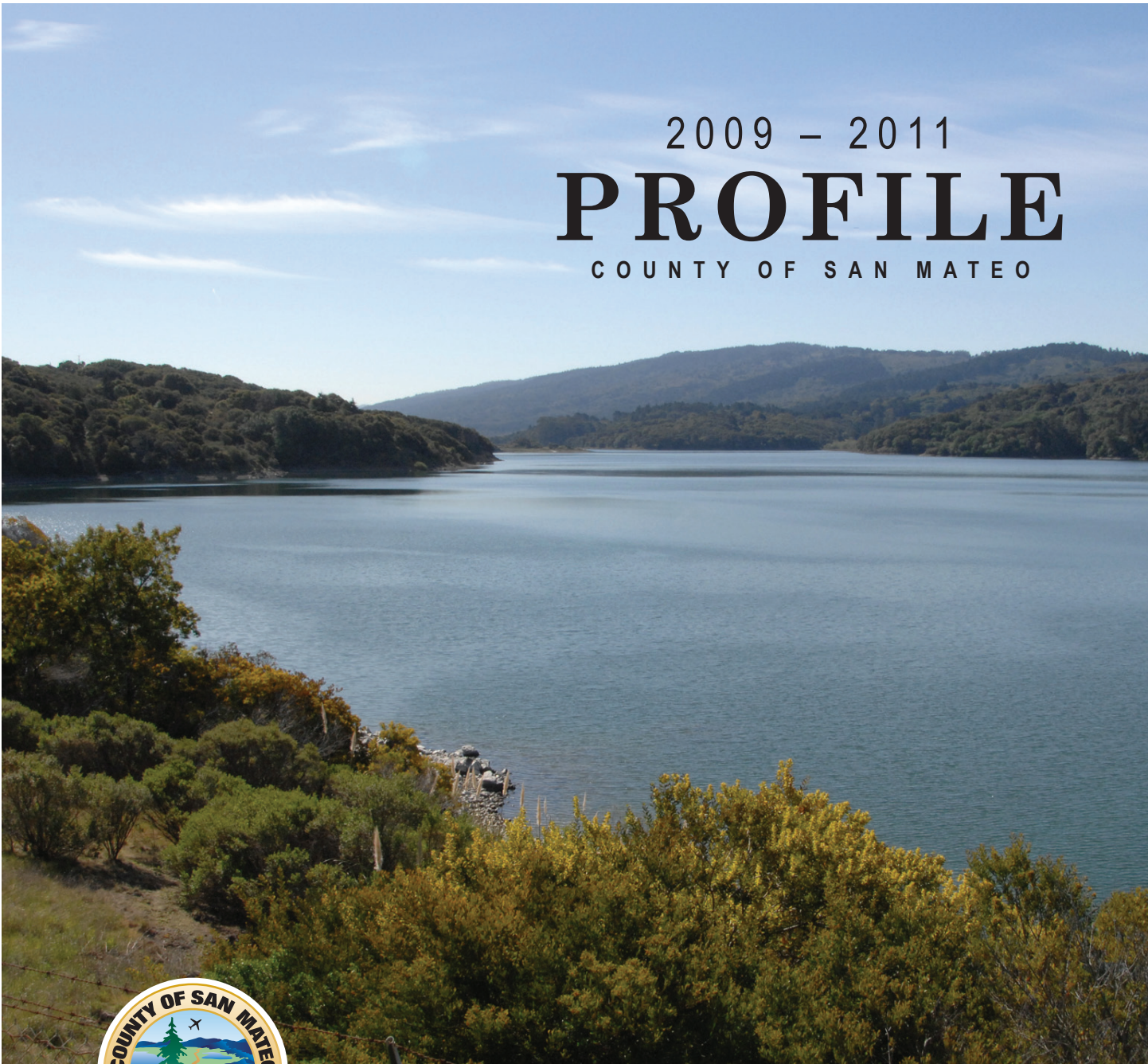


2009 – 2011
PROFILE
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO



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 449 square miles of land and 292 square miles of water for a total area of 741 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, 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.

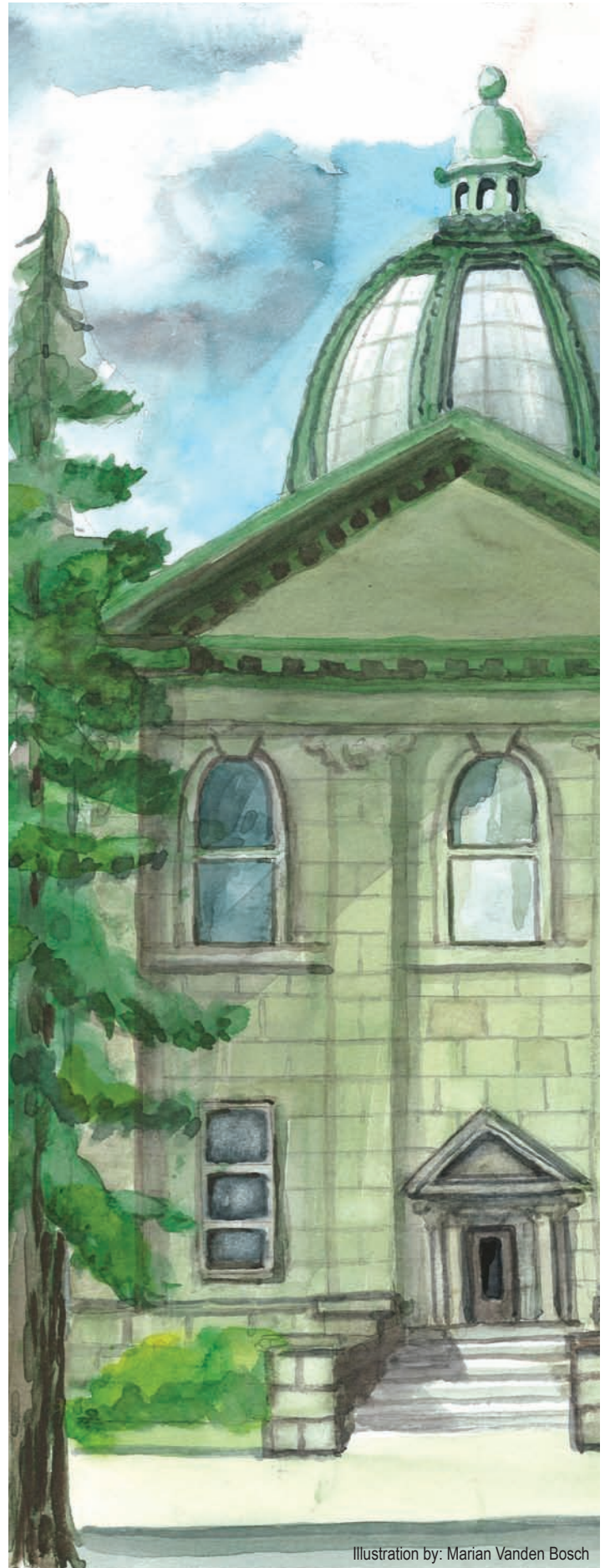
California came under the control of the United States in 1846 following hostilities with Mexico. The discovery of gold in the Sierra foothills brought a wave of settlers and statehood to California in 1850. The Peninsula's redwoods helped to build booming San Francisco while the region's fishing and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

When California achieved statehood, most of modern San Mateo County was within San Francisco County. But in 1856 the southern part of San Francisco County was separated to form San Mateo County, 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's 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.

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 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.

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.

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 745,000 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.^{1,2,3}

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 from the other members. The districts are roughly equal in population.

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.

In addition to the supervisors, voters elect six other 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. The San Mateo County Office of Education is a separate agency.

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

RICH 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 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, 2009, SAN MATEO COUNTY was home to an estimated 745,858 residents, a 1.2 percent increase over last year's estimated population. The vast majority – 679,423 – live in cities. The largest city is Daly City with 107,099 residents. The smallest is Colma with 1,623 residents.

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

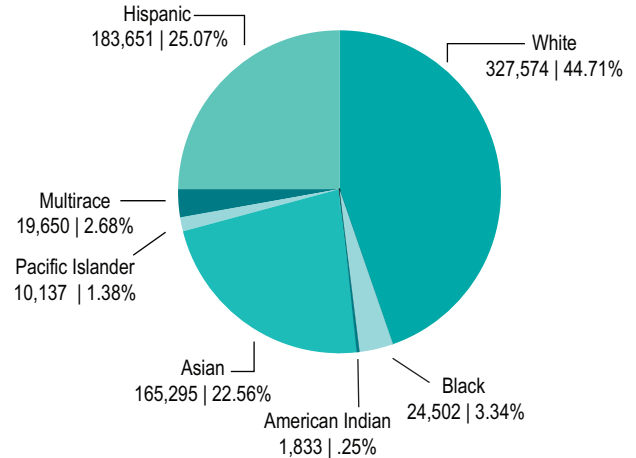
In 2007 there were 251,000 households in San Mateo County. The average household size was 2.8 people.

SAN MATEO COUNTY/CITY POPULATION ESTIMATES⁴

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Atherton	7,234	7,255	7,375	7,454	7,468
Belmont	25,389	25,620	25,727	26,000	26,250
Brisbane	3,713	3,739	3,766	3,850	3,938
Burlingame	28,189	28,291	28,478	28,782	29,060
Colma	1,563	1,575	1,585	1,608	1,623
Daly City	104,216	104,596	105,333	105,935	107,099
East Palo Alto	32,090	32,049	32,413	32,800	33,174
Foster City	29,778	29,866	30,065	30,214	30,429
Half Moon Bay	12,648	12,723	12,830	13,008	13,208
Hillsborough	10,949	10,954	11,050	11,239	11,395
Menlo Park	30,549	30,716	30,943	31,396	31,865
Millbrae	20,640	20,711	20,826	21,323	21,536
Pacifica	38,553	38,696	38,988	39,497	39,995
Portola Valley	4,525	4,548	4,589	4,625	4,671
Redwood City	75,744	76,004	76,516	77,040	77,819
San Bruno	41,313	41,470	41,864	43,315	43,811
San Carlos	27,891	28,026	28,241	28,562	28,839
San Mateo	93,909	94,211	94,877	95,492	96,557
South San Francisco	61,463	61,758	62,196	63,554	65,020
Woodside	5,478	5,499	5,527	5,608	5,666
Balance Of County	64,208	64,687	65,125	65,649	66,435
Incorporated	655,834	658,307	663,189	671,302	679,423
County Total	720,042	722,994	728,314	736,951	745,858

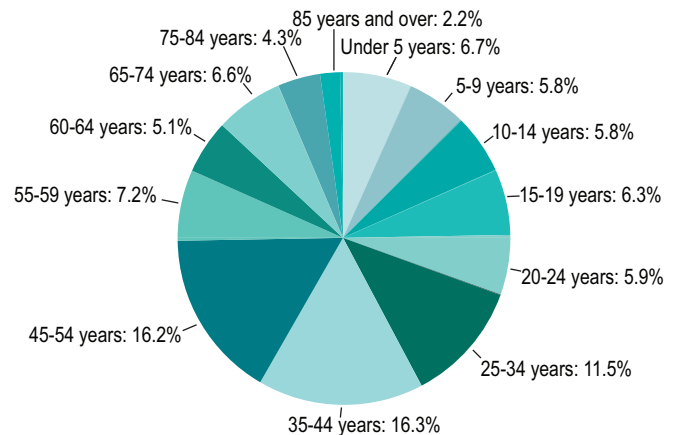
San Mateo County is among the most ethnically diverse in California, and 33.9 percent of the population was born in a foreign country.⁵

SAN MATEO COUNTY/CITY RACE/ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION 2007⁶



As of 2007, the estimated median age of San Mateo County residents was 40.1 years. This compares with 34.7 years in California and 36.7 years for the entire nation. Twenty-two percent of the population was under 18 years and 13 percent was 65 years and older.

SAN MATEO COUNTY/CITY AGE DISTRIBUTION⁷



Employment and Industry

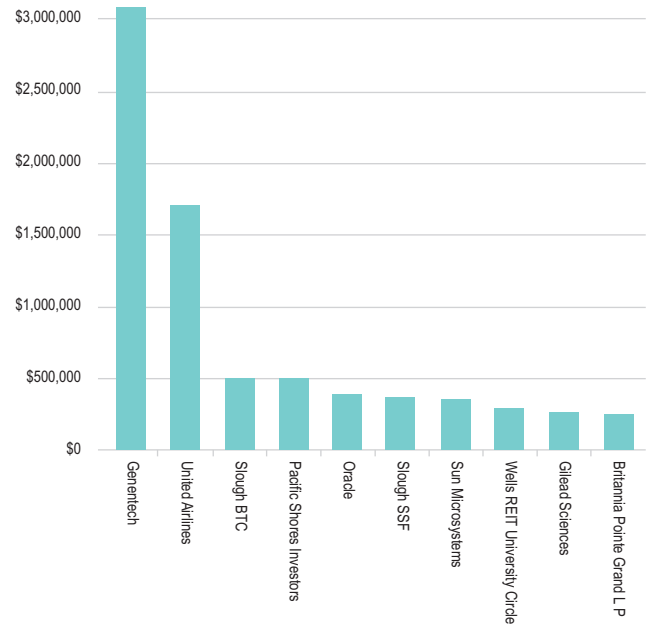
SAN MATEO COUNTY IS HOME TO DIVERSE BUSINESSES, from international corporations to small businesses. The rapid changes in the global economy and the pace of mergers and acquisitions render any list of top employers immediately out of date. The following chart shows the largest employers on the Peninsula 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

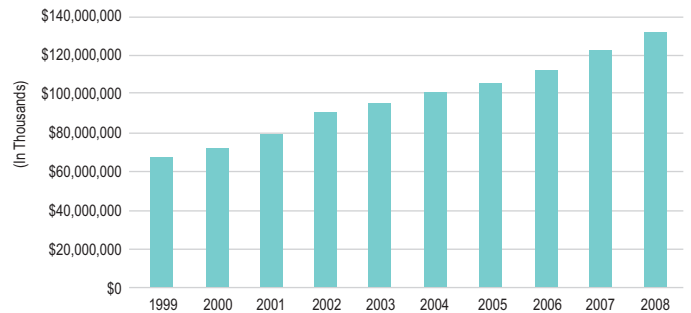
Note: Ranking based on employees in San Mateo County and the city of Palo Alto.



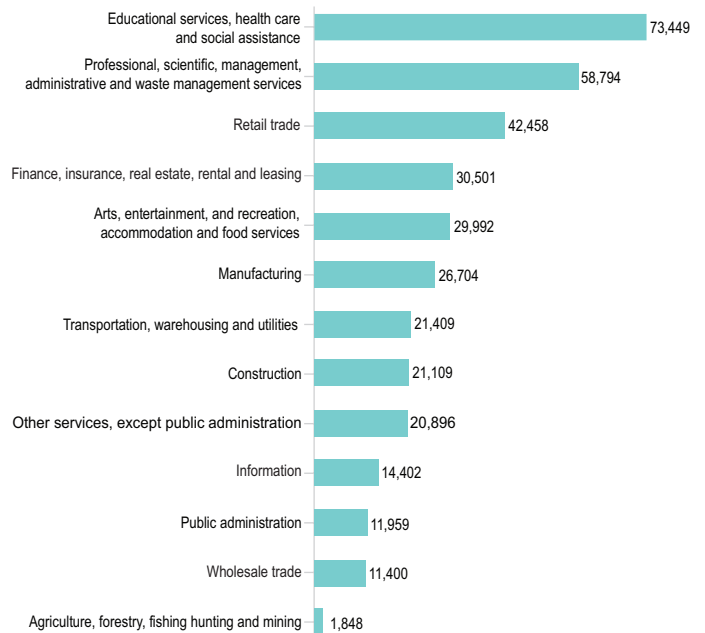
PRINCIPAL PROPERTY ASSESSEES⁸



TOTAL TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE⁹



EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR¹⁰



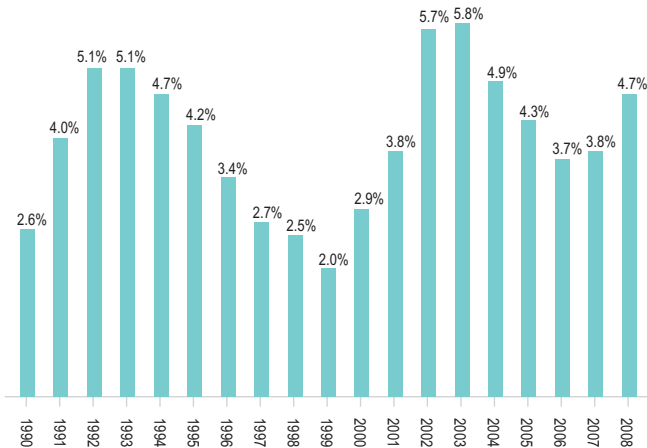
Although technology firms dominate the County's economy, agriculture remains an important industry. This is especially true along the Coast. The gross production value of all San Mateo County agriculture in 2007 was \$172,896,000, a 2.6 percent increase from 2006.

The value of the top vegetable crop, mushrooms, was more than \$8 million, followed by Brussels sprouts at \$7.8 million. Indoor-grown potted plants topped all products with a value of \$91.1 million.

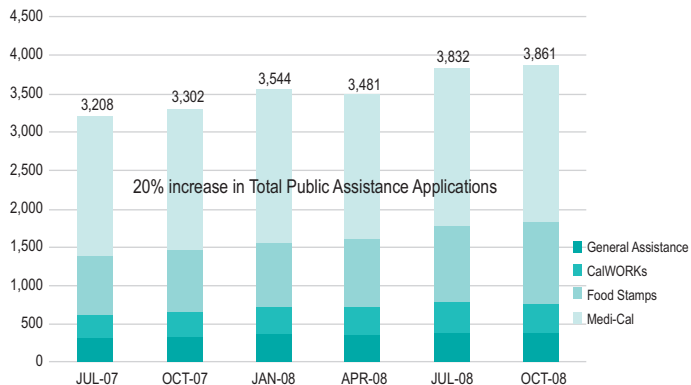
San Mateo County is not immune from the economic challenges facing California and the United States. The County's unemployment rate in March 2009 was 8.3 percent, nearly double the 4.2 percent of a year earlier. California as a whole was reporting an 11.5 unemployment rate in March 2009.

As a consequence, applications for public assistance are rising. Despite the economic downturn, San Mateo County is well-positioned because of its diverse economy and sound financial planning. The ratings agency Moody's noted in May 2009 the downturn is putting pressure on all local governments but that "the county is starting from a good position, generally budgets conservatively, and can be expected to rebuild reserves when the economic climate improves."

**SAN MATEO COUNTY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
(AS OF MARCH 2009: 8.3 PERCENT)¹¹**



PUBLIC ASSISTANCE



Income and Housing

SAN MATEO COUNTY'S MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME in 2007 rose to \$97,137, a 4.5 percent increase over the previous year. Per capita income stood at \$43,239 in 2007, up from \$40,051 in 2006.

By comparison, California's median family income was \$64,563 and per capita income \$26,974 in 2007. (Data from 2007 are the most current available.)

In 2007, 6 percent of the people in San Mateo County were living in poverty.

Overall housing prices and sales volumes declined in San Mateo County over the past year, much like in the rest of the state. Median home prices fell to \$506,000 in March 2009 compared with \$723,000 in March 2008, a 30 percent drop. Numbers alone, however, do not reflect the total picture of the local real estate market.

As noted by DataQuick Information Systems in its report of March 2009 home prices: "The drop in median price overstates the decline in the value of the typical Bay Area home, reflecting more the sluggishness of high-end sales, which are now under-represented in the statistics."

San Mateo County's historic high cost of housing has long hampered employers' ability to attract and retain top workers. Rising home prices have typically far outpaced inflation and wages, and many workers have chosen to live outside the County and commute to work. As housing prices have declined, home ownership has become more affordable for some.

Notices of default – the first step in a foreclosure process – rose dramatically in late 2007 in San Mateo County. The number continued to rise during the fourth quarter of 2008 but at a much slower pace. However, San Mateo County was the only Bay Area county to experience a rising number of notices of default.

Notices of Default	4th Qtr 2006	4th Qtr 2007	Change from 2006-2007	4th Qtr 2008	Change from 2007-2008
California	37,273	81,550	118.8%	75,230	-7.7%
SF Bay Area	5,362	12,704	136.9%	11,157	-12.2%
Alameda	1,173	2,573	119.4%	2,363	-8.2%
Contra Costa	1,511	3,805	151.8%	3,135	-17.6%
Marin	101	224	121.8%	194	-13.4%
Napa	87	220	152.3%	184	-16.4%
San Francisco	173	334	93.1%	302	-9.6%
San Mateo	339	625	84.4%	651	4.2%
Santa Clara	874	2,162	147.4%	2,101	-2.8%
Solano	781	1,793	129.6%	1,418	-20.9%
Sonoma	323	968	199.7%	809	-16.4%

Rents have also declined but not as much as home prices. As of March 30, 2009, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment was \$1,732 and it was \$1,399 for a one-bedroom apartment. Both are slight declines from the past year.¹²

All homes	Sales Volume			Median Price		
	Mar-08	Mar-09	Change	Mar-08	Mar-09	Change
Alameda	971	1,216	25.2%	\$487,500	\$280,000	-42.6%
Contra Costa	973	1,639	68.4%	\$420,500	\$220,000	-47.7%
Marin	148	161	8.8%	\$788,500	\$585,000	-25.8%
Napa	72	124	72.2%	\$469,000	\$339,000	-27.7%
Santa Clara	1,105	1,288	16.6%	\$620,000	\$390,000	-37.1%
San Francisco	508	332	-34.6%	\$755,000	\$608,000	-19.5%
San Mateo	438	380	-13.2%	\$723,000	\$506,000	-30.0%
Solano	356	722	102.8%	\$330,000	\$180,000	-45.5%
Sonoma	327	463	41.6%	\$409,500	\$304,100	-25.7%
SF Bay Area	4,898	6,325	29.1%	\$536,000	\$290,000	-45.9%

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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 range from busy freeways linking the County to San Francisco and Silicon Valley to rural lanes 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, 2008, was the third highest in modern history at 1.487 metric tons, a 4 percent increase over the prior year. The increase followed two years of declining tonnage.

Sand and aggregates imported from British Columbia represented 39 percent of the port's total tonnage. Scrap metal exports represented 22 percent of tonnage. The 2008 fiscal year saw 115 ships call at the port. Due to the global economic downturn and decline in construction, the port expects tonnage to drop significantly during the 2009 fiscal 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.¹⁴



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.

The airport is owned and operated by the City and County of San Francisco. Tens of thousands of jobs in San Mateo County and the region are directly or indirectly tied to the airport.

Despite a slowing economy nationally and internationally, the total number of passengers rose by 5 percent to more than 37 million in 2008 from 2007. The overall growth in passenger numbers was fueled by a 6.6 percent increase in domestic travel; international travel was flat.

The total volume of passenger traffic was the highest since the dot-com boom days of 2000.

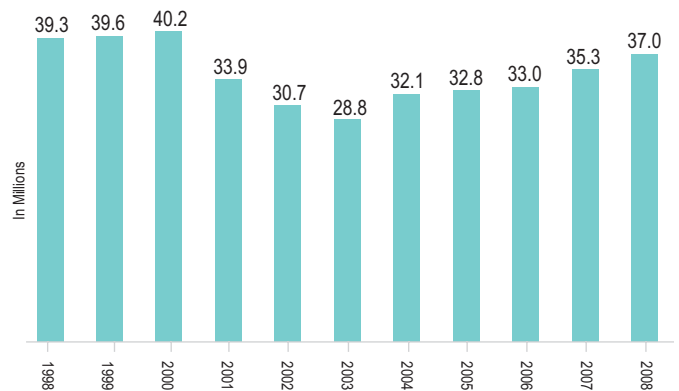
The first few months of 2009 tell a different story. Total airport passengers declined 6.2 percent in March 2009 compared with March 2008. International travel declined 17 percent in the same monthly comparison. These results are by no means unique.

Los Angeles International Airport, the largest airport on the West Coast, experienced an overall decline in passengers in 2008 from 2007. Total passenger traffic declined 13 percent in March 2009 compared with March 2008.

At SFO, the airlines continue to change schedules to accommodate the needs of travelers. In Spring 2009, Emirates began daily non-stop service on routes from Dubai to San Francisco. Virgin America, which is based at SFO, began flying five times a day between Orange County and SFO. JetBlue, meanwhile, restarted service between SFO and Boston.¹⁵

**SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC REPORTS¹⁶**

Total Enplaned and Deplaned Passengers



BART, Caltrain and SamTrans

San Mateo County residents and visitors have numerous public transportation options and, given the recent ridership reports, are taking advantage of them.

BART. BART's 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 fiscal year, there were 26,493 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 an 11 percent increase from a 2007 ridership survey and a 30 percent increase from 2004.

BART is operated by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District.¹⁷

Caltrain. Rail passenger service on the Peninsula began in 1863. Today, Caltrain has 33 stations along 77 miles of track from San Francisco to Gilroy. Ridership along the line continues to grow following introduction of express service and a new schedule earlier this decade.

In February 2009, boardings averaged 39,122 per weekday, a 5.8 percent increase from February 2008. Average weekday ridership has increased by more than 85 percent since 1992.

Caltrain and its 29 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.¹⁸

SamTrans. In the 2008 fiscal year, 15.2 million passengers rode SamTrans. This was the third consecutive year of ridership increases, up from 14.8 million in 2007.

The SamTrans fixed-route bus system consists of 54 routes. On an average weekday, 48,410 passengers ride SamTrans. Redi-Wheels, the District's paratransit service, transports approximately 1,000 customers daily on 83 buses, vans and sedans supported by supplemental taxi service. RediCoast operates nine vehicles on the Coastside and provides approximately 100 rides a day.

SamTrans is operated by the San Mateo County Transit District.¹⁹



Safety

PUBLIC SAFETY IS A TOP PRIORITY. A community's crime rate can be linked to the overall quality of life. In 2007, San Mateo County's violent crime was among the lowest in the state at 289.9 violent crimes per 100,000 residents. The violent crime rate for the state of California by comparison was 507 per 100,000 residents.

SAN MATEO COUNTY CRIMES²⁰

Category/crime	2004	2005	2006	2007
Violent crimes	2,168	2,447	2,195	2,129
Homicide	26	30	22	13
Forcible rape	156	155	155	144
Robbery	685	715	716	700
Agg. Assault	1,301	1,547	1,302	1,272
Property crimes	9,710	9,744	9,504	8,422
Burglary	2,935	3,335	2,969	2,547
Vehicle Theft	2,943	2,732	2,749	2,219
Larceny-theft over \$400	3,832	3,677	3,786	3,656
Total larceny-theft	13,424	12,561	12,074	10,774
Over \$400	3,832	3,677	3,786	3,656
\$400 And under	9,592	8,884	8,288	7,118
Arson	142	151	149	149
Population (thousands)	720.7	721.4	729.4	734.5



Education

SAN MATEO COUNTY IN 2007 WAS HOME TO 163,821 CHILDREN 17 years and under, which is 2 percent of California's child population. Compared with other counties in the state, San Mateo ranks as follows:

- 2nd out of 58 in the percentage of children with health insurance.
- 2nd out of 58 in the percentage of children, ages 3 and 4, enrolled in preschool.
- 6th out of 58 in the percentage of elementary school students meeting state targets in English Language Arts.
- 6th out of 58 in the percentage of elementary school students meeting state targets in Math.
- 7th out of 58 in the percentage of high school students eligible to attend one of California's public universities.
- 6th out of 58 in the percentage of children in low-income households.²¹

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT: AGES 3 AND 4²²

	San Mateo County	Greater Bay Area	Statewide
Children in preschool or nursery school	83%	81%	77%

K-12 ENROLLMENT²³

	San Mateo County	Greater Bay Area	Statewide
Number of students in public K-12 schools	88,350	971,726	6,312,436
English Learners	22%	21%	25%

PERCENTAGE OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM²⁴

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
San Mateo County	27.3%	29.5%	29.1%	32.0%	31.7%
California	48.7%	49.0%	49.9%	51.1%	50.7%

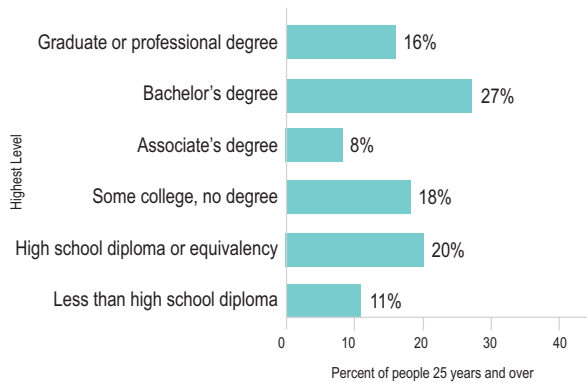
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT: HIGH SCHOOL²⁵

	San Mateo County	Greater Bay Area	Statewide
Percentage of 10th-graders who passed the California High School English Exit Exam	83%	81%	77%
Percent of 10th-graders who passed the California High School Math Exit Exam	83%	80%	75%
Meet UC/CSU entrance requirements	43%	42%	35%

In 2007, 89 percent of people 25 years and over had at least graduated from high school and 44 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Eleven percent had dropped out; they were not enrolled in school and had not graduated from high school.

The total school enrollment in San Mateo County was 176,000 in 2007. Nursery school and kindergarten enrollment was 21,000 and elementary or high school enrollment was 105,000 children. College or graduate school enrollment was 51,000.

THE EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF PEOPLE IN SAN MATEO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA IN 2007²⁶





COUNTY OF SAN MATEO INITIATIVES

YEAR IN REVIEW

SMC HELPS

During these difficult economic times finding help can be challenging, especially for those who are newly unemployed or have never before had trouble making a mortgage or rent payment. Numerous San Mateo County departments, along with community partners, collaborated to create a one-stop website with information about food programs, housing assistance, credit counseling and other resources. The site can be found on the County's home page at www.co.sanmateo.ca.us



ELECTIONS

The Elections Office remained ahead of statewide averages in voter registration, voter participation and voter and poll worker education and outreach. The Elections Office adopted Web 2.0 techniques to engage a broad range of residents in the elections process, using blogs and social media tools. With the rise in popularity of social networking, regular Internet users have come to expect and use these kinds of tools to gather information, conduct business, make comments and ask for assistance. To meet this emerging market demand, the Elections Office added these functions for the 2008 Presidential Election. The elections website had nearly 500,000 visits last year; these strategies kept the site relevant with timely election information.



PC POWER MANAGEMENT

The Information Services Department implemented a Countywide PC Power Management Program that changed the default power settings inside operating systems. This puts the PC into sleep mode earlier and saves energy and money. The projected annual reduction in CO₂ emissions is approximately 400 tons.



JAIL PLANNING

In collaboration with the County Manager's Office and Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff's Office continued jail planning efforts. This involved community outreach meetings and sending County staff to the National Institute of Corrections training courses on how to plan and build a jail that will improve public safety. The County's Jail Planning Unit is working toward replacing the Women's Correctional Center and minimum-security facility with a new correctional facility for women and lower-risk male inmates and provide alternative custody programs.



ONE-STOP PERMITTING

In order to improve the speed at which permits are issued to applicants, the Planning and Building Department implemented an over-the-counter permit express system for a wide range of permits, including simple remodels, solar photo voltaic systems and kitchen and bathroom remodels. Applicants can receive their permits the same day they apply, speeding up the process by which their projects can be completed. This improvement, in conjunction with updates to the interactive voice response system in Building Inspection, have greatly improved an applicant's ability to get quick service and information.



BILL OF RIGHTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Health System collaborated with the San Mateo County Youth Commission to develop policy-level recommendations that accompanied the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council Bill of Rights for the Children and Youth of San Mateo County. The Board of Supervisors adopted the Bill of Rights in October 2008. San Mateo County was among the first jurisdictions in the nation to adopt such a Bill of Rights. The 10-point Bill of Rights states in part: We resolve to invest in all children and youth so that: they have a healthy mind, body and spirit that enables them to maximize their potential; they have a safe and healthy environment, including homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities; and they have a sense of hope for their future.



ECONOMIC SELF SUFFICIENCY

The Human Services Agency increased the monthly Food Stamp caseload to 5,070 at mid-year, so that 12,925 county residents are receiving the benefit, a 28 percent increase. The agency also expanded community partnerships to increase access into the Food Stamp program and conducted targeted outreach to educate residents about the application process and benefits of the Food Stamp program in culturally and linguistically acceptable formats. Outreach and education focused on seniors, single individuals, immigrants and families of under-represented ethnic backgrounds.



PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

The program that oversees the County's 911 dispatch center achieved reaccreditation for the administration of Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols, as certified by the National Academy of Emergency Dispatch as a "Center of Excellence." This recognition demonstrates the program's continued efforts to improve service and operate at the highest levels.



CLEANER AND GREENER

The Public Works Department expanded the alternative-fuel vehicle program to include replacement of older mid-size cars, pickup trucks and vans, in the motor pool and assigned vehicle classes.



The alternative-fuel vehicle program will add other classes of vehicles as they become available in the market and funds are available. Types of fuel systems under review are electric, ethanol, bio-diesel, compressed natural gas and hydrogen fuel cell. The Vehicle and Equipment program is also pursuing grant opportunities to help fund the purchase of these vehicles

PARK FUN

Visitors can whoosh down a new slide that towers two stories above Junipero Serra County Park in San Bruno following the dedication of a new playground in April.



The 23-foot tall, 54-foot long slide is the crowning feature of the newly renovated Meadow View Playground. The playground also features a large cable-net play structure, a smaller climbing apparatus, and climbing boulders — amenities appropriate for children ages 5 to 12.

A rubberized surface area of 6,000 feet provides a safe play environment. Positioned near the top of the park, Meadow View playground offers sweeping views of the Bay. Visitors can also watch landings and take-offs at San Francisco International Airport. The nearby Buckeye and Meadow View picnic areas and the Bay View Shelter are favorite spots for group celebrations and picnics.

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Caltrain and SamTrans photos courtesy of those agencies.

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