

**SOLANO COUNTY STATISTICAL PROFILE**

The County of Solano is strategically located along Interstate 80 between San Francisco and Sacramento. As one of California's original 27 counties, Solano County 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:

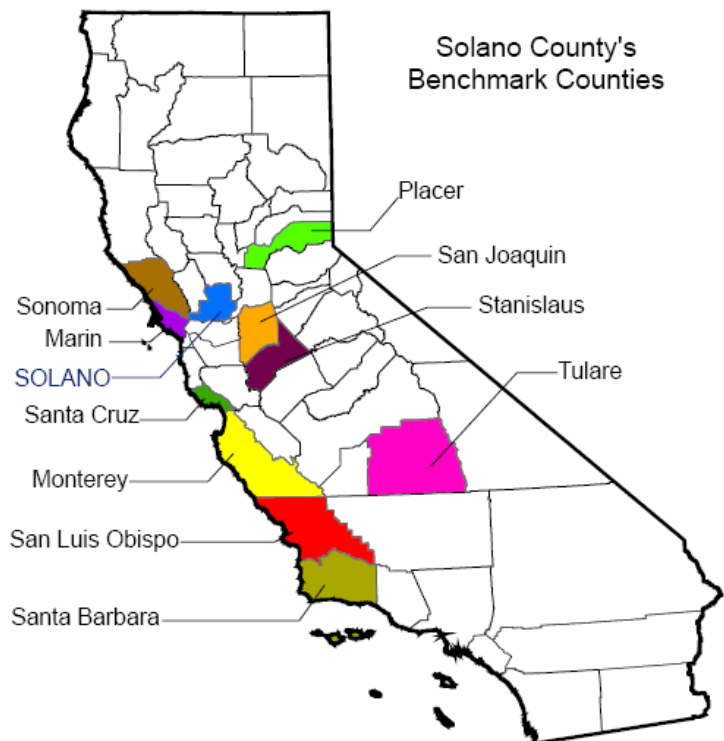
- Libraries (as contract services for cities)
- Jails and Juvenile Facilities
- Probationary Supervision
- District Attorney
- Public Defender and Alternative Defense
- Grand Jury
- Coroner and Forensic Services
- Airport
- Family Support Collection
- Public and Mental Health Services
- Indigent Medical 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 (unincorporated county only)

**BENCHMARK COUNTIES**

The following pages provide a graphical summary of statistical, employment and demographic information about Solano County. 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?

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:



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- 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.

**POPULATION**

The California Department of Finance's January 1, 2014 estimate of the population of Solano County is 424,233, increasing 3,894 residents or 0.9% over 2013. Of California's 58 counties, Solano County ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in terms of population size. Among the cities, three cities grew faster than the overall county growth rate between 2013 and 2014: Rio Vista at 4%, Dixon at 2.5% and Fairfield at 1.2%.

California's population estimate was 38.34 million as of January 2014, according to the State Department of Finance. California, the nation's most populous state, represents 12% of the nation's population, or one out of every eight persons. Solano County's population represents 1.1% of the State population.

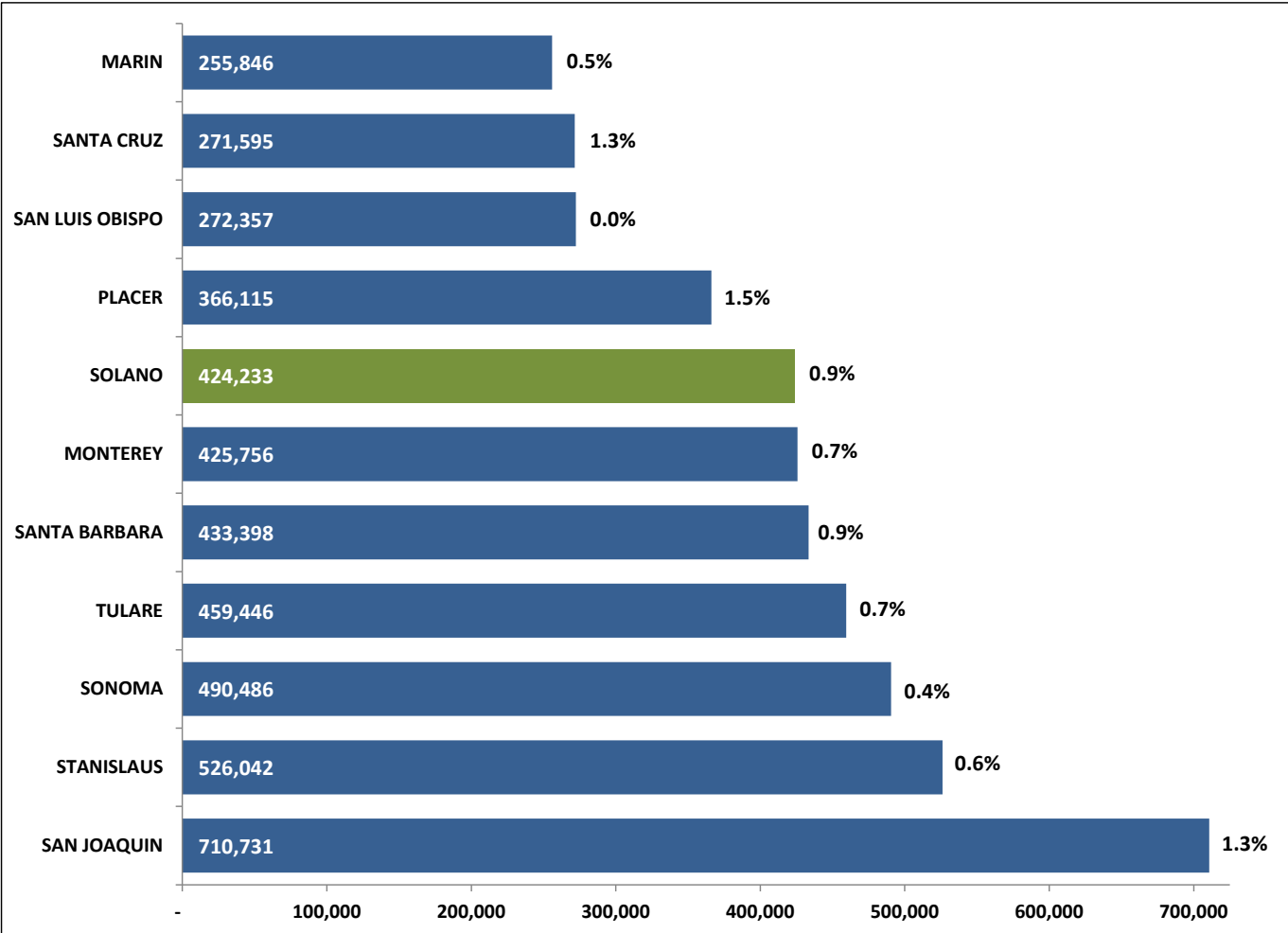
When you look at the county population since 2000, the rate of growth has tapered off to small annual increments. Between 2000 and 2010, the County grew by 18,802, or 4.8%, which is significantly less than the 54,121, or 15.9%, gains of the previous decade. Between 2010 and 2014, the county grew by 10,889 residents, or 2.6%.

**Solano County Population Change from 1990 to 2014**

	1990	1990 to 2000		2000	2000 to 2010		2010	2010 to 2014		2014
<b>Benicia</b>	<b>24,437</b>	2,428	9.9%	<b>26,865</b>	132	0.5%	<b>26,997</b>	457	1.7%	<b>27,454</b>
<b>Dixon</b>	<b>10,401</b>	5,702	54.8%	<b>16,103</b>	2,248	14.0%	<b>18,351</b>	654	3.6%	<b>19,005</b>
<b>Fairfield</b>	<b>77,211</b>	18,967	24.6%	<b>96,178</b>	9,143	9.5%	<b>105,321</b>	4,694	4.5%	<b>110,018</b>
<b>Rio Vista</b>	<b>3,316</b>	1,255	37.8%	<b>4,571</b>	2,789	61.0%	<b>7,360</b>	574	7.8%	<b>7,934</b>
<b>Suisun City</b>	<b>22,686</b>	3,432	15.1%	<b>26,118</b>	1,993	7.6%	<b>28,111</b>	438	1.6%	<b>28,549</b>
<b>Vacaville</b>	<b>71,479</b>	17,146	24.0%	<b>88,625</b>	3,803	4.3%	<b>92,428</b>	1,185	1.3%	<b>93,613</b>
<b>Vallejo</b>	<b>109,199</b>	7,561	6.9%	<b>116,760</b>	(818)	-0.7%	<b>115,942</b>	2,528	2.2%	<b>118,470</b>
<b>Unincorporated</b>	<b>21,692</b>	(2,370)	-10.9%	<b>19,322</b>	(488)	-2.5%	<b>18,834</b>	356	1.9%	<b>19,190</b>
<b>Solano County</b>	<b>340,421</b>	54,121	15.9%	<b>394,542</b>	18,802	4.8%	<b>413,344</b>	10,889	2.6%	<b>424,233</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau; California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

**Population of Benchmark Counties and Population Growth Percentage from 2013**



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2013

Among the comparable counties, Solano and Sonoma counties experienced 0.9% population growth between 2013 and 2014. Placer, San Joaquin and Santa Cruz experienced growth rates faster than Solano County. Tulare, Monterey, Stanislaus, Sonoma and Marin counties experienced slower growth rates than Solano County. Only San Joaquin and Placer counties numerically added more residents than Solano County, at 8,986 and 5,313 respectively. San Luis Obispo was the only county to experience a numeric loss in the population, declining 121 residents.

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**LAND AREA AND POPULATION DISTRIBUTION**

According to the California Department of Finance’s “January 2014 City/County Population Estimates,” 83% of California residents live in incorporated cities and 17% in unincorporated areas. In contrast, 95.5% of residents in Solano County live within the county’s seven cities. This phenomenon is 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 adoption of the 2008 Solano County General Plan, sustaining a commitment to orderly growth through 2028.

In comparison to its benchmark counties, Solano County is one of the smaller counties in terms of square miles of land area. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Solano County consists of 907 square miles, of which 78 square miles is covered with water. The San Pablo 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.

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

- Challenges in the transition zones between urbanized areas and agricultural areas (i.e., land use, pesticide use, dust, noise, odors and vermin).
- Coordination of infrastructure transitions from the urban areas to the rural areas (i.e., reliever routes, upgraded feeder streets/roads, flood control, limited intercity connectivity and public transportation).
- With limited resources and a reliance on property taxes and State/Federal funding, it is a challenge to provide urban-driven needs (as indicated by the high density per square mile) for health, mental health, public assistance and law and justice services.

**Comparison of Land Area and Population Density and Distribution in Benchmark Counties**

Land & Water Area (Square Miles)			Persons Per Square Mile (Land Area)		Percent Residing in Unincorporated Areas	
Tulare	4,824	15	Santa Cruz	610	Santa Cruz	49.2%
Monterey	3,322	449	<b>Solano</b>	<b>512</b>	San Luis Obispo	43.8%
San Luis Obispo	3,304	311	San Joaquin	508	Tulare	32.0%
Santa Barbara	2,737	1,052	Marin	492	Santa Barbara	31.7%
Sonoma	1,576	192	Stanislaus	352	Placer	30.6%
Stanislaus	1,494	21	Sonoma	311	Sonoma	30.1%
Placer	1,404	98	Placer	261	Marin	26.5%
San Joaquin	1,399	27	Santa Barbara	158	Monterey	24.2%
<b>Solano</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>78</b>	Monterey	128	Stanislaus	21.0%
Marin	520	308	Tulare	95	San Joaquin	20.6%
Santa Cruz	445	162	San Luis Obispo	82	<b>Solano</b>	<b>4.5%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit, January 2014

**POPULATION LIVING IN POVERTY**

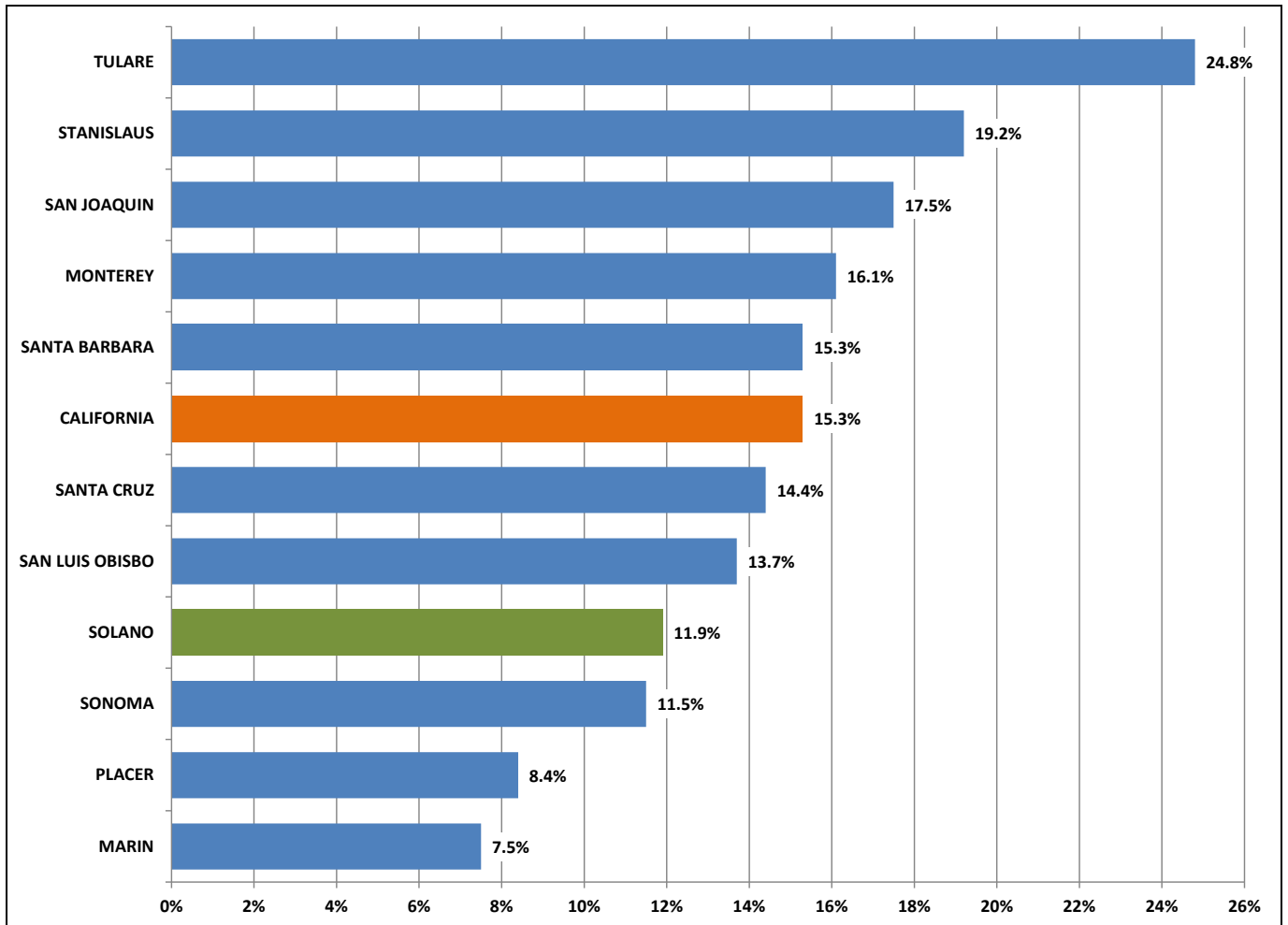
According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey by the U.S. Census Bureau, 11.9% of the county population is living at or below the poverty level. The poverty rate in Solano County was 16.7% among residents under age 18 and 23.3% among families with female head of household and no husband present.

The number of residents living at or below the poverty level varies among Solano County’s seven cities: Benicia, 5.5%; Dixon, 8.8%; Fairfield, 12.9%; Rio Vista, 9.5%; Suisun City, 12.0%; Vacaville, 8.7%, and Vallejo, 16.0%.

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 three of the comparison counties have a lower rate. While the county’s level is not considered desirable, the county’s rate is less than the 16.6% statewide average rate for population living at or below the poverty level.

These statistics reflect the lingering impacts of the Great Recession. In December 2006, a total of 14.7% of the county’s population was receiving public assistance, in the form of Food Stamps, CalWORKs, General Assistance and Medi-Cal. Four years later at the bottom of the recession the percentage of the population receiving public assistance climbed to 18.7%. In December 2013, a total 21.2% of the county’s population was receiving public assistance.

**Percent of Population in Poverty (All Ages) in Benchmark Counties**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012 American Community Survey

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**HEALTH CARE AND THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT**

Poor health care outcomes are often strongly related to poverty, poor access to preventative health care, lifestyle choices, diet and education. Early and continued access to quality, affordable health care is a crucial component of residents achieving health and prosperity. According to the 2008-2012 American Community Survey on Health Insurance Coverage from the U.S. Census Bureau, 88% of Solano County residents reported having health insurance coverage, which is higher than statewide at 82.2% and most of the benchmark counties. Among Solano County's cities, health insurance coverage varies from a high of 91.3% in Benicia and Vacaville to a low of 85% in Vallejo.

These statistics are likely to change as a result of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that was signed into law in March 2010. This comprehensive health reform legislation has many components, ranging from the expansion of the types of health and mental health services covered to how people can gain access to health insurance. The legislation affects which types of employers are now required to provide health insurance benefits as well as makes it mandatory for residents to have health insurance.

The legislation is being implemented by the State of California with an expanded number of people covered by Medi-Cal. The first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act began in October 2013 and closed in March 2014 with a grace period until April 15 for individuals having difficulty enrolling in the system. People without private insurance already or who met income requirements were able to use the California Health Benefit Exchange or the Solano Center for Healthcare Options and Insurance Coverage Enrollment (CHOICE) call centers and online automated system to select from various health plan options based on their income. Individuals or families earning less than 138% of the federal poverty level were directed toward Medi-Cal and those earning less than 400% of the poverty level were directed to Health Exchange Covered California plans.

Covered California enrollment statistics include Solano County in North Bay Region 2 that includes Marin, Napa and Sonoma counties. Between October 1, 2013 and February 28, 2014 Covered California reported that a total of 29,607 individuals enrolled in subsidized private health insurance plans and 5,765 enrolled in unsubsidized plans. Fifty-five percent of the 35,372 individuals selected silver plans and 30 percent selected bronze plans. Public health plan enrollment also increased. The number of participants enrolled in Medi-Cal or the County Medical Services Program (CSMP) in Solano County increased from 72,438 in December 2012 to 83,029 in December 2013. By the end of March 2014, enrollment in Medi-Cal increased to 89,100, including over 6,400 who transitioned from CMSP to Medi-Cal upon implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

**Percentage of Residents with Health Insurance in Benchmark Counties**

	Health Insurance Coverage	Private Health Insurance	Public Health Insurance	No Health Insurance Coverage
<b>PLACER</b>	90.8	80.3	24.3	9.2
<b>MARIN</b>	90.6	80.1	25.1	9.4
<b>SOLANO</b>	88.0	71.3	27.8	12.0
<b>SONOMA</b>	86.0	70.2	27.9	14.0
<b>SAN LUIS OBISPO</b>	85.6	71.9	27.6	14.4
<b>SANTA CRUZ</b>	85.5	68.9	25.7	14.5
<b>SAN JOAQUIN</b>	83.2	59.1	33.0	16.8
<b>STANISLAUS</b>	82.6	56.8	34.4	17.4
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	82.2	61.9	28.7	17.8
<b>SANTA BARBARA</b>	81.9	63.2	29.4	18.1
<b>MONTEREY</b>	78.9	58.3	30.5	21.1
<b>TULARE</b>	77.9	46.0	39.7	22.1

**Percentage of Residents with Health Insurance in Solano County Cities**

	Health Insurance Coverage	Private Health Insurance	Public Health Insurance	No Health Insurance Coverage
<b>BENICIA</b>	91.3	82.8	20.3	8.7
<b>DIXON</b>	88.1	72.0	25.1	11.9
<b>FAIRFIELD</b>	88.3	71.1	27.2	11.7
<b>RIO VISTA</b>	85.9	74.0	41.7	14.1
<b>SUISUN CITY</b>	87.8	69.1	27.4	12.2
<b>VACAVILLE</b>	91.3	77.8	25.2	8.7
<b>VALLEJO</b>	85.0	64.4	31.1	15.0

Source: 2008-2012 American Community Survey – Health Insurance Coverage. Percentages do not sum to 100%. Numbers for Private and Public Health Insurance reflect partial coverage and individuals may be counted in both columns.

**PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT**

A portion of any community reflects those individuals who have run afoul of the law and are under the supervision of a parole officer, probation officer or correctional officer. In response to a 2009 federal court order for the State of California to reduce its prison population, California implemented several pieces of legislation, most notably AB 109 Public Safety Realignment, resulting in a shift of responsibility for specific low-level prisoners and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the counties. This realignment changed the type of offenders who are under the supervision of county probation officers and altered the composition of inmates inside county jails.

Part of that change was a group offenders assigned to Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS). These non-serious, non-violent, non-sex offenders went from supervision by State parole officers to County probation officers. During the first two years of the program the State released 569 offenders to the PRCS program in Solano County, which was approximately 1% of all PRCS offenders released statewide. Solano County's total resident population represents 1% of the population in the State. This shift did not increase the population of offenders in Solano County, only shifted the supervising agency.

**Changes in PRCS/Jail Populations in Benchmark Counties**

	October 2011 to September 2012			October 2012 to September 2013		
	PRCS Offenders Released	1170 Jail Only Sentences	1170 Split Sentences	PRCS Offenders Released	1170 Jail Only Sentences	1170 Split Sentences
STANISLAUS	790	71	435	472	71	468
SAN JOAQUIN	774	161	352	417	95	324
TULARE	546	148	247	268	128	242
MONTEREY	352	271	14	214	286	36
SOLANO	382	294	28	187	245	52
SANTA BARBARA	384	157	58	158	102	165
SONOMA	268	82	104	122	42	142
PLACER	190	154	11	104	148	11
SAN LUIS OBISPO	209	157	8	88	229	45
SANTA CRUZ	115	52	43	55	46	32
MARIN	47	12	13	23	11	15
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	<b>36,329</b>	<b>22,285</b>	<b>7,173</b>	<b>18,796</b>	<b>21,178</b>	<b>9,448</b>

Source: California Probation Officers of California

According to March 2014 statistics there were 267 individuals in the PRCS program and 77 on mandatory supervision (1170h split sentences). The Solano County Courts have gradually increased the use of split sentences from 9% the first year to 18% in the second year, sentencing more 1170h offenders to a term of mandatory supervision after release from custody. The demographic profile of the PRCS group is of predominately male, 95% versus 77% male in the 1170h group. The age of the 1170h group is also slightly younger, 55% are between ages 26 and 40 compared to the PRCS group where 33% are between age 26 and 40. The dominate ethnicities within these two groups are 43% African-American, 34% White and 17% Hispanic. They reside in every community within the county: 45% in Vallejo, 30% in Fairfield, 16% in Vacaville/Elmira, 5% in Suisun City and less than 5% in all other communities.

Since April 2013, two comprehensive service hubs, Centers for Positive Change (CPCs), were opened to provide case-specific services for high-risk clients under the supervision of the County Probation Department. The CPCs in Vallejo and Fairfield have collectively served 157 clients, graduating seven cohorts of cognitive behavior groups, 172 referrals to the Workforce Investment Board for employment assistance and 100 referrals to vocational training vendors.



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Since the implementation of AB 109 in October 2011, the Solano County jail population has changed. As of March 2014, the County jail was housing 71 parole violators (known as 3056 PC), 38 Post Release Community Supervision violators and 168 locally sentenced offenders (known as 1170 offenders), contributing to nearly a third of the 932 average daily population. Prior to Public Safety Realignment, the jail population consisted of individuals awaiting trial and inmates serving sentences of less than one year. After realignment, convicted individuals are serving sentences up to 10 years. To address the evolving inmate population as a result realignment, the County is pursuing a two-prong approach – increased capacity within the jail system and incorporating training programs into the jail setting to provide offenders with skills to enhance their ability cope in the outside world.

Construction began in July 2012 on a 365-bed adult detention facility adjacent to the current facility on Clay Bank Road in Fairfield, and is expected to be operational in FY2014/15. The \$89.3 million Stanton Correctional Facility is funded primarily with \$61.5 million in State AB 900 local jail construction financing and the balance from the local public facilities fee proceeds. The facility will use electronic security systems that optimize security while minimizing staffing requirements. The Stanton Correctional Facility will offer more convenience to the public, as well as the inmates, through the use of video visitation and modern telecommunication systems. The facility includes medical services, all ancillary support systems, including laundry facilities, an administrative services area, and a secure sally port with an intake and processing area.

The California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) announced in January 2014 that Solano County was selected for a conditional award of \$23 million dollars to construct vocational/classroom training and rehabilitative services space (including mental health) to serve adult offenders in the custody of the Solano County Sheriff's Office. Construction includes a 10,000 square foot pre-engineered classroom training center, a 30,000 square foot pre-engineered vocational training center and a paved asphalt area used for driver training of buses and commercial vehicles. This project is scheduled for completion in November 2017.

**Changes in Population Under Supervision in Solano County**

	State Parole	County Probation			Sheriff - Custody				Total
	Adults	PRCS	1170h PC	Adults	3056 PC	1170h PC	PRCS	Other	
October 2011	1,598	0	0	3,100	31	34	0	707	5,470
March 2013	778	357	34	3,026	136	200	45	556	5,132
March 2014	541	267	77	2,970	71	168	38	690	4,822
Change from 2013	(237)	(90)	43	(56)	(65)	(32)	(7)	134	(310)
% Change	(30.5%)	(25.2%)	126.5%	(1.9%)	(47.8%)	(16.0%)	(15.6%)	24.1%	(6.0%)
Change from 2011	(1,057)	267	77	(130)	40	134	38	(17)	(648)
% Change	(66.1%)			(4.2%)	129.0%	394.1%		(2.4%)	(11.8%)

Source: Solano County Community Corrections Partnership and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

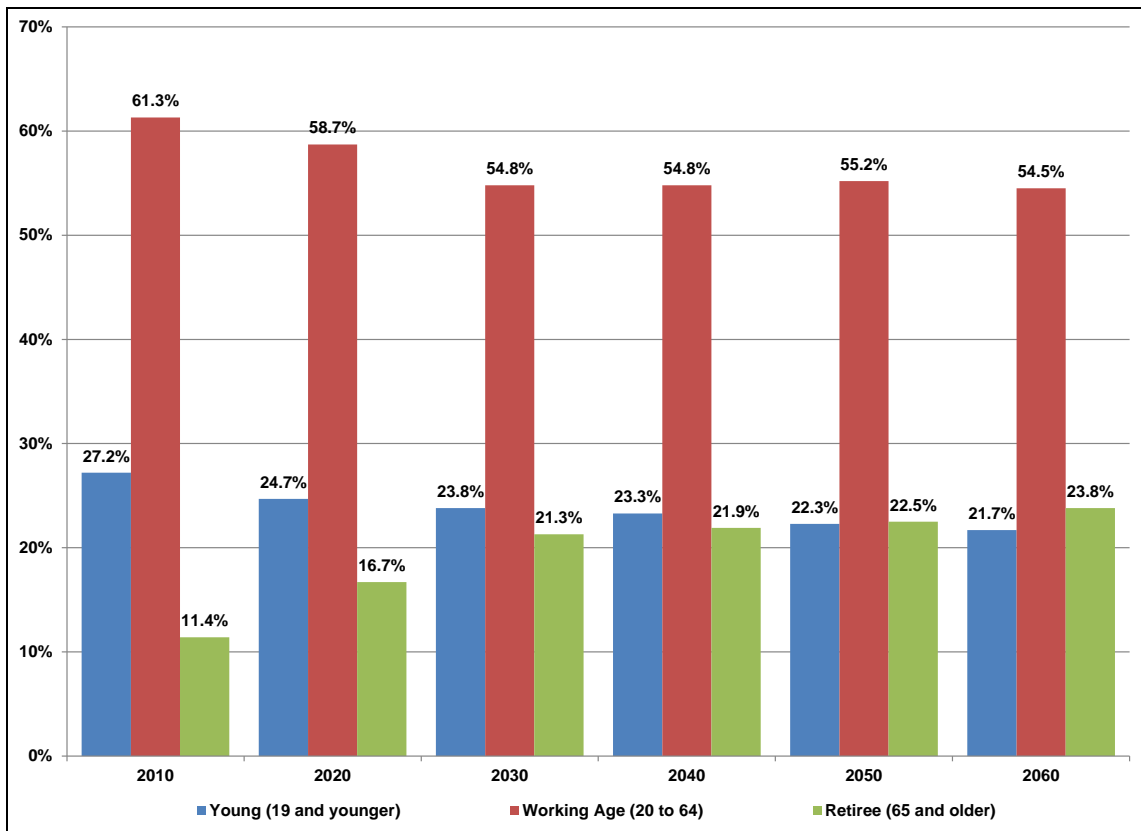


**POPULATION BY AGE**

The population of Solano County is projected to grow to 634,852 or 53.7% by 2060, according to projections by the California Department of Finance. The age composition of that population is expected to shift significantly over the decades, with the median age increasing from 37.1 in 2010 to 43.2 in 2060. The aging of the population will affect the types of service demands placed on the County as well as impact statewide and regional planning efforts.

One way to evaluate this population change is to analyze the dependency ratio, which examines the population changes in relationship to the traditional working age population of 20 to 64. In 2010, for every 6.1 people in the Solano County workforce there were 2.7 children and 1.1 retirees. By 2060, the young population (age 19 and younger) is expected to increase 25,155 or 22.4%; the working age population by 92,749 or 36.6%; and retiree population (65 and older) by 103,831 or 219.8%.

**Share of Population By Age as Percentage of Total Population, 2010 to 2060**



Source: California Department of Finance

Over the next two decades, the Department of Finance projects significantly more people will be entering the retiree population age than those entering the working age population. By 2030, that trend shifts to the working age population becoming the largest population growth segment. At the other end of the age spectrum, declines in school-age children are projected to continue through 2020 before starting to recover.

**Estimated Population Change by Decade, 2010 to 2060**

	2010 to 2020	2020 to 2030	2030 to 2040	2040 to 2050	2050 to 2060
<b>Young (19 and younger)</b>	(2,299)	7,369	10,914	3,831	5,339
<b>Working Age (20 to 64)</b>	9,080	8,175	31,618	25,159	18,718
<b>Retiree (65 and older)</b>	27,319	30,662	15,536	12,369	17,945

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**EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

According to the California Employment Development Department's preliminary March 2014 estimates, overall employment in California is better than it was a year ago. The Solano County unemployment rate was 7.9% in March 2014, down from 8.9% a year ago. The preliminary March 2014 unemployment rate for the State declined to 8.4%, down from 9.4% a year ago.

Between March 2013 and March 2014, overall employment in Solano County increased by 2,300 jobs while the size of the workforce grew by 300 people actively seeking employment. This resulted in a net reduction of 2,000 unemployed residents.

Compared to March 2010, the low point of the Great Recession in Solano County, overall employment among county residents in March 2014 was up 13,100; however, the size of the labor force grew by 3,600 during that period. As a result, the number of unemployed residents decreased from 26,800 to 17,300. The unemployment rate in March 2010 was 12.5%.

**Unemployment Rates from March 2005 to March 2014 in Benchmark Counties**

	2005	2007	2010	2013	2014
MARIN	4.0%	3.5%	8.4%	5.2%	4.7%
SONOMA	4.8%	4.2%	11.2%	7.3%	6.2%
SANTA BARBARA	4.8%	4.5%	10.3%	7.4%	6.7%
PLACER	4.5%	4.7%	11.8%	7.9%	7.1%
SOLANO	5.7%	5.0%	12.5%	8.9%	7.9%
CALIFORNIA	5.8%	5.2%	12.8%	9.4%	8.4%
SANTA CRUZ	8.1%	7.1%	15.2%	11.5%	10.8%
MONTEREY	10.3%	9.3%	16.6%	13.2%	12.6%
SAN JOAQUIN	8.8%	8.2%	18.1%	13.9%	13.1%
STANISLAUS	9.7%	9.0%	18.6%	14.3%	13.6%
TULARE	11.6%	10.4%	19.3%	15.7%	15.6%

Source: California Employment Development Department, March 2005 to March 2014

**Unemployment Rates from March 2005 to March 2014 in Solano County Cities**

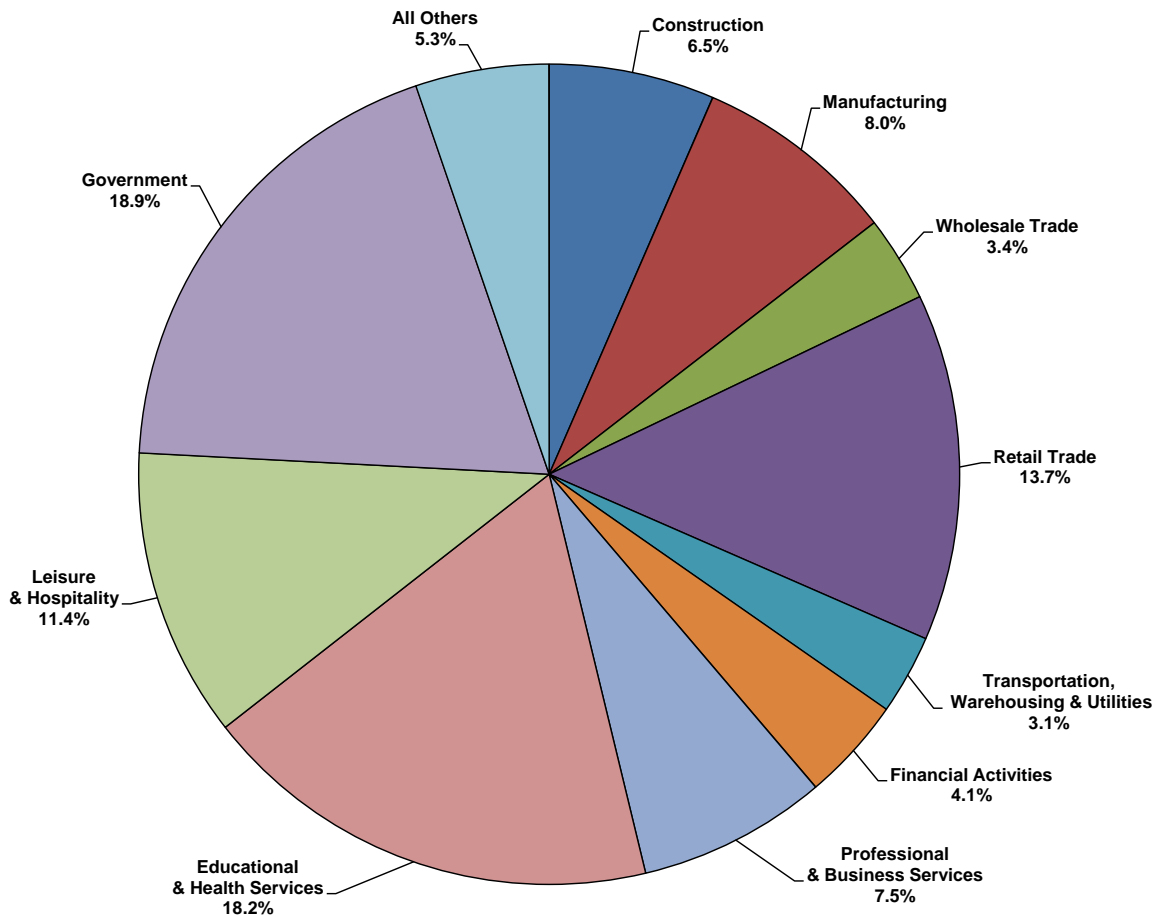
	2005	2007	2010	2013	2014
BENICIA	3.5%	3.1%	7.9%	5.5%	4.9%
RIO VISTA	4.2%	3.7%	9.4%	6.6%	5.9%
VACAVILLE	4.2%	3.7%	9.4%	6.6%	5.9%
DIXON	4.5%	4.0%	10.1%	7.1%	6.4%
SUISUN CITY	5.9%	5.2%	12.9%	9.1%	8.2%
FAIRFIELD	6.2%	5.6%	13.7%	9.7%	8.7%
VALLEJO	7.1%	6.3%	15.3%	10.9%	9.8%

Source: California Employment Development Department, March 2005 to March 2014

The traditional unemployment rate calculated by EDD is not a complete picture of the number of residents who are not employed, as it only represents the people who are actively seeking employment. Individuals discouraged by employment prospects and were not actively seeking employment are excluded. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics provides alternative measures of labor underutilization that includes these marginally attached workers. According to these figures, 17.3% of California residents were not fully employed in 2013 compared to the traditional unemployment rate of 8.9% for 2013 as reported by the California Employment Development Department. This represents a continued decline since the bottom of the recession: 19.3% in 2012, 21.1% in 2011 and 22.1% in 2010. The more comprehensive figure includes the total unemployed residents, plus all marginally attached workers, total employed part-time for economic reasons. Similar statistics are not available at the county level; however, Solano County tends to mirror statewide employment and unemployment trends.

Projections from the Business Forecast Center at the University of Pacific in January 2014 indicate Solano County will continue to see modest gains in employment. They are projecting a 2.8% improvement in the nonfarm employment in Solano County by the end of 2014, echoing a 2.8% increase in nonfarm payroll employment in 2013. Future employment gains for the county are forecasted at 1.9% in 2015, 2.0% in 2016 and 1.8% in 2017. The annual unemployment rate is expected to drop to 8.5% by the end of 2014 and to continue inching downward: 8.0% in 2015, 7.3% in 2016 and 6.4% in 2017. Based on these projections, unemployment will remain above pre-recession levels for several more years.

**Share of Total Employment by Industries in Solano County – March 2014**



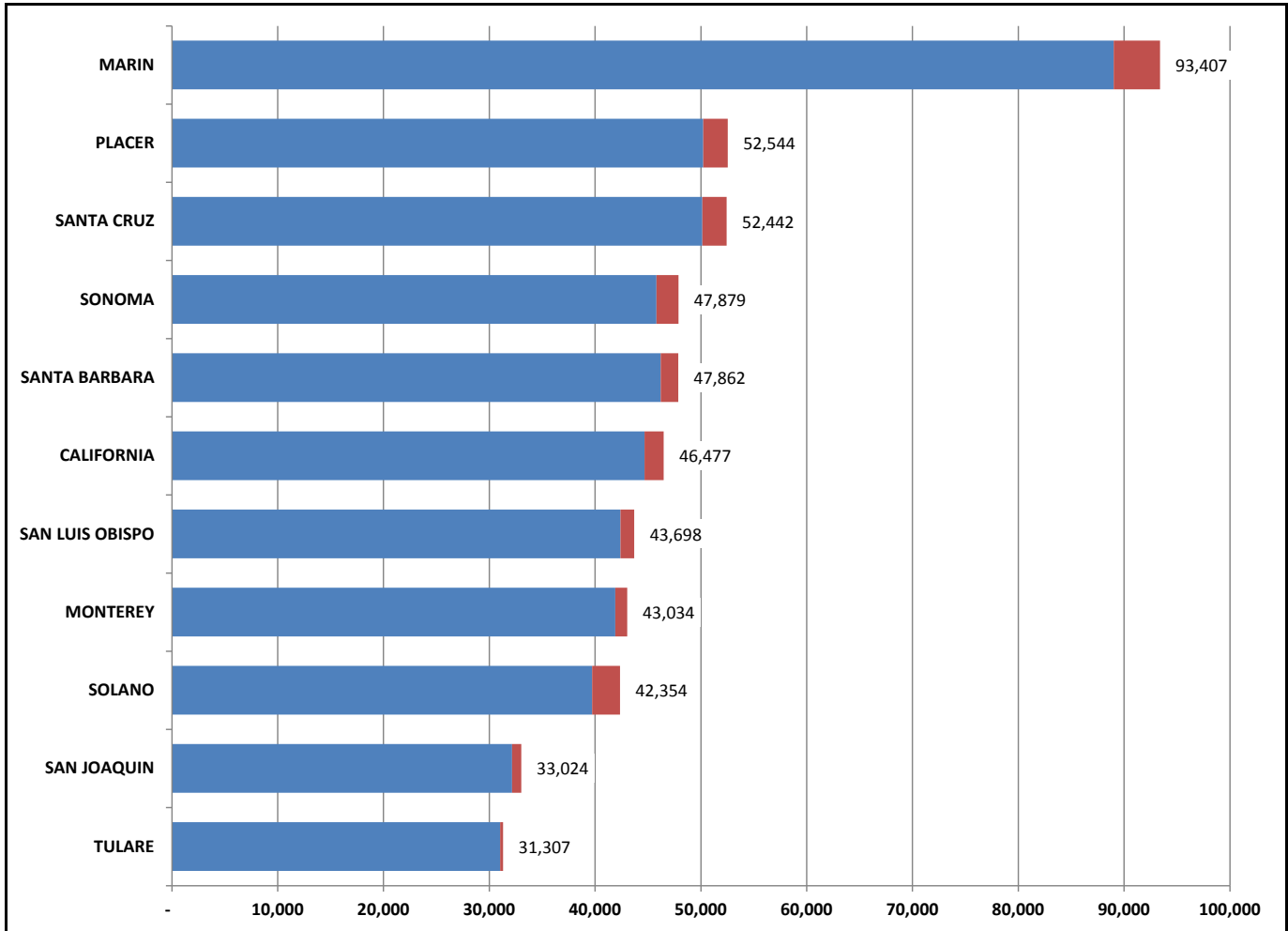
Source: California Employment Development Division. All Others includes Information; Farming; Mining & Logging; and Other Services

Between March 2010 and March 2014, ten of 14 industry sectors in Solano County tracked by the California Employment Development Division showed overall employment growth, while three sectors retracted and one remained unchanged. Overall, the employed workforce increased by 7.0%, or 13,100 jobs, between 2010 and 2014. Among employers located in Solano County, local industry employment increased 7.3%, or 8,700 jobs, during the same time period.

Between March 2013 and March 2014, eight of the 14 sectors showed job growth, four remained unchanged and two retracted. Overall, the employed workforce grew by 1.2%, or 2,300 jobs, between March 2013 and March 2014. Among employers located in Solano County, local industry employment grew by 1.6%, or 2,000 jobs, during the same time period.

**Solano County Statistical Profile**  
**Birgitta E. Corsello, County Administrator**

**Change in Per Capita Income in Benchmark Counties**



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

Personal income is made up of wages and salaries, transfer payments from all levels of government, investment income (dividends, interest, and rents), business income from owning a business (proprietor's income) and other income sources. The *2013 Index of Economic and Community Progress* reported that since 2009, Solano County has seen a growth in personal income, initially from stock market gains and investment income, and accelerated by wage and salary growth in 2012.

According to the 2012 statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Solano County ranks as the third lowest in per capita income as compared to benchmark counties. However, Solano County's growth rate in per capita income in 2012 outpaced the State and benchmark counties, increasing 6.6% between 2011 and 2012. Solano County's per capita income of \$42,354 in 2012 reflects a \$2,635 increase over 2011 and \$3,937 over 2010. The growth in Solano County's personal income between 2010 and 2011 was 3.4%, the second smallest growth rate among comparable counties, only exceeding Monterey County at 2.9%.

**SOLANO COUNTY COMMUTING**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2006-2010 American Community Survey, approximately 40% of working residents in Solano County commuted outside of the county for work. The survey estimated 74,995 residents commuted out of the county for employment. At the same time, the survey estimated 32,139 or approximately 23% of the people employed in jobs located in Solano County are residents of neighboring counties and beyond. The survey found that 69.8% of employed county residents traveled less than 30 minutes to work and 7.9% traveled more than an hour to work.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey also reported that approximately 79% of employed county residents drive alone to work, 11.8% car pool, 1.3% use public transportation and 7.9% either work at home or use other modes of transportation. Of those driving alone, 67.9% own their homes, 32.1% rent and 3.7% earn less than the federal poverty level. Among those who car pool, 57.6% own their home, 42.4% rent and 8% earn less than the federal poverty level. Of those who use public transportation, 42.5% own their home, 57.5% rent, and 18.4% earn less than the federal poverty level.

**Commute Patterns In and Out of Solano County for Employment**

SOLANO COUNTY RESIDENTS COMMUTE DESTINATIONS			WORKERS COMMUTING INTO SOLANO COUNTY		
Contra Costa County	19,903	27%	Contra Costa County	7,442	23%
Alameda County	11,723	16%	Sacramento County	6,089	19%
Napa County	10,825	14%	Yolo County	5,046	16%
San Francisco County	9,854	13%	Napa County	4,441	14%
Sacramento County	5,239	7%	Alameda County	1,774	6%
Marin County	4,362	6%	Sonoma County	1,271	4%
Yolo County	3,908	5%	San Joaquin County	1,041	3%
San Mateo County	2,619	3%	Placer County	743	2%
Sonoma County	2,409	3%	Marin County	640	2%
Santa Clara County	1,493	2%	San Francisco County	618	2%
San Joaquin County	497	1%	Santa Clara County	376	1%
All Other Locations	2,163	3%	All Other Locations	2,658	8%
<b>TOTAL COMMUTE OUT</b>	<b>74,995</b>		<b>TOTAL COMMUTE IN</b>	<b>32,139</b>	

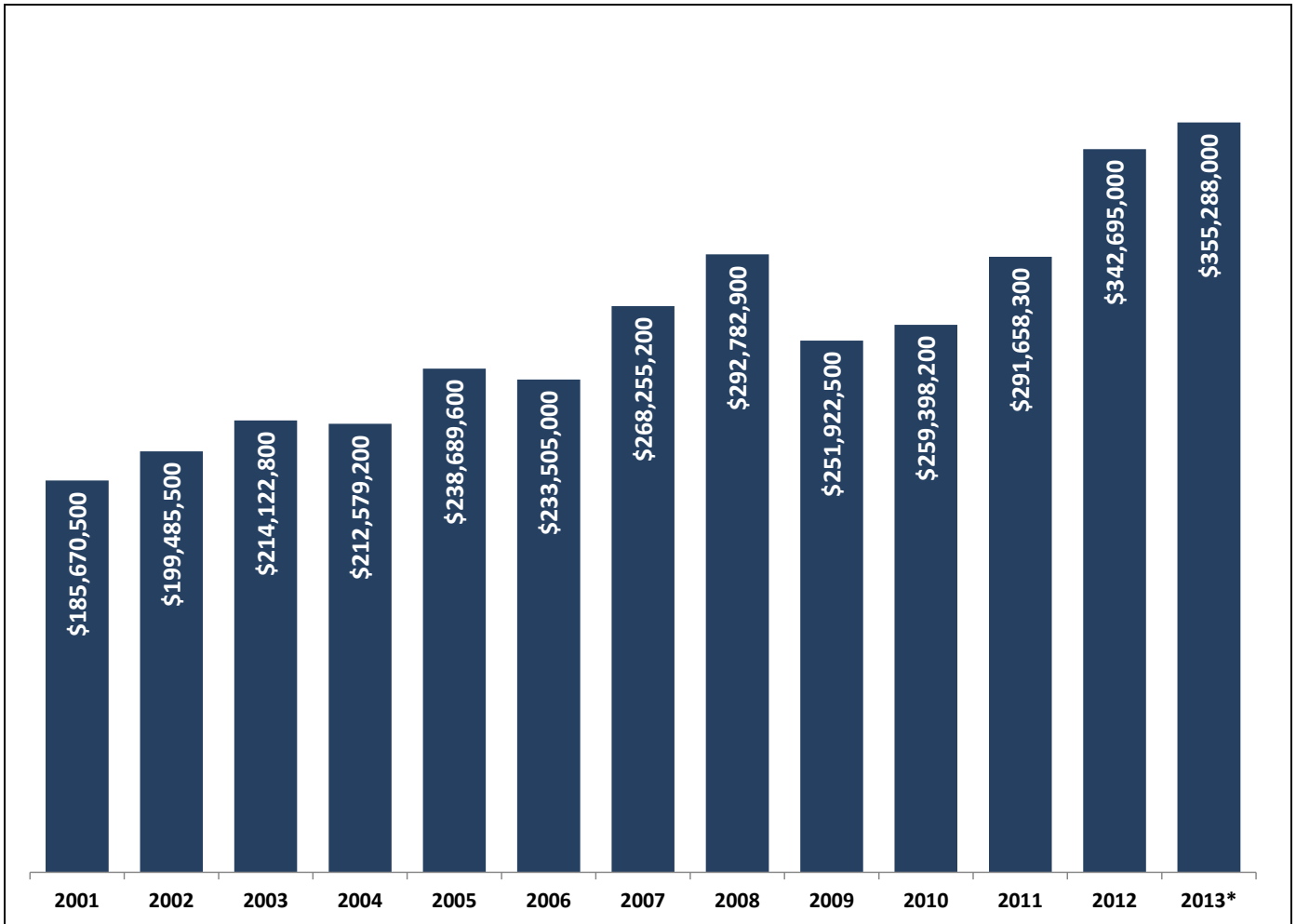
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey

**GROSS AGRICULTURAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK VALUE**

The preliminary 2013 estimated crop and livestock value of \$355,288,000 represents an estimated 3.7% increase from 2012 values, and continues the steady climb in the value of agriculture commodities since the dramatic dip in 2009 as a fallout of the housing market collapse and subsequent decline in demand for nursery stock. The impacts of the drought could be seen on the production of Cattle and Calves as ranchers culled their herds a result of a decrease in forage growth. Solano County produces more than 80 different commodities including fruits, nuts, vegetables, grains, seed, nursery stock, livestock, poultry, and apiary.

Agriculture production is part of a larger industry cluster that spans the full spectrum of economic activity from before the crops get into the field to the value-added processing in consumer products. In an analysis of industry clusters in Solano County, the Moving Solano Forward project identified the food chain cluster as supporting nearly 9,500 jobs and \$1.4 billion in economic output in 2012. This cluster represents approximately 9 percent of the county's total economic output. Through 2022, this cluster is expected to experience a 17% employment growth and a 63 percent output growth.

**2013 Gross Agriculture Crop Values for Solano County**



Source: County of Solano Agricultural Commissioner (\*early estimates for the May 2013 Crop Report)

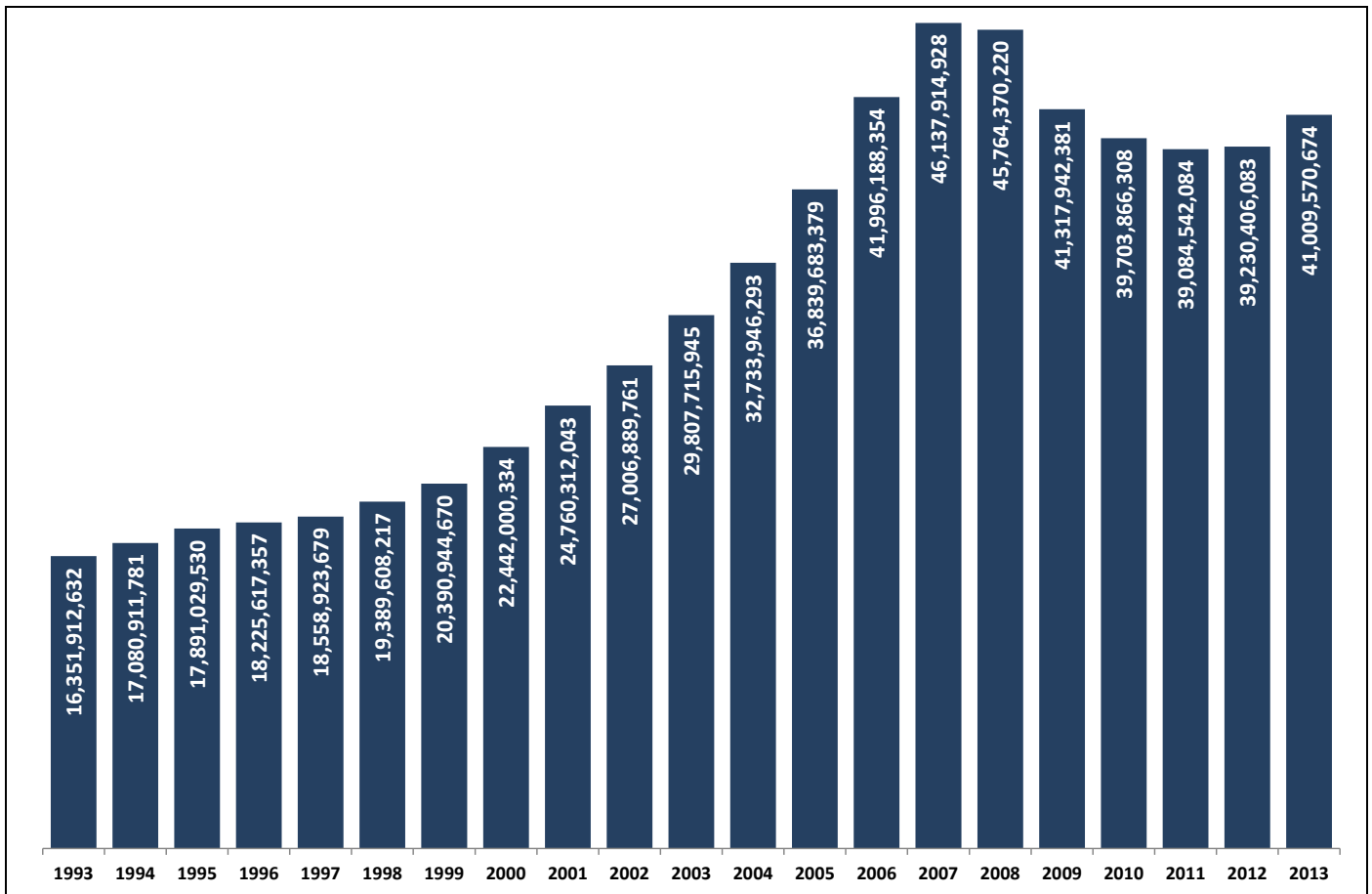
**COUNTY ASSESSED VALUES AND GROWTH**

Property taxes are a major source of local governmental revenues and are determined by assessed values. The property tax rate throughout the State of California is 1% of assessed values. The 2013 Property Assessment Roll of \$41 billion increased 4.5% from the prior year's roll value and represents property ownership in Solano County as of January 1, 2013. This is the second year of increasing assessed values since the bottom of the market in 2011.

The lingering effect of the Great Recession can still be felt on the assessed values of properties in Solano County, which experienced dramatic drops in median home prices and high numbers of foreclosures. The median home price fell from a high of \$475,755 in 2006 to a low of \$191,453 in 2011. The housing market experienced double digit gains in 2013, but industry experts are reporting expectations of more moderate rate of growth in home prices in 2014. The median price for homes in Solano County was \$269,449 in 2013, up 33.5% from the \$201,843 in 2012. The volume of home sales, however, declined 9.4% over the year, going from 7,251 in 2012 to 6,566 in 2013. Foreclosure activity showed marked improvement in 2013, declining 60.7% over the prior year. The 1,531 notices of default in 2013 represents the lowest level of foreclosure activity since 1,935 notices of default in 2006. Foreclosure activity peaked in 2009 with 8,561 notices of default and has not yet returned to the pre-recession averages of approximately 1,100 notices of default annually before 2006.

Since the market peak a significant number of properties in Solano County have had their property values temporarily reduced in accordance with Proposition 8. Proposition 8 requires the Assessor to value property at the lesser of the market value or the factored base year value, also known as the Proposition 13 value. The 2013 property assessment roll reflects 55,495 properties with reduced property value assessments and represents 39% of the residential and non-residential parcels in the county. The number of properties in Proposition 8 status in 2013 declined 28.9% from the nearly 78,000 properties in 2012.

**Local Assessed Values for Solano County**



Source: County of Solano, Assessor's Office, July 2013



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**PRINCIPAL PROPERTY TAX PAYERS**

<b>COUNTY OF SOLANO</b>			
<b>Principal Taxpayers with over \$50,000,000 in Assessed Value for FY2013/14</b>			
<b>Principal Property Tax Payers</b>	<b>Business Type</b>	<b>Assessed Value</b>	<b>Tax Obligation<sup>1</sup></b>
Genentech, Inc.	Manufacturing	1,065,189,342	12,508,618
Valero Refining Company California	Energy	954,680,069	11,111,557
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Utility	542,488,967	7,292,930
Shiloh 3 Wind LLC	Energy	271,727,580	5,637,374
Shiloh II Wind Project, LLC	Energy	270,985,881	2,764,598
Anheuser Busch, Inc.	Manufacturing	247,828,816	(709,693) <sup>2</sup>
Shiloh III Wind Project LLC	Energy	211,744,619	2,160,219
Star-West Solano, LLC	REITS & Finance	172,729,455	1,956,950
Shiloh IV Wind Project LLC	Energy	156,261,401	1,594,179
Shiloh I Wind Project LLC	Energy	147,871,934	1,508,589
California Northern Railroad	Transportation	122,763,943	1,524,389
IndCor Properties	Real Estate	122,430,600	1,079,432
High Winds LLC	Energy	119,513,800	1,219,280
Pacific Bell Telephone Co.	Utility	117,487,463	1,521,391
Netxera Energy	Energy	109,725,626	1,119,421
Alza Corporation	Manufacturing	104,924,590	1,154,844
CPG Finance II LLC	Commercial Sales & Service	99,669,334	1,311,700
NT Dunhill Investors, LLC	Real Estate	89,901,622	1,245,758
Meyer Cookware Industries, Inc.	Distribution/Manufacturing	86,658,599	1,013,237
Centro Watt Property Owner II	Commercial Sales & Service	75,825,314	932,163
Park Management Corp.	Theme Park	70,819,529	866,556
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.	Manufacturing	69,714,191	878,956
SFPP, LP	Energy	67,797,534	829,632
Lodi Gas Storage, LLC	Energy	67,649,604	909,481
Prime Ascot LP	Real Estate	57,082,444	733,045
N/A Rolling Oaks – 88, LP	Real Estate	53,154,223	613,660
Walmart Real Estate Business Trust	Real Estate	55,125,258	631,090
6801 Leisure Town Road Apt Inv.	Real Estate	53,560,511	622,560
Sequoia Equities – River Oaks	Real Estate	53,345,877	695,074

<sup>1</sup>Note: The tax obligation is calculated at 1% plus voter-approved bonds and any special assessments. Rates vary by Tax Area Code.  
<sup>2</sup> Tax obligation reflects a refund resulting from an assessment appeals settlement.  
 LLC – Limited Liability Corporation.  
 LP – Limited Partnership

Source: County of Solano, Tax Collector/County Clerk, March 2014