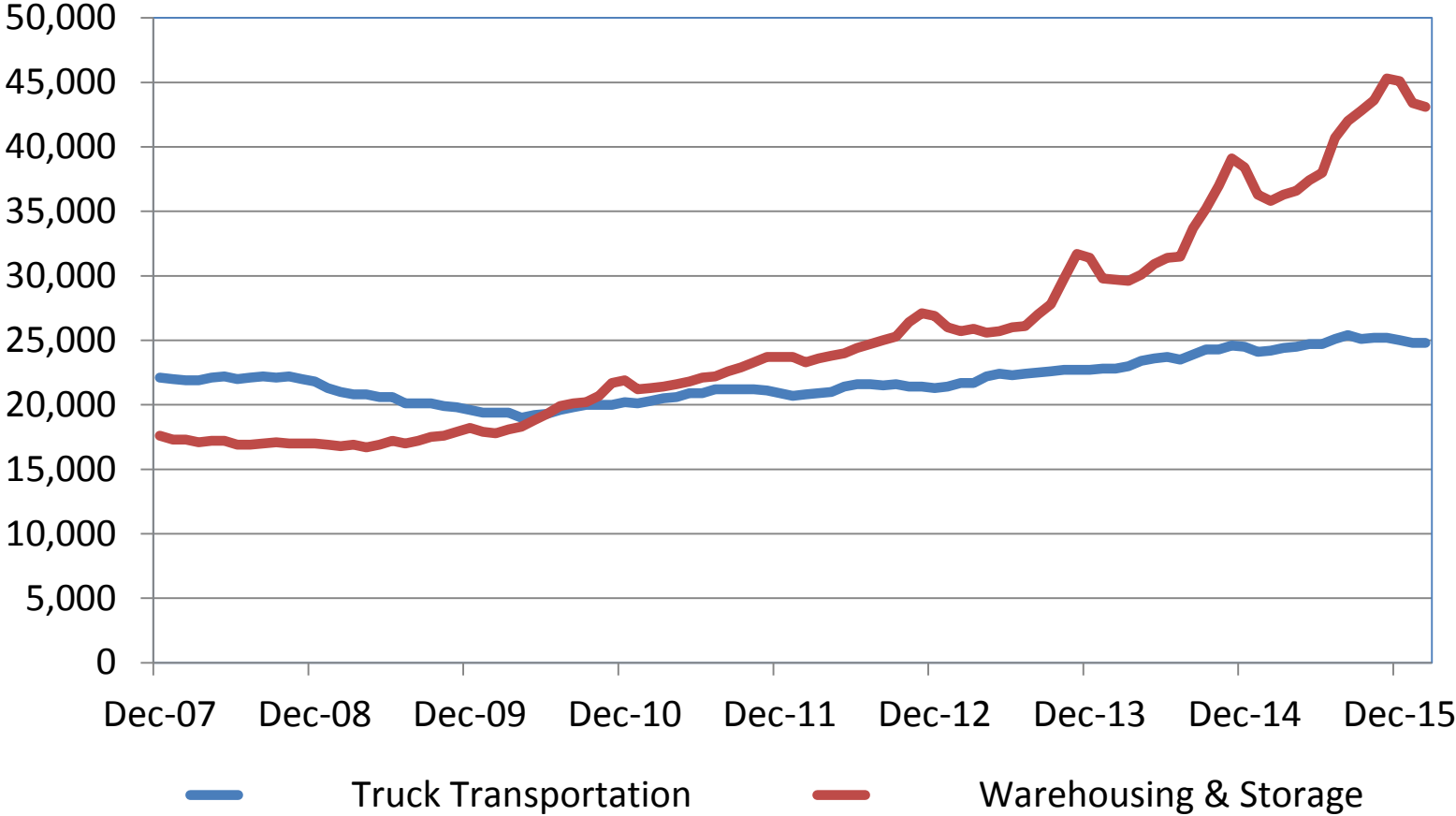
- Additional state funding for subsidized housing—cap and trade, new bonds
- Direct transportation monies to communities that support housing
- Reform CEQA with eye toward housing
- Longer term—fiscal reforms to make housing a better fiscal payoff for communities
- SCAG can collaborate with other regions to bring this message of urgency to Sacramento

# Specific RTP Policies that Support Economic Competitiveness

- Providing adequate ground mobility for our port/goods movement/distribution complex
- Improving access options for travelers to and from our airports as tourism demand grows
- Improving mobility choices for residents and businesses within the region
- Maintaining (fix it first) and improving highways and public transit choices

# Inland Empire Logistics Jobs

Dec 07—Feb 16



# How do the RTP/SCS Affect Jobs?

- The technical term in the plan is “amenity benefits”. What does that mean in lay terms?
- Amenity benefits are what makes the region a great place to live and work—to attract talent and investment. They are REALLY important.
- The REMI model estimated that almost 400,000 jobs a year in the forecast result from the competitiveness benefits of RTP investments.

# Policies in Support of the RTP/Economy Connection

- Mentioned in the RTP, confirmed at the Economic Summit
- Make the necessary funding happen—fund our local share, increase state funding, use cap and trade money, increase federal funding
- Explore P3—public-private partnerships and needed CEQA reform
- Support investments that tie our ports to the Inland Empire and nation



# Local Actions in Support of Mobility and a Great Place to Live and Work

- Promote apps that allow residents to book rides easily and find transit options—make them accessible to seniors
- Subsidize transit for workers with accessible jobs—particularly for low wage workers
- Expand public and private service for airports and major tourist destinations
- Create walkable, bike friendly job and housing centers

# Poverty and Workforce Development—An Emerging SCAG Area of Interest

- Three key concepts—1) education, training and job search, 2) economic growth, and 3) policies to help low wage workers.
- One thought from our Bay Area work—Millions will hold lower wage jobs in the future. Education and training, a critical foundation for broadly shared prosperity, cannot eliminate today's low wage jobs.