
Solano County Statistical Profile

The County of Solano is strategically located between San Francisco and Sacramento, on Interstate 80. As one of California's original 27 counties, it is rich in history and offers many resources to the general public and the business community. In addition to the unincorporated area, the County serves seven cities: Benicia, Dixon, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun City, Vacaville and Vallejo.

The County provides the following services:

- Libraries (as Contract Services for Cities)
- Jails and Juvenile Facilities
- Probationary Supervision
- District Attorney
- Public Defender and Alternative Defense
- Grand Jury
- Coroner and Forensic Services
- Airport
- Family Support Collection
- Public and Mental Health Services
- Indigent Medical Services
- Child Protection and Social Services
- Public Assistance
- Environmental Health
- Parks
- Veterans Services
- Agricultural Commissioner
- Weights and Measures
- U.C. Cooperative Extension Services
- Oversight and Permitting of Landfills and Solid Waste Disposal and Collection
- Elections and Voter Registration
- Clerk-Recorder
- Tax Assessment and Collection
- Emergency Medical Services
- Animal Care Services
- Building and Safety (Unincorporated County only)
- Maintenance of County Roads and Bridges
- Law Enforcement (Primarily Unincorporated County)
- Land Use Issues in the Unincorporated County

The following pages provide a graphical summary of statistical, employment and demographic information about Solano County. In some cases comparative data is on a statewide basis and in other cases comparative data is narrowed down to the ten counties most similar to Solano County (selection is based on population and several other common aspects that compare to Solano County).

California Counties Ranked by Population

The California Department of Finance’s January 1, 2010, estimate of the population of Solano County is 427,837, approximately the same as last year’s estimate and 8.4% over the 2000 Census. Of California’s 58 counties, Solano County ranks 21st in terms of population size and 38th in terms of population growth when compared to the 2000 Census.

California’s population estimate was 38.6 million as of January 2010, according to the State Department of Finance. California, the nation’s most populous state, represents 12.5% of the nation’s population, or one out of every eight persons.

Solano County population represents 1.1% of the State population.

Rank	County	2000 Census	January 2010	Percent Change
1	Placer	248,399	347,102	39.7%
2	Riverside	1,545,387	2,139,535	38.4%
3	Imperial	142,361	183,029	28.6%
4	Kern	661,645	839,587	26.9%
5	Sutter	78,930	99,154	25.6%
6	Madera	123,019	153,655	24.9%
7	San Joaquin	563,598	694,293	23.2%
8	Colusa	18,084	22,206	22.8%
9	Merced	210,554	258,495	22.8%
10	Yuba	60,219	73,380	21.9%
11	Tulare	368,021	447,814	21.7%
12	San Bernardino	1,709,434	2,073,149	21.3%
13	Kings	129,461	156,289	20.7%
14	Yolo	168,660	202,953	20.3%
15	Fresno	799,407	953,761	19.3%
16	Stanislaus	446,997	530,584	18.7%
17	Sacramento	1,223,499	1,445,327	18.1%
18	El Dorado	156,299	182,019	16.5%
19	San Diego	2,813,833	3,224,432	14.6%
20	Calaveras	40,554	45,870	13.1%
21	Contra Costa	948,816	1,073,055	13.1%
22	Shasta	163,256	184,247	12.9%
23	Tehama	56,039	63,100	12.6%
24	Ventura	753,197	844,713	12.2%
25	Santa Clara	1,682,585	1,880,876	11.8%
26	Napa	124,279	138,917	11.8%
27	Glenn	26,453	29,434	11.3%
28	Orange	2,846,289	3,166,461	11.2%
29	San Luis Obispo	246,681	273,231	10.8%

Rank	County	2000 Census	January 2010	Percent Change
30	San Francisco	776,733	856,095	10.2%
31	Lake	58,309	64,053	9.9%
32	Los Angeles	9,519,338	10,441,080	9.7%
33	San Benito	53,234	58,388	9.7%
34	Butte	203,171	221,768	9.2%
35	Alameda	1,443,741	1,574,857	9.1%
36	Santa Barbara	399,347	434,481	8.8%
37	Monterey	401,762	435,878	8.5%
38	Solano	394,542	427,837	8.4%
39	Amador	35,100	38,022	8.3%
40	Del Norte	27,507	29,673	7.9%
41	Sonoma	458,614	493,285	7.6%
42	Nevada	92,033	98,680	7.2%
43	Trinity	13,022	13,898	6.7%
44	San Mateo	707,161	754,285	6.7%
45	Santa Cruz	255,602	272,201	6.5%
46	Mariposa	17,130	18,192	6.2%
47	Lassen	33,828	35,889	6.1%
48	Mono	12,853	13,617	5.9%
49	Humboldt	126,518	133,400	5.4%
50	Marin	247,289	260,651	5.4%
51	Mendocino	86,265	90,289	4.7%
52	Siskiyou	44,301	46,010	3.9%
53	Modoc	9,449	9,777	3.5%
54	Tuolumne	54,501	56,086	2.9%
55	Inyo	17,945	18,110	0.9%
56	Alpine	1,208	1,189	-1.6%
57	Plumas	20,824	20,428	-1.9%
58	Sierra	3,555	3,303	-7.1%
	State	33,870,838	38,648,090	14.1%

Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

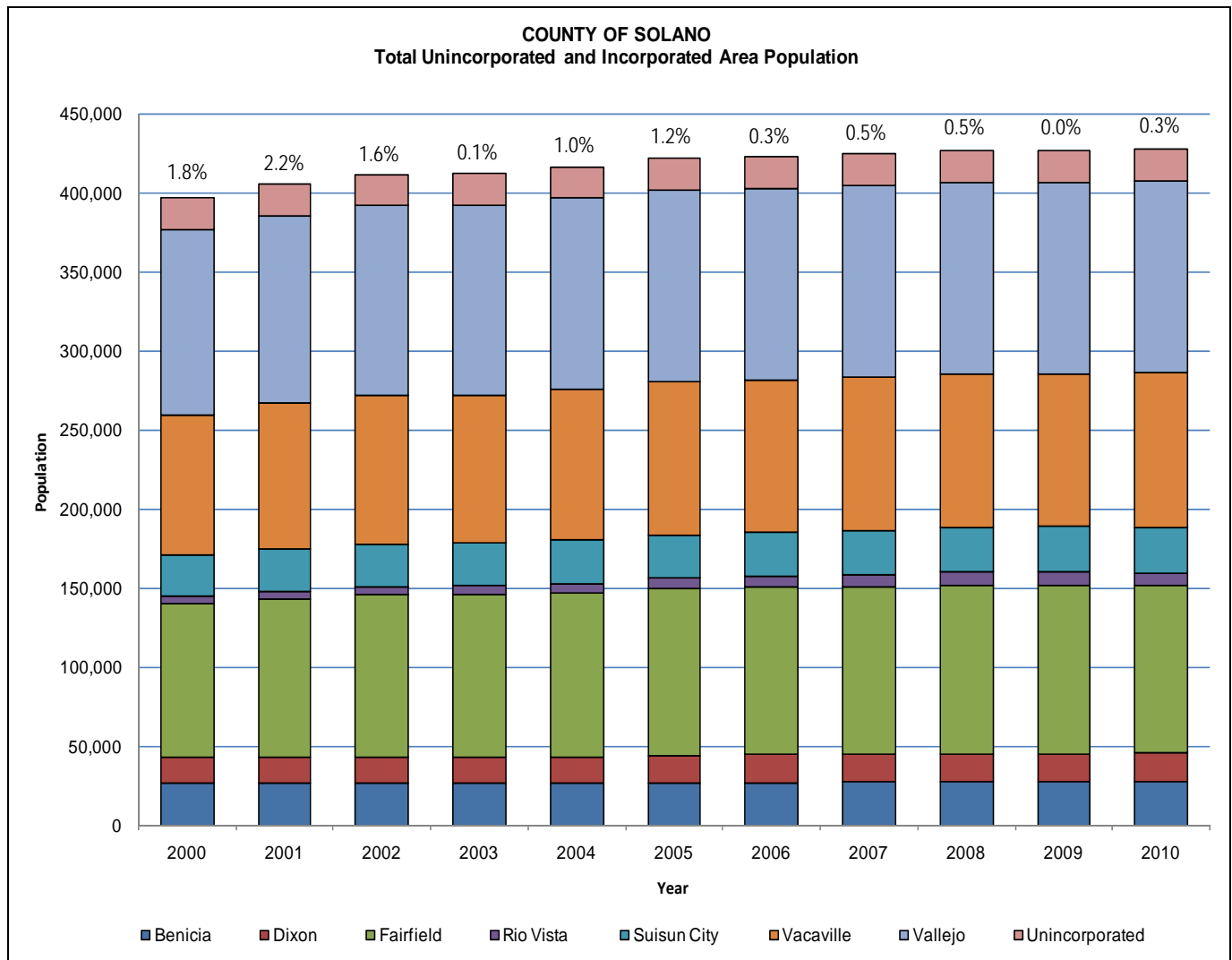
Michael D. Johnson, County Administrator

When you look at the county population since 2000, the rate of growth has tapered off to small increments. The County population has increased an average of approximately 0.7% annually.

The two largest cities within the county are Vallejo and Fairfield with populations of 121,435 and 105,955 respectively. Between January 2009 and

January 2010, Fairfield experienced negative growth of (0.5%).

The fastest growing Solano County city since 2000 is Rio Vista with 81.4% growth, followed by Vacaville with 10.1%.

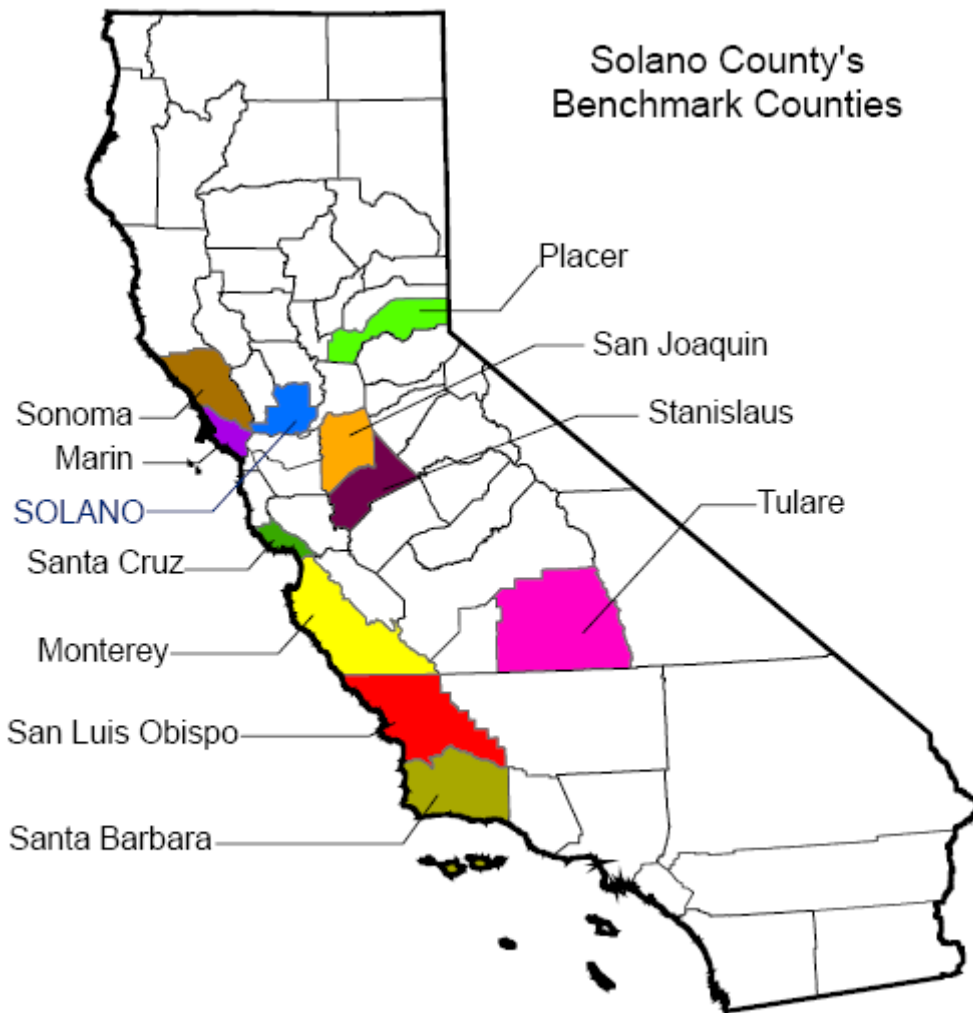


Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

Benchmark Counties

When reviewing Solano County's economic health, the County government's financial capacity, and the County's delivery of services to residents in unincorporated areas, the County inevitably compares itself from the current year to past years.

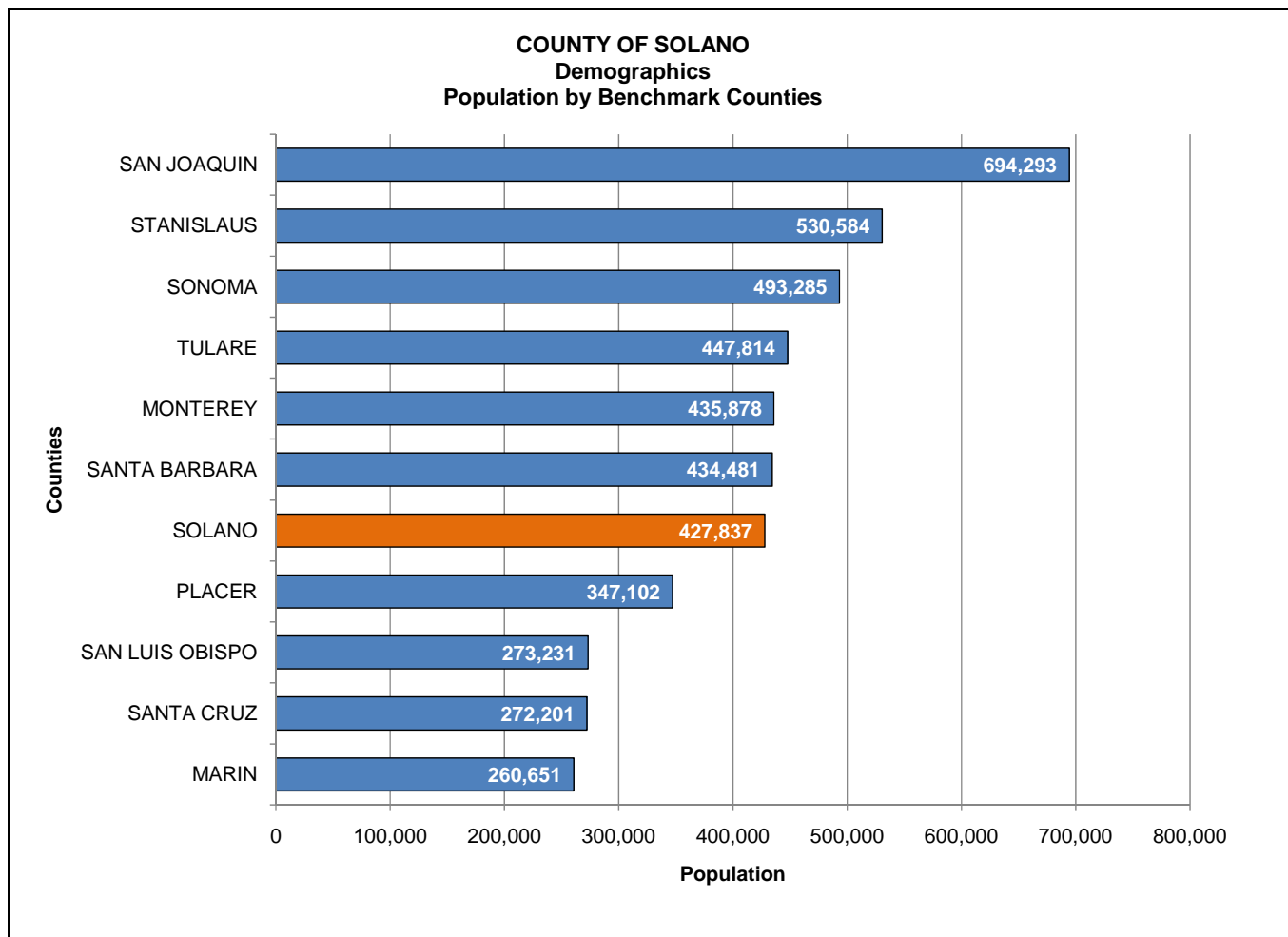
Additionally, the question of how Solano County compares with other counties is often asked. This leads to the question: Which counties should be used for comparison purposes?



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A group of ten counties have been selected to be used for comparison in seven of the following charts. Solano County has the following characteristics in common with each of these counties:

- They are the ten counties closest to Solano in population – six with higher population and four with lower population.
- A total population of more than 250,000 but less than 700,000.
- All include both suburban and rural environments.
- None contain a city with more than 300,000 in population.
- Six are coastal or Bay Area counties.
- Most have the same urban growth versus rural preservation challenges facing Solano County.



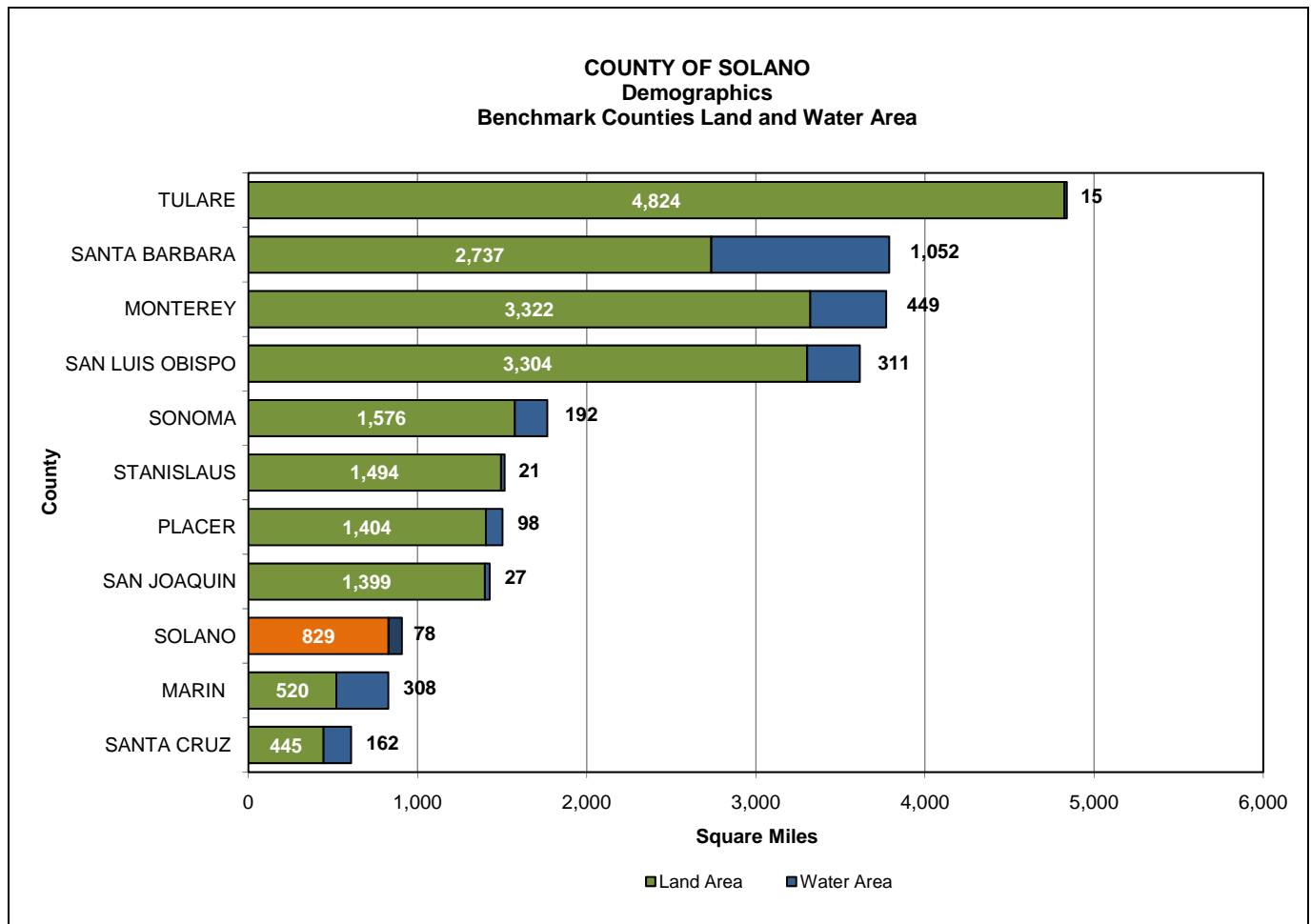
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2010

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Solano County consists of a total area of 907 square miles. Land area is represented by 829 square miles and water area by 78 square miles. Water area is 8.6% of the total area.

San Francisco Bay, Suisun Bay, the Carquinez Straits and the Sacramento River provide the county with natural borders to the south and east. Rich agricultural land lies in the northern area of the county while rolling hills are part of the southern area.

Approximately 62% of the county land area is comprised of farmland.

Despite having a smaller than average land and water area when compared to the Benchmark counties, Solano County's proximity to the Bay Area and the fact that the county contains the Suisun Marsh, which is the largest contiguous brackish water wetland in the United States and unique protected habitat, bring complex issues to County government.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

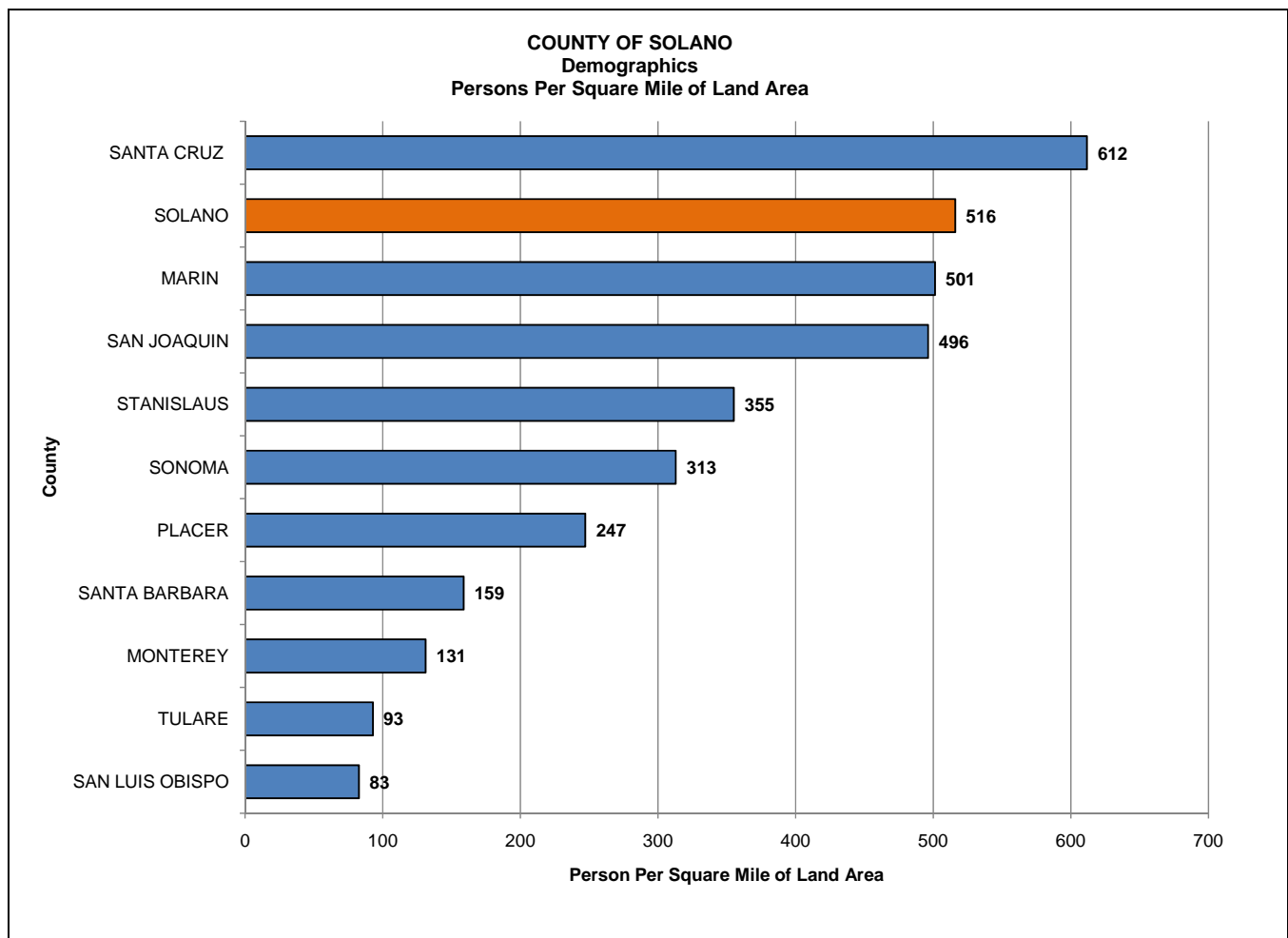
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As shown in the following tables entitled “Persons per Square Mile of Land Area” and “Percent Residing in the Unincorporated Areas,” Solano County has a high per-square-mile (land area) population density; however, its residents are concentrated in cities.

According to the California Department of Finance’s “January 2010 City/County Population Estimates,” 83% of California residents live in cities and 17% in unincorporated areas. In contrast, 95% of residents in Solano County live within the county’s seven cities.

This phenomenon was by design. In the early 1980s the residents of the County passed an Orderly Growth Initiative, which was extended in 1994, that focuses most urban growth to the incorporated cities.

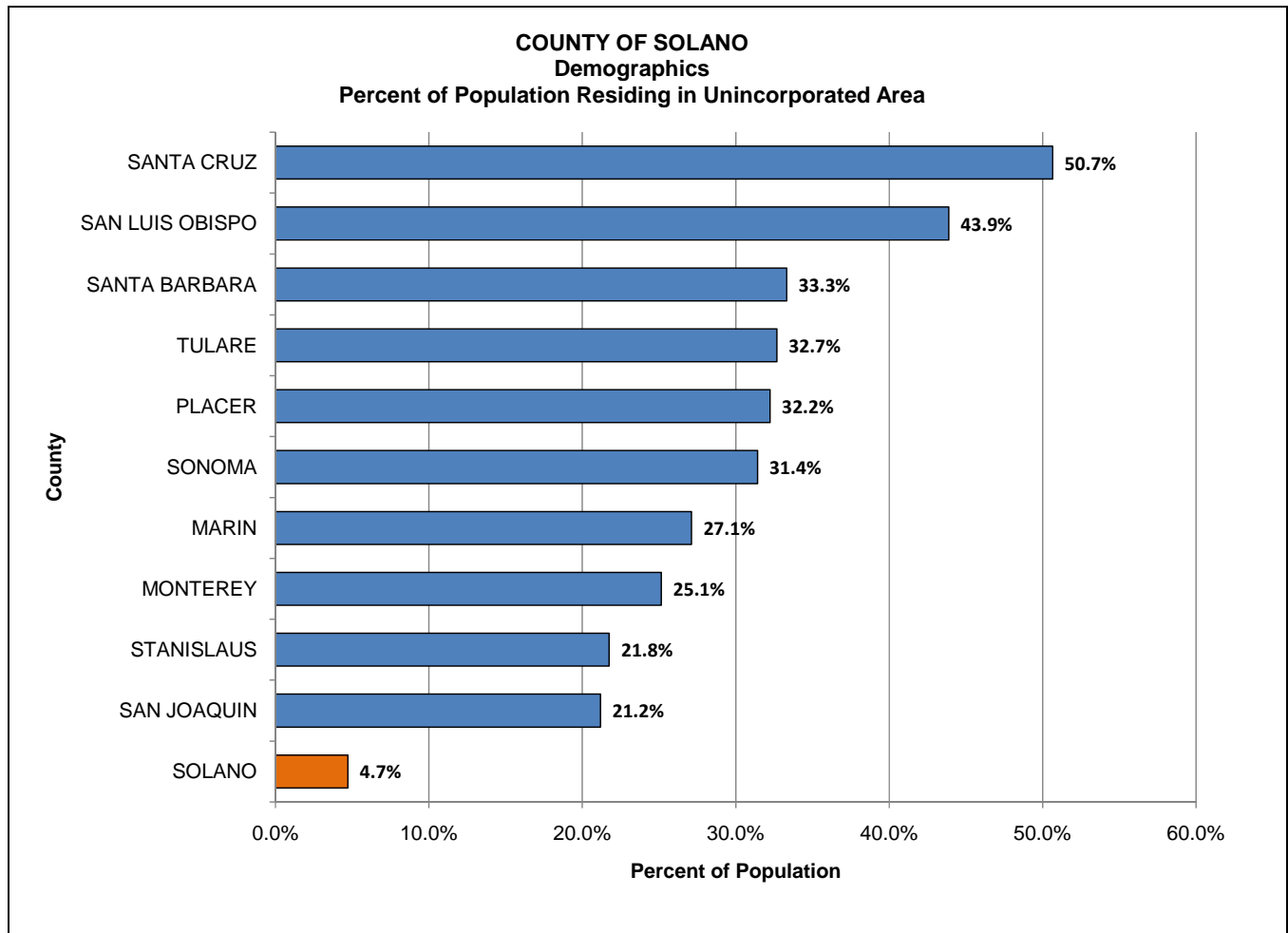
The voters reaffirmed this measure through the 2008 Solano County General Plan, sustaining a commitment to orderly growth through 2028.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographics Research Unit, January 2010

This unique mixture of a sizeable urban population and a large rural/agricultural base creates many problems and challenges for County government. These include:

- Balancing continuing urban growth pressures with the desire to preserve agriculture and open space and their long-term viability.
- Problems in the transition zones between urbanized areas and agricultural areas (i.e., land use, pesticide use, dust, odors and vermin).
- Coordination of infrastructure transitions from the urban areas to the rural areas (i.e., reliever routes, upgraded feeder streets/roads and flood control).
- A large urban-driven need (as indicated by the high density per square mile) for health, public assistance and law and justice services with little County government control or influence in promoting initiatives in the urban environment that would create long-term improvements.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2010

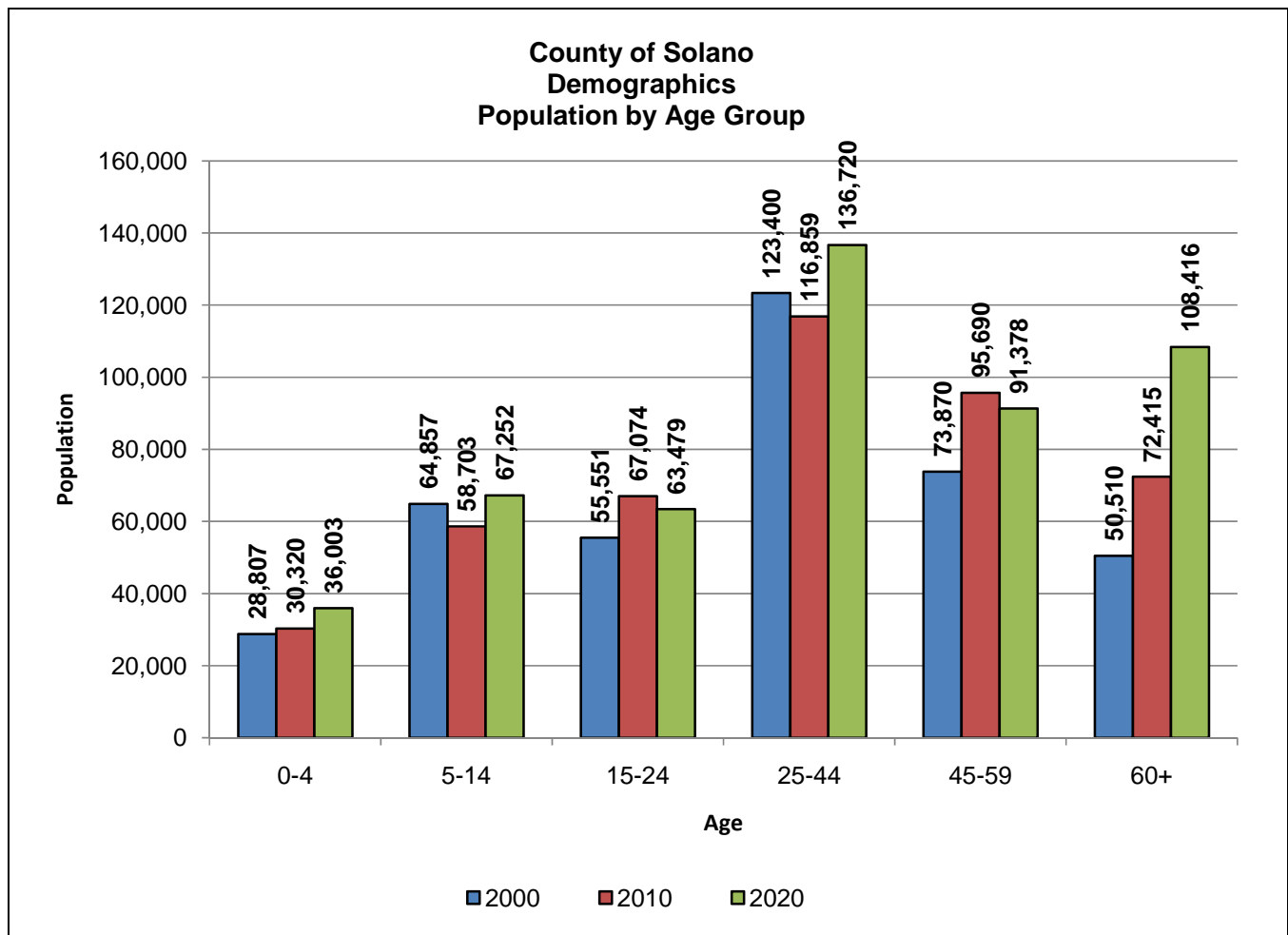
Population and Demographic Profile

The following charts entitled “Population by Age Group” and “Population by Percentages in Various Age Groups” show that from 2000 to 2020, the 60-plus age group of Solano County residents is projected to be the fastest growing population segment with an increase of 57,906 residents, or 114.6%. The bulk of that growth – 36,001 or 62.2% – is expected in the next 10 years.

majority of that growth – 5,683 or 79% – is expected in the next 10 years.

Overall, the population of Solano County is expected to grow by 106,253, or 26.8%, between 2000 and 2020. As of January 1, 2010, the county had only achieved 33,295, or 31%, of the Department of Finance projected growth.

The second fastest growing age group is children 0 to 4, growing 25% from 2000 to 2020. Again, the



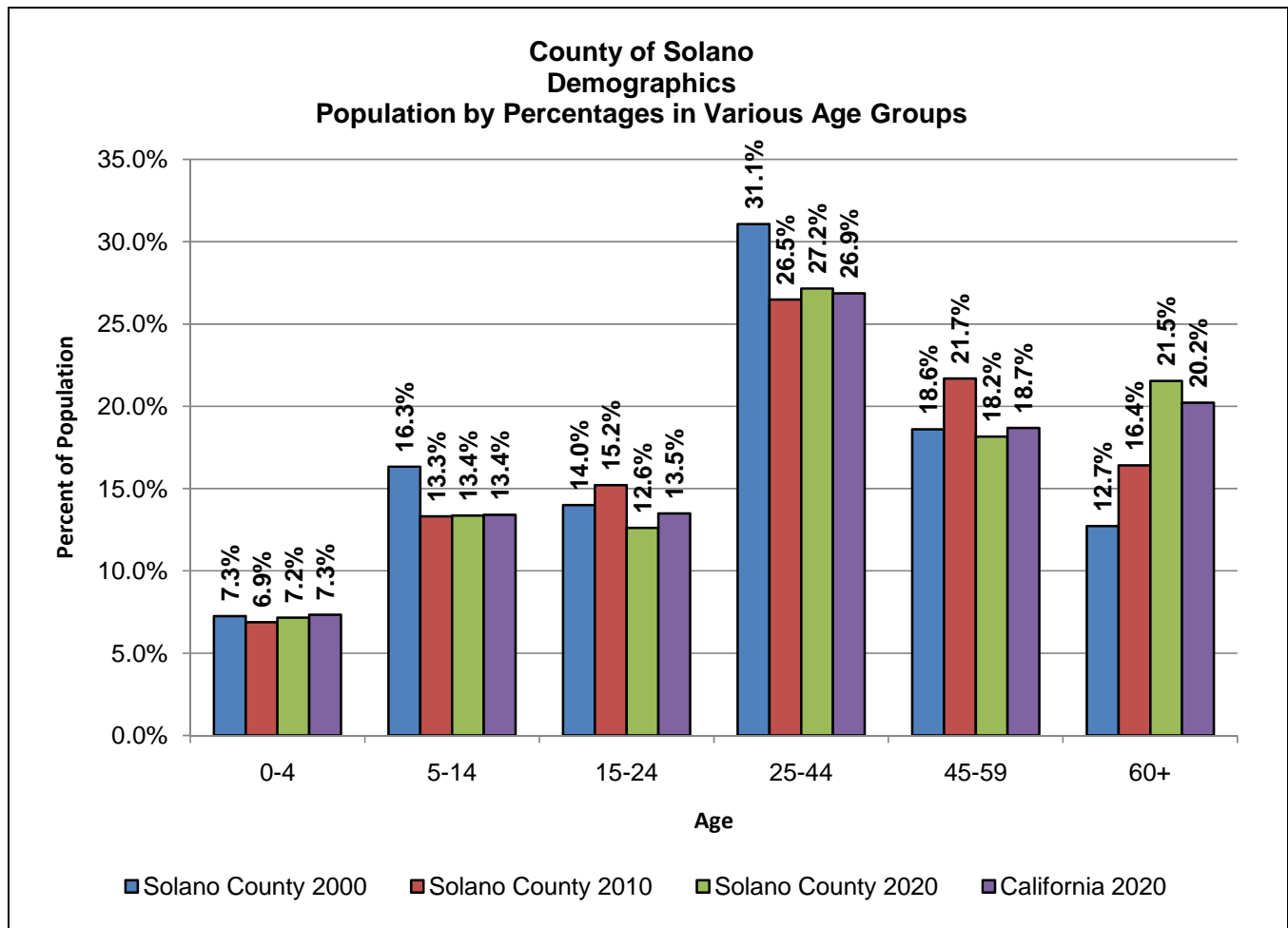
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

Two age groups are expected to decline in real numbers between 2010 and 2020. The 15 to 24 age group is projected to decline 5.4% and the 45 to 59 age group to decline 4.5%. These segments of the population will represent a smaller portion of the population in Solano County than the rest of California.

Residents in the 25 to 44 age group are projected to remain the largest segment of the county's population. This group's population projections dropped from 31.1% in 2000 to 26.9% in 2020.

Overall, the age demographics in Solano County are relatively similar to those of the State of California, and the trend of these demographic indicators are consistent with the current "graying" of a large segment of the American population.

By 2020, 39.7% of Solano County's population and 38.9% of the State's population are projected to be over 45 years of age. The "Baby Boom" generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) represents a significant segment of the nation's population, and they will begin reaching retirement age (65) in 2011.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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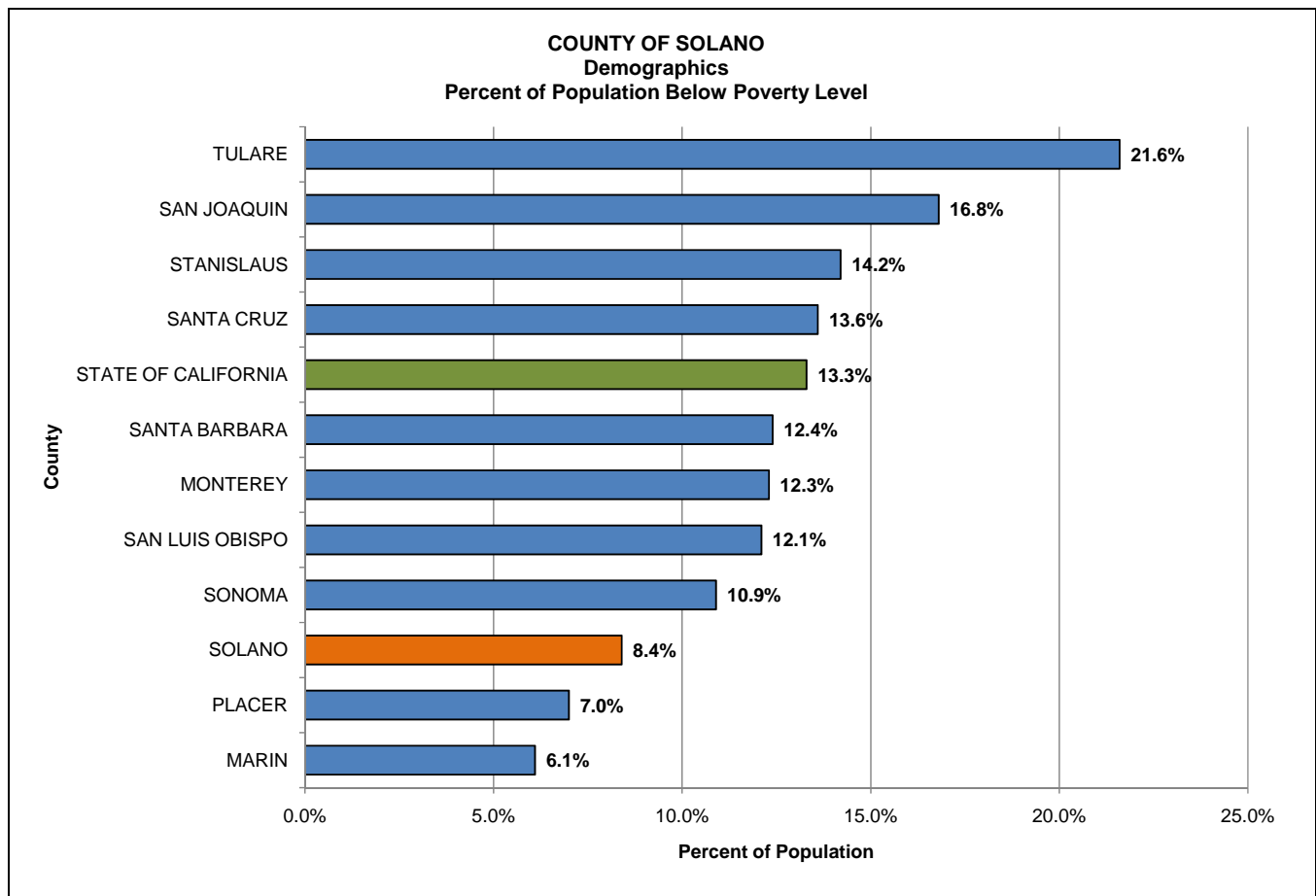
Population Living in Poverty

According to the 2008 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, 8.4% of the county population is living at or below the poverty level. This is 1.2 percentage points below the 2007 survey and 2.4 percentage points below the 2006 survey. The U.S. Census Bureau’s statistics on poverty provide an important measure of economic well-being and are sometimes used to assess the need or eligibility for various types of public assistance.

Poverty statistics presented use thresholds prescribed for Federal agencies by the Office of Management and Budget and are estimates. It

should be noted that only two of the comparison counties have a lower rate. While the county’s level is not acceptable, the county’s rate is an improvement over the 13.3% State rate for population living at or below the poverty level.

These statistics also lag the known impacts of the current recession. In September 2007, a total of 14.2% of the county’s population was receiving public assistance, such as Food Stamps, CalWORKs, General Assistance and Medi-Cal. In September 2009, a total 16.7% of the county’s population was receiving public assistance.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Population by Ethnicity

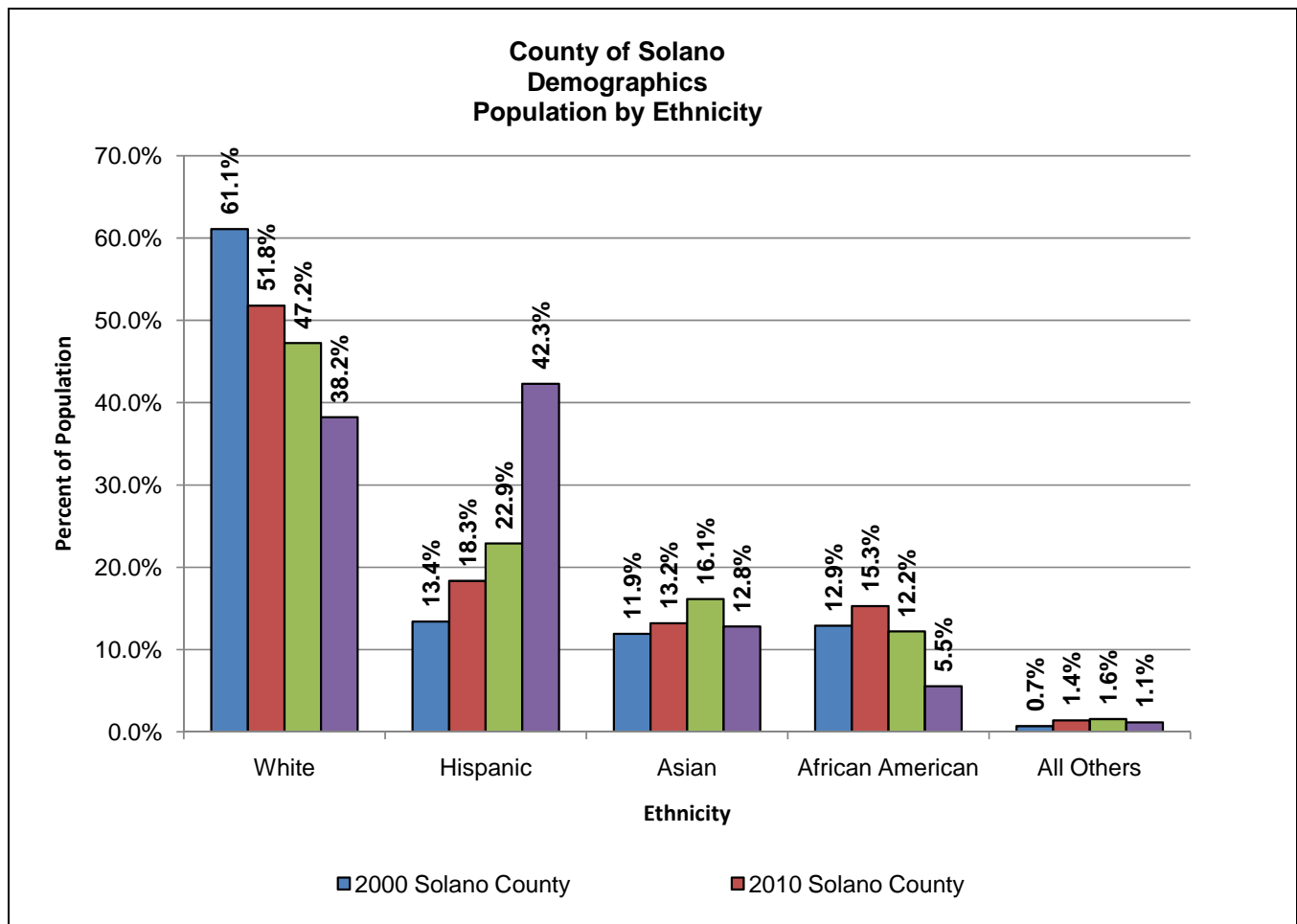
The following chart entitled “Population by Ethnicity” examines the projected changes in the county’s ethnicity between July 1, 2000 and 2020. The data indicates that the percentages of each segment will increase in all ethnic segments, with the exception of the White and African American segments.

The White category is expected to represent almost 40% of Solano County’s population, which reflects a modest 1.3% increase in the number of Whites but a reduction of 10% in the segment percentage. The African American segment is projected to decrease 18.8% in numbers to represent 9.4% of the population.

The most significant increase is expected to occur in the Hispanic segment with a projected 84.4% increase in numbers over the 2000 data and will represent 21.8% of the 2020 county population.

The Asian segment is projected to have a 83.9% increase from the 2000 population data and will represent 18.4% of the county population in 2020

The All Other segment (includes Native American, Alaskan, Hawaiian and Pacific Islander segments) population is projected to increase 62.4% over the period and will represent 6.7% of the county’s population in 2020.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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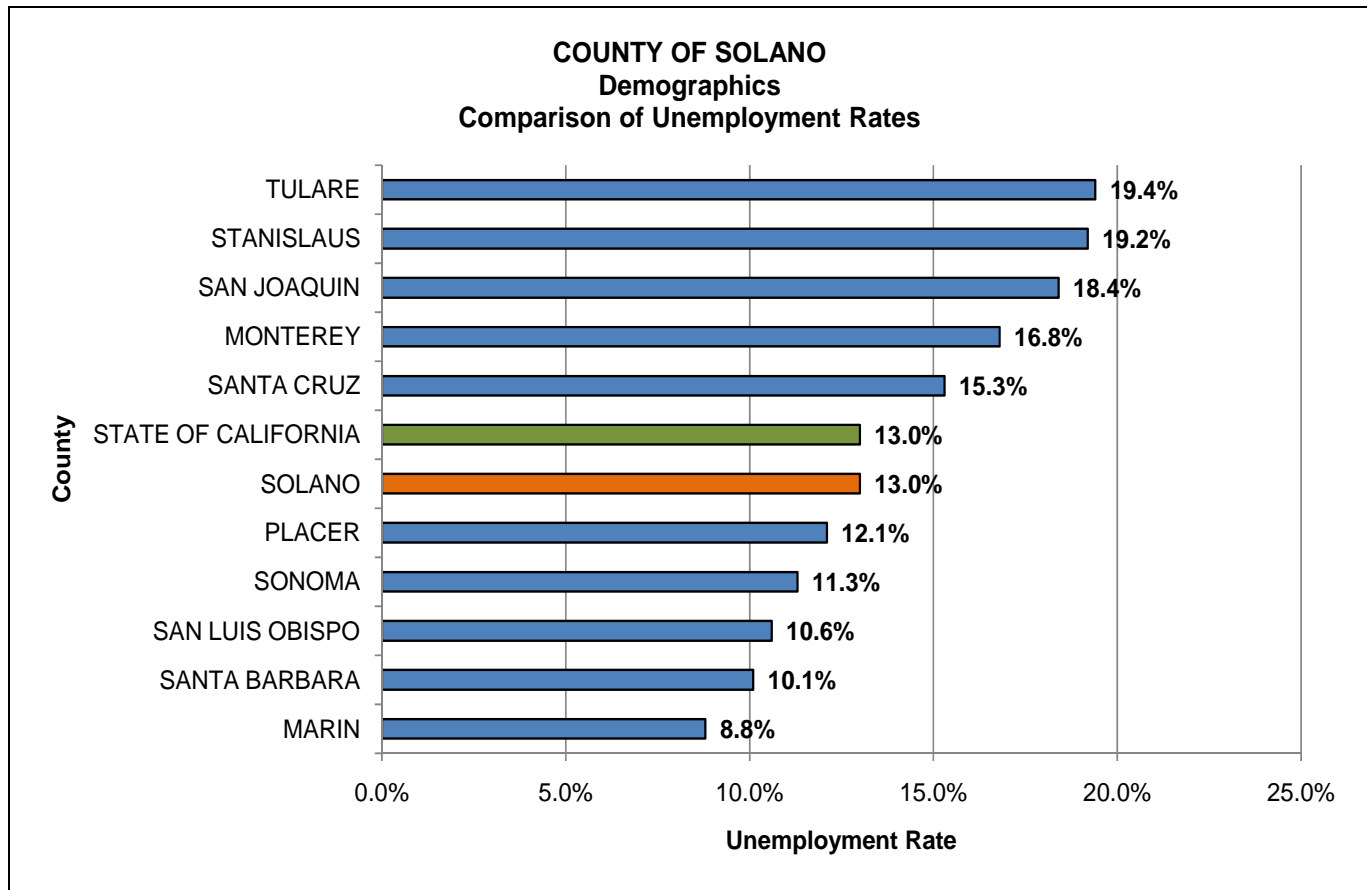
Employment and Economic Growth

The State of California has seen an increase in the number of people without jobs over the last year. The March unemployment rate for the state climbed to 13%, up from 11.5% a year ago and 6.4% in 2008. Here in Solano County, the unemployment rate has climbed to 13%, up from 10.9% a year ago and 6.4% in 2008.

Although more people were in the workforce in March 2010 than were in March 2000, the employment gains

did not keep pace with the size of the labor force, according to the California Employment Development Division. The labor force grew by 22,000, or 11.4%, while the number of employed people increased only 4,300, or 2.4%.

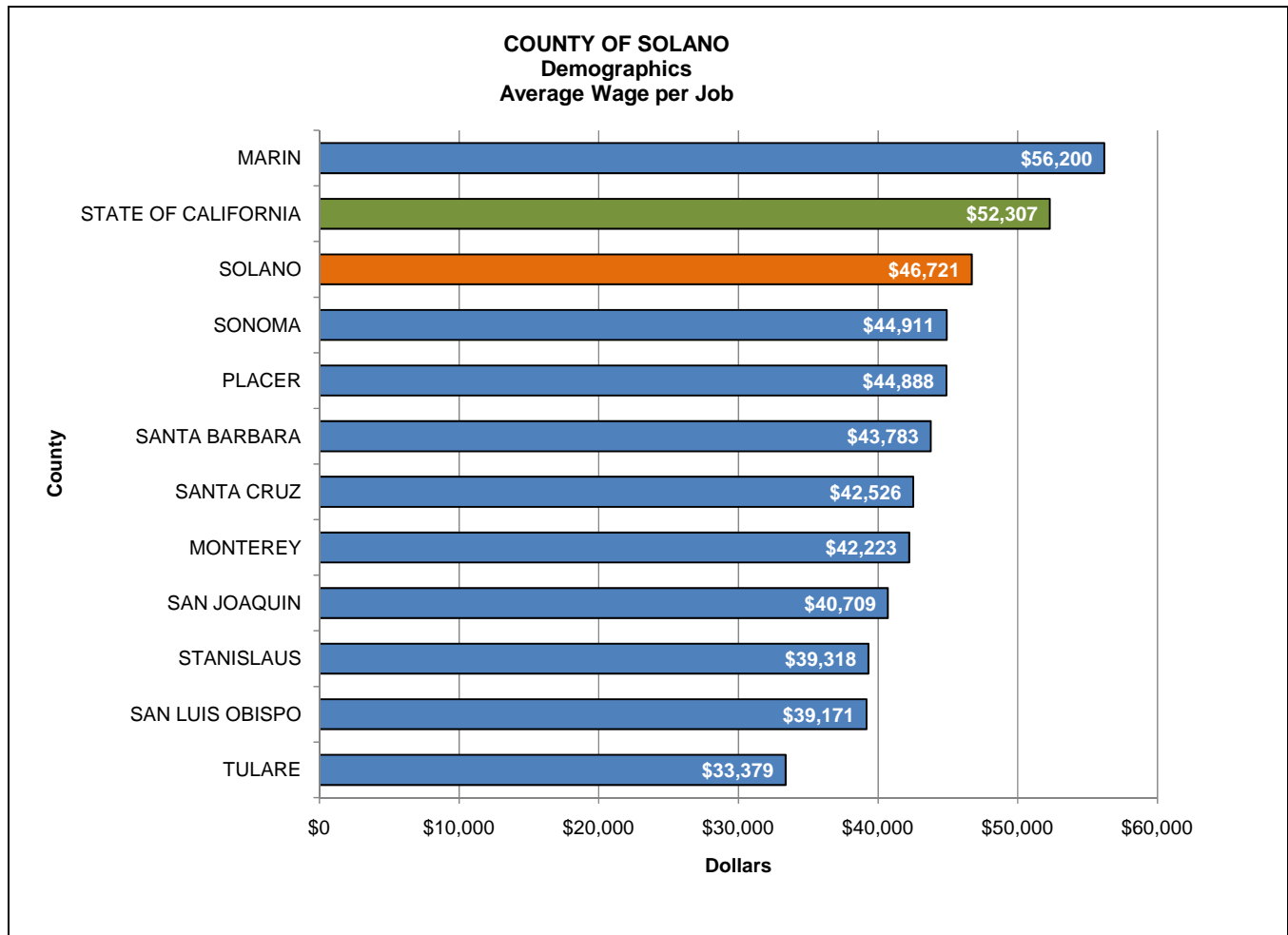
The graph below shows the county’s unemployment rate to the comparison counties and the State of California.



Source: California Employment Development Department, March 2010

Solano County's average wage per job of \$46,721 reflects a 7.1% increase over 2007, the largest gain

among the comparable counties, and inches closer to the overall state average wage.



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, 2008

Between 2005 and 2010, three of the 12 industry sectors in Solano County tracked by the California Employment Development Division showed overall employment growth, while nine sectors retracted.

- Overall, the employed workforce shrank by 8.1%, or 10,300 jobs, between 2005 and 2010.
- Gains were in Education and Health Services, 1,800 jobs; Government, 400 jobs; and Information, 100 jobs.
- Losses were in Construction, 6,000 jobs; Trade, Transportation and Utilities, 2,400 jobs; Financial Activities, 1,400 jobs; Professional and Business Services, 1,200 jobs; Other Services, 600 jobs;

Farm, 400 jobs; Manufacturing, 400 jobs; Mining and Logging, 100 jobs; Leisure and Hospitality, 100 jobs.

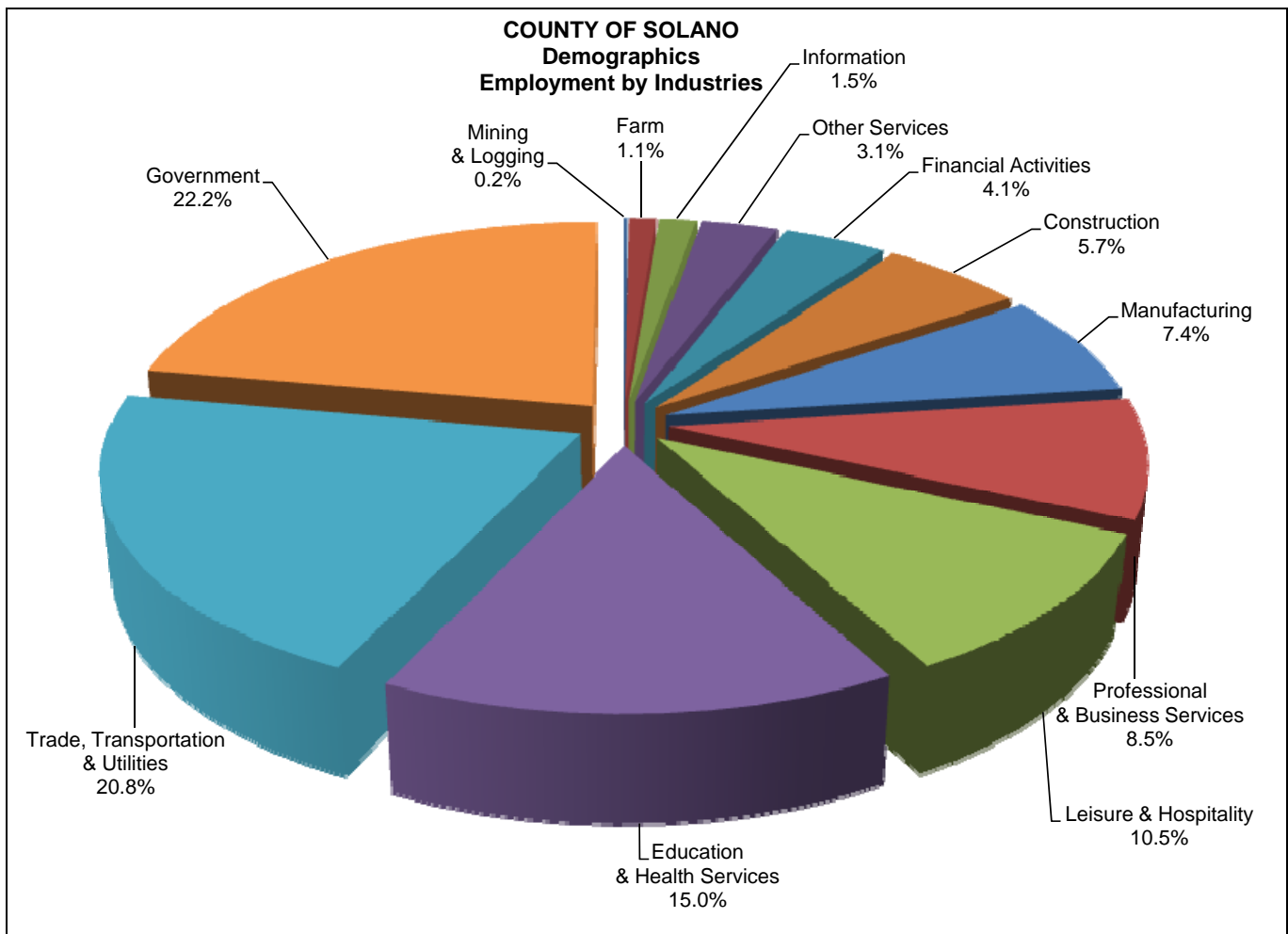
Projections from the Business Forecasting Center at the University of the Pacific in April 2010 indicate that Solano County may begin to see a reversal in the employment market in late 2010. They are projecting a 2.1% improvement in the size of nonfarm payroll employment in 2011 and a 3.9% gain in 2012. The unemployment rate is expected to drop below 10% sometime in 2012.

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The graph below represents the distribution of the 117,000 civilian jobs in Solano County as reported by the California Employment Development Department in March 2010. The major employment sectors are:

- 26,000 in Government (local, State and Federal).
- 24,300 in Trade, Transportation and Utilities.
- 17,500 in Education and Health Services.
- 12,300 in Leisure and Hospitality.
- 10,300 in Financial Activities, Other Services, Information, and Mining and Logging.
- 10,000 in Professional and Business Services.
- 8,600 in Manufacturing.
- 6,700 in Construction.
- 1,300 in Farm.

The composition of the employment sector is changing as a result of recessionary declines and market opportunities. Between 2000 and 2010, Education and Health Services segment grew as a percentage of the workforce by 3.2%; Trade, Transportation and Utilities by 0.9%; Financial Activities by 0.8%; and Government by 0.7%.



Source: California Employment Development Division, March 2010

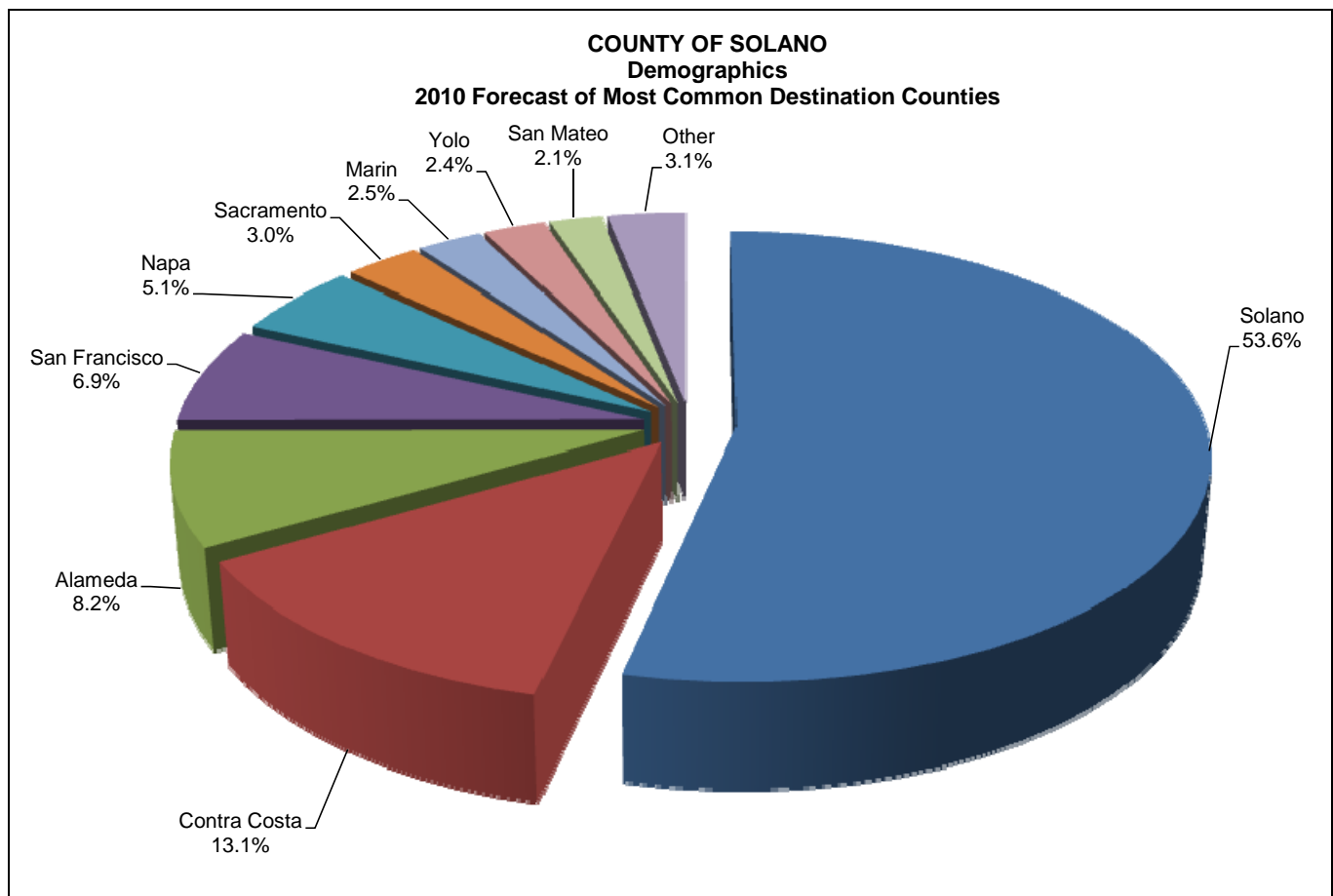
Solano County Commuting

According to a report by the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, approximately 46% of county working residents in 2010 are projected to commute to work outside the county with 54% staying inside the county to work.

The chart below represents the numbers of average daily commuters for a typical spring weekday. It includes commuters who reside in Solano County using any means of transportation, commuting to work including mainly the following neighboring counties: Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, Napa, and Sacramento.

Based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2008 American Community Survey, approximately 75% of employed county residents drive alone to work, 15% car pool, 3% use public transportation and 7% either work at home or use other modes of transportation. Solano County, along with Napa County, has the highest percent of commuters using car pools in the Bay Area.

With all but one of the county's cities positioned along the Interstate 80 and 680 corridors, Solano County provides the commuter with access to Bay Area jobs and a lower living cost.



Source: Metropolitan Transportation Commission

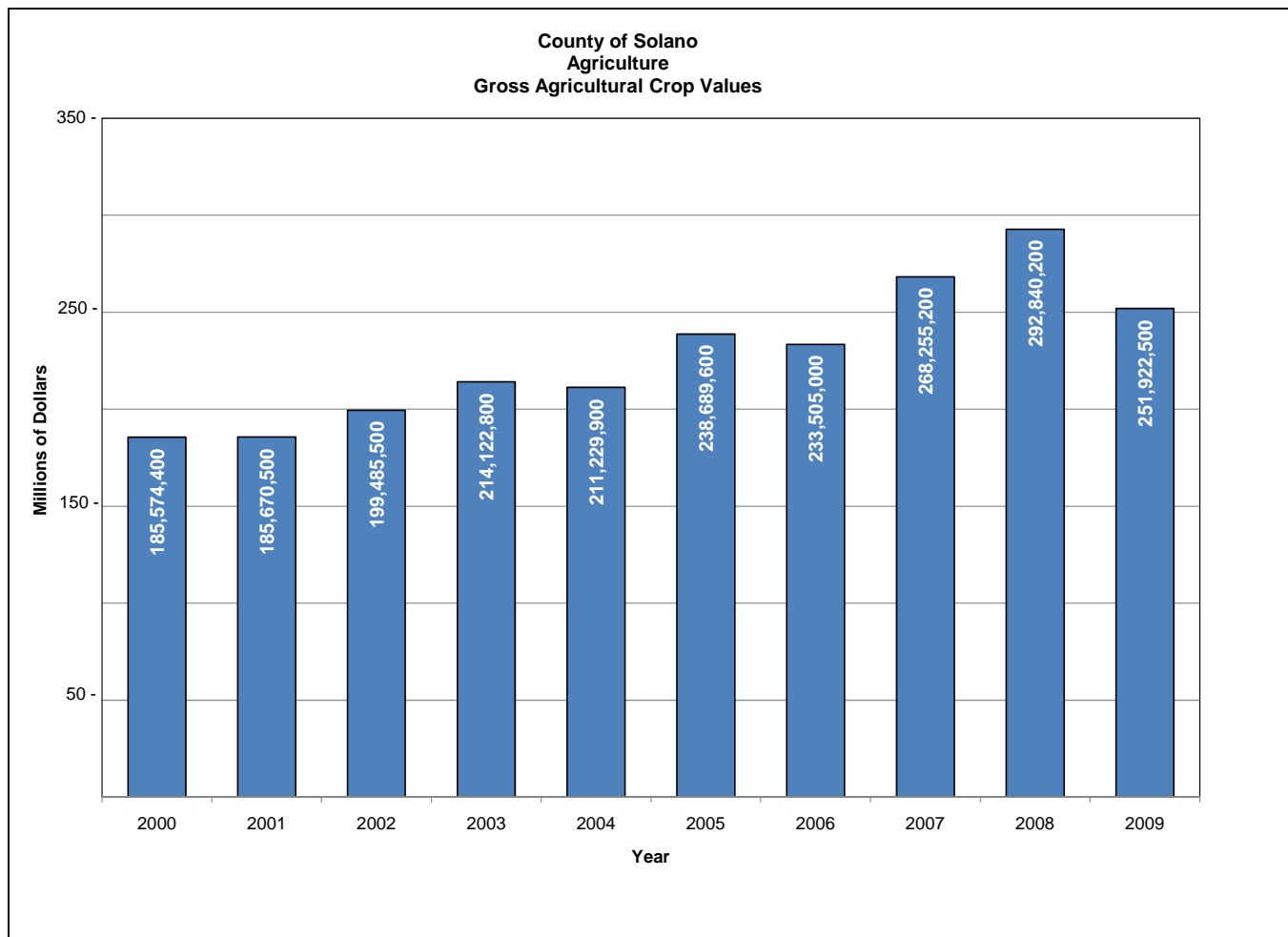
Gross Agricultural Crop Value

The agricultural sector was buffeted by the economic downturn, but remains a mainstay in the local economy. The 2009 estimated value of \$251,922,500 represents a 14% decrease from 2008 values. Solano County continues to produce more than 80 different commodities including fruits, nuts, vegetables, grains, seed, nursery stock and animal production. The 2009 total value represents the total of the categories below:

- \$50,073,100 – Field Crops
- \$33,499,400 – Nursery
- \$48,191,200 – Fruit & Nut
- \$15,859,200 – Seed Crops
- \$64,184,200 – Vegetables
- \$40,115,400 – Animal Production

Good access to water and local contracting helped Tomatoes climb to the No. 1 crop, a distinction Tomatoes have not held since 1999. Nursery Stock, the leading crop for the previous nine years, dropped to second position with reduced sales largely due to instability in the real estate market. Walnuts rose to the third slot, enjoying stable markets for this healthy food source. Alfalfa, Cattle and Calves, Wine Grapes, Certified Sunflower Seed and Milk occupied the subsequent ranks in the top 10 – all posting values over \$10 million.

Statewide data from 2008 place Solano County as the 26th largest producer of the 58 California counties, in terms of gross value of production.



Source: County of Solano Agricultural Commissioner (2009 Crop Report)

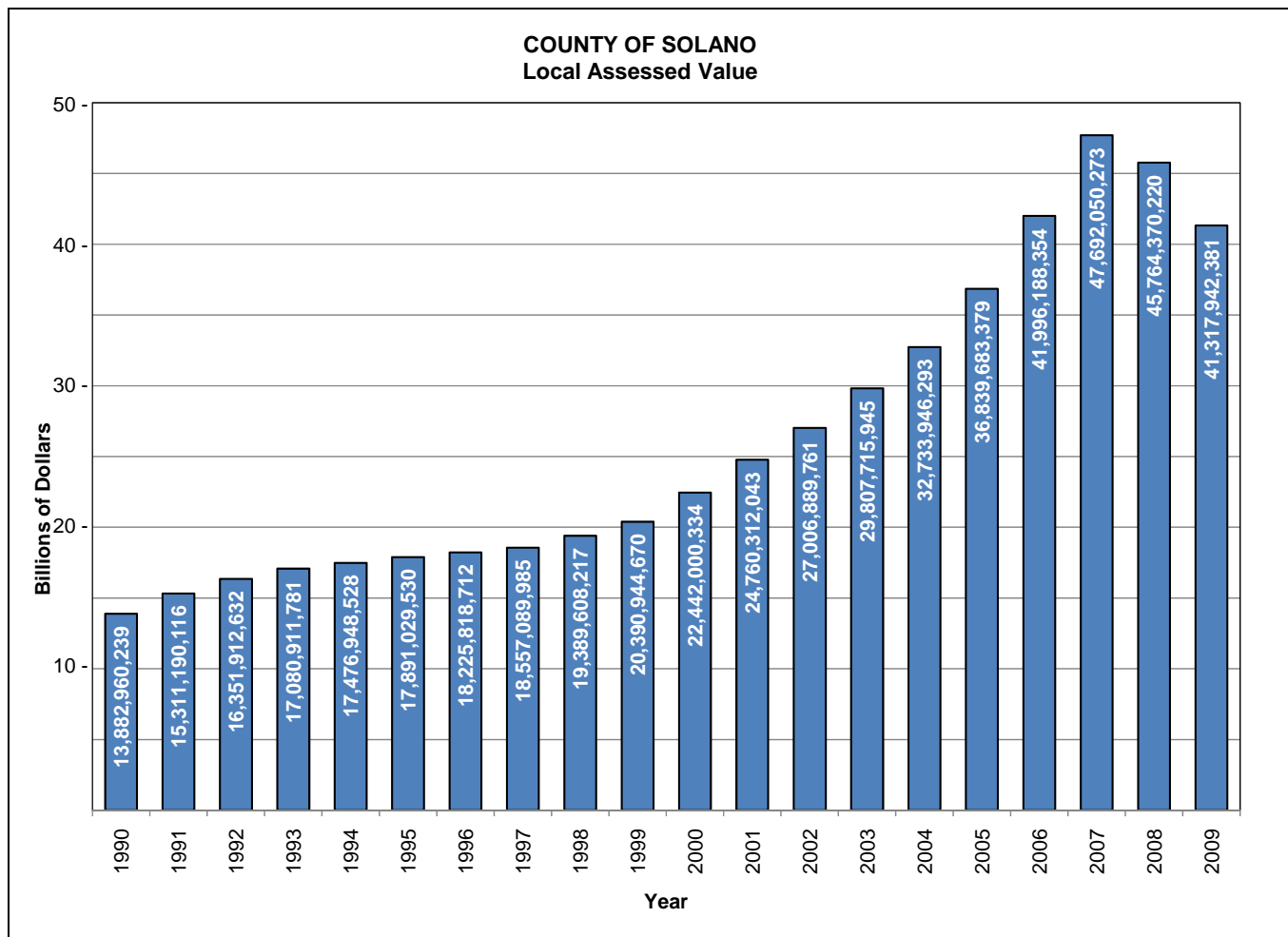
County Assessed Values and Growth

The table below illustrates the 20-year growth in assessed values in Solano County. Property taxes are a major source of local governmental revenues and are determined by assessed values. The property tax rate throughout the entire State of California is 1% of assessed values.

The 2009 Assessment Roll of \$41.3 billion decreased by (9.7%) over the prior year's roll value and represents property ownership in Solano County as of January 1, 2009. This is the second consecutive year of declines, representing a cumulative (13.4%) decrease. According to the County's Five-Year Fiscal Forecast, declines in property assessments, and in turn property tax revenues, are expected to continue through FY2012/13.

Given the current trend information, projected property tax revenues in FY2013/14 will be 82% of what the County was receiving in FY2007/08.

High numbers of foreclosures and dramatic drops in median home prices from the real estate peak in 2007 have affected the assessment roll. Current residential foreclosure activity appears to be trending downward: from 1,480 in January 2009 to 1,288 in April 2010. The county ranked 8th in foreclosures in California in 2009. The median price for homes sold in Solano County went from \$450,000 in March 2007 to \$180,000 in March 2009. In March 2010, the median priced edged up 16.4% to \$209,500.



Source: County of Solano, Assessor's Office, January 2010

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Principal Property Tax Payers

COUNTY OF SOLANO			
Principal Taxpayers with over \$50,000,000 in Assessed Value for FY2009/10			
Principal Property Tax Payers	Business Type	Assessed Value FY2009/10	Tax Obligation*
Genentech Incorporated	Manufacturing	1,297,322,248	14,829,651
Valero Refining Company California	Oil	866,393,232	9,857,344
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Utility	475,392,503	6,429,162
Shiloh Wind Project II LLC	Energy	358,983,403	3,776,505
Anheuser Busch Incorporated	Manufacturing	268,849,460	2,993,714
Shiloh I Wind Project LLC	Energy	205,691,143	2,163,871
Alza Corporation	Manufacturing	191,594,471	2,169,788
High Winds LLC	Energy	175,681,999	1,848,175
California Northern Railroad	Transportation	149,317,486	2,112,941
Pacific Bell Telephone Co, DBA	Utility	127,792,113	1,678,336
Lodi Gas Storage, LLC		113,433,868	1,535,441
Walton CWCA Bn Wrhs 21 LLC	Property Management	106,786,656	1,000,635
Solano Mall LLC	Commercial Sales	103,744,408	1,156,509
Cpg Finance II LLC	Commercial Sales & Service	95,333,514	1,563,890
Nut Tree Retail LLC	Commercial Sales	92,126,674	1,274,283
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp		76,519,922	919,053
Safeway Incorporated		75,449,842	1,549,550
Centro Watt Property Owner II	Commercial Sales & Service	72,508,076	980,449
Park Management Corporation	Theme Park	62,190,768	1,344,470
SBC Services Incorporated		61,409,662	663,371
Amcor Pet Packaging USA Inc 79	Manufacturing	60,740,389	2,624,565
Enxco Windfarm V Incorporated		57,447,025	2,987,446
State Compensation Insurance Fund		56,235,140	691,480
Prime Ascot LP		54,517,700	665,499
North Pointe Vacaville Incorporated		52,559,228	594,461
Lucky (FLA) Nocal Investor LLC	Commercial Sales	51,074,521	573,791
Shiloh I Wind Project LLC		50,845,244	635,067

*Note: The Tax Obligation is calculated at 1% plus voter approved bonds and any special assessments.
Rates vary by Tax Area Code.
LLC - Limited Liability Corporation
LP - Limited Partnership
TR - Trust

Source: County of Solano, Tax Collector/County Clerk, May 2010

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