



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO 2011 - 2012 PROFILE





Fast Facts



San Mateo County Overview

THE COUNTY was established on April 19, 1856 and is one of California's 58 counties.

Within its 455 square miles San Mateo County is home to some of the most spectacular and varied geography in the United States. It stretches from the Pacific Ocean to San Francisco Bay and includes redwood forests, rolling hills, farmland, tidal marshes, creeks and beaches.

The County is known for its mild climate and scenic vistas. No matter the starting point, a 20-minute drive can take a visitor to a vista point with a commanding view of the Bay or Pacific, a mossy forest or a shady park or preserve.

San Mateo County has long been a center for innovation. It is home to numerous colleges and research parks and is within the "golden triangle" of three of the top research institutions in the world: Stanford University, the University of California at San Francisco and the University of California at Berkeley. Today, San Mateo County's bioscience, computer software, green technology, hospitality, financial management, health care and transportation companies are industry leaders. It also has thriving small businesses.

As in all counties in California, San Mateo County government plays a dual role that differs from cities.

Cities generally provide basic services such as police and fire protection, sanitation, recreation programs, planning, street repair and building inspection. There are 20 cities within San Mateo County, each governed by its own city council.

As subdivisions of the state, counties provide a vast array of services for all residents. These include social services, public health protection, housing programs, property tax assessments, tax collection, elections and public safety. Counties also provide basic city-style services for residents who live in an unincorporated area, not a city.

San Mateo County voters elect five supervisors to oversee County government operations.

Our Mission

SAN MATEO COUNTY GOVERNMENT protects and enhances the health, safety, welfare and natural resources of the community, and provides quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of the people of this community.

We are committed to:

- The highest standards of public service;
- A common vision of responsiveness;
- The highest standards of ethical conduct;
- Treating people with respect and dignity.

Point Montara Lighthouse



San Mateo-Hayward Bridge

History

MEMBERS OF A SPANISH EXPLORATION TEAM in 1769 were the first Europeans to set foot on what is now San Mateo County. Led by Gaspar de Portola, the team was also the first to discover San Francisco Bay, spotting it from a hill now called Sweeney Ridge between San Bruno and Pacifica.

The Spanish found the Peninsula inhabited by up to 2,400 Native Americans called the Ohlone. The Spanish developed a pathway linking missions along the California coast. This pathway grew into El Camino Real, or The King's Highway, and played a central role in shaping the development of the region.

Spain ruled California until Mexico assumed control in 1821. The Mexican government granted large tracts of land to private owners to encourage settlement. The names of some of the ranchos from this period can still be seen in modern San Mateo County, including Buri Buri, Pulgas, San Gregorio, San Pedro and Pescadero.

California came under the control of the United States in 1846 following hostilities with Mexico. The discovery of gold in the Sierra foothills brought a wave of settlers and statehood to California in 1850. The Peninsula's redwoods helped to build booming San Francisco while the region's fishing and cattle industries helped to feed the growing population.

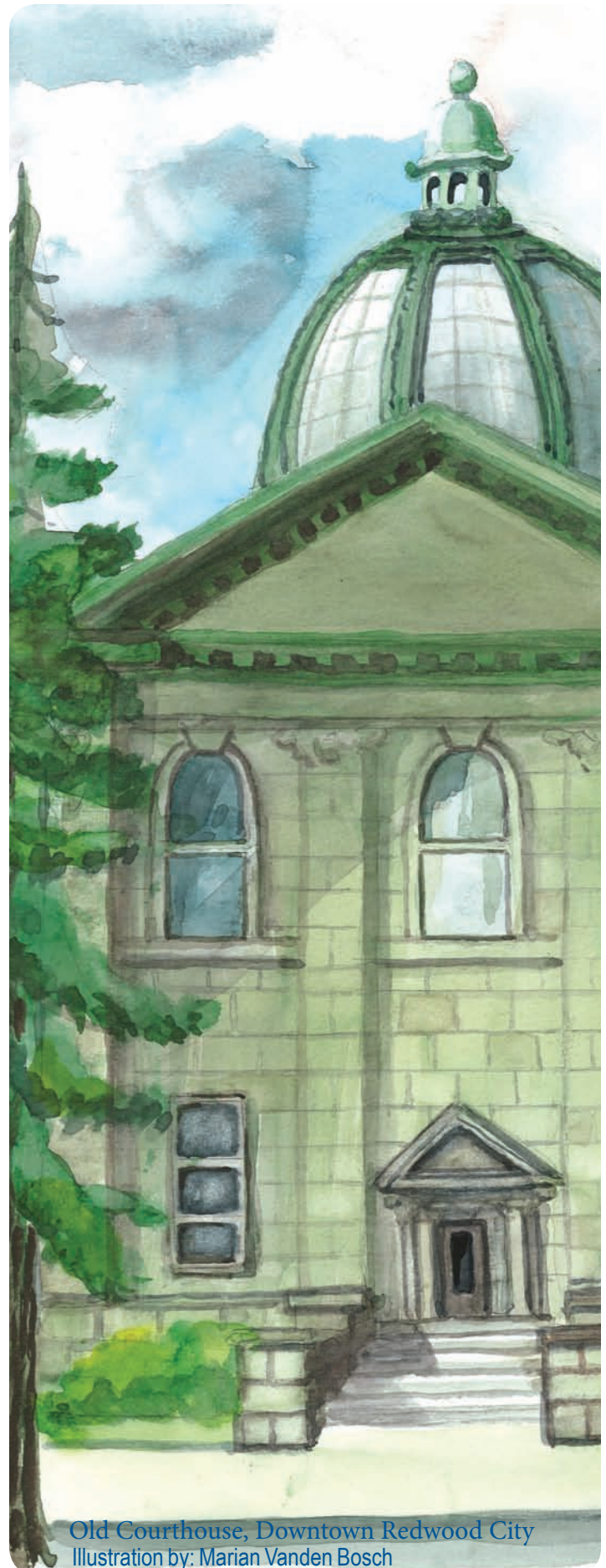
The Birth of San Mateo County

When California achieved statehood, most of modern San Mateo County was within San Francisco County. But in 1856 the southern portion of San Francisco County was separated to form San Mateo County as part of the effort to reform San Francisco's corrupt government. More territory was added in 1868 from Santa Cruz County.

San Mateo County had 3,214 residents in 1856. The county bears the Spanish name for St. Matthew.

By 1864 daily trains were running along the Peninsula from San Francisco to San Jose. During this period wealthy businessmen from throughout the West started to buy large tracts of land upon which to build estates.

These include William Ralston, Alvinza Hayward, Harriet Pullman Carolan, James Flood and William Bourn. While most are now gone — Hayward's burned and Flood's was torn down — a few still survive. Ralston Hall is used for special events at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, the Carolands Mansion in Hillsborough remains one of the largest residences in the United States and Bourn's mansion near Woodside, Filoli, is open to the public for tours.



Old Courthouse, Downtown Redwood City
Illustration by: Marian Vanden Bosch



South San Francisco City Hall

Cities began to take shape along the railroad line and across the Peninsula. Redwood City, the county seat, incorporated in 1867. The next to incorporate was San Mateo in 1894. The new century brought a wave of incorporations.

Logging, farming, meat packing, ship building, salt production and cement works fueled the local economy. Meanwhile, the Spring Valley Water Company was busy acquiring what became the Crystal Springs watershed to supply fresh water to San Francisco and the Peninsula.

Rapid Growth

The transportation system improved as more people moved to the Peninsula. An electric streetcar line linked San Mateo to San Francisco in 1903. The Dumbarton Railway Bridge crossed the Bay in 1910. Automobiles could cross the Bay on the Dumbarton Bridge in 1925 and the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge in 1929. Mills Field, which later became San Francisco International Airport, opened next to the Bay during this period.

On the coast, a different kind of business was taking off. Rum-runners and bootleggers were busy during Prohibition. The

coast's isolation and often foggy shoreline made it an ideal location for smugglers whisking cargo to San Francisco or Peninsula road houses.

The outbreak of World War II fueled a new wave of growth along the Peninsula. After the war, thousands of new homes were built as the county's population swelled from 115,000 in 1940 to 235,000 in 1950. New cities continued to form to provide municipal services.

Post-War Boom

The influx of workers and rise of technology changed the area's economy. Electronics emerged as the leading post-war industry. Stockyards, steel mills and tanneries quickly gave way to industrial parks, warehouses and light manufacturing. San Francisco International Airport helped to fuel growth as air travel changed the way people traveled and the way goods were shipped.

Public schools and colleges, libraries, recreation centers and parks were built to keep pace with the soaring population. The fast pace of development had other consequences. A strong conservation movement sprang up to preserve the coast and open spaces from sprawl. Residents worked to limit air and water pollution, to halt filling the Bay for more homes and office parks and to fight freeway expansions.

The county's population grew to 556,000 by 1970, a gain of 112,000 during the 1960s. The rapid pace of growth began to slow but significant events continued to shape the Peninsula. The Junipero Serra Freeway, Interstate 280, was completed in 1974. Three years later the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) consolidated several city bus lines into one system.

Innovation

Long a home to innovators, the Peninsula continues to evolve. During the 1980s and 1990s biotechnology companies moved into South San Francisco while computer software, Internet and gaming companies shifted the boundary of Silicon Valley to the north. San Francisco International Airport opened a \$1 billion international terminal in 2000 as the region's gateway to the Pacific Rim.

Today, San Mateo County is home to more than 718,000 people who live in 20 cities and numerous unincorporated areas, from leafy suburbs to isolated coastal hamlets.

The vibrant economy, mild climate and quality of life attracts people from all over the world. More than a third of the population was born in another country. The area is also gaining popularity as a tourist destination.^{7,8,9}

San Mateo County Government

SAN MATEO COUNTY IS GOVERNED by a five-member Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are elected in a countywide vote but each must live within a separate geographic district. The districts are roughly equal in population but vary in size.

Supervisors are elected to staggered four-year terms with a maximum of three terms in office. They appoint the County Manager to carry out the Board's policies and goals and oversee the efficient running of County government.

Voters also elect six additional San Mateo County officials. They are the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder, District Attorney/Public Administrator, Controller, Coroner, Sheriff and Treasurer-Tax Collector.

The Superior Court appoints the Chief Probation Officer and the Superior Court Executive Officer.

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

DAVE PINE, 1ST DISTRICT

San Mateo (west portion, adjacent to Hillsborough), Hillsborough, Burlingame, Millbrae, San Bruno, South San Francisco (east of El Camino Real), Burlingame Hills, Highlands/Baywood Park and San Francisco International Airport

CAROLE GROOM, 2ND DISTRICT

Belmont, Foster City, San Mateo

DON HORSLEY, 3RD DISTRICT

Atherton, Redwood Shores, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, San Carlos, Portola Valley, Woodside, Devonshire, El Granada, Emerald Lake Hills, Harbor Industrial, La Honda, Ladera, Loma Mar, Los Trancos Woods/Vista Verde, Menlo Oaks, Montara/Moss Beach, Palomar Park, Pescadero, Princeton, San Gregorio, South Coast/Skyline, Sequoia Tract, Skylonda, Stanford Lands and West Menlo Park

ROSE JACOBS GIBSON, 4TH DISTRICT

Redwood City, Menlo Park, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks, Oak Knoll

ADRIENNE J. TISSIER, 5TH DISTRICT

Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, South San Francisco (west of El Camino Real) Broadmoor, Country Club Park



County Statistical Profile

Population

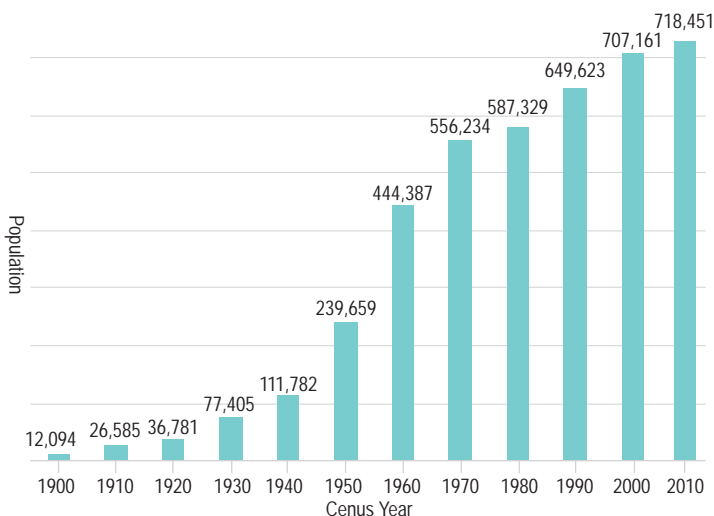
THE 2010 CENSUS TALLIED 718,451 PEOPLE living in San Mateo County, a modest 1.6 percent increase from the 2000 Census.

San Mateo County is the 14th-most populous among California's 58 counties, sandwiched between the City and County of San Francisco at 13 and San Joaquin County at 15.

SAN MATEO COUNTY POPULATION¹⁰

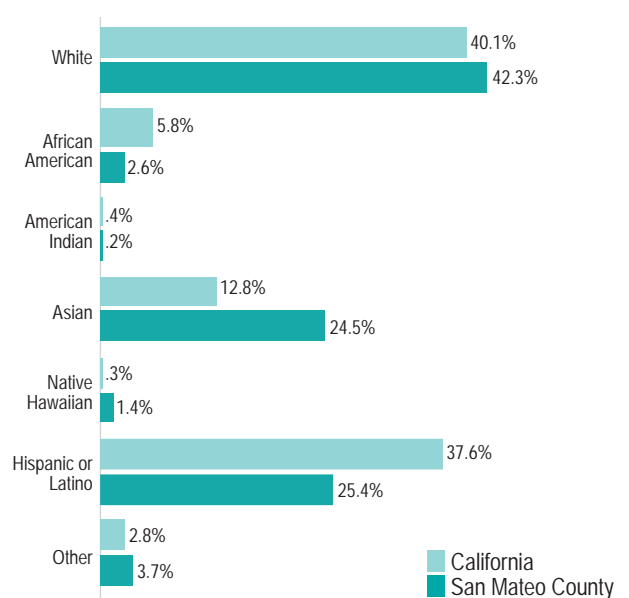
Census Population	2000	2010	Change
San Mateo County	707,163	718,451	11,288
Atherton	7,194	6,914	-280
Belmont	25,123	25,835	712
Brisbane	3,597	4,282	685
Burlingame	28,158	28,806	648
Colma	1,187	1,792	605
Daly City	103,625	101,123	-2,502
East Palo Alto	29,506	28,155	-1,351
Foster City	28,803	30,567	1,764
Half Moon Bay	11,842	11,324	-518
Hillsborough	10,825	10,825	0
Menlo Park	30,785	32,026	1,241
Millbrae	20,718	21,532	814
Pacifica	38,390	37,234	-1,156
Portola Valley	4,462	4,353	-109
Redwood City	75,402	76,815	1,413
San Bruno	40,165	41,114	949
San Carlos	27,718	28,406	688
San Mateo	92,482	97,207	4,725
South San Francisco	60,552	63,632	3,080
Woodside	5,352	5,287	-65
Total Cities	645,886	657,229	11,343
Unincorporated	61,277	61,222	-55

SAN MATEO COUNTY POPULATION¹¹
1900-2010



San Mateo County's racial and ethnic composition is as varied as its geography. The county continues to see growth in the Hispanic and Asian populations and a decline in the white population.

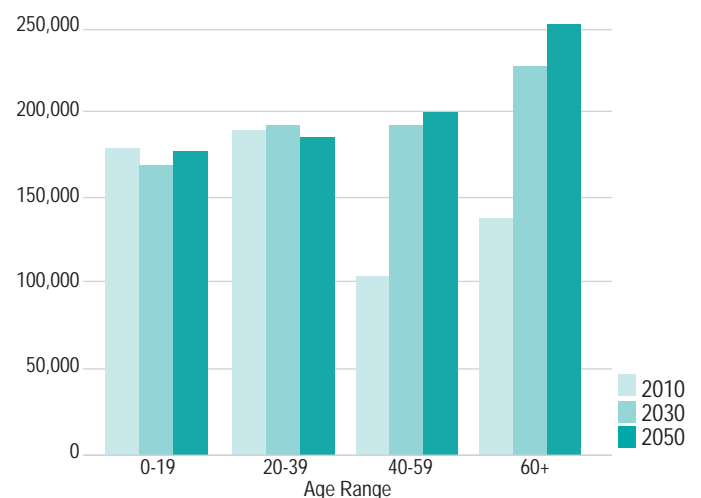
RACE/ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION¹²



The county is also undergoing a dramatic shift in the age structure. The 2010 Census found that the median age of San Mateo County residents was 39.3 years, well above the state's median age of 35.2 years. Portola Valley (51.3 years) had the highest median age while East Palo Alto (28.1 years) had the lowest.

As depicted by the chart below, the population of the county 65 and over is expected to increase dramatically in the coming decades. This will put pressure on local governments to provide services to an aging population.

SAN MATEO COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS¹³



Employment and Industry

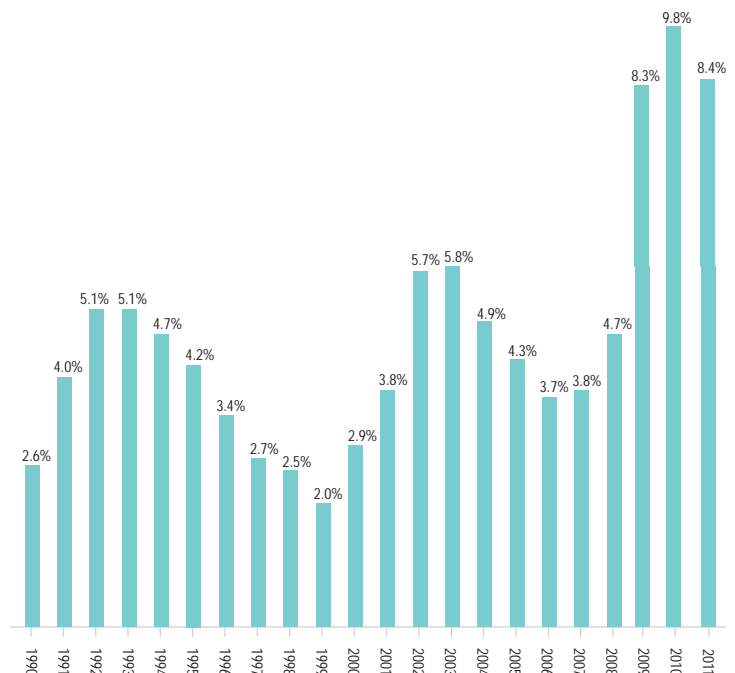
SAN MATEO COUNTY IS HOME TO DIVERSE BUSINESSES, from international corporations to small shops and manufacturers. The county's largest employers include Genentech, Inc., Oracle Corp., San Mateo County, Kaiser Permanente, Mills-Peninsula Health Services, Electronic Arts, Inc., United Airlines and the San Mateo County Community College District.

San Mateo County is also home to seven of the 10 largest venture capital firms in the Bay Area. These firms fuel innovation by providing early funding for high-risk — and potentially high-reward — start-up companies.

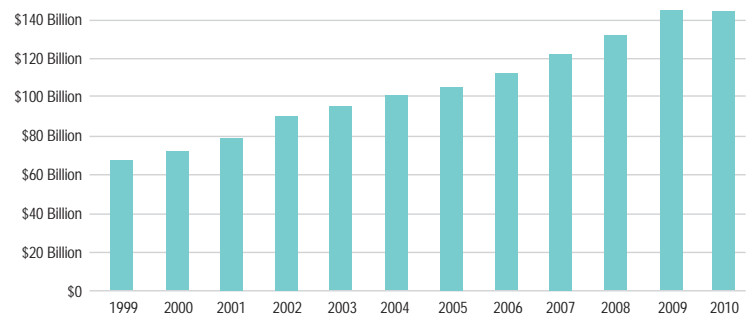
Five of the Bay Area's 10 largest biotech patent recipients in 2009 also called San Mateo County home. And five of the Bay Area's largest software companies are based in San Mateo County.

Yet the county is not immune to the forces affecting the overall economy. San Mateo County's unemployment rate stood at 8.4 percent in April 2011. This was far above historic levels but still below the state average of 12 percent. In April 2011, San Mateo County had a labor force of 369,000 with 337,800 of those employed. That left 31,200 seeking work. Despite the impact of the recession, the total assessed value of property has grown steadily for the past decade as depicted in the chart to the right.

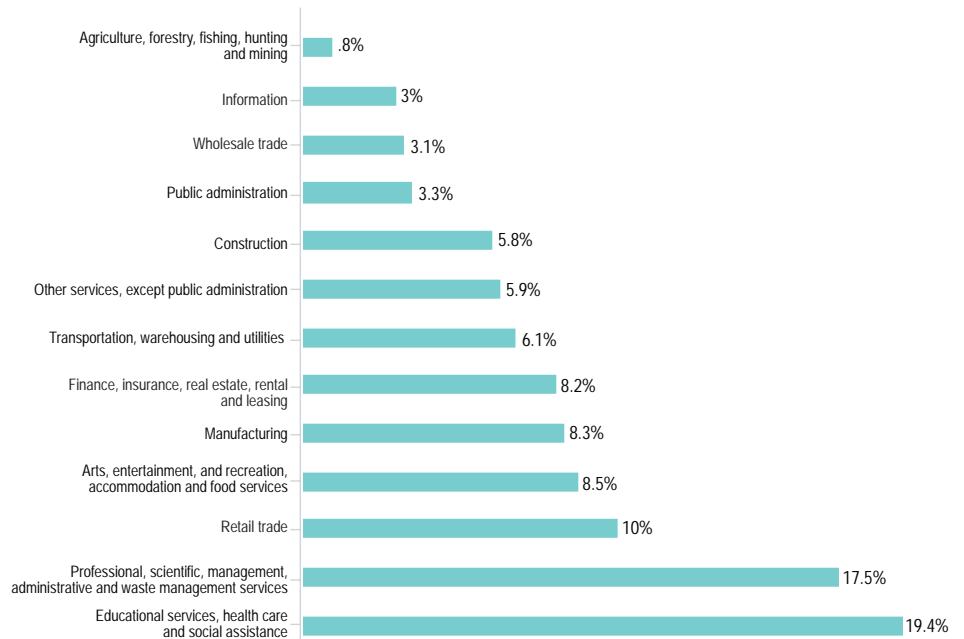
SAN MATEO COUNTY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE¹⁴



TOTAL TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE¹⁵



CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION BY INDUSTRY 16 AND OVER 2009¹⁶



Income and Housing

SAN MATEO COUNTY'S MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME in 2009 was \$85,213, nearly unchanged from the prior year. Per capita income, however, fell slightly to \$42,249 from \$44,438 in 2008.

By comparison, California's median household income was \$58,931 and per capita income was \$27,885 in 2009.¹⁷

Incomes may be higher overall in San Mateo County than in the rest of the state but housing prices are as well. Median housing prices (new and resale houses and condominiums) stood at \$550,000 in April 2011, down 5.2 percent from April 2010. That number was still far higher than the Bay Area median price of \$360,000 and the state median of \$249,000.

While housing prices have fallen, rents have increased from the first three months of 2011 from the same period a year ago. The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in San Mateo County rose 7.7 percent to \$1,765 a month and a one-bedroom apartment rose 7.4 percent to \$1,553.

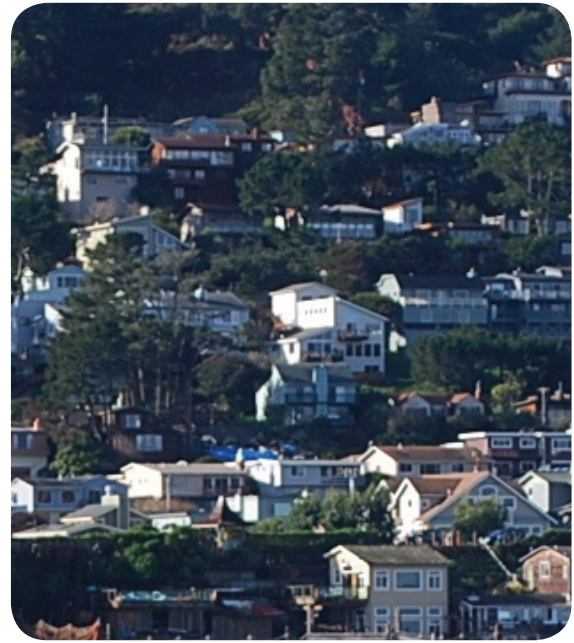
On the positive side, the number of financially distressed homeowners who were issued notices of default — the first step in the foreclosure process — fell 12.1 percent during the first three months of 2011 compared with the same period in 2010. In a sign of the lingering impact of the recession, applications for public assistance have continued to increase.

NOTICES OF DEFAULT

County/Region	Q1 2010	Q1 2011	Change from 2010-2011
San Mateo County	943	829	-12.1%
Bay Area	13,517	11,388	-15.8%
California	81,054	68,239	-15.8%

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS¹⁸

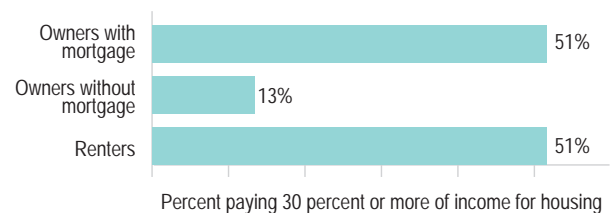
	Sales Volume			Median Price		
	Apr-10	Apr-11	%Chng	Apr-10	Apr-11	%Chng
All homes						
Alameda	1,319	1,345	2.0%	\$350,000	\$338,000	-3.4%
Contra Costa	1,635	1,399	-14.4%	\$273,000	\$258,500	-5.3%
Marin	245	241	-1.6%	\$659,000	\$660,000	0.2%
Napa	104	122	17.3%	\$335,000	\$317,500	-5.2%
Santa Clara	1,656	1,645	-0.7%	\$489,000	\$470,000	-3.9%
San Francisco	428	422	-1.4%	\$692,500	\$655,000	-5.4%
San Mateo	556	584	5.0%	\$580,000	\$550,000	-5.2%
Solano	591	568	-3.9%	\$202,000	\$185,000	-8.4%
Sonoma	469	463	-1.3%	\$318,000	\$295,000	-7.2%
Bay Area	7,003	6,789	-3.1%	\$370,000	\$360,000	-2.7%



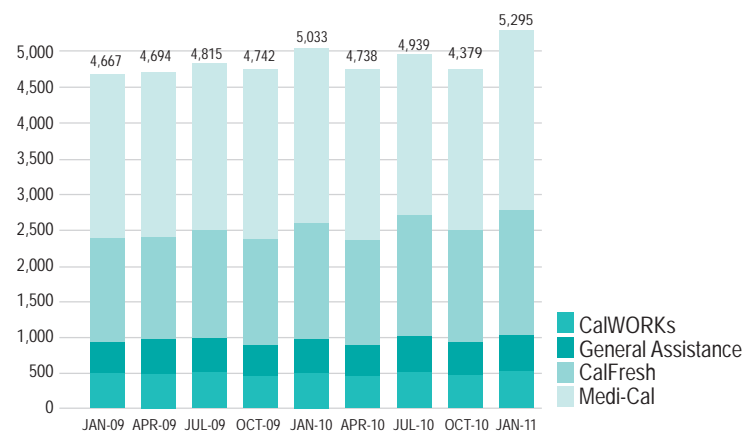
Housing Costs

The median monthly housing costs for mortgaged owners was \$3,211, nonmortgaged owners \$499, and renters \$1,449. Fifty-one percent of owners with mortgages, 13 percent of owners without mortgages, and 51 percent of renters in San Mateo County spent 30 percent or more of household income on housing.

OCCUPANTS WITH A HOUSING COST BURDEN IN SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA IN 2009¹⁹



PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS²⁰



Transportation

THE COUNTY IS HOME TO THE SECOND-LARGEST AIRPORT in California and the only deepwater port in the southern part of San Francisco Bay. Thousands of people a day board three major mass transit systems that serve the county: BART, Caltrain and SamTrans. The network of roads include busy freeways linking the county to San Francisco and Silicon Valley, two bridges to the East Bay and rural roads that wind through farmland and redwoods.

Since the days the Spanish built El Camino Real, efficient transportation has played a critical role in the economy and culture of the Peninsula.

Port of Redwood City

Located 18 nautical miles south of San Francisco, the Port of Redwood City specializes in liquid and bulk cargo for the construction industry.

The port recorded a 15 percent decrease in metric tonnage across its docks for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2010, as demand fell for construction supplies due to the global economic slowdown.

Thirty-three ships and 16 barges made calls during the fiscal year, compared with 37 ships and 11 barges during the previous year.²¹

In addition to its role in the economy, the port operates a public boat launch with access to San Francisco Bay and hosts numerous recreational opportunities. The port is a department of the City of Redwood City.



San Francisco International Airport



Located along San Francisco Bay east of San Bruno, San Francisco International is one of the busiest airports in the world. More than three dozen airlines serve destinations around the globe.

Although located within the boundaries of San Mateo County, the airport is owned and operated by the City and County of San Francisco. Commonly known by its international code of SFO, the airport is a significant economic engine for the entire region and provides job opportunities for tens of thousands of people either at the airport or at importers, exporters, warehouses, food-service companies, tourist attractions and other industries.

In a sign the economy may be rebounding, passenger traffic grew 5.1 percent to 39.1 million in calendar year 2010.

International travel grew 6.3 percent to 8.84 million passengers while domestic travel grew 4.7 percent to 30.2 million passengers.

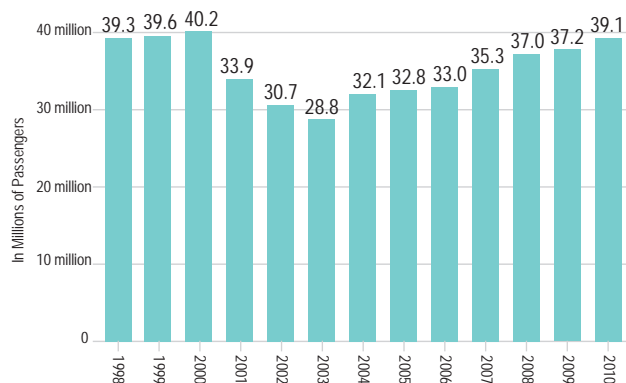
Total cargo increased 7.8 percent to 384,179 metric tons.

The growth seen in calendar year 2010 continued into early 2011. Overall passenger traffic through March 2011 was 4 percent higher than in March 2010. International traffic rose 6.6 percent while domestic travel was up 3.3 percent.

SFO was the 20th busiest airport in the world in 2009 (the latest year global figures are available) and the 10th busiest in the United States in passenger volume.

SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC REPORTS²²

Total Enplaned and Deplaned Passengers



Public Transit Options

San Mateo County residents and visitors have numerous public transportation options.

BART Six San Mateo County stations link commuters to a rail system with stops in San Francisco, Contra Costa and Alameda counties. In 2003, a major project was completed to link BART from its then-terminus in Colma to San Francisco International Airport

In the 2009-10 fiscal year, there were 25,943 station exits on an average weekday at San Mateo County's six stations (Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae and SFO).²³

BART is operated by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District.

Caltrain Rail passenger service on the Peninsula began in 1863. Today, Caltrain operates along 77 miles of track from San Francisco to Gilroy.

Although the chart shows ridership has increased sharply since 2004, Caltrain faces a fiscal crisis. Caltrain is the only transit system in the Bay Area without a permanent, dedicated source of funding. Other agencies rely on money from sales taxes, property taxes, state funding and other sources. Caltrain has no such source.

The agency is exploring numerous options to improve its finances.

Caltrain is operated by the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board, a tri-county partnership of the City and County of San Francisco, San Mateo County Transit District and Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority.

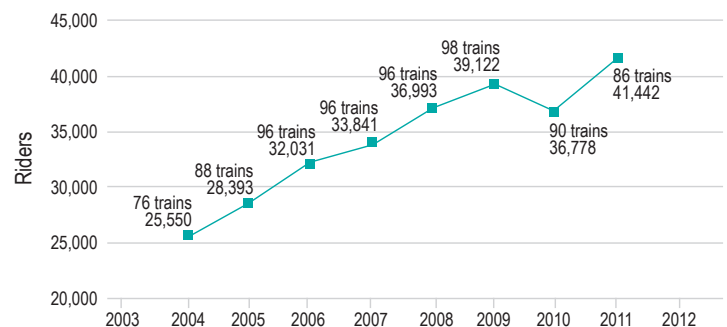
SamTrans In December 2009, SamTrans reduced bus service 7.5 percent due to funding shortfalls. The service reductions include eliminating six express routes to San Francisco and one local route.

The shortfall is a result of a decline in local sales tax revenue, elimination of state funding and a drop in farebox revenue due to a decrease in ridership. In addition to the service reductions, SamTrans increased fares in February 2010. Fixed-route bus ridership peaked in San Mateo County at 19 million in the 1997-98 fiscal year but has since declined to 13.9 million in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

SamTrans also provides paratransit service to more than 1,100 people each day. SamTrans is operated by the San Mateo County Transit District.²⁵



CALTRAIN AVERAGE WEEKDAY RIDERSHIP²⁴
2004-2011



Safety

PUBLIC SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY. A community's crime rate can be linked to the overall quality of life. In 2009, San Mateo County's violent crime was among the lowest in the state at 276.1 violent crimes per 100,000 residents. The violent crime rate for the state of California by comparison was 453.6 per 100,000 residents.

SAN MATEO COUNTY CRIMES²⁶

Category/crime	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Violent crimes	2,447	2,195	2,129	2,167	2,072
Homicide	30	22	13	18	16
Forcible rape	155	155	144	142	128
Robbery	715	716	700	731	734
Agg. Assault	1,547	1,302	1,272	1,276	1,194
Property crimes	9,744	9,504	8,422	9,463	8,677
Burglary	3,335	2,969	2,547	2,854	3,072
Vehicle Theft	2,732	2,749	2,219	2,415	1,988
Total larceny-theft	12,561	12,074	10,774	11,698	10,712
Over \$400	3,677	3,786	3,656	4,194	3,617
\$400 And under	8,884	8,288	7,118	7,504	7,095
Arson	151	149	149	118	125

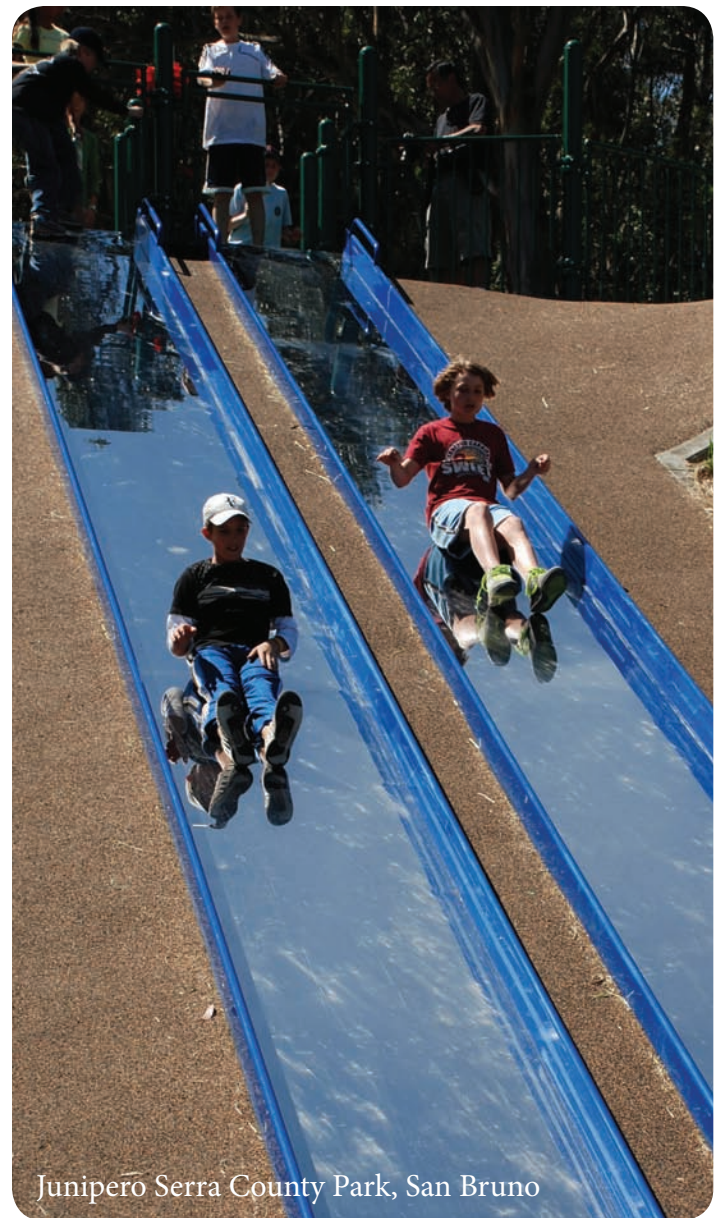


Coyote Point County Park, San Mateo

Health

SAN MATEO COUNTY IS COMMITTED TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY. A recent report by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation ranked San Mateo County as the fifth healthiest out of California's 58 counties on a number of key measures. These included premature death and the number of adults without health insurance, among others.

The County collaborates with community-based partners to provide access to health care services, especially for those who need them the most. With the rising rates of chronic diseases such as obesity, diabetes and heart disease, the county also works with communities to promote the health and well being of all residents by creating safe and convenient opportunities for everyday physical activities and healthy food choices



Junipero Serra County Park, San Bruno

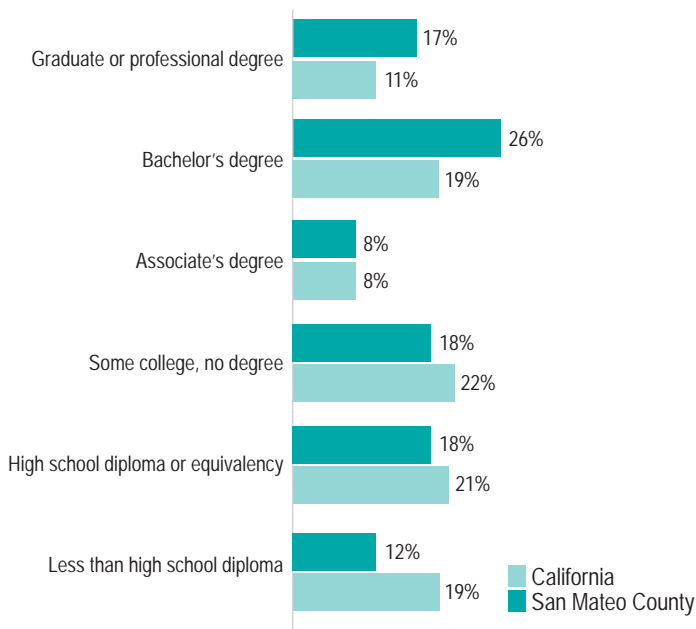
Education

SAN MATEO COUNTY IS HOME TO 182 PUBLIC SCHOOLS and many private schools. Public school enrollment rose slightly in the 2008-09 school year to 89,972 students.²⁷ The total school enrollment in San Mateo County was 184,000 in 2009. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 25,000 and elementary or high school enrollment was 103,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 56,000.²⁸

In 2009, 88 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 44 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Twelve percent were dropouts, meaning they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

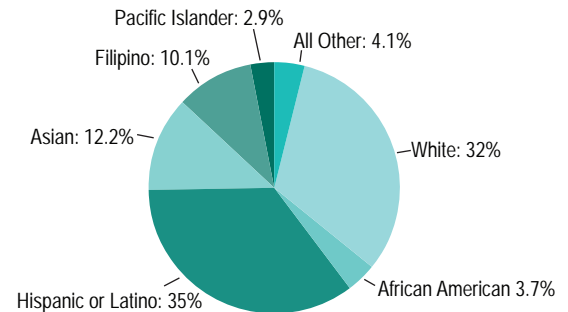


EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PEOPLE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY VS. STATE IN 2009²⁹

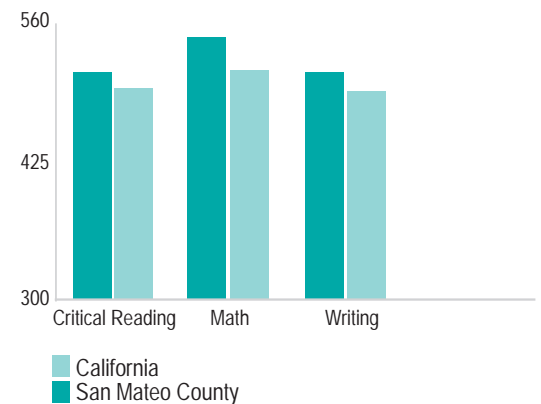


The ethnic composition of the student population has changed over the past decade. The percentage of white students has declined while the percentage of other ethnic groups has grown.

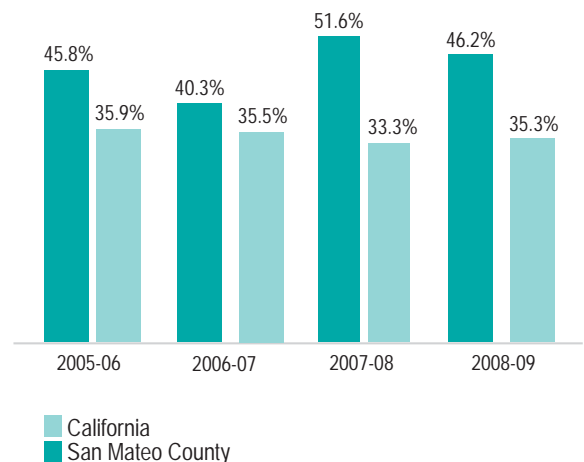
ETHNIC, LANGUAGE AND SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY IN SAN MATEO COUNTY 2008-09³⁰
PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT ETHNICITY



AVERAGE SAT SCORES 2008-2009³¹



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH UC/CSU REQUIRED COURSES³²



Sources

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3. U.S. Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey
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13. State of California, Department of Finance, *Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, by Age, Gender and Race/Ethnicity*, Sacramento, California, July 2007
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24. Caltrain
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26. California Department of Justice, 2009 California Criminal Justice Profile
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