

California State Counties

Alameda

Location

Alameda County is located on California's central coast with a total landmass of 737.5 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Contra Costa County, on the east by San Joaquin County, and on the south and west by the Pacific Ocean. Situated on the east side of San Francisco Bay, the county extends from Berkeley in the north to Fremont in the south (Alameda County Planning Department, 1996).

History

Alameda County's primary industry was based largely on agriculture. Grain fields over time turned into orchards and vineyards, which later gave way to dairies and apricot orchards. Salt production was also a major industry located in the city of Newark. Salt production companies operating during the 1850s led to the current company, Cargil Salt (<http://www.ci.fremont.ca.us/livinginfremont/history1.html>).

Current Industry

The top five employers of Alameda County in 1994 included: the University of California at Berkeley with 13,500 employees, the U.S. Navy with 11,900 employees, Alameda County with 10,260 employees, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories with 8,000 employees, and Oakland Public Schools with 6,990 employees (Alameda County Planning Department, 1996). In general, education, government and high-tech product are the three major industries contributing to the economy.

Fishing Industry

Ports: Alameda (commercial/recreational), Oakland (commercial), Richmond (commercial), Berkeley (commercial)

Even though agriculture is a major contributor to Alameda County's economy, the fishing industry is also important. Commercial fishermen land salmon, rockfish, halibut, shark, crab and herring with a variety of troll, and live drift gear. Recreational fishermen, however, make up the majority of fishermen in the county. Residents of Alameda County feel the recreational fishing industry is an important to the county's heritage and economy (Personal Interview, 2002).

Contra Costa

Location

Located in the north central coast of California is Contra Costa County. It is one of the nine counties in the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area, with a land area of 720 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Solano County, on the east by San Joaquin County, on the south by Alameda County, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean.

History

Contra Costa County was incorporated in 1850 as one of the original 27 counties of California (<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/>). The economic base was initially founded on the gold rush; however, agriculture later became a major industry. After the railroad and ferry boats arrived to the county, the transportation of agricultural products was easier. Later in 1915, petroleum became an important industry with the presence of the Shell Oil Company (<http://www.cityofmartinez.org/>).

Current Industry

Due to recent population increases, Contra Costa County has one of the fastest growing work forces among Bay Area counties. The services and retail trade industries are the largest contributors to the current economic base, with services accounting for 33 percent of total employment. Both the services and retail trade sectors are expected to increase in importance in the future (<http://www.co.contra-costa.ca.us/>).

Fishing Industry

Port: Richmond (recreational)

Similar to other West Coast fishing communities, Contra Costa County ports used to be dominated by commercial fishing compared to the more popular sport and recreational fishing today. Currently, ports are primarily made up of recreational pleasure boats and a few small charter boats. The Brickyard Cove Marina located in Richmond, CA is entirely made up of sail boats, while the Point San Pablo Yacht Harbor and Richmond Municipal Marina have few charters and many pleasure craft. The Richmond Municipal Marina contains 750 slips, but can accommodate up to 850 boats 26 to 100 feet in length (Personal Interview, 2002).

Del Norte

Location

Del Norte County is situated in the far northwest corner of the state with a total landmass of 1,008 square miles. Two counties border it; Siskiyou County in the east, and Humboldt County in the south. The county shares another border with Oregon in the north and the Pacific Ocean.

Reservations and Trust lands

Four American Indian reservations reside within Del Norte County. These reservations include: Smith River Rancheria (population 104), Elk Valley Rancheria (population 75), Yurok Reservation (population 1,121), and Resighini Rancheria (population 24). The Yurok reservation boundaries are situated in both Del Norte and Humboldt counties, just south of Del Norte County (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

After the Gold Rush, the timber industry took over as the main contributor to Del Norte County's economic base. The first timber mill was brought by ship to Crescent City in 1853. It produced lumber for local buildings and planks used to construct the county's first wagon roads. For the next 100 years, the mills produced a seemingly endless supply of redwood lumber. In 1967, the county reported having 68 timber mills in operation (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

Del Norte County's economic base is primarily supported by industries involved in agriculture, retail, and federal, state and local government (<http://www.delnorte.org/profile.html>).

Fishing Industry

Port: Crescent City (commercial/recreational)

The fishing communities located throughout the county are made up of both recreational and commercial fishermen. Primarily, fishing occurs in the Smith and Klamath Rivers, and Crescent City Harbor. The Smith River and its main tributaries contain almost 200 miles of salmon, steelhead and native trout, while the Klamath River has a wild anadromous fish population that offers some of the best sport fishing opportunities.

Operating along both rivers are numerous guide services and a small commercial fishing fleet (<http://www.delnorte.org/fishing.html>).

Crescent City Harbor has a commercial fleet, comprised of approximately 90 boats. The harbor has 207 slips that range in size from 30 to 70 feet long. Crescent City Harbor was designated as a harbor of refuge because of the ease of entering the harbor during severe weather conditions. During the winter months, the commercial fleet targets Dungeness crab, while during the spring and summer months they target pink shrimp and albacore tuna. Groundfish are landed on a year round basis. Crescent City historically, has been one of the top crab and shrimp ports in the state. Crescent City Harbor also has a smaller recreational fishing fleet. Approximately 150 slips are dedicated to recreational boats that primarily target salmon and groundfish (Personal Interview, 2003).

Humboldt

Location

Humboldt County, located in northwest California, is the southern gateway to the Pacific Northwest. It is bound on the north by Del Norte County; on the east by Siskiyou and Trinity counties and on the south by Mendocino County. The county encompasses 2.3 million acres, 80 percent of which is forestland, protected redwoods and recreation areas (<http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/profile.htm>).

Reservations and Trust lands

Humboldt County has eight reservations scattered throughout the western region. These reservations contain the: Karuk (population 296), Yurok (population 1,121), Hoopa Valley (population 2,633), Big Lagoon Rancheria (population 29), Trinidad Rancheria (population 52), Blue Lake Rancheria (population 92), Table Bluff Rancheria (population 76) and Rhonerville Rancheria (population 111) tribes (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

The county's economic base was founded on the timber and fishing industries. By the late 1960s Humboldt County had 260 timber operators (Salitore and Salitore, 1967) and continued to be a leading producer in board feet well into the 1970s (Beck and Haase, 1974). During the past 20 years, however, Humboldt County has experienced a large number of job losses in the timber industry due to numerous factors. During that same period of time, the county saw an increase in the number of tourists and an expansion of tourist-related businesses and services (<http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/profile.htm#Economy>).

Current Industry

Humboldt County attributes much of its economic base from tourism and timber. It is home to ten state parks and some of the most diverse natural resources on the west coast. The county also contains national and state parks, that have been designated as United Nations Biosphere Regions and World Heritage Sites. The World Wildlife Fund has identified the county as part of one of the most diverse eco-regions left on the planet (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Eureka (commercial), Trinidad (commercial)

The commercial fishing industry has experienced a downsizing due to tougher environmental regulations (<http://www.co.humboldt.ca.us/profile.htm#Economy>). During the 1970s, Humboldt County was among three other counties, which had 9,000 licensed commercial fishermen in California. The county is known for landing crab, salmon, sole, shrimp and oysters (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Los Angeles

Location

Los Angeles County includes the islands of San Clemente and Santa Catalina with a total land area of 4,081 miles. Orange and San Bernardino Counties border Los Angeles County on the east, with Kern County in the north, and Ventura County in the west ([http:// www.co.la.ca.us/overview.htm](http://www.co.la.ca.us/overview.htm)).

History

Los Angeles County, one of California's original 27 counties, was established in 1850. Originally the county occupied a comparatively small area along the coast between Santa Barbara and San Diego, but within a year its boundaries were enlarged from 4,340 square miles to 34,520 square miles resulting in 81 miles of coastline. About 45 years ago, the agricultural industry was heavily relied upon economically. Crops depended upon the most were orange groves, and other fruit trees (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Current Industry

The largest employer, with 95,544 employees, is the county of Los Angeles. Of these, 27,197 positions are in law and justice; 26,574 are in health services; and 22,192 are in social services. The spectrum of job listings illustrates the county's economic diversity ([http:// www.co.la.ca.us/overview.htm](http://www.co.la.ca.us/overview.htm)).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Los Angeles (commercial), Terminal Island (commercial), San Pedro (commercial), Long Beach (commercial)

The city of Los Angeles contained one of the first fishing communities to develop commercial sardine fishing. In 1893, the first sardine processing plant was established in San Pedro. Many commercial boats mooring in Los Angeles fished for sardines as far south as Peru. On Terminal Island, what was known as "Fish Harbor" was home to many canneries and processing plants. The sardine industry began to decline in the early twentieth century and almost disappeared after the largest recorded tonnage from 1934 to 1947 (Beck and Haase, 1974). Los Angeles continues to have a moderate commercial fishing population.

Marin

Location

The Richmond-San Rafael Bridge links one of the nine Bay Area counties, Marin County, to San Francisco. The county shares its borders with Sonoma County in the north and the Pacific Ocean. The 521 square miles of the county contains a wide variety of topography, climate, and vegetation, from the tidal flats of the coastline to the slopes of Mt. Tamalpais (http://www.marin.org/html/about_marin.cfm).

History

As settlement accelerated in Marin County after 1850, the huge cattle-raising ranchos gradually gave way to smaller ranches, many of which still flourish today. Trains, steamships and ferries were introduced to the county in the 1880s and 1890s, allowing the transport of agricultural goods to San Francisco. In 1937, when the bridge spanned the Golden Gate, the pressure for development increased. During World War II people came from all across the country to work in the Sausalito shipyards and at Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato. From 1850 to 1950 the population of Marin increased by 85,000 people. Twenty years later, there were an additional 123,000 residents. Population growth has slowed since then and is now around 245,000 (http://www.marin.org/html/about_marin.cfm).

Current Industry

Although Marin County is usually thought of as a suburban residential and recreation area, ranching and dairying are prominent in the rural areas. Additionally, other industries include movie and video production, computer software, communications equipment, printing, and the manufacture of plastics, ceramics, candles, and cheese (http://www.marin.org/html/about_marin.cfm).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Point Reyes (commercial), Tomales Bay (commercial), Sausalito (commercial/recreational)

Clipper Yacht Harbor is known for its recreational and charter fishing, as well as being well known as a full service harbor. The port has always been a recreational fishing center with little emphasis, if any on commercial fishing. The sport fishery is important to the local community, for many are dependant upon the success of the charter fishing industry. Clipper Yacht harbor can accommodate boats that range in size from 20 to 50 feet with 750 water slips, and 100 dry storage facilities. The harbor additionally offers Charters, transient slips and Bait and Tackle (Personal Interview, 2002).

Mendocino

Location

Mendocino County encompasses an area of over 2 million acres or approximately 3,500 square miles (<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/history.htm>). The county is bordered in the north by Humboldt County, in the east by Glenn and Lake Counties and in the south by Sonoma County.

Reservations and Trust Lands

Mendocino County contains eight American Indian reservations: Guideville Rancheria (population 0), Coyote Valley (population 88), Hopland Rancheria (population 9), Manchester-Point (population 219), Laytonville Rancheria (population 211), Redwood Valley (population 305), Pinoleville (population 135) and Sherwood Valley Rancheria (population 173) (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

The county has a long history of producing agricultural crops such as hops, and grapevines, as well as being a leader in organic farming. During the 1970s, additional industries branched off from agriculture into coffee, mustard, and herb blends. Many families have also relied on the commercial fishing industries for many generations. During the Depression, canned salmon from Mendocino's fisheries, selling at five cents a can, were shipped all over the nation (www.gomendo.com).

Current Industry

Today, the county's economy is based on agricultural products, as well as other contributing industries. These industries (in order of importance) include: forest products, fruits and nuts, livestock production, milk, wool and eggs, vegetable crops, commercial fishing, and vineyards (<http://www.mendonet.com/demogrfx.htm>). During the fiscal year 1994 to 1995 the county experienced tremendous growth in the tourism industry. For the first time in history, tourism revenues outperformed the timber industry (<http://www.mendocinocoast.com/Services/media.htm>).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Fields Landing (commercial), Fort Bragg (commercial/recreational), Albion (commercial)

Today, Noyo Harbor in Fort Bragg is still the largest and deepest harbor between Eureka and San Francisco (www.gomendo.com). Within the last 15 years, however, the fishing community in Fort Bragg has become more of a service-oriented community. Today, the marina holds more recreational boats than commercial. Currently, one processor is still operating compared to multiple processors in the past. Even though Fort Bragg's commercial fleet has slowed in recent years, many people are drawn to Fort Bragg's waterfront and dock. The fishing industry is important to the local community both economically in terms of tourism, and socially in terms of Fort Bragg's heritage (Personal Interview, 2002).

Monterey

Location

Located on the central coast of California is Monterey County, with a landmass of 3,322. The county shares its borders with five surrounding counties: Santa Cruz in the north, San Benito, Fresno, and King counties in the east, and San Luis Obispo in the south.

History

During the years from 1959 to 1966, the county was listed as the leading agricultural county, ranking number nine in 1959 and eight in 1966. Lumber was also an important industry, operating about 12 lumber mills throughout the region (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

Agriculture is one of the largest industries within Monterey County today. Most of the agricultural crops include: cauliflower, spinach, broccoli, brussel sprouts, strawberries, artichokes and squash. This produce is grown, packed and shipped by a local company, Frank Capurro & Sons. The Moon Glow Dairy Company produces milk used primarily for making local cheese. Tourism is also an important industry in Monterey. Visitors are drawn to one of the busiest harbors on the central coast at Moss Landing, which is dominated by commercial fishing boats. Additional industries of importance include power services and electricity, and the production of firebricks, magnesia chemicals and other refractory products (<http://www.monterey-bay.net/ml/>).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Monterey (commercial), Moss Landing (commercial)

Monterey County has a long history of fishing; nearly 400 years ago, the first boats landed in the area of what would become fishermen's wharf in Monterey (Akeman, 1999). The area's fishing history centered around whaling, abalone diving, and sardine fishing. Later, squid became an important commercial product. Throughout the county in the late 1960s, Moss Landing and Monterey made up the county's commercial fishing fleet with 694 commercial boats, and two canning and reduction plants (Salitore and Salitore, 1967). Today, the commercial fishery has expanded from sardines and squid to salmon, albacore, Dungeness crab, anchovy, bottom fish, and White Sea bass.

Recreationally, fishermen fish for salmon, which is the most common, bottom fish, albacore, White Sea bass, and halibut. Several companies support industries located throughout the county include: Monterey Fish, U.S. Freezer, Aliotti Fish Company and Golden Mountain Trading Company. Monterey Harbor has a total of 650 boats, of which 150 are commercial. Out of the 150 commercial boats, a large percentage of them are full-time commercial fishermen. The harbor also has 17 party boats, and 250 to 300 recreational powerboats. Out of the 250 to 300 recreational powerboats, about 90% of them are used for recreational fishing. The rest of the fleet is made up of sailboats of various sizes. Commercial fishing is directly related to the local community, in that it is economically important to the tourism industry in Monterey (Akeman, 1999 and Personal Interview, 2002).

Orange

Location

Orange County is situated in southern California just south of Los Angeles County. Its total land mass is 789 square miles. San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties are its eastern borders, while San Diego is situated in the south.

History

A year-round harvest of Valencia oranges, lemons, avocados, and walnuts made agriculture the single most important industry in the county. With the proliferating number of orange groves in the area (150,000 orange trees), the county was named for the fruit: "Orange County." Cattle were also introduced in 1834, resulting in a prosperous hide and tallow industry. Later, a severe drought brought an end to the cattle industry. A pioneer, James Irvine, capitalized on the economic downfall of the ranchos, and established an 110,000-acre sheep ranch that is one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in America today. Orange County witnessed the discovery of oil in Huntington Beach, the birth of the aerospace industry on the Irvine Ranch, and the filming of several Hollywood classics in the Newport area. In 1955, Walt Disney opened his Magic Kingdom in Anaheim (Lavender, 1972 and Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

Today Orange County is home to a vast number of major industries and organizations. The economic base is dominated by the services, trade and manufacturing industries. The largest industry, accounting for 32 percent of overall employment, is services, followed by the trade industry accounting for 25 percent of employment. Manufacturing is expected to increase over the next few years (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Dana Point (commercial/recreational), Newport Beach (commercial), Huntington Beach (recreational)

Orange County's fishing industry is predominantly recreational in nature. Huntington Beach Marina rents slips to pleasure boaters, but not to recreational fishermen. The marina, however, does have a large sport fishing industry—approximately 18 to 20 boats that fish during the spring and summer months. The closest commercial fishing ports to Orange County are the Los Angeles and Long Beach areas, which have about 10 to 15 commercial vessels moored at the Dana Point marina. The marina also relies on its recreational users as it attracts 100,000 visitors a year that participate in whale watching and recreational fishing. The Dana Point marina has about 3,000 berths that can accommodate boats 32 to 95 feet in length (Personal Interview, 2002).

San Diego

Location

San Diego County has a total landmass of 4,255 square miles. It is 65 miles from north to south and 86 miles from east to west. Government owned land accounts for 54%, or approximately 1.45 million acres, of the land in San Diego County. Of those 1.45 million acres, 51% is federally owned, 40% is state owned, and 9% is owned by various local public agencies (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Reservations and Trust Lands

San Diego County has 18 reservations situated linearly in the central region of the county. The first 12 reservations include: Rincón (population 1,514), Pala (population 1,578), Barona (population 546), San Pasqual (population 791), Viejas (population 416), Los Coyotes (population 72), Campo (population 372), Santa Ysabel (population 245), La Jolla (population 425), Pauma and Yuíma (population 128), Manzanita (population 51), Sycuan (population 52), La Posta (population 35) and Mesa Grande (population 73). The remaining four reservations: Capitán Grande, Cuyapaípe, Inaja-Cosmit and Jamul Village, did not have a population (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

The State Legislature established the county of San Diego on February 18, 1850, as one of the original 27 counties of California. At the time of its organization, the county had an estimated population of 3,490. According to historians, this estimate included 798 settlers, as well as approximately 2,692 American Indians. The newly created county covered nearly 40,000 square miles. Included in the original boundary were the present counties of San Diego, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino, and the eastern portion of Inyo County (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Current Industry

San Diego County's economic base is supported by services, government, wholesale and retail trade. The largest industry is services, accounting for about 33 percent of total employment, while trade accounts for 22 percent. The county also contains "industry clusters" which contribute to economic growth. These industry clusters are: biotechnology, software, electronics, communications and medical services (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Ports: San Diego (commercial/recreational), Oceanside (commercial)

San Diego County's fishing community is primarily made up of recreational users. Sport boats target game fish in both the Point Loma area and off the coast of San Diego California. The recreational fishing industry is important to both the county's economic base and local fishermen. Fishing has always been an important resource to county residents; however, the industry was more commercially oriented than it is today. Particularly during the 1960s, San Diego County ranked second in the number of fishermen as well as in volume of landings in California (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

San Francisco

Location

San Francisco County is located on California's central coast. It is the smallest county in California and shares its boundaries with San Mateo County in the south, the Pacific Ocean and San Francisco Bay. Being the smallest county, it has a total land mass of less than 47 square miles (www.calmis.ca.gov).

History

The county's economic base was founded in the oil, mining, agriculture and fishing industries. "From 1848 to 1910, the gold and silver mining industry was by far the dominant factor in establishing San Francisco's economic base" (Personal Interview, 2002). In 1878, a number of oil agencies owned by Standard Oil Company established their headquarters in the county. Agriculture also played an important role in economic development (White, 1962).

Current Industry

Services, retail and wholesale trade and government jobs sustain San Francisco County's diverse economic base. The largest employer in the county is the services industry, which accounts for nearly 41 percent of employment. Tourism is also an important industry, providing jobs in hotels, gift shops, restaurants and tourist related attractions. Aside from being a major tourist attraction, San Francisco County has also been chosen as the location for the national headquarters of the Pacific Stock Exchange, Bank of America and Wells Fargo Bank (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: San Francisco (commercial/recreational)

Fishermen's Wharf in San Francisco is the hub of commercial fishing in San Francisco County. The marina is made up of 170 berths containing approximately ten sport boats and 160 commercial vessels. The fishing community at Fishermen's Wharf has been in operation for over 100 years, and attracts a diverse group of fishermen. Although San Francisco is known for its crab, king salmon, rockfish, rockcod, flatfish, and herring (which has the biggest biomass today) also contribute to the ports overall landings. Hook and line, trawlers, and seiners are just a few gear types represented at Fishermen's Wharf. One important facet about San Francisco's fishing industry is that it contributes to the community economically and socially. The "working waterfront" of Fishermen's Wharf attracts about 18 million visitors a year. Of those 18 million, over 80 percent of them visit Fishermen's Wharf/Pier 39. This interest in the fishing community continues to result in many jobs in the services and fishing industries (Personal Interview, 2002).

San Joaquin

Location

Situated in central California is San Joaquin County with a total landmass of 1,399 square miles. It shares its borders with four California counties, which are Sacramento, Amador, Contra Costa, and Alameda Counties.

History

The county's economic foundation was based on agriculture, mining and fishing. "Some of the historic towns are little changed from the Gold Rush era when paddlewheel steamboats..." were the mode of transportation (www.californiadelta.org). San Joaquin County is also rich in Chinese history, due to their presence in the agricultural industry.

Current Industry

Today, agriculture and fishing remain important industries. Tourism is also a major contributor, offering fishing, and site seeing opportunities. Because the San Joaquin and Sacramento River systems are located in San Joaquin County, a lot of towns throughout the county are centered on boating activities. Services, government and trade are the three largest industries, responsible for 58 percent of total employment (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: Stockton (recreational)

The Stockton area, located on the San Joaquin River system is known for its recreational fishery. More marinas are located in Stockton than in any other part of the river system in the county. Typical species sought after include: striped bass, sturgeon, catfish, black bass, salmon, American shad, and crawdads. The commercial fishing fleet that existed in the California Delta from 1860 to 1954 is not in operation today. Throughout the California Delta (San Joaquin and Sacramento River Systems), there are over 100 marinas and waterside resorts. Recreational fishing is crucial to the economy of many towns and cities throughout San Joaquin County (Personal Interview, 2002).

San Luis Obispo

Location

San Luis Obispo is located on California's central coast, with a total landmass of 3,326 square miles. The county has a wide range of topography including the Southern Coast Ranges that run northwest to southwest, the Santa Lucía Range located in the west, and the Temblor Range in the east. Three counties share the county's border: Monterey, Kern, and Santa Barbara (www.calmis.ca.gov).

History

San Luis Obispo contained numerous industries contributing to its economic base. Agriculture, fishing and fish processing and manufacturing created the bulk of jobs throughout the county's history. During the late 1800s in the Rancho era, sheep and cattle ranches numbered in the thousands (Beck and Haase, 1974).

Current Industry

The county's economy is currently based on tourism, education, services, government, and retail sales. Services, the largest industry, accounts for 27 percent of total employment, while government accounts for 23 percent, and retail trade accounts for 21 percent (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Morro Bay (commercial/recreational), Avila (commercial), San Simeon (commercial)

The Morro Bay Harbor Marina was originally built as an emergency base around WWII. Fishing, however, has always been the focus of the port, both commercially and recreationally. Morro Bay has a rich history in abalone harvesting, oyster mariculture, and shark fishing. During the 1950s and 1960s, four processors and a cannery provided many jobs to county residents. Today, as one small processor remains, the port is more focused in recreational fishing. The port also draws tourists to the area, making tourism a vital industry to the county. The harbor has 150 off-shore moorings, and 400 berths, which can accommodate boats up to 100 feet in length (Personal Interview, 2002).

San Mateo

Location

San Mateo County is situated on a peninsula surrounded by water with a landmass of 531 square miles. The county has over 50 miles of Pacific Coastline, which is divided by the Santa Cruz Mountains. This natural divider leaves the western side of the county for more rural uses such as agriculture, game preserves, watersheds and parks, and the eastern side with a highly populated urban center (www.calmis.ca.gov).

History

San Mateo's economic base was founded in the timber industry. By 1967, approximately 14 timber mills were in operation (Salitore and Salitore, 1967). Over the past fifty years, the county witnessed consistent growth in population, a decrease in agriculture and an increase in light industry and transportation. These factors all contributed to the rise of the "Silicon Valley" and the computer industry we know today (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Current Industry

San Mateo County is one of nine counties in California that contributes to the economy of San Francisco Bay. The service industry is the largest sector, providing jobs for nearly 37 percent of employment. An additional industry of importance is retail trade, which accounts for 16 percent of employment (www.calmis/ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: Princeton (commercial/recreational)

Commercial fishing in San Mateo County, especially in Princeton has always been a valuable industry to the local community. Historically, fishermen landed salmon, rockcod, Dungeness crab, albacore tuna, and bottomfish. Fishing strategies have not changed much through time, except in terms of gear and species due to management regulations. Today Half Moon Bay is known as a crab and salmon port. About 90 families that reside in the Princeton community depend on the fishing industry.

Currently, the marina houses three fish buyers within their facilities, while Princeton contains about two or three. The marina itself has 369 berths, which range in size from 22 to 65 feet in length (Personal Interview, 2002).

Santa Barbara

Location

Santa Barbara County, located on California's coastline, is 300 miles south of San Francisco and 100 miles north of Los Angeles. It has a total landmass of 2,737 square miles, and is bordered on the north by San Luis Obispo, on the east by Kern and Ventura Counties, and on the south and west by 107 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Reservations and Trust Lands

Santa Barbara County contains one American Indian Reservation, the Santa Ynez tribe. Situated in the south central region of the county, it has a population of 132 (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

Historically, several different industries contributed to Santa Barbara County's economic foundation. The first industry of economic importance occurred during the oil boom in the late 1800s to early 1900s. Three oil booms existed in California's oil industry. The first oil boom dates from the mid 1800s, the second between 1890 and 1900, and the third from 1919 to 1925. Santa Barbara County, along with Ventura, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties lead California in the number of oil barrels produced during the second oil boom. Another influential industry was agriculture, ranking 19th in 1959, and 17th in 1966 statewide (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

Santa Barbara County is home to a number of industries. These industries include: services, retail trade, and government. The services industry employed the highest amount of workers in 2000 with 52,400 jobs. The second largest industry is retail trade, where 19 percent of the total employment, is represented by this sector. Government, accounting for 18 percent of employment is the third highest sector in the county. Although manufacturing has declined recently due to the downsizing of the aerospace industry, "...smaller high-tech manufacturing and service firms have proven to be valuable sources of high-skilled and high-paying jobs" (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: Santa Barbara (commercial/recreational)

Fishing has been an important industry in Santa Barbara County for many years. Historically, crab, lobster, swordfish, White Sea bass, sea cucumbers, shrimp, barracuda, bonito, rockfish, shark, albacore, halibut, and sea urchins were caught with hook and line gear, gill and trawl nets and harpoons. Today, the fishery is more concentrated on urchins, lobster, crab, sea bass, halibut, sea cucumbers, and shrimp. In general, the importance of the fishing industry to the local community can be described as being a "cultural legacy" (Personal Interview, 2002). Several entities continue to provide support to the fishing industry such as the Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, Inc., Southern California Fishermen's Association, Santa Barbara Fishermen's Marketing Association, and the Sea Urchin Harvesters Association (Personal Interview, 2002).

Santa Cruz

Location

Santa Cruz County is the second smallest county in the state with a total landmass of 440 square miles. It is located along California's central coast, and encompasses a wide array of landscapes including the Santa Cruz Mountain Range, and the Pajaro River. The county is situated on the north side of Monterey County and bordered by San Mateo County in the north and Santa Clara County in the east (www.calmis.ca.gov).

History

Santa Cruz County's economic base was founded on several industries; however, the timber industry was one of the most important. In 1967, 29 timber mills were recorded as being in full operation (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

The major industries in the county are tourism, recreation, services, government and retail trade. The services industry accounts for 28 percent of employment with trade following behind at 20 percent and government at 18 percent (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: Santa Cruz (commercial/recreational)

Santa Cruz County has a rich history in the commercial fishing industry. The first wharf was built in 1853 for the purpose of shipping potatoes to San Francisco during the Gold Rush. Other uses of the wharf included salmon and sardine fishing. Traditional salmon fishing involved the use of a "Marcella", rigged with hoists and davits, hook and line gear, outrigger poles and fishing lures (www.santacruzwharf.com). Currently commercial boats land salmon, albacore and rockfish. The wharf is made up of about 75 commercial vessels and 300 recreational boats. Recreational fishing is increasing in importance because of its contributions to the local economy. The wharf has 1,200 berths accommodating boats as small as 24 feet in length and as large as 70 feet (Personal Interview, 2002).

Solano

Location

San Francisco Bay, the Carquinez Straits, Suisun Bay and the Sacramento River all share their borders with Solano County. The county has a total landmass of 872 square miles offering a wide range of landscapes such as agricultural land in the north and rolling hills in the south (www.calmis.ca.gov).

History

Solano County's economic base, like many other California counties, was founded on the agricultural industry. Early pioneers planted many crops including wheat, and were also proficient cattle and sheep farmers. Later, wheat fields gave way to the fruit tree industry, making Solano County known as the "Vacaville Early Fruit Belt". Apples, peaches, apricots and dates were packaged and shipped to San Francisco. Dry date seeds were the first crop of dates to be harvested for commercial use in the United States (www.thereporter.com).

Current Industry

Solano County has a diverse economic base in services, retail trade and government. Services comprise the largest industry, accounting for 26 percent of the county's total employment, with trade and government following closely behind (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: Vallejo (recreational)

Vallejo's fishing community is primarily made up of recreational and pleasure boats. Commercial fishing does not exist today, and was not an important industry in the past. Recreational fishermen commonly land sturgeon, bass, salmon, sierra, and flounder. The Glen Cove Marina has a total of 189 slips, which accommodate boats 24 to 44 feet in length (Personal Interview, 2002). The Vallejo Municipal Marina, contains 809 slips, most of which are designed for recreational use, however, a few commercial fishing vessel operators use the marina for off-season berthing (<http://www.vallejofiredepartment.com/marina/mbp/htm>).

Sonoma

Location

Also located in the northern part of the San Francisco Bay area is Sonoma County. Located on the Pacific coastline, it shares a northern border with Mendocino County, an eastern border with Lake and Napa Counties, and a southern border with Marin County.

Reservations and Trust Lands

Two American Indian Reservations are located within the county. The first reservation, the Stewarts Point Rancheria, is situated in the western region of the county, with a population of 83. The second reservation, the Dry Creek Rancheria, located in the eastern portion of the county had a population of 54 (U.S. Census, 2000).

History

The county's economic base is founded on agriculture, petroleum and timber products. Agricultural crops have been primarily focused on wineries since the 1970s (Lavender, 1972). The city of Petaluma was also once known as the world's egg basket. The county was a leading agricultural producer in 1959 and 1966, where the county ranked 18th in California. In 1967, the timber industry employed 80 timber operators (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

Sonoma County's economic structure is supported by services, retail trade, manufacturing and agricultural industries. The largest of the four industries is services, which account for 28 percent of the county's total employment. Retail trade is estimated to account for 18 percent, while the agricultural sector has grown to 21 percent. The county is known as a key producer in wine and farm products (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Port: Bodega Bay (commercial/recreational)

Bodega Bay has always been known for its commercial fishing industry. Only recently has the recreational sector been growing. Today the marina is comprised of about 25 to 35 percent of recreational boats and 65 to 75 percent of commercial vessels. Because Bodega Bay has always been a fishing community, there are fishing families that have fished in Sonoma County all their lives. Only recently has the town seen more restaurants and vacation rentals move in. The marina has 120 berths that accommodate boats 30 to 40 feet long, with the largest being 50 feet (Personal Interview, 2002).

Ventura

Location

Ventura County is located along the Southern California coast. Santa Barbara County borders it in the west, Kern County in the north, and Los Angeles County in the east and south.

History

Ventura County's economic structure was founded on two main industries, petroleum and agriculture. The county's petroleum industry was most prosperous between 1917 and 1929. Petroleum fields were located in the county, as well as in the San Joaquin Valley, and Los Angeles Basin (Lavender, 1972). Additionally, the county had a prosperous agricultural industry, ranking 14th statewide as a leading agricultural center in 1959 (Salitore and Salitore, 1967).

Current Industry

The county's diverse economic base is supported by tourism, agriculture, pharmaceuticals, software, retail, real estate and two military bases (Point Magu and Port Hueneme). In 2000, the dominating industries included services, retail, trade, government and manufacturing. The county's Port Hueneme is both the fourth largest port in the state as well as the only deepwater port between San Francisco and Los Angeles. "As a result, Ventura County companies are able to develop international – as well as state and national level – trade relationships, especially with Pacific Rim markets (www.calmis.ca.gov).

Fishing Industry

Ports: Point Hueneme (commercial), Oxnard (commercial/recreational), Ventura (commercial/recreational)

Two cities in Ventura County, Ventura and Oxnard, contain two different fishing communities. Although both focus much of their fishing on squid, Ventura is heavily commercial, while Oxnard is heavily recreational. Fishing has always been a part of both of this county's history and culture. Squid also has a long history that began in Monterey, and is currently the most popular resource in Ventura County. The local community depends on the fishing industry both economically and socially. For example, the Port of Ventura gets most of its dredging dollars from offloading fish from commercial fishermen (Personal Interview, 2002).

