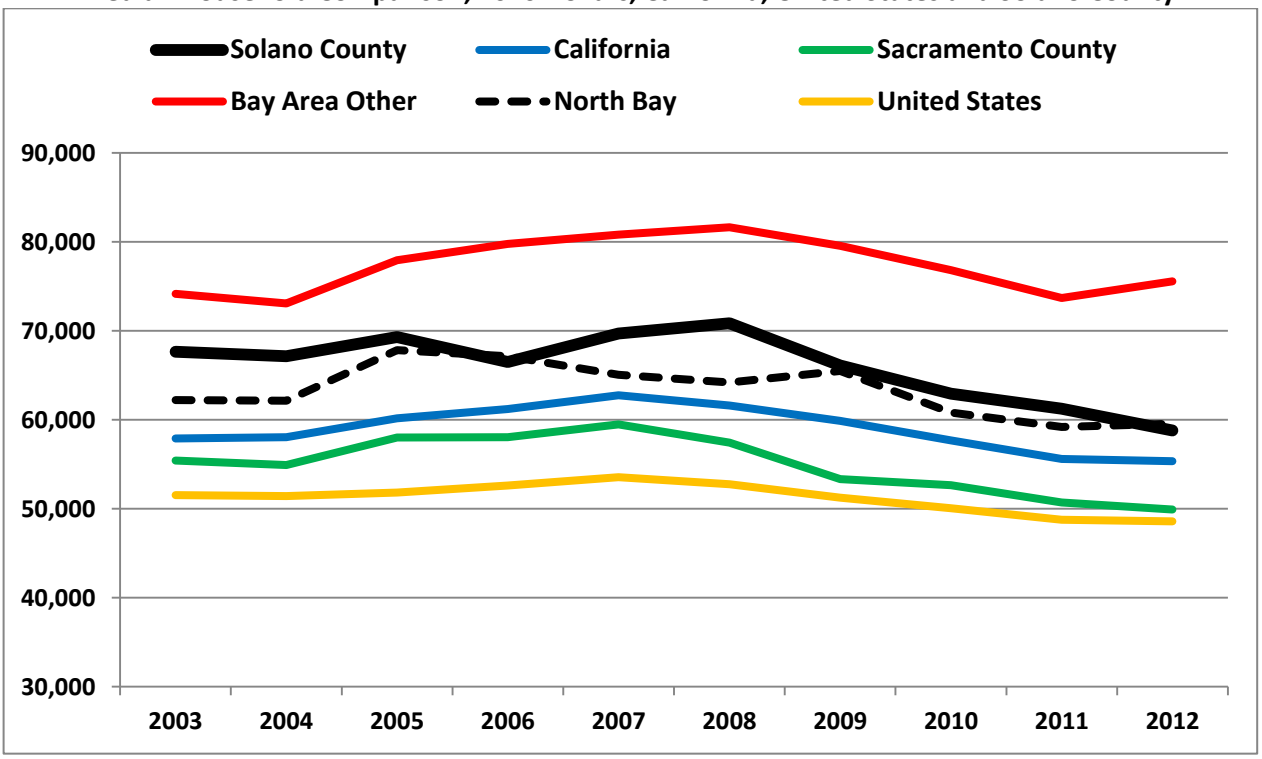
Median Household Income

The Census Bureau tracks households in two forms: family and non-family. Family households have children under the age of 18 in them, while non-family households may have children over the age of eighteen if children are present. Median income measures are used by economists rather than average income because averages are subject to more volatility as incomes rise, where median measures speak to the data series' center and moves less quickly.

For Solano County, median household income fell in 2012 as a ratio to the United States average. California's median income grew in 2012 versus the national median. This suggests that Solano County has been growing in the form of relatively lower income households. This is the second time in four years that median household income has fallen for Solano County. So while Solano County retains a larger median household income than both the United States overall and the state of California, 2012 reduced that difference.

Median Household Comparison, 2010 Dollars, California, United States and Solano County



Sources: Census Bureau (Median Household Income), California Department of Finance (CPI data)

TAKEAWAY: Median household incomes have been on a trend decline since 2008 across all selected areas in inflation-adjusted (real) terms. In current dollars (nominal terms), there has been growth.

WHAT IS IMPORTANT: Median household income is used to measure how well households and families are generating income. Solano County's median household income is still relatively high with respect to the state and the nation, regardless of recent trends.