

San Mateo County Census Data

1860-2020

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METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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I. Overview

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) is the transportation planning, financing, and coordinating agency for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. As a Metropolitan Planning Organization, MTC supports the region's network of streets, roads, highways, public transit systems, airports, and other transportation resources, including the movement of goods through ports and freight rail lines. MTC works with cities and counties to establish short- and long-term goals and provides resources to help them reach these goals.

Census data is a valuable information resource used to inform decision making by MTC as well as other public agencies, businesses, and individuals. This compilation has been created to provide easy access to this historical data for the Bay Area.

Sources:

[California Department of Finance Research](#), Census 1950-1990, Census 2000 SF1, SF3, DP1-DP4, Census 2010 DP-1, American Community Survey 2006-2010, Census 2020 PL 94-171

II. 1860-1940

1860 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	3,214
1870 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	6,635
1880 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	8,669
1890 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	10,087
1900 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	12,094
1910 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	26,585
1920 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	36,781
1930 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	77,405
1940 Census	
TOTAL POPULATION	111,782

III. 1950

1950 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	235,659	100.0%
RACE		
Native white	205,748	87.3%
Foreign-born white	24,453	10.4%
Negro	2,395	1.0%
Other races	3,063	1.3%
Indians	54	0.0%
Japanese	1,464	0.6%
Chinese	1,110	0.5%
WHITE PERSONS OF SPANISH SURNAME	7,030	3.0%
SEX		
Male	118,272	50.2%
Female	117,387	49.8%
AGE		
Under 5 years	29,533	12.5%
5 to 17 years	40,985	17.4%
18 to 64 years	150,387	63.8%
65 years and over	14,754	6.3%
Median age	31.4	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Total household	71,389	100.0%
Persons per household	3.19	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
All dwelling units	76,551	100.0%
Occupied dwelling units	71,448	93.3%
Owner occupied	51,618	72.2%
Renter occupied	19,830	27.8%
Vacant	4,553	5.9%
Median value of 1-unit structures dollars	12,547	X
Median gross rent dollars	56	X
INCOME IN 1949		
Families median income dollars	4,467	X

YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Population 25 years and over	146,505	100.0%
High school 4 years	45,695	31.2%
College 4 years or more	17,430	11.9%

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP

Employed	90,157	100.0%
Professional, technical, and kindred	12,249	13.6%
Farmers and farm managers	933	1.0%
Managers, officials, and propr's exc. farm	12,899	14.3%
Clerical and kindred	13,700	15.2%
Sales	9,201	10.2%
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred	15,733	17.5%
Operatives and kindred	9,738	10.8%
Private household workers	2,422	2.7%
Service workers, except private household	6,579	7.3%
Farm laborers	993	1.1%
Laborers, except farm and mine	4,776	5.3%
Occupation not reported	934	1.0%

IV. 1960

1960 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	444,387	100.0%
In households	437,619	98.5%
In group quarters	6,768	1.5%
RACE		
White	425,213	95.7%
Negro	10,846	2.4%
Other races	547	0.1%
Indian	319	0.1%
Japanese	3,573	0.8%
Chinese	2,429	0.5%
Filipino	1,460	0.3%
WHITE, SPANISH SURNAME	19,722	4.4%
SEX		
Male	219,278	49.3%
Female	225,109	50.7%
AGE		
Under 5 years	50,478	11.4%
5 to 17 years	110,948	25.0%
18 to 64 years	253,012	56.9%
65 years and over	29,949	6.7%
Median age	30.6	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Families	117,457	100.0%
With own children under 18	71,242	60.7%
Population per household	3.24	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
All housing units	141,773	100.0%
All occupied units	135,182	95.4%
Owner occupied	97,763	72.3%
Renter occupied	37,419	27.7%
Vacant	6,591	4.6%
Median value dollars	18,400	X
Median gross rent dollars	107	X

PLACE OF BIRTH		
Native	402,880	90.7%
Foreign born	41,504	9.3%
INCOME IN 1959		
Families median income dollars	8,103	X
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED		
Population 25 years and over	252,811	100.0%
High school 4 years	80,014	31.6%
College 4 years or more	35,829	14.2%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK		
All workers	172,657	100.0%
Private automobile or car pool	130,389	75.5%
Railroad, subway or elevated	8,786	5.1%
Bus or streetcar	11,149	6.5%
Walked to work	8,002	4.6%
Other means	4,092	2.4%
Worked at home	4,269	2.5%
Not reported	5,970	3.5%
OCCUPATION		
Employed	175,099	100.0%
Professional, technical, and kindred	26,973	15.4%
Farmers and farm managers	924	0.5%
Managers, officials, and propr's exc. farm	20,362	11.6%
Clerical and kindred	32,260	18.4%
Sales	17,506	10.0%
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred	26,570	15.2%
Operatives and kindred	19,144	10.9%
Private household workers	4,016	2.3%
Service workers, except private household	13,247	7.6%
Farm laborers and farm foremen	876	0.5%
Laborers, except farm and mine	6,084	3.5%
Occupation not reported	7,137	4.1%
CLASS OF WORKER		
Self-employed	16,852	9.6%

V. 1970

1970 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	556,234	100.0%
RACE		
White	507,685	91.3%
Negro	26,085	4.7%
Indian	1,340	0.2%
Japanese	5,607	1.0%
Chinese	5,379	1.0%
Filipino	5,676	1.0%
All other	4,462	0.8%
PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN OR DESCENT	39,909	7.2%
SEX		
Male	271,450	48.8%
Female	284,784	51.2%
AGE		
Under 5 years	42,939	7.7%
5 to 19 years	152,644	27.4%
20 to 64 years	318,072	57.2%
65 years and over	42,579	7.7%
Median age	29.5	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Head of household	185,028	100.0%
Families	146,755	79.3%
With own children under 18 years	79,863	43.2%
Persons per household	2.97	X
INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1969		
Income of families and unrelated individuals	13,222	X
Income of persons	4,581	X
Less than poverty level		5.7%
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		
Employed	241,036	100.0%

VI. 1980

1980 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	587,329	100.0%
RACE		
White	465,660	79.3%
Black	35,575	6.1%
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	2,316	0.4%
Eskimo	37	0.0%
Aleut	18	0.0%
Asian and Pacific Islander	59,468	10.1%
Japanese	8,997	1.5%
Chinese	16,624	2.8%
Filipino	23,099	3.9%
Korean	2,148	0.4%
Asian Indian	2,723	0.5%
Vietnamese	628	0.1%
Hawaiian	1,015	0.2%
Samoan	1,174	0.2%
Guamanian	309	0.1%
Other Asian and Pacific Islander	2,751	0.5%
Race, n.e.c.	24,310	4.1%
SPANISH ORIGIN	72,883	12.4%
SEX		
Male	285,682	48.6%
Female	301,647	51.4%
AGE		
Under 5 years	34,048	5.8%
5 to 19 years	123,055	21.0%
20 to 64 years	368,870	62.8%
65 years and over	61,356	10.4%
Median age	33.0	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Total households	225,330	100.0%
Families	154,205	68.4%
With own children under 18 years	72,244	32.1%
Persons per household	2.58	X
Persons per family	3.13	X

INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1979

Median household income	17,962	X
Median family income	21,630	X
Per capita income	8,406	X
Below poverty level		10.6%

COMMUTING TO WORK

Mean travel time to work (minutes)	22.8	X
Mean travel time to work for workers traveling 45 or more minutes	56.8	X

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

Workers 16 years and over	305,833	100.0%
Private vehicle	261,135	85.4%
Drive alone car	186,710	61.0%
Drive alone truck or van	23,848	7.8%
Carpool car	44,476	14.5%
Carpool truck or van	6,101	2.0%
Public transportation	24,137	7.9%
Bus or streetcar	13,176	4.3%
Subway or elevated train	4,960	1.6%
Railroad	5,900	1.9%
Taxicab	101	0.0%
Motorcycle	2,422	0.8%
Bicycle	2,930	1.0%
Walked only	8,093	2.6%
Other means	2,209	0.7%
Worked at home	4,907	1.6%

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

Employed	313,558	100.0%
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VII. 1990

1990 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	649,623	100.0%
RACE		
White	467,853	72.0%
Black	34,580	5.3%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	3,117	0.5%
Eskimo	71	0.0%
Aleut	169	0.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	109,309	16.8%
Asian	101,294	15.6%
Japanese	10,250	1.6%
Chinese	34,118	5.3%
Filipino	44,355	6.8%
Korean	3,262	0.5%
Asian Indian	3,791	0.6%
Vietnamese	2,070	0.3%
Cambodian	220	0.0%
Hmong	0	0.0%
Laotian	162	0.0%
Thai	544	0.1%
Other Asian	2,522	0.4%
Pacific Islander	8,015	1.2%
Polynesian	6,172	1.0%
Hawaiian	1,373	0.2%
Samoan	2,838	0.4%
Tongan	1,837	0.3%
Other Polynesian	124	0.0%
Micronesian -- Guamanian	306	0.0%
Micronesian -- Other	19	0.0%
Melanesian	1,275	0.2%
Pacific Islander Not Specified	243	0.0%
Other Race	34,764	5.4%
TOTAL HISPANIC	113,090	17.4%
SEX		
Male	321,109	49.4%
Female	328,514	50.6%

AGE		
Under 5 years	43,947	6.8%
5 to 17 years	97,339	15.0%
18 to 64 years	428,029	65.9%
65 years and over	80,308	12.4%
Median age	35.0	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Households	242,348	100.0%
Total families	164,177	67.7%
With own children under 18 years	72,439	29.9%
Persons per household	2.63	X
Persons per family	3.17	X
INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1989		
Median household income	46,437	X
Median family income	53,430	X
Per capita income	31,115	X
Below poverty level		6.2%
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Mean minutes traveled to work	24.0	X
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK		
Workers 16 years and over	346,559	100.0%
Car, truck, or van	296,322	85.5%
Drove alone	251,218	72.5%
Carpooled	45,104	13.0%
Public transportation	25,788	7.4%
Bus or trolley bus	13,279	3.8%
Streetcar or trolley car	372	0.1%
Subway or elevated	6,240	1.8%
Railroad	5,675	1.6%
Ferryboat	0	0.0%
Taxicab	222	0.1%
Motorcycle	1,333	0.4%
Bicycle	2,606	0.8%
Walked	8,858	2.6%
Other means	2,120	0.6%
Working at home	9,532	2.8%
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE		
Employed	352,964	100.0%

VIII. 2000

Census 2000

TOTAL POPULATION	707,161	100.0%
In households	696,711	98.5%
In group quarters	10,450	1.5%
RACE		
White	420,683	59.5%
Black or African American	24,840	3.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,140	0.4%
Asian	141,680	20.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	9,403	1.3%
Some other race	71,910	10.2%
Two or more races	35,501	5.0%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	154,708	21.9%
Not Hispanic or Latino	552,453	78.1%
White	352,355	49.8%
Black or African American	23,778	3.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,546	0.2%
Asian	140,313	19.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	9,112	1.3%
Some other race	2,217	0.3%
Two or more races	23,132	3.3%
SEX		
Male	349,651	49.4%
Female	357,510	50.6%
AGE		
Under 5 years	45,374	6.4%
5 to 17 years	116,726	16.5%
18 to 64 years	456,976	64.6%
65 years and over	88,085	12.5%
Median age	36.8	X

HOUSEHOLDS		
Total households	254,103	100.0%
Family households	171,249	67.4%
Families with children under 18	78,959	31.1%
Average household size	2.74	X
Average family size	3.29	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	260,576	100.0%
Occupied housing units	254,103	97.5%
Owner-occupied housing units	156,133	61.4%
Renter-occupied housing units	97,970	38.6%
Vacant housing units	6,473	2.5%
1 unit, detached housing	150,302	57.7%
Median value owner occupied unit (dollars)	469,200	X
Median gross rent (dollars)	1,144	X
PLACE OF BIRTH BY CITIZENSHIP STATUS		
Native	479,043	67.7%
Foreign born	228,118	32.3%
Naturalized citizen	111,735	15.8%
Not a citizen	116,383	16.5%
INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1999		
Median household income (dollars)	70,819	X
Median family income (dollars)	80,737	X
Per capita income (dollars)	40,383	X
Individuals in poverty	40,692	5.8%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 and over	490,285	100.0%
High school graduate	85,569	17.5%
Bachelor's degree	119,856	24.4%
Graduate or professional degree	71,421	14.6%
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	27.0	X

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR WORKERS 16 YEARS AND OVER

Total	354,096	100.0%
Car, truck, or van:	301,433	85.1%
Drove alone	256,066	72.3%
Carpooled	45,367	12.8%
Public transportation	26,029	7.4%
Bus or trolley bus	12,075	3.4%
Streetcar or trolley car	324	0.1%
Subway or elevated	7,485	2.1%
Railroad	5,894	1.7%
Ferryboat	39	0.0%
Taxicab	212	0.1%
Motorcycle	878	0.2%
Bicycle	2,896	0.8%
Walked	7,609	2.1%
Other means	2,406	0.7%
Worked at home	12,845	3.6%

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Employed civilian population 16 years and over	361,640	100.0%
Management, professional and related	154,419	42.7%
Service	48,869	13.5%
Sales and office	98,865	27.3%
Farming, fishing & forestry	1,157	0.3%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	27,227	7.5%
Production, transportation, and material moving	31,103	8.6%

CLASS OF WORKER

Self-employed workers	29,864	8.3%
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IX. 2010

Census 2010

TOTAL POPULATION	718,451	100.0%
In households	709,598	98.8%
In group quarters	8,853	1.2%
RACE		
White	383,535	53.4%
Black or African American	20,436	2.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,306	0.5%
Asian	178,118	24.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	10,317	1.4%
Some other race	84,529	11.8%
Two or more races	38,210	5.3%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	182,502	25.4%
Not Hispanic or Latino	535,949	74.6%
White	303,609	42.3%
Black or African American	18,763	2.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1,125	0.2%
Asian	175,934	24.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	9,884	1.4%
Some other race	2,709	0.4%
Two or more races	23,925	3.3%
SEX		
Male	353,168	49.2%
Female	365,283	50.8%
AGE		
Under 5 years	46,360	6.5%
5 to 17 years	113,412	15.8%
18 to 64 years	462,417	64.4%
65 years and over	96,262	13.4%
Median age	39.3	X

HOUSEHOLDS		
Total households	257,837	100.0%
Family households	175,607	68.1%
Families with children under 18	79,431	30.8%
Average household size	2.75	X
Average family size	3.28	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	271,031	100.0%
Occupied housing units	257,837	95.1%
Owner-occupied housing units	153,110	59.4%
Renter-occupied housing units	104,727	40.6%
Vacant housing units	13,194	4.9%

X. 2010 American Community Survey

2006-2010 American Community Survey

TOTAL POPULATION	704,327	100.0%
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	270,039	100.0%
Occupied housing units	255,758	94.7%
Owner-occupied housing units	156,149	61.1%
Renter-occupied housing units	99,609	38.9%
Vacant housing units	14,281	5.3%
1 unit, detached housing	154,559	57.2%
Median value owner occupied unit (dollars)	784,800	X
Median gross rent (dollars)	1,443	X
PLACE OF BIRTH BY CITIZENSHIP STATUS		
Native	465,102	66.0%
Foreign born	239,225	34.0%
Naturalized citizen	131,279	18.6%
Not a citizen	107,946	15.3%
INCOME AND POVERTY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS		
Median household income (dollars)	85,648	X
Median family income (dollars)	101,578	X
Per capita income (dollars)	43,958	X
Individuals in poverty	48,744	7.0%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 and over	492,374	100.0%
High school graduate		17.8%
Bachelor's degree		27.0%
Graduate or professional degree		17.0%
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.0	X

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR WORKERS 16 YEARS AND OVER

Total	350,536	100.0%
Car, truck, or van:	286,123	81.6%
Drove alone	247,347	70.6%
Carpooled	38,776	11.1%
Public transportation	29,355	8.4%
Bus or trolley bus	13,374	3.8%
Streetcar or trolley car	261	0.1%
Subway or elevated	10,730	3.1%
Railroad	4,929	1.4%
Ferryboat	61	0.0%
Taxicab	152	0.0%
Motorcycle	1,184	0.3%
Bicycle	3,945	1.1%
Walked	9,763	2.8%
Other means	2,959	0.8%
Worked at home	17,055	4.9%

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Employed civilian population		
16 years and over	360,951	100.0%
Management, professional and related	156,068	43.2%
Service	61,193	17.0%
Sales and office	90,413	25.0%
Farming, fishing & forestry		Included in following category
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	26,289	7.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving	26,988	7.5%

CLASS OF WORKER

Self-employed workers	34,963	9.7%
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XI. 2020

Census 2020

TOTAL POPULATION	764,442	100.0%
In households	755,090	98.8%
In group quarters	9,352	1.2%
RACE		
Population of one race:	670,175	87.7%
White alone	300,188	39.3%
Black or African American alone	15,707	2.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	6,812	0.9%
Asian alone	230,242	30.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	9,302	1.2%
Some Other Race alone	107,924	14.1%
Population of two races	86,922	11.4%
Population of three races	6,615	0.9%
Population of four races	684	0.1%
Population of five races	46	0.0%
Population of six races	0	0.0%
HISPANIC OR LATINO		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	191,386	25.0%
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	283,693	100.0%
Occupied housing units	269,417	95.0%
Vacant housing units	14,276	5.0%