

# CRB



**CALIFORNIA  
STATE LIBRARY**  
FOUNDED 1850

**California Research Bureau**

900 N Street, Suite 300  
P.O. Box 942837  
Sacramento, CA 94237-0001  
(916) 653-7843 phone  
(916) 654-5829 fax

## **San Joaquin Valley Land, People, and Economy**

*Kenneth W. Umbach, Ph.D.*

*Prepared at the Request of  
Assembly Member Juan Arambula*

**NOVEMBER 2005**

**CRB 05-007**

C A L I F O R N I A

R E S E A R C H B U R E A U

**San Joaquin Valley  
Land, People, and Economy**

*Kenneth W. Umbach, Ph.D.*

ISBN 1-58703-204-X  
2<sup>nd</sup> printing

# Contents

<b>1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. AUTHOR'S NOTE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. OVERVIEW OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.....</b>	<b>4</b>
THE SHAPE OF THE LAND.....	4
POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH.....	5
SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS .....	10
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT .....	12
<i>Measures of Attainment</i> .....	12
<i>University of California, Merced, Opens its Doors</i> .....	14
HEALTH AND MEDICAL INDICATORS .....	15
ECONOMY OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY .....	19
<i>Agriculture, Heart of the San Joaquin Valley</i> .....	19
<i>Other Economic Sectors</i> .....	21
LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT .....	21
COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES .....	25
<i>Population Growth</i> .....	25
<i>Land</i> .....	29
<i>Comparisons to States</i> .....	31
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES .....	31
<i>Water Quality</i> .....	31
<i>Air Quality</i> .....	32
SUMMARY .....	33
<b>4. KERN.....</b>	<b>35</b>
LAND .....	35
PEOPLE .....	36
ECONOMY .....	40
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	40
<i>Education</i> .....	45
<i>Health Care</i> .....	46
<b>5. KINGS.....</b>	<b>47</b>
LAND .....	47
PEOPLE .....	47
ECONOMY .....	51
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	51
<i>Education</i> .....	54
<i>Health Care</i> .....	55
<b>6. TULARE.....</b>	<b>56</b>
LAND .....	56
PEOPLE .....	57

ECONOMY .....	61
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	61
<i>Education</i> .....	65
<i>Health Care</i> .....	65
<b>7. FRESNO .....</b>	<b>66</b>
LAND .....	66
PEOPLE .....	67
ECONOMY .....	70
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	70
<i>Education</i> .....	74
<i>Health Care</i> .....	75
<b>8. MADERA.....</b>	<b>76</b>
LAND .....	76
PEOPLE .....	76
ECONOMY .....	80
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	80
<i>Education</i> .....	83
<i>Health Care</i> .....	84
<b>9. MERCED.....</b>	<b>85</b>
LAND .....	85
PEOPLE .....	85
ECONOMY .....	89
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	89
<i>Education</i> .....	93
<i>Health Care</i> .....	93
<b>10. STANISLAUS .....</b>	<b>94</b>
LAND .....	94
PEOPLE .....	95
ECONOMY .....	99
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	99
<i>Education</i> .....	102
<i>Health Care</i> .....	103
<b>11. SAN JOAQUIN.....</b>	<b>104</b>
LAND .....	105
PEOPLE .....	105
ECONOMY .....	110
<i>Labor Market and Employment</i> .....	110
<i>Education</i> .....	114
<i>Health Care</i> .....	115
<b>SOURCES AND FURTHER READING .....</b>	<b>116</b>
<b>NOTES.....</b>	<b>120</b>

## Figures

FIGURE 1. CALIFORNIA’S GREAT CENTRAL VALLEY.....	2
FIGURE 2. THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.....	4
FIGURE 3. MAIN ARTERIES THROUGH THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.....	5
FIGURE 4. COUNTY POPULATIONS.....	6
FIGURE 5. COUNTY AREAS.....	7
FIGURE 6. POPULATION DENSITY.....	7
FIGURE 7. POPULATION GROWTH 1975-2005.....	8
FIGURE 8. PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN POPULATION.....	8
FIGURE 9. PROJECTED SJV POPULATION GROWTH TO 2050.....	9
FIGURE 10. PROJECTED COUNTY GROWTH TO 2050.....	9
FIGURE 11. PERCENTAGE OF HISPANIC RESIDENTS, 2000.....	10
FIGURE 12. PROJECTED HISPANIC POPULATION PERCENTAGE, 2020.....	10
FIGURE 13. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER 18.....	11
FIGURE 14. PERCENTAGE FOREIGN BORN.....	11
FIGURE 15. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 1999.....	12
FIGURE 16. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT—BACHELOR’S DEGREE OR HIGHER.....	13
FIGURE 17. PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES MEETING UC/CSU ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, 2002.....	13
FIGURE 18. AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES.....	15
FIGURE 19. LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE.....	16
FIGURE 20. ADEQUATE/ADEQUATE PLUS PRENATAL CARE.....	16
FIGURE 21. PERSONS PER PHYSICIAN.....	17
FIGURE 22. GENERAL ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION.....	17
FIGURE 23. PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS UNDER 18 IN POVERTY.....	18
FIGURE 24. FARMLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ENROLLMENT.....	21
FIGURE 25. LABOR FORCE, CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT.....	22
FIGURE 26. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2004, SJV AND STATE.....	22
FIGURE 27. FARM EMPLOYMENT.....	23
FIGURE 28. FARM EMPLOYMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL EMPLOYMENT, 2004.....	23
FIGURE 29. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.....	24
FIGURE 30. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.....	24
FIGURE 31. FASTEST-GROWING COUNTIES.....	26
FIGURE 32. LARGEST PROJECTED GROWTH RATES.....	26
FIGURE 33. LARGEST PROJECTED NUMERICAL GROWTH.....	27
FIGURE 34. POPULATION GROWTH IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COUNTIES.....	28
FIGURE 35. SJV COUNTIES’ POPULATION AS PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA, TO 2050.....	28
FIGURE 36. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SHARE OF CALIFORNIA POPULATION, 2005.....	29
FIGURE 37. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SHARE OF CALIFORNIA LAND AREA.....	30
FIGURE 38. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SHARE OF CALIFORNIA FARM ACREAGE, 2002.....	30
FIGURE 39. CALIFORNIA’S IMPAIRED WATER AREAS.....	32
FIGURE 40. CALIFORNIA’S AIR BASINS.....	32
FIGURE 41. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR BASIN.....	33
FIGURE 42. CENTRAL VALLEY AIR BASIN.....	33

FIGURE 43. KERN COUNTY REGIONS.....	35
FIGURE 44. BAKERSFIELD, 1901.....	36
FIGURE 45. KERN COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE.....	37
FIGURE 46. KERN COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.....	37
FIGURE 47. KERN COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	38
FIGURE 48. KERN COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000. .....	39
FIGURE 49. KERN COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH TO 2050.....	39
FIGURE 50. KERN COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	41
FIGURE 51. KERN COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	41
FIGURE 52. KERN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT 1990-2004.....	42
FIGURE 53. KERN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	43
FIGURE 54. KERN COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT.....	44
FIGURE 55. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE.....	48
FIGURE 56. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.....	48
FIGURE 57. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	49
FIGURE 58. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.....	50
FIGURE 59. KINGS COUNTY PROJECTED POPULATION TO 2050.....	50
FIGURE 60. KINGS COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	51
FIGURE 61. KINGS COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	52
FIGURE 62. KINGS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	52
FIGURE 63. KINGS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	53
FIGURE 64. KINGS COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	53
FIGURE 65. BETWEEN TULARE AND FRESNO, 1939.....	56
FIGURE 66. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE.....	57
FIGURE 67. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION,1999-2004.....	58
FIGURE 68. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	58
FIGURE 69. TULARE COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT 2000. .....	60
FIGURE 70. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.....	60
FIGURE 71. TULARE COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	61
FIGURE 72. TULARE COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	62
FIGURE 73. TULARE COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	62
FIGURE 74. TULARE COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	63
FIGURE 75. TULARE COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	64
FIGURE 76. FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, 1901.....	66
FIGURE 77. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.....	67
FIGURE 78. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.....	68
FIGURE 79. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	68
FIGURE 80. FRESNO COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000. .....	69

FIGURE 81. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.....	70
FIGURE 82. FRESNO COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	71
FIGURE 83. FRESNO COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	71
FIGURE 84. FRESNO COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	72
FIGURE 85. FRESNO COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	72
FIGURE 86. FRESNO COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PRODUCING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	73
FIGURE 87. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.....	77
FIGURE 88. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION, 1999-2004.....	77
FIGURE 89. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	78
FIGURE 90. MADERA COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.....	79
FIGURE 91. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.....	80
FIGURE 92. MADERA COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	80
FIGURE 93. MADERA COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	81
FIGURE 94. MADERA COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	81
FIGURE 95. MADERA COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	82
FIGURE 96. MADERA COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	82
FIGURE 97. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE 2000.....	86
FIGURE 98. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION, 1999-2004.....	86
FIGURE 99. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	87
FIGURE 100. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.....	88
FIGURE 101. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.....	89
FIGURE 102. MERCED COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	89
FIGURE 103. MERCED COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	90
FIGURE 104. MERCED COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	90
FIGURE 105. MERCED COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	91
FIGURE 106. MERCED COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	92
FIGURE 107. LOOKING EAST FROM I-5, TOWARD CROWS LANDING.....	94
FIGURE 108. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.....	95
FIGURE 109. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.....	96
FIGURE 110. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.....	96
FIGURE 111. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000....	98
FIGURE 112. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.....	98
FIGURE 113. STANISLAUS COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	99
FIGURE 114. STANISLAUS COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	99
FIGURE 115. STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004...	100
FIGURE 116. STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.....	100
FIGURE 117. STANISLAUS COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	101

FIGURE 118. STOCKTON, 1895. ....	104
FIGURE 119. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.....	105
FIGURE 120. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004. ....	106
FIGURE 121. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004. ....	106
FIGURE 122. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000. ....	108
FIGURE 123. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION DETAILS, 2000-2005.....	109
FIGURE 124. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.....	109
FIGURE 125. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.....	110
FIGURE 126. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.....	111
FIGURE 127. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004. ....	111
FIGURE 128. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED. ....	112
FIGURE 129. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.....	113

## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report, requested by Assembly Member Juan Arambula, Fresno, updates and supplements *San Joaquin Valley: Selected Statistics on Population, Economy, and Environment*, published by the California Research Bureau in 2002.

This edition organizes information by county as well as by topic, focusing loosely around three themes: land, people, and economy. The report draws from data published by the Census Bureau, the Department of Finance, Department of Employment Development, Department of Education, and other agencies.

The eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley are Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, and Tulare. The counties differ in geographical size, population, population density, and extent of reach outside the valley. Fresno, Madera, and Tulare extend to the east of the valley. Kern County encompasses a desert area on its east side. The other counties are centered in the valley itself.

The eight counties share an emphasis on agriculture, although that emphasis differs among the counties. Farm employment as a percentage of total industry employment ranges from 7.3 percent in San Joaquin County and 8.3 percent in Stanislaus County to a high of 23.6 percent in Madera County, with Tulare County not far behind at 22.5 percent. For the eight counties as a whole, 13.8 percent of employment is in farming. Taken together, the eight counties encompass nearly 47 percent of all of California's farm employment and 36 percent of California's farm acreage.

Notwithstanding the region's emphasis on agriculture, the eight counties have a varied economy, including significant employment in state and local government (17.7 percent of employment in the region). Private service-providing employment is far larger than goods-producing employment in each of the counties and in the region as a whole, as it is throughout California. Nonfarm employment has grown faster than farm employment in recent years (1990-2004).

One of the strongest areas of employment growth in the region over the period 1990-2004 has been construction. Other areas of growth have included health services and leisure and hospitality.

Each county has shown areas of strength in employment growth as well as areas of flat or declining performance.

Unemployment has been stubbornly high in the region, although showing improvement since the peak unemployment of the early to mid 1990s. The region has a disproportionately high number of California's unemployed workers compared to its share of the labor force.

Characteristics of the region include a relatively high percentage of Hispanic/Latino residents, relatively high rates of poverty, low educational attainment, relatively low performance on health indicators, and high population growth rates.

High population growth rates are projected to continue during the coming decades, increasing the population of the region by 51 percent just between 2000 and 2020, an addition of 1.7 million residents during that period. Growth of 139 percent is projected between 2000 and 2050, an additional 4.6 million residents, for a total population of 7.9 million in 2050 in the eight-county region.

Population growth over the last five years has reflected a combination of foreign immigration, domestic migration, and natural increase (births minus deaths), with different proportions of growth attributable to each source among the eight counties. Domestic migration has been especially important in San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Kern, and Madera counties.

Water quality is impaired throughout the region, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

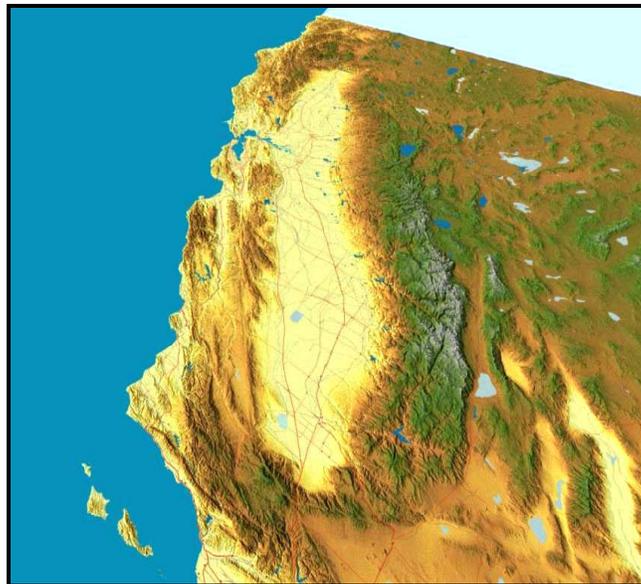


FIGURE 1. CALIFORNIA'S GREAT CENTRAL VALLEY.

© 2003 William A. Bowen. <http://geogdata.csun.edu>.

Used by permission.

Air quality is also impaired throughout not only the San Joaquin Valley, but also the entire Great Central Valley (pictured in Figure 1), as the basin tends to trap pollutants generated in the region as well as those drifting in from the San Francisco Bay Area.

In summary, the region faces challenges of poverty and undereducation but has an abundance of land, has proven to be inviting to new residents, and has shown a wide range of employment growth even if not yet sufficient to bring unemployment in line with the state average.

Keys to future development will be managing population growth while preserving agriculture, building on areas of economic strength, and improving educational opportunity and performance.

## 2. AUTHOR'S NOTE

This report reflects a small selection of the very large array of published data provided by recognized agencies and organizations. For the most part, the charts merely make a visual presentation of published numbers. Charts make note of sources of data, and the Sources and Further Reading section lists data sources and includes links to the sources.

I have omitted descriptions of the limitations to the data. Some of the statistics quoted in this report have large margins of error, especially for data drawn from samples. Full explanations of some data are complex. Some data are estimates or projections. The reader should consult the notes and the sources of the data for details.

Computer screen shots cropped to focus on the essential information illustrate such issues as environmental indicators. The reader who wishes to do so can visit the source sites for newer and additional information.

Also included are some historical photographs from the American Memory collection of the Library of Congress. I have selected these photographs to provide a sense of historical context to the modern statistics that are the chief focus of this report. I would encourage readers to visit the Library of Congress American Memory collection and the San Joaquin Valley & Sierra Foothills Photo Heritage site, another source of historical photographs of the region, to explore their large collections.\*

This report benefits from some copyrighted geographical and topographical illustrations reproduced with the permission of the National Geographic Society and of Dr. William Bowen, professor emeritus, Department of Geography, California State University, Northridge.

Special thanks go to Martha Jones, of the California Research Bureau for her valuable comments on an early draft of this report, and to Trina Dangberg, also of CRB, for her assistance in preparing the document for publication.

Note: Illustrations and charts in this printed edition have unavoidably lost color and clarity in the printing process. Please see the downloadable PDF version of this report for color and better detail. It is available via the California Research Bureau's reports site, [www.library.ca.gov/html/statseg2a.cfm](http://www.library.ca.gov/html/statseg2a.cfm).

---

\* Library of Congress American Memory: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/>. San Joaquin Valley & Sierra Foothills Photo Heritage: [www.sjvls.org/photoheritage/](http://www.sjvls.org/photoheritage/).

### 3. OVERVIEW OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

This chapter provides regional context for county-by-county descriptions that follow, starting with a look at geography and an overview of the population and some of its characteristics. Other topics include educational attainment, health, economy and labor force, selected comparisons to the state and the nation, and a brief look at environmental issues.

#### THE SHAPE OF THE LAND

To begin with, let's look at a National Geographic representation of the contours of the San Joaquin Valley, an image that shows the bounding of the region by mountains on the west, east, and south. To the north, the San Joaquin Valley merges into the Sacramento Valley, itself bounded by more mountains not shown on this illustration.

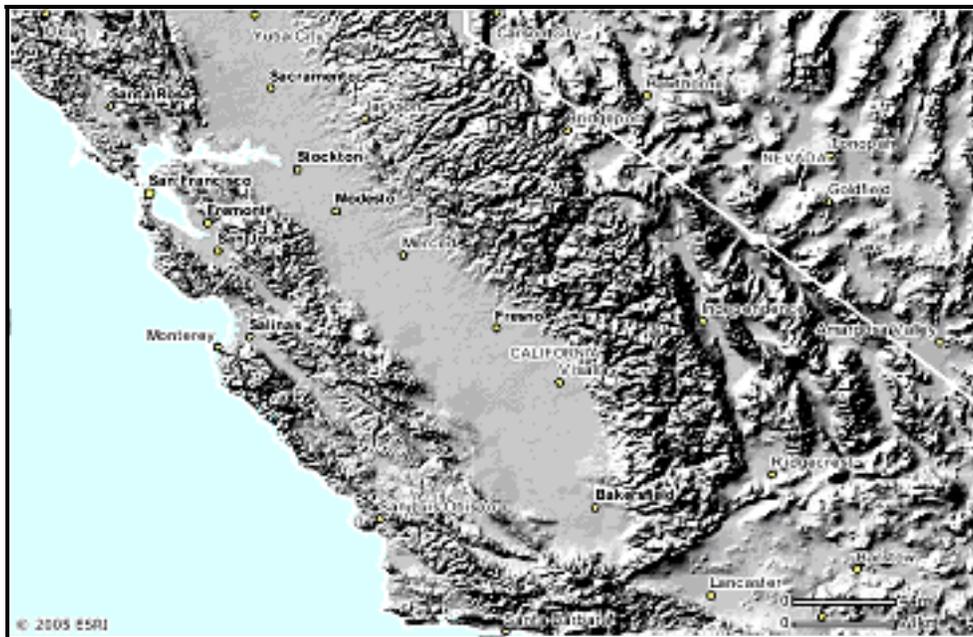


FIGURE 2. THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.  
Used with permission of the National Geographic Society  
<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>

The topographical facts summarized in Figure 2 are key to the nature of the region, to its environmental issues, and to its economic role in the state and the nation.

Two main arteries run north-south through the San Joaquin Valley: Interstate 5 and Highway 99 (Figure 3). Much of the commerce in and through the valley travels on those roads and much of the population of the San Joaquin Valley counties resides near them—especially Highway 99.

Highway 99 connects Stockton (San Joaquin County, north end of the San Joaquin Valley) to Bakersfield (Kern County, south end of the valley) by way of Modesto, Merced, Fresno, and Visalia. Interstate 5, newer and larger, connects Stockton to

Bakersfield (via a turn east at State Route 46 near Lost Hills in Kern County), but passes along the west side of the valley, not directly through the population centers.

When traffic and weather are good, it is only about a two hour drive from Stockton to Fresno via Highway 99, and about another two hours to Bakersfield.



FIGURE 3. MAIN ARTERIES THROUGH THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.

Used with permission of the National Geographic Society.

<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>

The eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley vary widely in population, area, population density, and topography. Fresno, Tulare, and Madera extend well into the foothills and mountains to the east, while San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, and Kings are more clearly confined to the valley. Kern County extends well into the Mojave Desert on the east. Countywide statistics, not to mention eight-county averages, encompass densely packed urban areas as well as large, sparsely populated rural stretches.

## POPULATION DISTRIBUTION AND GROWTH

Although the landscape of the San Joaquin Valley is predominantly rural, the region encompasses some sizeable cities. More than one-third (36.3 percent) of the entire population of the eight counties resides in just five cities, each of which has between 107,000 and 465,000 residents as of 2005. (The cities are Fresno, Bakersfield, Stockton, Modesto, and Visalia.)

The City of Fresno alone accounts for nearly one-eighth (12 percent) of the population of the entire eight-county region.

The San Joaquin Valley is also home to incorporated cities as small as Maricopa, in Kern County, population 1,147. The region includes several incorporated towns in the few-thousand-population range, some in the tens-of-thousands range, and 1.06 million residents of unincorporated areas. Residents of unincorporated areas account for 28.4 percent of the population of the eight counties. That is a substantially higher proportion than the 17.8 percent of the population of California as a whole living in unincorporated areas and is consistent with the relatively rural nature and relatively low population density of the region.

As in most areas of California, the population of the San Joaquin Valley counties is growing.

Figure 4 through Figure 10 illustrate some characteristics and trends.

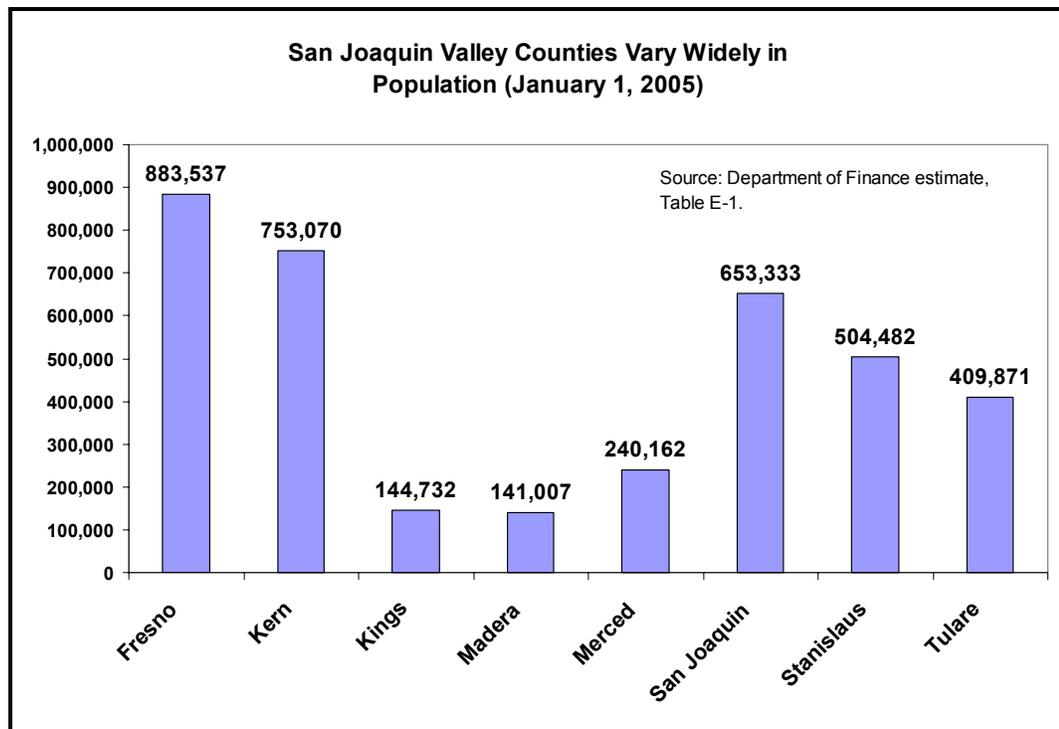


FIGURE 4. COUNTY POPULATIONS.

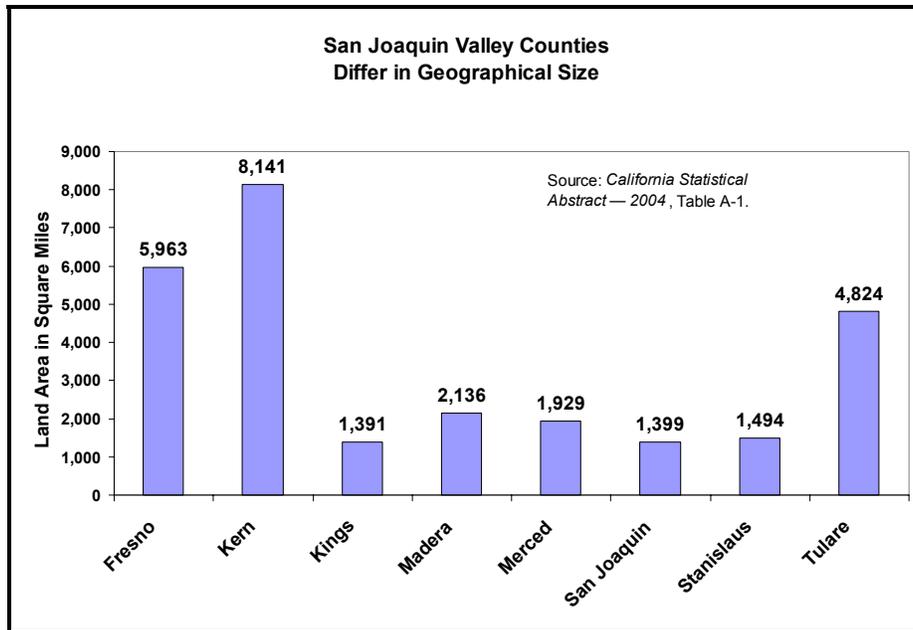


FIGURE 5. COUNTY AREAS.

The eight counties differ widely from one another in population density. The population density of the San Joaquin Valley region as a whole is less than that of California, but San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, the northernmost two, have much higher population density than California as a whole. Neither of those counties reaches into foothills or desert.

Such factors as amount of foothill and mountain land encompassed by individual counties, land in federal ownership, and proportion of prime farmland in each county affect potential future directions in population growth and density.

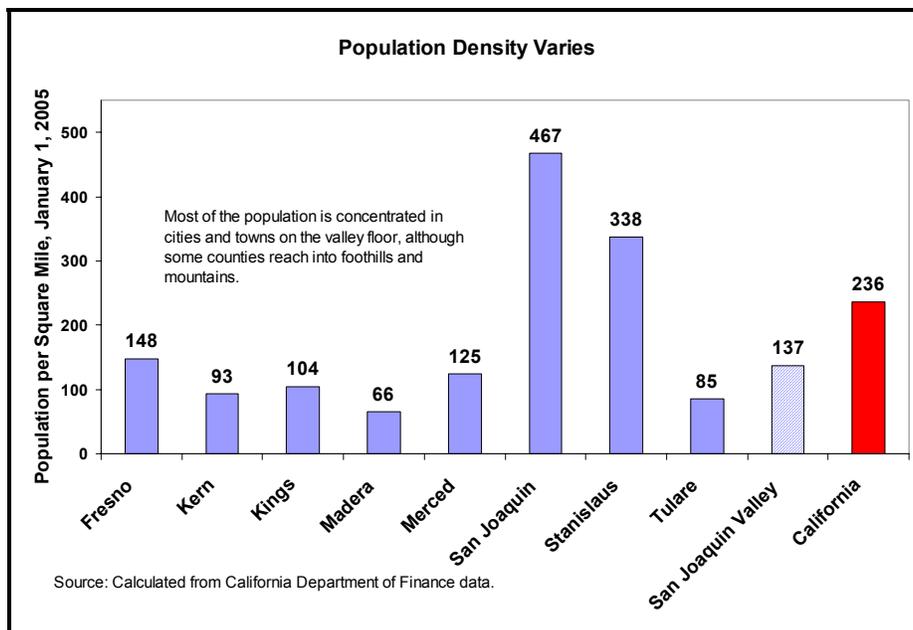


FIGURE 6. POPULATION DENSITY.

Over the last 30 years, 1975-2005, each county's population grew. Rates varied, but the trend is clear.

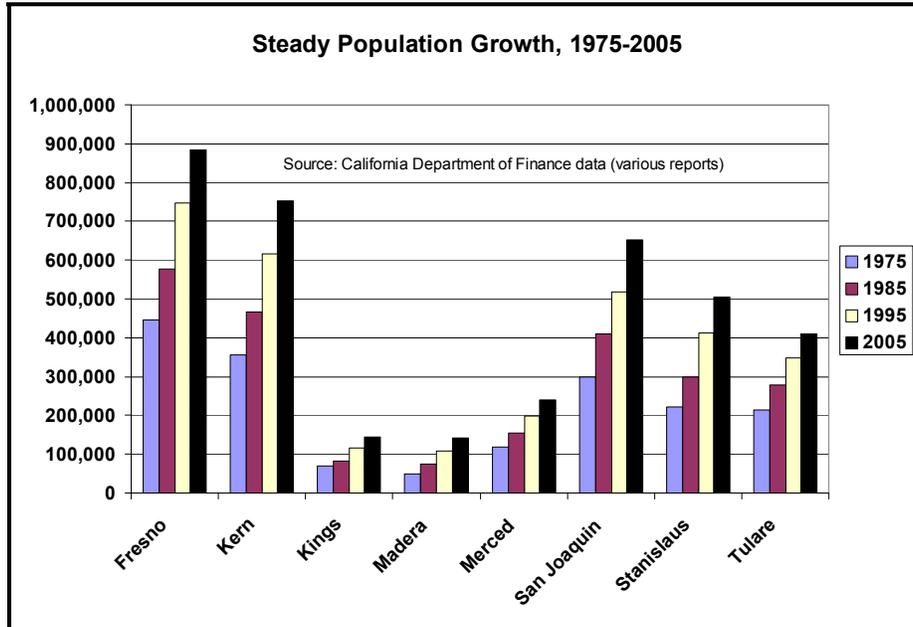


FIGURE 7. POPULATION GROWTH 1975-2005.

Even the slowest-growing of the eight counties between 1975 and 2005, Tulare (92 percent increase) grew faster than California as a whole (71 percent increase). The region saw its population grow by 111 percent from 1975 to 2005, 40 percentage points above the increase for the state as a whole. Madera's 193 percent growth was large, but based on a small population in 1975.

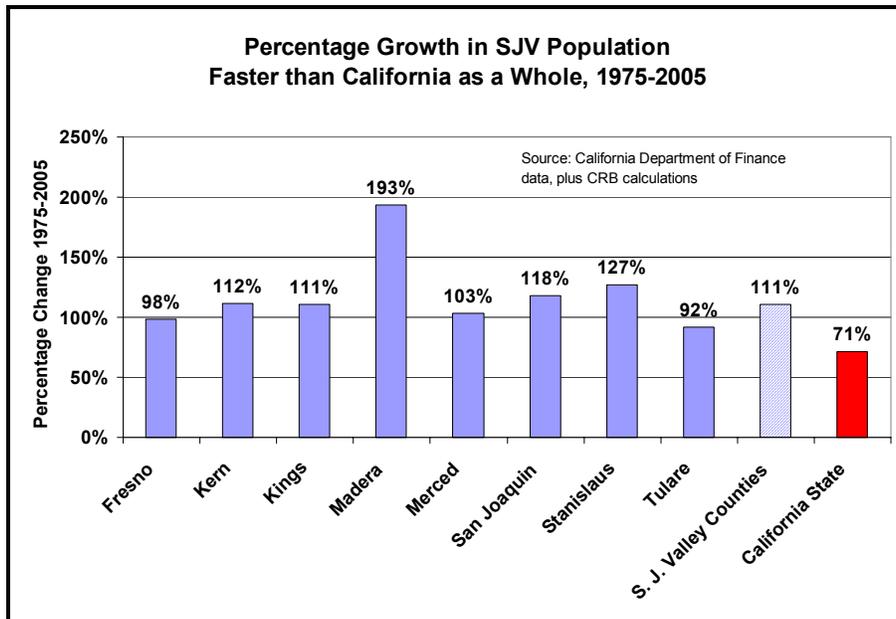


FIGURE 8. PERCENTAGE GROWTH IN POPULATION.

The Department of Finance expects the San Joaquin Valley's population to grow substantially from now until 2050 (Figure 9).<sup>1</sup>

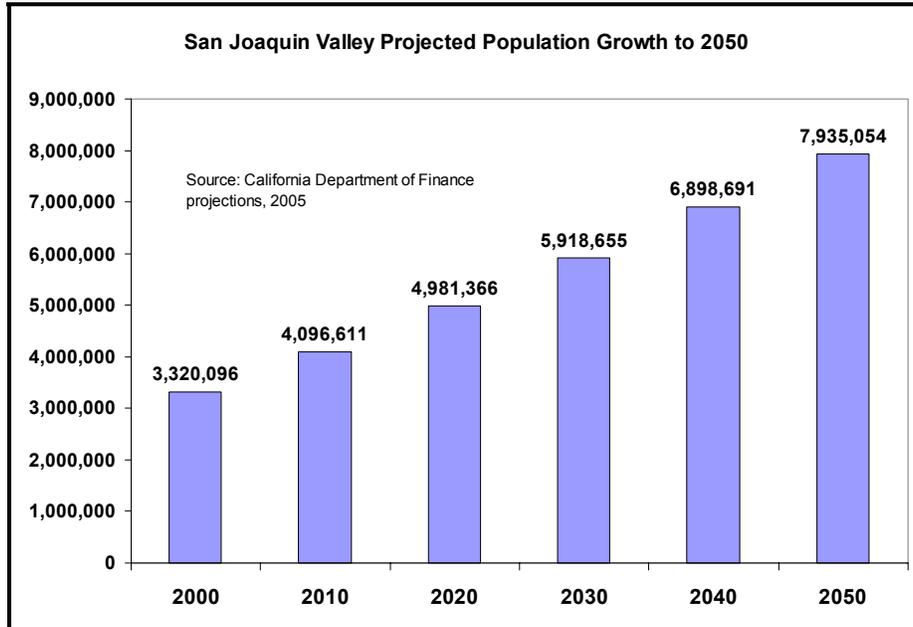


FIGURE 9. PROJECTED SJV POPULATION GROWTH TO 2050.

The California Department of Finance projects growth for each of the counties (Figure 10).

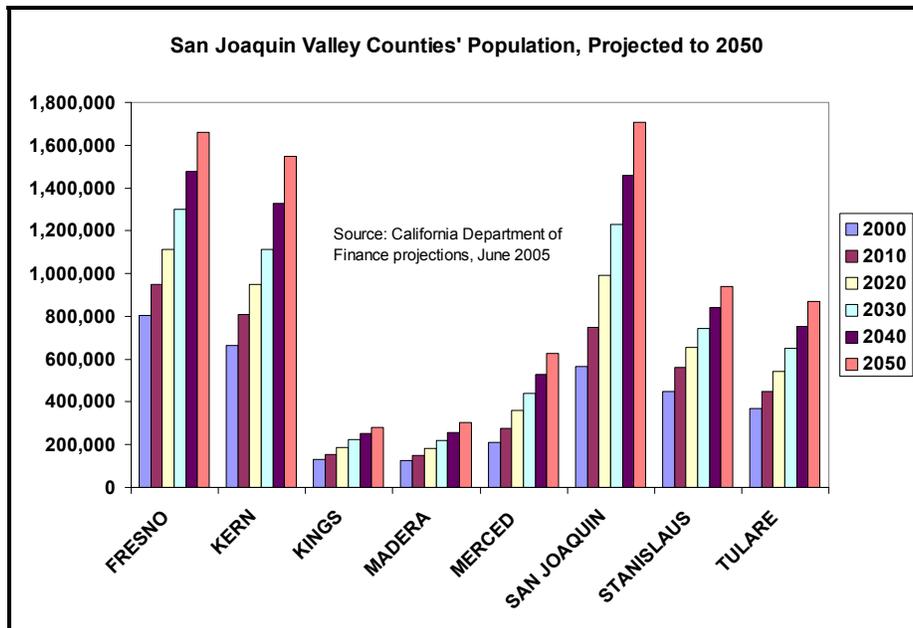


FIGURE 10. PROJECTED COUNTY GROWTH TO 2050.

## SELECTED DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

Six of the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley have higher percentages of Hispanic/Latino population than California as a whole (Figure 11).

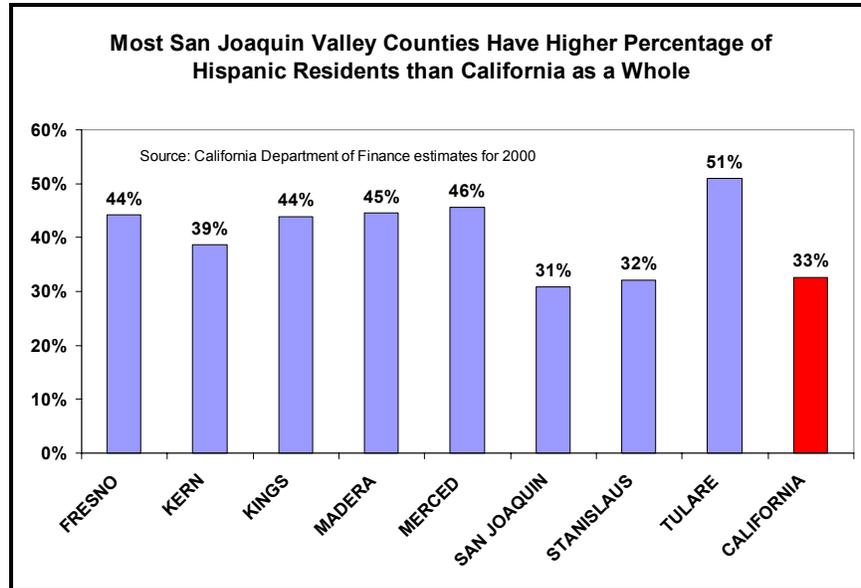


FIGURE 11. PERCENTAGE OF HISPANIC RESIDENTS, 2000.

The exceptions are San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, each of which is slightly below the statewide percentage.

The California Department of Finance projects significant growth in the percentage of population that is Hispanic between 2000 and 2020 in each of the San Joaquin Valley counties and in California as a whole (Figure 12).

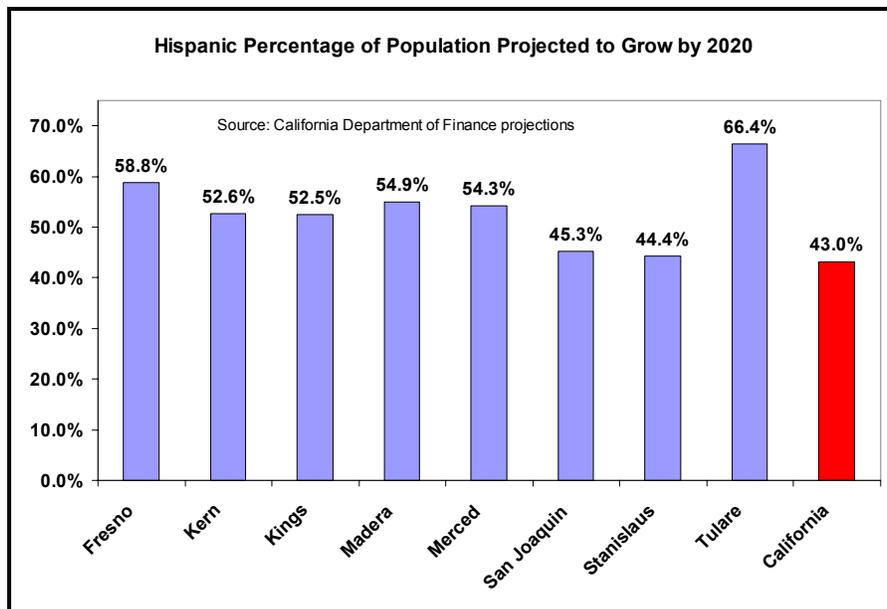


FIGURE 12. PROJECTED HISPANIC POPULATION PERCENTAGE, 2020.

The San Joaquin Valley counties have a higher percentage of residents under age 18 than California as a whole (Figure 13).

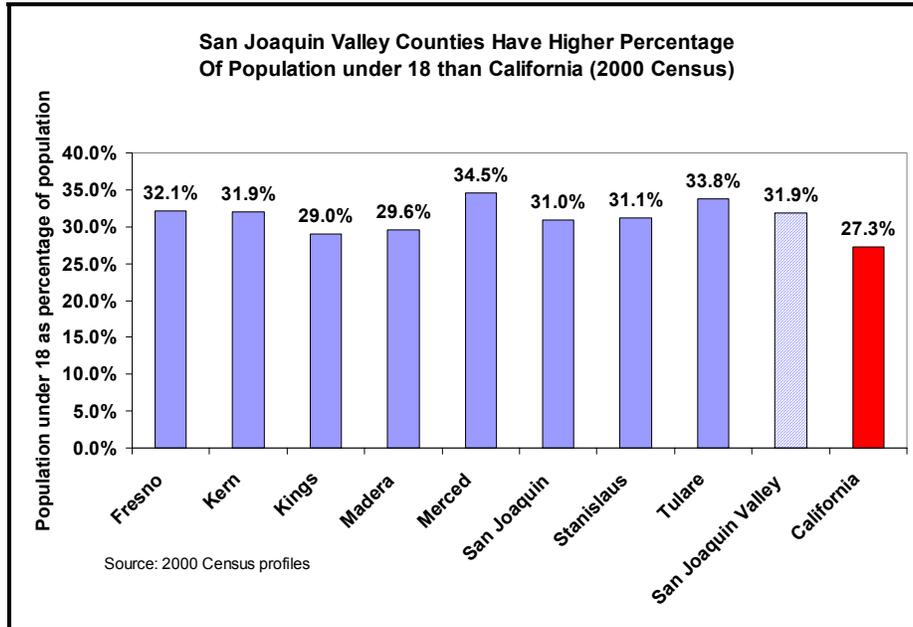


FIGURE 13. PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION UNDER 18.

The difference between California’s percentage of population under 18 (27.3 percent) and the region’s percentage (31.9 percent) is over four and one-half percentage points. That difference suggests relatively high needs for K-12 education, for child care services, and for child health services in the San Joaquin Valley.

The counties of the San Joaquin Valley vary in percentage foreign born, but all are below the statewide figure (Figure 14).

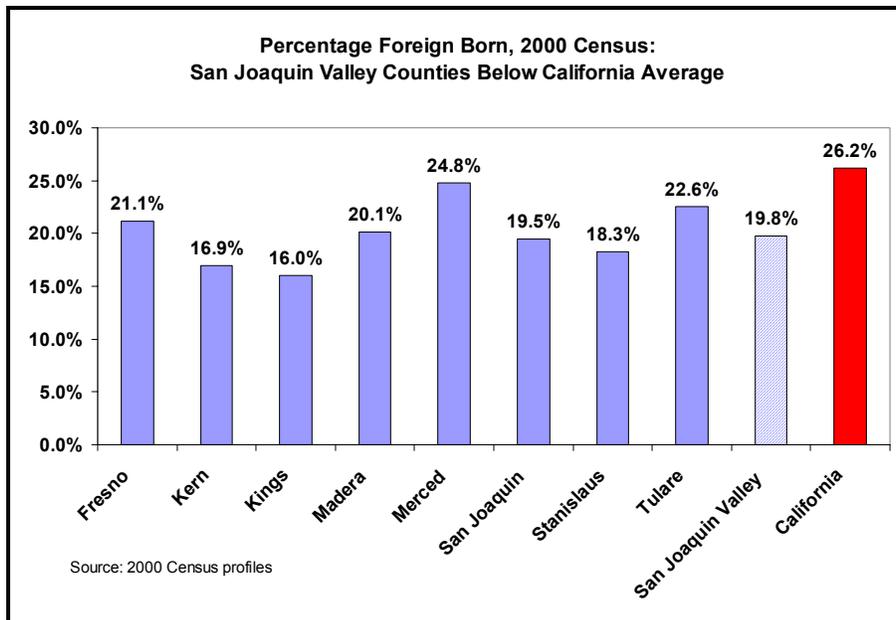


FIGURE 14. PERCENTAGE FOREIGN BORN.

Southern California’s Los Angeles County, with 36.2 percent of its large population being foreign born according to the 2000 Census, raises the overall figure for the State of California.

Households in the San Joaquin Valley counties have incomes below the average for California, as measured by median household income for 1999 (Figure 15). Although the numbers are several years old, the comparisons are not likely to have changed significantly since 1999.

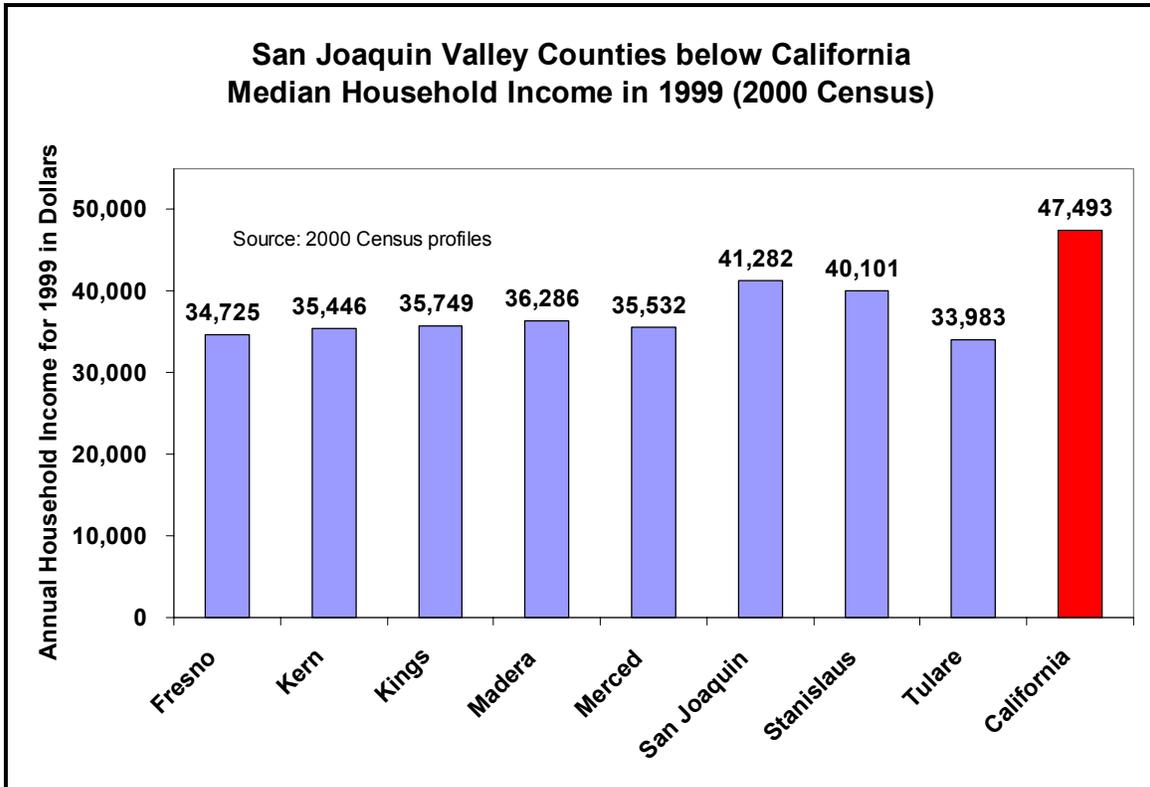


FIGURE 15. MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME, 1999.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The counties of the San Joaquin Valley are below the state average of educational attainment.

### *Measures of Attainment*

One measure of educational attainment is percentage of population age 25 and over with bachelor’s degree or higher (graduate or professional degree). Data from the 2000 Census show the comparison (Figure 16).

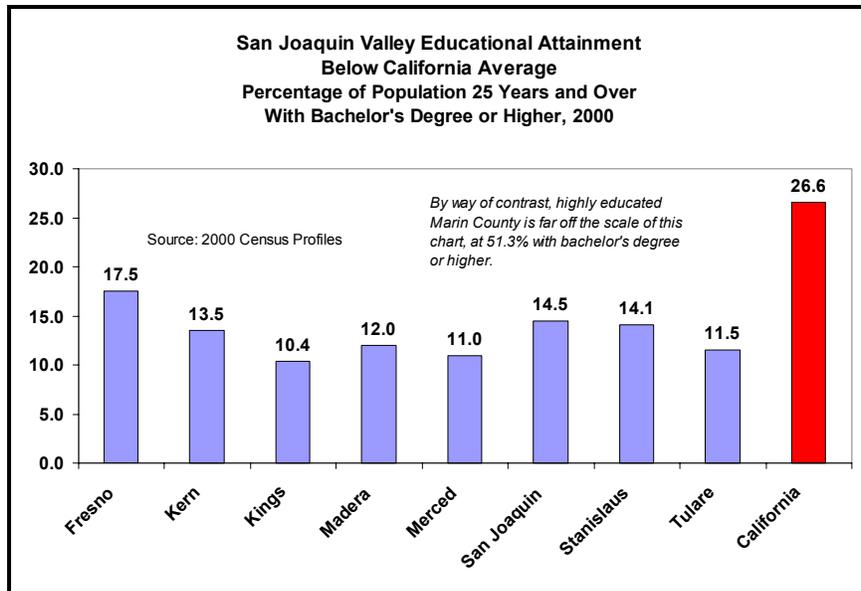


FIGURE 16. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT—BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER.

Fresno County ranks highest among the eight counties, but is still a little over 10 percentage points below the state average as of 2000.

Another measure of accomplishment is the percentage of public and private high school graduates who have completed the UC-required "A-G" coursework.<sup>2</sup> Data from the California Postsecondary Education Commission's *Student Profiles 2003* show the comparisons for the 2002 high school graduating class.

As Figure 17 shows for the 2002 graduating class, each of the eight San Joaquin Valley counties is below the state average on this measure, although Madera and San Joaquin counties are only a few percentage points below.

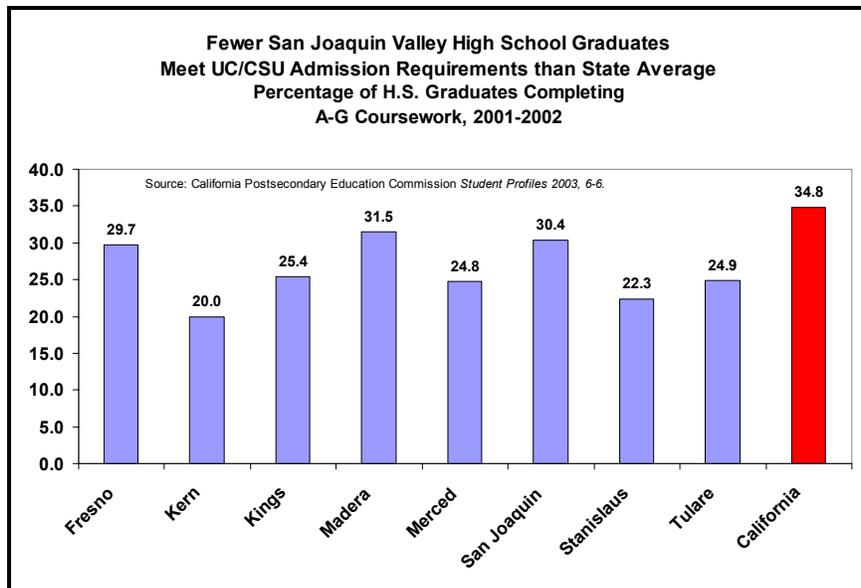


FIGURE 17. PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES MEETING UC/CSU ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS, 2002.

Although it is an impediment, not meeting the A-G coursework requirements does not close off college opportunity to students. Community colleges are still available to those who have not completed the A-G courses. Community colleges in turn offer both lower-division college education and a pathway to the University of California and California State University systems.

### ***University of California, Merced, Opens its Doors***

An effort to raise the level of educational opportunity and attainment is underway with the development of the new University of California campus at Merced.

In the fall of 2005, UC Merced welcomes its first students, numbering about one thousand. This new campus is the first one for UC in the San Joaquin Valley, and the first new UC campus in a generation.

This new campus offers two fundamental types of opportunity. The first is to make UC-level education more accessible to students in the San Joaquin Valley. The second is to bring a high level of academic research to bear on issues affecting the region.

The school will include

- The School of Engineering
- The School of Natural Sciences
- The School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and the Arts

According to the University's self-description, "Students will have opportunities to participate in research early in their university experience and will work with faculty to address real-life environmental and social issues throughout the Central Valley, Sierra Nevada and California. An emphasis on group learning inside and outside the classroom will create a comprehensive university learning experience."

Research will be conducted through

- The Sierra Nevada Research Institute
- The World Cultures Institute

In addition, UC Merced will participate with UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, and industrial partners in The Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society.<sup>3</sup>

About 250 students in the first class are from the Central Valley (from Placer County to Kern County) according to a UC Merced press release.<sup>4</sup> It is reasonable to anticipate that as the campus grows and as high schools and community colleges in the San Joaquin Valley work to improve preparation of students to attend UC, the number of UC Merced students from the eight-county region will grow.

## HEALTH AND MEDICAL INDICATORS

One broad comparative measure of health is the age-adjusted death rate. A higher age-adjusted death rate (more deaths per 100,000 population during a given period, adjusting for the ages of the population) suggests larger health challenges. By that measure, the counties of the San Joaquin Valley fare poorly in comparison to California as a whole (Figure 18).

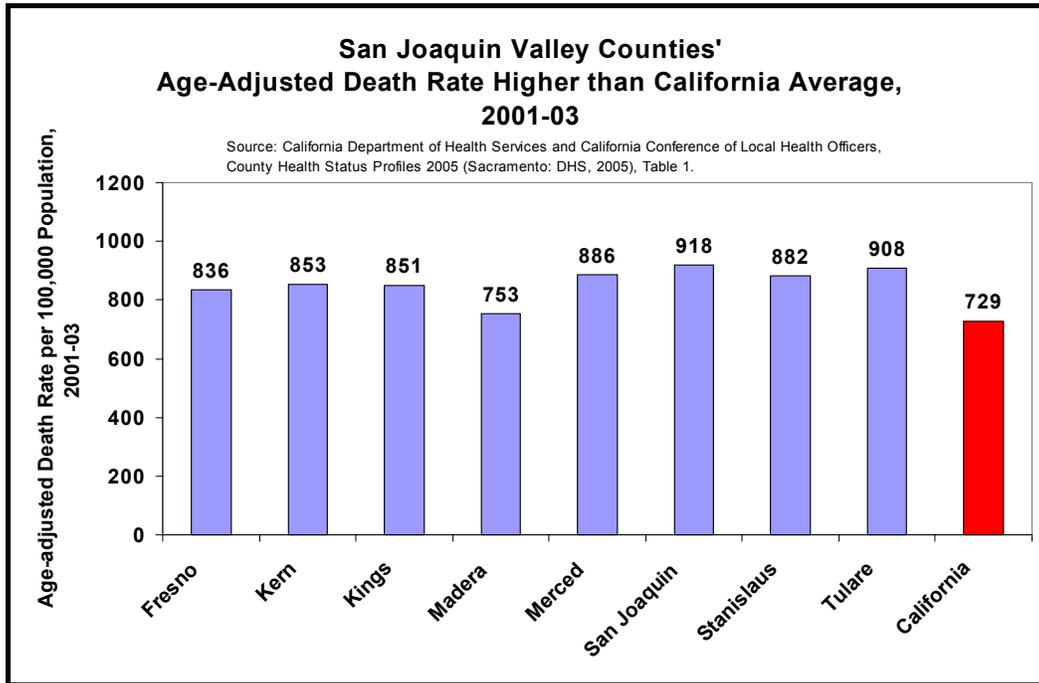


FIGURE 18. AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES.

An early start to prenatal care is important to maternal and child health and is another comparative indicator of community health. By this measure, the counties of the San Joaquin Valley fare less well than the State of California, which itself performs significantly below one reference standard, the Healthy People 2010 National Objective (Figure 19).

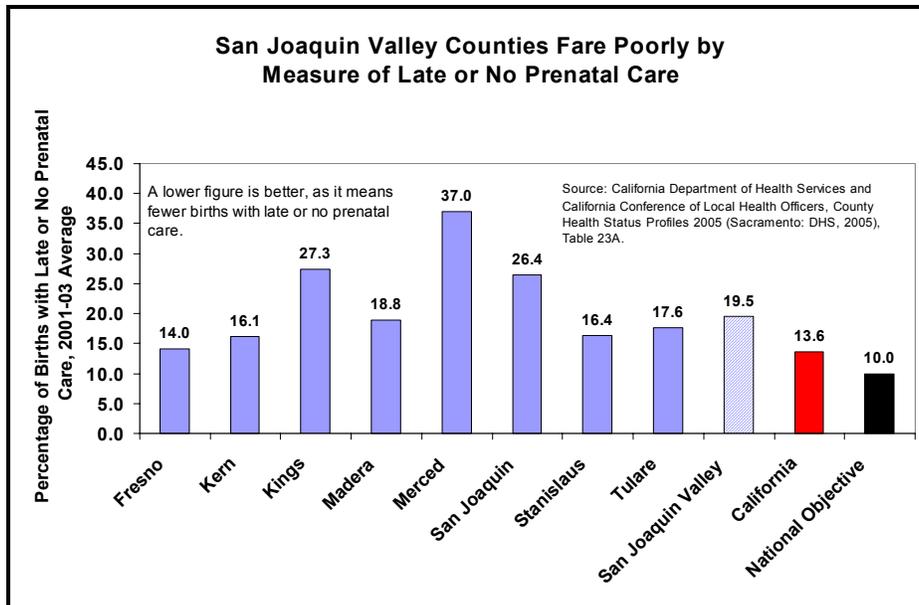


FIGURE 19. LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE.

A different view of the same issue, this time from the perspective of adequacy of care, is the percentage of live births with “adequate/adequate plus” prenatal care. By this measure, the San Joaquin Valley region fares less well than California, which is below the Healthy People 2010 National Objective (Figure 20).

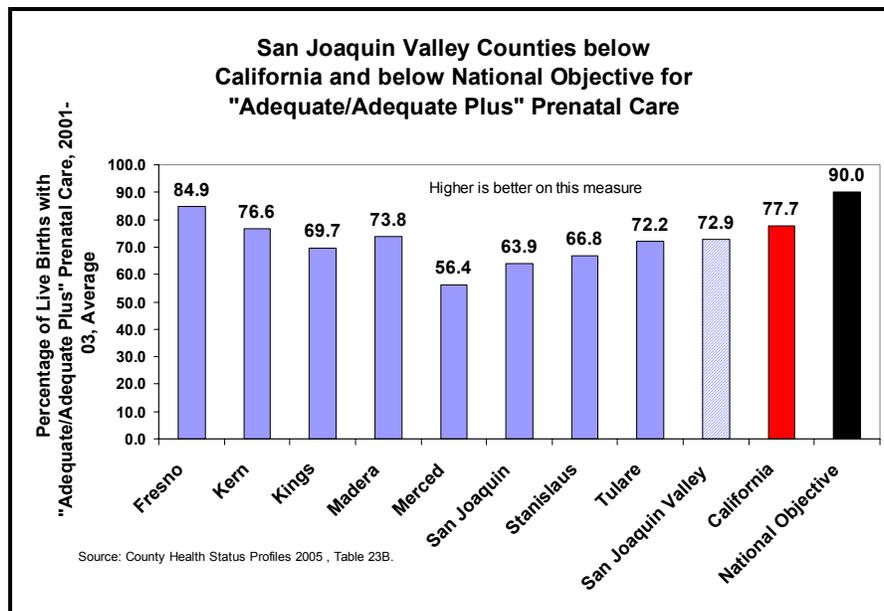


FIGURE 20. ADEQUATE/ADEQUATE PLUS PRENATAL CARE.

One measure of access to health care is the number of persons per physician. The counties of the San Joaquin Valley have relatively high ratios of population to physicians, according to Department of Health Services data for 2001, suggesting relatively low access (Figure 21).

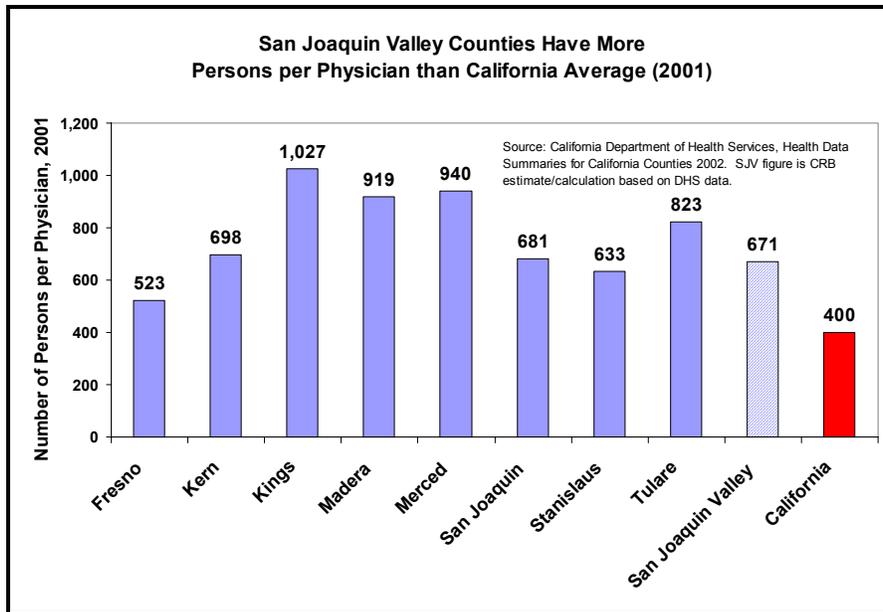


FIGURE 21. PERSONS PER PHYSICIAN.

County-by-county statistics can be misleading where patients might typically cross county lines for medical services. Residents of Kings County might obtain care in adjacent Fresno County, for example. But the figure for the eight counties as a whole (approximately 671 persons per physician) is clearly higher than the statewide average of 400, suggesting less access to medical care.

Another measure of access is licensed acute care hospital beds per thousand population (Figure 22).

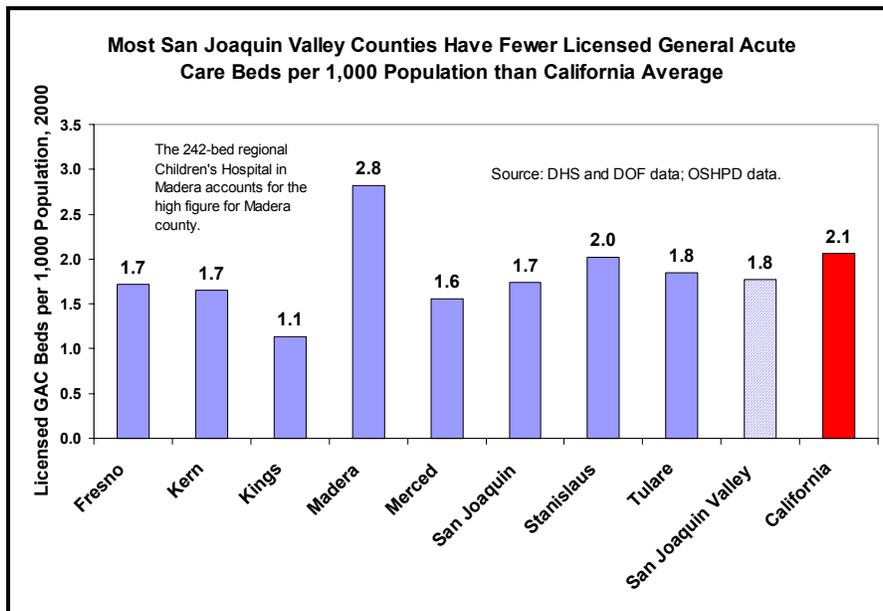


FIGURE 22. GENERAL ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL BEDS PER 1,000 POPULATION.

The San Joaquin Valley region falls below the California average for that statistic, although Madera County has a high reading on that measure as a result of the presence in that county of the regional Children's Hospital of Central California.

An indirect measure of health (it is primarily a measure of economic well-being) is the percentage of persons under age 18 in poverty. By that measure, each of the counties of the San Joaquin Valley fared less well than California as a whole, according to Census Bureau estimates for 2002, although Stanislaus was very close (Figure 23).

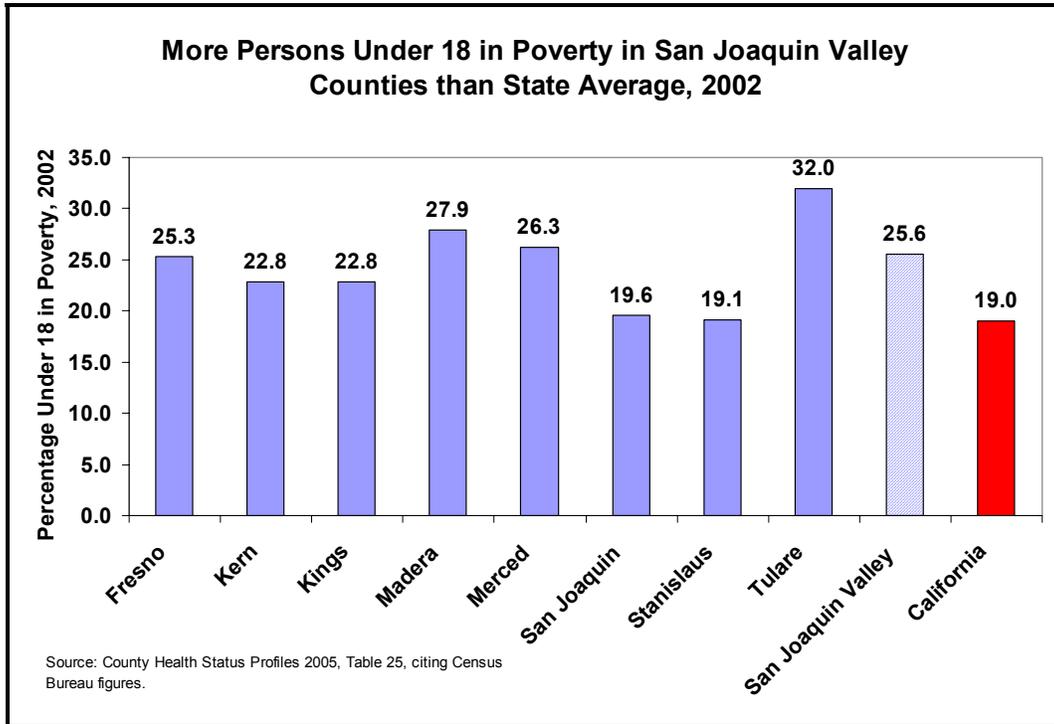


FIGURE 23. PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS UNDER 18 IN POVERTY.

## ECONOMY OF THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

The eight-county San Joaquin Valley region encompasses variations in industry and employment. Those variations will be explored in the county-by-county chapters that follow.

The northernmost of the counties, San Joaquin, is adjacent to relatively populous Sacramento County and to the San Francisco Bay Area counties of Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara. San Joaquin County has a far higher population density than the region as a whole (nearly three and a half times as high), is relatively compact, and is not among the counties encompassed by the federal Interagency Task Force for the Economic Development of the Central San Joaquin Valley. Perhaps surprisingly, given its high population density for the region, San Joaquin County also has the largest proportion of land in farms, 91 percent.

### *Agriculture, Heart of the San Joaquin Valley*

Agriculture is vital to the region in terms of land use, employment, and revenue. Farming is a major source of employment (13.8 percent of employment for the eight counties, in contrast to 2.5 percent for California as a whole).

In turn, the region is vital to California's agriculture. That emphasis on agriculture and its related industries, such as food processing, is one of the factors that distinguishes the San Joaquin Valley today from much of the rest of California. Stubbornly high unemployment, in part associated with the agricultural emphasis of the region, is another factor.

A 1928 book on California agriculture noted, "Los Angeles County, which produces nearly every farm crop and fruit that grows in America, led all counties in the United States in value of its crops in 1920."<sup>5</sup> What followed may serve as a caution for the San Joaquin Valley. Los Angeles County's leading agricultural position in the state and the nation continued only until 1949. Now heavily urbanized, Los Angeles County long ago lost its leading agricultural role, ranking 22<sup>nd</sup> in California for 2003 and much farther down the list nationally.

Fresno County—which assumed the leading role by 1954, with Los Angeles being 3<sup>rd</sup> and Kern 2<sup>nd</sup> in that year—is now the leading agricultural county in California and in the United States.

<b>California's Top 10 Agricultural Counties, 2003</b> California Agricultural Statistics Service (CASS) <sup>6</sup>		
<b>County</b>	<b>Total Value (\$1,000)</b>	<b>Leading Commodities</b>
1. Fresno	4,052,767	Grapes, tomatoes, cotton, cattle and calves, poultry
2. Tulare	3,294,660	Milk, navel and Valencia oranges, grapes, cattle and calves, plums
3. Monterey	3,288,468	Head and romaine lettuce, salad greens, strawberries, broccoli, wine grapes
4. Kern	2,477,526	Grapes, almonds and by-products, all citrus, all carrots, all milk
5. Merced	1,918,230	Market milk, chickens, almonds, cattle and calves, sweet potatoes
6. San Joaquin	1,494,693	All milk, all grapes, almond meats, all tomatoes, all cherries
7. Stanislaus	1,454,928	Market milk, almonds, chickens, fruit/vine/nut nursery, English walnuts
8. San Diego	1,351,059	Cut flowers and foliage plants, nursery plants, avocados, eggs, strawberries
9. Kings	1,136,966	All milk, all cotton, cattle and calves, alfalfa hay, pistachios
10. Ventura	1,117,567	Strawberries, nursery stock, lemons, celery, avocados

In 2003 Fresno had a total agricultural production value of \$4.05 billion, according to the California Agricultural Statistics Service, or more than twelve times that of Los Angeles County for 2003. Other San Joaquin Valley counties also hold prominent positions in the list of leading agricultural producing counties. All are rapidly gaining population and all are converting some cropland to other uses and at risk of converting more over the next few decades as population doubles or triples in each county.

Much of the eight counties' farmland is enrolled under the Williamson Act (Land Conservation Act) or other farmland protection programs (Figure 24). Approximately 60 percent of the nonfederal land in the eight-county San Joaquin Valley region appears to be enrolled in some type of land conservation program.<sup>7</sup>

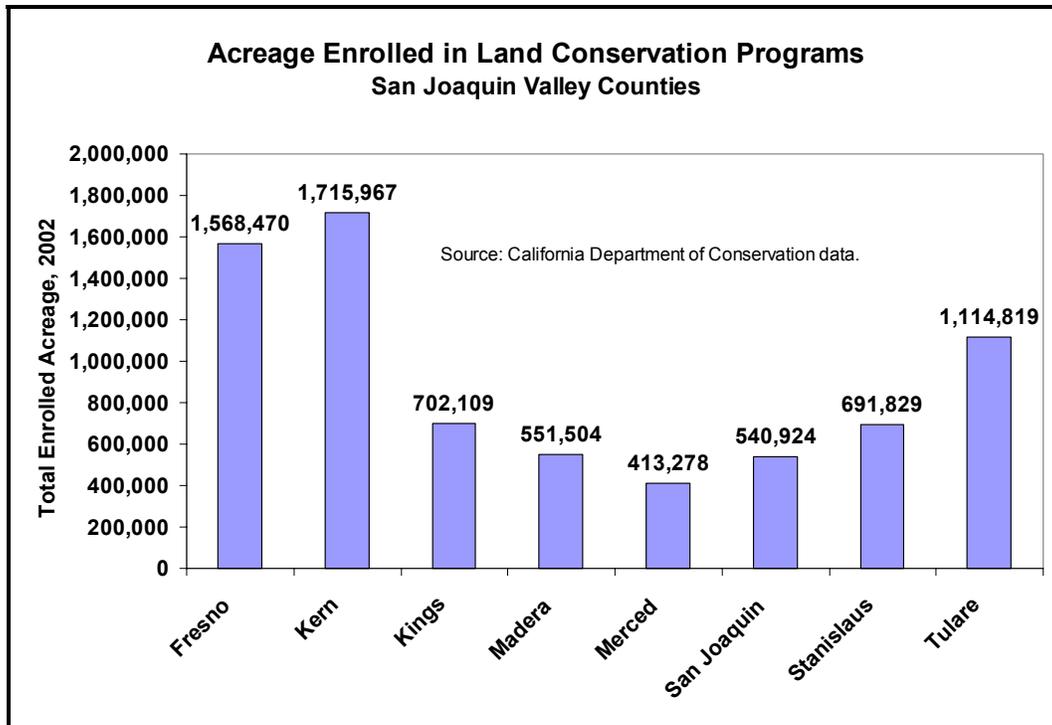


FIGURE 24. FARMLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM ENROLLMENT.

### *Other Economic Sectors*

Local and state government are major employers in the region (17.7 percent of employment, 2004; the statewide figure is 14.4 percent).<sup>8</sup>

Also important throughout the region is retail trade, at 6.2 to 10.4 percent of employment in each of the eight counties.

Health care is an important employment sector, ranging as high as 8.3 percent of employment in 2004. Construction accounts for around 5 percent of employment (less in some counties, more in others), and has been a recent area of growth, aided by a housing boom in the region.<sup>9</sup>

Other significant contributors to employment include professional and business services (as high as 7.5 percent, Fresno County; 7.4 percent, Kern County; 7.2 percent, San Joaquin County; 6.9 percent, Stanislaus County), and accommodation and food services.

## **LABOR FORCE, EMPLOYMENT, AND UNEMPLOYMENT**

The counties of the San Joaquin Valley region encompass 9.3 percent of California's labor force, 8.9 percent of California's employment, and 14.9 percent of California's unemployment, according to Department of Employment Development data for 2004. In short, employment is disproportionately low and unemployment is disproportionately high (Figure 25).

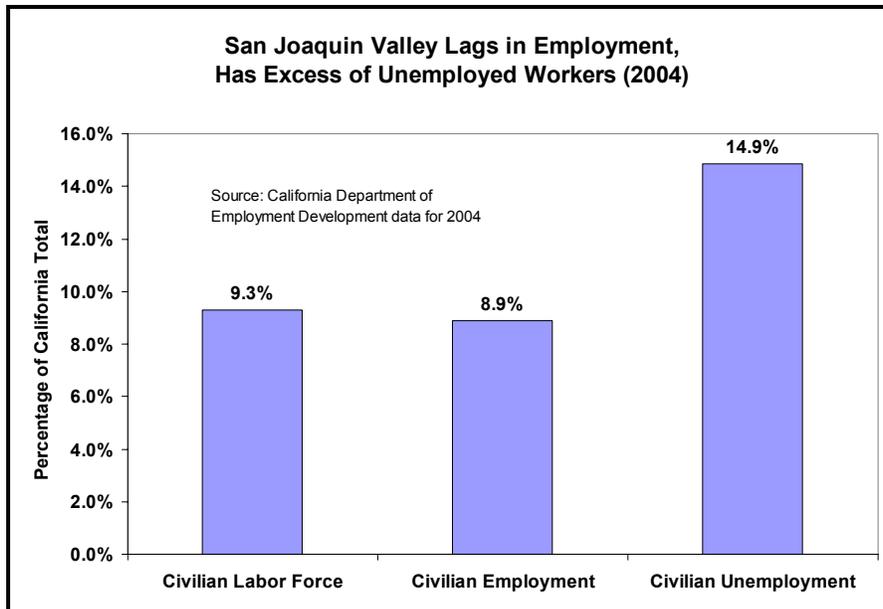


FIGURE 25. LABOR FORCE, CIVILIAN EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT.

Unemployment rates for 2004 (Figure 26) illustrate the contrast between the San Joaquin Valley region (and each of its counties) and the statewide average. The comparative picture of the region vs. the state has been similar year after year.

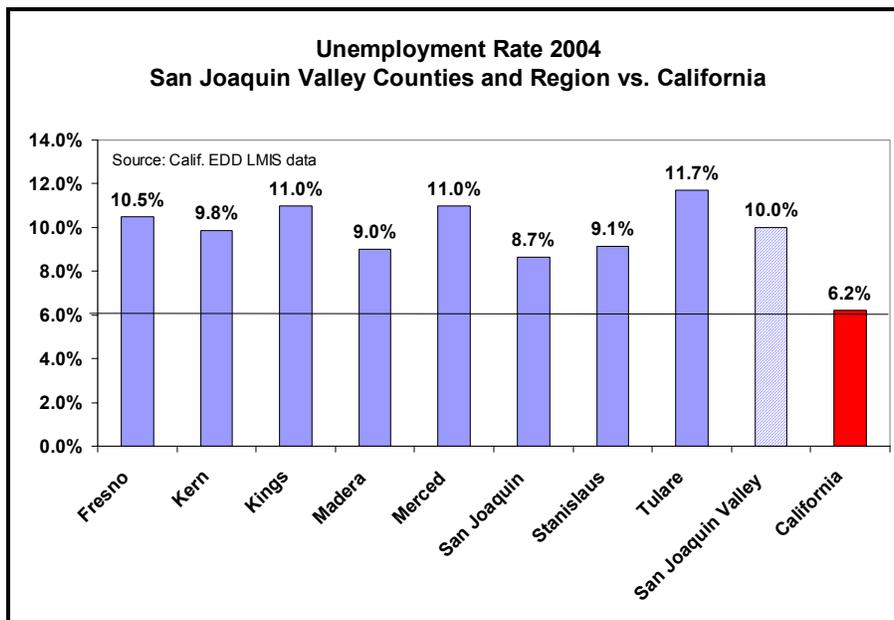


FIGURE 26. UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 2004, SJV AND STATE.

The San Joaquin Valley counties' share of California's farm employment is 46.5 percent of California's total (172,200 of the statewide 370,300), according to EDD data for 2004 (Figure 27).

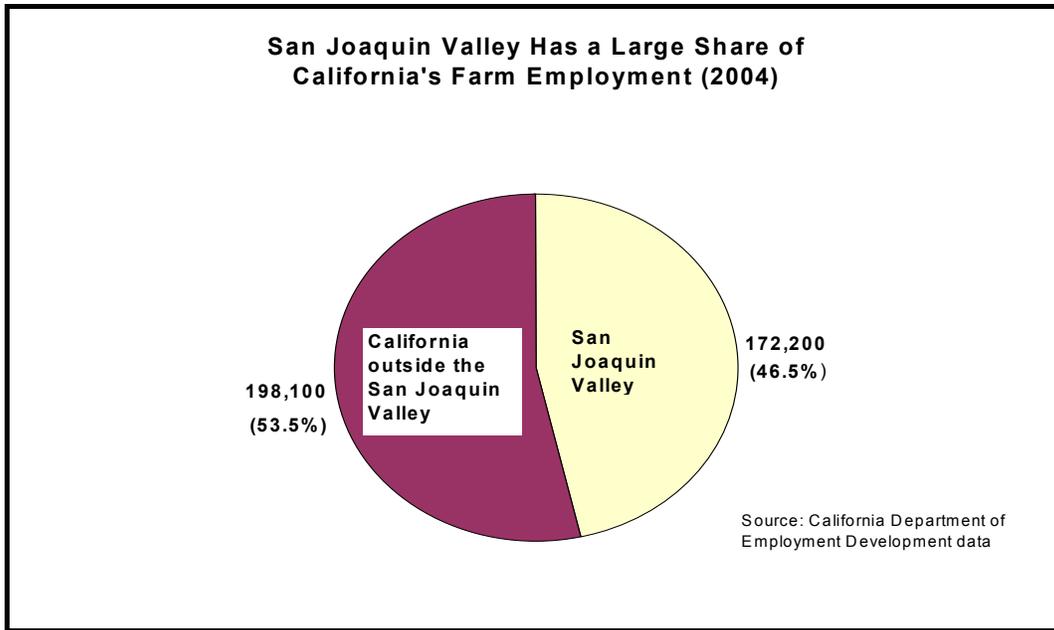


FIGURE 27. FARM EMPLOYMENT.

Farm employment as a percentage of total employment in the San Joaquin Valley ranges from 7.3 percent in San Joaquin County and 8.3 percent in Stanislaus County to 22.5 percent in Tulare County and 23.6 percent in Madera County, in contrast to 2.5 percent for California as a whole. The overall percentage for the San Joaquin Valley region (the eight counties) is 13.8 percent, just over five and one-half times the percentage for California as a whole (Figure 28).

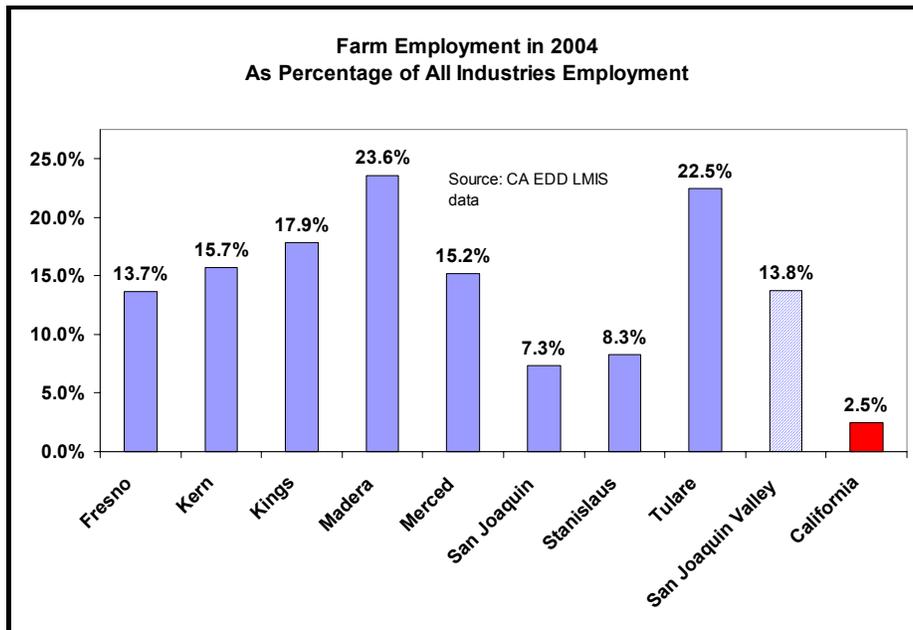


FIGURE 28. FARM EMPLOYMENT AS PERCENTAGE OF ALL EMPLOYMENT, 2004.

State and local governments are major employers in the counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

Each of the eight counties has a higher percentage of state and local government employees than the state as a whole.<sup>10</sup> The eight San Joaquin Valley counties taken together have 17.7 percent of their employment in state and local government jobs, in comparison to 14.4 percent for California as a whole (Figure 29).<sup>11</sup>

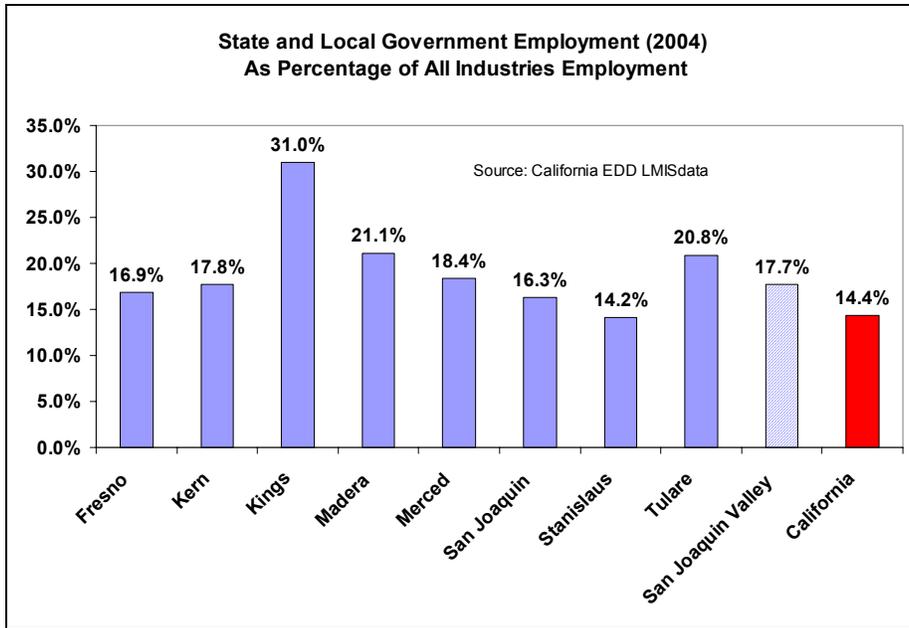


FIGURE 29. STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

Federal employment varies among the eight counties (FIGURE 30). For the eight counties as a whole, 2.3 percent of employment is with the federal government, well above the 1.7 percent figure for California as a whole. Individually, county percentages range from 0.7 percent (Madera and Stanislaus counties) to 3.8 percent (Kern County).

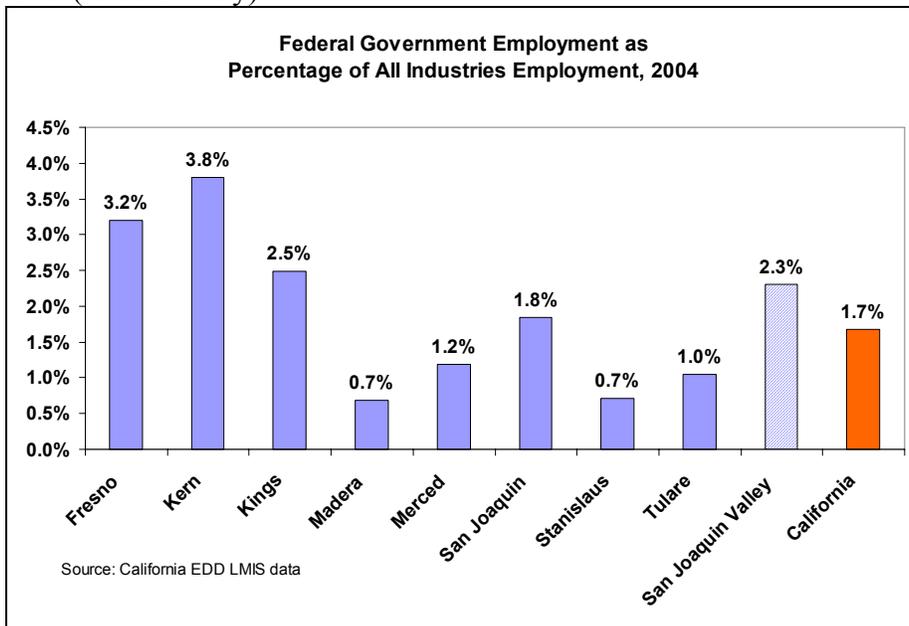


FIGURE 30. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.

For the eight-county San Joaquin Valley region, using 2004 data, 20.0 percent of employment is with some level of government (local, state, or federal), in comparison to 16.1 percent for California as a whole.

## **COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES**

This section offers a few additional comparisons between the San Joaquin Valley and the state as a whole, as well as some comparisons to other states.

### ***Population Growth***

The population of the San Joaquin Valley counties, 3.73 million, is 10.1 percent of the population of California as a whole, 36.8 million (2005 estimate).

Although the San Joaquin Valley's population is growing quickly, the region's population is dwarfed by the most populous counties in California, especially Los Angeles County, population a little over 10.2 million. From 2000 to 2005, Los Angeles County added over 707,000 people, a number that exceeded the entire 2005 population of each of the San Joaquin Valley counties except Fresno and Kern.

If the population growth in Los Angeles County and in San Diego, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties, were to shift to the San Joaquin Valley, the impact would be enormous. As it is, each of the San Joaquin Valley's eight counties is growing faster than the state average for 2000 to 2005 and far faster than Los Angeles County in percentage terms. (Los Angeles County is so populous that a modest percentage increase adds a large number of people. If Los Angeles County had grown at the percentage rate of the San Joaquin Valley, it would have added 1.2 million people rather than 0.7 million between 2000 and 2005.)

Five of the San Joaquin Valley counties, San Joaquin, Madera, Merced, Kern, and Stanislaus, are among the ten fastest growing counties in California for 2000 to 2005 (Figure 31).

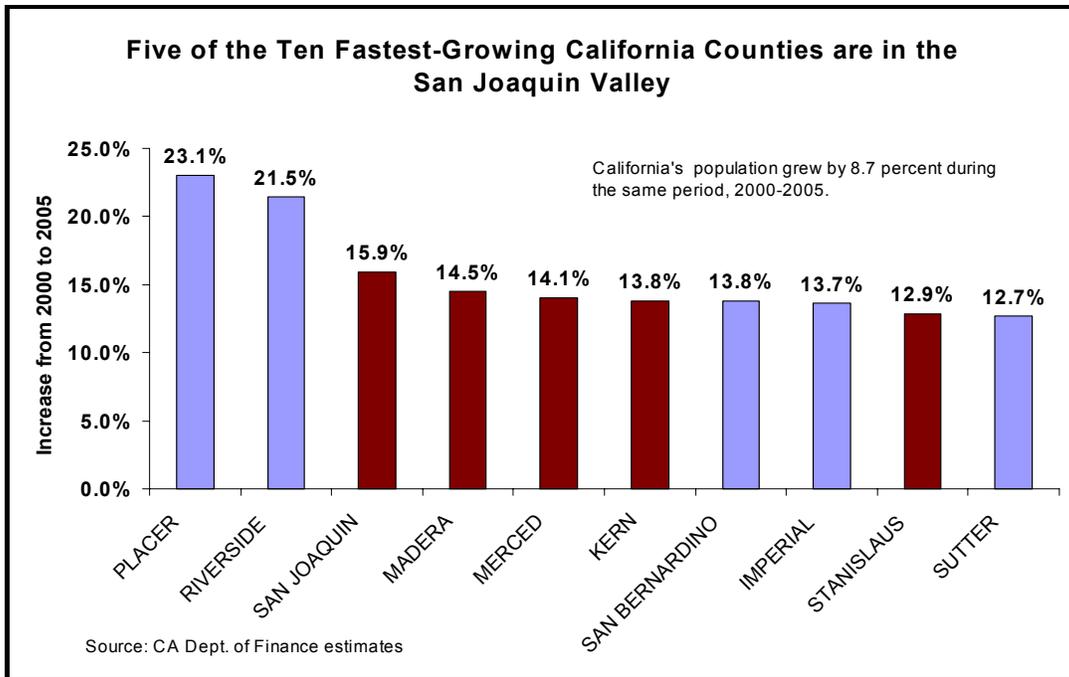


FIGURE 31. FASTEST-GROWING COUNTIES.

The other three San Joaquin Valley counties—Kings, Tulare, and Fresno—rank 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> in 2000-2005 population growth rate, respectively.

Growth is projected to be rapid in coming decades, with seven of the San Joaquin Valley counties among the 16 fastest-growing in California, according to Department of Finance projections (Figure 32).

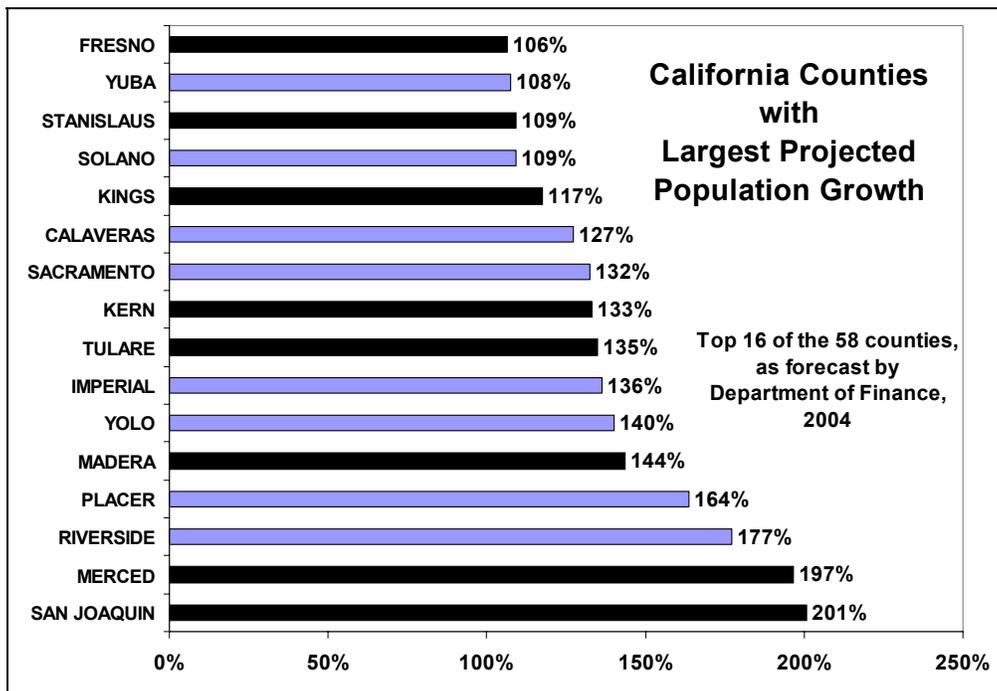


Figure 32. Largest Projected Growth Rates.

If growth is ranked by number of added residents rather than by percentage growth, six of the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley (all but Kings and Madera) fall within the sixteen fastest-growing, as projected from 2000 to 2050 (Figure 33).

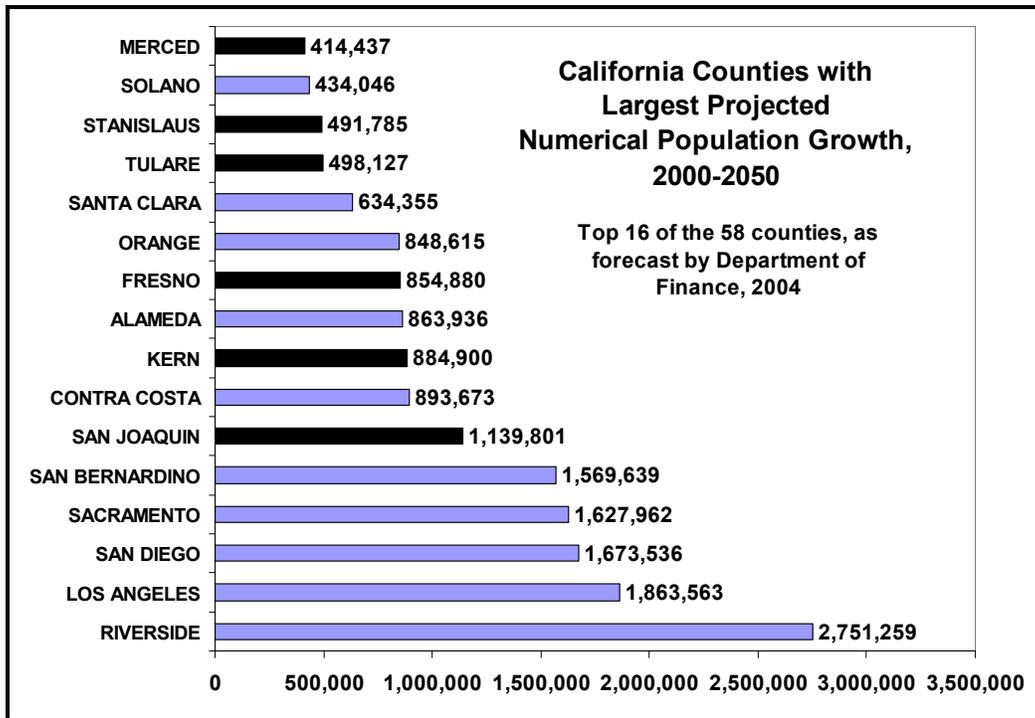


FIGURE 33. LARGEST PROJECTED NUMERICAL GROWTH.

From 2000 to 2005 the San Joaquin Valley region added 427,394 residents, equivalent to almost the entire population of the City of Fresno at the start of that period. Department of Finance projections suggest that from 2000 to 2050 the total population of the eight counties will grow by the equivalent of nearly 11 cities of Fresno.<sup>12</sup>

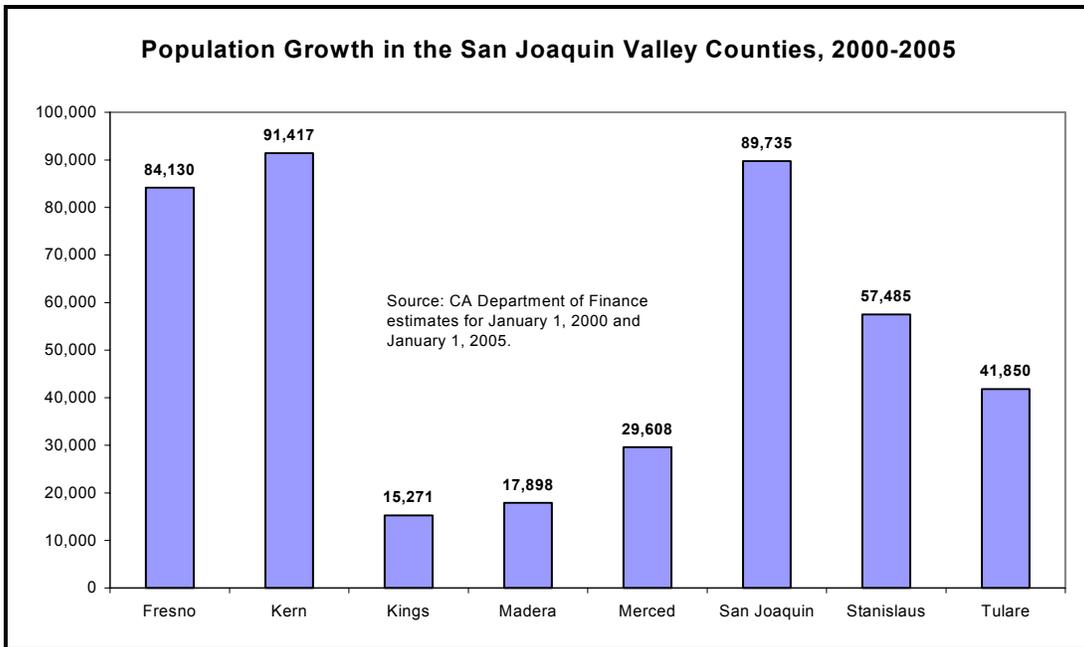


FIGURE 34. POPULATION GROWTH IN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY COUNTIES.

During the 2000-2005 period the San Joaquin Valley edged upwards as a percentage of California's population, from 9.75 percent to 10.13 percent, according to Department of Finance estimates.

The Department of Finance projects that the San Joaquin Valley will be home to an increasing percentage of California's population in the coming decades (Figure 35).

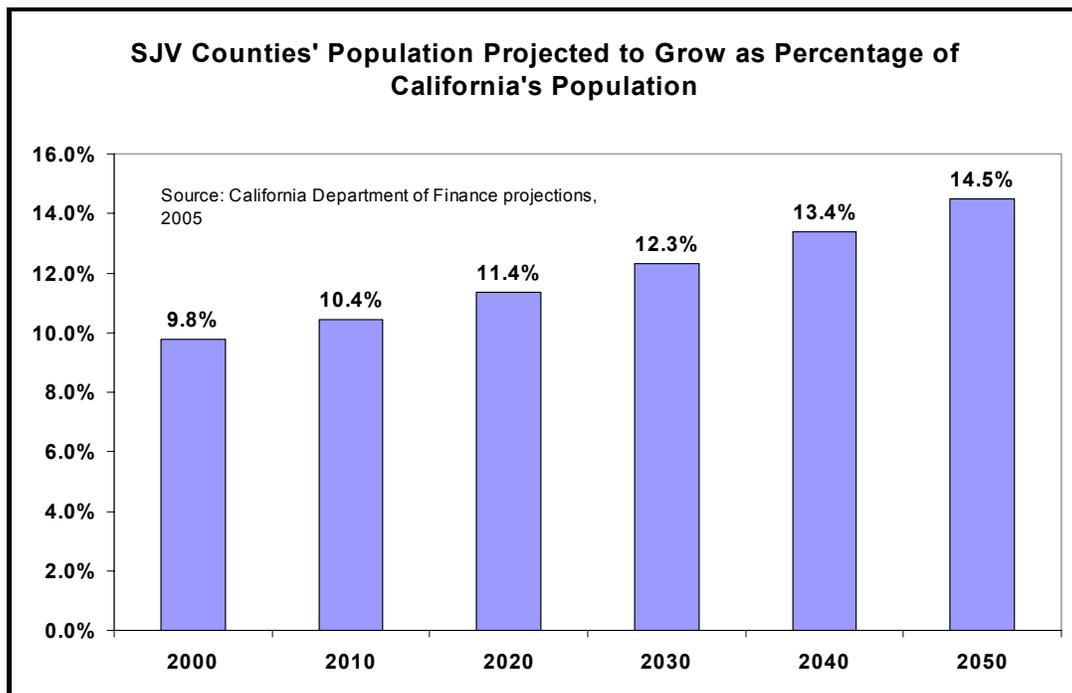


FIGURE 35. SJV COUNTIES' POPULATION AS PERCENTAGE OF CALIFORNIA, TO 2050.

## *Land*

The land area of the San Joaquin Valley's eight counties, 27,276 square miles, is 17 percent of that of California as a whole. The eight counties encompass 36 percent of the farm acreage of the State of California. About 28 percent of California's land is in farms, while twice as much (57 percent) of the San Joaquin Valley counties' land is in farms, according to the 2002 Census of Agriculture.

Figure 36 through Figure 38 show the San Joaquin Valley's slice of California's population, land area, and farm acreage. The eight San Joaquin Valley counties encompass:

- 10 percent of California's population
- 17 percent of California's land area
- 36 percent of California's farm acreage

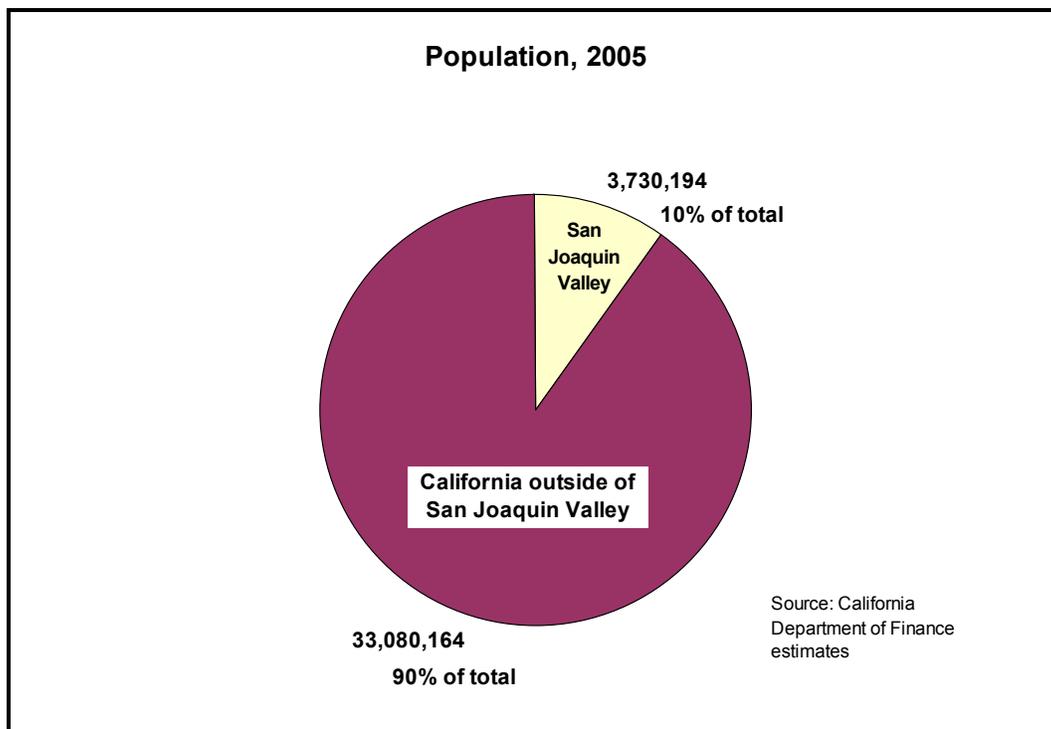


FIGURE 36. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SHARE OF CALIFORNIA POPULATION, 2005.

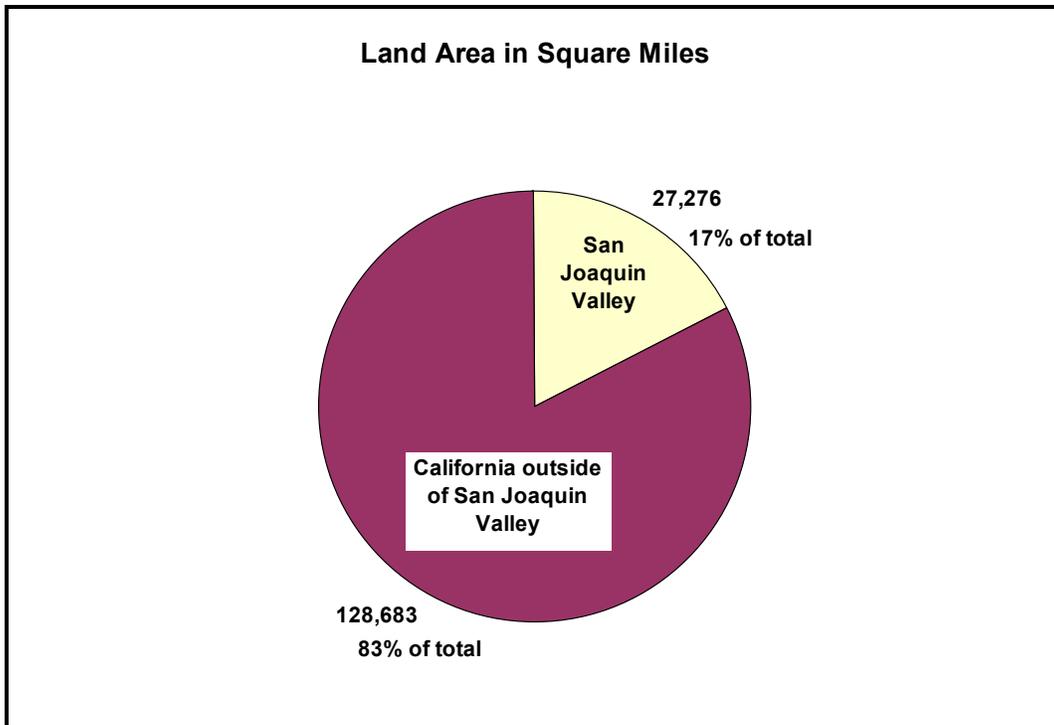


FIGURE 37. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SHARE OF CALIFORNIA LAND AREA.

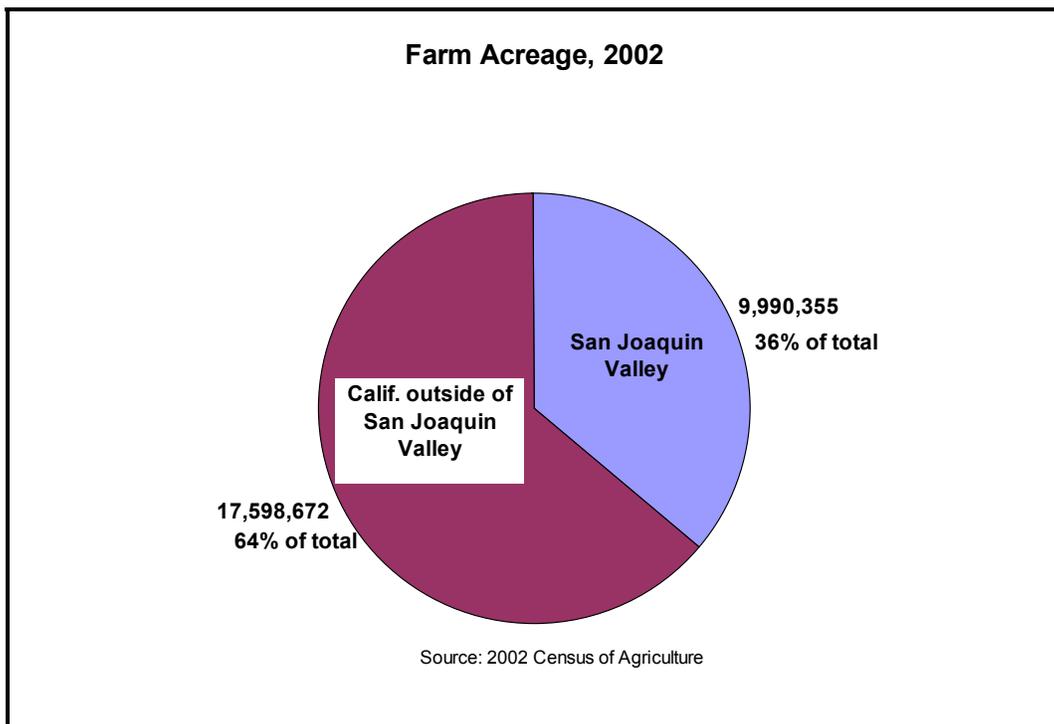


FIGURE 38. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SHARE OF CALIFORNIA FARM ACREAGE, 2002.

Although the San Joaquin Valley counties are home to 8.9 percent of California's employed workers and 9.3 percent of California's labor force, those counties encompass 46.5 percent of California's farm employment.<sup>13</sup>

### *Comparisons to States*

According to Census estimates for 2003, the San Joaquin Valley's 3.5 million population is approximately equal to the population of the State of Oregon and is larger than the population of each of 22 other states.

If the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley were a state, that state's population would be approximately tied for 28<sup>th</sup> among the (hypothetical) 51 states.

The San Joaquin Valley's 27,276 square mile land area (eight-county total) is larger than the land area of 10 states. It is only about 10 percent less than the land area of two other states (Maine and South Carolina).

The total market value of the eight counties' agricultural products sold in 2002 exceeded the market value of agricultural products sold by every state except California and Texas. The eight San Joaquin Valley counties accounted for 6.2 percent of the value of agricultural products sold in the entire United States and for 48.6 percent of agricultural products sold in California, according to the 2002 Census of Agriculture.<sup>14</sup>

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

The San Joaquin Valley faces challenges with respect to water and air.\*

#### *Water Quality*

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Administration's "EnviroMapper for Water," essentially all of the San Joaquin Valley is an area of impaired water (Figure 39).<sup>15</sup>

A previous California Research Bureau report on the San Joaquin Valley included a set of watershed maps that showed the same point in more detail.<sup>16</sup> Figure 39 suggests that the fundamental situation of water quality impairment continues and will require both local and regional efforts to manage sources of pollution and to correct longstanding drainage problems associated with soil conditions and agricultural practices.<sup>17</sup>

---

\* Water supply is a complex issue and a challenge for the region. That topic is not addressed in this report as a result of limitations of time and space. See the California Department of Water Resources California Water Plan, [www.waterplan.water.ca.gov](http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov), for information on this topic.

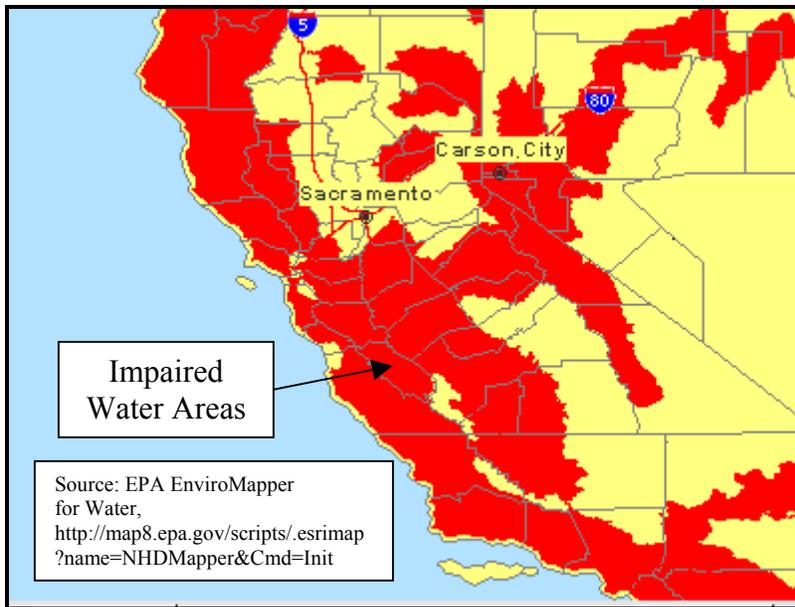


FIGURE 39. CALIFORNIA'S IMPAIRED WATER AREAS.

***Air Quality***

The San Joaquin Valley air basin is in the heart of California. It encompasses all eight of the San Joaquin Valley counties except for the eastern portion of Kern County, which is in the Mojave Desert air basin (Figure 40).



FIGURE 40. CALIFORNIA'S AIR BASINS.

Figure 41, from the California Air Resources Board site, shows that the entire San Joaquin Valley air basin is a “nonattainment” area.

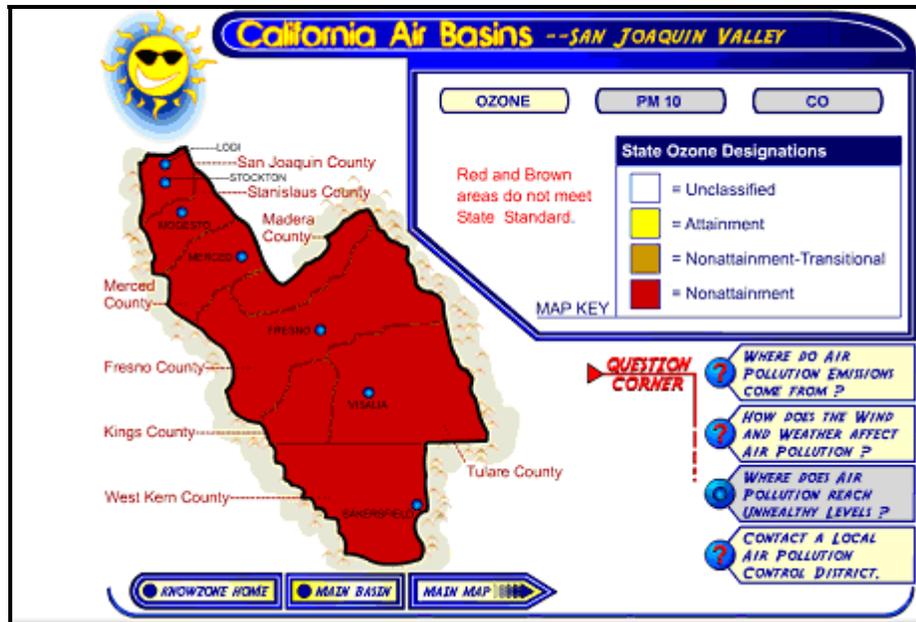


FIGURE 41. SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR BASIN.

Fundamental to the problem of air quality is that the Great Central Valley, the sum of the Sacramento Valley and the San Joaquin Valley, is an enormous basin that tends to trap contaminants (Figure 42).



FIGURE 42. CENTRAL VALLEY AIR BASIN.

Image © 2003 William A. Bowen (<http://geogdata.csun.edu>). Used by permission.

## SUMMARY

The San Joaquin Valley is large, emphasizes farming but not to the exclusion of a broad economic base, has a growing population centered in and near cities, is strongly

Hispanic/Latino and is becoming more so, has a relatively large percentage of population under age 18, and faces challenges of relatively modest educational attainment and relatively low household income, as well as environmental challenges.

The counties that comprise the region vary in their geographical characteristics. Some of them reach well into foothills and mountains (Tulare, Fresno and Madera) or into desert (Kern), and include large stretches of federal land (Tulare, Madera, Fresno, and Kern).

Growth in the population of the eight counties has been strong, and it is projected to remain strong for decades to come, slowly increasing the San Joaquin Valley's percentage of the population of California. A key question for those who are examining policy options for the region will be where to put the growing population and how to accommodate the needs of agriculture—how to manage conflicts between population and agriculture.

Employment in the counties of the San Joaquin Valley has not stagnated over the last decade and a half. There have been ups and downs over those years. Some employment categories have declined while others have risen, with each county having its own pattern, but many jobs have been added and some growth has been large. This might be taken as a hopeful sign, not an indication of a fundamentally flawed economy, despite unemployment rates that stubbornly remain significantly higher than those of the state and the nation.

The San Joaquin Valley counties need to build on the foundation of growth in order to more fully accommodate the employment needs of the growing population, in the process generating a larger number of steady jobs with good wages. The question of how to build on past economic growth in the light of the growing population and in the face of impaired water and air quality is a key question for policymakers, such as those involved in the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley announced in June 2005.<sup>18</sup>

Chapters 4 through 11 look at the individual counties, moving from south (Kern) to north (San Joaquin)

## 4. KERN

**K**ern County anchors the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley. It is north of Ventura and Los Angeles counties, south of Kings and Tulare counties, and west of San Bernardino County. The northeast corner touches Inyo County. Mountain ranges, including the Tehachapi Mountains, mark the southern end of the Central Valley, south and east of Bakersfield. The City of Bakersfield is about as far from the City of Los Angeles as it is from the City of Fresno (about 110 miles), although the trip to Los Angeles goes through mountains and that to Fresno is over flat valley land. Kern extends east of the valley, across the Tehachapi range and into the Mojave Desert.



The county's population of 753,070 resides in the City of Bakersfield (295,893) and in ten much smaller cities. Delano, with 45,056 residents, is the largest of those ten, and Maricopa, with 1,147, the smallest. Slightly over 38 percent of the county's population (287,052 people) live in unincorporated areas. The other cities in Kern County are Arvin (14,966), California City (11,504), McFarland (12,179), Ridgecrest (26,493), Shafter (14,113) Taft (9,052), Tehachapi (11,907), and Wasco (23,708).<sup>19</sup>

### LAND

As the map below from the Kern County General Plan shows, the county encompasses portions of three different regions: valley, mountain, and desert (Figure 43).

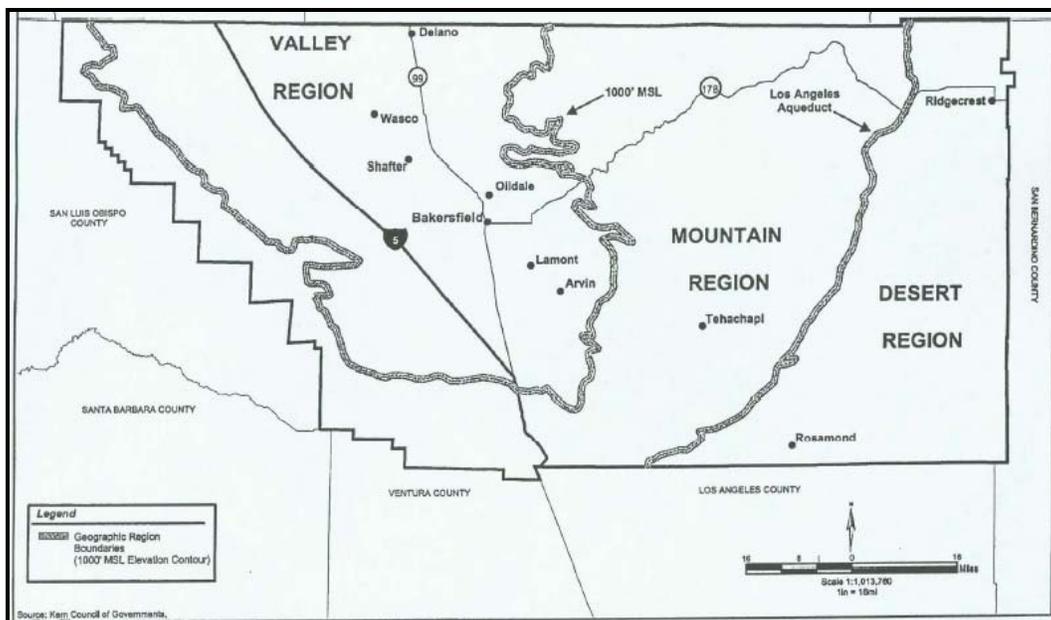


FIGURE 43. KERN COUNTY REGIONS.

Kern County has a land area of 8,141 square miles (5,210,240 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 52 percent of the county's land was in farms—2,731,341 acres, up five percent from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 1,272 acres.

In 2002, a reported 1,715,967 acres in Kern County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>20</sup>

Most of the county's population is in the valley. The mountain and desert areas are sparsely populated. Bakersfield alone encompasses just over 39 percent—nearly two-fifths—of the county's population. This pattern has developed over more than a century as the population has grown enormously. Figure 44, a 1901 view of Bakersfield, shows the early days of the city, when its population was approaching 17,000.

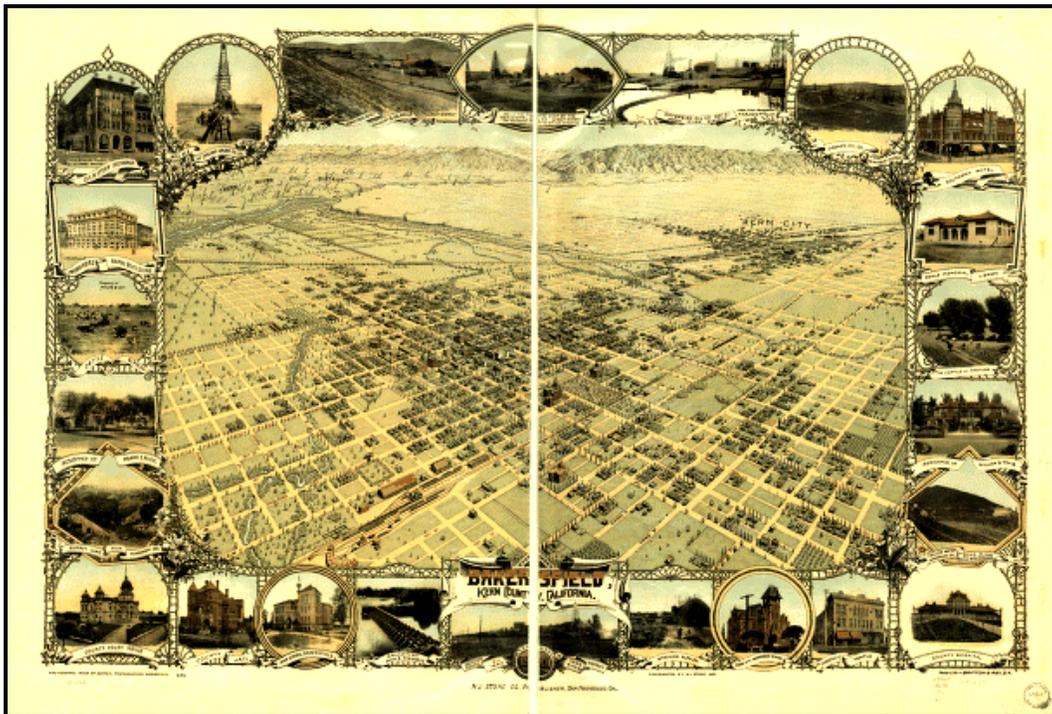


FIGURE 44. BAKERSFIELD, 1901.  
Library of Congress, American Memory.<sup>21</sup>

## PEOPLE

Kern County's population of 753,070 comprises about two percent of the population of California.

The county's population is about 39 percent Hispanic, according to Department of Finance estimates (Figure 45).

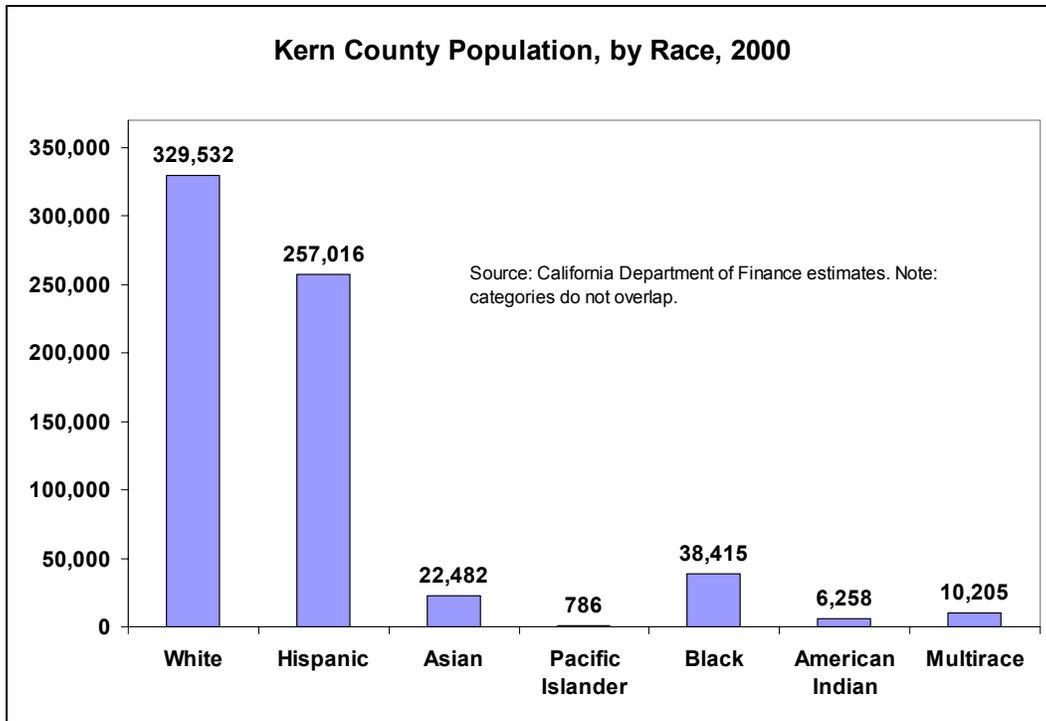


FIGURE 45. KERN COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE.

Kern County's population grew by 90,925, or 13.9 percent, between 1999 and 2004. That growth is about equal to the 2005 population of two cities the size of Delano.

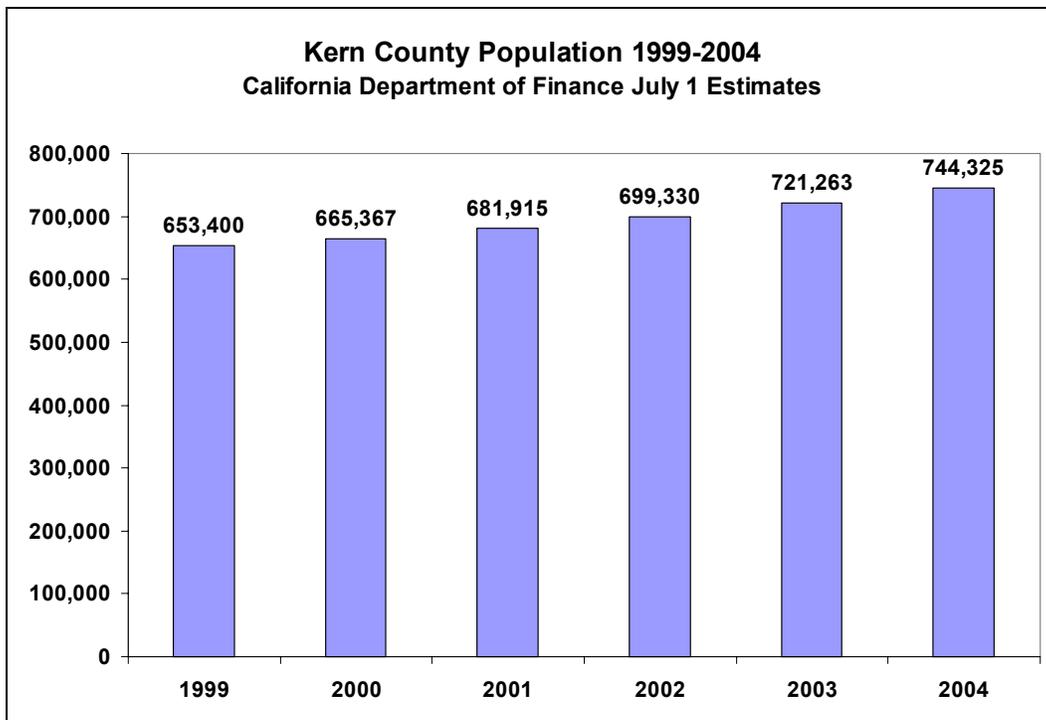


FIGURE 46. KERN COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.

At about a two to three percent per year growth rate, the change does not appear dramatic in Figure 46, but over five years it has amounted to a substantial increase.

Much of that growth (40.5 percent) was the result of natural increase—births minus deaths. The rest was from domestic migration (41.6 percent) and foreign immigration (17.9 percent). (Figure 47.)

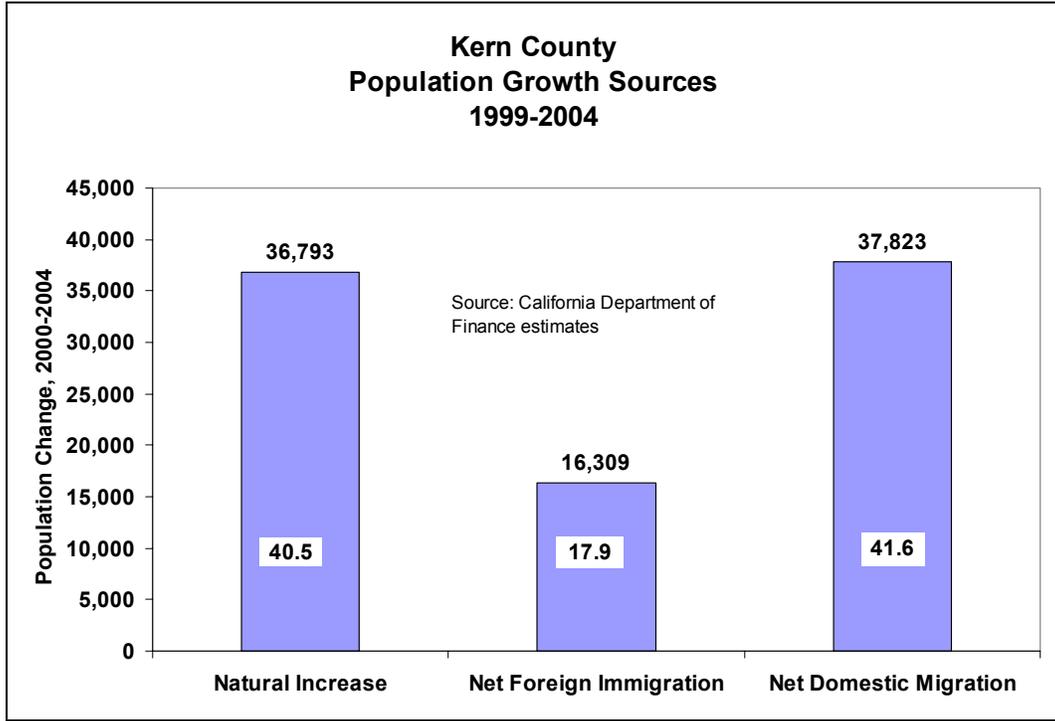


FIGURE 47. KERN COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

Most of Kern County’s population is in a relatively small portion of the county, centered in Bakersfield (Figure 48).

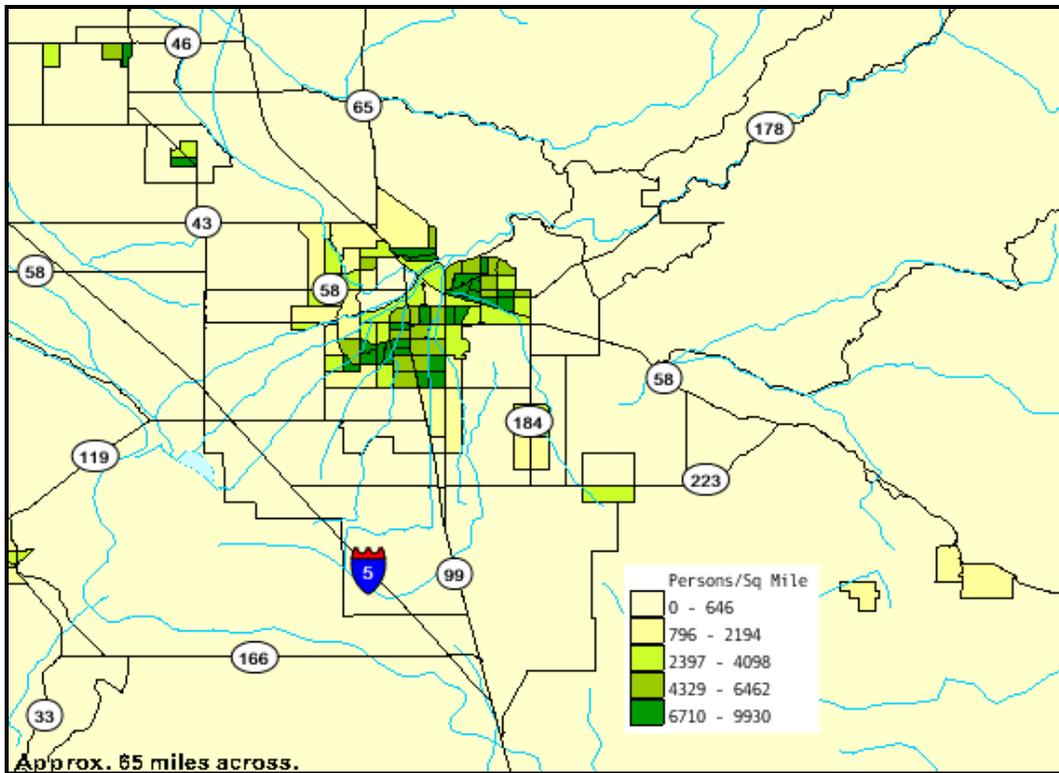


FIGURE 48. KERN COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.  
Source: U.S. Census ([WWW.CENSUS.GOV](http://WWW.CENSUS.GOV))

The California Department of Finance projects Kern County's population to grow by 133 percent from 2000 to 2050, to 1.549 million (Figure 49).

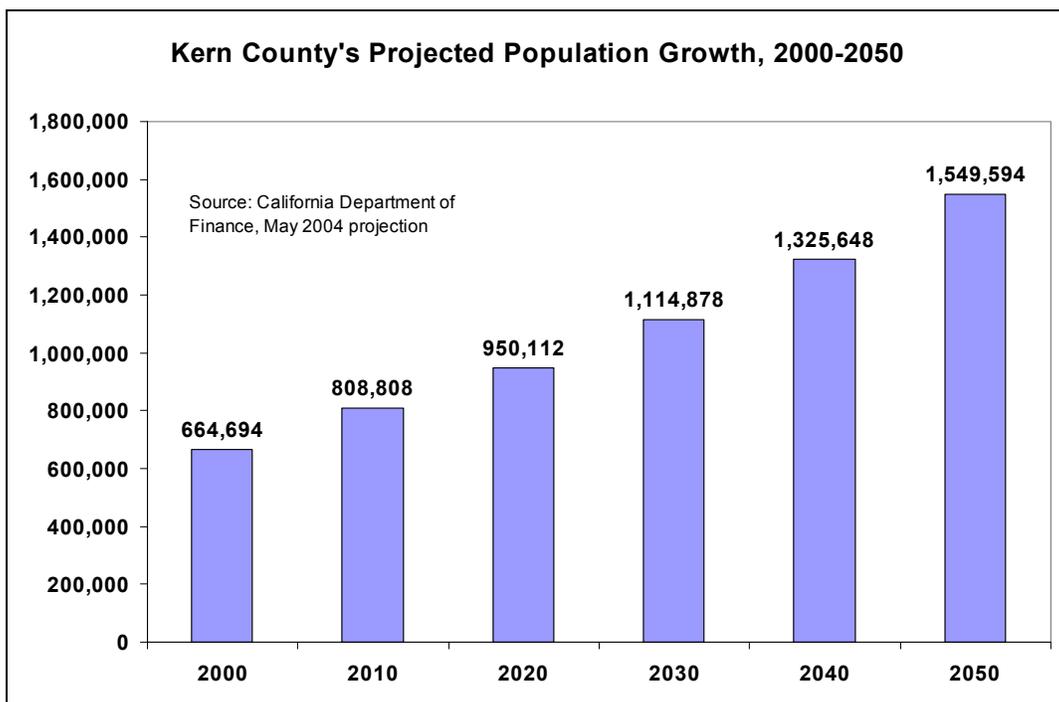


FIGURE 49. KERN COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH TO 2050.

With a median age of 30.5, Kern is younger than California, which has a median age of 34.1 (2003 American Community Survey estimates).<sup>22</sup> Correspondingly, Kern's percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (31.7 percent vs. 27.0 percent, respectively). Kern's percentage of population age 65 and over is lower than that of California (9.1 percent vs. 10.3 percent, respectively). The contrast with the U.S. is even clearer, as California's population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (median age 36.0).

About 72.1 percent of Kern's residents age 25 years and over are high school graduates or higher, a figure that is below California's 80.2 percent and the United States' 83.6 percent. Some 14.1 percent of Kern County residents age 25 and over have a bachelor's degree or higher, far below the California figure (29.1 percent) and the U.S. figure (26.5 percent).

Foreign-born residents comprise 18.1 percent of Kern's population, compared to 26.5 percent for California and 11.8 percent for the U.S., according to Census Bureau estimates for 2003. Of the population 5 years and over, 35.0 percent of Kern County residents speak a language other than English at home, in comparison to 40.8 percent for California and 18.4 percent for the U.S.

An estimated 15.7 percent of Kern County families have income below the poverty level, a much higher figure than California's 10.5 percent and the United States' 9.8 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 18.1 percent (Kern), 13.4 percent (California), and 12.7 percent (U.S.).

## **ECONOMY**

### ***Labor Market and Employment***

Kern County's labor force\* has climbed since 1990, but unevenly year to year (Figure 50).<sup>23</sup>

---

\* Civilian employment plus unemployment equals civilian labor force.

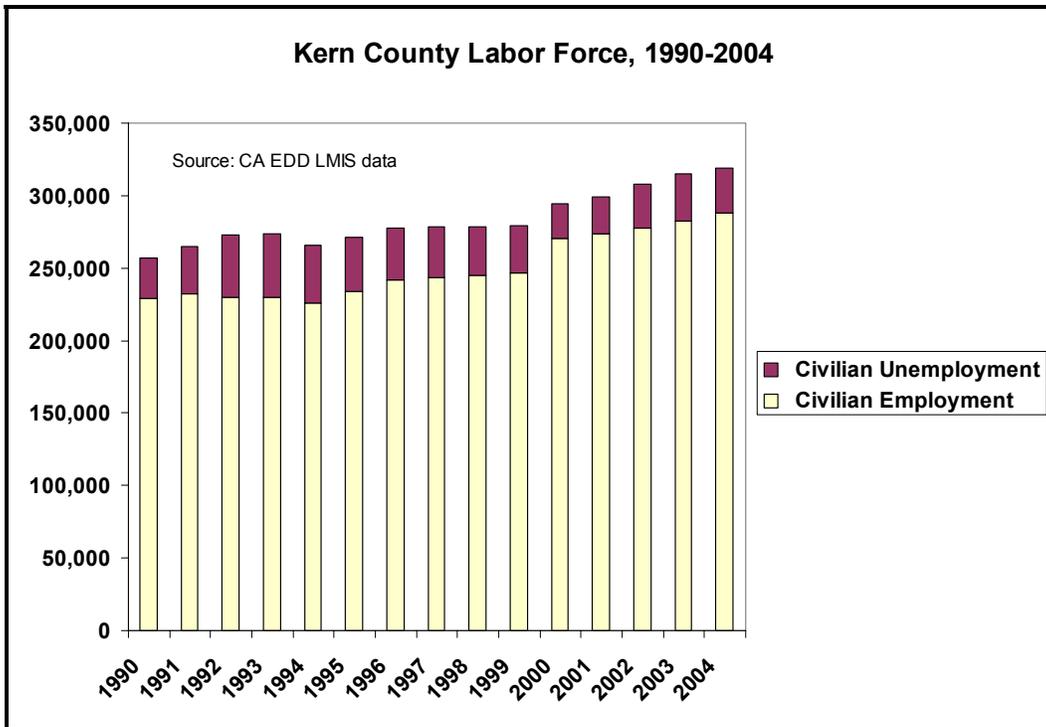


FIGURE 50. KERN COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

While Kern County's unemployment rate has varied in recent years (Figure 51), it has remained higher than California's statewide rate. (California's highest annual unemployment rate from 1990 to 2004 was 9.5 percent, in 1993. The lowest was 5.0 percent, in 2000.)

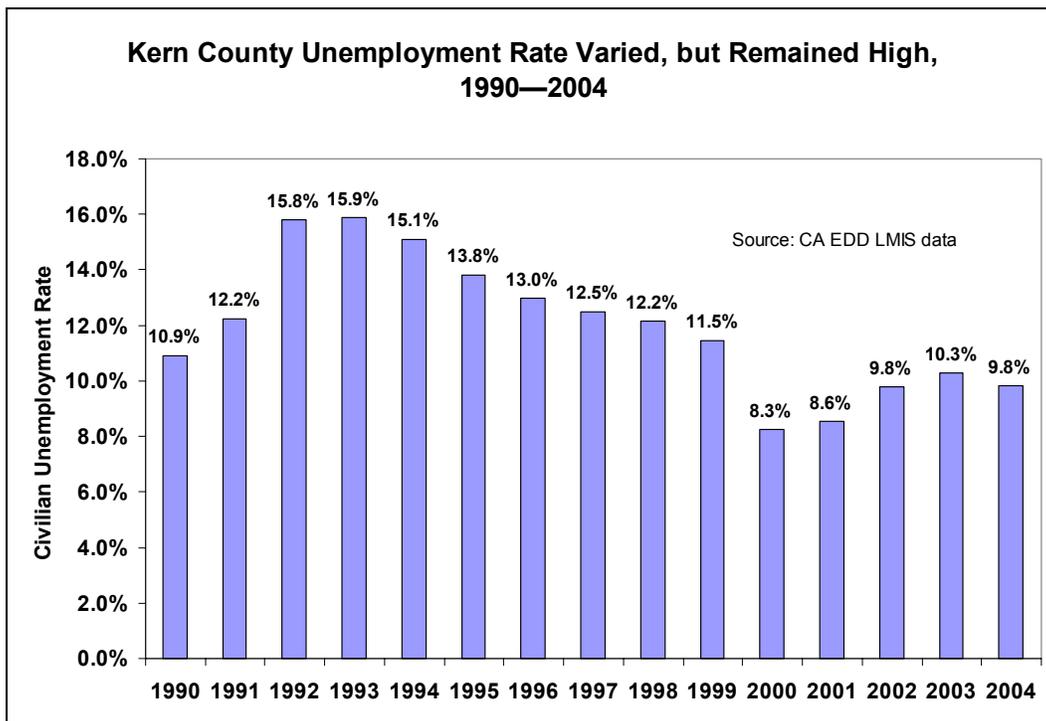


FIGURE 51. KERN COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Kern County is in nonfarm jobs (Figure 52).

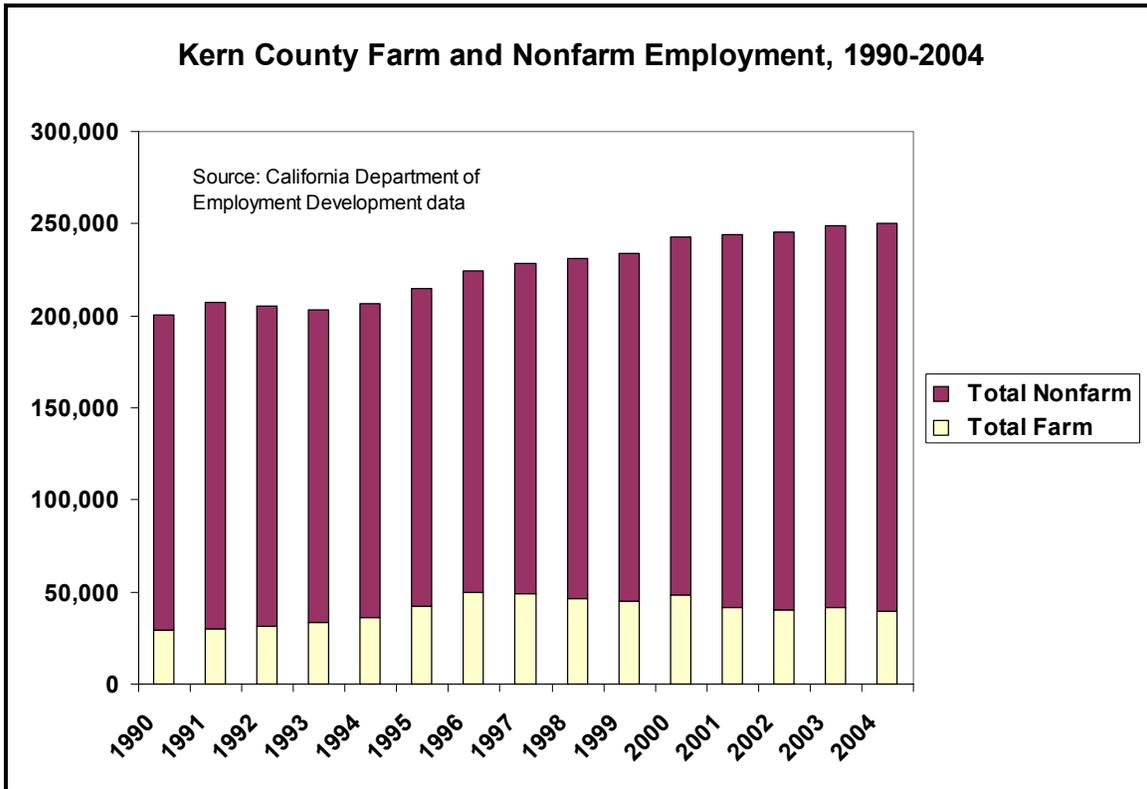


FIGURE 52. KERN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT 1990-2004.

Both farm and nonfarm employment grew from 1990 to 2004. Farm employment gained just under one-third (33.2 percent), while nonfarm employment grew by nearly one-fourth (23.4 percent) over that period. Farm employment had significant ups and downs over those years, in part reflecting the end of a six-year drought (1987-92). Total employment in the county has tended to grow year to year, but has not grown every year.

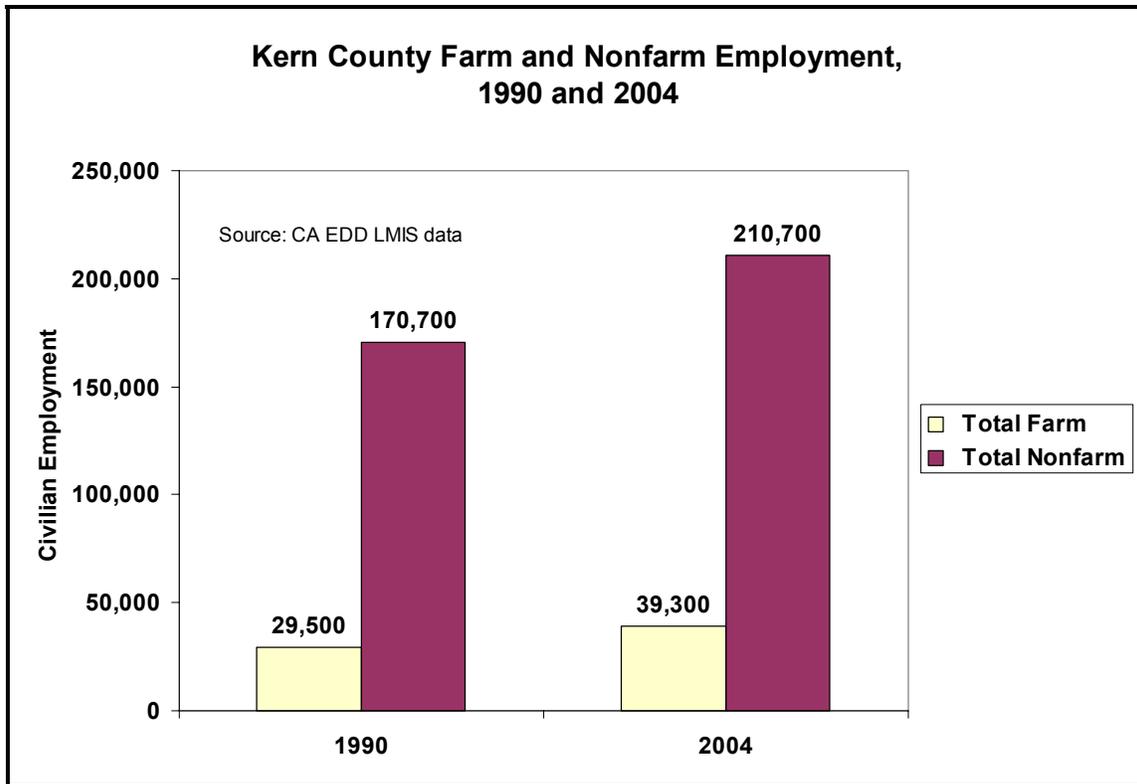


FIGURE 53. KERN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

Some jobs in such areas as food processing, warehousing, transportation, and equipment rental and maintenance are not “farm jobs” but still are related to agriculture and add to agriculture’s role in the county’s economy.<sup>24</sup>

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries (Figure 54).<sup>25</sup>

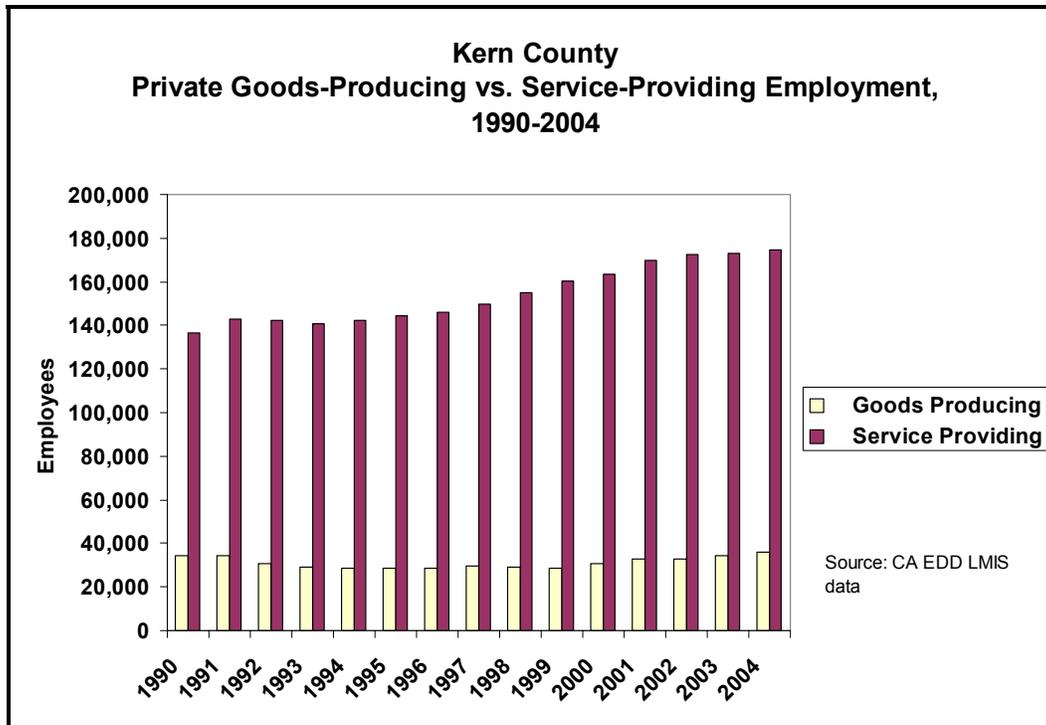


FIGURE 54. KERN COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT.

Several areas of employment in Kern County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>26</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Total employment (“All Industries”) grew by 25 percent, from 200,200 to 250,000, a gain of 49,800, reflecting a 33 percent increase in farm employment and a 23 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Natural resources and mining employment shrank by 32 percent, from 12,100 jobs to 8,200 jobs.
- Construction employment grew by 25 percent, rising from 12,200 to 15,200 jobs.
- Service-providing employment grew by 28 percent (in contrast to an increase of only five percent in goods-producing employment).
- Retail trade employment grew by 21 percent, in contrast to flat wholesale trade employment.
- Transportation, warehousing, and utilities employment grew by 57 percent, rising from 5,600 to 8,800 jobs.
- Information employment shrank by 26 percent (from 3,500 to 2,600 jobs).
- Financial activities employment grew by 26 percent (from 6,800 to 8,600 jobs). Real estate and rental and leasing, one element of financial activities, added 1,500 jobs, growing from 1,600 to 3,100 jobs (a 94 percent increase) from 1990 to 2004.

- Professional and business services grew by 25 percent, from 17,100 to 21,400 jobs. (A significant part of that growth, 1,500 jobs, was in “residual—waste management and remediation”).
- Health care and social assistance employment grew by 61 percent, and in 2004 comprised seven percent of employment. That segment rose from 12,500 to 20,100 jobs in the period.
- Social assistance grew by 142 percent, from 1,200 jobs in 1990 to 2,900 in 2004.
- Leisure and hospitality employment grew by 40 percent, rising from 13,400 to 18,700 jobs.
- State and local government grew by 41 percent, increasing from 31,500 jobs in 1990 to 44,400 in 2004.
- The largest growth area in the state and local government sector was local government education, growing from 16,700 to 24,400 jobs during the period, or 46 percent, to reach 9.8 percent of employment. That is not surprising, given the growth in the county’s school-age population during that period.

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Kern County enrolled 154,913 students.<sup>27</sup> Of those students:

- 21.0 percent were English learners, lower than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 60.3 percent received free/reduced price meals, higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 16.7 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 45.2 percent were compensatory education students, lower than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 32,556 English learners, 31,011 (95.3 percent) had Spanish as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 19.8 percent of Kern County high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, substantially below the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>28</sup>

### *College*

Kern County is home to three community colleges and to one California State University campus. (Kern Community College District also encompasses Porterville College, which is in Porterville, Tulare County.)

<b>College</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Bakersfield College, Bakersfield	13,103
Cerro Coso Community College, Ridgecrest	3,181
Taft College, Taft (West Kern CCD)	2,192
California State University, Bakersfield	6,530

Note: For the community colleges, enrollment is credit full-time-equivalent students, 2003-04. For CSU, enrollment is annualized full-time-equivalent students, college year (summer, fall, and spring), 2002-03.

### *Health Care*

Kern County had 1,500 licensed hospital beds in 12 facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were nine emergency medical services among those facilities: two standby and seven basic.

Kern County had 1,787 nursing home beds in 15 facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>29</sup>

As of 2002, there were 948 active non-federal physicians and 269 licensed non-federal dentists in Kern County.<sup>30</sup>

## 5. KINGS

**K**ings County is tucked between Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties, with a small western border along the east side of coastal Monterey County. Kings County's population of 144,732 is distributed among the cities of Hanford (49,070), Corcoran (22,528), Lemoore (22,508), Avenal (16,187), and unincorporated areas (35,439).<sup>31</sup>



Kings County has 73 percent of its land in farms (2002), which is above the 57 percent average for the San Joaquin Valley counties and far above the 28 percent figure for California.<sup>32</sup>

### LAND

Kings County has a land area of 1,391 square miles (890,240 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 73 percent of the county's land was in farms—645,598 acres, down two percent from the 1997 figure.\* Average farm size in 2002 was 559 acres.

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 702,109 acres in Kings County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>33</sup>

### PEOPLE

King's County's population of 144,732 comprises about 0.4 percent (that is, four-tenths of one percent) of California's population.

The population of Kings County is about 44 percent Hispanic (2000). The Department of Finance projects the population of Kings County to be 62 percent Hispanic in 2050.

---

\* Census-to-Census changes in farm acreage are not necessarily significant, as they can reflect weather or other short-term considerations.

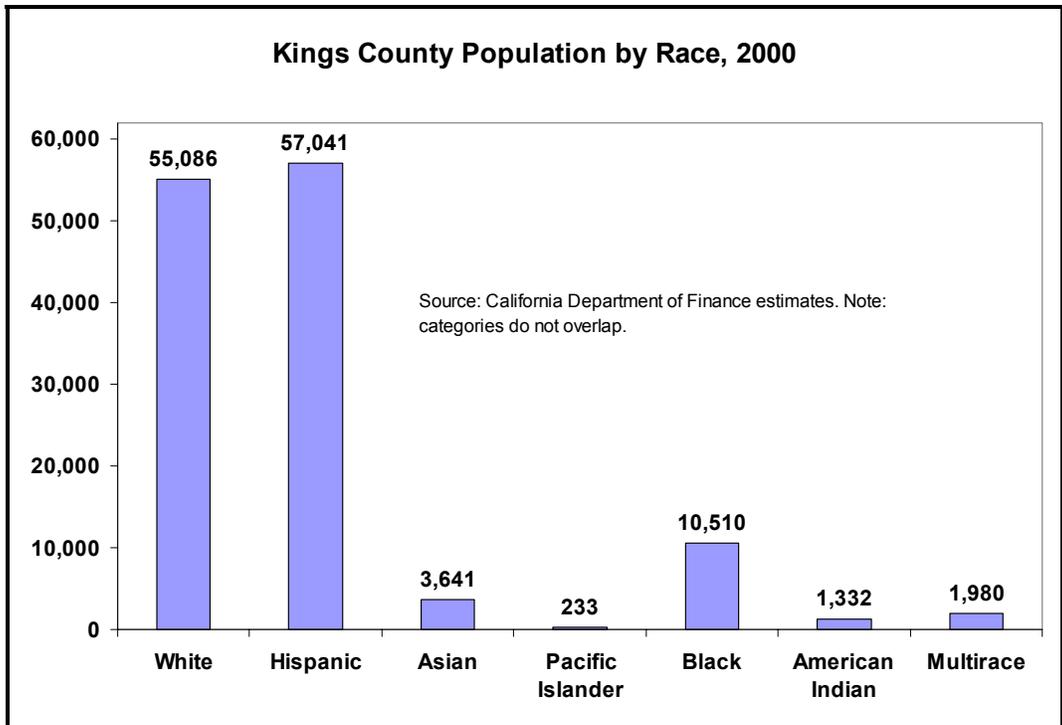


FIGURE 55. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE.

Kings County's population grew by 16,436, or 12.9 percent, between 1999 and 2004. That growth is a few hundred larger than the entire 2005 population of the City of Avenal.

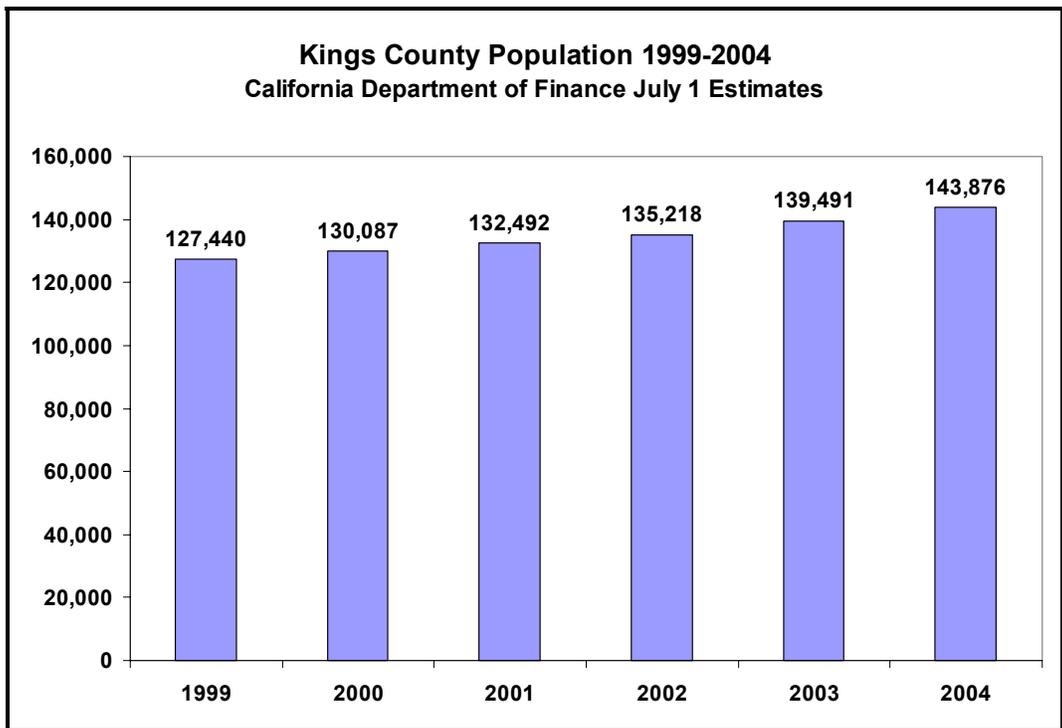


FIGURE 56. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.

The year-to-year change has ranged from 1.9 percent to 3.2 percent.

Nearly half of the growth (47.1 percent) was the result of natural increase—births minus deaths. The rest was from domestic migration (33.8 percent) and foreign immigration (19.0 percent), according to Department of Finance estimates (Figure 57).

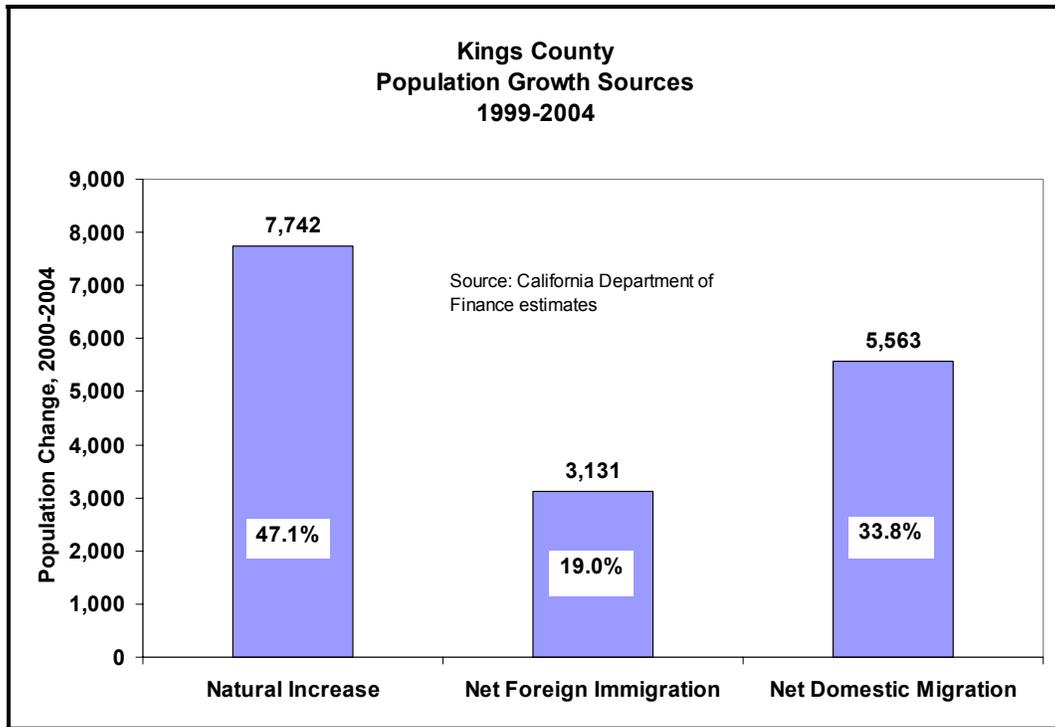


FIGURE 57. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

Kings County's population is largely concentrated in a few relatively small areas, especially in and near Hanford, Lemoore, and Corcoran (Figure 58).

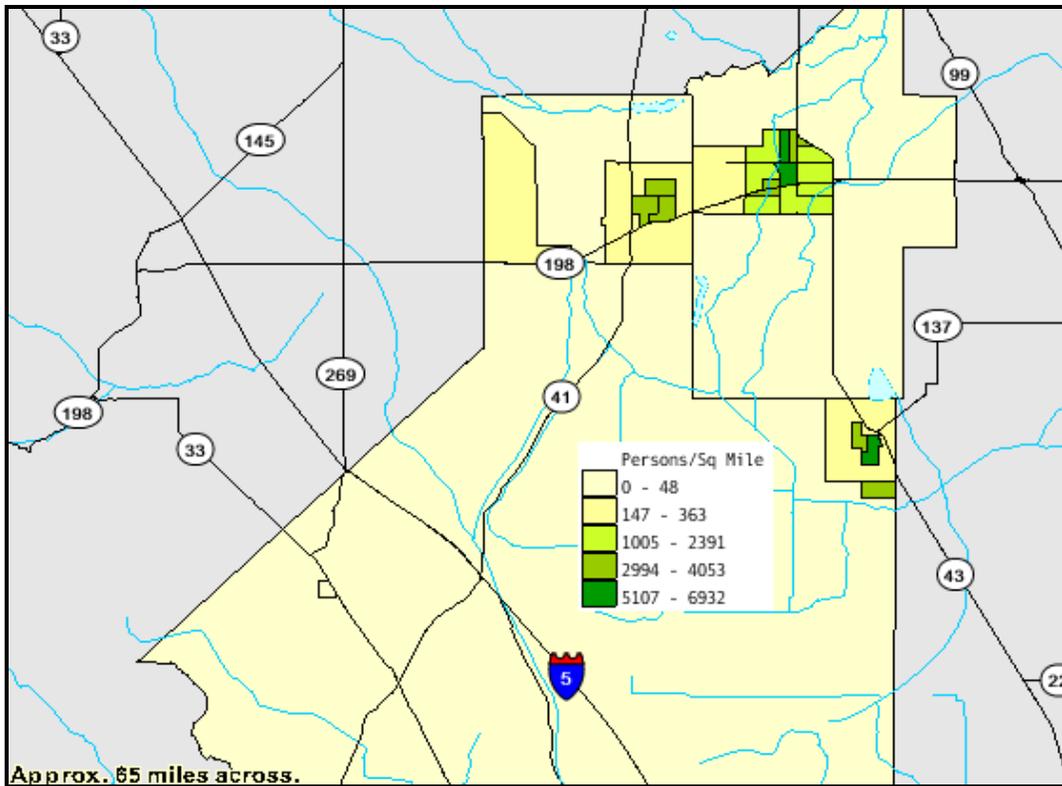


FIGURE 58. KINGS COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.  
Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The California Department of Finance projects the population of Kings County to grow by 117 percent between 2000 and 2050 (Figure 59).

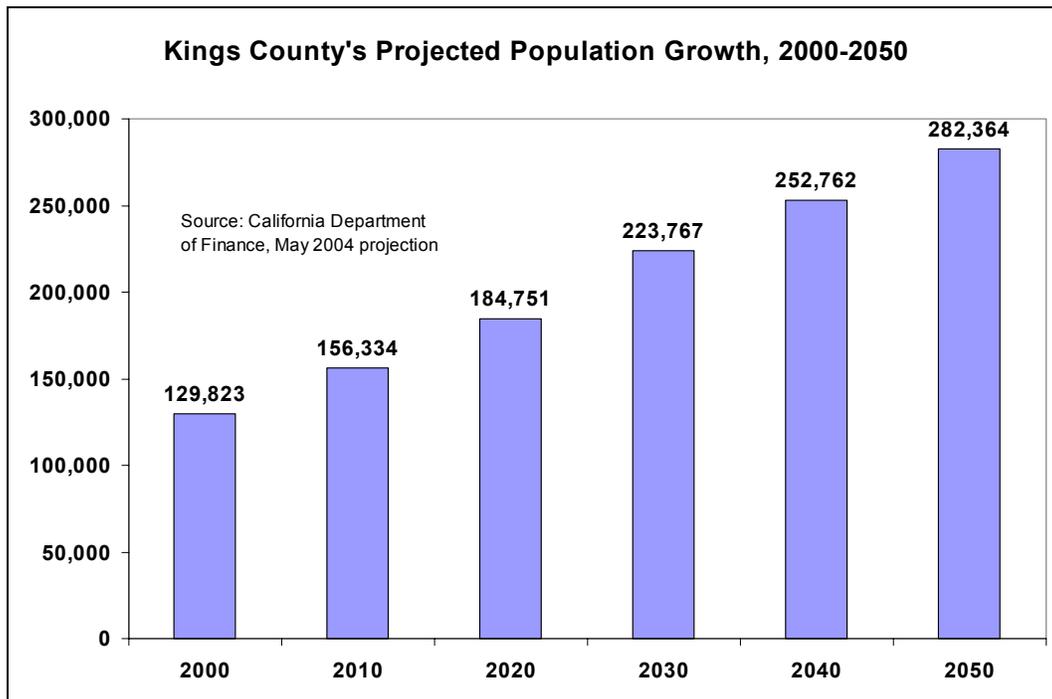


FIGURE 59. KINGS COUNTY PROJECTED POPULATION TO 2050.

With a median age of 30.2, Kings County is younger than California (median age of 33.3 according to the 2000 Census).<sup>34</sup> Correspondingly, Kings County's percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (29.9 percent vs. 27.3 percent, respectively). Kings' percentage of population age 65 and over is only 7.4 percent, vs. 10.6 percent for California.

About 68.8 percent of Kings' residents age 25 years and over are high school graduates or higher. That is below California's 76.8 percent and the United States' 80.4 percent. Some 10.4 percent of Kings County residents age 25 and over have a bachelor's degree or higher, far below California's 26.6 percent and the United States' 24.4 percent.

Foreign-born residents comprise 16.0 percent of Kings County's population, compared to 26.2 percent for California and 11.1 percent for the U.S. Of the population of Kings County age 5 years and over, 36.7 percent speak a language other than English at home, in comparison to 39.5 percent for California and 17.9 percent for the U.S.

Approximately 15.8 percent of Kings County families had income below the poverty level in 1999, significantly higher than California's 10.6 percent and the United States' 9.2 percent (2000 Census). The comparable percentages for individuals are 19.5 percent (Kings), 14.2 percent (California), and 12.4 percent (U.S.).

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

Kings County's labor force has climbed since 1990, but unevenly year to year (Figure 60).

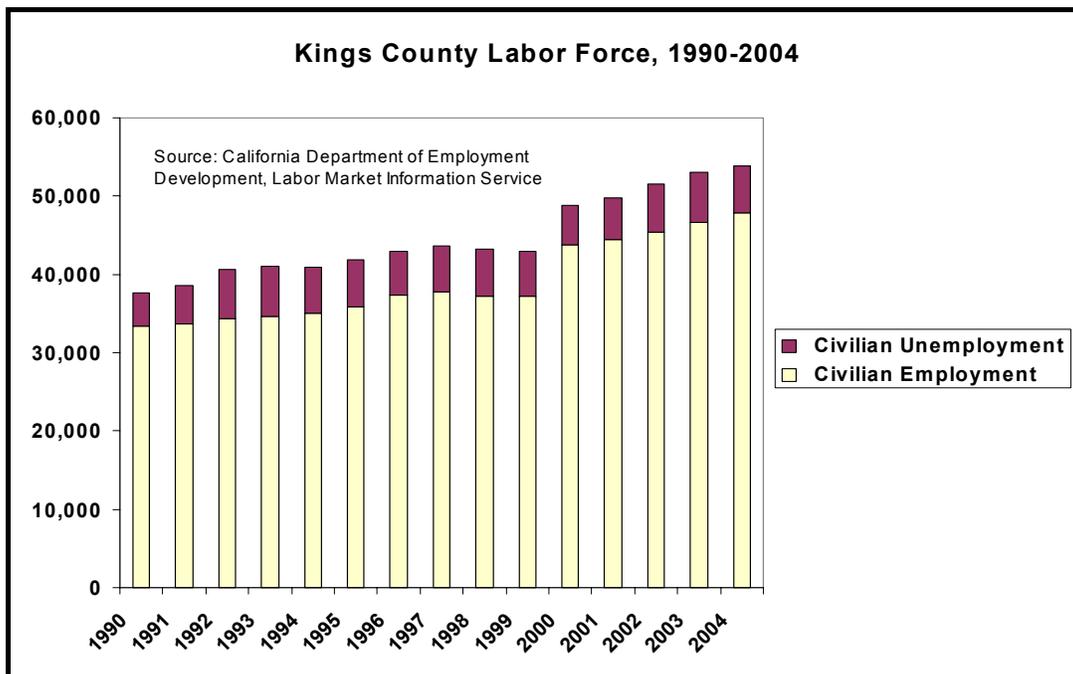


FIGURE 60. KINGS COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

While Kings County's unemployment rate has varied in recent years (Figure 61), it has remained higher than California's statewide rate.

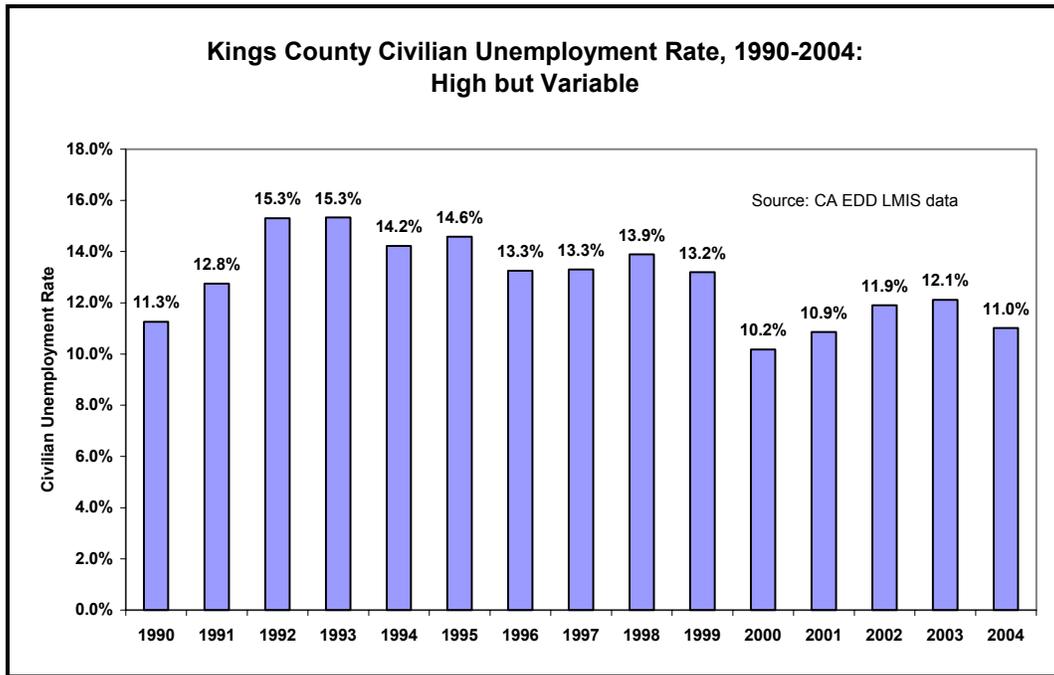


FIGURE 61. KINGS COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Kings County is in nonfarm jobs.

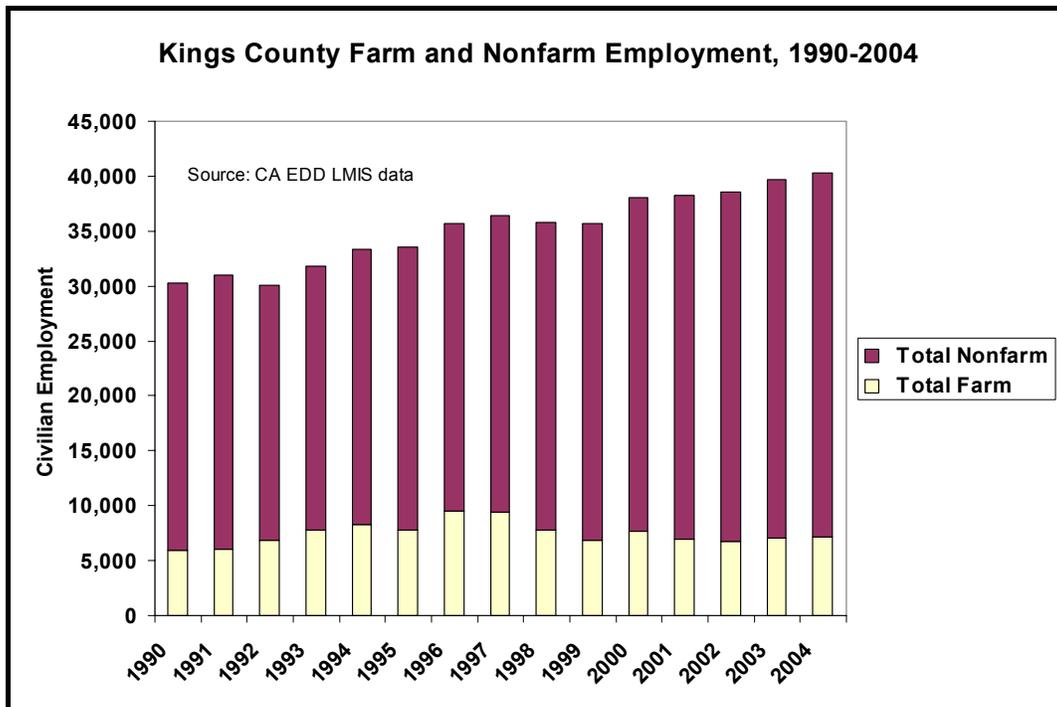


FIGURE 62. KINGS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Both farm and nonfarm employment grew from 1990 to 2004. Farm employment gained 22.0 percent, while nonfarm employment grew by 35.7 percent over that period. Farm employment had significant ups and downs over those years and is now below its level of the mid-1990s. Total employment has tended to grow year to year, but not every year.

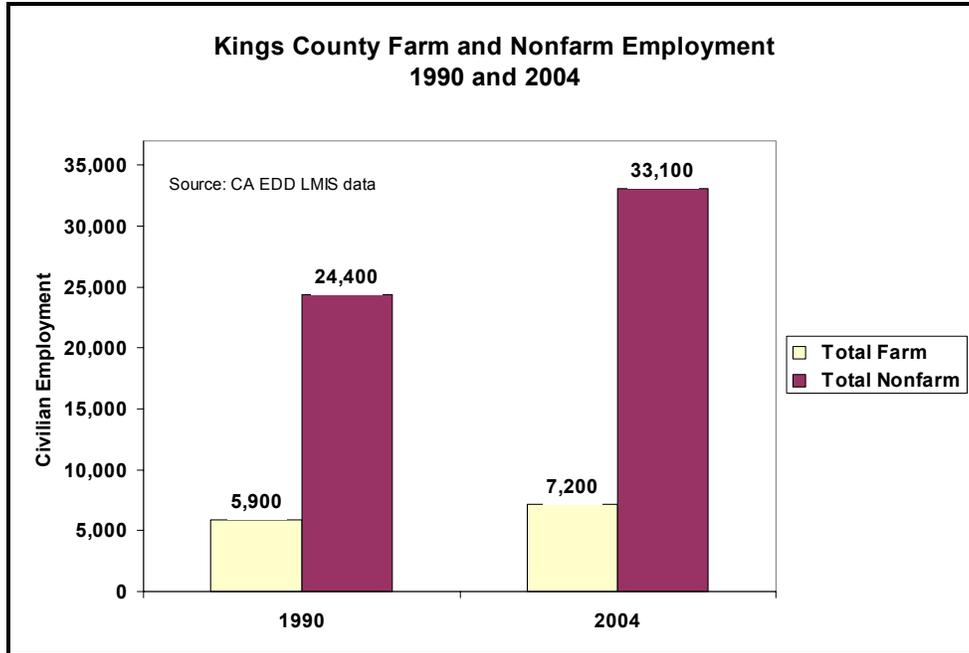


FIGURE 63. KINGS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries.

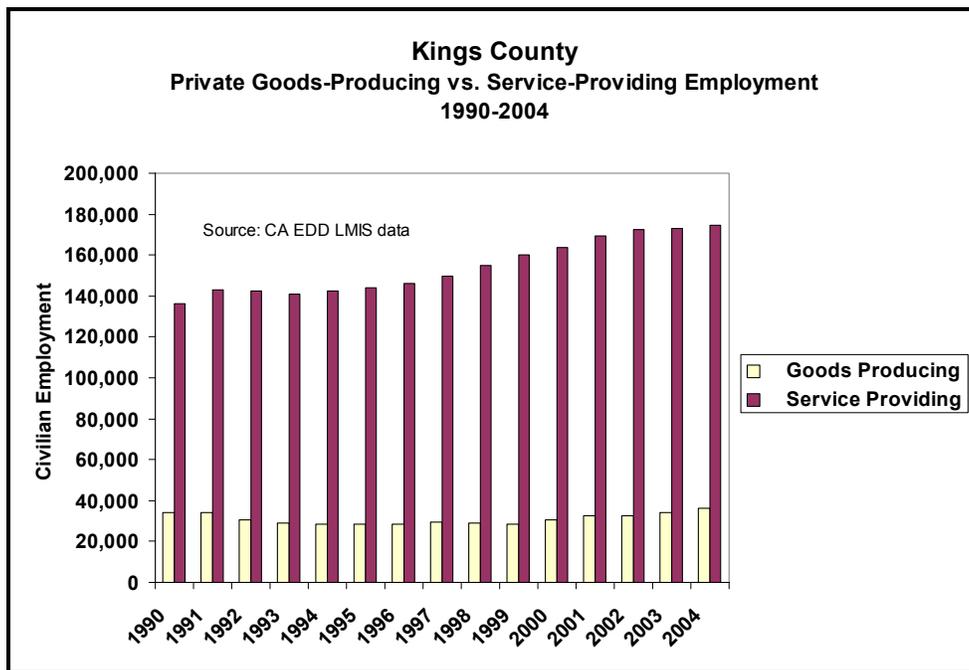


FIGURE 64. KINGS COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in Kings County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004. Selected highlights include:

- Total employment in the county (“All Industries”) grew by 35 percent, reflecting a 22 percent increase in farm employment and a 36 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment grew by 21 percent, aided by a doubling of jobs in the category “food manufacturing & beverage & tobacco” from 1,400 to 2,800.
- The category “residual-textile mills” saw a decline of 1,000 jobs, from 1,500 to 500.
- Private service-producing employment grew by 27 percent, from 11,300 to 14,400 jobs.
- Professional and business services grew by 133 percent, from 600 to 1,400 jobs.
- Educational and health services grew by 106 percent, from 1,600 to 3,300 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality grew by 37 percent, from 1,900 to 2,600 jobs.
- State and local government employment grew by 76 percent, from 7,100 to 12,500 jobs. State government accounted for approximately 2,900 of that increase, and local government for approximately 2,600. (The numbers do not quite add to the total because of rounding.) Growth in employment in state prisons in Kings County contributed to rising state employment.
- Federal government employment fell by 33 percent, from 1,500 in 1990 to 1,000 jobs in 2004, with fluctuations during those years.

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Kings County enrolled 26,354 students.<sup>35</sup> Of those students:

- 19.6 percent were English learners, lower than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 57.5 percent received free/reduced price meals, higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 14.4 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 58.7 percent were compensatory education students, higher than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 5,169 English learners, 5,010 (96.9 percent) had Spanish as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 21.6 percent of Kings County high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, substantially below the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>36</sup>

### *College*

There are no public colleges or universities in Kings County, although neighboring Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties are home to eight community colleges and to two California State University campuses.

### *Health Care*

Kings County had 143 licensed hospital beds in three facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were three emergency medical services among those facilities: two standby and one basic.

Kings County had 322 nursing home beds in three facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>37</sup>

As of 2001, there were 126 active non-federal physicians in Kings County. As of 2002, there were 49 licensed non-federal dentists in Kings County.<sup>38</sup>

## 6. TULARE

**T**ulare County, east of Kings County, south of Fresno County, and west of Inyo County, stretches into the Sequoia National Forest and Inyo National Forest on its east side. Just over half of the land in the county, mostly in foothill and mountain areas, belongs to government, predominantly the federal government (Sequoia National Forest and Sequoia National Monument). That is the highest percentage among the Central Valley counties. The county has 45 percent of its land in farms (2002). Tulare County's 2005 population of 409,871 resides in the cities of Visalia (107,550), Tulare (49,477), Porterville (44,496), Dinuba (19,297), Lindsay (11,031), Exeter (10,357), Farmersville (10,240), and Woodlake (7,189), with the other 150,234 county residents in unincorporated areas.<sup>39</sup>



### LAND

Tulare County's land area is 4,824 square miles (3,087,360 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 45 percent of the county's land, 1,393,456 acres, was in farms, up one percent from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 243 acres.



FIGURE 65. BETWEEN TULARE AND FRESNO, 1939.  
Photo by Dorothea Lange.<sup>40</sup>

More than half of Tulare County's area (52 percent) is owned by government, primarily the federal government, according to Bureau of Land Management data.<sup>41</sup> Only about three percent of the county's land is neither farmland nor federally owned.

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 1,114,819 acres in Tulare County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>42</sup>

## PEOPLE

Tulare County's population of 409,871 comprises about 1.1 percent of California's population.

The population of Tulare County is about 51 percent Hispanic (Figure 66). The Department of Finance projects a Hispanic presence in Tulare County of 73.9 percent by 2050.

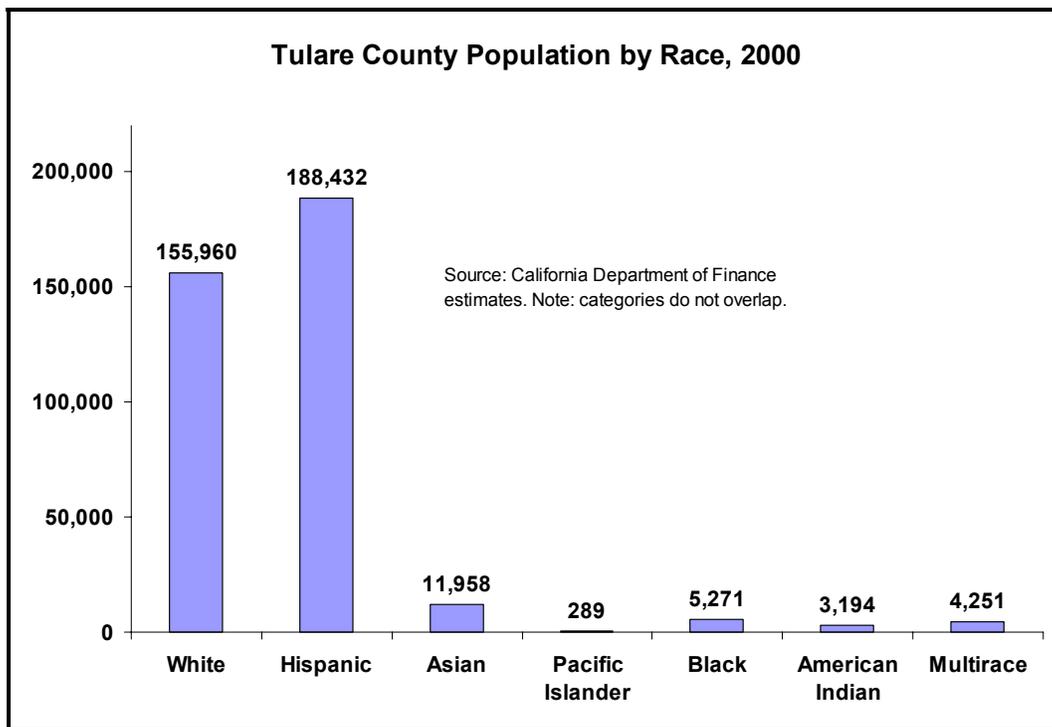


FIGURE 66. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE.

Tulare County's population grew by 41,182, or 11.3 percent, between 1999, and 2004. That growth is about equal to the 2002 population of the city of Porterville.

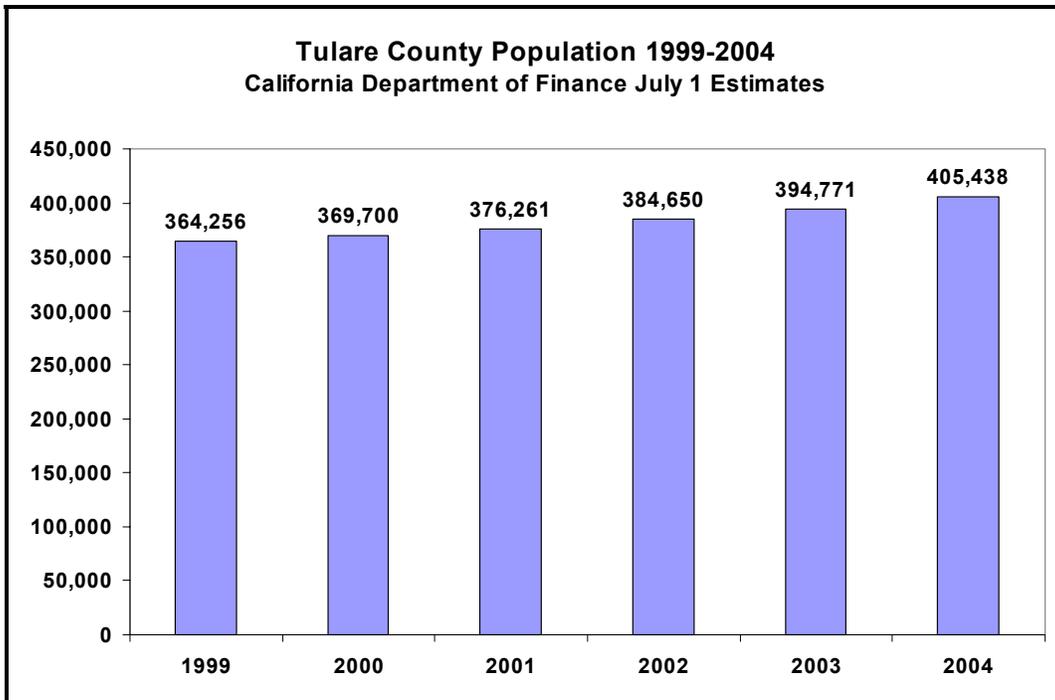


FIGURE 67. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION, 1999-2004.

The growth has been in the range of about 1.5 to 2.7 percent per year over that period.

Most of that growth, about 57.4 percent, was the result of natural increase—births minus deaths. The rest was from domestic migration (11.3 percent) and foreign immigration (31.4 percent).

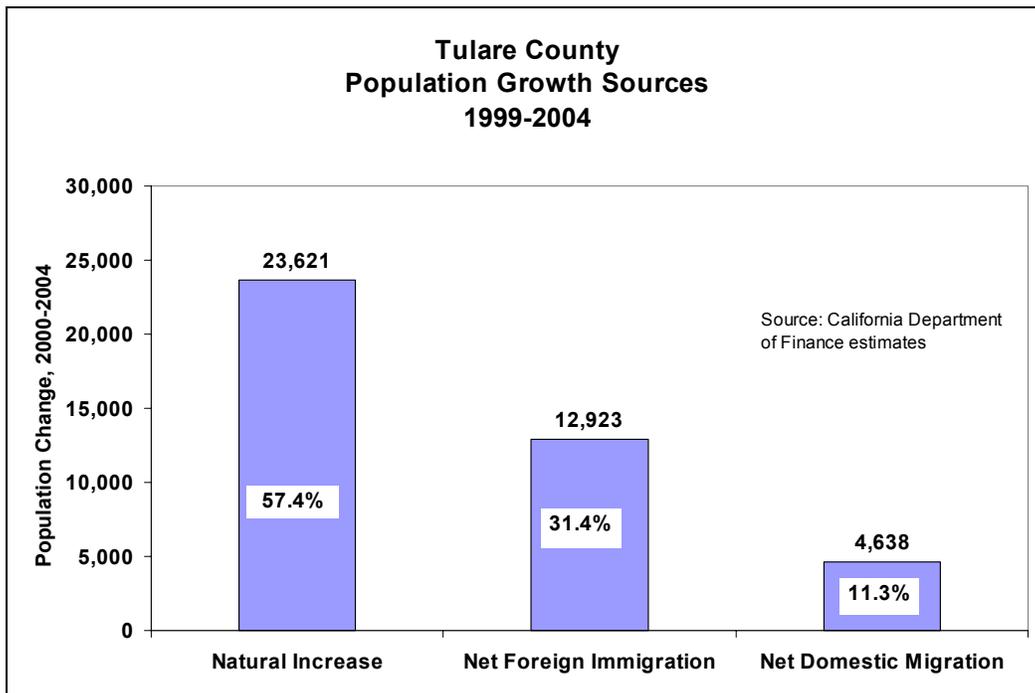


FIGURE 68. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

With a median age of 28.9, Tulare is younger than California, which has a median age of 34.1 (2003 American Community Survey estimates).<sup>43</sup> Correspondingly, Tulare's percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (32.7 percent vs. 27.0 percent, respectively). Tulare's percentage of population age 65 and over is lower than that of California (9.1 percent vs. 10.3 percent). The contrast with the U.S. is even clearer, as California's population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (median age 36.0).

About 64.7 percent of Tulare's residents age 25 years and over are high school graduates or higher, substantially below California's 80.2 percent and the United States' 83.6 percent. About 11.9 percent of Tulare County residents age 25 and over have a bachelor's degree, far below the California figure (29.1 percent) and the U.S. figure (26.5 percent).

Foreign-born residents comprise 23.1 percent of Tulare's population, compared to 26.5 percent for California and 11.8 percent for the U.S., according to Census Bureau estimates for 2003. Of the population 5 years and over, nearly half—46.5 percent—speak a language other than English at home, in comparison to 40.8 percent for California and 18.4 percent for the U.S.

An estimated 18.7 percent of Tulare County families have income below the poverty level, a significantly higher figure than California's 10.5 percent and the United States' 9.8 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 22.9 percent (Tulare), 13.4 percent (California) and 12.7 percent (U.S.).

Tulare County's population is concentrated in a few small areas of the county, and largely within a few miles of Highway 99 (Figure 69).

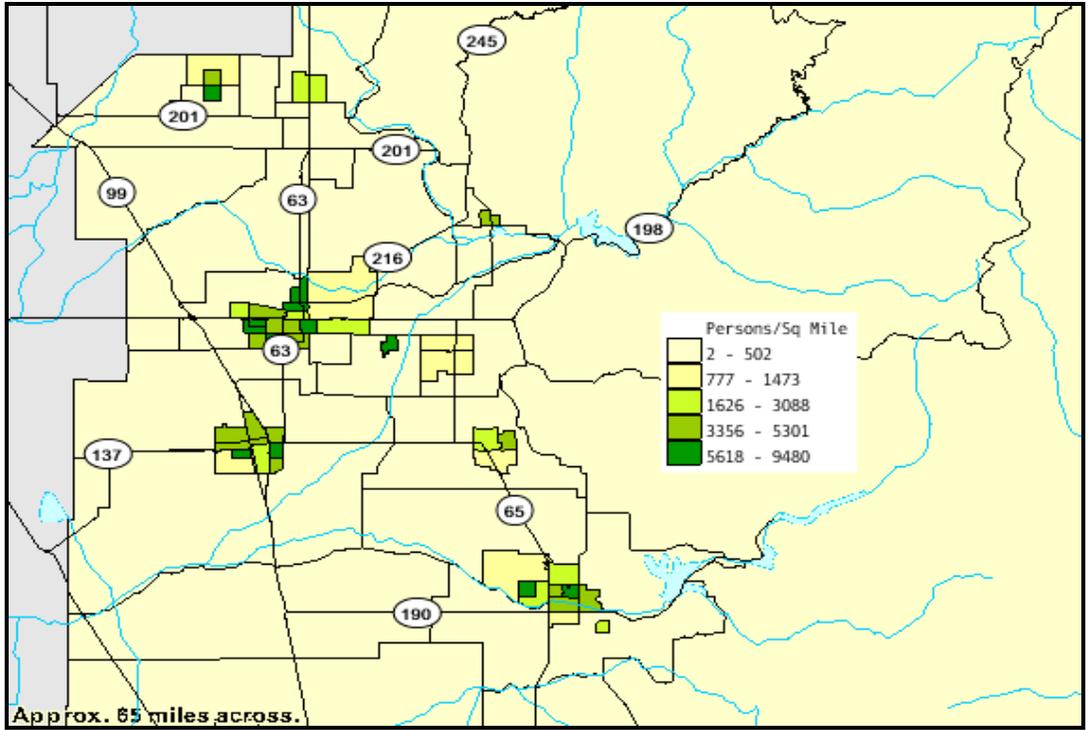


FIGURE 69. TULARE COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT 2000.  
Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The California Department of Finance projects the population of Tulare County to grow by 135 percent between 2000 and 2050.

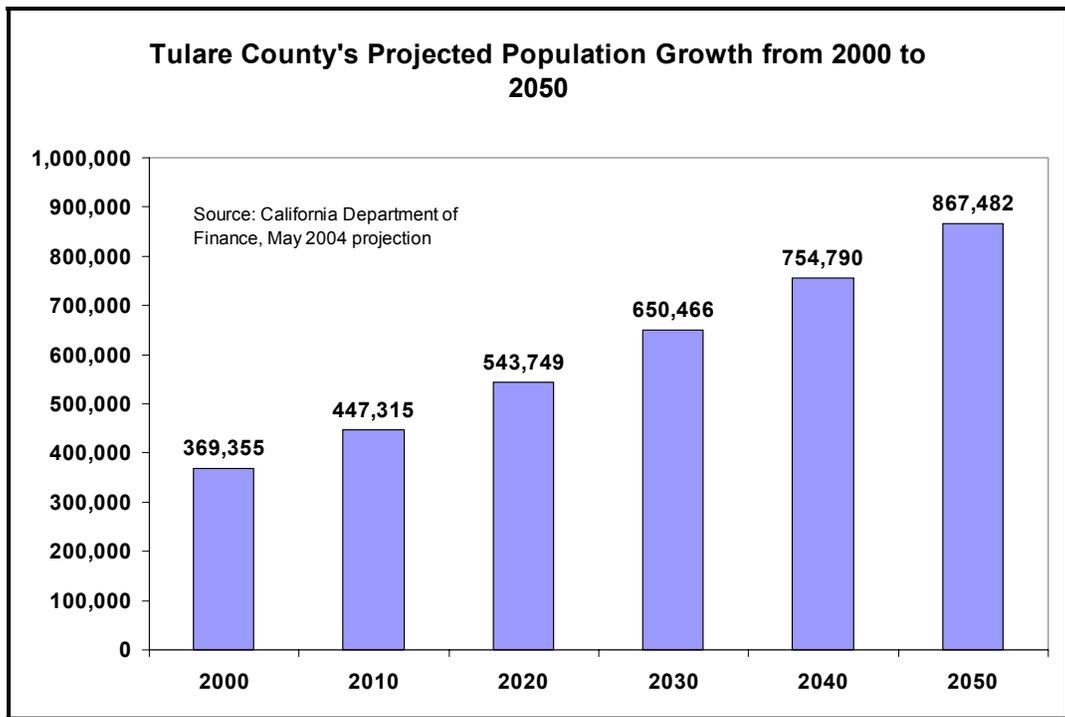


FIGURE 70. TULARE COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

Tulare County's labor force has climbed since 1990, but unevenly from year to year.

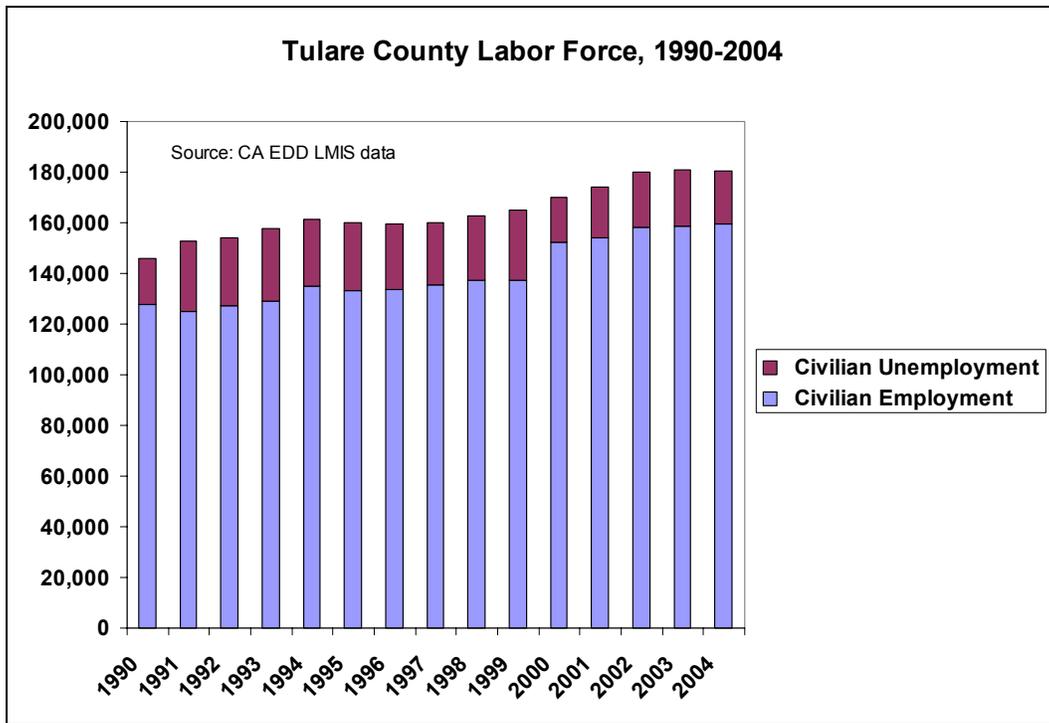


FIGURE 71. TULARE COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

Tulare County's unemployment rate has varied in recent years (Figure 72). The rate has fallen sharply from its early 1990s high, with an especially sharp drop from 1999 to 2000, but it is still relatively high, compared to California's rate of 6.2 percent in 2004.

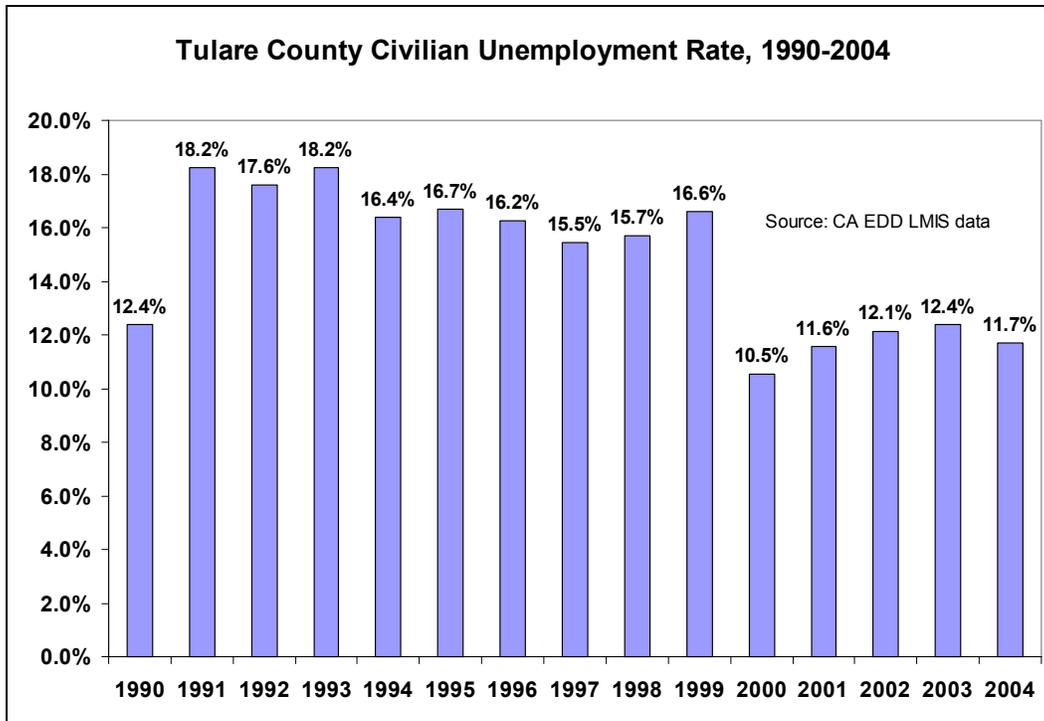


FIGURE 72. TULARE COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Tulare County is in nonfarm jobs.

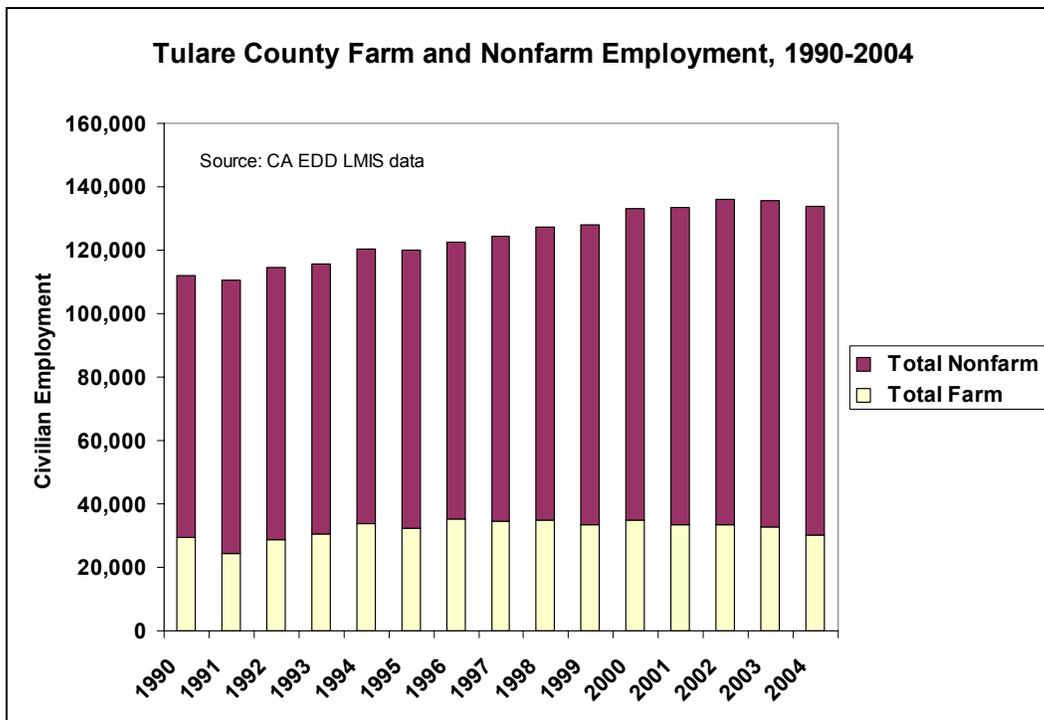


FIGURE 73. TULARE COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Both farm and nonfarm employment grew from 1990 to 2004. Farm employment gained only 2.0 percent, while nonfarm employment grew by 26.0 percent over that period.

Farm employment had ups and downs over those years (modest in most years) and is now below its level of the mid-1990s. Total employment has generally grown from year to year, but not every year.

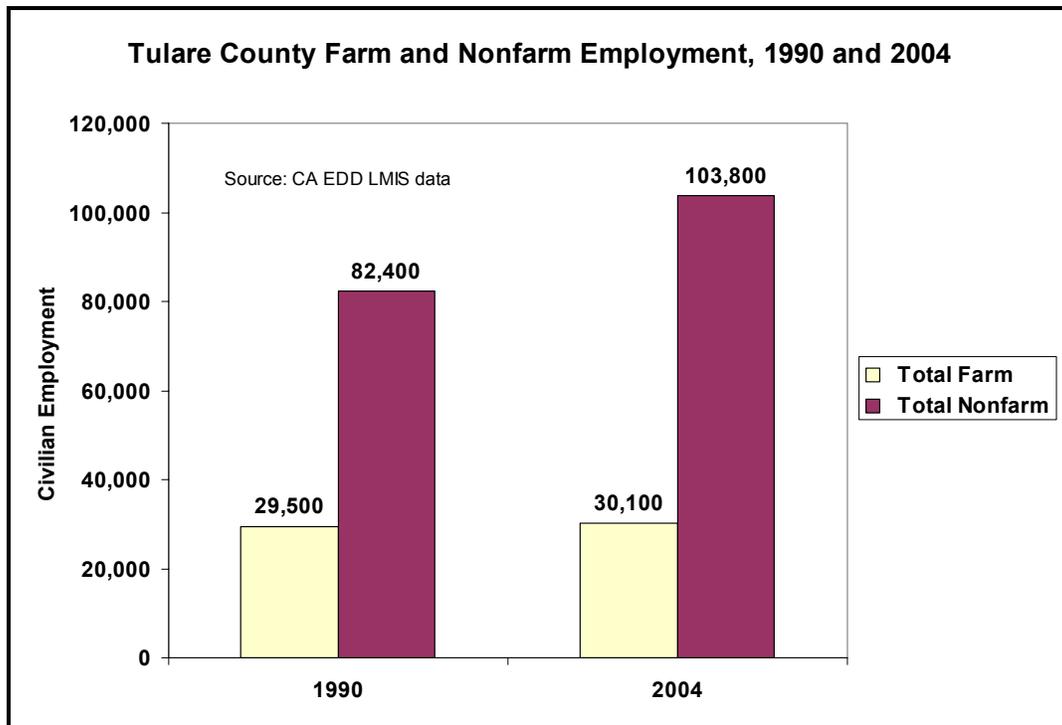


FIGURE 74. TULARE COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries. Goods-producing employment increased by a net 2.9 percent from 1990 to 2004, in contrast to an increase of 37.2 percent for private service-producing employment.

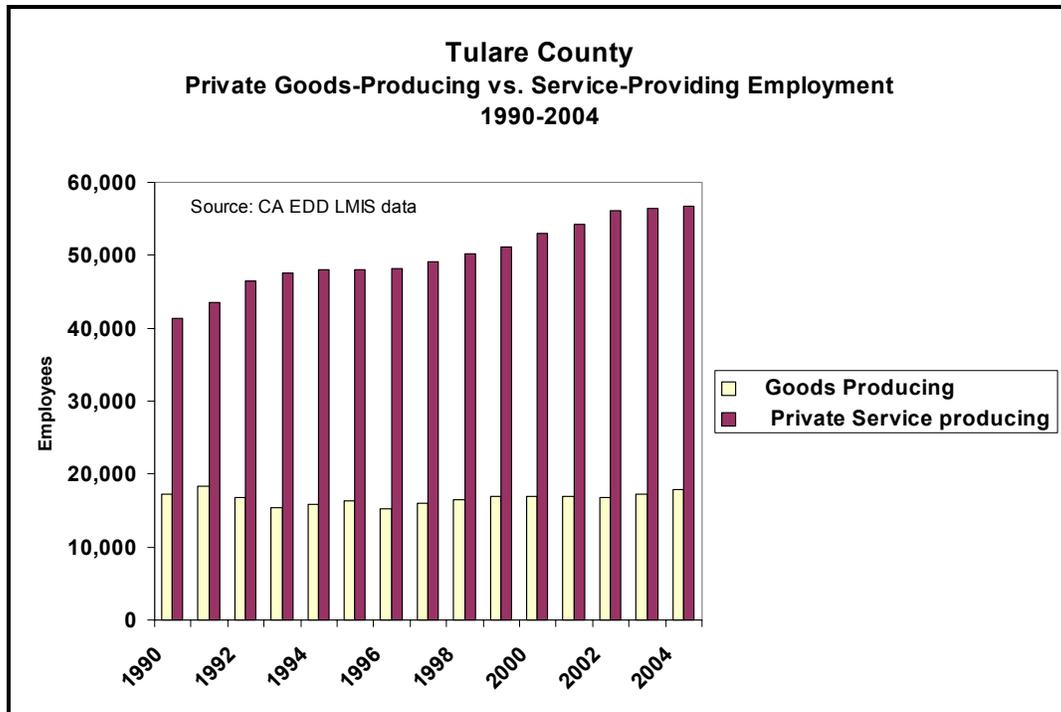


FIGURE 75. TULARE COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in Tulare County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>44</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Employment within the county (“All Industries”) grew by 20 percent, reflecting a 2 percent increase in farm employment and a 26 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment grew by only 3 percent, reflecting an 11 percent decline in manufacturing employment, offset by a 38 percent increase in construction employment. Construction added 1,800 jobs over the period (moving from 4,700 to 6,500 jobs), while manufacturing lost 1,400 jobs (declining from 12,600 to 11,200).
- Private (non-government) service-providing employment grew by 37 percent.
- Among the standouts, transportation and warehousing grew by 159 percent, growing from 1,700 to 4,400 jobs.
- Professional and business services jumped by 107 percent, growing from 4,400 to 9,100 jobs.
- Educational and health services climbed by 45 percent, growing from 6,500 to 9,400 jobs.
- Employment in food services and drinking places grew by 41 percent, from 4,600 to 6,500 jobs.
- State and local government grew by 24 percent, from 22,500 to 27,900 jobs.

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Tulare County enrolled 88,341 students.<sup>45</sup> Of those students:

- 28.7 percent were English learners, higher than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 65.6 percent received free/reduced price meals, higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 14.7 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 78.5 percent were compensatory education students, higher than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 25,393 English learners, 23,862 (93.9 percent) had Spanish as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 23.9 percent of high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, substantially below the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>46</sup>

### *College*

Tulare County is home to two community colleges.

<b>College</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
College of the Sequoias, Visalia	8,794
Porterville College, Porterville (Kern CCD)	3,134

Note: The enrollments are credit full-time-equivalent students, 2003-04.

Several other community colleges and two California State University campuses are available in neighboring Fresno and Kern counties.

### ***Health Care***

Tulare County had 830 licensed hospital beds in six facilities as of December 31, 2004 (exclusive of the 1,110-bed Porterville Developmental Center, a state hospital for persons with developmental disabilities). There were five emergency medical services among those facilities: two standby and three basic.

Tulare County had 1,345 nursing home beds in 13 facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>47</sup>

As of 2001, there were 447 active non-federal physicians in Tulare County. As of 2002 there were 161 licensed non-federal dentists in Tulare County.<sup>48</sup>

## 7. FRESNO

**F**resno County, like Madera, its neighbor to the north, stretches well to the east of the valley and into national forests and parks. About 40 percent of the land in Fresno County, mostly in foothill and mountain areas, is owned by government, predominantly the federal government. About 51 percent of the county's land is in farms (2002).



The City of Fresno (464,727) encompasses more than half of the county's 883,537 population. The rest of the county's residents are distributed among 14 other incorporated cities (Clovis, at 86,015, by far the largest of them, and San Joaquin at 3,623, the smallest), and unincorporated areas (173,054).

The other incorporated cities of Fresno county are: Reedley (22,599), Sanger (22,105), Selma (22,411), Coalinga (17,080), Parlier (12,709), Kingsburg (11,237), Orange Cove (9,297), Mendota (8,739), Kerman (11,455), Firebaugh (6,741), Huron (7,016), and Fowler (4,729). Fresno County is also home to a California State University campus.<sup>49</sup>

### LAND

Fresno County has a land area of 5,963 square miles (3,816,128 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 51 percent of the county's land was in farms—1,928,865 acres, down slightly from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 307 acres.

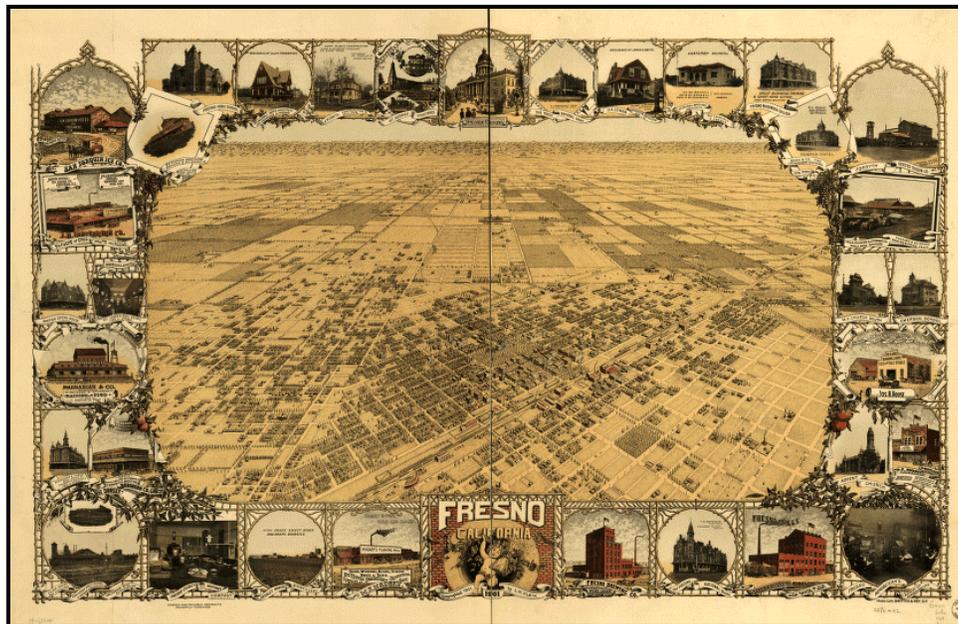


FIGURE 76. FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, 1901  
Photo from Library of Congress American Memory<sup>50</sup>

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 1,568,470 acres in Fresno County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>51</sup>

## PEOPLE

Fresno County's population of 883,537 comprises about 2.4 percent of the population of California.

The population of Fresno County is approximately 44 percent Hispanic, according to Department of Finance estimates for 2000. The Department of Finance projects a Hispanic presence in Fresno County of 68 percent by 2050.

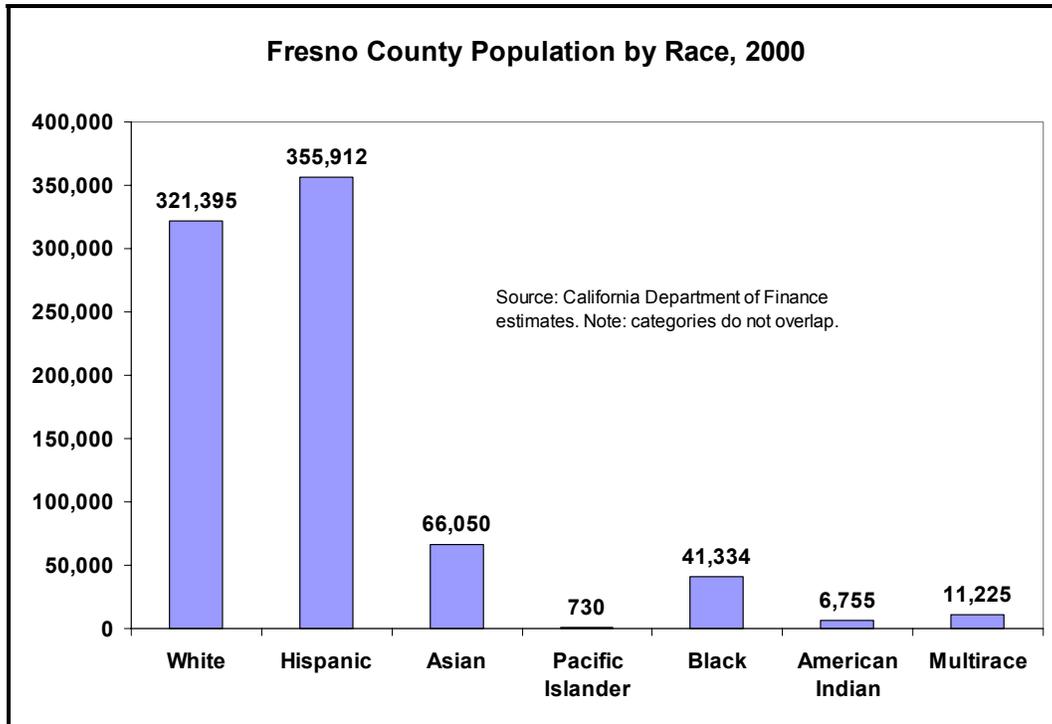


FIGURE 77. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.

Fresno County's population grew by 87,094, or 11.0 percent between 1999, and 2004, increasing at a rate of around 1.9 to 2.4 percent per year.

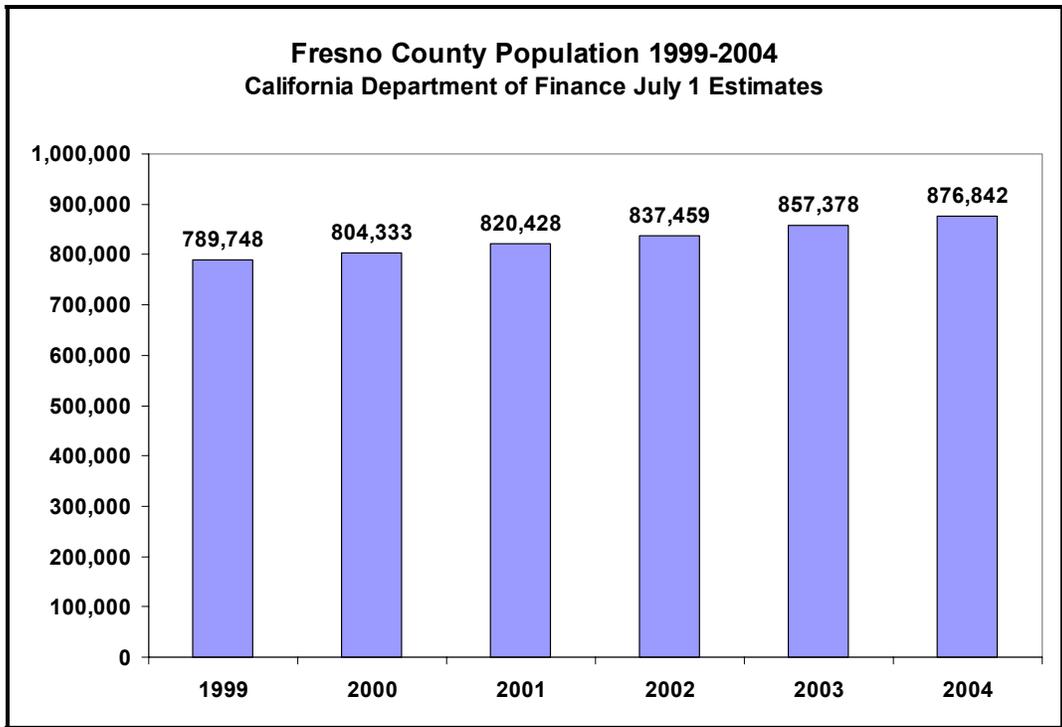


FIGURE 78. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.

That growth is roughly equal to the 2005 population of the City of Clovis.

Most of that growth, 52.5 percent, resulted from—births minus deaths. The rest was from foreign immigration (30.8 percent) and domestic migration (16.7 percent).

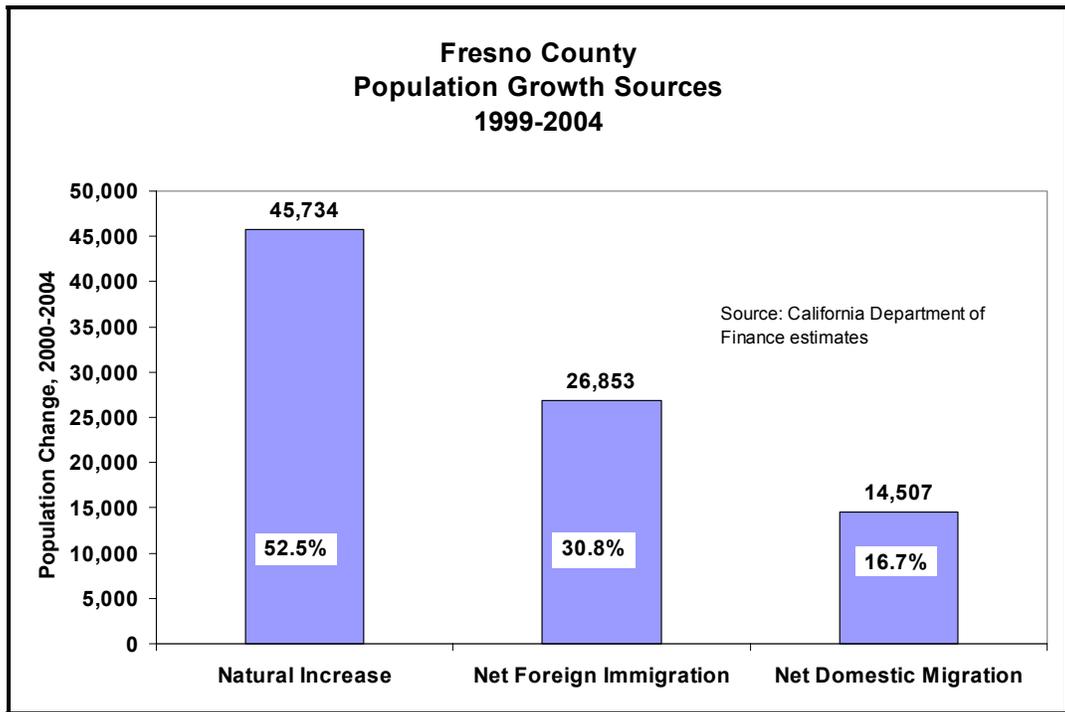


FIGURE 79. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

With a median age of 30.3, Fresno is younger than California, which has a median age of 34.1 (2003 American Community Survey estimates).<sup>52</sup> Correspondingly, Fresno's percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (30.9 percent vs. 27.0 percent, respectively). Fresno's percentage of population age 65 and over is lower than that of California (9.5 percent, vs. 10.3 percent). The contrast with the U.S. is even clearer, as California's population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (median age 36.0).

About 73.6 percent of Fresno County's residents age 25 and over are high school graduates or higher, below California's 80.2 percent and the United States' 83.6 percent. About 18.0 percent of Fresno County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, far below the California figure (29.1 percent) and the U.S figure (26.5 percent).

Foreign-born residents comprise 19.5 percent of Fresno County's population, compared to 26.5 percent for California and 11.8 percent for the U.S, according to Census Bureau estimates for 2003. Of the population age 5 years and over, 38.8 percent speak a language other than English at home, not far below the 40.8 percent figure for California, but much higher than the U.S. figure of 18.4 percent.

An estimated 17.6 percent of Fresno County families have income below the poverty level, a significantly higher figure than California's 10.5 percent and the United States' 9.8 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 21.8 percent (Fresno), 13.4 percent (California) and 12.7 percent (U.S.).

Fresno County's population centers in a relatively small portion of the county in and near the City of Fresno.

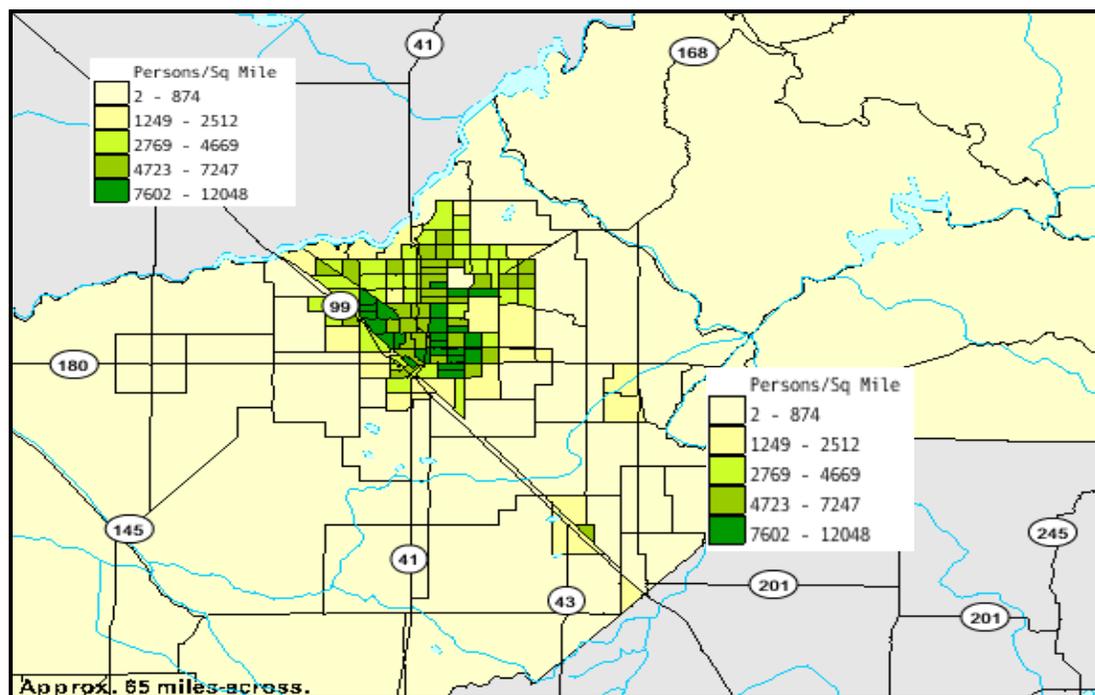


FIGURE 80. FRESNO COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.

Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The California Department of Finance projects steady growth in the coming decades, with the population of Fresno County expected to more than double to 1.658 million by 2050.

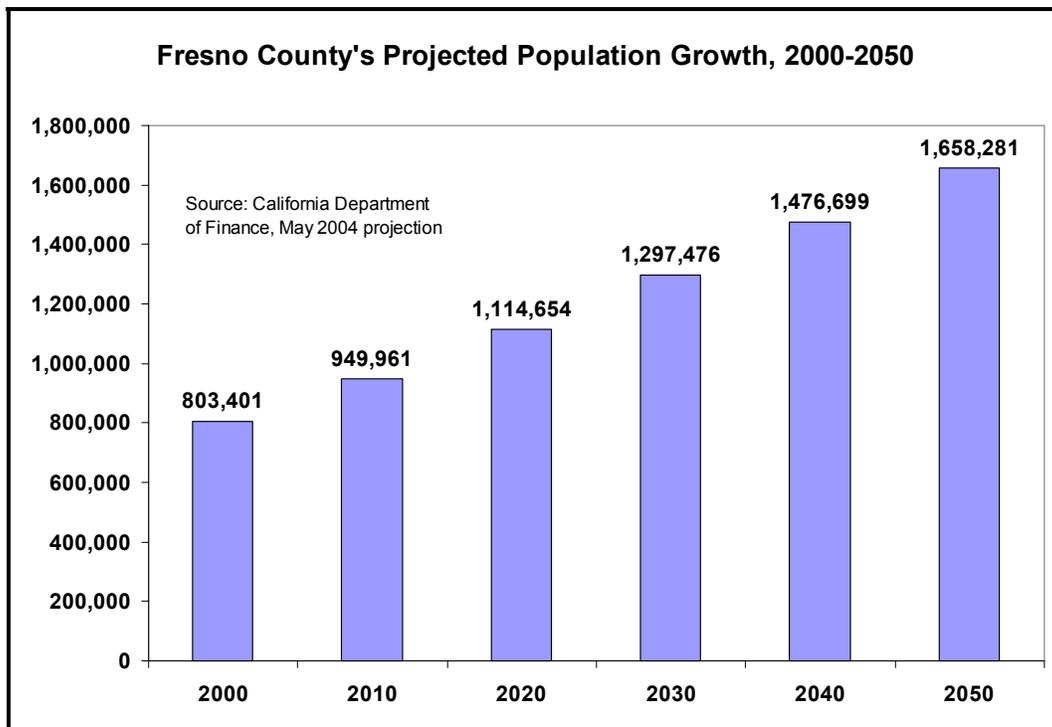


FIGURE 81. FRESNO COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

Agriculture is a key part of Fresno's economy, and in turn, Fresno's agriculture is notable statewide and nationwide. According to the California Department of Food and Agriculture,

In 2003, Fresno, with \$4.05 billion in agricultural value, remained the number one county in the nation[,] followed by Tulare and Monterey. If ranked separately, the value of agricultural commodities in Fresno County would rank it ahead of more than half the other states in the nation.<sup>53</sup>

Fresno County's labor force has climbed since 1990, but unevenly from year to year.

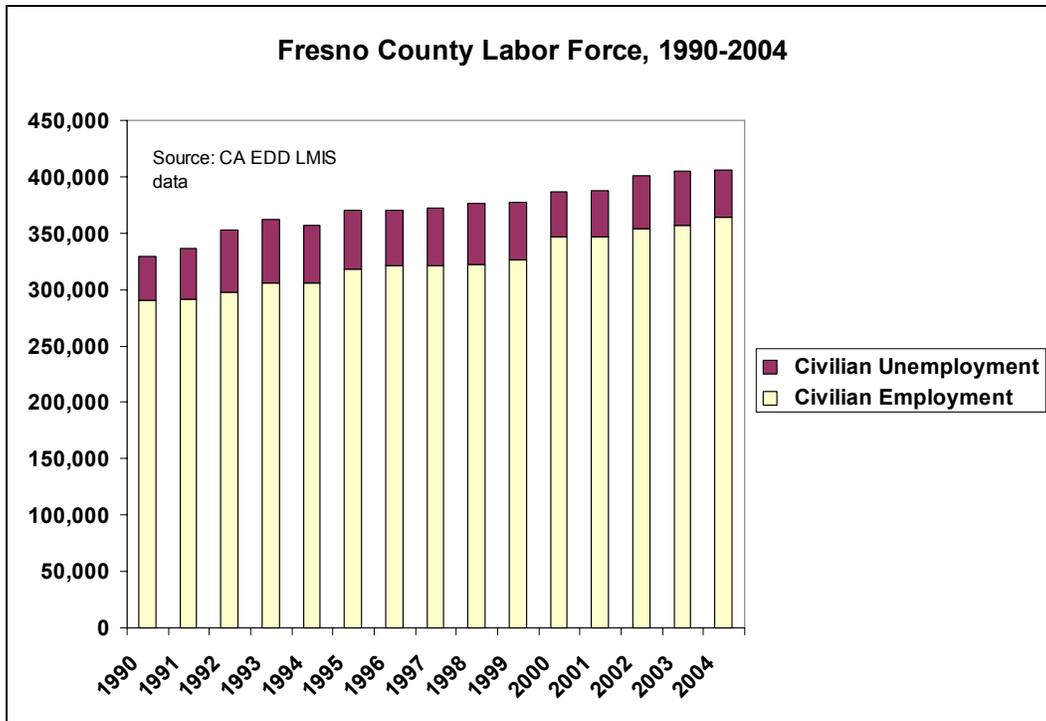


FIGURE 82. FRESNO COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

Fresno County's unemployment rate has varied in recent years and has fallen sharply from its early 1990s high, with an especially sharp drop from 1999 to 2000, but it has remained higher than California's rate.

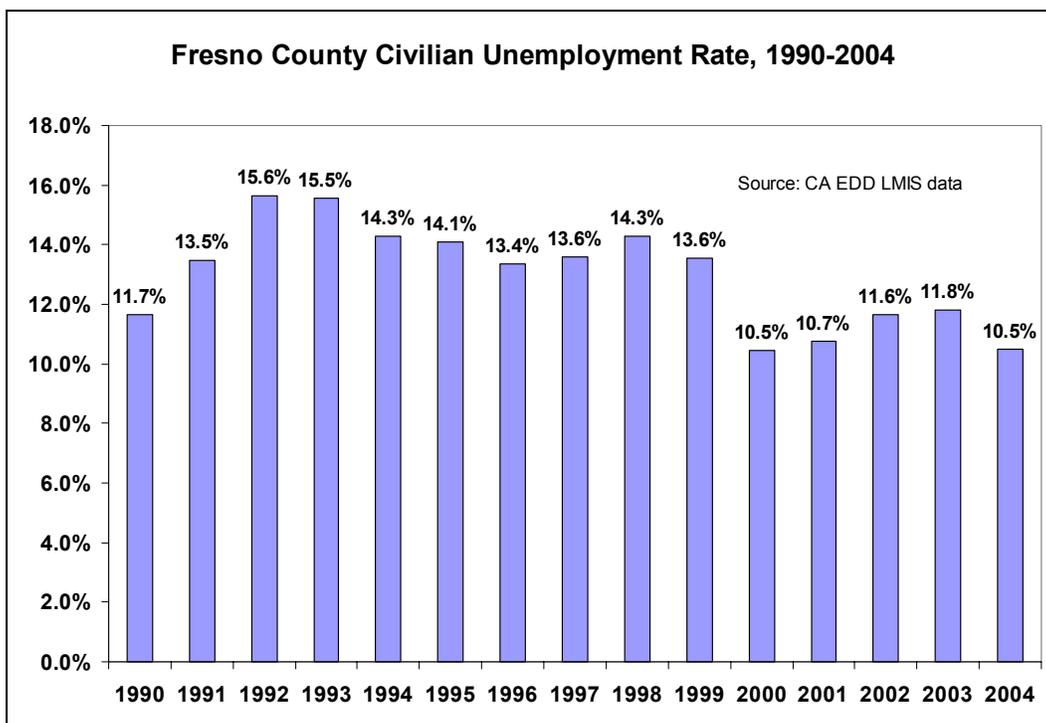


FIGURE 83. FRESNO COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Fresno County is in nonfarm jobs.

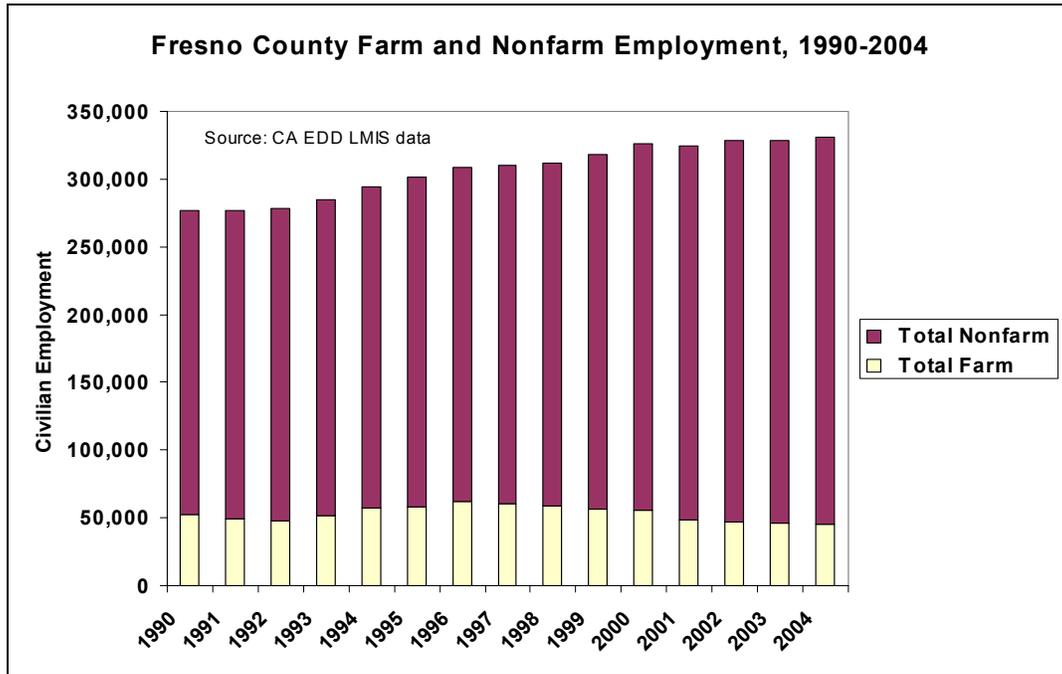


FIGURE 84. FRESNO COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Farm employment rose for a few years during the 1990-2004 period, but then fell for a net decline over the period of 14.0 percent. Nonfarm employment grew by 27.3 percent over that period. Total employment has generally grown from year to year, but not every year.

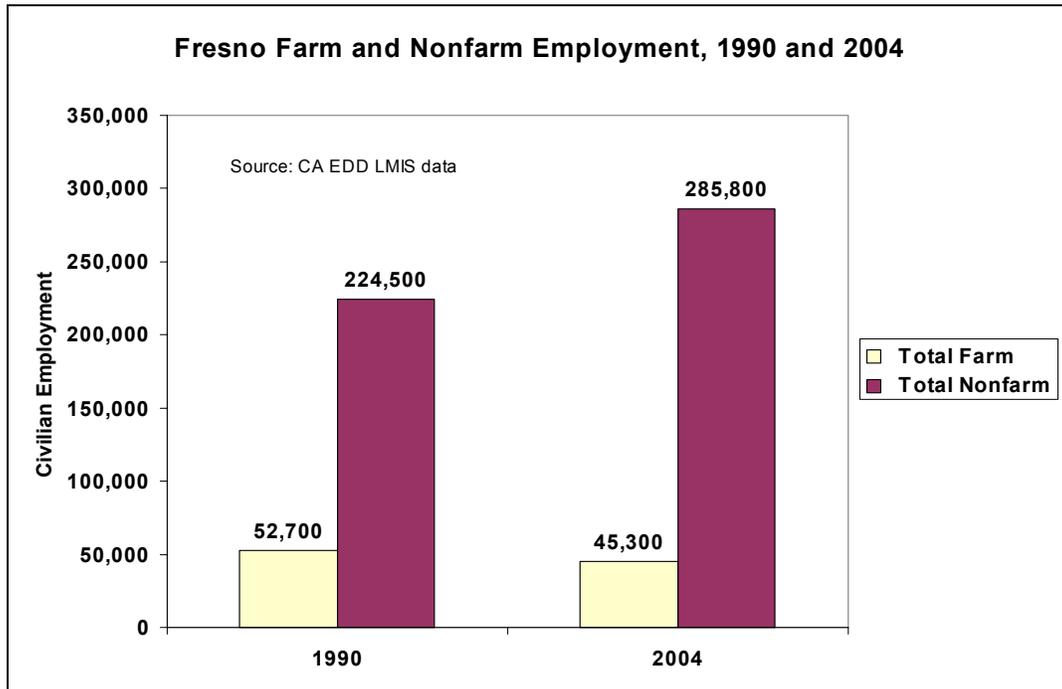


FIGURE 85. FRESNO COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries. Goods-producing employment increased by a net 19.5 percent from 1990 to 2004, compared to an increase of 28.3 percent for private service-providing employment.

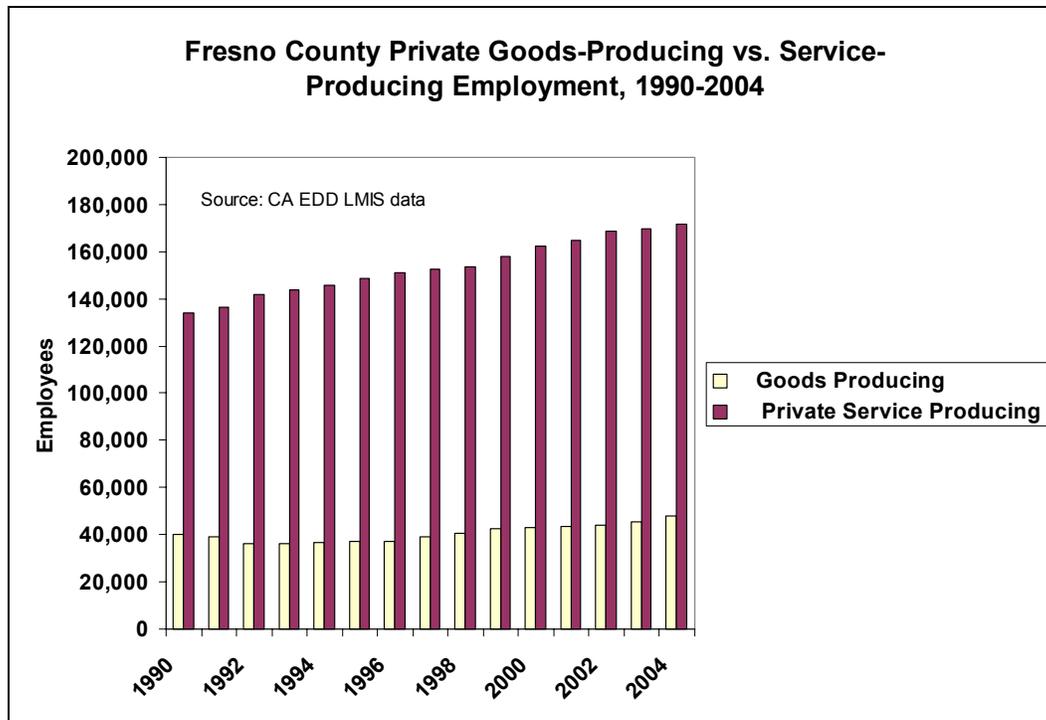


FIGURE 86. FRESNO COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PRODUCING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in Fresno County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>54</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Total employment in the county (“All Industries”) increased by 19 percent, reflecting a 14 percent decline in farm employment and a 27 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment increased by 20 percent, aided by a 35 percent increase in construction,<sup>55</sup> from 14,800 to 20,000 jobs.
- Manufacturing<sup>56</sup> employment (a subset of the goods-producing sector) increased by 12 percent, highlighted by a 44 percent increase in food manufacturing, from 9,100 to 13,100 jobs.
- Private service-providing employment increased by 28 percent, from 133,800 to 171,700 jobs, with increases in several categories, and small declines in some. Of note was a 25 percent increase in “residual-miscellaneous store retailers” (those that do not fall into more clearly defined categories in the reported statistics) from 14,800 to 18,500.
- Within the category of financial activities, “residual-credit intermediation and related activities”<sup>57</sup> grew by 47 percent, from 3,600 to 5,300 jobs.

- Professional and business services grew by 63 percent, from 16,800 to 27,400 jobs. Strongest within that category was employment services, growing by 184 percent, from 1,900 to 5,400 jobs, an increase of 3,500. (Employment services include placement agencies, temporary help agencies, and professional employer organizations.<sup>58</sup>)
- Educational and health services gained 47 percent, from 24,200 to 35,500. Notable in that category was health care, rising 42 percent, from 19,800 to 28,100 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality grew by 37 percent, from 17,500 to 24,000 jobs. Notable in that category was food service and drinking places, rising 42 percent, from 13,700 to 19,400 jobs.
- State and local government rose by 37 percent, from 40,700 to 55,800 jobs, an increase of 15,100. Local government education accounted for more than half of that number, 8,400 added jobs. (This level of detail is not available for less populous counties.)

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Fresno County enrolled 187,697 students.<sup>59</sup> Of those students:

- 27.6 percent were English learners, higher than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 64.1 percent received free/reduced price meals, higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 18.7 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 72.0 percent were compensatory education students, higher than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 51,874 English learners, 37,749 (72.7 percent) had Spanish as primary language, and 9,181 (17.7 percent) had Hmong as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 33.0 percent of Fresno County high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, very close to the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>60</sup>

### *College*

Fresno County is home to three community colleges and to one California State University campus.

<b>College</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Fresno City College, Fresno	15,109
West Hills College, Coalinga	3,991
Reedley College, Reedley	7,688
California State University, Fresno	17,034

Note: For the community colleges, enrollment is credit full-time-equivalent students, 2003-04. For CSU, enrollment is annualized full-time-equivalent students, college year (summer, fall, and spring), 2002-03.

### *Health Care*

Fresno County had 1,713 licensed hospital beds in 15 facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were ten emergency medical services among those facilities: four standby, five basic, and one (University Medical Center, Fresno) comprehensive.

Fresno County had 3,220 nursing home beds in 36 facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>61</sup>

As of 2001, there were 1,529 active non-federal physicians in Fresno County. As of 2002 there were and 475 licensed non-federal dentists in Fresno County.<sup>62</sup>

## 8. MADERA

**A**lthough Madera County is in the Central Valley, sandwiched in part between Merced and Fresno, it also reaches east, well into the Sierra National Forest and Yosemite National Park.

What is now Madera County was part of Fresno County until 1893.

The county's 141,007 residents are distributed among the City of Madera (50,842), the City of Chowchilla (16,065), and unincorporated areas (74,100). Half of the county's land was in farms as of 2002.<sup>63</sup>



### LAND

Madera County has a land area of 2,136 square miles (1,366,976 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 50 percent of the county's land was in farms—682,486 acres, up one percent from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 383 acres.

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 551,504 acres in Madera County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>64</sup>

### PEOPLE

Madera County's 2005 population of 141,007 comprises about 0.4 percent (four-tenths of one percent) of the population of California.

The population of Madera County is 44.5 percent Hispanic according to Department of Finance estimates (Figure 87). The Department of Finance projects a Hispanic presence in Madera County of 64.7 percent by 2050.

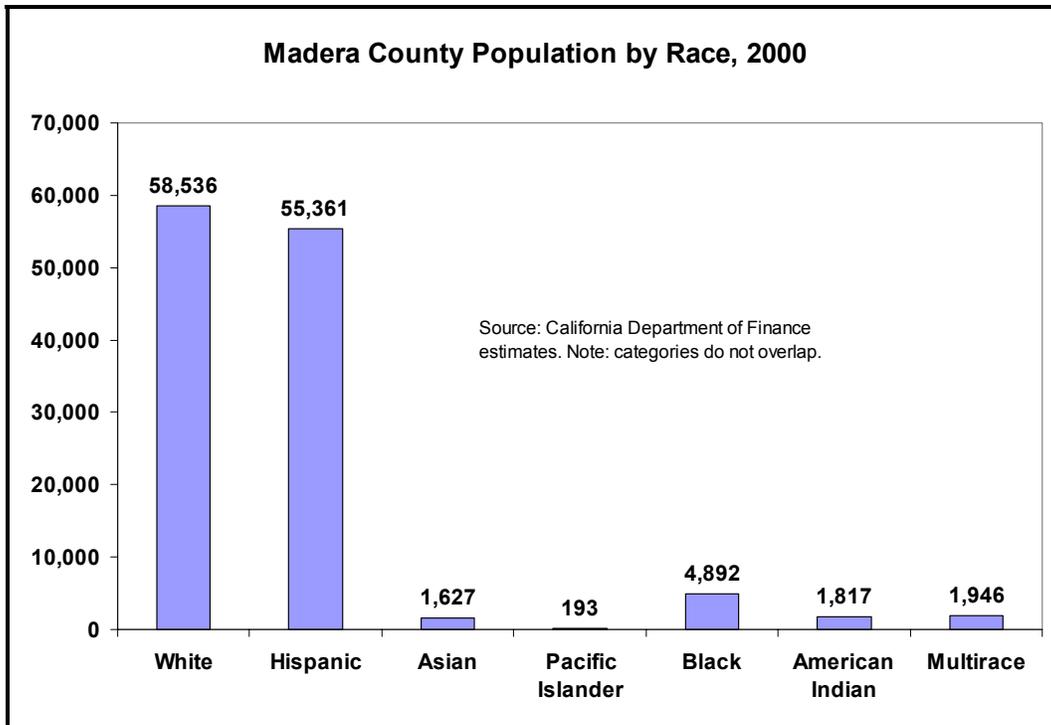


FIGURE 87. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.

Madera County's population grew by 17,737, or 14.6 percent, between 1999 and 2004. The annual increase has ranged from about 2.1 to 3.8 percent. The increase over those five years has been roughly the equivalent of adding the population of the City of Chowchilla to the county.

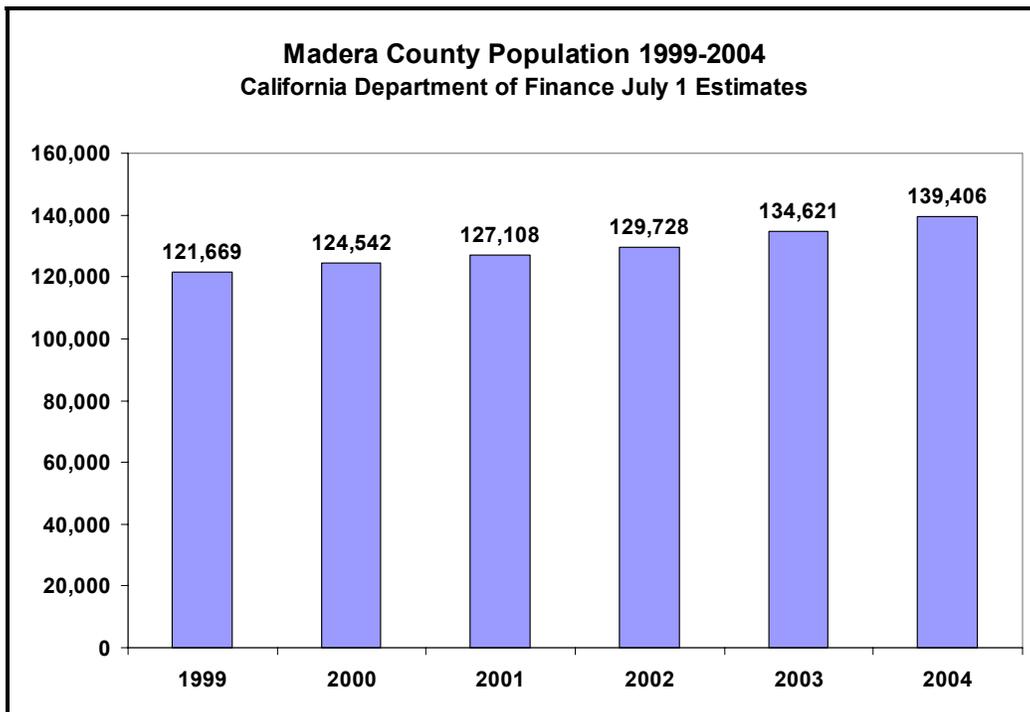


FIGURE 88. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION, 1999-2004.

The largest portion of that growth, 42.9 percent, has been from domestic migration. The next largest portion was the result of natural increase—births minus deaths—at 36.0 percent. The rest, 21.2 percent, was from foreign immigration (Figure 89).

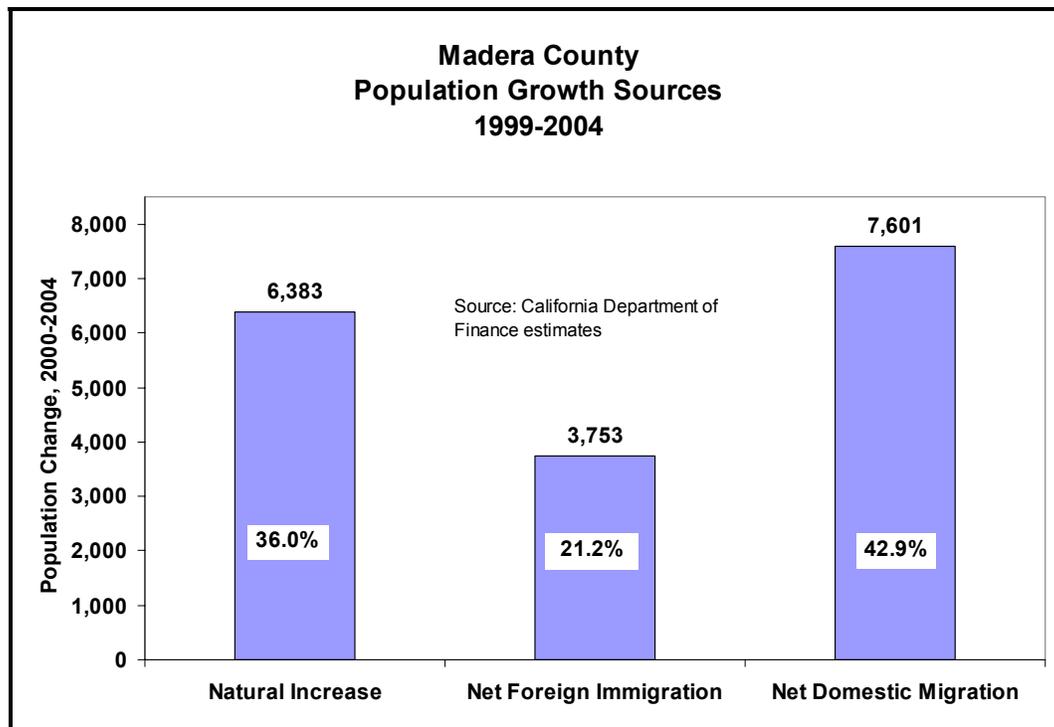


FIGURE 89. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

With a median age of 32.7, Madera is only slightly younger than California, which has a median age of 33.3 (2000 Census).<sup>65</sup> Madera’s percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (29.6 percent vs. 33.3 percent, respectively). Madera’s percentage of population age 65 and over is slightly higher than that of California (11.0 percent, vs. 10.6 percent). The contrast with the U.S. is clearer, as California’s population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (U.S. median age 35.3).

About 65.4 percent of Madera’s residents age 25 years and over are high school graduates or higher. That is significantly below California’s 76.8 percent and the United States’ 80.4 percent. About 12.0 percent of Madera County residents age 25 and over have a bachelor’s degree or higher, far below California’s 26.6 percent and the United States’ 24.4 percent.

Foreign-born residents comprise 20.1 percent of Madera County’s population, compared to 26.2 percent for California and 11.1 percent for the U.S. Of the population of Madera County age 5 years and over, 37.0 percent speak a language other than English at home, in comparison to 39.5 percent for California and 17.9 percent for the U.S.

Approximately 15.9 percent of Madera County families had income below the poverty level in 1999, significantly higher than California’s 10.6 percent and the United States’

9.2 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 21.4 percent (Madera), 14.2 percent (California), and 12.4 percent (U.S.).

Madera County's population is concentrated in a small portion of the county in and near the City of Madera.

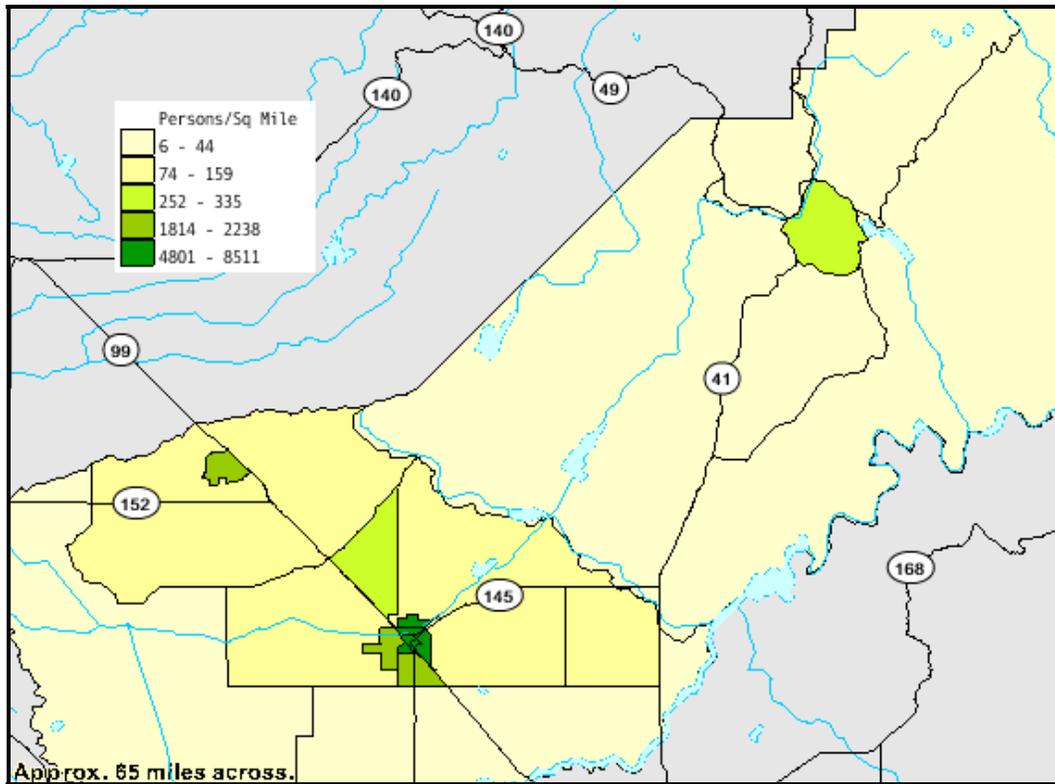


FIGURE 90. MADERA COUNTY (PORTION) POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.  
Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The California Department of Finance projects the population of Madera County to grow by 144 percent between 2000 and 2050.

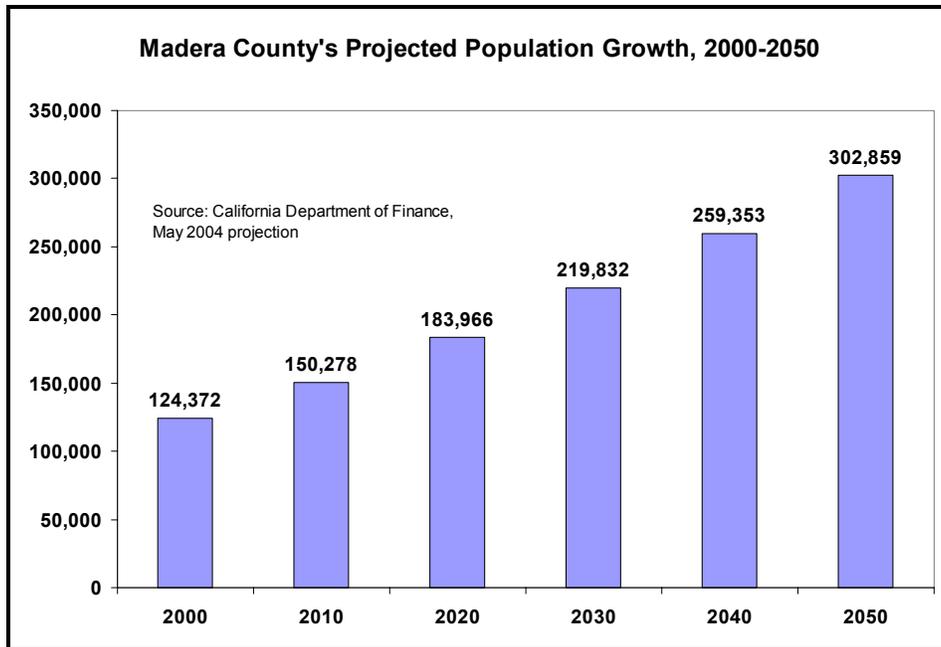


FIGURE 91. MADERA COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

Madera County's labor force has climbed since 1990, but unevenly year to year.

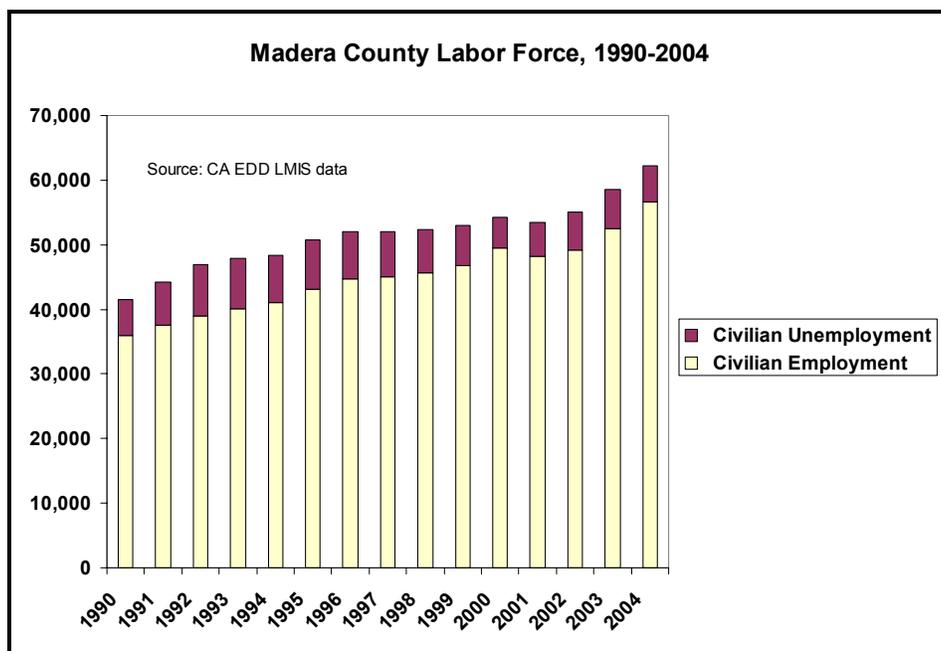


FIGURE 92. MADERA COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

Madera County's unemployment rate has varied in recent years and has fallen sharply from its early 1990s high, but it has remained higher than California's rate.

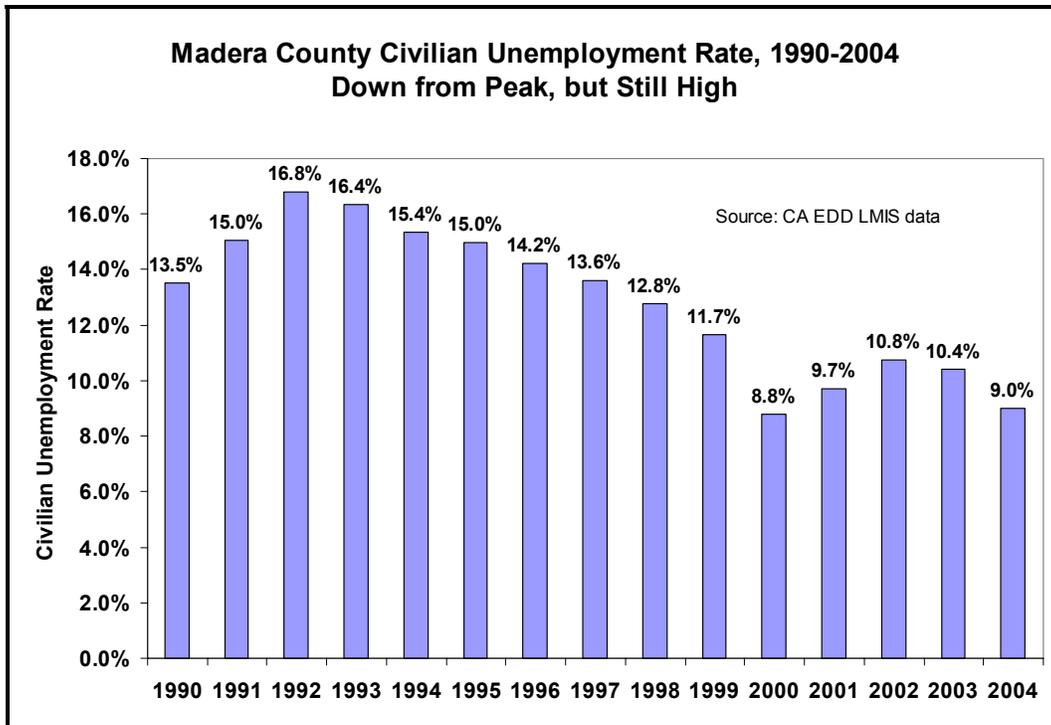


FIGURE 93. MADERA COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Madera County is in nonfarm jobs (Figure 94).

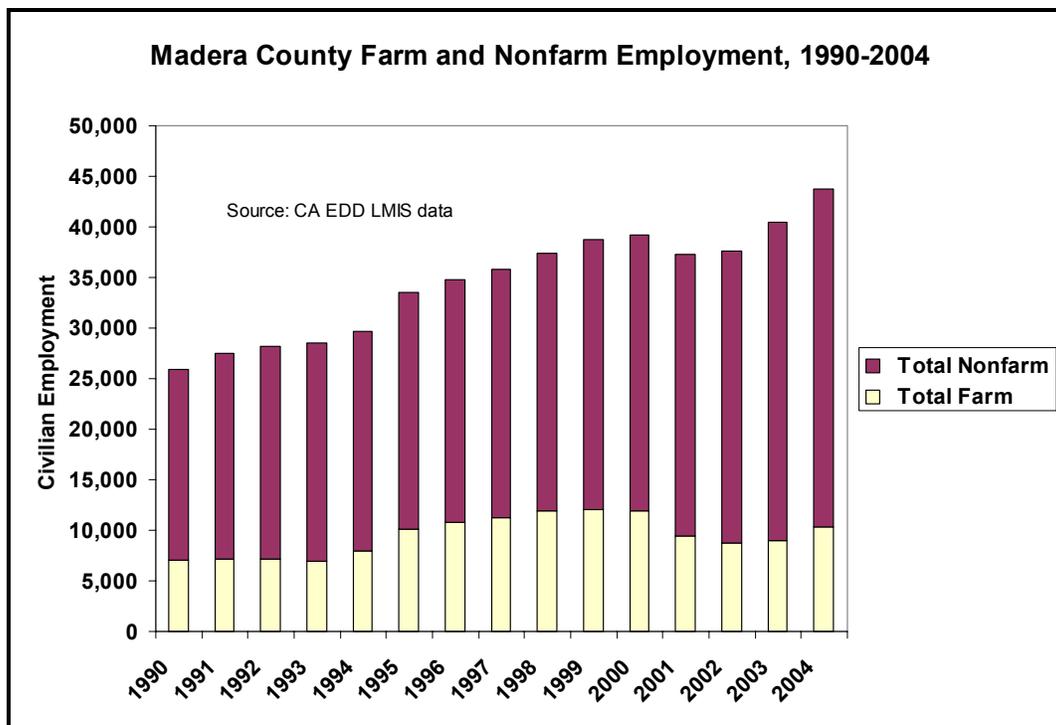


FIGURE 94. MADERA COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Both farm and nonfarm employment grew from 1990 to 2004. Farm employment gained 45.1 percent, while nonfarm employment grew by 77.7 percent over that period. Farm

employment had significant ups and downs over those years and is now below its level of the mid-1990s. Total employment has tended to grow year to year, but not every year.

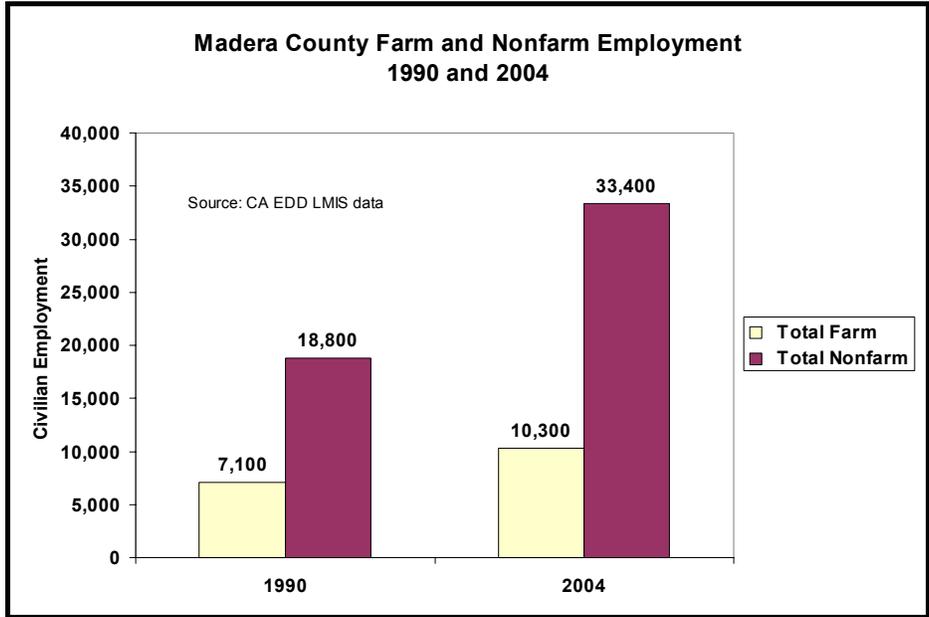


FIGURE 95. MADERA COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries. Private service-providing employment has risen year to year, with only one brief pause, 1987-88. Goods-producing employment sagged and then recovered during the period 1990-2004 (Figure 96).

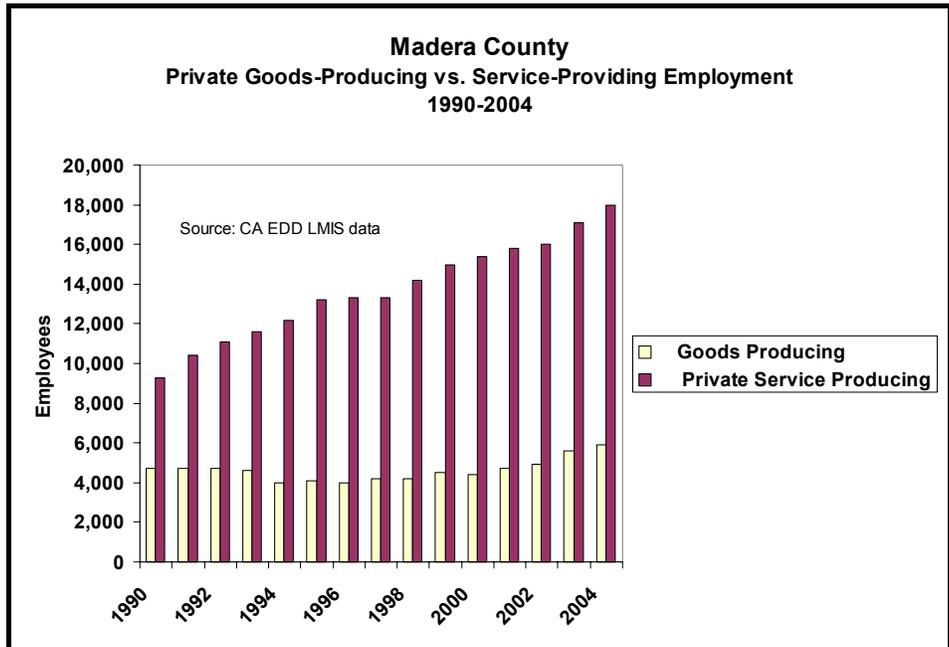


FIGURE 96. MADERA COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in Madera County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>66</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Total employment in Madera County (“All Industries”) rose by 69 percent, from 25,800 to 43,700, reflecting a 45 percent increase in farm employment and a 78 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment rose by 26 percent, led by a gain of 73 percent in “natural resources, mining, and construction” (presumably almost entirely attributable to construction), from 1,500 to 2,600.
- Private (nongovernment) service-producing employment rose by 94 percent, from 9,300 to 18,000.
- Professional and business services employment stood out with a gain of 300 percent, from 700 to 2,800.
- Another standout was educational and health services, increasing 224 percent, from 1,700 to 5,500 jobs. The health care component of that category rose by 262 percent, from 1,300 to 4,700 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality gained 33 percent, rising from 1,800 to 2,400 jobs.
- State government rose by 600 percent, from 300 to 2,100 jobs. Major contributors to that growth have been the Central California Women’s Facility, opened in 1990, and the Valley State Women’s Prison, opened in 1995. Both are in Chowchilla.
- Local government rose 76 percent, from 4,100 to 7,200 jobs. That included growth of 1,100 jobs in local government education, from 2,800 to 3,900 jobs, an increase of 39 percent. The category “other local government” (other than cities and counties) grew by 700 percent, from 200 to 1,600 jobs.

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Madera County enrolled 26,420 students.<sup>67</sup> Of those students:

- 29.8 percent were English learners, higher than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 65.2 percent received free/reduced price meals, higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 16.1 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 77.1 percent were compensatory education students, higher than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 7,866 English learners, 7,605 (96.7 percent) had Spanish as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 13.5 percent of high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, less than half of the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>68</sup>

### *College*

There are no public colleges in Madera County, although neighboring Fresno and Merced counties are home to four community colleges, one California State University Campus (Fresno), and the new University of California campus in Merced.

### ***Health Care***

Madera County had 385 licensed hospital beds in three facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were three emergency medical services among those facilities: one standby and two basic.

Madera County had 375 nursing home beds in five facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>69</sup>

As of 2001, there were 134 active non-federal physicians in Madera County. As of 2002 there were 48 licensed non-federal dentists in Madera County.<sup>70</sup>

## 9. MERCED

**M**erced County is predominantly in farmland, with 82 percent of its land in farms, according to the 2002 Census of Agriculture. That figure is up nine percent since the 1997 census.

Merced County is south of Stanislaus and, like Stanislaus, firmly in the center of California's Great Central Valley. The county's 2005 population of 240,162 is distributed primarily among the cities of Merced (73,610), Los Baños (32,380), Atwater (26,693), Livingston (12,344), Dos Palos (4,854), and Gustine (5,311). The remaining 84,970 residents are in unincorporated areas.<sup>71</sup>

A new University of California campus is opening in Merced County, with students arriving for fall 2005 classes.



### LAND

Merced County has a land area of 1,929 square miles (1,234,368 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 82 percent of the county's land was in farms—1,006,127 acres, up nine percent from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 339 acres.

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 413,278 acres in Merced County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>72</sup>

### PEOPLE

Merced County's 2005 population of 240,162 comprises about 0.7 percent (seven-tenths of one percent) of the population of California.

The population of Merced County is about 46 percent Hispanic, according to Department of Finance estimates for 2000 (Figure 97). The Department of Finance projects a Hispanic presence in Merced County of 59.5 percent by 2050.

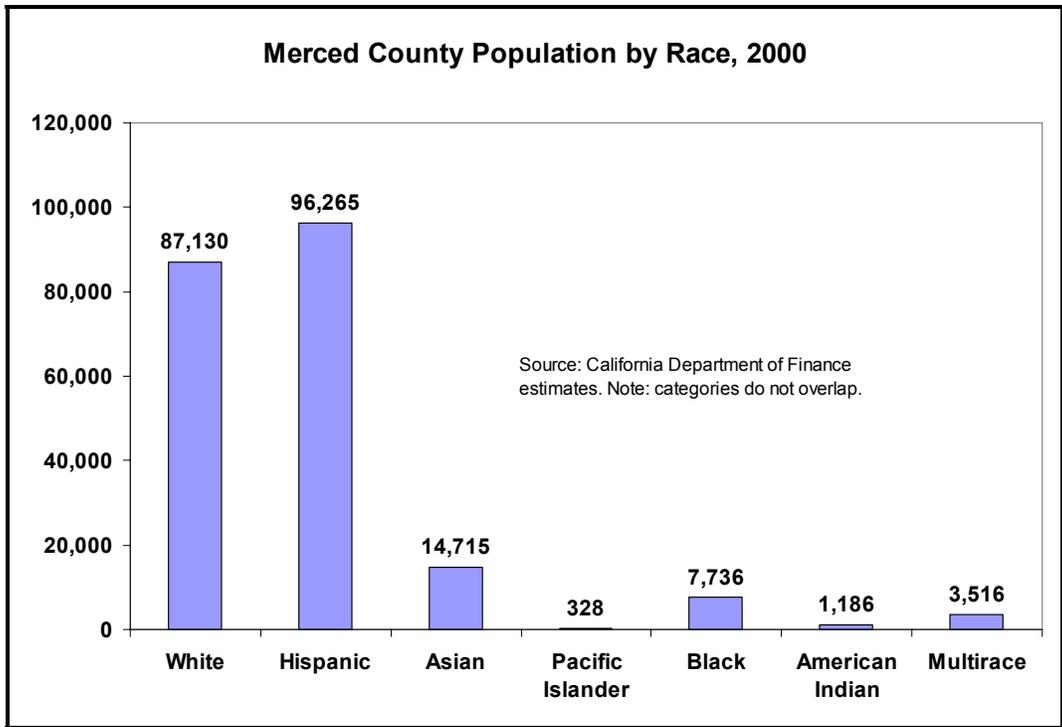


FIGURE 97. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE 2000.

Merced County's population grew by 29,698, or 14.3 percent, between 1999 and 2004. The annual increase has ranged from about 1.8 to 3.2 percent. The increase over those five years has been roughly the equivalent of adding nearly the population of the City of Los Baños to the county.

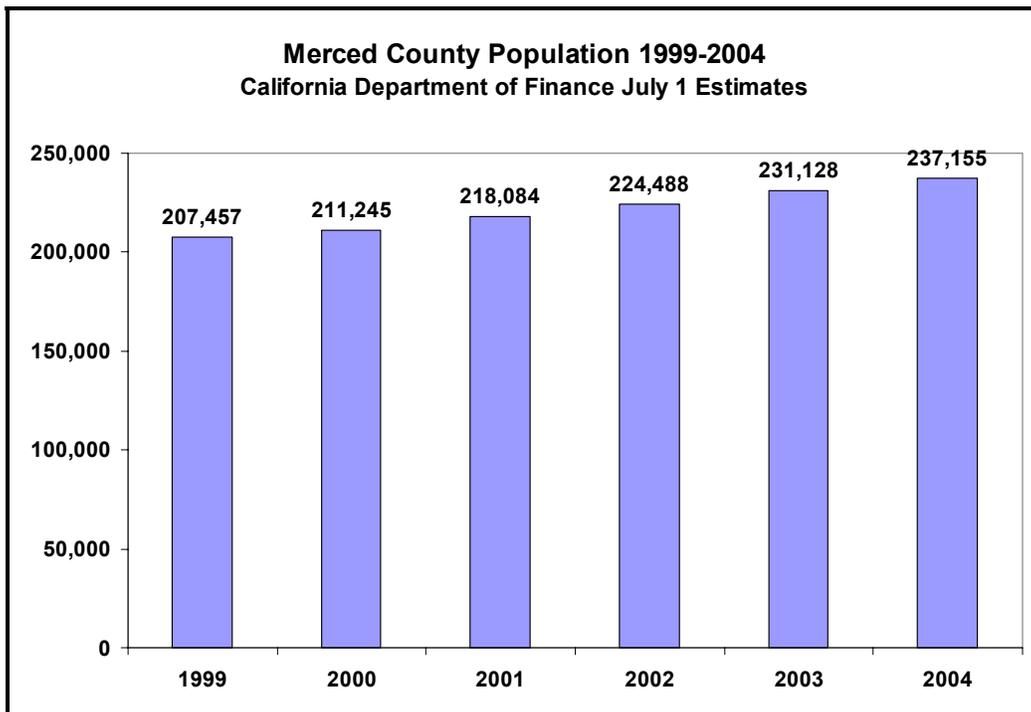


FIGURE 98. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION, 1999-2004.

Much of that growth (44.8 percent) resulted from—births minus deaths. Foreign immigration accounted for 28.0 percent and domestic migration for 27.2 percent of the growth over those five years, according to Department of Finance estimates (Figure 99).

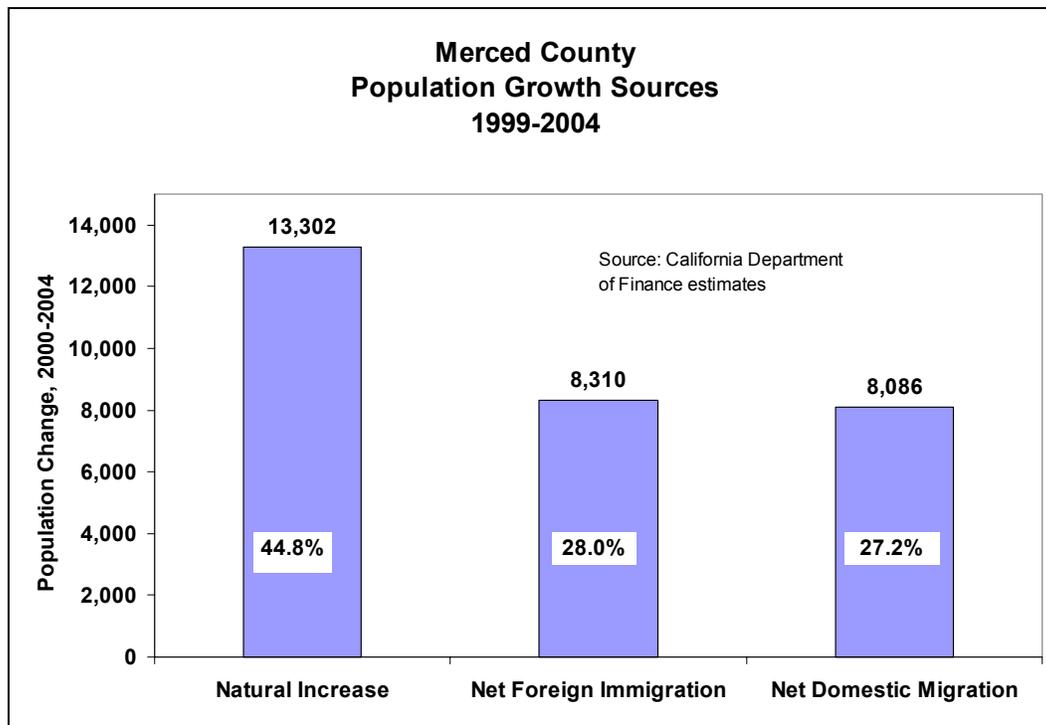


FIGURE 99. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

With a median age of 29.0, Merced is younger than California, which has a median age of 33.3 (2000 Census).<sup>73</sup> Correspondingly, Merced’s percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (34.5 percent vs. 27.3 percent, respectively). Merced’s percentage of population age 65 and over is lower than that of California (9.5 percent vs. 10.6 percent). The contrast with the U.S. is even clearer, as California’s population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (U.S. median age 35.3).

According to the 2000 Census, 63.8 percent of Merced’s residents age 25 years and over are high school graduates or higher. That is significantly below California’s 76.8 percent and the United States’ 80.4 percent. Some 11.0 percent of Merced County residents age 25 and over have a bachelor’s degree or higher, far below California’s 26.6 percent and the United States’ 24.4 percent for 2000.

Foreign-born residents comprise 24.8 percent of Merced County’s population, compared to 26.2 percent for California and 11.1 percent for the U.S. (2000 Census). Of the population of Merced County age 5 years and over, 45.2 percent speak a language other than English at home, in comparison to 39.5 percent for California and 17.9 percent for the U.S.

Approximately 16.9 percent of Merced County families had income below the poverty level in 1999, significantly higher than California’s 10.6 percent and the United States’

9.2 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 21.7 percent (Merced), 14.2 percent (California), and 12.4 percent (U.S.).

The population of Merced County is concentrated in a few compact areas, primarily the cities of Merced, Los Baños, and Atwater (Figure 100).

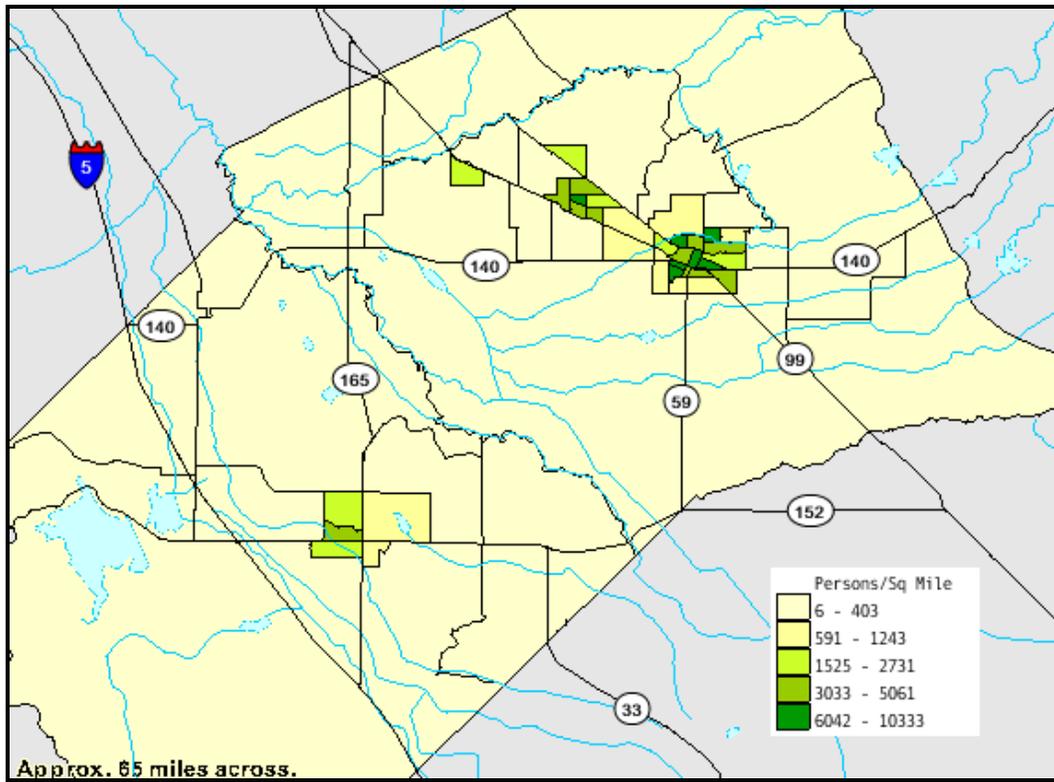


FIGURE 100. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.  
Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The California Department of Finance projects the population of Merced County to nearly triple (growth of 197 percent) between 2000 and 2050.

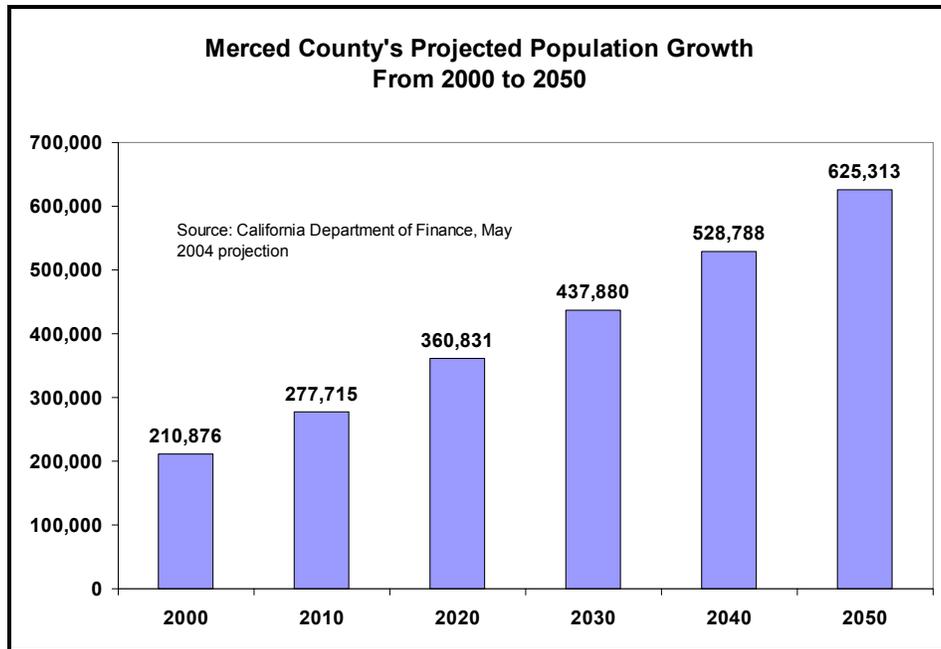


FIGURE 101. MERCED COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

Merced County's labor force has climbed since 1990, but unevenly from year to year.

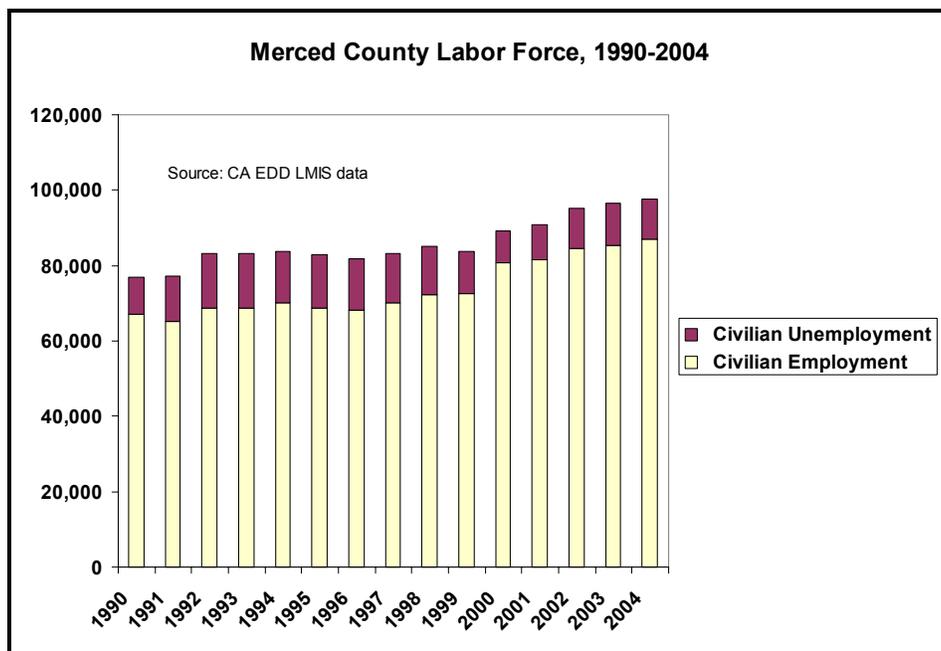


FIGURE 102. MERCED COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

Merced County's unemployment rate has varied in recent years and has fallen sharply from its early- to mid-1990s high, with an especially sharp drop from 1999 to 2000, but it has remained higher than California's rate.

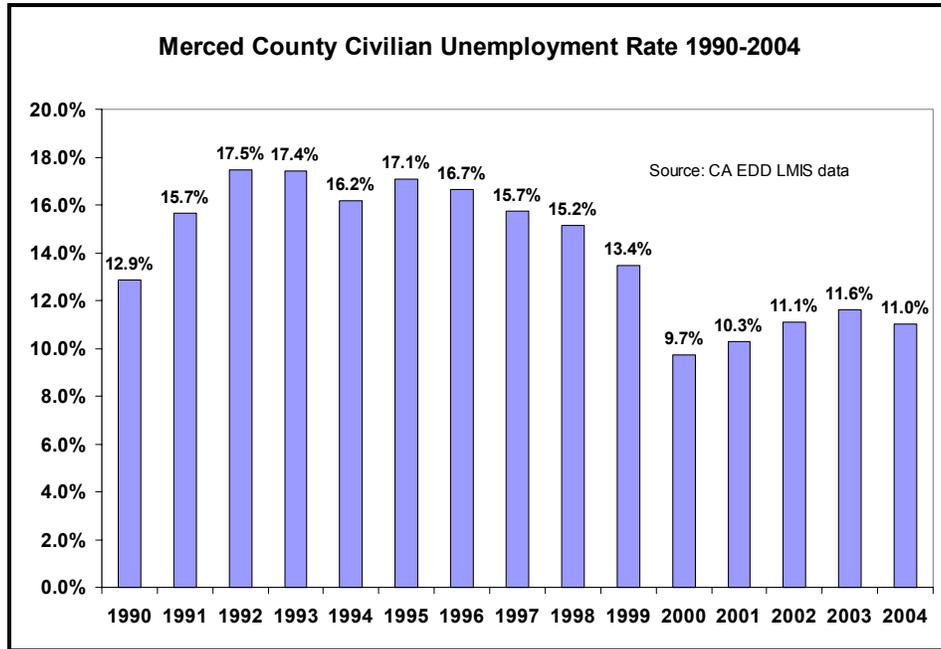


FIGURE 103. MERCED COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Merced County is in nonfarm jobs (Figure 104).

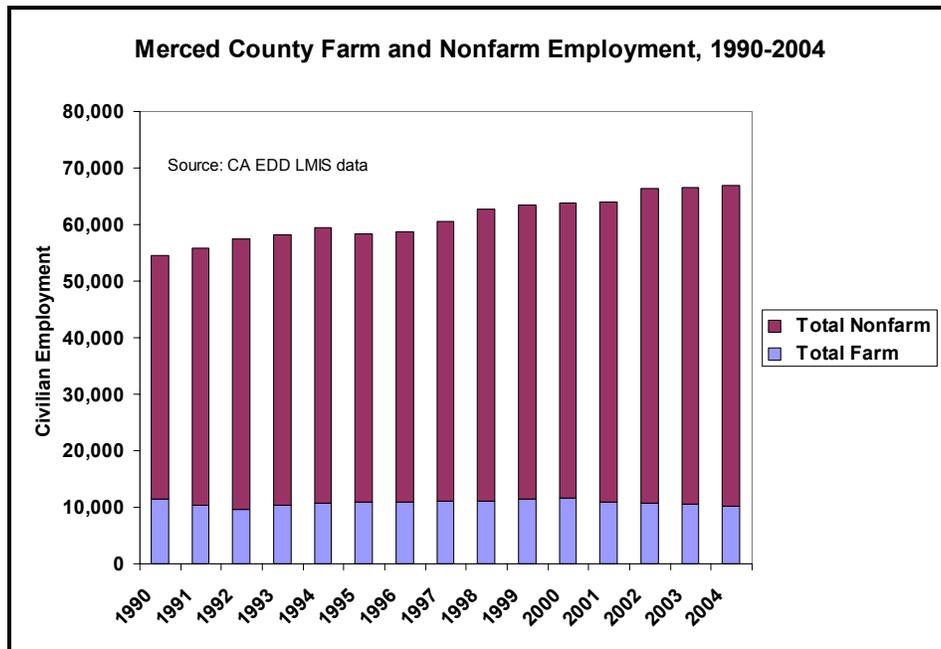


FIGURE 104. MERCED COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Farm employment shrank by 10.5 percent from 1990 to 2004. Nonfarm employment grew by 31.5 percent over that period. Total employment has generally grown from year to year, but not every year.

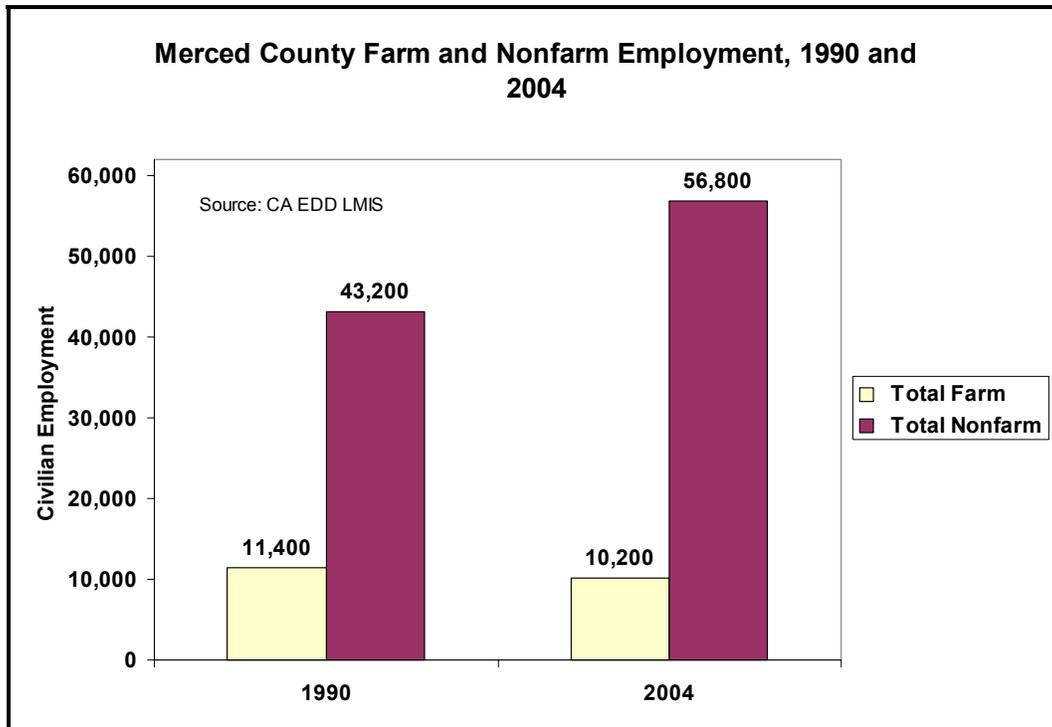


FIGURE 105. MERCED COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries, although an unusually high proportion of Merced County's nongovernment/nonfarm employment is in the goods-producing sector—almost one-third in 2004. (That is, Merced County has a comparatively high proportion of workers producing goods rather than services.)

Goods-producing employment increased by a net 30.4 percent from 1990 to 2004, compared to an increase of 20.2 percent for private service-providing employment. That is distinctive among the counties of the San Joaquin Valley.

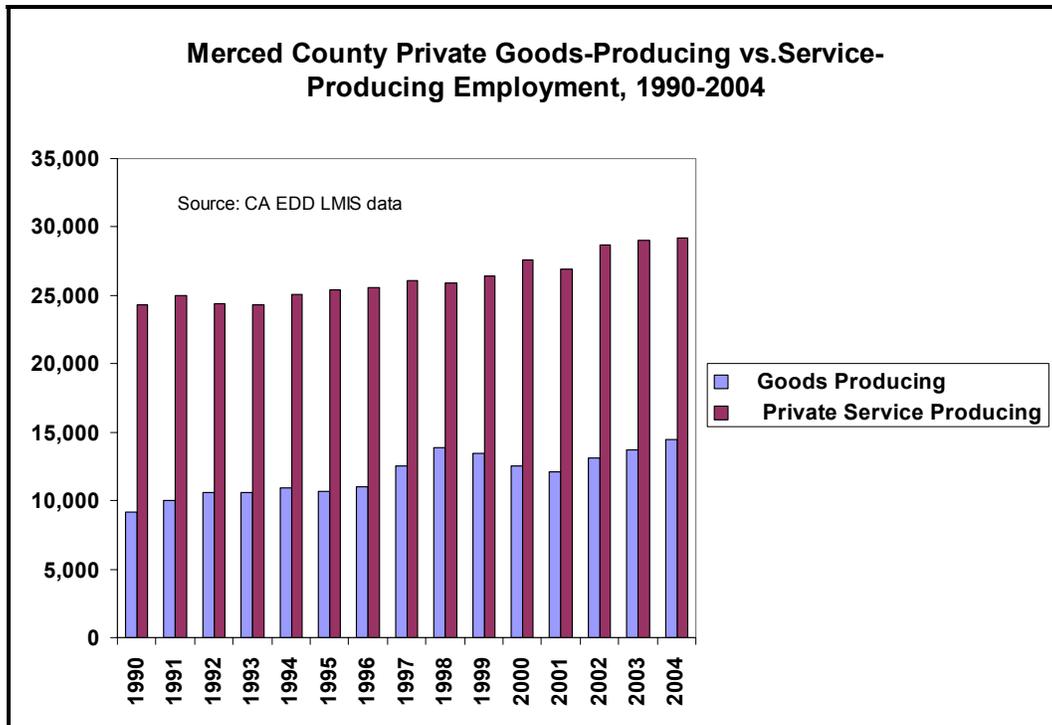


FIGURE 106. MERCED COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in Merced County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>74</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Total employment (“All Industries”) grew by 23 percent, reflecting an 11 percent decline in farm employment and a 31 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment grew by 58 percent, from 9,200 to 14,500 jobs. Leading that increase was construction, up 127 percent, from 1,500 to 3,400 jobs, and “food manufacturing & beverage & tobacco,” rising 95 percent, from 4,000 to 7,800 jobs.
- Private service-providing employment rose by 20 percent, from 24,300 to 29,200 jobs.
- Retail trade increased by 36 percent, from 5,600 to 7,600 jobs.
- Employment in the “information” category rose by 150 percent, from 600 to 1,500 jobs.
- Professional and business services increased by 17 percent, from 2,900 to 3,400 jobs.
- Educational and health services grew by 64 percent, from 3,300 to 5,400 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality grew by 57 percent, from 3,000 to 4,700 jobs.
- State and local government employment grew by 12 percent, from 11,000 to 12,300 jobs.

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Merced County enrolled 53,833 students.<sup>75</sup> Of those students:

- 32.3 percent were English learners, higher than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 67.9 percent received free/reduced price meals, higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 18.1 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 78.3 percent were compensatory education students, significantly higher than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 17,375 English learners, 14,134 (81.3 percent) had Spanish as primary language, and 2,151 (12.4 percent) had Hmong as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 20.3 percent of Merced County high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, substantially below the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>76</sup>

### *College*

Merced County is home to one community college and to a new University of California campus, UC Merced.

<b>College/University</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
Merced College, Merced	7,623
University of California, Merced	974

Note: For the community colleges, enrollment is credit full-time-equivalent students, 2003-04. For UC Merced enrollment is the number of students who had submitted statement of intent to register for the fall 2005 semester as of May 18, 2005.<sup>77</sup> The number of students is expected to rise to 5,000 over the coming years.

### ***Health Care***

Merced County had 380 licensed hospital beds in five facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were four emergency medical services among those facilities: one standby and three basic.

Merced County had 657 nursing home beds in nine facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>78</sup>

As of 2001, there were 224 active non-federal physicians in Merced County. As of 2002, there were 82 licensed non-federal dentists in Merced County.<sup>79</sup>

## 10. STANISLAUS

**S**tanislaus County is south of San Joaquin County, north of Merced County, west of Calaveras and Tuolumne counties, and borders Santa Clara County on the southwest. Stanislaus is predominantly farmland (83 percent, according to 2002 data), but also has a population of 504,482. Cities are Modesto (207,634), Turlock (67,009), Ceres (38,813), Oakdale (17,439), Riverbank (19,988), Patterson (16,158), Waterford (7,897), Newman (9,134), and Hughson (5,942). The remaining 114,468 residents are in unincorporated areas.<sup>80</sup>



The city of Turlock is home to California State University, Stanislaus. The city of Modesto is home to the Great Valley Center, an organization founded in 1997 that conducts and sponsors research and communications on the interests of the Central Valley, with an emphasis on the San Joaquin Valley.



FIGURE 107. Looking East from I-5, toward Crows Landing.  
Photo by the Author. Telephoto view.

### LAND

Stanislaus County has a land area of 1,494 square miles (956,032 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 83 percent of the county's land was in farms—789,853 acres, up one percent from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 185 acres.

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 691,829 acres in Stanislaus County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>81</sup>

## PEOPLE

Stanislaus County's population of 504,482, comprises about 1.4 percent of the population of California. The population of Stanislaus County is about 32 percent Hispanic, according to Department of Finance estimates for 2000. The Department of Finance projects a Hispanic presence in Stanislaus County of 55.1 percent by 2050.

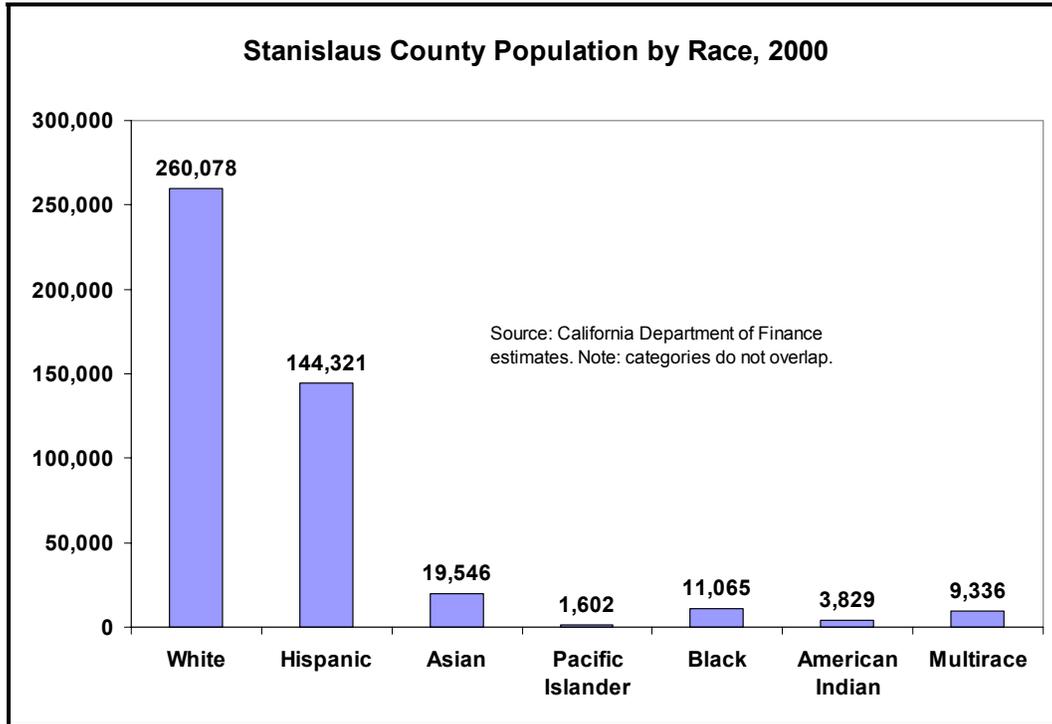


FIGURE 108. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.

Stanislaus County's population grew by 59,264 (roughly equal to the 2001 population of the City of Turlock), or 13.4 percent between 1999 and 2004, increasing at a rate of around 2.0 to 3.4 percent per year.

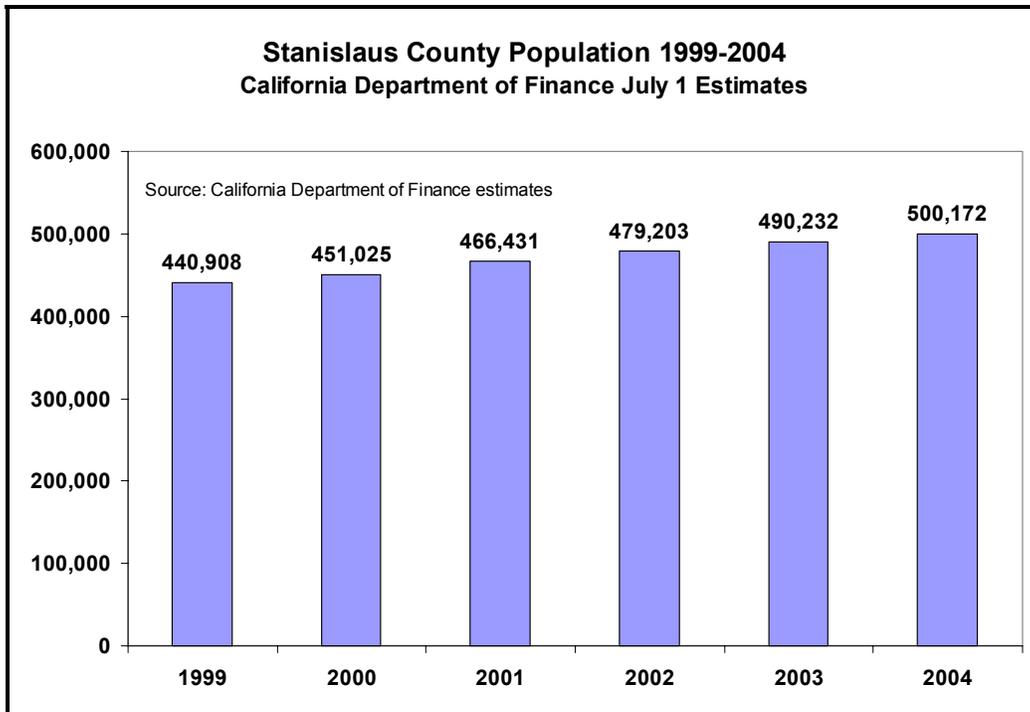


FIGURE 109. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.

The largest element of that growth, 45.7 percent, was domestic migration, according to Department of Finance estimates, while the rest was from natural increase (births minus deaths, 34.9 percent) and foreign immigration (19.4 percent). See Figure 110.

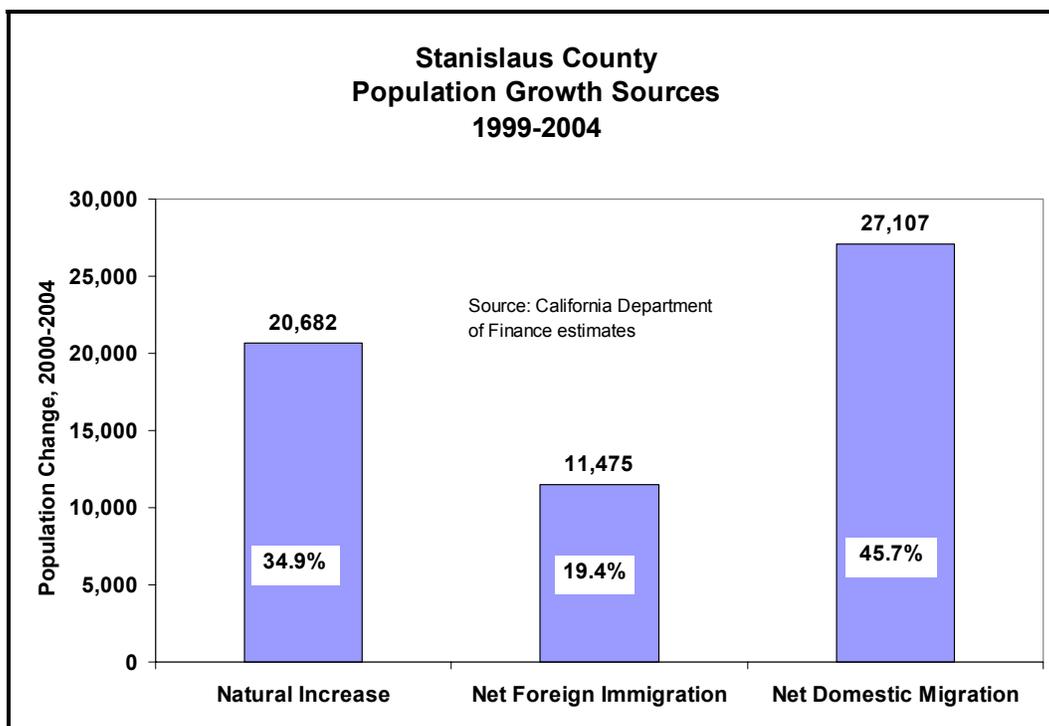


FIGURE 110. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

With a median age of 32.3, Stanislaus is younger than California, which has a median age of 34.1 (2003 American Community Survey estimates).<sup>82</sup> Correspondingly, Stanislaus's percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (29.7 percent vs. 27.0 percent, respectively). Stanislaus's percentage of population age 65 and over is lower than that of California (9.4 percent vs. 10.3 percent). The contrast with the U.S. is even clearer, as California's population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (median age 36.0).

About 74.8 percent of Stanislaus County's residents age 25 and over are high school graduates or higher, below California's 80.2 percent and the United States' 83.6 percent (Census Bureau estimates for 2003). About 15.9 percent of Stanislaus County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, far below the California figure (29.1 percent) and the U.S. figure (26.5 percent).

Foreign-born residents comprise 17.0 percent of Stanislaus County's population, compared to 26.5 percent for California and 11.8 percent for the U.S, according to Census Bureau estimates for 2003. Of the population age 5 years and over, 37.1 percent speak a language other than English at home, not far below the 40.8 percent figure for California, but much higher than the U.S. figure of 18.4 percent.

An estimated 10.9 percent of Stanislaus County families have income below the poverty level, slightly above California's 10.5 percent and the United States' 9.8 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 12.9 percent (Stanislaus), 13.4 percent (California) and 12.7 percent (U.S.).

The population of Stanislaus County is concentrated in a relatively narrow corridor, primarily in and near Modesto, but also farther south along Highway 99, in Ceres and Turlock (Figure 111).

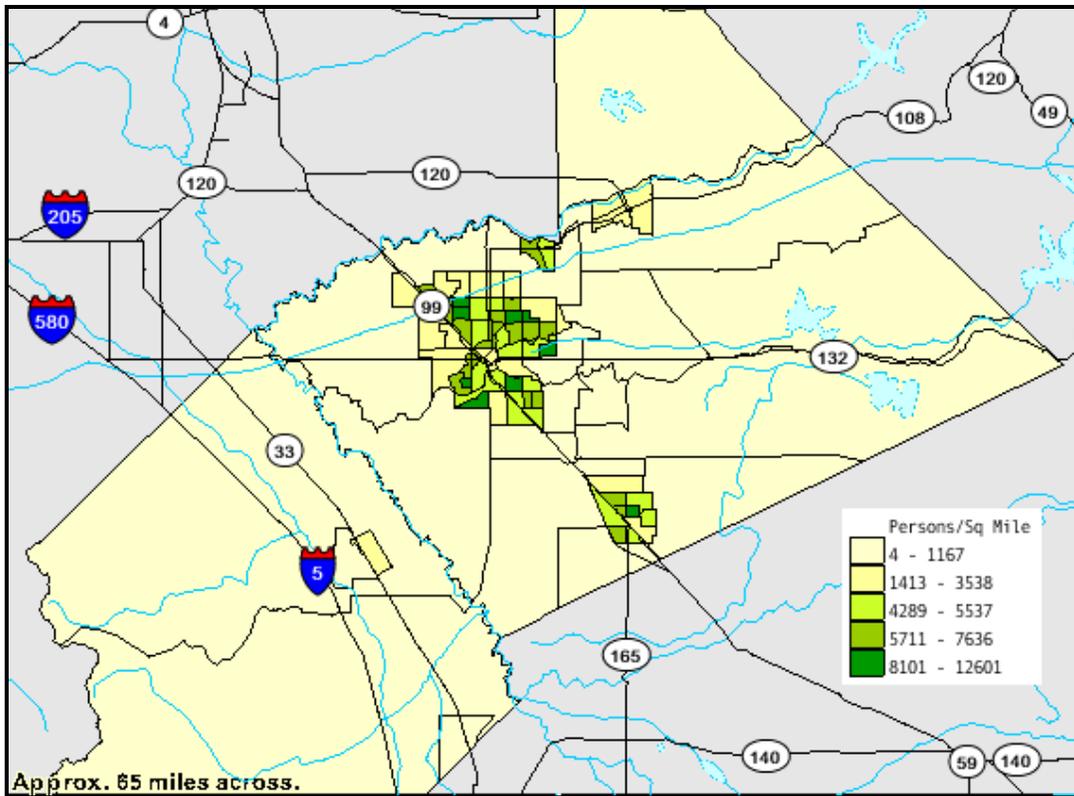


FIGURE 111. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.

Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

The California Department of Finance projects the population of Stanislaus County to grow by 109 percent between 2000 and 2050.

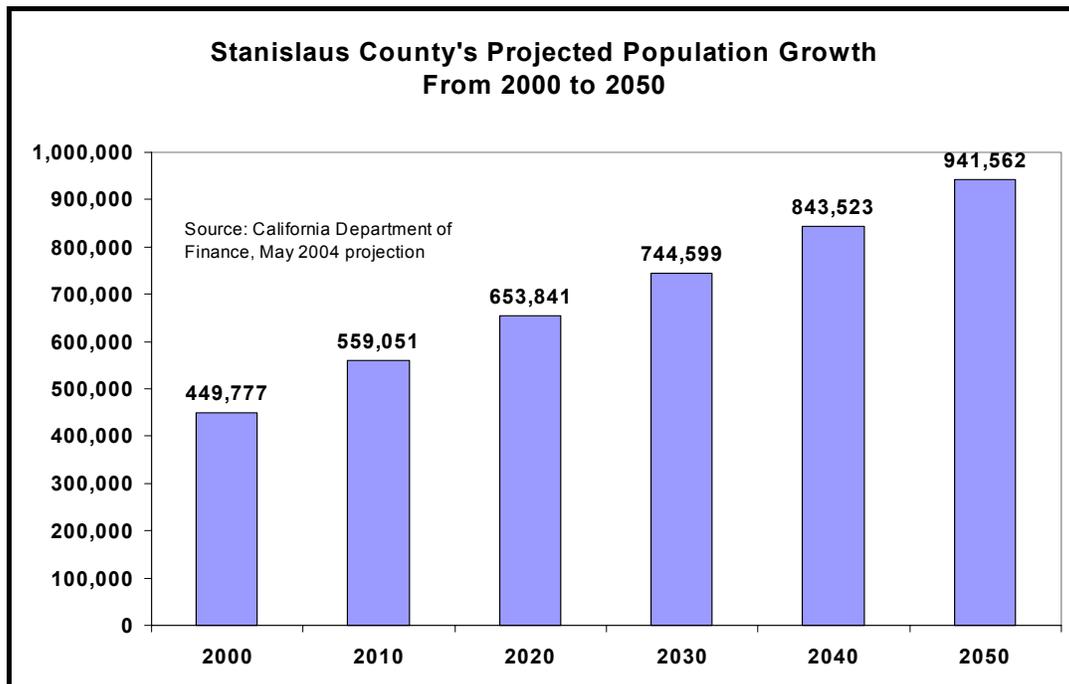


FIGURE 112. STANISLAUS COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

Stanislaus County's labor force has climbed since 1990, with little pause from year to year (Figure 113).

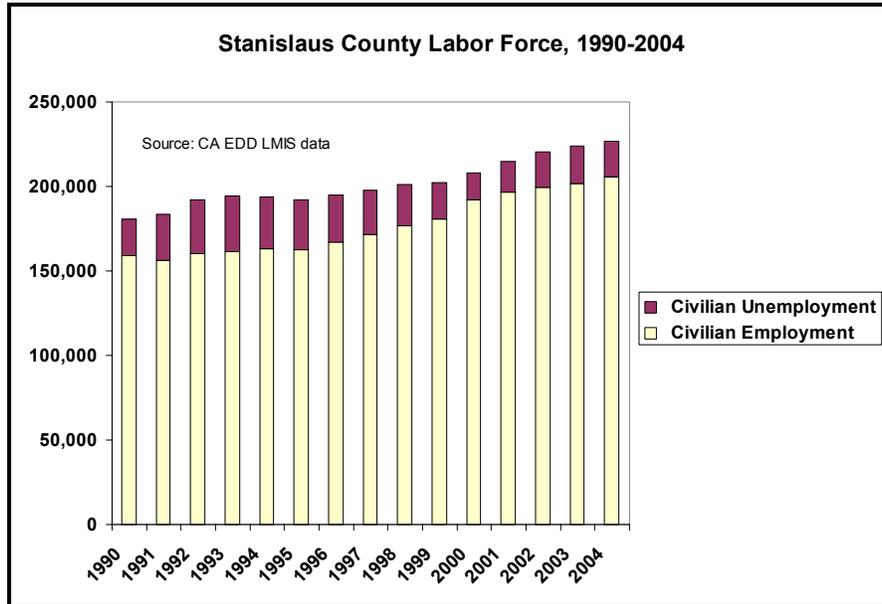


FIGURE 113. STANISLAUS COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

Stanislaus County's unemployment rate fell sharply from its 1993 high, capped by a sharp drop from 1999 to 2000. The rate rose in 2001, 2002, and 2003 before another decline in 2004. As throughout the San Joaquin Valley, the county's unemployment rate has remained higher than California's statewide rate.

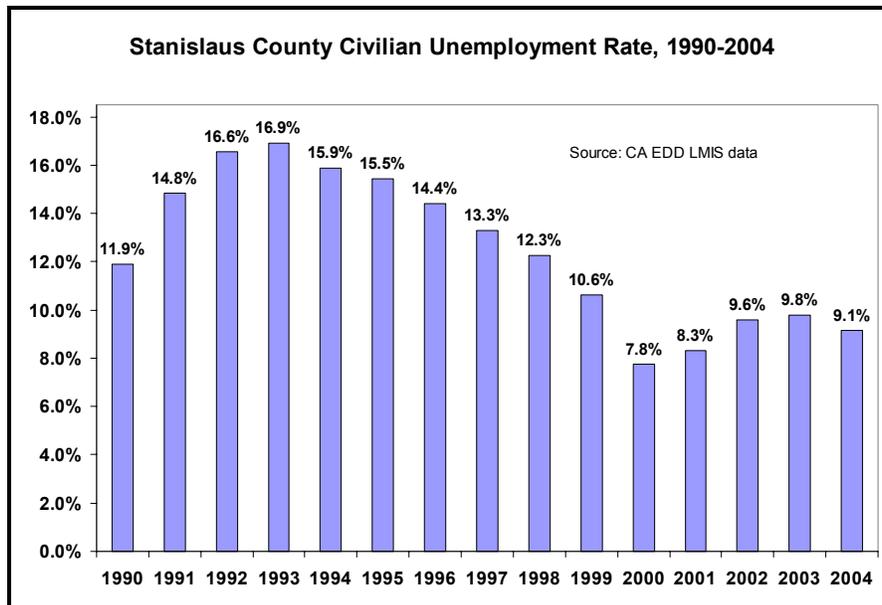


FIGURE 114. STANISLAUS COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in Stanislaus County is in nonfarm jobs (Figure 115). Farm jobs comprised 7.3 percent of non-government employment in San Joaquin County in 2004, and 5.2 percent of total employment, including government, in 2004.

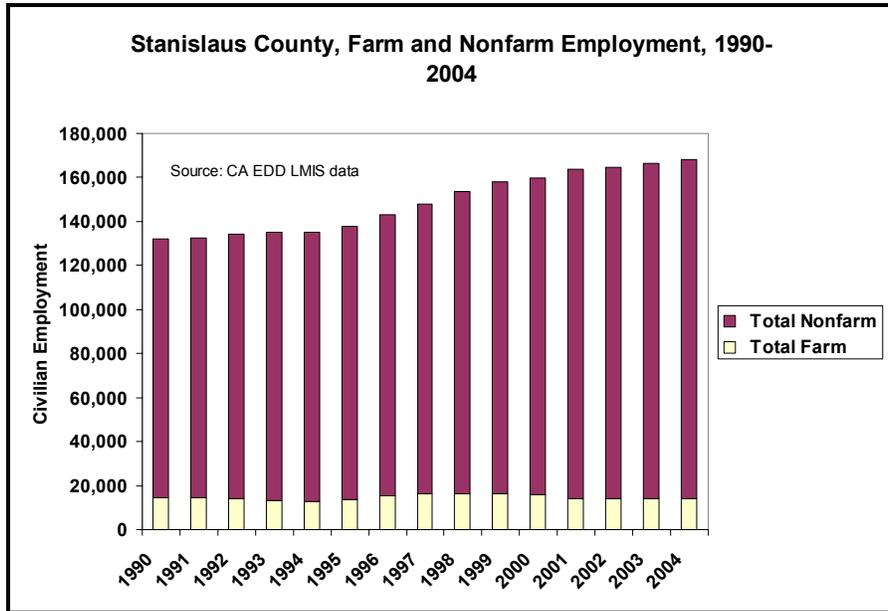


FIGURE 115. STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Farm employment decreased during the 1990-2004 period, with a net decline of 4.8 percent over the period. Nonfarm employment grew by 31.2 percent over that period. Total employment has grown from year to year since 1994.

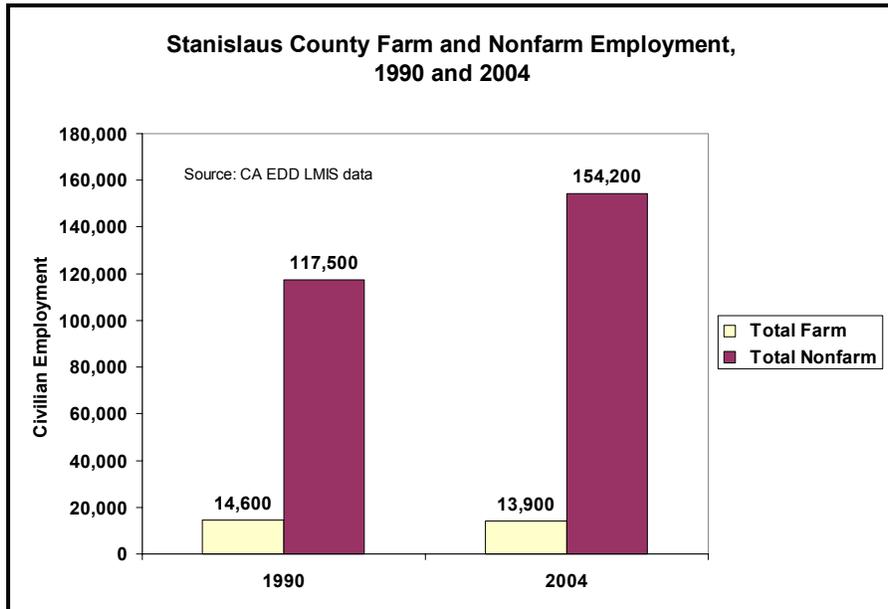


FIGURE 116. STANISLAUS COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries. Goods-producing employment increased by a net 13.9

percent from 1990 to 2004 (with ups and downs along the way), compared to a net increase of 40.9 percent for private service-providing employment, reflecting steady year-to-year increases.

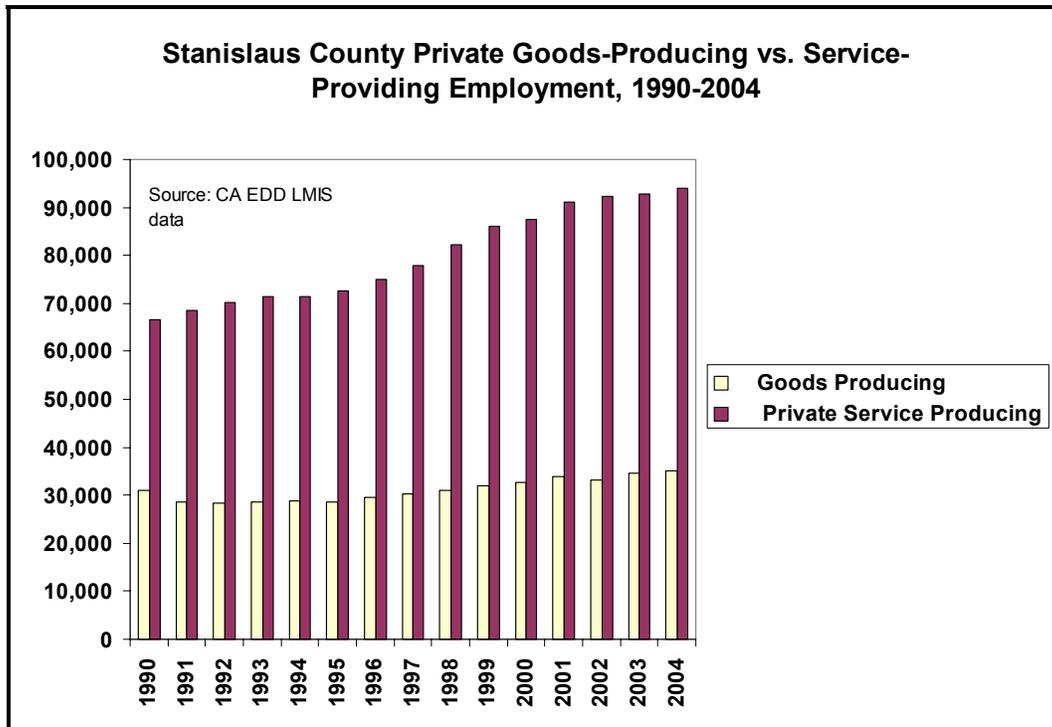


FIGURE 117. STANISLAUS COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in Stanislaus County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>83</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Total employment in Stanislaus County (“All Industries”) grew by 27 percent, from 132,100 to 168,100, reflecting a decline of 5 percent in farm employment and a gain of 31 percent in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment grew by 14 percent, from 30,900 to 35,200, led by a 69 percent increase in “natural resources, mining, and construction” (presumably attributable to the construction portion of that category), which grew from 7,200 to 12,200 jobs. (Net jobs in manufacturing fell by 3 percent, losing 600 jobs.)
- Private service-producing employment grew by 41 percent, from 66,700 to 94,000 jobs.
- Wholesale trade increased by 43 percent, from 4,200 to 6,000 jobs, while retail trade increased by 26 percent, from 17,000 to 21,400 jobs.
- Employment in “information” grew by 44 percent, from 1,800 to 2,600 jobs.
- Professional and business services employment grew by 48 percent, from 9,600 to 14,200 jobs. Growth in “administrative support and waste services”<sup>84</sup> made a

large contribution to that net increase, as the category added 4,400 jobs, for a gain of 142 percent.

- Management of companies and enterprises, another component of professional and business services, fell by a net 1,900 jobs, or 53 percent, between 1990 and 2004.<sup>85</sup>
- Health care employment grew by 58 percent, from 10,000 to 15,800 jobs, and social assistance grew by 133 percent, from 900 to 2,100 jobs.
- Leisure and hospitality employment grew by 48 percent, from 9,500 to 14,100 jobs.
- State and local government employment grew by 26 percent, led by a 28 percent increase in local government education employment, from 10,300 to 13,200.

## ***Education***

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in Stanislaus County enrolled 103,992 students.<sup>86</sup> Of those students:

- 21.8 percent were English learners, lower than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 49.6 percent received free/reduced price meals, slightly higher than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 11.4 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 45.1 percent were compensatory education students, lower than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 22,623 English learners, 19,574 (86.5 percent) had Spanish as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 22.9 percent of high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, substantially below the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>87</sup>

### *College*

Stanislaus County is home to a California State University campus in Turlock and to a community college in Modesto.

<b>College/University</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>
CSU Stanislaus, Turlock	6,537
Modesto Junior College	12,204

Note: For the community colleges, enrollment is credit full-time-equivalent students, 2003-04. For CSU, enrollment is annualized full-time-equivalent students, college year (summer, fall, and spring), 2002-03.

Neighboring counties of San Joaquin, Tuolumne, and Merced are home to three community colleges and to the new University of California campus at Merced.

### ***Health Care***

Stanislaus County had 1,087 licensed hospital beds in seven facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were four emergency medical services among those facilities, all of them basic.

Stanislaus County had 1,739 nursing home beds in 17 facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>88</sup>

As of 2001, there were 706 active non-federal physicians in Stanislaus County. As of 2002, there were 248 licensed non-federal dentists in Stanislaus County.<sup>89</sup>

## 11. SAN JOAQUIN

**S**an Joaquin County, northernmost of the San Joaquin Valley counties, is in the heart of the agricultural Central Valley.

San Joaquin is bordered on the north by Sacramento County, on the west by Contra Costa and Alameda counties, on the south and southeast by Stanislaus County, and on the east also touches on Amador and Calaveras counties.

Some 91 percent of its land is in farms (2002 data). At the same time, the county has a population of nearly two-thirds of a million (653,333), reflecting growth of nearly 16 percent from 2000 to 2005.

Most of the county's population is in incorporated cities: Stockton (279,513), Lodi (62,467), Tracy (78,307), Manteca (61,927), Ripon (13,241), Lathrop (12,565), and Escalon (6,912). The remaining 138,401 are in unincorporated areas.<sup>90</sup>

Portions of the county serve—and increasingly so—as “bedroom communities” for the Bay Area and Silicon Valley.

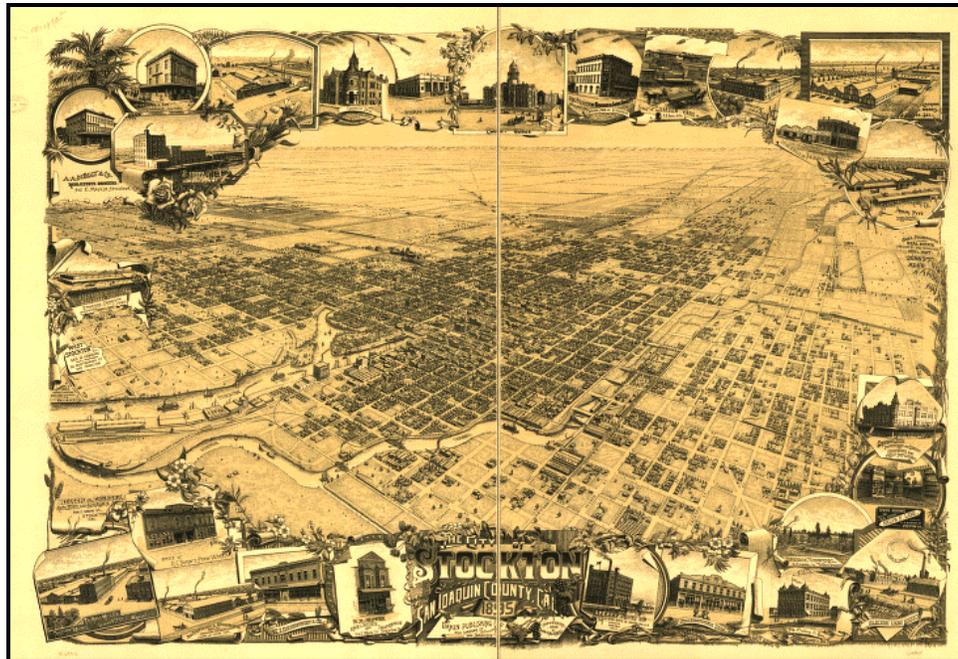


FIGURE 118. STOCKTON, 1895.  
Library of Congress American Memory.<sup>91</sup>

## LAND

San Joaquin County has a land area of 1,399 square miles (895,552 acres). As of the 2002 Census of Agriculture, 91 percent of the county's land (812,629 acres) was in farms, down two percent from the 1997 figure. Average farm size in 2002 was 202 acres.

In 2002, according to California Department of Conservation data, 540,924 acres in San Joaquin County were enrolled in land conservation programs.<sup>92</sup>

## PEOPLE

San Joaquin County's population of 653,333 comprises about 1.8 percent of the population of California.

The population of San Joaquin County is about 31 percent Hispanic, according to Department of Finance estimates for 2000. The Department of Finance projects a Hispanic presence in San Joaquin County of 56.6 percent by 2050.

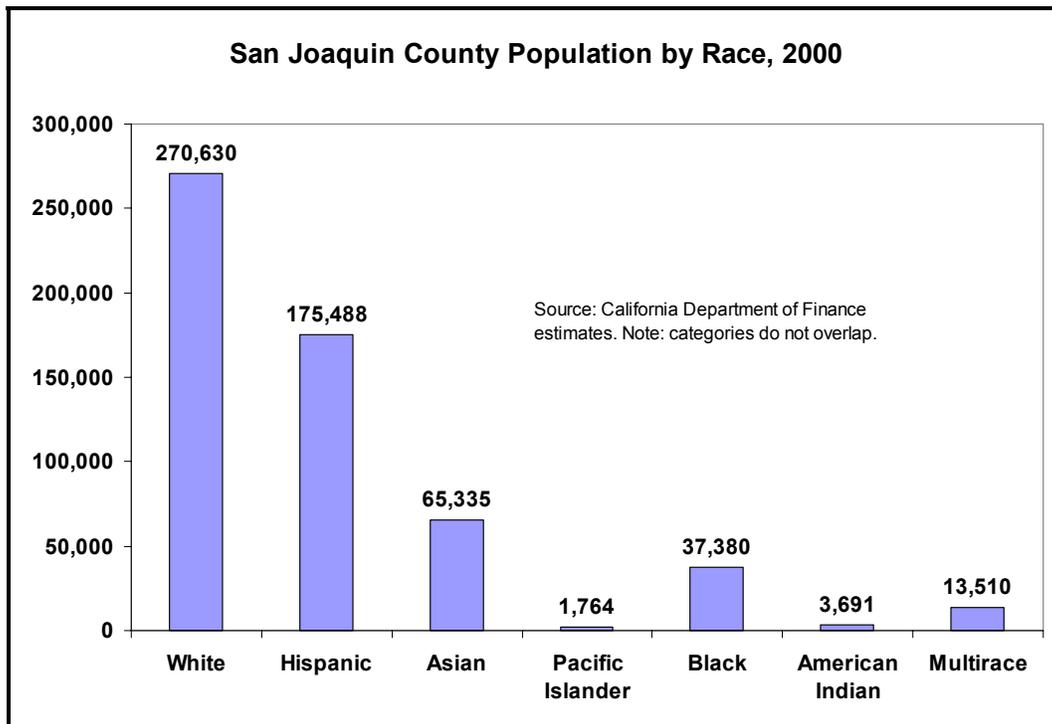


FIGURE 119. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION BY RACE, 2000.

San Joaquin County's population grew by 91,301, or 16.5 percent, between 1999 and 2004 (Figure 120). That growth exceeded the 2000 combined population of the cities of Tracy, Lathrop, Ripon, and Escalon. The increases in the county's population were at a rate of around 2.6 to 3.9 percent per year.

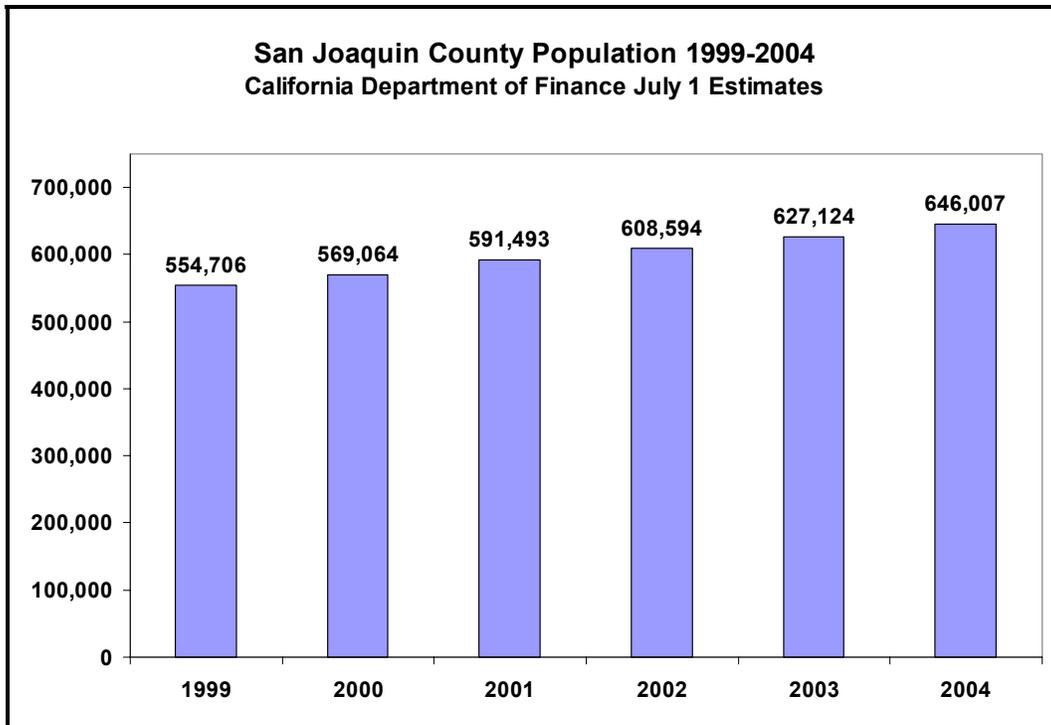


FIGURE 120. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION 1999-2004.

Just over half of that growth, 50.4 percent, was from domestic migration, according to Department of Finance estimates, while the rest resulted from natural increase (births minus deaths, 30.6 percent) and foreign immigration (19.0 percent).

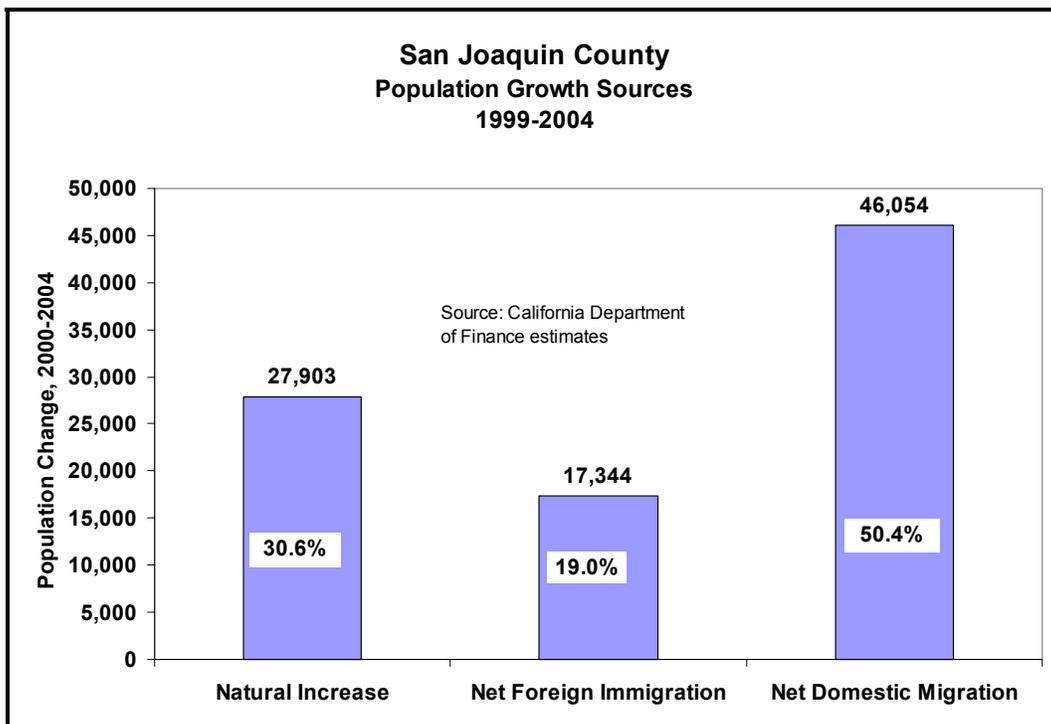


FIGURE 121. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH SOURCES, 1999-2004.

With a median age of 32.2, San Joaquin is younger than California, which has a median age of 34.1 (2003 American Community Survey estimates).<sup>93</sup> Correspondingly, San Joaquin's percentage of population under age 18 is higher than that of California (29.9 percent vs. 27.0 percent, respectively). San Joaquin's percentage of population age 65 and over is lower than that of California (9.4 percent vs. 10.3 percent). The contrast with the U.S. is even clearer, as California's population is younger than that of the U.S. as a whole (median age 36.0).

About 73.3 percent of San Joaquin County's residents age 25 and over are high school graduates or higher, below California's 80.2 percent and the United States' 83.6 percent. About 13.2 percent of San Joaquin County residents have a bachelor's degree or higher, far below the California figure (29.1 percent) and the U.S figure (26.5 percent).

Foreign-born residents comprise 21.8 percent of San Joaquin County's population, compared to 26.5 percent for California and 11.8 percent for the U.S, according to Census Bureau estimates for 2003. Of the population age 5 years and over, 35.6 percent speak a language other than English at home, not far below the 40.8 percent figure for California, but much higher than the U.S. figure of 18.4 percent.

An estimated 10.9 percent of San Joaquin County families have income below the poverty level, a slightly higher figure than California's 10.5 percent and the United States' 9.8 percent. The comparable percentages for individuals are 14.2 percent (San Joaquin), 13.4 percent (California) and 12.7 percent (U.S.).

The population of San Joaquin County is primarily concentrated in a relatively small portion of the county along Interstate 5 and Highway 99, with the center of population being Stockton.

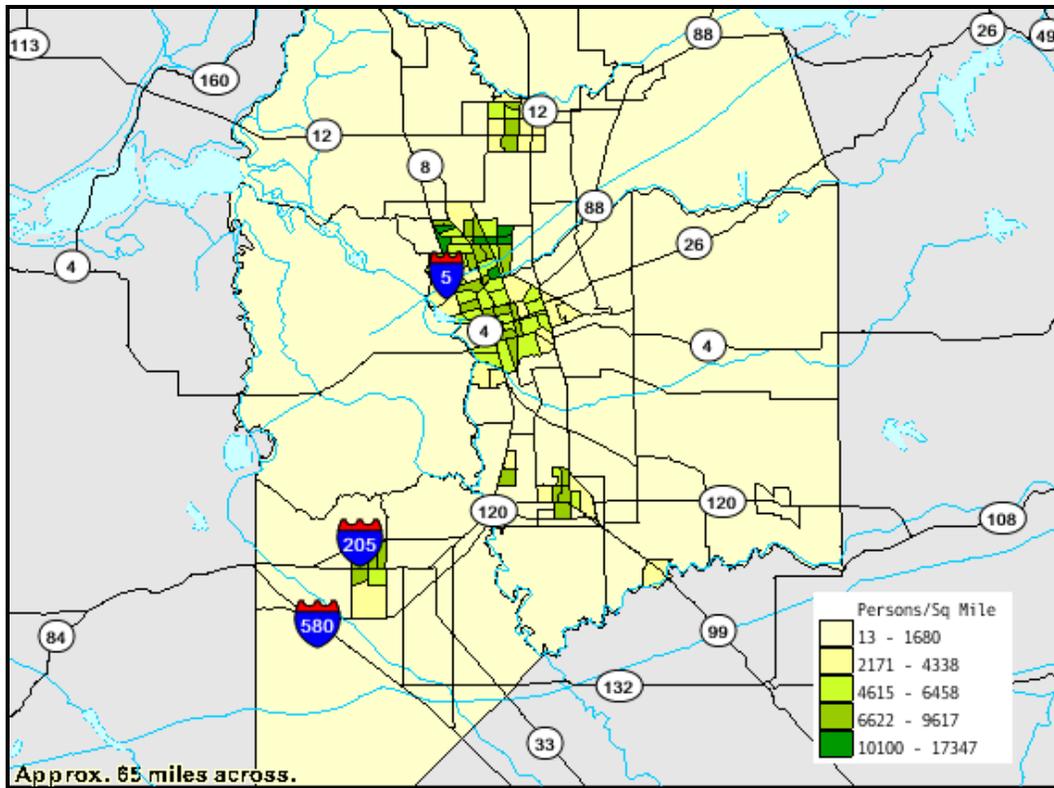


FIGURE 122. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION DENSITY, BY CENSUS TRACT, 2000.  
 Source: U.S. Census ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))

Rapid recent growth (2000-2005) is not reflected in the Census 2000 population density map. An influx of new residents, including those moving from the San Francisco Bay Area, is affecting population distribution. During that period, the City of Tracy grew from 56,929 to 78,307, according to Department of Finance estimates, an increase of 17,179, to become the fastest growing city in San Joaquin County by percentage (Figure 123).<sup>94</sup> The City of Stockton added 35,742 residents during the same period, growing from 243,771 to 279,513.

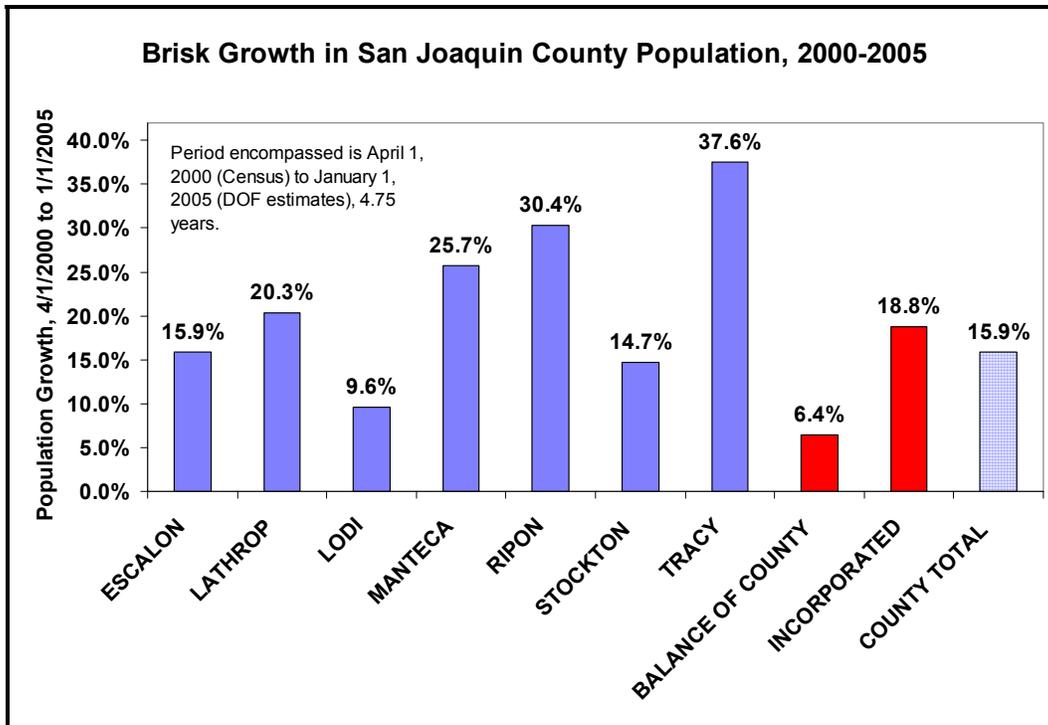


FIGURE 123. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION DETAILS, 2000-2005.

The California Department of Finance projects the population of San Joaquin County to triple to over 1.707 million between 2000 and 2050.

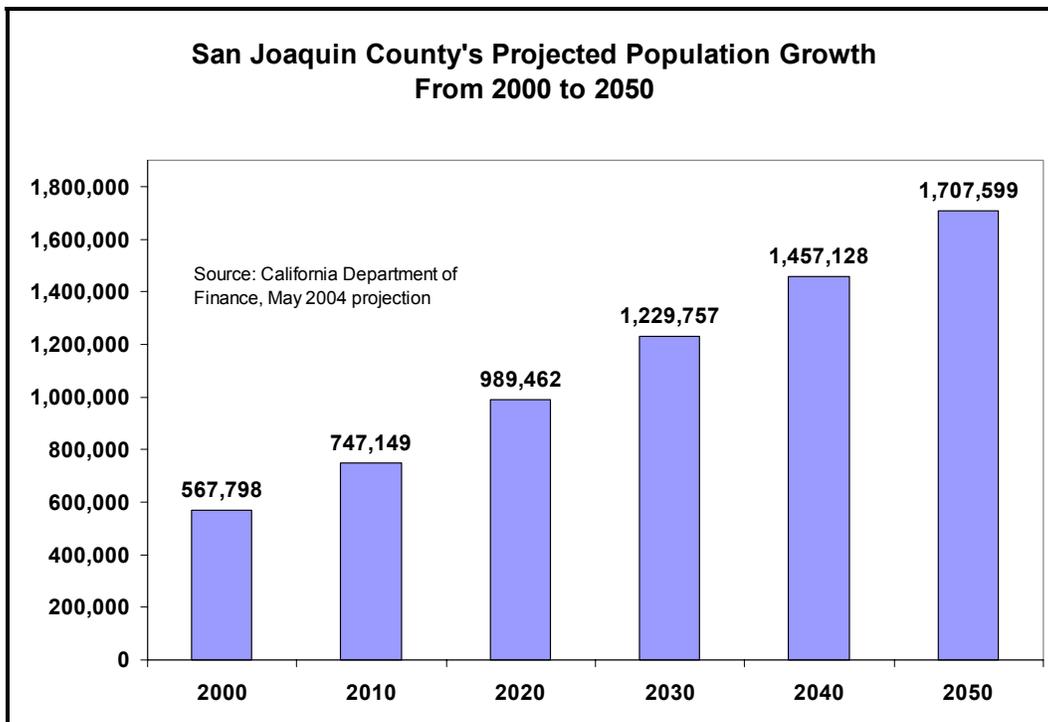


FIGURE 124. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTED TO 2050.

## ECONOMY

### *Labor Market and Employment*

San Joaquin County's labor force has climbed since 1990, with little pause from year to year (Figure 125).

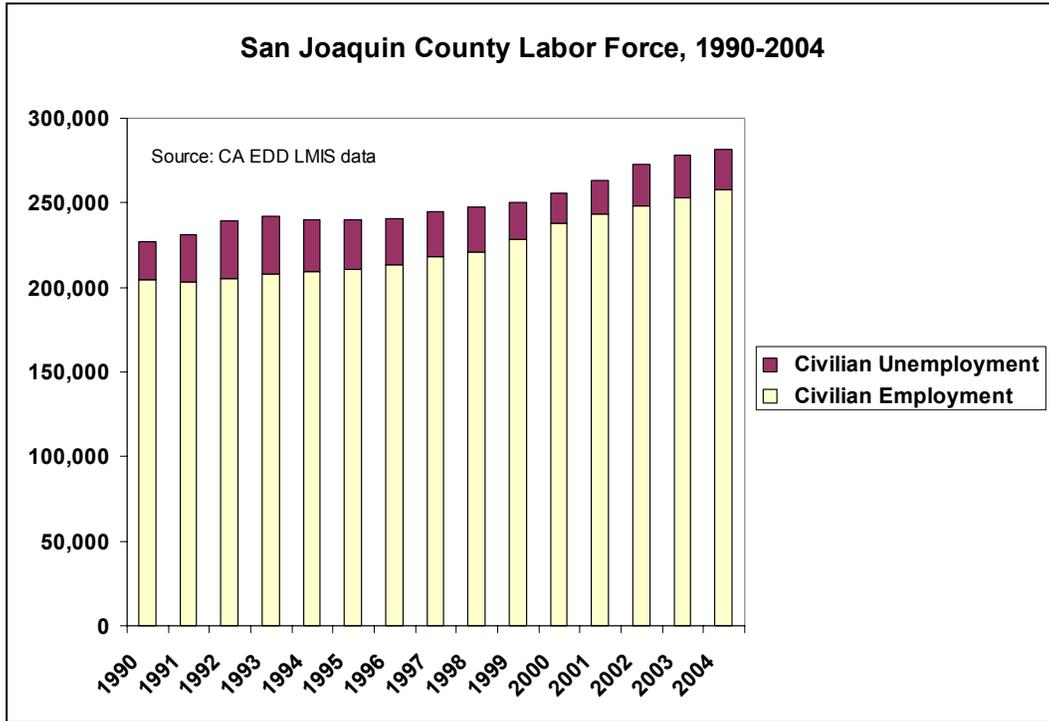


FIGURE 125. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY LABOR FORCE, 1990-2004.

San Joaquin County's unemployment rate fell sharply from its 1992-1993 high, marked by a sharp drop from 1998 to 2000. The rate rose in 2001, 2002, and 2003 before another decline in 2004. As throughout the San Joaquin Valley, even at its lowest the county's unemployment rate has been higher than that of the state and the nation.

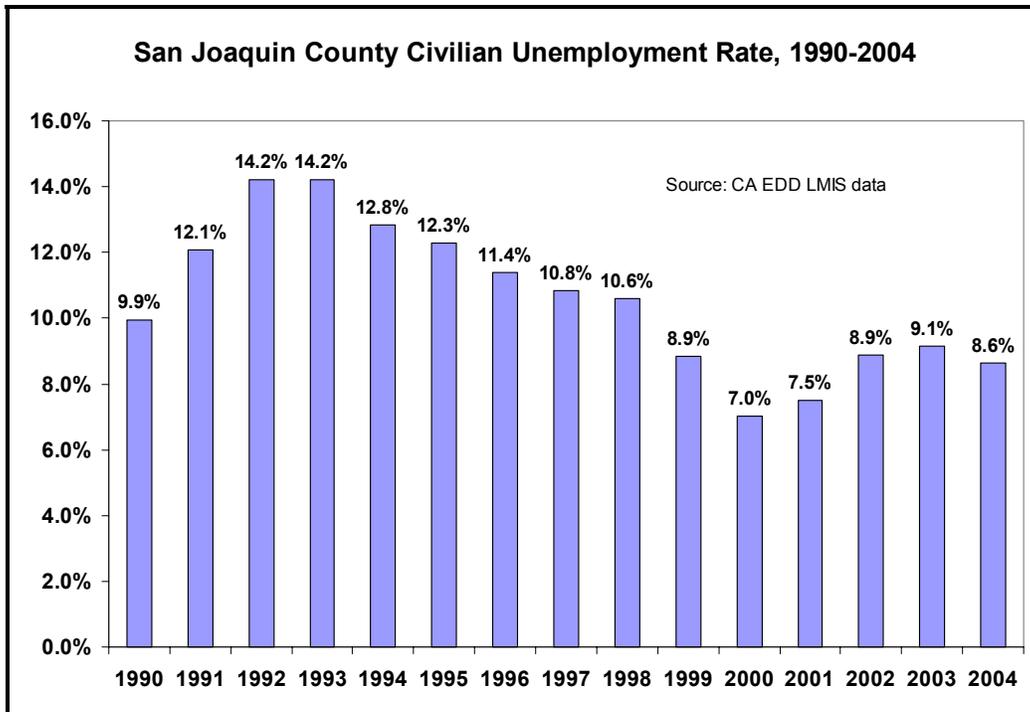


FIGURE 126. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, 1990-2004.

Most employment in San Joaquin County is in nonfarm jobs (Figure 127). Farm jobs comprised 7.3 percent of non-government employment and 5.2 percent of total employment in San Joaquin County in 2004.

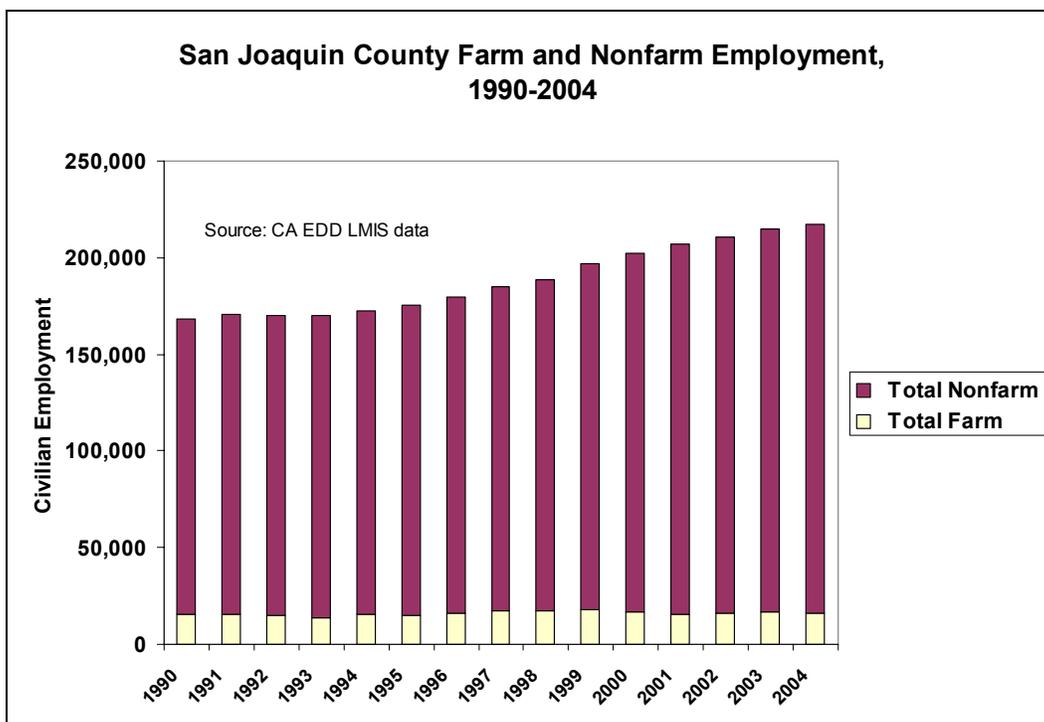


FIGURE 127. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Farm employment was flat during the 1990-2004 period, with a net increase over the period of only 1.9 percent. Nonfarm employment grew by 32.0 percent over that period. Total employment has grown from year to year since 1994.

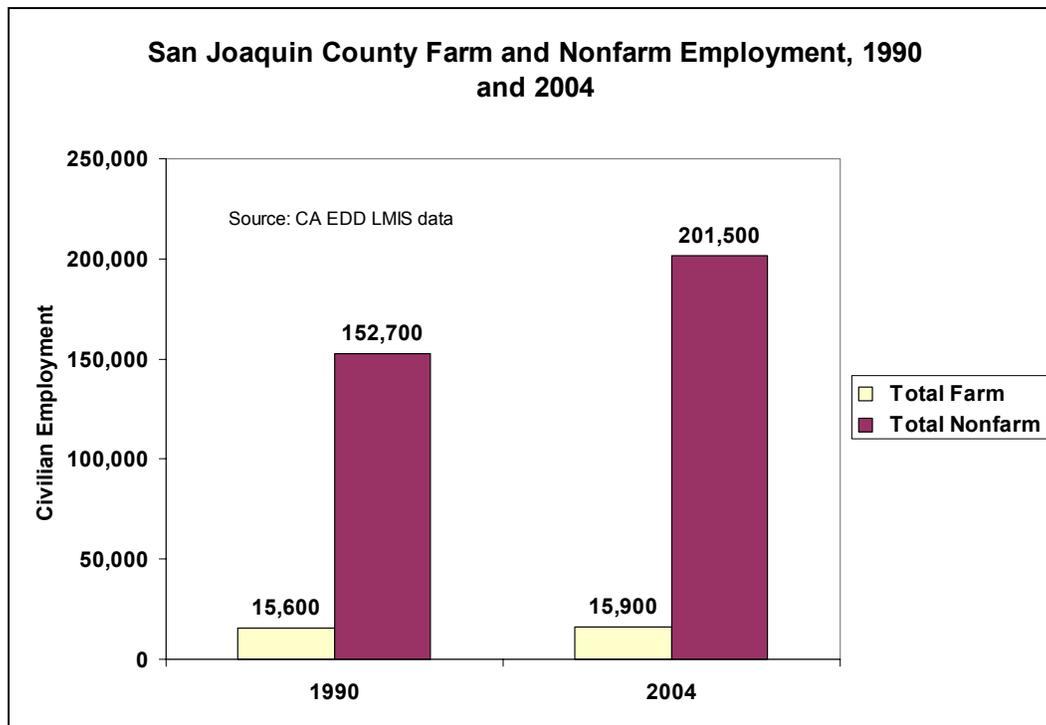


FIGURE 128. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY FARM AND NONFARM EMPLOYMENT, 1990 AND 2004 COMPARED.

The large majority of nongovernment/nonfarm employees are in service-providing rather than goods-producing industries (Figure 129). Goods-producing employment increased by a net 6.8 percent from 1990 to 2004 (with ups and downs along the way), compared to a net increase of 48.1 percent for private service-providing employment, reflecting steady year-to-year increases.

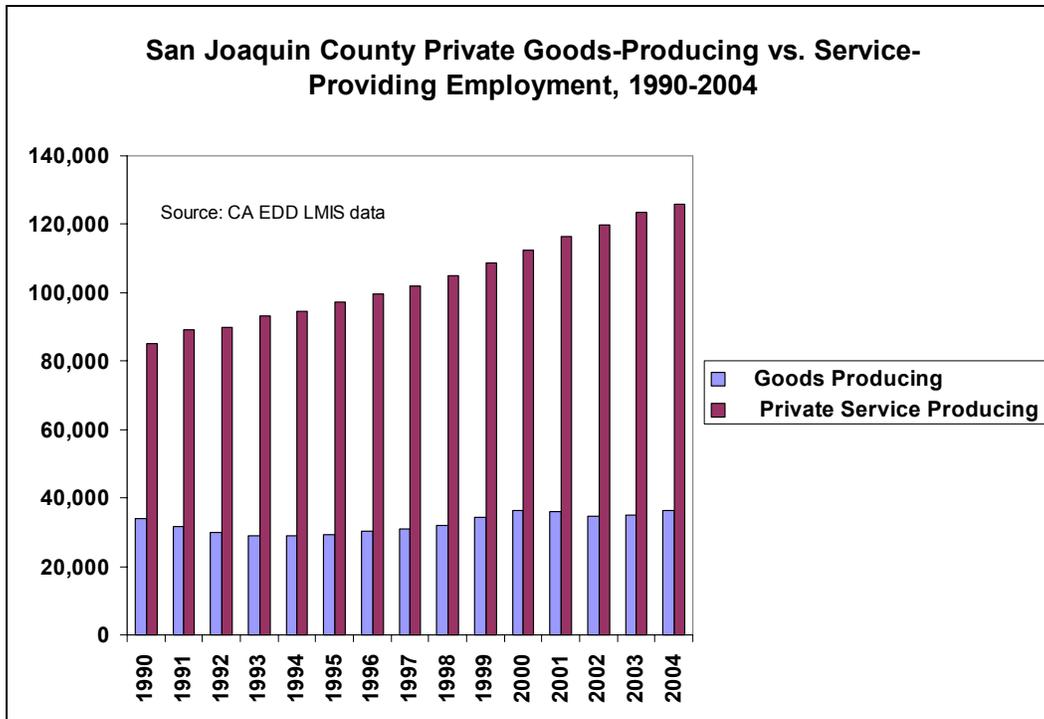


FIGURE 129. SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY GOODS-PRODUCING VS. SERVICE-PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT, 1990-2004.

Several areas of employment in San Joaquin County have shown significant percentage changes between 1990 and 2004.<sup>95</sup> Selected highlights include:

- Total employment in San Joaquin County (“All Industries”) rose by 29 percent, reflecting a 2 percent increase in farm employment and a 32 percent increase in nonfarm employment.
- Goods-producing employment rose 7 percent, from 33,900 to 36,200.
- Construction employment rose by 60 percent, from 9,500 to 15,200 jobs.
- Manufacturing employment fell by 14 percent, from 24,300 to 20,800 jobs. In that category, food manufacturing fell by 34 percent, from 8,000 to 5,300 jobs.
- Private service-producing employment increased by 48 percent, from 85,000 to 125,900 jobs.
- Transportation and warehousing employment increased by 137 percent, from 5,100 to 12,100 jobs, led by a 1,367 percent increase in warehousing and storage, from 300 to 4,400 jobs.
- Professional and business services increased by 102 percent, from 9,200 to 18,600 jobs.
- Educational and health services increased by 48 percent, from 16,500 to 24,400 jobs. The health care component of that category rose by 45 percent, from 12,000 to 17,400 jobs.

- Leisure and hospitality employment grew by 45 percent, from 11,700 to 17,000 jobs.
- Federal government employment fell by 30 percent, from 5,700 to 4,000, led by a 50 percent decline in Department of Defense civilian employment in the county, from 3,600 to 1,800 jobs. (The 1990s saw military base closures and realignments. For example, the Naval Reserve Center in Stockton closed in 1996.)
- Local government employment grew by 32 percent, from 23,500 to 31,100, led by a 42 percent increase in local government education employment, from 12,900 to 18,300. State government employment fell 7 percent, from 4,600 to 4,300.

## *Education*

### *K-12*

During the 2002-03 school year, public schools in San Joaquin County enrolled 128,363 students.<sup>96</sup> Of those students:

- 20.1 percent were English learners, lower than the statewide figure of 25.6 percent
- 47.5 percent received free/reduced price meals, slightly lower than the statewide figure of 48.7 percent
- 17.5 percent were CalWorks enrollees, higher than the statewide figure of 10.1 percent
- 39.0 percent were compensatory education students, lower than the statewide figure of 47.9 percent

Of the 25,839 English learners, 17,686 (68.4 percent) had Spanish as primary language, while 2,187 (8.5 percent) had Khmer (Cambodian) as primary language and 1,835 (7.1 percent) had Hmong as primary language.

For the 2003-04 school year, 30.9 percent of high school graduates had completed courses required for UC/CSU attendance, somewhat below the statewide figure of 33.7 percent.<sup>97</sup>

### *College*

San Joaquin County is home to San Joaquin Delta College, which had full-time-equivalent student enrollment of 13,713 during the 2003-04 academic year.

The neighboring counties of Sacramento and Stanislaus are home to five community colleges and to California State University, Sacramento. An off-campus center of CSU Stanislaus is located in Stockton.

### *Health Care*

San Joaquin County had 1,138 licensed hospital beds in ten facilities as of December 31, 2004. There were seven emergency medical services among those facilities, all basic.

San Joaquin County had 2,855 nursing home beds in 28 facilities as of December 31, 2004.<sup>98</sup>

As of 2001, there were 827 active non-federal physicians in San Joaquin County. As of 2002 there were 306 licensed non-federal dentists in San Joaquin County.<sup>99</sup>

## SOURCES AND FURTHER READING

**S**ources are usually cited in notes or on charts. This list is an overview of where to find data used in this report and a guide to further information for those who wish to pursue topics in more detail.

- Bowen, William. The Great Central Valley. PowerPoint images, <http://130.166.124.2/CentralValleyLabeled.htm>. Note: permission has been granted by Dr. Bowen to use a selection of these images in this report. Images © 2003 William A. Bowen (<http://geogdata.csun.edu>).
- California Air Resources Board. California Air Basin Map, [www.arb.ca.gov/ei/maps/statemap/abmap.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/ei/maps/statemap/abmap.htm). Air quality data, [www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm).
- California Association of Realtors. Median home price data, [www.car.org/index.php?id=MzQ5ODE](http://www.car.org/index.php?id=MzQ5ODE).
- California Atlas of Panoramic Aerial Images, [http://130.166.124.2/ca\\_panorama\\_atlas/index.html](http://130.166.124.2/ca_panorama_atlas/index.html).
- California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, [www.cccco.edu](http://www.cccco.edu). Chancellor's Office Data Mart, [www.cccco.edu/divisions/tris/mis/reports.htm](http://www.cccco.edu/divisions/tris/mis/reports.htm). Full-Time Equivalent Students, <http://misweb.cccco.edu/mis/onlinestat/ftes.cfm>. Regional College Listing, [www.cccco.edu/find/regional.htm](http://www.cccco.edu/find/regional.htm).
- California Controller. *Counties Annual Report* for fiscal 2001-2002, [www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locrep/counties/0102/0102counties.pdf](http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locrep/counties/0102/0102counties.pdf). Local government annual reports, [www.sco.ca.gov/pubs/index.shtml#locgovrep](http://www.sco.ca.gov/pubs/index.shtml#locgovrep).
- California County Agricultural Commissioners' Data, [www.nass.usda.gov/ca/bul/agcom/indexcac.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca/bul/agcom/indexcac.htm).
- California Department of Conservation. Division of Land Resource Protection. County, Regional & Statewide Farmland Conversion Tables, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/stats\\_reports/county\\_conversion\\_tables.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/fmmp/stats_reports/county_conversion_tables.htm). Williamson Act Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).
- California Department of Education. Data on K-12 education. See [www.cde.ca.gov/demographics](http://www.cde.ca.gov/demographics), <http://data1.cde.ca.gov/dataquest>, and county profiles at [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.htm](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.htm). K-12 statistics, <http://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/>.
- California Department of Employment Development. Labor Market Information, [www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/](http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/). Agricultural Employment in California (employment, earnings), [www.calmis.cahwnet.gov/htmlfile/subject/AGRIC.HTM](http://www.calmis.cahwnet.gov/htmlfile/subject/AGRIC.HTM). Size of Business Report, [www.calmis.ca.gov/FILE/INDSIZE/0SFCORU.HTM](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/FILE/INDSIZE/0SFCORU.HTM). Occupational Outlook Reports, [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/ccois/oor.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/ccois/oor.htm). County Snapshots, [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/COsnaps.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/COsnaps.htm). Unemployment data, [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/lftable.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/lftable.htm). Labor Market Information, Employment by Industry Data, [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/indtable.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/subject/indtable.htm).
- California Department of Finance, <http://www.dof.ca.gov>. California Statistical Abstract and County Profiles are both available online.
- California Department of Food and Agriculture, [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov). Agricultural statistics, [www.nass.usda.gov/ca/homepage.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ca/homepage.htm).

- California Department of Health Services. "Medi-Cal Beneficiaries by County Profiles," [www.dhs.ca.gov/mess/RequestedData/Profiles/county%20profiles/Bene\\_profile\\_by\\_county.htm](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/mess/RequestedData/Profiles/county%20profiles/Bene_profile_by_county.htm).
- California Department of Health Services, [www.dhs.ca.gov](http://www.dhs.ca.gov). Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002, [www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/others/datasummaries2002.pdf](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/others/datasummaries2002.pdf).
- California Department of Health Services and California Conference of Local Health Officers, California County Health Status Profiles 2005, [www.sbcounty.gov/pubhlth/PDF/HealthStatusProfiles\\_05.pdf](http://www.sbcounty.gov/pubhlth/PDF/HealthStatusProfiles_05.pdf). Also [www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/healthstatusprofiles/2005/](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hisp/chs/OHIR/reports/healthstatusprofiles/2005/).
- California Department of Justice. Criminal Justice Statistics Center. "Reported Crimes and Crime Rates," <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/statisticsdatatabs/CrimeCo.htm>.
- California Department of Justice. Crime, arrest, and law enforcement statistics. Individual County Crime Tables, 2000-2003, <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/publications/advrelease/ad/ad00/00list.htm>. 2000-2003 data: <http://caag.state.ca.us/cjsc/statisticsdatatabs/CrimeCo.htm>. Criminal Justice Profiles, 2003 tables: [http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc\\_stats/prof03/index.htm](http://justice.hdcdojnet.state.ca.us/cjsc_stats/prof03/index.htm).
- California Department of Water Resources. Water Plan 2005 Update, [www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2005/index.cfm](http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2005/index.cfm) (Accessed May 24, 2005).
- California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. Hospital Utilization Data Archive, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/hid/infores/hospital/util/archive/index.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/hid/infores/hospital/util/archive/index.htm). Licensed bed information, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).
- California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC). *Student Profiles, 2003*, Commission Report 03-9. Sacramento: CPEC, November 2003. See [www.cpec.ca.gov](http://www.cpec.ca.gov). There appear to be data errors (large and unexplained changes from year-to-year) in section 6-1, pertaining to number and percent of high school graduates enrolling as freshmen in higher education. For that reason, I have not used those figures in this report.
- California Resources Agency. California Environmental Resources Evaluation System (CERES). Land Use Planning Information Network, County and City Governments, [http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/countylists/county\\_gov.html](http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/countylists/county_gov.html). Maps and Spatial Data for the San Joaquin Valley Bioregion, [http://ceres.ca.gov/geo\\_area/bioregions/San\\_Joaquin\\_Valley/spatial.html](http://ceres.ca.gov/geo_area/bioregions/San_Joaquin_Valley/spatial.html).
- California State Association of Counties. California County History, [www.csac.counties.org/default.asp?id=5](http://www.csac.counties.org/default.asp?id=5). The site includes maps of the counties from 1850 onward, as well as narrative descriptions.
- California State University. Statistical Abstracts, [www.calstate.edu/as/abstract.shtml](http://www.calstate.edu/as/abstract.shtml). *Statistical Abstract 2002-2003*, [www.calstate.edu/as/stat\\_abstract/stat0203/pdf/Start.pdf](http://www.calstate.edu/as/stat_abstract/stat0203/pdf/Start.pdf). CSU Fall Term Enrollment Summary, Fall 2004 Profile, [www.calstate.edu/as/stat\\_reports/2004-2005/f04toc.shtml](http://www.calstate.edu/as/stat_reports/2004-2005/f04toc.shtml).
- Children Now California Report Card 2004, [http://publications.childrennow.org/publications/invest/reportcard\\_2004.cfm](http://publications.childrennow.org/publications/invest/reportcard_2004.cfm) (Accessed May 25, 2005).
- Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Institution Directory, <http://www2.fdic.gov/idasp/index.asp> (accessed June 1, 2005).

- Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council. Community Reinvestment Act links, [www.ffiiec.gov/cra/ratings.htm](http://www.ffiiec.gov/cra/ratings.htm).
- Hernandez, Virginia Rondero; Kathleen A. Curtis; and Petra Sutton. *Adolescence Interrupted: An Analysis of the Epidemic of Teen Births in San Joaquin Valley Communities*. Fresno: Central California Children's Institute, California State University, Fresno, 2004; available in PDF via [www.csufresno.edu/ccchhs/CI/](http://www.csufresno.edu/ccchhs/CI/).
- Hodges, R. E.; E. J. Wickson; and W. C. Tesche, *Farming in California*. San Francisco: Californians Inc., 1928.
- Kern County. General Plan, table of contents, [www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGPIntroduction.pdf](http://www.co.kern.ca.us/planning/pdfs/kcgp/KCGPIntroduction.pdf).
- Kuminoff, Nicolai V.; Daniel A. Sumner; George Goldman. *The Measure of California Agriculture 2000*. Davis, California: University of California Agricultural Issues Center, 2000. Available as published and with updated information via <http://aic.ucdavis.edu/pubs/moca.html>.
- Library of Congress: see U.S. Library of Congress.
- Medi-Cal Policy Institute. County-by-County Data, [www.chcf.org/topics/medi-cal/index.cfm?subsection=countydata](http://www.chcf.org/topics/medi-cal/index.cfm?subsection=countydata)
- Moore, Colleen, and Nancy Shulock. *Variations on a Theme: Higher Education Performance in California by Region and Race*. Sacramento, California: Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy, June 2005; [www.csus.edu/ihe/PDFs/Variations%20on%20a%20theme%20FINAL%206-15-05.pdf](http://www.csus.edu/ihe/PDFs/Variations%20on%20a%20theme%20FINAL%206-15-05.pdf).
- National Center for Education Statistics. Private School Information, <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/pss/privateschoolsearch/>.
- National Geographic Map Machine, <http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>.  
Selected copyrighted images reproduced in this report by permission of National Geographic Society.
- San Joaquin Valley & Sierra Foothills Photo Heritage. Photographs in San Joaquin Valley library collections, [www.sjvls.org/photoheritage/index.html](http://www.sjvls.org/photoheritage/index.html).
- Scheuring, Ann Foley, ed. *A Guidebook to California Agriculture*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983.
- Stanislaus County. Budget, [www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/budget/budget.htm](http://www.co.stanislaus.ca.us/budget/budget.htm).
- Tulare County. Budget, [www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/county\\_office/financial/budgetbook.asp](http://www.co.tulare.ca.us/government/county_office/financial/budgetbook.asp).
- Umbach, Kenneth W. *Agriculture, Water, and California's Drought of 1987-92: Background, Responses, Lessons*. Sacramento: California Research Bureau, California State Library, 1994. (Not available online.)
- Umbach, Kenneth W. *A Statistical Tour of California's Great Central Valley — 1998*. Sacramento: California Research Bureau, California State Library, 1998; [www.library.ca.gov/crb/98/11/98011.pdf](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/98/11/98011.pdf).
- Umbach, Kenneth W. *San Joaquin Valley: Selected Statistics on Population, Economy, and Environment*. Sacramento: California Research Bureau, California State Library, 2002; [www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/10/02-010.pdf](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/02/10/02-010.pdf).

- U.S. Bureau of the Census, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). 1997 Economic Census: [www.census.gov/epcd/ec97/us/US000.HTM](http://www.census.gov/epcd/ec97/us/US000.HTM). Manufacturing, [www.census.gov/epcd/ec97/us/US000\\_31.HTM](http://www.census.gov/epcd/ec97/us/US000_31.HTM). 2002 Economic Census, [www.census.gov/econ/census02/](http://www.census.gov/econ/census02/). County Business Patterns, <http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpsect.pl>.
- U.S. Library of Congress. American Memory, <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>.
- U.S. Department of Agriculture. National Agricultural Statistics Service. Quick Stats: Agricultural Statistics Data Base (2002), [www.nass.usda.gov/QuickStats/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/QuickStats/). Historical Data, [www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/histdata.htm](http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/histdata.htm). 1997 Census of Agriculture, [www.nass.usda.gov/census/index1997.htm](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/index1997.htm). 2002 Census of Agriculture, [www.nass.usda.gov/census/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/).
- U.S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Regional Economic Accounts, BEARFACTS, [www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/countybf.cfm](http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/bearfacts/countybf.cfm). Regional Accounts Data, Local Area Personal Income, <http://www.bea.doc.gov/bea/regional/reis>.
- U.S. Department of Labor. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Local Area Personal Income, [www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/default.cfm#a](http://www.bea.gov/bea/regional/reis/default.cfm#a) (accessed June 1, 2005).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Currently Designated Nonattainment Areas for All Criteria Pollutants, <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/greenbk/ancl.html#CALIFORNIA>. Air Quality Maps, [http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/maps/maps\\_top.html](http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/maps/maps_top.html).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9: The Pacific Southwest. *Strategic Plan*, April 21, 2004, [www.epa.gov/ocfo/regionplans/region9/2004strategicplanreg9.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/ocfo/regionplans/region9/2004strategicplanreg9.pdf).
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Surf Your Watershed, <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/state.cfm?statepostal=CA>. EnviroMapper for Water, [www.epa.gov/enviro/html/em/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/enviro/html/em/index.html).
- Wolch, Jennifer; Manuel Pastor Jr.; and Peter Drier, editors. *Up Against the Sprawl: Public Policy and the Making of Southern California*. Minneapolis, Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press, 2004. Southern California's long experience with sprawl and its origins in public policy choices has implications for the future of the rapidly-growing San Joaquin Valley.

## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Projections made by the Department of Finance in 1998 were higher than those made in 2004, in large part as a result of a lower estimate for birthrate among Latinos used for the 2004 estimates. The San Joaquin Valley counties were comparable to the state as a whole in this regard. The annual growth rate estimate is less than 1 percent lower for the 2004 projections than for the 1998 projections, but over decades the difference becomes large. The 1998 projected California population for 2040 was 58.7 million, while the 2004 projected California population for 2040 is 51.5 million. Source: Mary Heim, California Department of Finance, personal communication, August 31, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> For information on the UC requirements, see the summary at [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad\\_adm/paths\\_to\\_adm/freshman/subject\\_reqs.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/admissions/undergrad_adm/paths_to_adm/freshman/subject_reqs.html).

<sup>3</sup> Summarized from <http://students.ucmerced.edu/2.asp?uc=1&lv1=3&contentid=19#>, as accessed June 9, 2005.

<sup>4</sup> "UC Merced Prepares to Welcome First Students on Campus," May 18, 2005, [www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/05182005\\_uc\\_merced\\_prepares\\_to.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/05182005_uc_merced_prepares_to.asp).

<sup>5</sup> R. E. Hodges, E. J. Wickson, and W. C. Tesche, *Farming in California* (San Francisco: Californians Inc, 1928).

<sup>6</sup> California Agricultural Statistics Service, *California Agricultural Statistics, 2003* (Sacramento: the Department, 2004), 3.

<sup>7</sup> The estimate reflects Bureau of Land Management figures on federal land ownership plus land conservation program enrollment figures for 2002 from the California Department of Conservation. The BLM numbers were cited in the *California Almanac*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. For land conservation program descriptions and data, see the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/index.htm).

<sup>8</sup> The figures in this paragraph represent shares of "All Industries" employment within the counties.

<sup>9</sup> Data are drawn from the April 26, 2005 update of Industry Employment & Labor Force, by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark, Labor Market Information Division, California Department of Employment Development.

<sup>10</sup> The difference between California and the eight counties on this measure might be the result of the relatively small populations of those counties, which limits their efficiencies of scale.

<sup>11</sup> Data, for 2004, are drawn from the April 26, 2005 update of Industry Employment & Labor Force, by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark, Labor Market Information Division, California Department of Employment Development. The figures are percentages of "All Industries" employment.

<sup>12</sup> Department of Finance estimates. The projected growth for the eight counties is 4.62 million (from 3.32 million to 7.94 million). The 2000 population of the City of Fresno was 0.427 million.

<sup>13</sup> Figures are for 2004. California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," Updated on April 26, 2005. That document is the source for all of the labor force and industry employment data in this report. The reader should take the numbers cited here as representative of patterns, but as approximate. Because 2004 is the most recent year for which full-year figures are available, I have used 2004 data for comparisons of this type in preference to more recent monthly data. For more information, see the Department of Employment Development's Labor Market Information page, [www.calmis.ca.gov](http://www.calmis.ca.gov). "Labor force" figures are for "civilian labor force."

<sup>14</sup> For detailed information about California agriculture, see California Agricultural Statistics Service, *California Agricultural Statistics 2003* (Sacramento: California Department of Food and Agriculture,

2004), or a more recent edition of that compilation available (along with much more information) via the department's website, [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov). Also see Nicolai V. Kuminoff, Daniel A. Sumner, and George Goldman, *The Measure of California Agriculture 2000* (Davis, California: University of California Agricultural Issues Center, 2000), <http://aic.ucdavis.edu/pubs/moca.html>. For detailed information from the 2002 Census of Agriculture, see U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002 Census of Agriculture, [www.nass.usda.gov/census](http://www.nass.usda.gov/census). Note that NASS and the county agricultural commissioners use different definitions in their respective reporting, so numbers will differ between the two.

<sup>15</sup> Specific types of impairment can vary widely from one location to another. The term "impaired" as used here is general. For a discussion of related terminology and issues, see, for example, University of California Cooperative Extension, Sonoma County, "Watershed Management," [http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu/Watershed\\_Management](http://cesonoma.ucdavis.edu/Watershed_Management). Accessed June 9, 2005. A water body is impaired if it does not meet a standard for total daily maximum load for a pollutant; see the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority's explanation of "What is a TMDL?" at <http://www.sawpa.org/tmdl>. Accessed June 9, 2005. For more information and background, see "The Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment Hearing on The National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council Report on Assessing the Scientific Basis of the Total Maximum Daily Load Approach to Water Pollution Reduction," <http://www.house.gov/transportation/water/06-28-01/06-28-01memo.html>.

<sup>16</sup> Kenneth W. Umbach, *San Joaquin Valley: Selected Statistics on Population, Economy, and Environment* (Sacramento: California Research Bureau, California State Library, 2002), 54-59.

<sup>17</sup> For a recent report on the drainage issue, see Matt Weiser, "Toxic Farm Runoff Plan Fails to Protect Birds, Study Warns," *Sacramento Bee*, July 23, 2005, pp. A3-A4. The draft environmental impact report cited in the article is (as of June 25, 2005) available via [www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa\\_projdetails.cfm?Project\\_ID=61](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=61). (The files are very large.) For background, see Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Region, "What are the Biological Effects of Reopening the San Luis Drain?," <http://pacific.fws.gov/ecoservices/envicon/pim/reports/Sacramento/San%20Luis.html>, and links on that page, including: Beckon, W.N., Henderson, J.D., Maurer, T.C., and Schwarzbach, S.E., "Biological Effects of the Reopening of the San Luis Drain (Grasslands Bypass Project) to Carry Subsurface Irrigation Drainwater," USFWS, Div. of Env. Contaminants, Sacramento, CA., Sept. 1997, <http://pacific.fws.gov/ecoservices/envicon/pim/reports/Sacramento/sanluirp.pdf>.

<sup>18</sup> Executive Order S-5-05, June 24, 2005, [www.governor.ca.gov/govsite/spotlight/062405\\_update.html](http://www.governor.ca.gov/govsite/spotlight/062405_update.html).

<sup>19</sup> California Department of Finance estimates for January 1, 2005.

<sup>20</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).

<sup>21</sup> Library of Congress American Memory collection. Stone (N.J.) Company. Reference: LC Panoramic maps (2nd ed.), 17. Call No. G4364.B2A3 1901 .S7.

<sup>22</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the Census Bureau's 2003 American Community Survey Data Profile Highlights.

<sup>23</sup> Labor market and employment data can be confusing. I have omitted many details, and have sought to keep the presentation as simple as the number and varying types of numbers will permit. For the record, however, this should be noted (adapted slightly from EDD Labor Market Information Service notes on industry employment and labor force reports): "1. Civilian labor force data are by place of residence and include self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, and workers on strike. 2. Industry employment data are by place of work and exclude self-employed individuals, unpaid family workers, household domestic workers, and workers on strike." For those reasons, total civilian employment is not the same as the total of all industry employment in a county.

- <sup>24</sup> Available labor market data are not sufficiently detailed, especially for smaller counties, to allow calculation in this report of the role of agriculture-related nonfarm jobs.
- <sup>25</sup> Government employees are included in the total of “service providing” employment but are not part of “private service producing” employment in the EDD LMIS employment reports. In this report I have used the term “service providing” rather than “service producing.”
- <sup>26</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, “Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark,” updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated from time to time) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm). Note that the level of detail available for industry employment varies from one county to another. Larger counties have more detail. For that reason, it is not possible to make strict category-by-category comparisons between counties. I have selected highlights reflecting the available level of detail for each county.
- <sup>27</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>28</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>29</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).
- <sup>30</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.
- <sup>31</sup> California Department of Finance estimates for January 1, 2005.
- <sup>32</sup> 2002 Census of Agriculture.
- <sup>33</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).
- <sup>34</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the 2000 Census Demographic Profile Highlights. **Note:** comparable paragraphs for Madera and Merced counties are also from the 2000 Census highlights. However, comparable paragraphs for Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin counties are reflect the Census’s 2003 American Community Survey (ACS) highlights. As a result, the California and U.S. figures cited for the two groups of counties differ slightly.
- <sup>35</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>36</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>37</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).
- <sup>38</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.
- <sup>39</sup> California Department of Finance estimates for January 1, 2005.
- <sup>40</sup> Library of Congress American Memory collection. Photograph by Dorothea Lange. Library of Congress Reproduction Number LC-USF34-019683-C DLC.
- <sup>41</sup> Cited in James Fay, ed., *California Almanac*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (Santa Barbara, California: Pacific Data Resources, 1987).
- <sup>42</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).

<sup>43</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the Census's 2003 American Community Survey Data Profile Highlights.

<sup>44</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm) (as of July 2005).

<sup>45</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).

<sup>46</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).

<sup>47</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).

<sup>48</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.

<sup>49</sup> California Department of Finance estimates for January 1, 2005.

<sup>50</sup> Library of Congress American Memory collection, Call Number G4364.F8A3 1901.

<sup>51</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).

<sup>52</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the Census Bureau's 2003 American Community Survey Data Profile Highlights.

<sup>53</sup> California Agricultural Statistics Service, *California Agricultural Statistics, 2003* (Sacramento: the Department, 2004), 2; [www.nass.usda.gov/pub/nass/ca/AgStats/2003cas-ovw.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/pub/nass/ca/AgStats/2003cas-ovw.pdf). Note that agricultural value figures differ between state and federal sources because of different definitions. By either set of definitions, the counties of the San Joaquin Valley are leaders in the agricultural field.

<sup>54</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm) (as of July 2005).

<sup>55</sup> "The construction sector comprises establishments primarily engaged in the construction of buildings or engineering projects (e.g., highways and utility systems). Establishments primarily engaged in the preparation of sites for new construction and establishments primarily engaged in subdividing land for sale as building sites also are included in this sector." U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 NAICS Definitions, [www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF23.HTM#N23](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF23.HTM#N23) (where much more detail may be found).

<sup>56</sup> "The Manufacturing sector comprises establishments engaged in the mechanical, physical, or chemical transformation of materials, substances, or components into new products. The assembling of component parts of manufactured products is considered manufacturing, except in cases where the activity is appropriately classified in Sector 23, Construction." U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 NAICS Definitions, [www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF31.HTM#N31-33](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF31.HTM#N31-33) (where much more detail may be found).

<sup>57</sup> "Industries in the Credit Intermediation and Related Activities subsector group establishments that (1) lend funds raised from depositors; (2) lend funds raised from credit market borrowing; or (3) facilitate the lending of funds or issuance of credit by engaging in such activities as mortgage and loan brokerage, clearinghouse and reserve services, and check cashing services." U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 NAICS Definitions, [www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF522.HTM](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF522.HTM).

<sup>58</sup> See U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 NAICS Definitions, [www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF561.HTM#N5613](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF561.HTM#N5613), for details.

- <sup>59</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>60</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>61</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).
- <sup>62</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.
- <sup>63</sup> Department of Finance population estimates for January 1, 2005.
- <sup>64</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).
- <sup>65</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the 2000 Census Demographic Profile Highlights.
- <sup>66</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm) (as of July 2005).
- <sup>67</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>68</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>69</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).
- <sup>70</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.
- <sup>71</sup> Department of Finance population estimates for January 1, 2005.
- <sup>72</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).
- <sup>73</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the 2000 Census Demographic Profile Highlights.
- <sup>74</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm) (as of July 2005).
- <sup>75</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>76</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).
- <sup>77</sup> UC Merced press release, [www.ucmerced.edu/news\\_articles/05182005\\_uc\\_merced\\_prepares\\_to.asp](http://www.ucmerced.edu/news_articles/05182005_uc_merced_prepares_to.asp).
- <sup>78</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).
- <sup>79</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.
- <sup>80</sup> Department of Finance population estimates for January 1, 2005.

<sup>81</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).

<sup>82</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the Census Bureau's 2003 American Community Survey Data Profile Highlights.

<sup>83</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm) (as of July 2005).

<sup>84</sup> "The Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services sector comprises establishments performing routine support activities for the day-to-day operations of other organizations. These essential activities are often undertaken in-house by establishments in many sectors of the economy. The establishments in this sector specialize in one or more of these support activities and provide these services to clients in a variety of industries and, in some cases, to households. Activities performed include: office administration, hiring and placing of personnel, document preparation and similar clerical services, solicitation, collection, security and surveillance services, cleaning, and waste disposal services." See U.S. Census Bureau, 2002 NAICS Definitions, [www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF56.HTM](http://www.census.gov/epcd/naics02/def/NDEF56.HTM).

<sup>85</sup> That decline came despite an increase of 1,300 jobs in management of companies and enterprises, from 3,600 to 4,800, between 1990 and 2000. From 2000 to 2004 the figure fell to 1,700, a decline of 3,100 jobs in those four years.

<sup>86</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).

<sup>87</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).

<sup>88</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).

<sup>89</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.

<sup>90</sup> Department of Finance population estimates for January 1, 2005.

<sup>91</sup> Library of Congress American Memory collection. Copyrighted by John H. Mitchell. San Francisco, Dakin Publishing Co., c1895. Reference: LC Panoramic maps (2nd ed.), 52. Call No. G4364.S9A3 1895, M5.

<sup>92</sup> California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Williamson Act Program Enrollment Statistics, [www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats\\_reports/index.htm](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/DLRP/lca/stats_reports/index.htm).

<sup>93</sup> The statistics in this paragraph and the following three paragraphs are from the 2000 Census Demographic Profile Highlights.

<sup>94</sup> These figures slightly understate the five-year growth rates, as the increase is calculated from the April 1, 2000, Census, to the January 1, 2005 Department of Finance estimate. The actual period reflected is four years and nine months.

<sup>95</sup> These highlights and other labor market numbers are from California Department of Employment Development, Labor Market Information Division, "Industry Employment & Labor Force by Annual Average, March 2004 Benchmark," updated on April 26, 2005, accessed June 1, 2005. The files (as updated) may be accessed via [www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm](http://www.calmis.ca.gov/htmlfile/county.htm) (as of July 2005).

<sup>96</sup> Data on K-12 enrollments, special programs, and English learners are from California Department of Education countywide profiles for fiscal year 2002-03. Those data encompass only public school students. See [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).

<sup>97</sup> Accountability data are available via [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/).

<sup>98</sup> Hospital and nursing facility data from California Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, Healthcare Quality & Analysis Division, [www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm](http://www.oshpd.ca.gov/HQAD/Hospital/hosplist.htm).

<sup>99</sup> California Department of Health Services, *Health Data Summaries for California Counties 2002*.

Pagination has been revised for this 2<sup>nd</sup> printing.