



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO 2010 - 2012 PROFILE





## 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.

## San Mateo County Overview

THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO was established on April 19, 1856 and is one of California's 58 counties. The County consists of 455 square miles of land.

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, to a mossy forest or to a shady park or preserve.

San Mateo County has long been a center for innovation. It is home to numerous colleges, universities and research parks and is close to Stanford University 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 do not live within a city but in an unincorporated area.

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





# 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.







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 750,000 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.<sup>1,2,3</sup>



# 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

### MARK CHURCH, 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 Airport

### CAROLE GROOM, 2ND DISTRICT

Belmont, Foster City, San Mateo

### RICHARD S. GORDON, 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

AS OF JAN. 1, 2010, SAN MATEO COUNTY was home to an estimated 754,285 residents, a slight increase over the prior year's estimated population. The vast majority – 687,038 – live in cities. The largest city is Daly City with 108,383 residents. The smallest is Colma with 1,637 residents.

San Mateo County is the 14th-most populous among California's 58 counties.

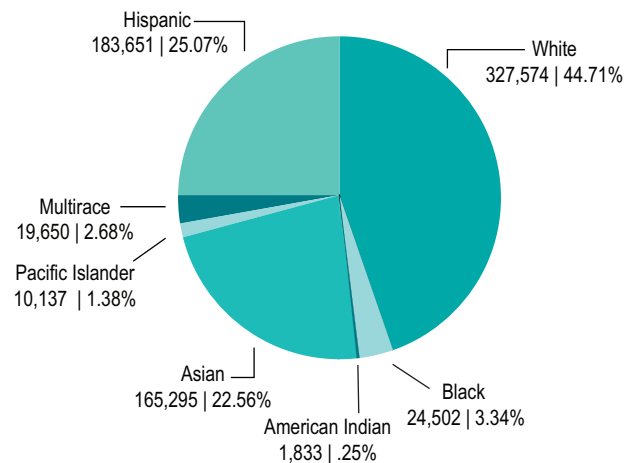
There are approximately 255,000 households in San Mateo County.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY/CITY POPULATION ESTIMATES<sup>4</sup>**

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Atherton	7,230	7,250	7,367	7,447	7,464	7,554
Belmont	25,382	25,609	25,706	25,984	26,243	26,507
Brisbane	3,713	3,738	3,763	3,848	3,937	3,993
Burlingame	28,180	28,277	28,453	28,762	29,050	29,342
Colma	1,563	1,574	1,584	1,607	1,622	1,637
Daly City	104,194	104,560	105,256	105,883	107,083	108,383
East Palo Alto	32,080	32,034	32,386	32,779	33,164	33,524
Foster City	29,770	29,854	30,041	30,196	30,421	30,719
Half Moon Bay	12,646	12,719	12,821	13,001	13,206	13,371
Hillsborough	10,945	10,948	11,039	11,230	11,390	11,537
Menlo Park	30,541	30,704	30,919	31,378	31,858	32,185
Millbrae	20,636	20,703	20,810	21,311	21,531	21,968
Pacifica	38,542	38,679	38,956	39,473	39,984	40,431
Portola Valley	4,523	4,546	4,585	4,622	4,670	4,725
Redwood City	75,723	75,971	76,454	76,991	77,796	78,568
San Bruno	41,301	41,451	41,828	43,286	43,798	44,294
San Carlos	27,882	28,012	28,216	28,542	28,829	29,155
San Mateo	93,883	94,170	94,798	95,431	96,529	97,535
South San Francisco	61,444	61,729	62,143	63,512	65,000	65,872
Woodside	5,476	5,496	5,522	5,604	5,664	5,738
Balance Of County	64,190	64,659	65,072	65,607	66,415	67,247
Incorporated	655,654	658,024	662,647	670,887	679,239	687,038
County Total	719,844	722,683	727,719	736,494	745,654	754,285

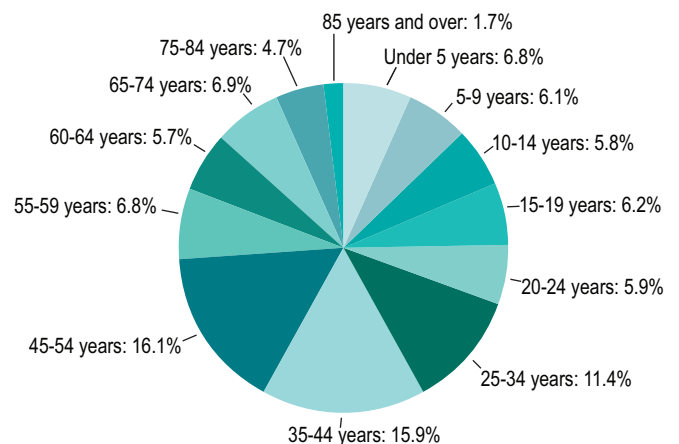
San Mateo County is among the most ethnically diverse in California. As of 2008, 34.2 percent of the population was born in a foreign country compared with 26.8 percent for California and 12.5 percent for the United States.<sup>5</sup>

**SAN MATEO COUNTY RACE/ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION<sup>6</sup>**



The median age of San Mateo County residents was estimated at 39.9 years in 2008. This compares with 34.9 years in California and 36.9 years for the entire nation. Nearly a quarter of residents were age 19 or under, and 19 percent were 60 years and older.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY AGE DISTRIBUTION<sup>7</sup>**





# Employment and Industry

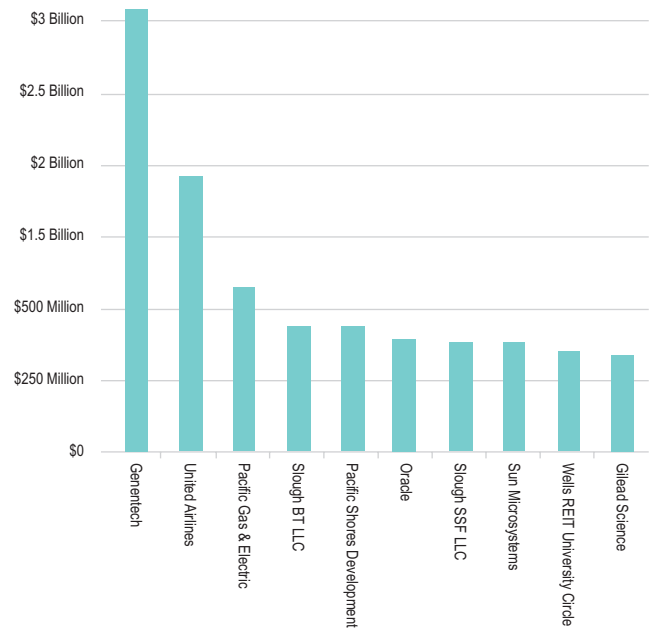
SAN MATEO COUNTY IS HOME TO DIVERSE BUSINESSES, from international corporations to small shops and manufacturers. In 2008, the greatest number of jobs were in educational services, health care, professional fields, scientific research and administration. The following chart shows the largest employers on the Peninsula from the San Francisco Business Times 2009 Book of Lists:

Company Name	Number of Peninsula Employees
United Airlines	9,600
Genentech Inc.	8,250
Oracle Corp.	5,642
County of San Mateo	5,443
Kaiser Permanente	3,780
Safeway Inc.	2,273
Electronic Arts Inc.	2,000
San Mateo County Community College District	1,950
Mills-Peninsula Health Services	1,800
United States Postal Service	1,671

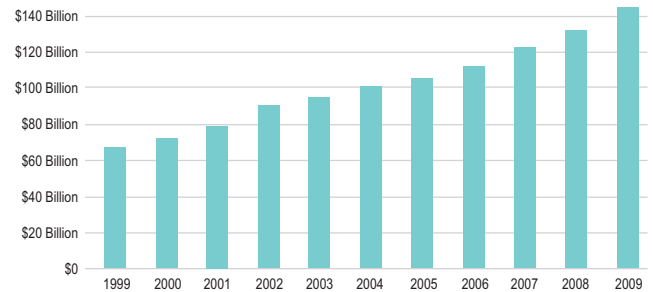
Note: Ranking based on employees in San Mateo County and the city of Palo Alto.



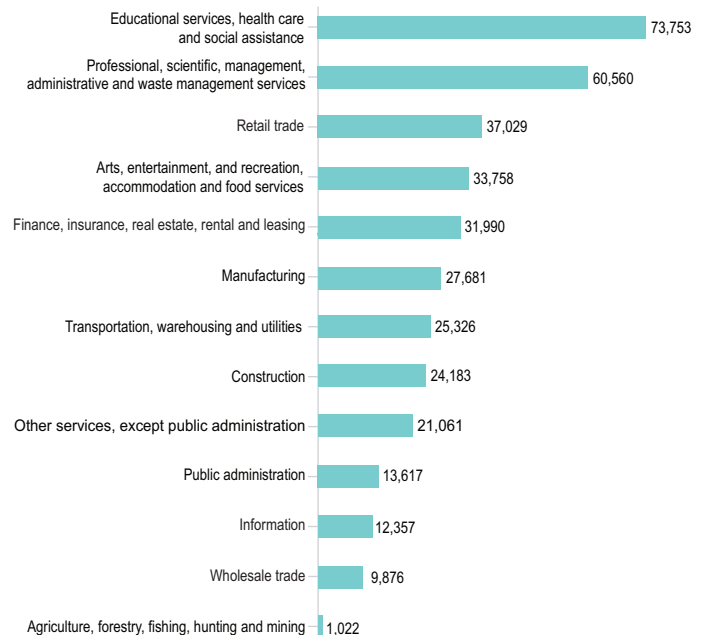
PRINCIPAL TAXPAYERS 2008-09<sup>8</sup>



TOTAL TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE<sup>9</sup>



CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 AND OVER 2008<sup>10</sup>





Although technology firms dominate the county's economy, agriculture remains an important industry. This is especially true along the coast. The gross production value of all San Mateo County agriculture in 2008 was \$162,726,000, a 5.9 percent decrease from 2007. The value of vegetable crops declined 16 percent in 2008 as prices for brussels sprouts fell and the county's largest mushroom operation closed.

With so many businesses with operations overseas, San Mateo County's economy is affected by the global economic volatility of the past three years. As the economy continues its long recovery, San Mateo County's unemployment rate rose to 9.8 percent in March 2010. That is the highest in at least 20 years and more than double the rate in 2008.

San Mateo County's unemployment rate, however, remains low compared with all of California, which recorded an overall unemployment rate of 13 percent in March 2010. San Mateo County had the third lowest unemployment rate among California's 58 counties in March 2010.

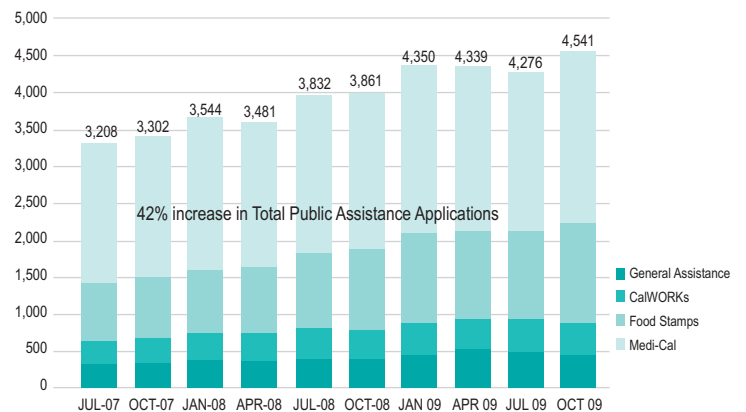
As would be expected, the vacancy rate has risen and the asking price has fallen for office space. The vacancy rate for the first three months of 2010 was 18.2 percent, up from 12.6 percent from the same period in 2008. The average asking price fell to \$2.60 per square foot in the first three months of 2010, down from an average of \$3.43 per square foot from the same period in 2008.<sup>11</sup>

The community's need for job training, food stamps and other social services has risen with unemployment. The total number of applications for public assistance tracked by the San Mateo County Human Services Agency rose 42 percent from July 2007 to October 2009. The number of visits to the emergency room at San Mateo Medical Center, which provides care for many people who lost employer-sponsored health insurance, rose more than 20 percent from the 2007-08 fiscal year, to 35,611 visits. That number is expected to grow to nearly 40,000 in the 2009-10 fiscal year.

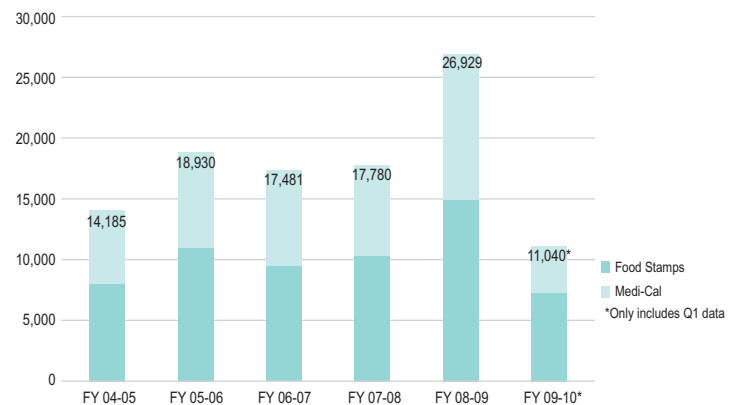
At the Core Services Agencies, which provide emergency assistance including food, transportation, clothing, housing, utility and landlord and tenant information, requests for assistance grew by 34 percent from the 2007-08 to the 2008-09 fiscal year.



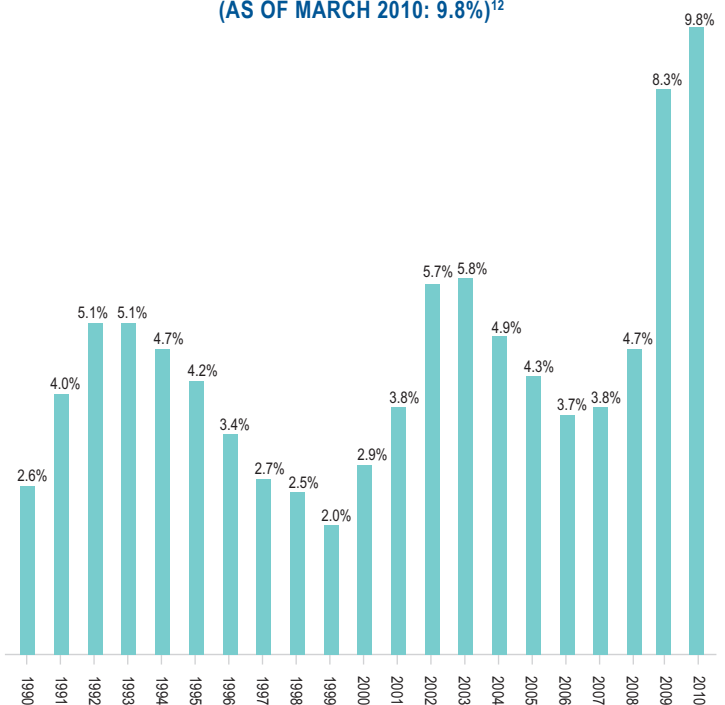
#### PUBLIC ASSISTANCE APPLICATIONS: JUL 07 – OCT 09



#### CORE SERVICES AGENCIES



#### SAN MATEO COUNTY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (AS OF MARCH 2010: 9.8%)<sup>12</sup>



# Income and Housing

**SAN MATEO COUNTY'S MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME** in 2008 rose to \$101,504, a slight increase from the prior year. Per capita income rose to \$44,438, up from \$43,239 in 2007 and \$40,051 in 2006. San Mateo County's median family income in 2007 rose to \$97,137, a 4.5 percent increase over the previous year.

By comparison, California's median family income was \$70,029 and per capita income \$29,388 in 2007.

In 2008, 6.6 percent of the people in San Mateo County were living in poverty.

Data from 2009, when the impact of the recession became widespread, are not yet available. Overall housing prices and sales volumes have been volatile over the past two years, much like in the rest of the state. Median home prices in February stood at \$554,000, a 10 percent increase from February 2009 but still far below the \$723,000 median price from March 2008.

Notices of default – the first step in a foreclosure process – rose dramatically in late 2008 in San Mateo County as the impact of the recession hit some homeowners. Notices of default continued to rise through the final months of 2009.

Notices of Default	4th Qtr 2007	4th Qtr 2008	Change from 2007-2008	4th Qtr 2009	Change from 2008-2009
California	81,550	75,230	-7.7%	84,568	12.40%
SF Bay Area	12,704	11,157	-12.2%	13,594	21.80%
Alameda	2,573	2,363	-8.2%	2,806	18.70%
Contra Costa	3,805	3,135	-17.6%	3,501	11.70%
Marin	224	194	-13.4%	305	57.20%
Napa	220	184	-16.4%	268	45.70%
San Francisco	334	302	-9.6%	465	54.00%
<b>San Mateo</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>38.70%</b>
Santa Clara	2,162	2,101	-2.8%	2,816	34.00%
Solano	1,793	1,418	-20.9%	1,652	16.50%
Sonoma	968	809	-16.4%	878	8.50%

All homes	Sales Volume			Median Price		
	Feb-09	Feb-10	Change	Feb-09	Feb-10	Change
Alameda	971	1016	4.60%	\$290,000	\$333,500	15.00%
Contra Costa	1,283	1,065	-17.00%	\$216,500	\$255,500	18.00%
Marin	111	153	37.80%	\$573,409	\$615,000	7.30%
Napa	88	76	-13.60%	\$322,500	\$320,000	-0.80%
Santa Clara	1,079	1,183	9.60%	\$408,750	\$460,000	12.50%
San Francisco	272	327	20.20%	\$640,000	\$627,500	-2.00%
<b>San Mateo</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>5.50%</b>	<b>\$502,250</b>	<b>\$554,000</b>	<b>10.30%</b>
Solano	557	450	-19.20%	\$195,000	\$208,500	6.90%
Sonoma	360	389	8.10%	\$282,000	\$310,000	9.90%
SF Bay Area	5,032	4,987	-0.90%	\$295,000	\$354,000	20.00%

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The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment declined 8.3 percent to \$1,675 in December 2009 from the prior year. The average rent for a one-bedroom apartment declined 8.8 percent to \$1,438 over the same period.<sup>13</sup>





## 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 is the only deepwater port in the South Bay. It specializes in liquid and bulk cargo for the construction industry.

Maritime business for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2009, fell sharply due to the global economic slowdown and slack demand for construction supplies. Total tonnage for all commodities was 986,727 metric tons, a decrease of approximately 34 percent.

Thirty-seven ships and 11 barges made calls to the port during the 2009 fiscal year. This compares to 50 ships and 65 barges during the previous year.

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.<sup>15</sup>



## 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.

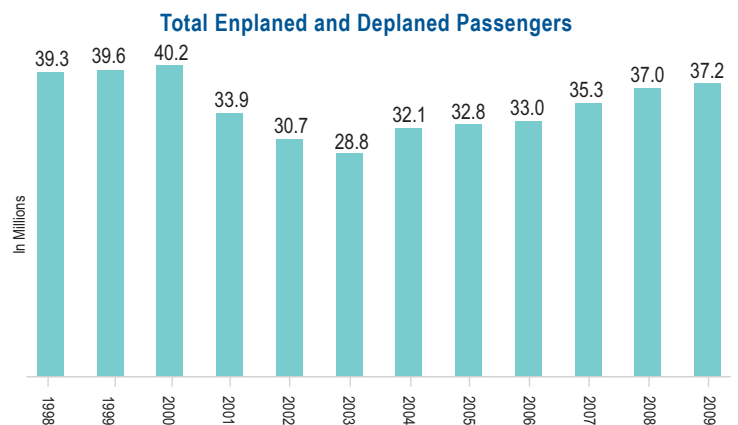
Although located within the boundaries of San Mateo County, the airport is owned and operated by the City and County of San Francisco. Commonly known by its international code of SFO, the airport is a significant economic engine for the entire region and provides job opportunities for tens of thousands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

The total number of passengers rose by 0.4 percent in 2009 despite the global economic slowdown. More than 37 million passengers passed through SFO in 2009.

Domestic traffic grew 2.8 percent in 2009, to 28.9 million passengers, but the number of international passengers declined by 7.2 percent to 8.3 million in 2009 compared with 8.9 million in 2008. Passenger traffic to and from Asia and the Middle East declined 8.8 percent. Traffic to and from Europe declined 7.4 percent.

Signs the economy is on the path to recovery can be seen in the air traffic statistics. Comparing March 2009 with March 2010, total passenger volume was up 6.1 percent and total cargo measured in metric tons was up 18.1 percent. Total passenger volume rose 12.9 percent to and from Asia and the Middle East.

### SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC REPORTS<sup>16</sup>



## Public Transit Options

San Mateo County residents and visitors have numerous public transportation options. Yet the three major systems face significant challenges due to falling or unstable revenues.

**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 2008-09 fiscal year, there were 27,597 station exits on an average weekday at San Mateo County's six stations (Daly City, Colma, South San Francisco, San Bruno, Millbrae and SFO). This is a 4 percent increase from a 2008 ridership survey and an increase of more than 30 percent since 2004. Despite increased ridership, BART, like many public agencies, is projecting budget deficits that may require changes to schedules or fares.

BART is operated by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District.<sup>17</sup>

**Caltrain** Rail passenger service on the Peninsula began in 1863. Today, Caltrain has 32 stations along 77 miles of track from San Francisco to Gilroy. In February 2010, boardings averaged 36,778 per weekday, a 6 percent decrease from February 2009. Average weekday ridership has increased by 44 percent since the introduction of Baby Bullet express service in 2004.

Yet Caltrain is facing a budget deficit in the upcoming fiscal year. That deficit could mean the elimination of mid-day, night and weekend service.

In 2008 California voters approved funding for a statewide high-speed rail system that includes service along the Caltrain corridor between San Francisco and San Jose. Caltrain's Board of Directors has entered into an agreement with the California High-Speed Rail Authority that makes the electrification and modernization of Caltrain a joint project with the implementation of high-speed rail. Caltrain is working with high-speed rail to fund improvements officials say are essential to its long-term survival.

Caltrain and its 29 diesel locomotives are 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.<sup>18</sup>

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

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. As a result of the service cutbacks and other factors, the average weekday ridership is expected to decline about 8 percent. Average weekday ridership stood at 50,990 passengers before the changes.

SamTrans also provides paratransit service to approximately 1,117 people a day. SamTrans is operated by the San Mateo County Transit District.<sup>19</sup>





## Safety

**PUBLIC SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY.** A community's crime rate can be linked to the overall quality of life. In 2008, San Mateo County's violent crime was among the lowest in the state at 291.9 violent crimes per 100,000 residents. The violent crime rate for the state of California by comparison was 485.6 per 100,000 residents.

**SAN MATEO COUNTY CRIMES<sup>20</sup>**

Category/crime	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Violent crimes	2,168	2,447	2,195	2,129	2,167
Homicide	26	30	22	13	18
Forcible rape	156	155	155	144	142
Robbery	685	715	716	700	731
Agg. Assault	1,301	1,547	1,302	1,272	1,276
Property crimes	9,710	9,744	9,504	8,422	9,463
Burglary	2,935	3,335	2,969	2,547	2,854
Vehicle Theft	2,943	2,732	2,749	2,219	2,415
Larceny-theft over \$400	3,832	3,677	3,786	3,656	4,194
Total larceny-theft	13,424	12,561	12,074	10,774	11,698
Over \$400	3,832	3,677	3,786	3,656	4,194
\$400 And under	9,592	8,884	8,288	7,118	7,504
Arson	142	151	149	149	118



## 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.

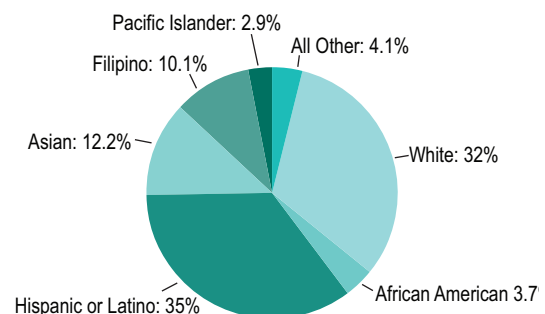
In 2008, 89 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 43 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eleven percent were dropouts; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total public school enrollment in San Mateo County was 181,000 in 2008.

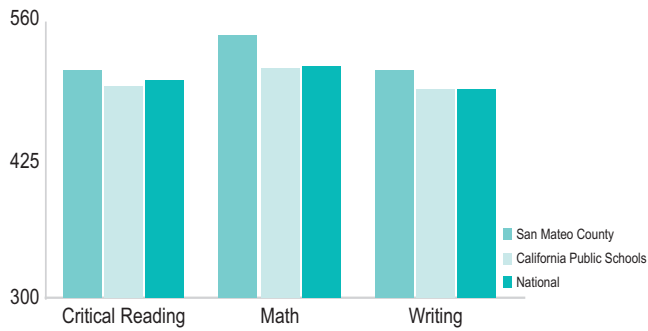
Preschool enrollment has increased over the past 10 years and is higher than the state average. Sixty-eight percent of 3 and 4 year olds were enrolled in preschool in 2008 compared with 42 percent for all of California. The number of available publicly subsidized preschool spaces, however, has not kept pace with the number of low-income students. Approximately 1,060 students eligible for publicly subsidized preschool were without a space in 2008.<sup>21</sup>

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. In the 1998-99 school year, enrollment in San Mateo County public schools was 39.9 percent white, 31 percent Hispanic or Latino and 29.1 percent "all others."

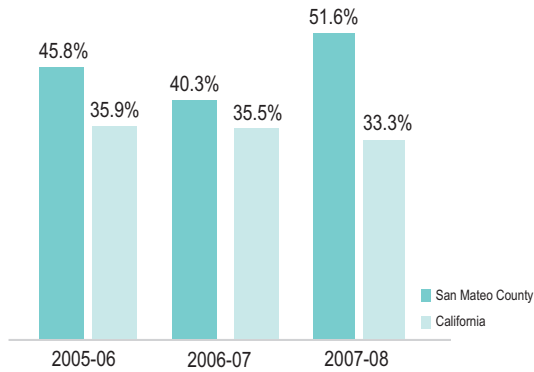
**ETHNIC, LANGUAGE AND SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY  
IN SAN MATEO COUNTY 2008-09<sup>22</sup>**



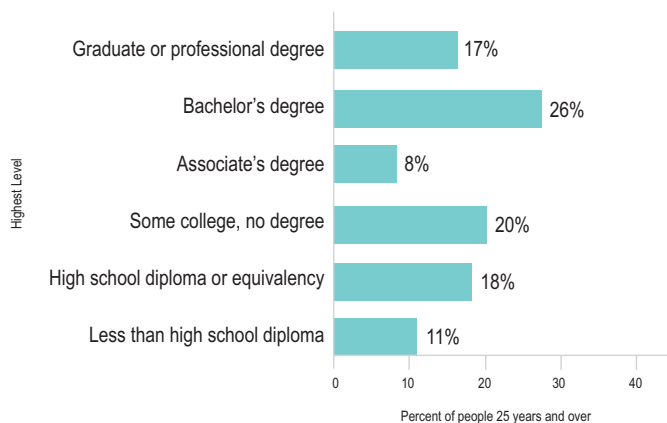
**AVERAGE SAT SCORES 2007-2008<sup>23</sup>**



**PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH UC/CSU REQUIRED COURSES<sup>24</sup>**



**THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PEOPLE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY IN 2008<sup>25</sup>**





## COUNTY OF SAN MATEO INITIATIVES

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS SHARED VISION



What goals should San Mateo County set for the year 2025? That was the question more than 1,000 people answered at a series of forums or in an online survey. The Board of Supervisors used the ideas to create Shared Vision 2025: a community that is healthy, prosperous, livable, environmentally conscious and collaborative. The Board received an award from Sustainable San Mateo County in March for the Shared Vision process.

## TEEN LEADER READER



The San Mateo County Library launched a new literacy program called "Teen Leader Reader" to ensure a thriving community of readers. The program promotes literacy by pairing young students with high school role models with whom they can practice reading skills. The program started at the Belmont, East Palo Alto, Half Moon Bay and Millbrae libraries.

## STREETS ALIVE



The idea is simple: close streets to traffic and you create open, fun and safe places for people to walk, skate, cycle and simply enjoy. Many cities across San Mateo County worked together to celebrate World Health Day, April 11, by creating Streets Alive, which highlighted open streets, plazas, parks and other public places. The idea grew out of a forum in October that brought together health professionals, school leaders, elected officials and others to discuss ways to promote healthy living. Heavy rain disrupted many events on April 11 but members of the Health System and others throughout the county are hoping to make Streets Alive an annual event.

## COMMUNITY BUDGET FORUMS – RISING TO THE CHALLENGE



San Mateo County officials hit the road in May. At six forums held throughout the county, residents were invited to tell officials their thoughts and concerns about the budget challenges facing County government. The information is being used by local leaders to help shape the budgets of what promise to be several lean years. The largest forum was held in the Board Chambers in Redwood City and, for the first time, was televised live on Peninsula Television, a community cable channel. Additional forums are expected in the coming year as the organization copes with the rising challenge of providing services to the community.

## DISASTER PLANNING



How will public agencies respond if a major earthquake strikes San Mateo County? That was the question officials from San Mateo County, cities, public safety agencies and nonprofit organizations tackled at a drill in April. The results demonstrated our community's strengths and opportunities for improvement.

## TAKE A HIKE



Take A Hike 2010 takes hikers of all ages and abilities on a guided tour of a County park each month. Hikers need to bring water and to wear comfortable shoes; San Mateo County parks provide the beauty and fresh air. Hikes have or will take place at Huddart Park,

San Bruno Mountain State and County Park, San Pedro Valley and elsewhere. If you've ever talked about increasing your fitness level, spending more time with the family or learning about local history — Take A Hike.

## ACHIEVE 180



San Mateo County accepted a \$677,674 grant from the U.S. Justice Department through the "Second Chance Act" initiative to create model programs for inmates. The County is one of just 15 agencies nationwide that received grant funding. The goal of the project, called Achieve 180, is to develop

support systems and programs that help San Mateo County jail inmates successfully reenter the community. That will improve public safety, help the individuals, save taxpayer money and free up space in jails.

## HOME FORECLOSURE RESOURCE FAIRS



The impact of the recession literally hits home for a growing number of San Mateo County residents who are facing foreclosure. In response, the County and community partners have provided homeowners with the help

they need to keep their homes at home foreclosure resource fairs. The free events featured financial counselors, experts at loan modifications and other professionals from businesses and nonprofit organizations.

## CENSUS



Since 1790, the Census Bureau has counted every resident of the United States. Every 10 years, questionnaires are mailed to every household to count all who reside here, regardless of age, race, ethnicity, or citizenship. It is critical that San Mateo County has as accurate of a count as possible, as Census numbers are used to determine Congressional representation and funding for important projects in our community.

## SMC WORKS



With the help of federal stimulus funds, the Human Services Agency launched SMC Works, a program to assist local families, individuals and businesses. SMC Works provides employment income for eligible parents, wage subsidies for employers and emergency safety-net assistance for families. The agency also launched a "Green Jobs Academy" that provides education, training and job-readiness development for people interested in a job in a growing sector of the economy.

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS



San Mateo County Public Safety Communications marked its third consecutive year of exceeding national standards in emergency medical dispatch call processing. As a result, Public Safety Dispatch continues to have a 100 percent customer satisfaction rating from the public and the public safety agencies it serves. Public Safety Communications provides dispatching services to more than 20 police, fire and other agencies across San Mateo County. Dispatchers handle 280,000 calls annually.

## RESIDENTIAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



San Mateo County joined eight other Bay Area counties in submitting a winning proposal to the State Energy Commission to fund a residential energy retrofit program. The \$10.75 million grant will support program development, training and certification of contractors and a regional marketing effort. San Mateo County will get \$783,000 for local marketing, education and outreach. The County received additional funding from a second state grant to offer Property Assessed Clean Energy financing for retrofit and renewable energy projects on homes. The option allows residents to finance energy improvements via loans repaid through their property tax bills. The program will begin in the fall of 2010.



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Caltrain and SamTrans photos courtesy of those agencies.

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