

Michael D. Johnson, County Administrator

## 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 that are 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, 2008, estimate of the population of Solano County is 426,757, an increase of approximately 0.5% over last year's estimate and 8.2% over the 2000 Census. Of California's 58 counties, Solano County ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in terms of population size and 34<sup>th</sup> in terms of population growth when compared to the 2000 Census.

California's population topped 38 million as of January 2008 according to the State Department of Finance. California, the nation's most populous state, represents 12.5%, or one out of every eight persons, of the nation's population.

Solano County population represents 1.1% of the State population.

Rank	County	2000 Census	January 2008	Percent Change
1	Riverside	1,545,387	2,088,322	35.1%
2	Placer	248,399	333,401	34.2%
3	Imperial	142,361	176,158	23.7%
4	Kern	661,645	817,517	23.6%
5	Madera	123,019	150,887	22.7%
6	San Joaquin	563,598	685,660	21.7%
7	Sutter	78,930	95,878	21.5%
8	Merced	210,554	255,250	21.2%
9	Colusa	18,084	21,910	21.2%
10	San Bernardino	1,709,434	2,055,766	20.3%
11	Yuba	60,219	71,929	19.4%
12	Kings	129,461	154,434	19.3%
13	Tulare	368,021	435,254	18.3%
14	Yolo	168,660	199,066	18.0%
15	Stanislaus	446,997	525,903	17.7%
16	Fresno	799,407	931,098	16.5%
17	Sacramento	1,223,499	1,424,415	16.4%
18	El Dorado	156,299	179,722	15.0%
19	Calaveras	40,554	46,127	13.7%
20	San Diego	2,813,833	3,146,274	11.8%
21	Shasta	163,256	182,236	11.6%
22	Tehama	56,039	62,419	11.4%
23	Contra Costa	948,816	1,051,674	10.8%
24	Ventura	753,197	831,587	10.4%
25	Glenn	26,453	29,195	10.4%
26	Napa	124,279	136,704	10.0%
27	Lake	58,309	64,059	9.9%
28	Orange	2,846,289	3,121,251	9.7%
29	San Luis Obispo	246,681	269,337	9.2%

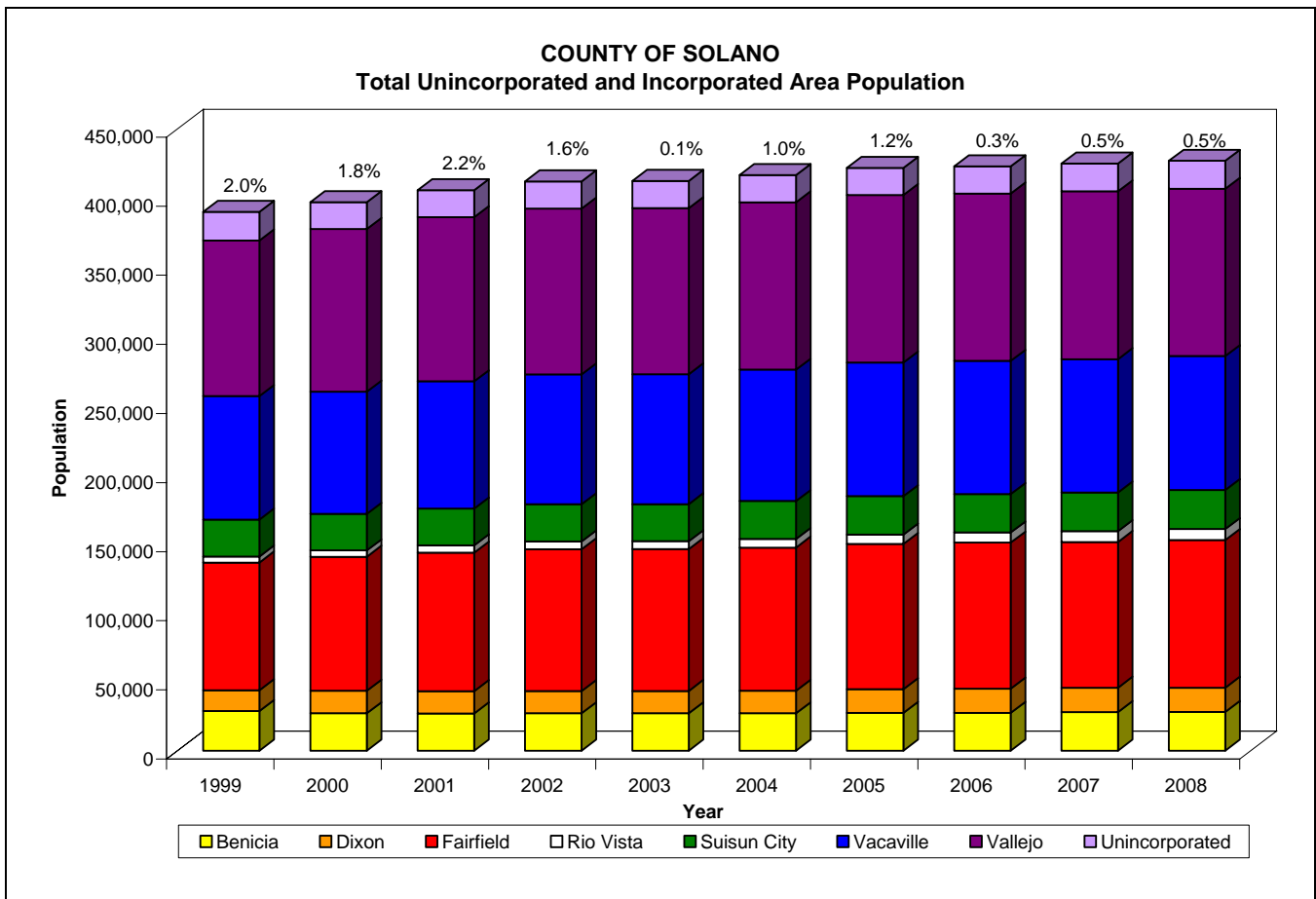
Rank	County	2000 Census	January 2008	Percent Change
30	Santa Clara	1,682,585	1,837,075	9.2%
31	Los Angeles	9,519,338	10,363,850	8.9%
32	San Benito	53,234	57,784	8.5%
33	Butte	203,171	220,407	8.5%
34	<b>Solano</b>	<b>394,542</b>	<b>426,757</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
35	Amador	35,100	37,943	8.1%
36	Nevada	92,033	99,186	7.8%
37	Mariposa	17,130	18,406	7.4%
38	Santa Barbara	399,347	428,655	7.3%
39	Trinity	13,022	13,966	7.2%
40	Mono	12,853	13,759	7.0%
41	Del Norte	27,507	29,419	7.0%
42	Alameda	1,443,741	1,543,000	6.9%
43	Monterey	401,762	428,549	6.7%
44	San Francisco	776,733	824,525	6.2%
45	Lassen	33,828	35,757	5.7%
46	Sonoma	458,614	484,470	5.6%
47	Humboldt	126,518	132,821	5.0%
48	San Mateo	707,161	739,469	4.6%
49	Mendocino	86,265	90,163	4.5%
50	Santa Cruz	255,602	266,519	4.3%
51	Tuolumne	54,501	56,799	4.2%
52	Marin	247,289	257,406	4.1%
53	Siskiyou	44,301	45,971	3.8%
54	Modoc	9,449	9,702	2.7%
55	Alpine	1,208	1,222	1.2%
56	Inyo	17,945	18,152	1.2%
57	Plumas	20,824	20,917	0.4%
58	Sierra	3,555	3,380	-4.9%
	<b>California</b>	<b>33,870,838</b>	<b>38,049,462</b>	<b>12.3%</b>

Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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When you look at the County population over a 10-year period beginning in 1999, the steady, constant growth is apparent. The County population has increased 9.5% since 1999, an average of 1% annually.

The two largest cities within the county are Vallejo and Fairfield with populations of 121,097 and 106,753 respectively. The fastest growing Solano County city over the last ten years is Rio Vista with 85.8% growth, followed by Dixon with 16.4%. In contrast, Benicia's population has decreased by 2.4% since 1999.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

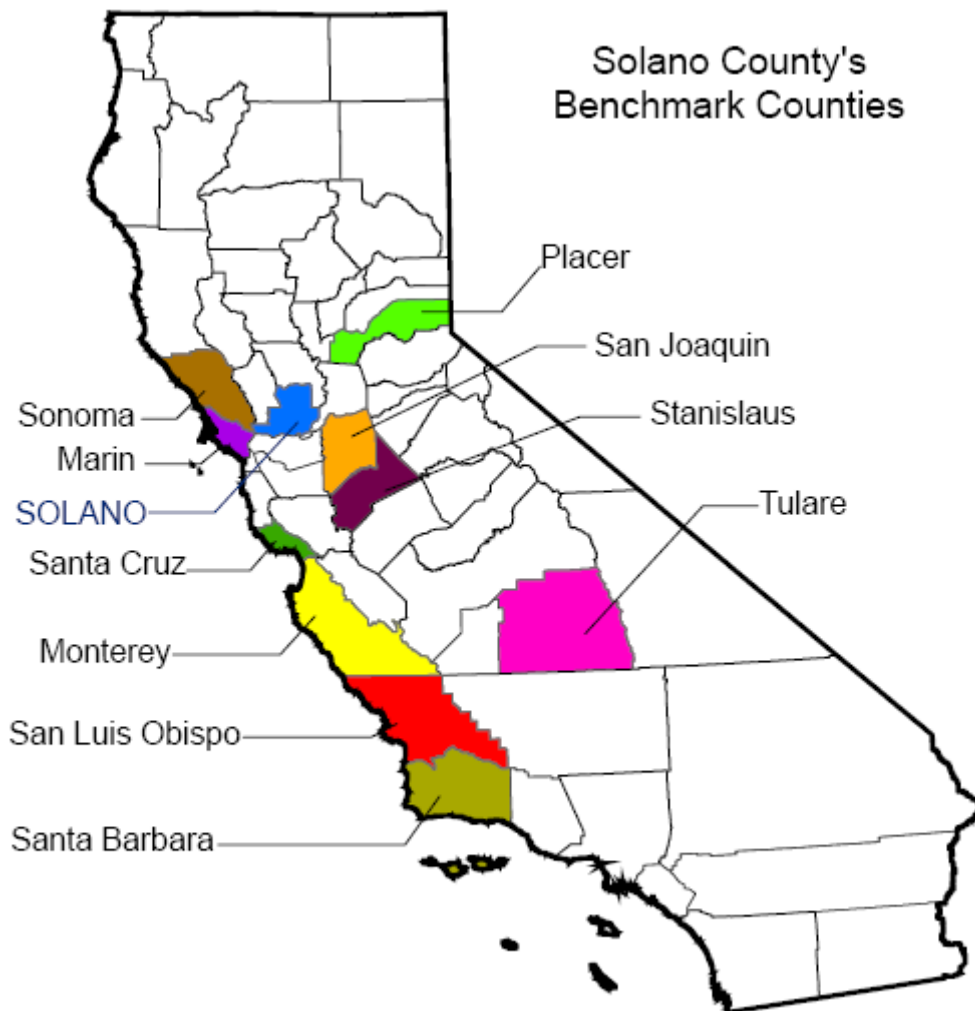
### Benchmark Counties

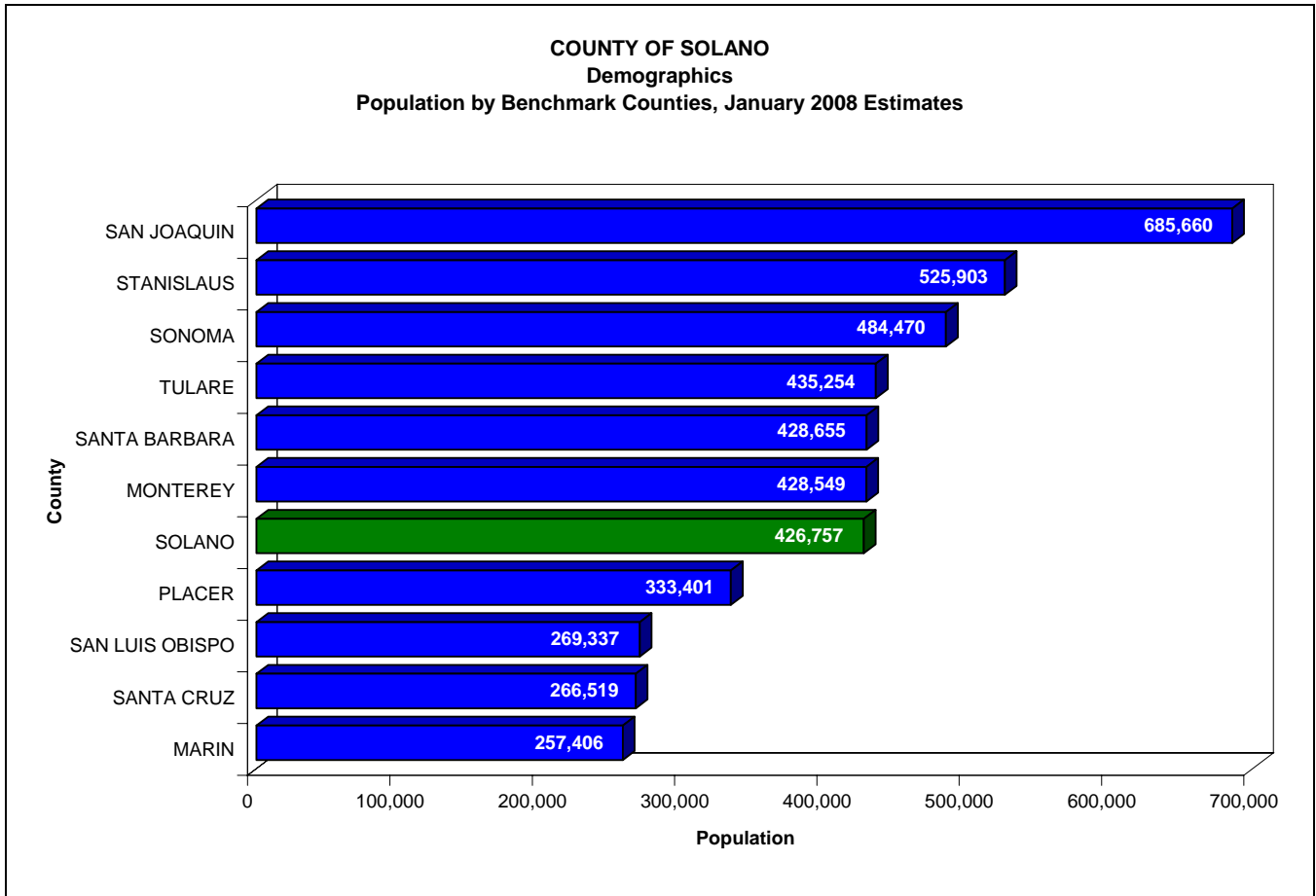
When reviewing Solano County's economic health, the County government's financial capacity, and the County's delivery of services to residents in unincorporated areas, the County inevitably compares itself from the current year to past years.

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

A group of ten counties has been selected to be used for comparison in the following five 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 over 300,000 in population.
- Six are coastal or Bay Area counties.
- Most have the same urban growth versus rural preservation issues facing Solano County.





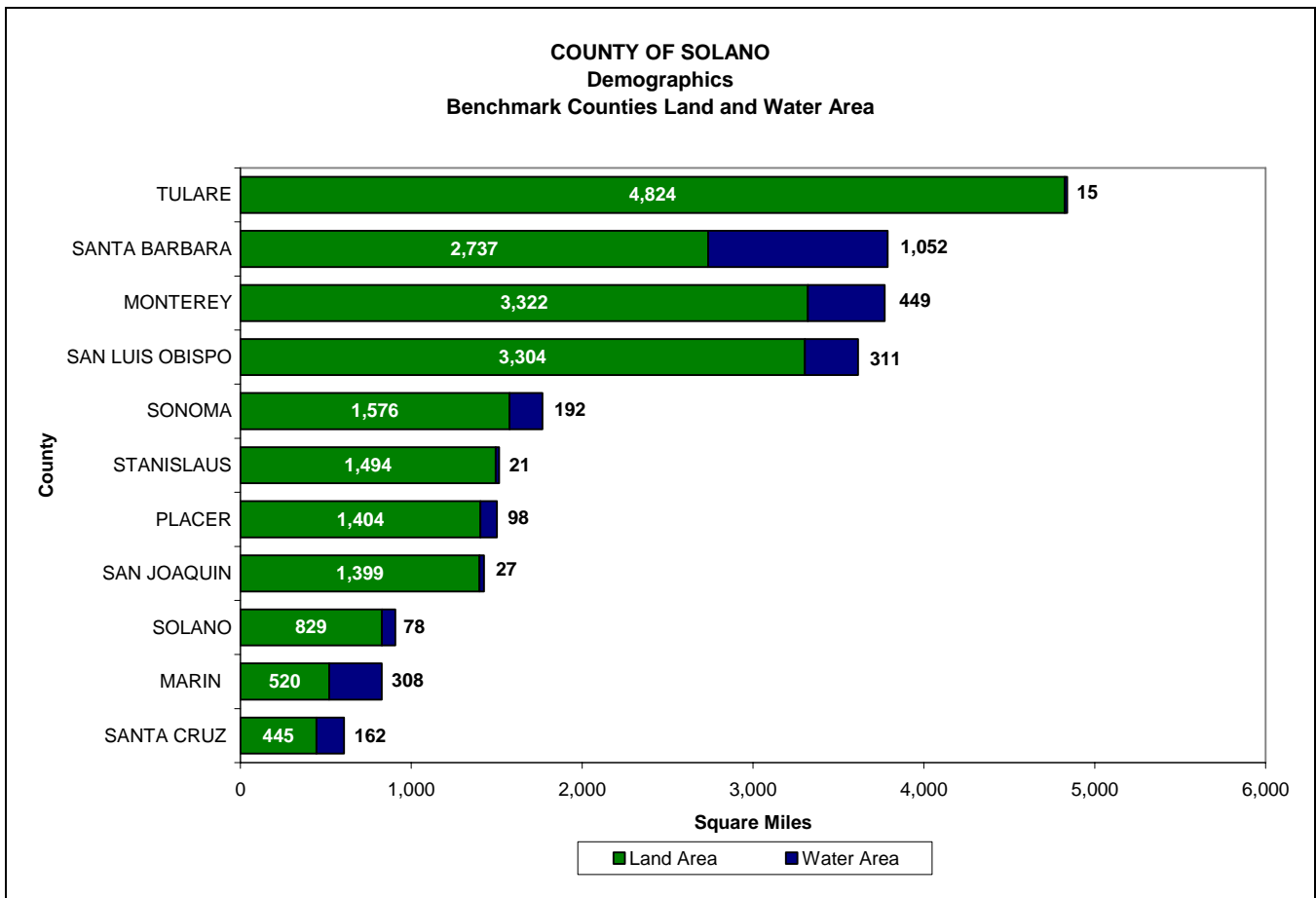
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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 west. Rich agricultural land lies in the northern area of the county while rolling hills are part of

the southern area. Over 60% 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 western United States and a protected habitat, brings up complex issues for County government.

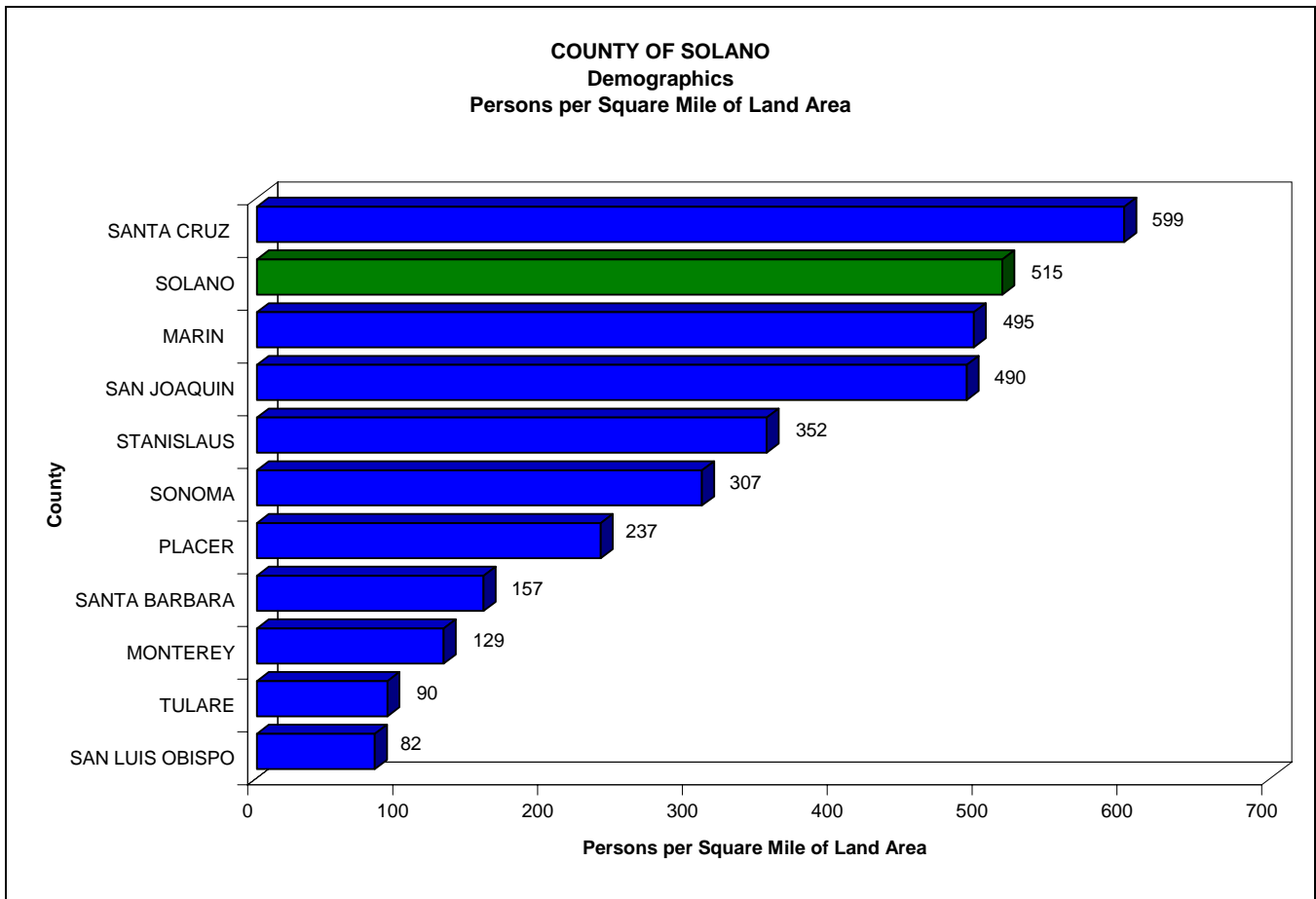


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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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, while Solano County has a high per-square-mile (land area) population density, its residents are concentrated in cities. According to the California Department of Finance's January 2008 City/County Population Estimates, 82% of California residents live in cities and 18% in

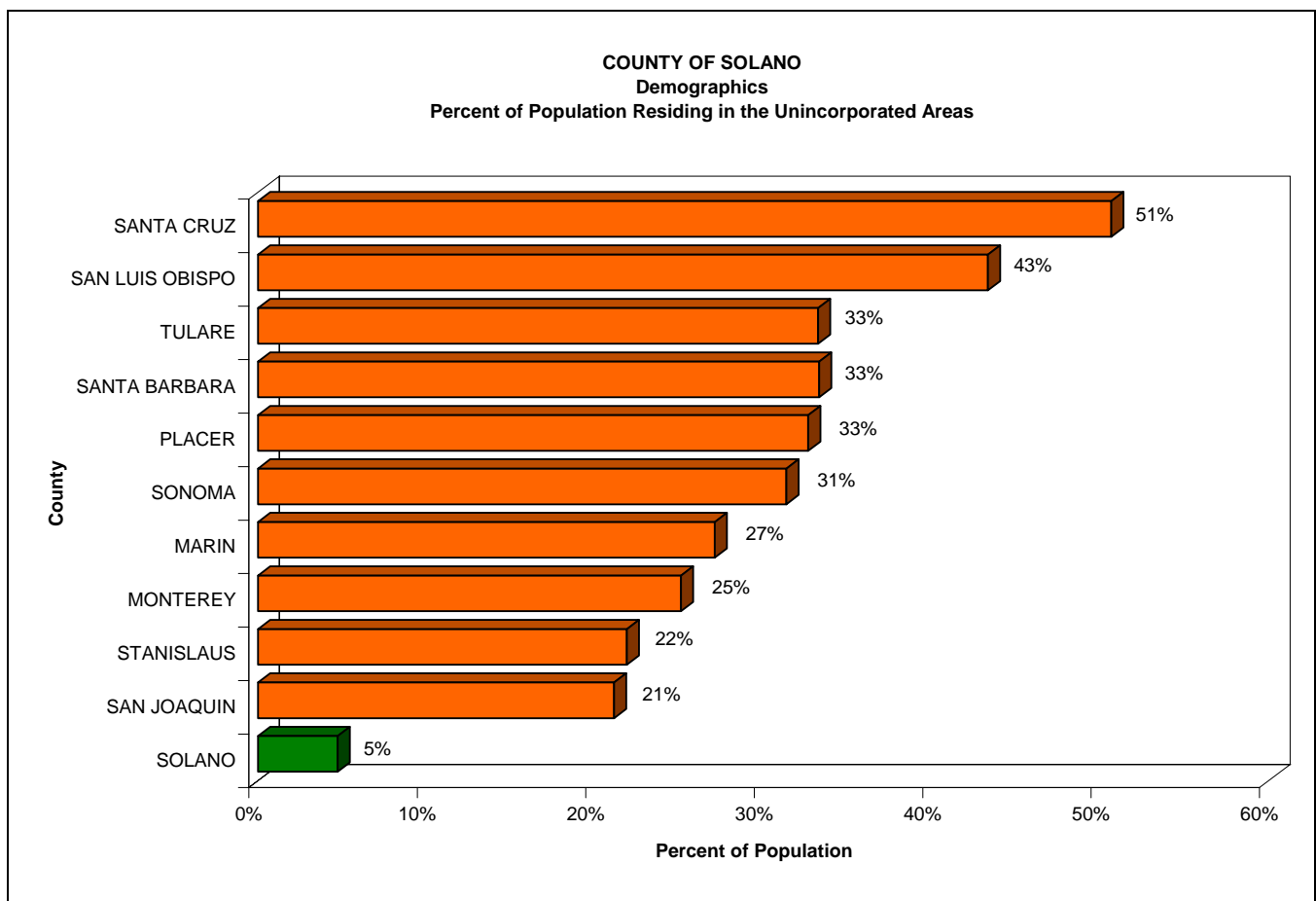
unincorporated areas. In contrast, in Solano County, 95% of residents live within the county's seven cities. This phenomenon was not an accident. In the early 1980s the residents of the county passed the Urban Growth Initiative, Measure A, which limits most urban growth to incorporated cities.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographics Research Unit

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 need to preserve agriculture and open space.
- 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.



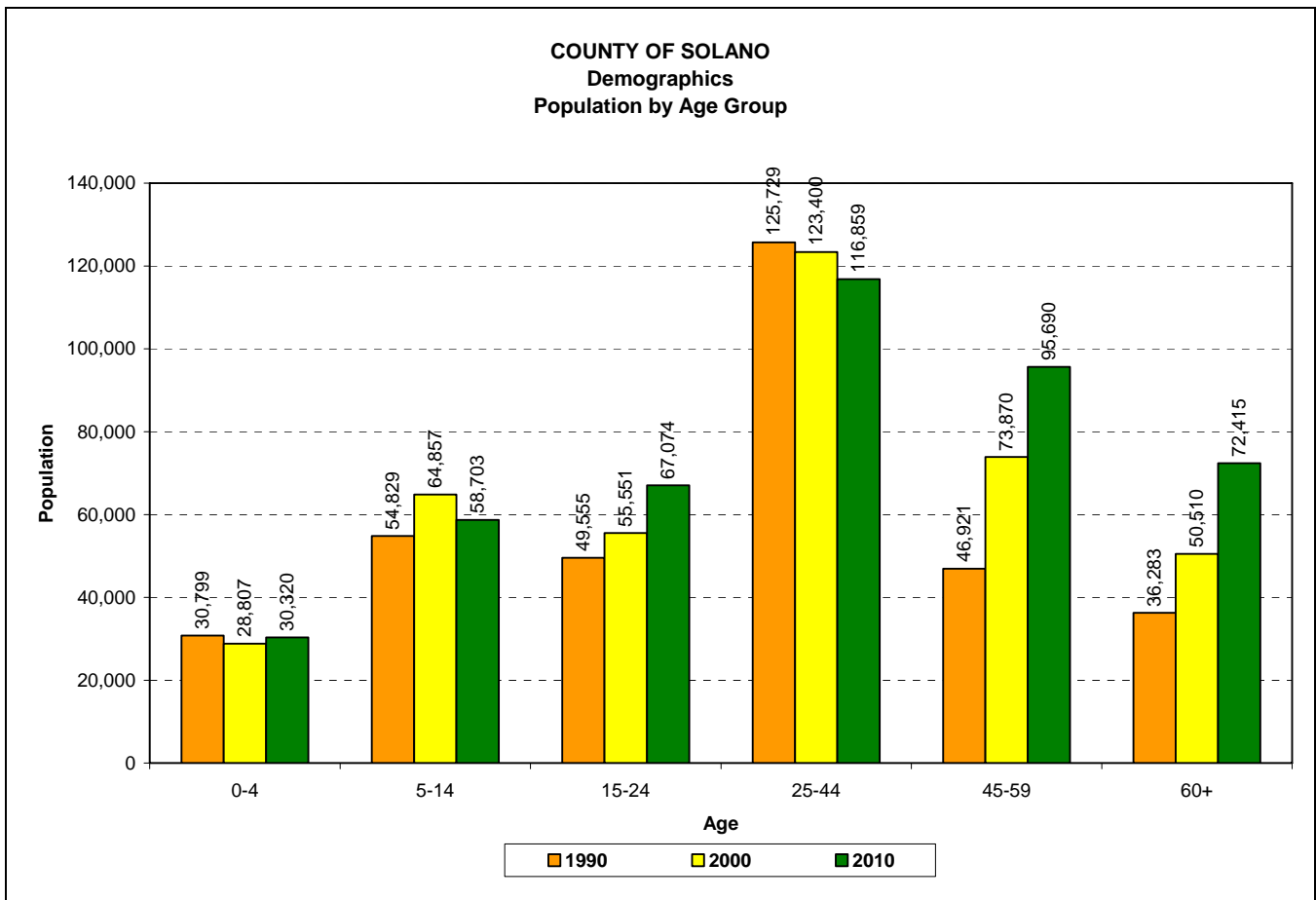
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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**Population and Demographic Profile**

The following charts entitled Population by Age Group and Population by Percentages in Various Age Groups show that from 1990 to 2000, the 45 to 59 age group of Solano County residents was the fastest growing population segment with an increase of 26,949 residents, or 57.4%. Not far behind is the 60+ age group with an increase of 14,227 residents, or 39.2%.

From 2000 to 2010, the projections are that the 60+ age group will be the fastest growing population segment with an increase of 21,905 residents, or 43.4%. This segment of the county's population is projected to continue growing at a faster rate than the other age groups. The 45 to 59 age group will be the second largest growing segment at 29.5%. In 2010, almost one in every six county residents will be over the age of 60.



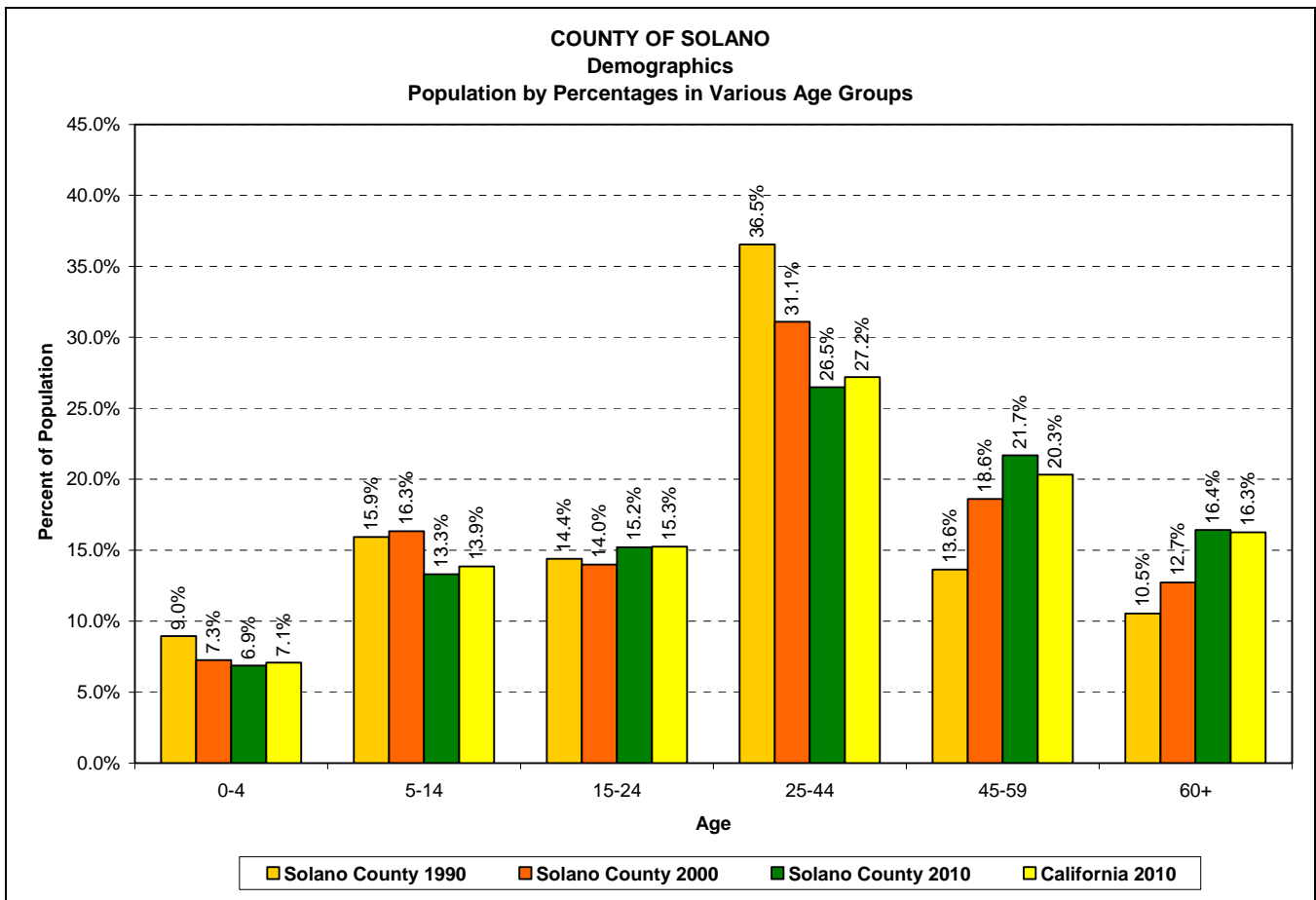
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

While the population in Solano County is projected to grow 28.2% between the year 1990 and 2010, the 45 to 59 age group is projected to grow by 103.9% and the 60+ age group by 99.6%, reflecting an aging population.

Segments that are projected to decrease over this 20 year period are the 0 to 4 age group by 1.6% and the 25 to 44 age group by 7.1%.

The age demographics in Solano County are very similar to those of the State of California,

and the trend of these demographics indicators are consistent with the current “graying” of a large segment of the American population. 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. In 2010, 38.1% of Solano County’s population and 36.6% of the State’s population are projected to be over 45 years of age.



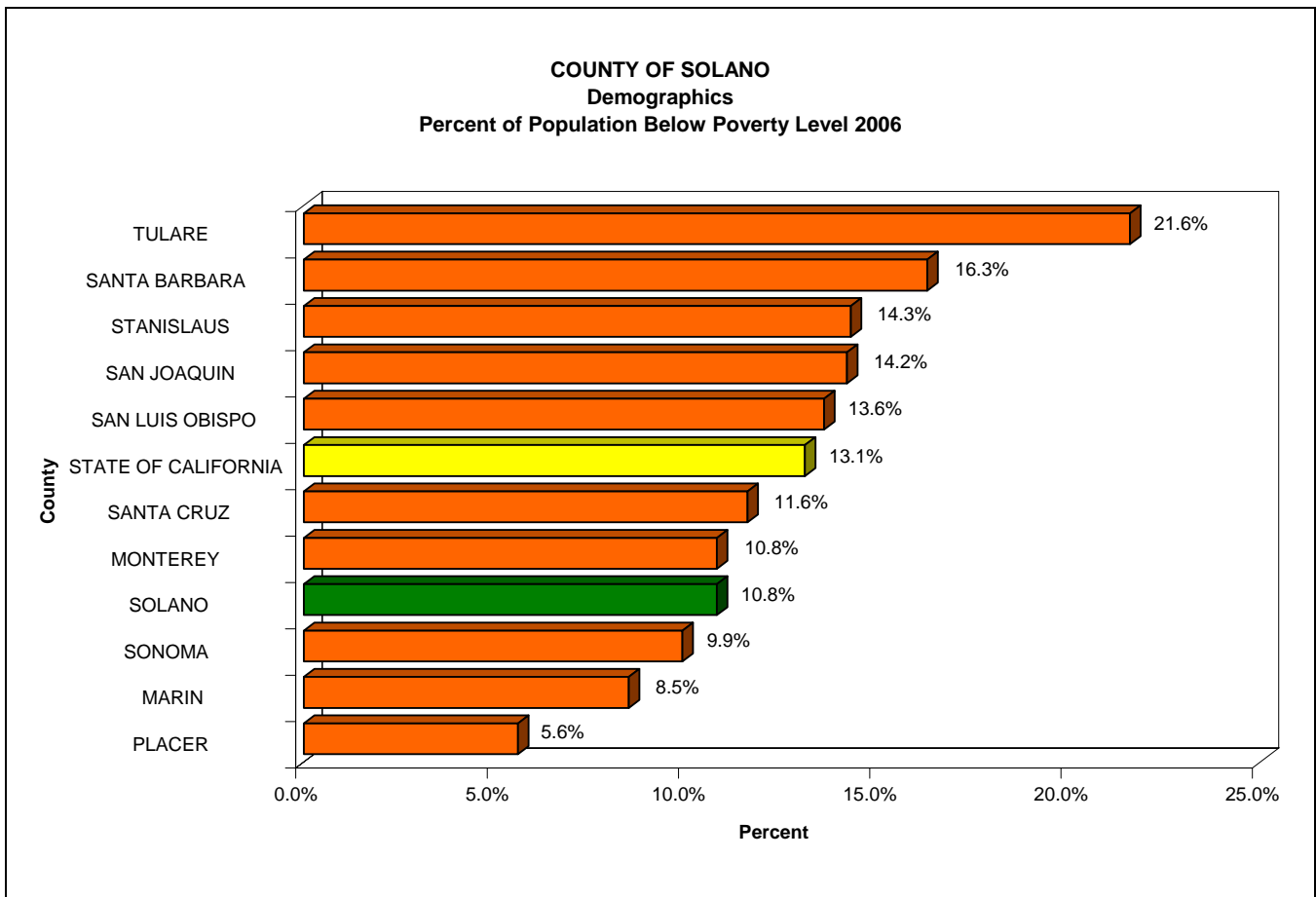
Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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**Population Living in Poverty**

The U. S. Census Bureau's 2006 American Community Survey poverty level figures show 10.8% of the county population is living at or below poverty level. This is 1.5 percentage points above the 2005 American Community 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. While the county's level is not acceptable, it should be noted that only three of the comparison counties have a lower rate. The county's rate is an improvement over the 13.1% state rate for population living at or below poverty level.



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

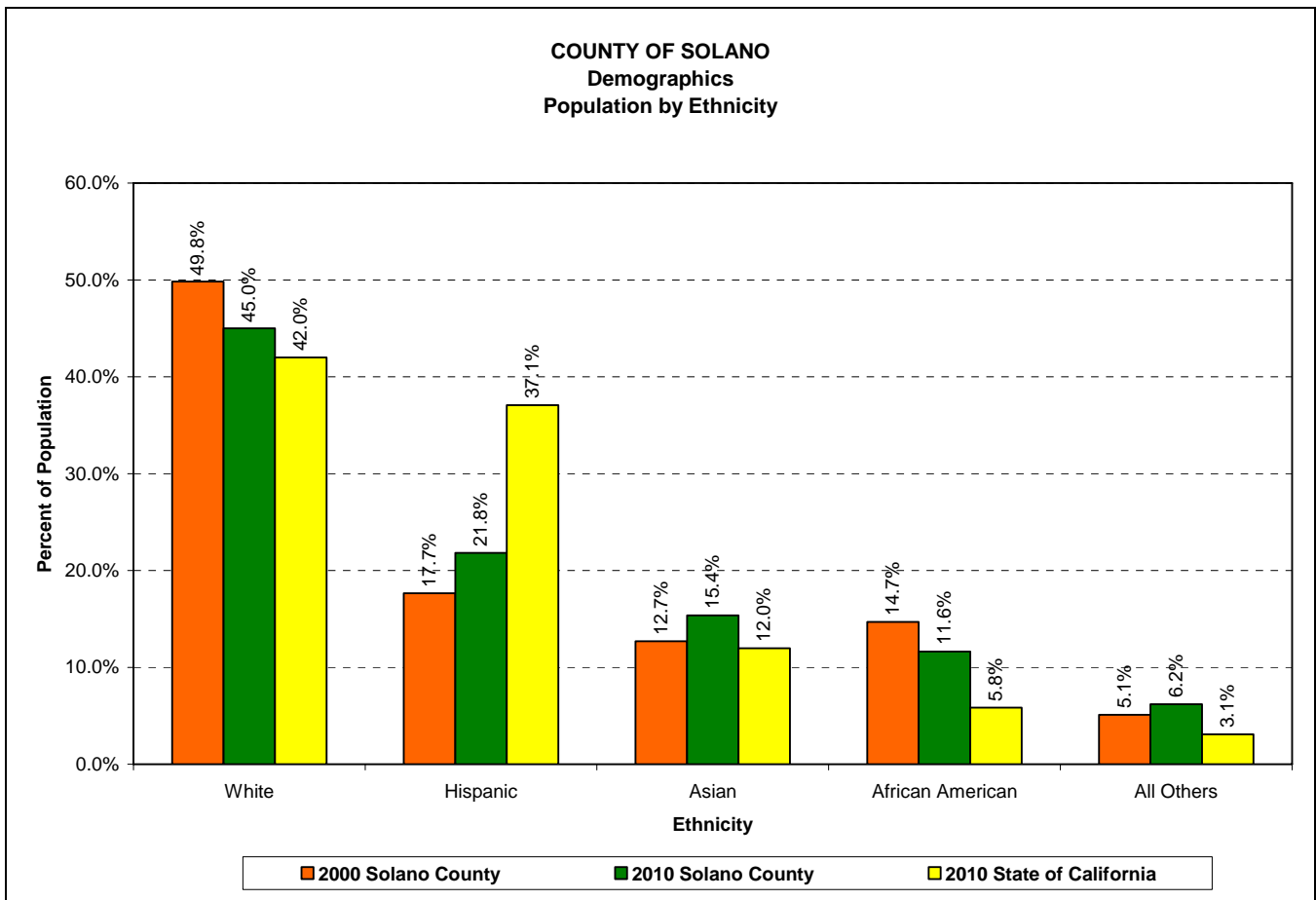
**Population by Ethnicity**

The following chart entitled Population by Ethnicity reflects July 1, 2000 and 2010 percentages of the County's population in each segment. The data indicates that percentages have increased in all ethnic segments, from the year 2000 to 2010, with the exception of the White and African American segments. These segments of the population are projected to decrease (4.8%) and (3.1%) respectively. In the year 2000, the White category represented almost 50% of Solano County's population; in 2010, this segment is projected to represent 45% of the population.

The Asian segment is projected to have a 34.4% increase from the 2000 population data and will represent 15.4% of the county population in 2010 and the African American segment is projected to represent 11.6%.

The Other segment (which includes Native Americans, Alaskan, Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders and Multi-race segments) population is projected to increase 34.5% over the period and will represent 6.2% of the county's population in 2010.

The most significant increase occurred in the Hispanic segment with a projected 37.3% increase over the 2000 data and will represent 21.8% of the 2010 county population.



Source: California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit

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## Major Private Sector Employers

The following Table shows the major private sector employers in Solano County and

illustrates the diverse nature of the county's economy.

<b>Twenty Top Private Sector County Employers for 2007</b>				
<b><u>Rank</u></b>	<b><u>Company</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Business</u></b>	<b><u>Number of Employees</u></b>
1	Kaiser Permanente	Fairfield/Vacaville/Vallejo	Health Services	3,262
2	Six Flags Discovery Kingdom	Vallejo	Entertainment	1,500
3	NorthBay Healthcare System	Fairfield	Health Services	1,480
4	ALZA Corporation	Vacaville	Biotech Manufacturing	1,000
5	Genentech Incorporated	Vacaville	Biotech Manufacturing	950
6	Wal-Mart	Dixon/Fairfield/Vacaville	Retail	872
7	Sutter Solano Medical Center	Vallejo	Health Services	674
8	Target Corporation	Fairfield/Vacaville/Vallejo	Retail	600
9	Westamerica Bancorporation	Fairfield	Finance	542
10	Valero Refining Company	Benicia	Oil (Refinery)	480
11	Anheuser-Busch Brewery	Fairfield	Manufacturing (Brewery)	465
12	Albertson's Distribution Center	Vacaville	Distribution	450
13	Travis Credit Union	Vacaville	Finance	420
14	CSK Auto, Inc. (Kragen)	Dixon	Distribution	400
15	Jelly Belly Candy Company	Fairfield	Manufacturing	400
16	TIMEC Company	Vallejo	Construction	400
17	Meyer Corporation	Fairfield/Vallejo	Manufacturing/Distribution	367
18	Macy's	Fairfield	Retail	337
19	Copart	Fairfield	Auto Dealership	325
20	Professional Hospital Supply	Fairfield	Distribution	300

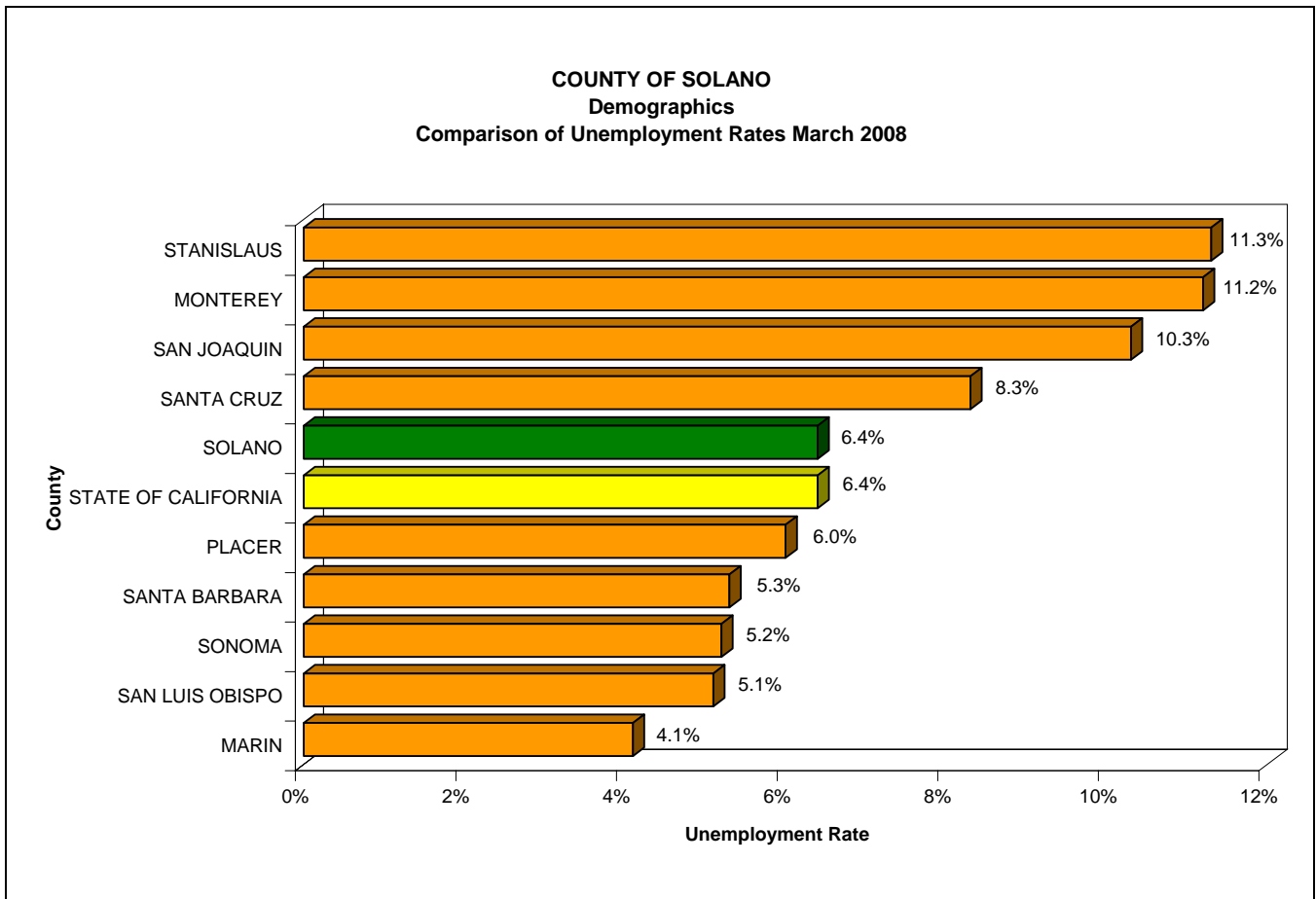
Source: Solano Economic Development Corporation – July 2007

**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 6.4%, up from 5.1% a year ago.

Here in Solano County, the unemployment rate also climbed to 6.4%, up from 4.7% a year ago.

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

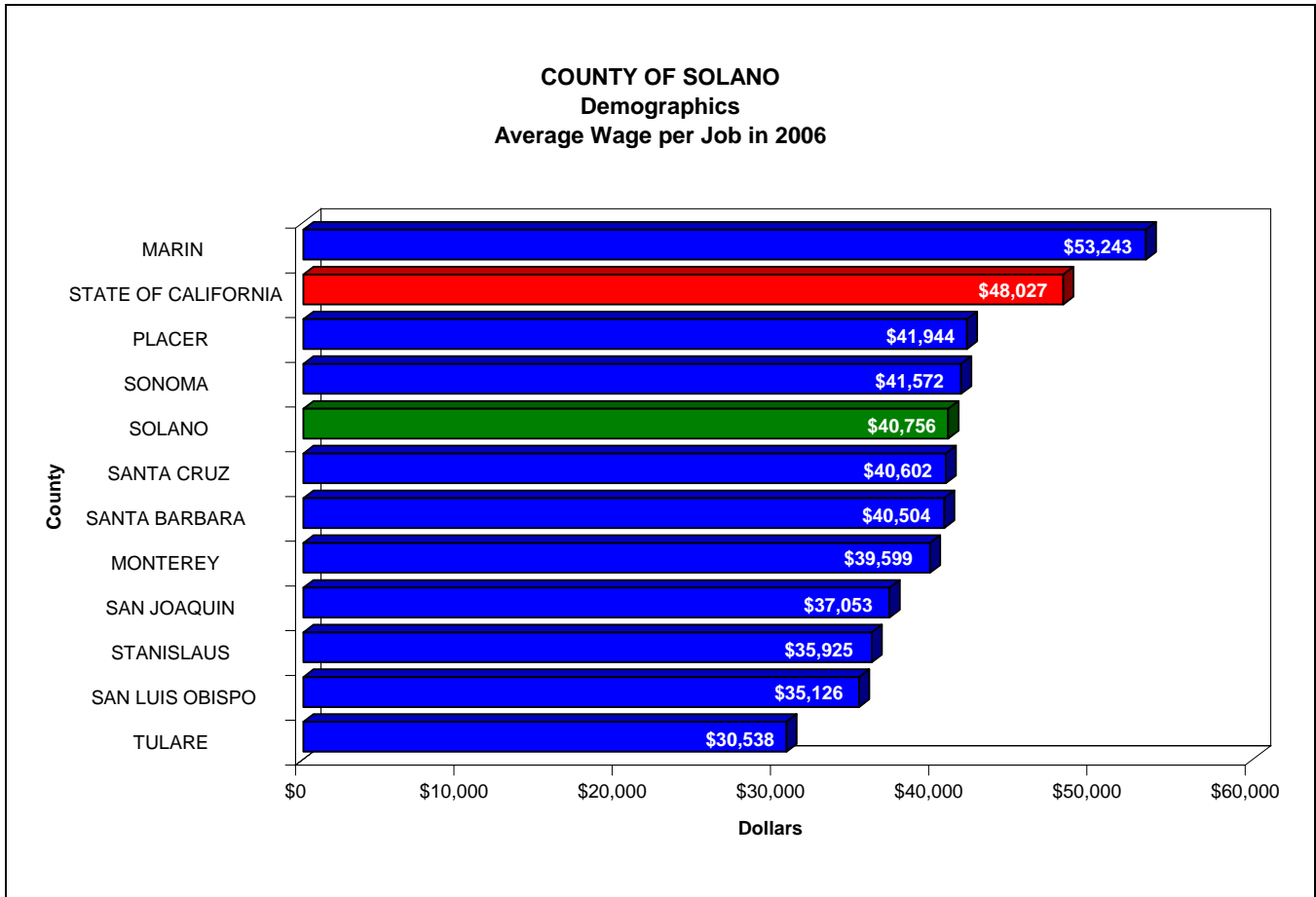


Source: California Employment Development Department

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Solano County's average wage per job of \$40,756 is slightly above the median range of

the comparison counties, as demonstrated by the chart below.



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

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) projections through 2010 show Solano County job growth rates at approximately 2% per year, or approximately 7.5% over the next 5 years.

Between 2000 and 2005, 13,780 new jobs were created. The fastest growing county industries since 2000 by overall percentage gain are:

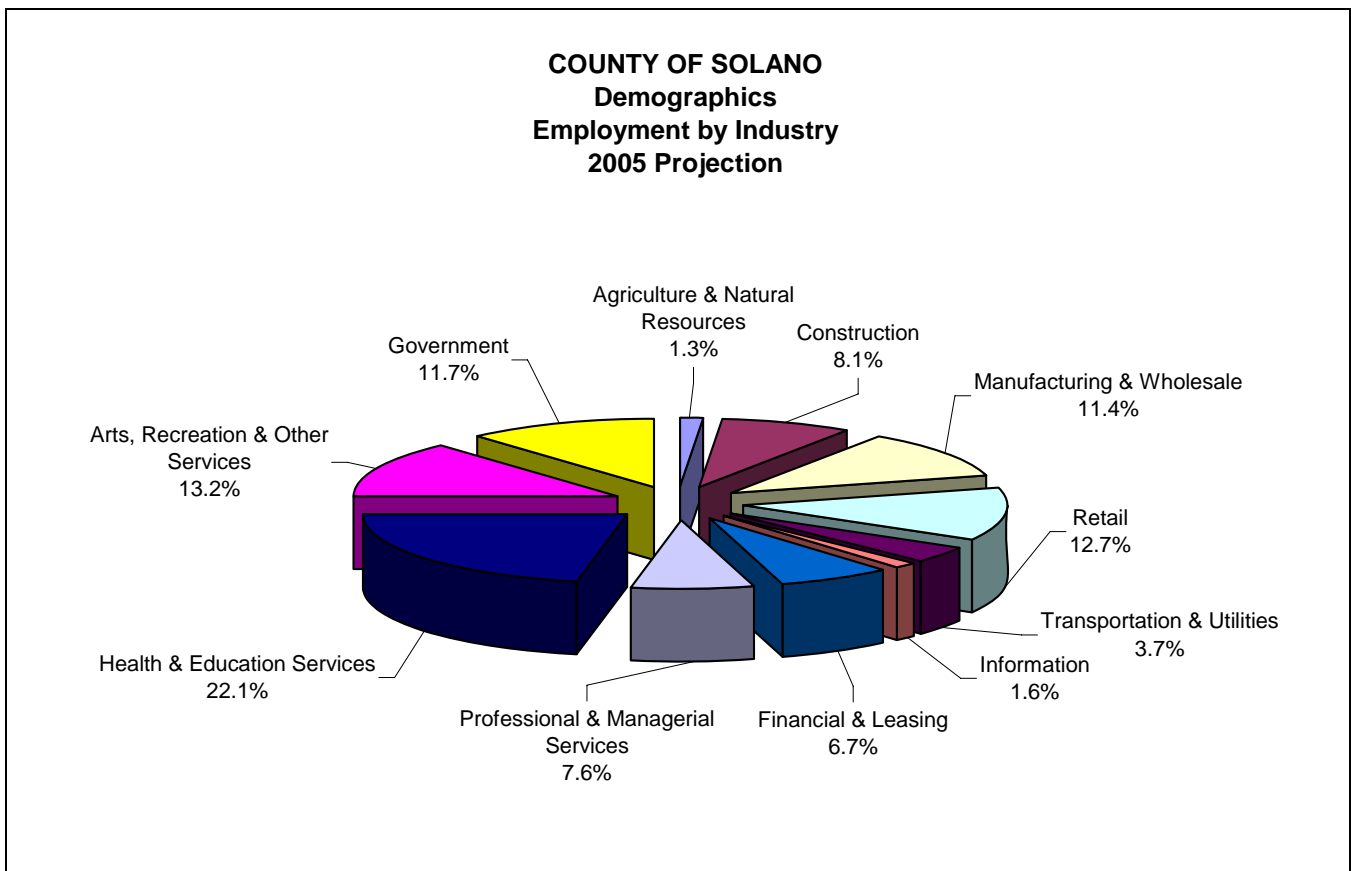
- Financial and Leasing sector with 1,550 new jobs, or 18.1%.
- Construction with 1,780 new jobs, or 17.1%.
- Professional and Managerial Services with 1,610 new jobs, or 16.5%.
- Health and Education Services with 3,970 new jobs, or 13.6%.
- Arts, Recreation and Other Services with 2,100 new jobs, or 11.8%.
- Information with 210 new jobs, or 9.5%.
- Retail sector with 1,450 new jobs, or 8.2%.
- Transportation and Utilities sector with 290 new jobs, or 5.6%.

The graph below represents the distribution of the 150,520 jobs in Solano County projected by ABAG in various industries in 2005. The 150,520 jobs in these industries include:

- 2,010 in Ag and Natural Resources.
- 2,430 in Information.
- 5,510 in Transportation and Utilities.
- 10,130 in Financial and Leasing.
- 11,380 in Professional and Managerial Services.
- 12,200 in Construction.
- 17,610 in Government.
- 17,120 in Manufacturing and Wholesale.

- 19,050 in Retail.
- 19,890 in Arts, Recreation and Other Services.
- 33,190 in Health and Education Services.

If the local workforce were able to fill all the available jobs in Solano County, it would still need approximately 60,000 additional jobs to allow all residents to live and work here. In reality, it's unlikely that there would be enough jobs in appropriate industries for the approximate 206,000 employed residents in the county.



Source: Association of Bay Area Governments

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### Solano County Commuting

According to a report prepared for the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Regional Rideshare Program by RIDES Associates, approximately 40% of the workforce works outside of the county.

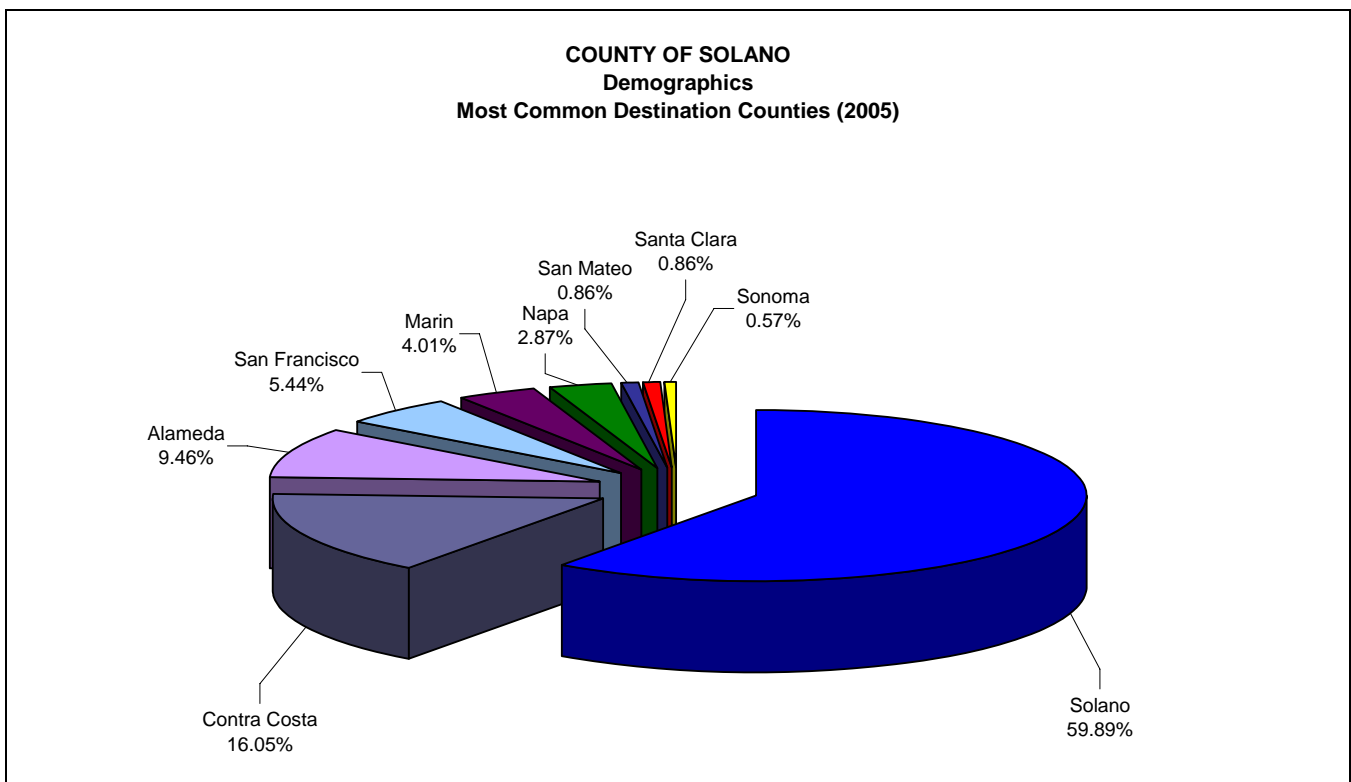
The chart below represents the numbers of average daily commuters for a typical spring weekday. It includes commuters who reside in Solano County using any means of transportation, commuting mainly to the following neighboring counties: Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin, Napa, San Mateo, Santa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

The trend over the past three years has been for a greater number of County residents to live and work within the county. Approximately 60% of

Solano County residents have chosen to stay inside their home county to work.

Based on ABAG's Projections of employed residents in Solano County in 2005, approximately 78,000 were commuting to jobs outside of the County. Of those 72%, or 56,000, drove alone while 17%, or 13,000, carpooled and the remaining used other modes for commuting. Carpooling is higher in Solano County than any of the other Bay Area counties.

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: RIDES Associates, June 2005

### Gross Agricultural Crop Value

Sales of agricultural products continue to sustain the county's economy. With a 2007 estimated value of \$269,704,490, Solano County agriculture is diversified with approximately 75 different commodities including fruits, nuts, vegetables, grains, seed, nursery stock and animal production.

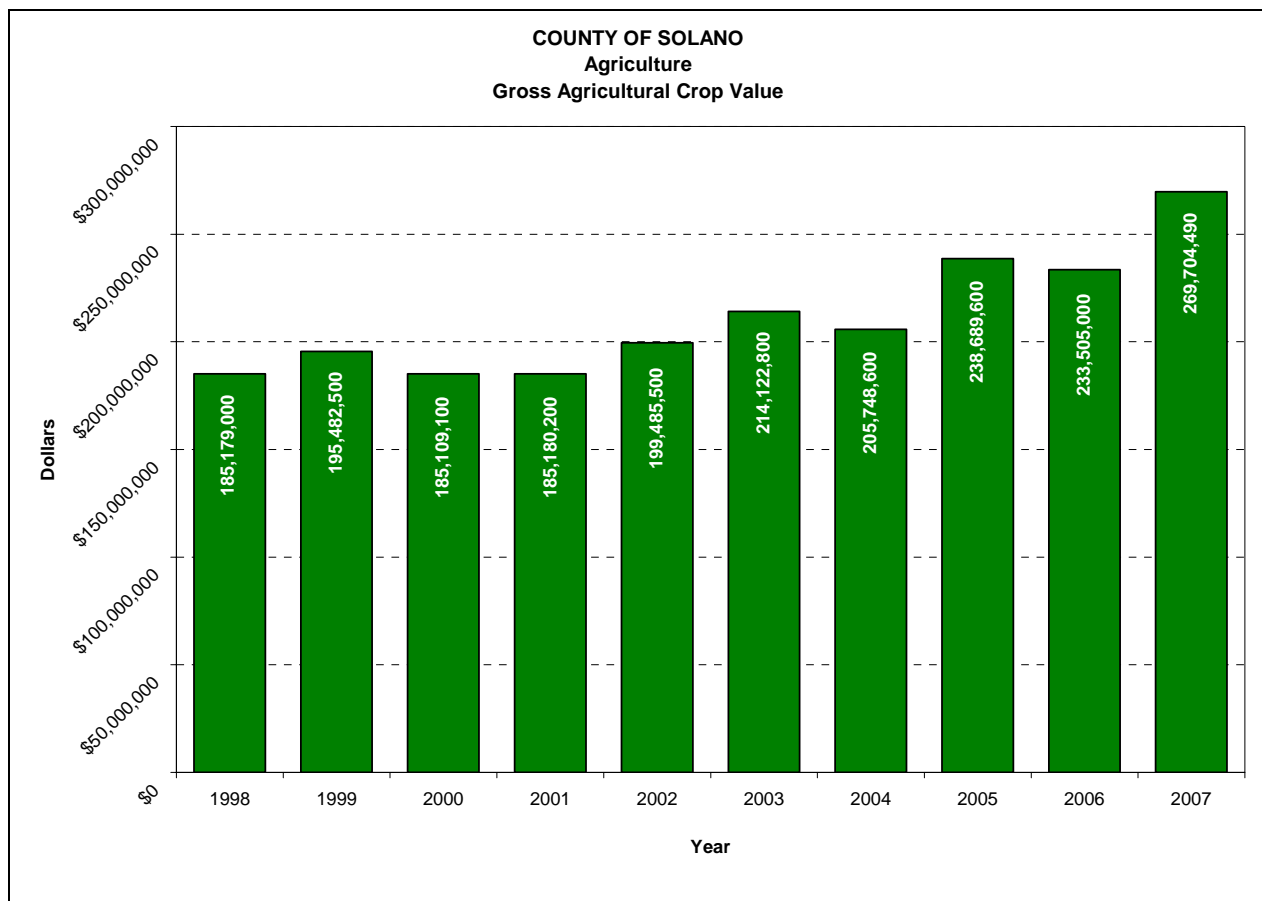
The 2007 estimated value of Solano County agriculture is divided as follows:

- Nursery Production \$56,610,700
- Animal Production (Includes Livestock, Poultry and Apiary) \$56,268,890
- Field Crops \$54,811,900
- Vegetable Crops \$47,762,100

- Fruit and Nut Crops \$43,430,000
- Seed Crops \$10,820,900

The 2007 estimated value has increased 15.5% from 2006. Growers in field crops, fruit and nut, as well as livestock benefitted from higher prices to producers. Seed, vegetable and fruit and nut crops had better weather conditions in 2007 than the previous year's late plantings due to winter floods and crop damage from the 2006 summer record heat.

Statewide data from all counties' 2006 commodity reports ranked Solano County 30<sup>th</sup> out of 58 counties in California in gross value of agricultural production.



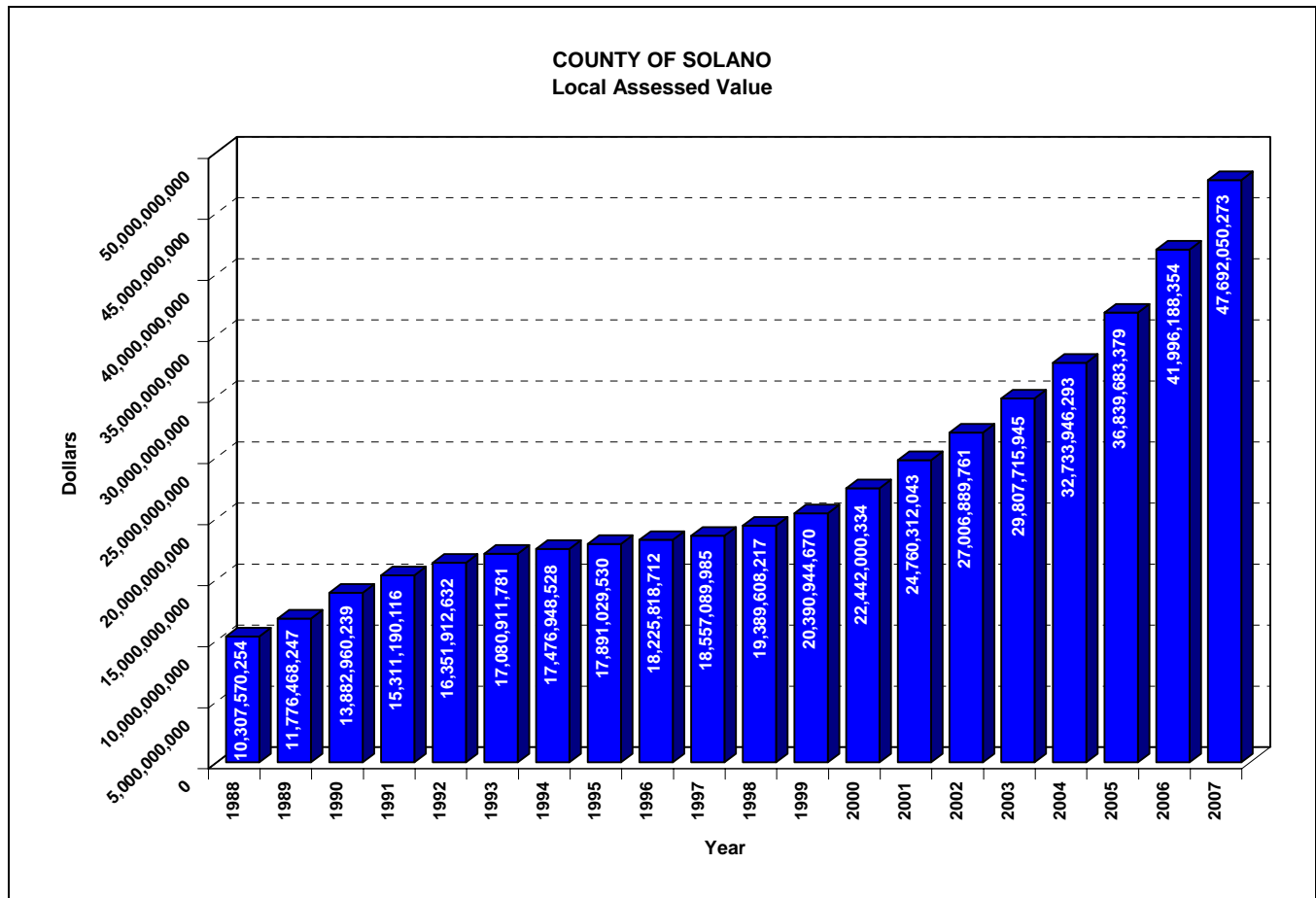
Source: County of Solano Agricultural Commissioner (2008 data based on preliminary figures)

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**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 2006 Assessment Roll of \$47.7 billion increased 14% over the prior year's roll value and represents property ownership values in Solano County as of January 1, 2007. The property tax rate throughout the entire State of California is 1% of assessed value.



Source: County of Solano, Assessor's Office, January 2008

Principal Property Tax Payers

<b>COUNTY OF SOLANO</b>			
<b>Principal Taxpayers with over \$50,000,000 in Assessed Value for FY2007/08</b>			
<b>Principal Property Tax Payers</b>	<b>Business Type</b>	<b>Assessed Value FY2007/08</b>	<b>Tax Obligation*</b>
Genentech Incorporated	Manufacturing	1,040,766,887	11,844,653
Valero Refining Company Calif.	Oil	771,627,166	8,654,812
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	Utility	401,979,298	5,352,144
Anheuser Busch Incorporated	Manufacturing	266,863,523	2,484,458
Shiloh I Wind Project LLC	Energy	211,569,617	2,216,614
High Winds LLC	Energy	203,550,313	4,271,025
Alza Corporation	Manufacturing	178,095,370	2,004,761
California Northern Railroad	Transportation	157,637,286	2,166,232
Pacific Bell Telephone Company	Utility	141,550,430	1,838,573
Deutsche Bank National Trust Company	Financial	109,903,227	1,344,228
Solano Mall LLC	Commercial Sales	96,655,219	1,062,511
CPG Finance II LLC	Commercial Sales & Service	91,650,977	1,551,215
Nut Tree Retail LLC	Commercial Sales	79,529,574	1,083,929
Park Management Corporation	Theme Park	74,472,706	1,447,193
Centro Watt Property Owner II	Commercial Sales & Service	69,692,499	928,224
Walton CWCA BN WRHS 21 LLC	Property Management	61,582,214	725,327
US Bank National Association TR	Not Applicable	59,249,962	713,072
Health Care REIT Incorporated	Financial	56,055,293	620,308
Oates Marvin L TR	Not Applicable	53,850,661	951,422
Bank of New York TR	Not Applicable	53,801,091	658,736
Lucky (FLA) Nocal Investor LLC	Commercial Sales	53,760,526	613,848
North Pointe Vacaville Incorporated	Property Management	50,561,278	567,399
Amcor Pet Packaging USA Inc 79	Manufacturing	50,243,538	544,082

\*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, September 2007