

Amazon Signs Southern California Office Leases To Add Thousands of Jobs in Irvine, San Diego and Santa Monica

Company Takes On Nearly 450,000 Square Feet of Office Space

By Jack Witthaus

E-commerce giant Amazon is once again expanding its commercial real estate in Southern California, this time through offices, after years of investing in its industrial and studio space in the region.

The Seattle-based company plans to add 2,500 corporate and technology jobs in Irvine, San Diego and Santa Monica after it created 17,000 positions and opened 15 locations in Southern California in 2021, according to a statement. Amazon employs more of its people in California than in any other state, including its home state of Washington, according to its website.

"We've created more than 170,000 jobs across the state and are committed to continue investing here," Holly Sullivan, Amazon's vice president of worldwide economic development, said in the statement.

Amazon's plans include:

- Hiring more than 1,000 corporate and tech jobs in Santa Monica after signing a lease for roughly 207,000 square feet at 2450 Colorado Ave. in what may be the largest lease in terms of square footage in greater Los Angeles this year. The space is expected to open in mid-2023.
- Hiring more than 800 corporate and tech jobs in Irvine after signing a lease for roughly 116,000 square feet at Spectrum Terrace. Amazon plans to move into the space later this year. Hiring more than 700 people after signing a lease for roughly 123,000 square feet at University Town Center at 4575 La Jolla Village Drive in San Diego. The office space is expected to open in early 2023.
- Amazon said that these 2,500 workers are expected to build cloud systems, design video games and improve the experience of Alexa, Amazon's voice-controlled assistant technology. Amazon plans to hire for engineers and designers in addition to hiring for people in human resources, finance, information technology and more.

The investment comes after the company said it was scaling back its warehouse and fulfillment network because of rising costs and revenue declines. Amazon reported a \$3.8 billion loss in the quarter that ended March 31, its first quarterly loss since 2015. One of the major reasons for the loss was a multibillion-dollar decline in valuation of Amazon's stake in electric car maker Rivian.

Amazon has more than 700,000 square feet of office space in Los Angeles, more than 350,000 square feet of office space in Irvine and more than 120,000 square feet of office space in San Diego, according to CoStar data.

Beyond office space, Amazon counts 60 fulfillment centers, 50 delivery stations, 92 Whole Foods Markets and a wind and solar farm among its California properties, according to its website.

Amazon's 170,000 employees in California rivals the state's own 259,000 employees, according to the state of California's website. Amazon employs roughly 0.4% of the state of California's entire population.

An Amazon representative did not respond to a request to comment from CoStar News.