

Chapter 1. State and Service Area Profiles

State

Geography

California covers a total of 163,695.5 square miles with 7,736.2 square miles being water area.¹ From the northwest corner on the Pacific Ocean to the southeast corner on the Gila and Colorado Rivers, the state is 825 miles long. The shoreline is approximately 1,264 miles long. The extremes of elevations exist from Mount Whitney (14,495 feet above sea level) to Death Valley (282 feet below sea level), only about fifty miles separating the two in Inyo County. The vast central valley of the state is essentially framed by the Cascade and Klamath Mountains and the Modoc Plateau in the northern part of the state, the Coast, Transverse and Peninsular Ranges along the western part of the state near the Pacific Ocean, the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and Great Basin Range along the eastern part of the state, and the Mojave Desert and Salton Trough in the southern part.²

Demographics

California is still the largest state in the country in terms of total population, as of July 1, 2009, with an estimated 36,961,664 people. That total represents a 9.1 percent increase, compared to California's official 2000 Census population of 33,871,648.³

According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 28.8 percent of California's population is under 20 years old, and 10.9 percent is 65 years old or older. Also, the median age of the state is estimated to be 34.6 years old.⁴ The same 5-year estimate indicates that, by race alone, the White population is 61.3 percent of the population. Other populations, by race alone, were estimated to be the following: Some Other Race, 15.5 percent; Asian, 12.3 percent; Black, 6.2 percent; Two or More Races, 3.5 percent; American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.8 percent; and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 0.4 percent. By ethnicity, the Hispanic or Latino population is estimated to be 36.1 percent of the state's population.⁵

Economy

California's economy is the eighth largest in the world, and its economy is 13 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. It is the top state to attract direct foreign investment, with 12 cargo airports and 11 cargo seaports having access to the Pacific Rim. It is also the top state with the most high-tech workers. The state also has 40 federal laboratories.⁶

In 2009, California continued to be the top state in cash farm receipts, producing 12.3 percent of the total U.S. receipts. Nationally, it also represented 16.5 percent of receipts for crops and 6.5 percent of receipts for livestock and livestock products. The state produces approximately half of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts grown in the United States.⁷

Central Valley

Geography

The Central Valley of California runs approximately 450 miles along the center of California and is approximately 40 to 60 miles wide. The 18 counties (another source includes El Dorado County) that comprise the Central Valley cover approximately 42,000 square miles. However, parts of some of these counties are not actually in the valley. For example, most of Shasta County lies north of the valley, and several counties have portions extending into the Sierra foothills. The entire Central Valley can be considered as including two regions: the northern (Sacramento Valley) region, comprising ten counties, and the southern (San Joaquin Valley) region, comprising eight counties.⁸

Demographics

The 18 counties comprising the Central Valley increased in population from 5,576,603 in July 1, 2000 to 6,507,185 in July 2009.⁹ That number increase represents a 16.7 percent increase, which is almost twice the percent increase of the state. The ten counties comprising the Sacramento Valley experienced a 16.2 percent increase in population, compared to a 17.0 percent increase experienced in the eight counties comprising the San Joaquin Valley. From July 2000 to July 2008, the Central Valley experienced an increase in race/ethnicity by the following percentages: Pacific Islander, 245.1 percent; Multi-Race, 63 percent; Hispanic, 40.4 percent; Asian, 35.7 percent; American Indian, 14.7 percent; Black, 14.4 percent; and White, 2.4 percent.¹⁰

Economy

From 2002 to 2008, the Central Valley's labor force (those of age to work) increased faster than the number of available jobs. The lower San Joaquin Valley had the highest percentage increase, with 144,400 jobs added from 2002 to 2008. Most of the job growth was in service-producing industries, such as government, health services, educational services, and professional/business services.¹¹

From 2003 to 2009, the Central Valley experienced a 16 percent increase in health services and educational services positions. However, the Central Valley suffered from a 46 percent decline in trade, transportation, and utilities positions.

The Central Valley is dependent on Agriculture. More than 10 percent of all jobs in the Central Valley are related to agriculture. In addition to direct farming operations, related occupations include food processing and transportation. In 2007, the Central Valley provided over 75 percent of the state's agricultural production, an increase of almost 20 percent from 2002.¹¹

Per capita income has consistently trailed the state average for the entire decade. "Per capita income in the Central Valley is among the lowest in the country."¹¹ The Metropolitan Sacramento area has the highest per capita income in the Central Valley. The lowest per capita income is in southern San Joaquin Valley counties.¹¹

Stanislaus County

Geography

Stanislaus County includes approximately 1,515 square miles in the Stanislaus River Valley. Land totals approximately 1,494 square miles, and water adds approximately 21 square miles.¹² Stanislaus County is bordered by San Joaquin County on the north, Merced County on the south, Santa Clara County on the west, and Tuolumne and Calaveras Counties on the east.¹³ Stanislaus County is mostly farmland. However, it does have a significant population inhabiting the nine incorporated cities of Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Oakdale, Riverbank, Patterson, Waterford, Newman, and Hughson. The remaining population lives in unincorporated areas.¹⁴

Demographics

Prior to the European settlement of Stanislaus County, two Native American cultures inhabited this land. The Yokuts settled more in the valley part of the area, and the Miwoks settled more in the Sierra foothills.¹⁵ As of July 1, 2009, the population of Stanislaus County was estimated to be 510,385. This estimated population for Stanislaus County represents a 14.2 percent increase since April 1, 2000. In 2008, by age, 28.5 percent of the county population was estimated to be under 18 years old and 10.5 percent was estimated to be 65 and older. In 2008, by race alone, 49.6 percent of the county's population was estimated to be White, non-Hispanic. Other populations by race alone were estimated to include the following: Asian, 5 percent; Black, 3.2 percent; Two or More Races, 2.8 percent; American Indian/Alaska Native, 1.6 percent; and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander 0.6 percent. By ethnicity, the Hispanic or Latino population was estimated to be 39.6 percent.¹⁶

Economy

Stanislaus County remains one of the top 10 agricultural counties in California. The leading commodities produced in the county are milk, almonds, chickens, cattle and calves, and silage.¹⁷ The top manufacturing employers in Stanislaus County are E&J Gallo Winery, Seneca Foods (fruit products), Del Monte Foods (fruit products), Foster Farms (poultry processor), Stanislaus Food Products (fruit and vegetable processor), ConAgra (food processor), Racor (filtration products), Frito-Lay (snack food products), Patterson Vegetable Company (frozen food products), and Foster Farms Dairy. The top non-manufacturing employers are Stanislaus County (county government), Modesto City Schools, Memorial Medical Center, Turlock Unified School District, Doctors Medical Center, Ceres Unified School District, Modesto Junior College, Emmanuel Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, and Wal-Mart.¹⁸

Main Service Area Counties' Population Change 2011 to 2016

Overall County Population Increases (See Table 1.1.)

Revised down from the previous five-year projection (2010 to 2015), Stanislaus County is projected to increase in population by approximately 4 percent from 2011 to 2016. Both San Joaquin County and Merced County are projected to increase in population by approximately 5 percent during the same time period.

Table 1.1: Main Service Area Counties' Population Projections and Percent Changes¹⁹

	2011 Population	2016 Population	Number Change	Percent Change from 2011 to 2016
Stanislaus County	527,366	548,884	21,518	4%
San Joaquin County	703,084	739,646	36,562	5%
Merced County	254,984	267,309	12,325	5%

Gender in Main Service Area Counties (See Table 1.2.)

Gender percentages are projected to remain almost the same from 2011 to 2016.

Table 1.2: Main Service Area Counties' Projected Percentages by Gender in 2016¹⁹

Gender	Stanislaus %	San Joaquin %	Merced %
Males	49.6%	50.2%	50.4%
Females	50.4%	49.8%	49.6%

Race/Ethnicity Increases in Main Service Area Counties (See Tables 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, and 1.6)

- From 2011 to 2016, Stanislaus County is projected to experience an increase of 9 percent in the Hispanic and the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander groups; an increase of 7 percent in the Black or African American, Asian, and Two or More Races groups; an increase of 2 percent in the American Indian or Alaska Native group; and a decrease of 1 percent in the White, Non-Hispanic group.
- During the same time period, San Joaquin County is projected to experience an increase of 11 percent in the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander group; an increase of 9 percent in the Hispanic, Asian, and the Two or More Races groups; an increase of 8 percent in the Black or African American group; an increase of 2 percent in the American Indian or Alaska Native group; and a decrease of 1 percent in the White, Non-Hispanic group.
- Also from 2011 to 2016, Merced County is projected to experience an increase of 8 percent in the Hispanic group, a 7 percent increase in the Two or More Races group, a 6 percent increase in the Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander group, a 4 percent increase in the Asian group, a 3 percent increase in the Black or African American group, a 2 percent increase in the American Indian or Alaska Native group, and a decrease of 1 percent in the White, Non-Hispanic group.

Table 1.3: Main Service Area Counties' Projected Changes by Race/Ethnicity from 2011 to 2016¹⁹

	Stanislaus Percent Change	San Joaquin Percent Change	Merced Percent Change
White, Non-Hispanic	-1%	-1%	-1%
Hispanic	9%	9%	8%
Black or African American	7%	8%	3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	2%	2%	2%
Asian	7%	9%	4%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	9%	11%	6%
Two or More Races	7%	9%	7%
Overall	4%	5%	5%

Table 1.4: Stanislaus County Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity from 2011 to 2016¹⁹

Race/Ethnicity	2011 Population	2016 Population	Number Change	Percent Change	2011 % of Cohort
White, Non-Hispanic	247,794	245,494	-2,300	-1%	46.99%
Hispanic	216,806	236,362	19,556	9%	41.11%
Black or African American	14,764	15,748	984	7%	2.80%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3,907	3,984	77	2%	0.74%
Asian	26,108	27,998	1,890	7%	4.95%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	2,419	2,630	211	9%	0.46%
Two or More Races	15,568	16,669	1,101	7%	2.95%
Total	527,366	548,884	21,518	4%	100.00%

Table 1.5: San Joaquin County Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity from 2011 to 2016¹⁹

Race/Ethnicity	2011 Population	2016 Population	Number Change	Percent Change	2011 % of Cohort
White, Non-Hispanic	256,480	253,367	-3,113	-1%	36.48%
Hispanic	265,793	290,363	24,570	9%	37.81%
Black or African American	52,393	56,504	4,111	8%	7.45%
American Indian or Alaska Native	3,997	4,090	93	2%	0.57%
Asian	95,509	103,867	8,358	9%	13.58%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	3,029	3,349	320	11%	0.43%
Two or More Races	25,883	28,105	2,222	9%	3.68%
Total	703,084	739,646	36,562	5%	100.00%

Table 1.6: Merced County Population Growth by Race/Ethnicity from 2011 to 2016¹⁹

Race/Ethnicity	2011 Population	2016 Population	Number Change	Percent Change	2011 % of Cohort
White, Non-Hispanic	84,092	83,538	-554	-1%	32.98%
Hispanic	131,719	142,691	10,972	8%	51.66%
Black or African American	8,632	8,912	280	3%	3.39%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1,288	1,317	29	2%	0.51%
Asian	16,979	17,705	726	4%	6.66%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	378	400	22	6%	0.15%
Two or More Races	6,280	6,719	439	7%	2.46%
Total	254,984	267,309	12,325	5%	100.00%

Changes in Growth by Age in Main Service Area Counties (See Table 1.7.)

All three counties below are projected to experience a decline on population in the 15- to 19-year-old group from 2011 to 2016. Stanislaus and Merced Counties are also projected to have declines in the 20- to 24-year-old group during this same period. These declines will have an impact on the total numbers of high school graduates in these counties and the subsequent numbers of traditional-aged students enrolling at MJC over the next few years.

Declines in ages 40 to 44 and 45 to 49 in all three counties will have an impact on employment, educational attainment levels, and the overall number of families in these counties. With these declines combined with increases of 30 percent in ages 65 to 69 in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties and 24 percent in Merced County there will be an impact on the sizes of employment pools in these counties.

Table 1.7: Main Service Area Counties Population Change from 2011 to 2016¹⁹

Age	Stanislaus	San	Merced
	County	Joaquin	County
	Percent	Percent	Percent
	Change	Change	Change
Under 5 years	3%	4%	5%
5 to 9 years	7%	8%	8%
10 to 14 years	5%	7%	6%
15 to 19 years	-8%	-5%	-9%
20 to 24 years	-2%	2%	-3%
25 to 29 years	4%	4%	10%
30 to 34 years	12%	13%	13%
35 to 39 years	9%	8%	10%
40 to 44 years	-5%	-4%	-4%
45 to 49 years	-8%	-5%	-6%
50 to 54 years	-1%	1%	0%
55 to 59 years	11%	12%	13%
60 to 64 years	11%	12%	13%
65 to 69 years	30%	30%	24%
70 to 74 years	17%	22%	14%
75 to 79 years	11%	11%	9%
80 to 84 years	1%	-5%	8%
85 years and over	4%	0%	11%
Total	4%	5%	5%

Summary of State and Service Area Profiles

- The state of California is demographically diverse. According to the 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 28.8 percent of California's population is under 20 years old, and 10.9 percent is 65 years old or older. Also, the median age of the state is estimated to be 34.6 years old. By ethnicity, the Hispanic or Latino population is estimated to be 36.1 percent of the state's population. Other populations, by race alone, were estimated to be the following: White, 61.3 percent; Some Other Race, 15.5 percent; Asian, 12.3 percent; Black, 6.2 percent; Two or More Races, 3.5 percent; American Indian/ Alaskan Native, 0.8 percent; and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander, 0.4 percent.
- California's economy is the eighth largest in the world, and its economy is 13 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product. It is the top state to attract direct foreign investment, with 12 cargo airports and 11 cargo seaports having access to the Pacific Rim. It is also the top state with the most high-tech workers. Nationally, it also represented 16.5 percent of receipts for crops and 6.5 percent of receipts for livestock and livestock products. The state produces approximately half of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts grown in the United States.
- The entire Central Valley can be considered as including two regions: the northern (Sacramento Valley) region, comprising ten counties, and the southern (San Joaquin Valley) region, comprising eight counties.
- The 18 counties comprising the Central Valley increased in population from 5,576,603 in July 1, 2000 to 6,507,185 in July 2009.⁹ That number increase represents a 16.7 percent increase, which is almost twice the percent increase of the state. The ten counties comprising the Sacramento Valley experienced a 16.2 percent increase in population, compared to a 17.0 percent increase experienced in the eight counties comprising the San Joaquin Valley.
- From July 2000 to July 2008, the Central Valley experienced an increase in race/ethnicity by the following percentages: Pacific Islander, 245.1 percent; Multi-Race, 63 percent; Hispanic, 40.4 percent; Asian, 35.7 percent; American Indian, 14.7 percent; Black, 14.4 percent; and White, 2.4 percent.
- From 2002 to 2008, the Central Valley's labor force (those of age to work) increased faster than the number of available jobs. Most of the job growth was in service-producing industries, such as government, health services, educational services, and professional/business services. However, the Central Valley suffered from a 46 percent decline in trade, transportation, and utilities positions.
- Stanislaus County is mostly farmland. However, it does have a significant population inhabiting the nine incorporated cities of Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, Oakdale, Riverbank, Patterson, Waterford, Newman, and Hughson. The remaining population lives in unincorporated areas.
- As of July 1, 2009, the population of Stanislaus County was estimated to be 510,385. This estimated population for Stanislaus County represents a 14.2 percent increase since April 1, 2000. In 2008, by age, 28.5 percent of the county population was estimated to be under 18 years old and 10.5 percent was estimated to be 65 and older. In 2008, by ethnicity, the Hispanic or Latino population was estimated to be 39.6 percent. By race, 49.6 percent of the county's population was estimated to be White, non-Hispanic. Other populations by race were estimated to include the following: Asian, 5 percent; Black, 3.2 percent; Two or More Races, 2.8 percent; American Indian/Alaska Native, 1.6 percent; and Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander 0.6 percent.

- Stanislaus County remains one of the top 10 agricultural counties in California. The top manufacturing employers in Stanislaus County are E&J Gallo Winery, Seneca Foods (fruit products), Del Monte Foods (fruit products), Foster Farms (poultry processor), Stanislaus Food Products (fruit and vegetable processor), ConAgra (food processor), Racor (filtration products), Frito-Lay (snack food products), Patterson Vegetable Company (frozen food products), and Foster Farms Dairy. The top non-manufacturing employers are Stanislaus County (county government), Modesto City Schools, Memorial Medical Center, Turlock Unified School District, Doctors Medical Center, Ceres Unified School District, Modesto Junior College, Emmanuel Medical Center, Kaiser Permanente, and Wal-Mart.
- From 2011 to 2016, the population in Stanislaus County, San Joaquin County, and Merced County is projected to increase 4-5 percent. The population, by gender, is projected to remain at a 50/50 ratio. The population by race/ethnicity is projected to increase except White, non-Hispanic (slight decline), over this five-year period.
- All three counties are projected to experience a decline in population in the 15- to 19-year-old group from 2011 to 2016. Stanislaus and Merced Counties are also projected to have declines in the 20- to 24-year-old group during this same period. These declines will have an impact on the total numbers of high school graduates in these counties and the subsequent numbers of traditional-aged students enrolling at MJC over the next few years.
- Projected declines in ages 40 to 44 and 45 to 49 in all three counties will have an impact on employment, educational attainment levels, and the overall number of families in these counties. With these declines combined with increases of 30 percent in ages 65 to 69 in Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties and 24 percent in Merced County there will be an impact on the sizes of employment pools in these counties.

Chapter 1. State and Service Area Profiles - ENDNOTES

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