



# COUNTY OF SAN MATEO 2017 - 2019 PROFILE







## FAST FACTS

<p><b>Founded</b> April 19, 1856</p>	<p><b>Land square miles</b> 455</p>	<p><b>Water square miles</b> 292</p>	<p><b>Incorporated Cities</b> 20</p>	<p><b>Coastline</b> 57.7 miles</p>
<p><b>ELEVATION</b> Sea level to 2,629 ft (near Long Ridge Road, La Honda)</p>	<p><b>POPULATION</b> 764,797<sup>1</sup></p>	<p><b>NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS</b> 274,837<sup>2</sup></p>	<p><b>UNEMPLOYMENT RATE</b> 2.8% (April 2017)<sup>3</sup></p>	<p><b>PER CAPITA INCOME</b> \$48,278<sup>4</sup></p>
<p><b>MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b> \$93,623<sup>5</sup></p>	<p><b>ASSESSED VALUE OF TAXABLE PROPERTY</b> \$191 billion in 2016<sup>6</sup></p>	<p><b>TAXABLE SALES</b> \$15.5 billion in 2015<sup>7</sup></p>	<p><b>AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION</b> \$132 million in 2015<sup>8</sup></p>	<p><b>MEDIAN HOME VALUE</b> \$1,105,000 in March 2017<sup>9</sup></p>



# SAN MATEO COUNTY OVERVIEW

San Mateo County is located in the Bay Area and is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west and San Francisco Bay to the east. The County was formed in April 1856 out of the southern portion of then-San Francisco County.

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

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

San Mateo County has long been a center for innovation. It is home to numerous colleges and research parks and is within the “golden triangle” of three of the top research institutions in the world: Stanford University, the University of California at San Francisco, and the University of California at Berkeley. Today, San Mateo County’s bioscience, computer software, green technology, hospitality, financial management, health care, and transportation companies are industry leaders. Over the past decade companies that are transforming how we communicate and share information through social media have moved in, stretching the boundary of Silicon Valley ever northward.

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

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

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

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

## HISTORY

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

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

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

California came under the control of the United States following hostilities with Mexico. The discovery of gold in the Sierra foothills brought a wave of settlers and statehood to California in 1849. The Peninsula’s redwoods helped to build a booming San Francisco while the region’s fishing and cattle industries helped to feed the growing population.

## OUR MISSION

San Mateo County government protects and enhances the health, safety, welfare and natural resources of the community, and provides quality services that benefit and enrich the lives of the people of this community.

We are committed to:

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







## THE BIRTH OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

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

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

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

Cities began to take shape along the railroad line and across the Peninsula. Redwood City, the county seat, incorporated in 1867. The next to incorporate was San Mateo in 1894. The new century brought a wave of efforts to create new cities such as South San Francisco, San Bruno and Daly City.

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

## RAPID GROWTH

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

On the coast, a different kind of business was taking off. Rum-runners and bootleggers were busy during Prohibition. The coast's isolation and often foggy shoreline made it an ideal location for smugglers whisking cargo to San Francisco or Peninsula road houses.

The outbreak of World War II fueled a new wave of growth along the Peninsula. After the war, thousands of new homes were built as the county's population swelled from 115,000 in 1940 to 235,000 in 1950. The largest rate of growth followed, swelling to nearly 450,00 in the following decade. New cities continued to form to provide municipal services.





## POST-WAR BOOM

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

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

The county's population grew to 556,000 by 1970, a gain of 112,000 during the 1960s. The rapid pace of growth began to slow but significant events continued to shape the Peninsula. The Junipero Serra Freeway, Interstate 280, was completed in 1976. Two years later the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans) consolidated several city bus lines into one system.

## INNOVATION

Long a home to innovators, the Peninsula continues to evolve. During the 1980s and 1990s biotechnology companies moved into South San Francisco while computer software, Internet, and gaming companies shifted the boundary of Silicon Valley to the north. San Francisco International Airport opened a \$1 billion international terminal in 2000 as the region's gateway to the Pacific Rim.<sup>10,11,12</sup>

Today, San Mateo County is home to more than 764,000 people who live in 20 cities and numerous unincorporated areas, from leafy suburbs to isolated coastal hamlets.<sup>13</sup>

The vibrant economy, mild climate, and quality of life attract people from all over the world. More than a third of the population was born in another country.<sup>14</sup>



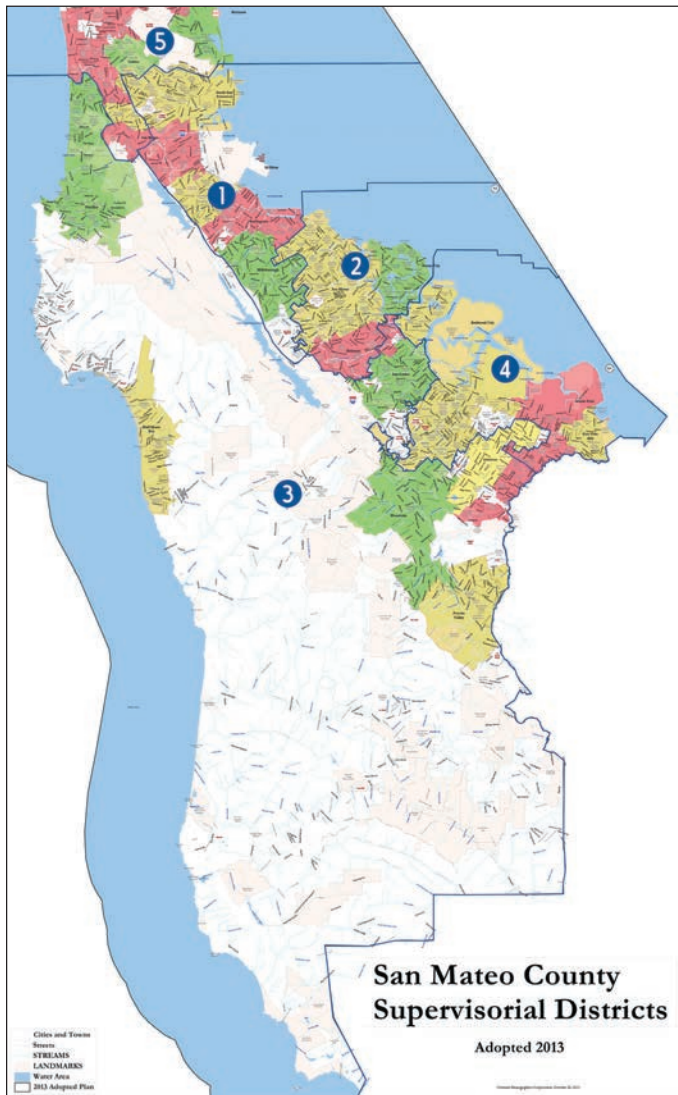
# SAN MATEO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

San Mateo County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors. Each supervisor must live in and represent one of five districts, which are roughly equal in population (approximately 147,000 residents in each) but vary greatly in size.

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

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

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



## DAVE PINE, 1ST DISTRICT

Cities of Burlingame, Hillsborough, Millbrae, San Bruno (everything east of Interstate 280 and areas west of 280 and south of Sneath Lane), and South San Francisco (east of Junipero Serra Boulevard and south of Hickey and Hillside Boulevards). Unincorporated Burlingame Hills, San Mateo Highlands, and San Francisco International Airport.



## CAROLE GROOM, 2ND DISTRICT

Cities of San Mateo, Foster City, and most of Belmont (excluding southeast portion).



## DON HORSLEY, 3RD DISTRICT

Cities of Atherton, southeast Belmont, Half Moon Bay, part of Menlo Park (west of El Camino Real), Pacifica, Portola Valley, San Carlos, and Woodside. Unincorporated Devonshire Canyon, El Granada, Emerald Lake Hills, Harbor Industrial Park, La Honda, Ladera, Loma Mar, Los Trancos Woods, Menlo Oaks, Miramar, Montara, Moss Beach, Palomar Park, Pescadero, Princeton By-The-Sea, San Gregorio, Skyline, Sequoia Tract, Skylonda, Stanford Lands, Vista Verde, and West Menlo Park.



## WARREN SLOCUM, 4TH DISTRICT

Cities of East Palo Alto, part of Menlo Park (east of El Camino Real), and Redwood City. Unincorporated North Fair Oaks.



## DAVID CANEPA, 5TH DISTRICT

Cities of Brisbane, Colma, Daly City, San Bruno (north of Sneath Lane and west of Interstate 280), and South San Francisco (east of Junipero Serra Boulevard and north of Hickey and Hillside boulevards). Unincorporated Broadmoor Village.

# COUNTY STATISTICAL PROFILE POPULATION

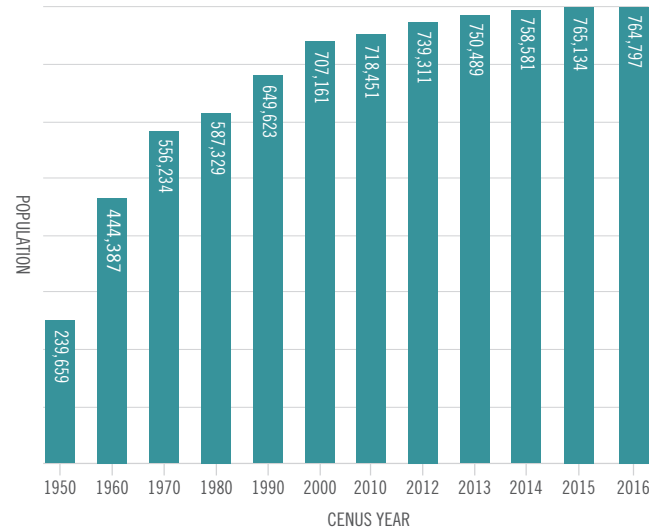
The 2010 Census tallied 718,451 people living in San Mateo County, a modest 1.6 percent increase from the 2000 Census. The 2015 population estimated by the U.S. Census Bureau was 765,135 and by 2016 that number had fallen slightly to 764,797 — still 6.4 percent over the last official count in 2010.

Within San Mateo County, Daly City remains the most populous city followed by San Mateo and Redwood City. The smallest city by population is Colma.

SAN MATEO COUNTY POPULATION<sup>15</sup>

CENSUS POPULATION	2010	2015	% CHANGE
San Mateo County	718,498	765,135	6.5
Atherton	6,914	7,167	3.6
Belmont	25,835	27,218	5.3
Brisbane	4,282	4,282	0.0
Burlingame	28,806	30,459	5.7
Colma	1,792	1,571	-12.3
Daly City	101,123	106,562	5.4
East Palo Alto	28,155	29,662	5.4
Foster City	30,567	33,477	9.5
Half Moon Bay	11,324	12,657	11.8
Hillsborough	10,825	11,451	5.8
Menlo Park	32,026	33,449	4.4
Millbrae	21,532	22,795	5.9
Pacifica	37,234	39,260	5.4
Portola Valley	4,353	4,353	0.0
Redwood City	76,815	85,288	11.0
San Bruno	41,114	43,185	5.0
San Carlos	28,406	29,931	5.4
San Mateo	97,207	105,536	8.6
South San Francisco	63,632	67,271	5.7
Woodside	5,287	5,561	5.2
<b>TOTAL CITIES</b>	<b>657,229</b>	<b>701,135</b>	<b>6.7</b>
<b>UNINCORPORATED</b>	<b>61,222</b>	<b>64,000</b>	<b>4.5</b>

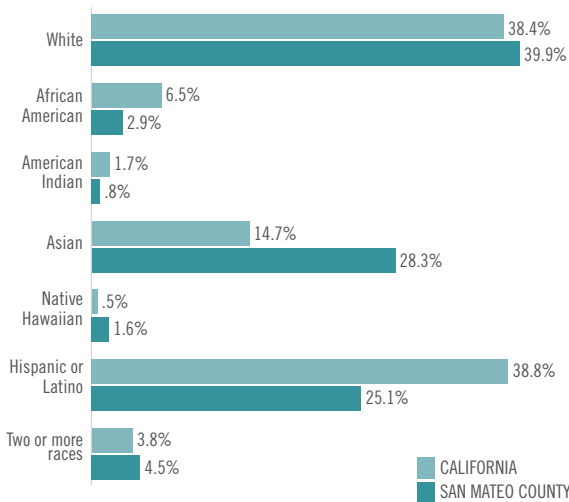
SAN MATEO COUNTY POPULATION<sup>16</sup>  
1950-2016



## RACE DISTRIBUTION

San Mateo County's racial and ethnic composition continues to shift, keeping it as diverse as its geography.

RACE/ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION<sup>17</sup>

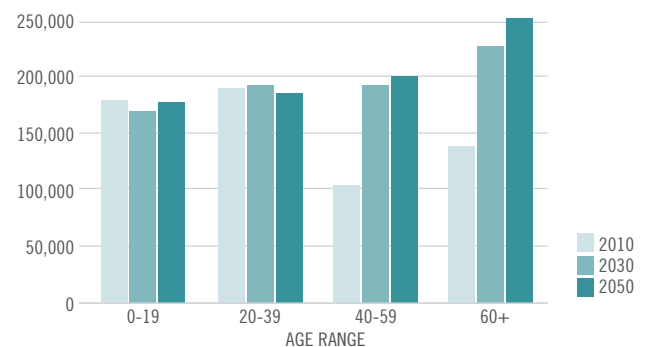


## POPULATION BY AGE AND GENDER

The 2010 Census found that the median age of San Mateo County residents was 39.3 years compared to the state's median age of 35.2 years. Portola Valley had the highest median age of 51.3 years while East Palo Alto had the lowest at 28.1 years. The chart below projects that future decades will see a significant spike in the county's population 65 years and older.

The most recent figures from the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 50.8 percent of those living in San Mateo County were female in 2015 — exactly on par with the United States' 50.8 percent female population. In 2015, the Census estimated 6 percent of the population was under 5 years old, 21.2 percent were under 18 and 15 percent were 65 or older.<sup>18</sup>

SAN MATEO COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS<sup>19</sup>



# EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRY

San Mateo County is home to diverse businesses, from international corporations to small shops and manufacturers. The county's largest employers include Facebook, Box Inc., Gilead Sciences, Inc., Franklin Templeton Investments, Oracle Corp., the County of San Mateo, Kaiser Permanente, Electronic Arts, Inc., Visa, Inc., and the San Francisco International Airport.<sup>20</sup> As the social media realm continues to expand, some county businesses like Facebook's headquarters in Menlo Park become tourist attractions in their own right.

The western side of San Mateo County tends toward more rural uses like agriculture, game preserve, watershed, parks, and undeveloped land. The more densely populated eastern half houses more major transportation arteries and facilities, including Interstate 280, Highway 101, the Dumbarton and Hayward-San Mateo bridges, San Francisco International Airport, and the Port of Redwood City.<sup>21</sup>

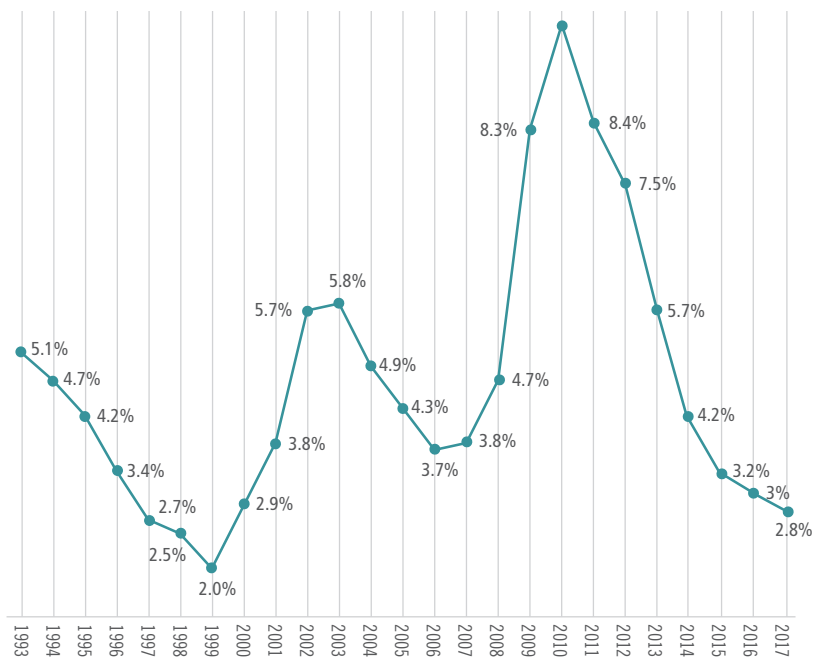
Occupations with the fastest job growth projections for the San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco region include biomedical engineers, statisticians, biochemists and biophysicists, personal care aides, and interpreters and translators.<sup>22</sup>

At the same time, areas of San Mateo County are undergoing a building boom with development and cranes filling the skies to fill the demand for more office space and housing near jobs and transit.

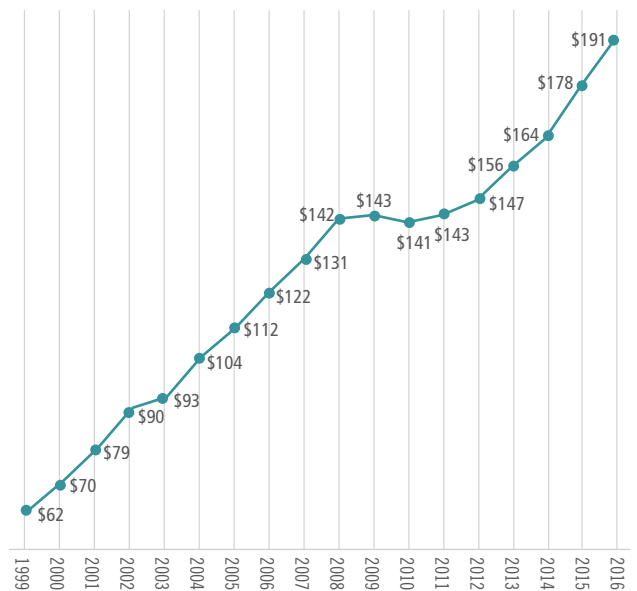
The unemployment rate in San Mateo County in March 2017 stood at 2.8 percent, an ongoing drop from April 2015 when it was 3.2 percent.<sup>23</sup> At that time, San Mateo County had nudged ahead of Marin County as the lowest in the state and has since remained in that position.<sup>24</sup> But success is not without its challenges. The need for housing coupled with a growing job market has led the County, its cities, partners, and businesses to focus on options for narrowing the gap between available housing units and jobs.



SAN MATEO COUNTY'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE<sup>25</sup>



TOTAL TAXABLE ASSESSED VALUE<sup>26</sup>  
(IN BILLIONS)





## INCOME AND HOUSING

Income is relatively higher in San Mateo County than the rest of California but that figure is tempered by the cost to live here.

The average weekly wage in San Mateo County during the third quarter of 2016 was \$2,098, slightly less than the \$2,260 high of neighboring Santa Clara County but more than double the national average of \$1,027.<sup>27</sup> The median household income stood at \$93,623 in San Mateo County compared to the state median of \$61,818. The per capita income in the county was \$48,278 versus \$30,318 in California.<sup>28</sup>

The median home value in San Mateo County as of March 2017 was \$1,105,000.<sup>29</sup> The median real estate transaction recorded in the county as of February 2017 was \$1,027,500, a 12.9 percent increase over February 2016.<sup>30</sup>

Rental rates continue to push San Mateo County and the San Francisco metro area to record highs. The county was the second-highest market in the second quarter of 2016.<sup>31</sup> By March 2017, the median rent price in San Mateo County was \$3,800, which was higher than the San Francisco median of \$3,300.<sup>32</sup>

### REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS<sup>33</sup>

ALL HOMES	NUMBER SOLD	MEDIAN PRICE		
		FEBRUARY 2016	FEBRUARY 2017	%CHNG
Alameda	966	\$639,000	\$682,000	6.7%
Contra Costa	984	\$475,000	\$508,000	6.9%
Marin	164	\$855,000	\$815,000	-4.7%
Napa	88	\$550,000	\$551,250	.2%
Santa Clara	1,067	\$775,000	\$825,000	9%
San Francisco	341	\$1,146,500	\$1,157,500	1%
San Mateo	384	\$910,000	\$1,027,500	12.9%
Solano	445	\$359,000	\$361,000	.6%
Sonoma	366	\$475,000	\$526,250	10.8%





## TRANSPORTATION

The county is home to the second-largest airport in California and the only deepwater port in the southern part of San Francisco Bay. Thousands of people a day board three major mass transit systems that serve the county: BART, Caltrain and SamTrans. The network of roads include busy freeways linking the county to San Francisco and Silicon Valley, two bridges to the East Bay, and rural roads that wind through farmland and redwoods.

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

### PORT OF REDWOOD CITY

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

Total tonnage during the first two quarters of Fiscal Year 2017 was more or less flat over the same period the previous year but more than budgeted. Forty-nine vessels — 36 ships and 13 barges— made port calls during the first two quarters of the 2017 fiscal year.<sup>34</sup>

The Port operates a public boat launch with access to San Francisco Bay and hosts numerous recreational opportunities and events. The port is a department of the city of Redwood City.



### SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

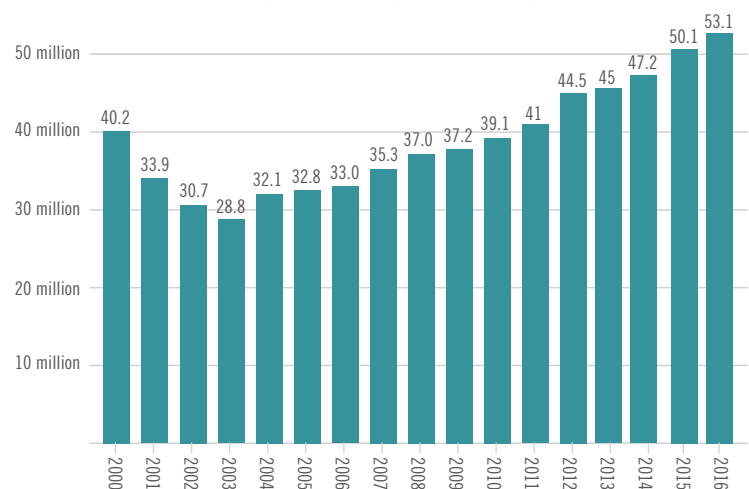
Located along San Francisco Bay east of San Bruno, San Francisco International is one of the world's busiest airports with more than three dozen airlines serving destinations around the world.

The airport is owned and operated by the City and County of San Francisco despite being located within the boundaries of San Mateo County. The airport, known by its international code of SFO, is a significant economic engine for the entire region and provides job opportunities for tens of thousands of people either at the airport or at importers, exporters, warehouses, food service companies, tourist attractions, and other industries. SFO's direct impacts include more than 39,000 jobs and \$7.9 billion in business activity at the airport itself, and 158,000 jobs and \$34.6 billion in off-site business activity.<sup>35</sup>

SFO ranked as the seventh leading passenger airport in the United States and the 17th largest air cargo airport. Traffic continues to climb. In 2016, more than 53 million passengers visited the airport and more than 420,000 metric tons of cargo were moved.<sup>36</sup>

#### SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMPARATIVE TRAFFIC REPORTS<sup>37</sup>

Total Enplaned and Deplaned Passengers





## PUBLIC TRANSIT OPTIONS

### BART

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

BART is operated by the Bay Area Rapid Transit District. Fiscal Year 2016 saw more than 128 million annual exits by passengers.<sup>38</sup>

### Caltrain

Rail passenger service on the Peninsula began in 1864. Today, Caltrain operates along 77 miles of track from San Francisco to Gilroy.

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

With an ever-increasing pool of tech workers using Caltrain, the average weekday ridership jumped 3.2 percent between Fiscal Year 2015 and Fiscal Year 2016. In Fiscal Year 2016, more than 19 million passengers used Caltrain to get around.<sup>39</sup>

### SamTrans

In 1976, a total of 11 separate municipal bus systems were consolidated into the San Mateo County Transit District, commonly referred to as SamTrans. Today, SamTrans operates bus service throughout San Mateo County and into parts of San Francisco and Palo Alto.

In the 2016 fiscal year, more than 12.7 million passengers used SamTrans on fixed-route trips. An even 360,000 passengers used Redi-Wheels, its paratransit service.<sup>40</sup>



# SAFETY

Public safety is a top priority of the County of San Mateo where the violent crime rate remains among the lowest in the state. The County of San Mateo also remains responsive to legal changes in criminal justice, like the state realignment shift of prison inmates to local control, and the community’s desire to emphasize services and treatment. In March 2016, the County opened its new Maple Street Correctional Center in Redwood City. In 2017, the County broke ground on a new Regional Operations Center at County Center to house its 9-1-1 Dispatch Center and a seismically safe, state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Center.



SAN MATEO COUNTY CRIMES <sup>41</sup>											
Category/crime	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Violent crimes	2,447	2,195	2,129	2,167	2,072	1,795	1,576	1,764	1,776	1,561	1,707
Homicide	30	22	13	18	16	20	16	10	11	11	14
Forcible rape	155	155	144	142	128	128	135	106	132	222	219
Robbery	715	716	700	731	734	594	492	508	502	487	538
Agg. Assault	1,547	1,302	1,272	1,276	1,194	1,053	933	1,140	1,131	841	936
Property crimes	18,628	17,792	15,540	16,967	15,772	15,184	14,015	14,433	14,751	14,186	15,548
Burglary	3,335	2,969	2,547	2,854	3,072	3,092	3,196	3,273	3,107	3,113	3,305
Vehicle Theft	2,732	2,749	2,219	2,415	1,988	1,888	1,488	1,566	1,627	1,683	1,913
Total Larceny-theft	12,561	12,074	10,774	11,698	10,712	10,204	9,331	9,594	10,017	9,390	10,330
Over \$400	3,677	3,786	3,656	4,194	3,617	3,640	3,568	3,823	4,296	3,762	4,318
\$400 And under	8,884	8,288	7,118	7,504	7,095	6,564	5,763	5,771	5,721	5,628	6,012
Arson	151	149	149	118	125	96	88	84	109	79	78

# HEALTH

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





# EDUCATION

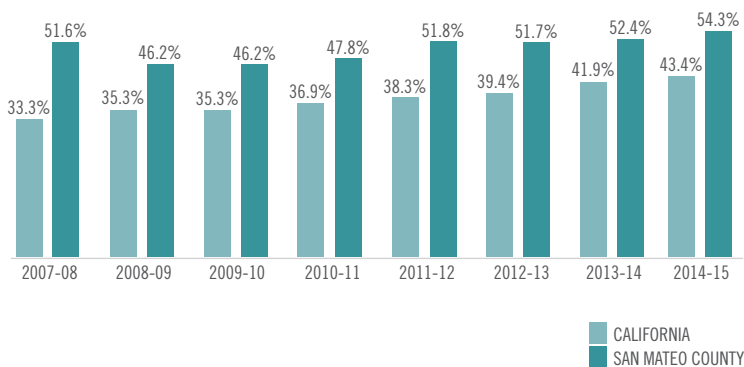
San Mateo County is home to 183 public schools and many private schools. Public school enrollment rose from 95,187 in 014-2015 to 95,502 in the 2015-16 school year.<sup>42</sup>

In the 2015-2016 school year, California saw record high graduation rates for a sixth year in a row and San Mateo County's rate increased 0.8 percent to 88.9 percent, according to the San Mateo County Office of Education. Through collaborative childhood literacy initiatives like The Big Lift, the County has committed to having 80 percent of its third-grade students reading at or above proficiency by 2020. As of February 2016, 55 percent of third-graders met this goal.

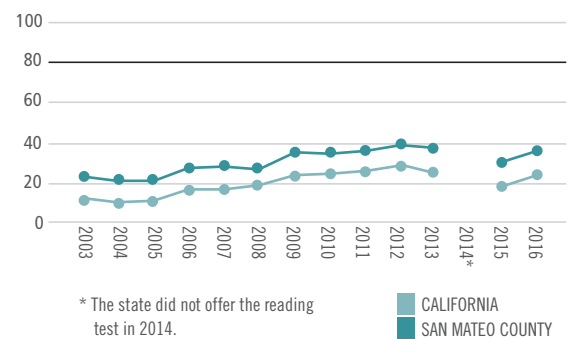
In 2015, 88.3 percent of people 25 years and older had at least graduated from high school and 45.6 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>43</sup>



PERCENTAGE OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH UC/CSU REQUIRED COURSES<sup>44</sup>



Increase 3rd Grade Students Reading at or Above Proficient to 80 Percent by 2020<sup>45</sup>



## SOURCES

1. Census Quickfacts, 2016 estimate
2. Census Quickfacts, July 2015
3. California Employment Development Department, April 2017
4. Census Quickfacts
5. Census Quickfacts
6. San Mateo County Assessor's Office
7. California Board of Equalization
8. San Mateo County 2015 Agricultural Crop Report
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18. Census Quickfacts, July 2015
19. State of California, Department of Finance, Population Projections for California and Its Counties 2000-2050, by Age, Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Sacramento, California, July 2007
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27. U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2017
28. Census Quickfacts, 2015
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30. Core Logic Data Quick, Feb. 2017
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33. Core Logic Data Quick, Feb. 2017
34. Port of Redwood City FY 2017 Mid-Year Tonnage and Vessel Report
35. 2016 Economic Impact Study, SFO
36. San Francisco International Airport Comparative Traffic Reports
37. San Francisco International Airport Comparative Traffic Reports
38. BART ridership count
39. Caltrain Annual Passenger Count
40. SamTrans ridership count
41. U.S. Department of Justice, California Criminal Justice Profiles
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#### PHOTO CREDITS:

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