

**City of Palo Alto  
Santa Clara County  
Census Data**

**1900-2020**

compiled by  
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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. 1900-1940**

**1900 Census**

TOTAL POPULATION 1,658

**1910 Census**

TOTAL POPULATION 4,486

**1920 Census**

TOTAL POPULATION 5,900

**1930 Census**

TOTAL POPULATION 13,652

**1940 Census**

TOTAL POPULATION 16,774

### III. 1950

#### 1950 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	25,475	100.0%
In households	24,923	97.8%
RACE		
Native white	22,166	87.0%
Foreign-born white	2,332	9.2%
Negro	542	2.1%
Other races	435	1.7%
Indians	2	0.0%
Japanese	229	0.9%
Chinese	167	0.7%
WHITE PERSONS OF SPANISH SURNAME	452	1.8%
SEX		
Male	11,834	46.5%
Female	13,641	53.5%
AGE		
Under 5 years	2,378	9.3%
5 to 17 years	4,213	16.5%
18 to 64 years	15,864	62.3%
65 years and over	3,020	11.9%
Median age	34.5	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Total household	8,427	100.0%
Persons per household	2.96	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
All dwelling units	8,835	100.0%
Occupied dwelling units	8,478	96.0%
Owner occupied	5,654	66.7%
Renter occupied	2,824	33.3%
Vacant	333	3.8%
Median value of 1-unit structures dollars	13,835	X
Median gross rent dollars	56	X
INCOME IN 1949		
Families median income dollars	4,657	X

#### YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED

Population 25 years and over	16,740	100.0%
High school 4 years	4,475	26.7%
College 4 years or more	4,510	26.9%

#### MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP

Employed	9,897	100.0%
Professional, technical, and kindred	2,445	24.7%
Farmers and farm managers	40	0.4%
Managers, officials, and propr's exc. farm	1,475	14.9%
Clerical and kindred	1,469	14.8%
Sales	1,022	10.3%
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred	1,022	10.3%
Operatives and kindred	655	6.6%
Private household workers	547	5.5%
Service workers, except private household	750	7.6%
Farm laborers	39	0.4%
Laborers, except farm and mine	352	3.6%
Occupation not reported	81	0.8%

## IV. 1960

### 1960 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	52,287	100.0%
In households	51,846	99.2%
In group quarters	441	0.8%
RACE		
White	49,894	95.4%
Negro	847	1.6%
Other races	89	0.2%
Indian	28	0.1%
Japanese	776	1.5%
Chinese	555	1.1%
Filipino	98	0.2%
SEX		
Male	24,848	47.5%
Female	27,439	52.5%
AGE		
Under 5 years	5,283	10.1%
5 to 17 years	13,508	25.8%
18 to 64 years	28,414	54.3%
65 years and over	5,082	9.7%
Median age	31.5	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Families	13,217	100.0%
With own children under 18	8,231	62.3%
Population per household	3.07	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
All housing units	17,665	100.0%
All occupied units	16,896	95.6%
Owner occupied	11,286	66.8%
Renter occupied	5,610	33.2%
Vacant	769	4.4%
Median value dollars	21,100	X
Median gross rent dollars	106	X

PLACE OF BIRTH		
Native	47,450	90.7%
Foreign born	4,837	9.3%
INCOME IN 1959		
Families median income dollars	9,132	X
YEARS OF SCHOOL COMPLETED		
Population 25 years and over	30,123	100.0%
High school 4 years	7,246	24.1%
College 4 years or more	9,951	33.0%
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK		
All workers	20,316	100.0%
Private automobile or car pool	15,099	74.3%
Railroad, subway or elevated	1,416	7.0%
Bus or streetcar	379	1.9%
Walked to work	1,034	5.1%
Other means	754	3.7%
Worked at home	745	3.7%
Not reported	889	4.4%
OCCUPATION		
Employed	20,672	100.0%
Professional, technical, and kindred	6,420	31.1%
Farmers and farm managers	95	0.5%
Managers, officials, and propr's exc. farm	2,601	12.6%
Clerical and kindred	3,521	17.0%
Sales	1,740	8.4%
Craftsmen, foremen, and kindred	1,825	8.8%
Operatives and kindred	1,298	6.3%
Private household workers	647	3.1%
Service workers, except private household	1,143	5.5%
Farm laborers and farm foremen	60	0.3%
Laborers, except farm and mine	495	2.4%
Occupation not reported	827	4.0%
CLASS OF WORKER		
Self-employed	1,959	9.5%

**V. 1970**

**1970 Census**

TOTAL POPULATION	55,966	100.0%
RACE		
White	51,902	92.7%
Negro	1,469	2.6%
Indian	123	0.2%
Japanese	950	1.7%
Chinese	1,001	1.8%
Filipino	218	0.4%
All other	303	0.5%
PERSONS OF SPANISH ORIGIN OR DESCENT	1,378	2.5%
SEX		
Male	26,860	48.0%
Female	29,106	52.0%
AGE		
Under 5 years	3,205	5.7%
5 to 19 years	14,310	25.6%
20 to 64 years	32,662	58.4%
65 years and over	5,789	10.3%
Median age	31.6	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Head of household	20,546	100.0%
Families	14,207	69.1%
With own children under 18 years	7,483	36.4%
Persons per household	2.67	X
INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1969		
Income of families and unrelated individuals	10,400	X
Income of persons	5,282	X
Less than poverty level		6.7%

## VI. 1980

### 1980 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	55,225	100.0%
RACE		
White	49,855	90.3%
Black	1,260	2.3%
American Indian, Eskimo, and Aleut	137	0.2%
Eskimo	0	0.0%
Aleut	0	0.0%
Asian and Pacific Islander	3,382	6.1%
Japanese	1,250	2.3%
Chinese	1,516	2.7%
Filipino	259	0.5%
Korean	42	0.1%
Asian Indian	180	0.3%
Vietnamese	14	0.0%
Hawaiian	66	0.1%
Samoan	0	0.0%
Guamanian	4	0.0%
Other Asian and Pacific Islander	51	0.1%
Race, n.e.c.	591	1.1%
SPANISH ORIGIN	2,164	3.9%
SEX		
Male	26,432	47.9%
Female	28,793	52.1%
AGE		
Under 5 years	2,192	4.0%
5 to 19 years	10,262	18.6%
20 to 64 years	35,393	64.1%
65 years and over	7,378	13.4%
Median age	35.2	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Total households	23,102	100.0%
Families	13,594	58.8%
With own children under 18 years	6,291	27.2%
Persons per household	2.33	X
Persons per family	2.93	X

## INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1979

Median household income	24,743	X
Median family income	31,796	X
Per capita income	12,799	X
Below poverty level		6.0%

## COMMUTING TO WORK

Mean travel time to work (minutes)	18.2	X
Mean travel time to work for workers traveling 45 or more minutes	62.3	X

## MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

Workers 16 years and over	29,725	100.0%
Private vehicle	22,576	75.9%
Drive alone car	18,316	61.6%
Drive alone truck or van	1,273	4.3%
Carpool car	2,772	9.3%
Carpool truck or van	215	0.7%
Public transportation	1,237	4.2%
Bus or streetcar	560	1.9%
Subway or elevated train	34	0.1%
Railroad	637	2.1%
Taxicab	6	0.0%
Motorcycle	346	1.2%
Bicycle	3,242	10.9%
Walked only	1,153	3.9%
Other means	233	0.8%
Worked at home	938	3.2%

## VII. 1990

### 1990 Census

TOTAL POPULATION	55,900	100.0%
RACE		
White	47,545	85.1%
Black	1,658	3.0%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	86	0.2%
Eskimo	0	0.0%
Aleut	0	0.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander	5,846	10.5%
Asian	5,738	10.3%
Japanese	1,529	2.7%
Chinese	2,812	5.0%
Filipino	391	0.7%
Korean	294	0.5%
Asian Indian	492	0.9%
Vietnamese	41	0.1%
Cambodian	0	0.0%
Hmong	0	0.0%
Laotian	0	0.0%
Thai	0	0.0%
Other Asian	179	0.3%
Pacific Islander	108	0.2%
Polynesian	108	0.2%
Hawaiian	86	0.2%
Samoan	4	0.0%
Tongan	8	0.0%
Other Polynesian	0	0.0%
Micronesian -- Guamanian	0	0.0%
Micronesian -- Other	0	0.0%
Melanesian	0	0.0%
Pacific Islander Not Specified	10	0.0%
Other Race	765	1.4%
TOTAL HISPANIC	2,906	5.2%
SEX		
Male	27,278	48.8%
Female	28,622	51.2%

AGE		
Under 5 years	2,764	4.9%
5 to 17 years	6,999	12.5%
18 to 64 years	37,390	66.9%
65 years and over	8,747	15.6%
Median age	38.4	X
HOUSEHOLDS		
Households	24,700	100.0%
Total families	13,835	56.0%
With own children under 18 years	5,526	22.4%
Persons per household	2.23	X
Persons per family	2.85	X
INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1989		
Median household income	55,333	X
Median family income	68,790	X
Per capita income	32,489	X
Below poverty level		4.6%
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Mean minutes traveled to work	19.0	X
MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK		
Workers 16 years and over	31,720	100.0%
Car, truck, or van	25,778	81.3%
Drove alone	23,917	75.4%
Carpooled	1,861	5.9%
Public transportation	796	2.5%
Bus or trolley bus	303	1.0%
Streetcar or trolley car	8	0.0%
Subway or elevated	22	0.1%
Railroad	451	1.4%
Ferryboat	4	0.0%
Taxicab	8	0.0%
Motorcycle	170	0.5%
Bicycle	1,827	5.8%
Walked	1,270	4.0%
Other means	130	0.4%
Working at home	1,749	5.5%

## VIII. 2000

### Census 2000

TOTAL POPULATION	58,598	100.0%
In households	57,930	98.9%
In group quarters	668	1.1%
RACE		
White	44,391	75.8%
Black or African American	1,184	2.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	122	0.2%
Asian	10,090	17.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	84	0.1%
Some other race	827	1.4%
Two or more races	1,900	3.2%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2,722	4.6%
Not Hispanic or Latino	55,876	95.4%
White	42,682	72.8%
Black or African American	1,166	2.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	88	0.2%
Asian	10,056	17.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	81	0.1%
Some other race	183	0.3%
Two or more races	1,620	2.8%
SEX		
Male	28,671	48.9%
Female	29,927	51.1%
AGE		
Under 5 years	2,970	5.1%
5 to 17 years	9,436	16.1%
18 to 64 years	37,052	63.2%
65 years and over	9,140	15.6%
Median age	40.2	X

HOUSEHOLDS		
Total households	25,216	100.0%
Family households	14,593	57.9%
Families with children under 18	6,861	27.2%
Average household size	2.30	X
Average family size	2.95	X
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	26,048	100.0%
Occupied housing units	25,216	96.8%
Owner-occupied housing units	14,420	57.2%
Renter-occupied housing units	10,796	42.8%
Vacant housing units	832	3.2%
1 unit, detached housing	15,387	58.8%
Median value owner occupied unit (dollars)	811,800	X
Median gross rent (dollars)	1,349	X
PLACE OF BIRTH BY CITIZENSHIP STATUS		
Native	43,210	73.5%
Foreign born	15,573	26.5%
Naturalized citizen	6,768	11.5%
Not a citizen	8,805	15.0%
INCOME AND POVERTY IN 1999		
Median household income (dollars)	90,377	X
Median family income (dollars)	117,574	X
Per capita income (dollars)	56,257	X
Individuals in poverty	2,801	4.8%
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT		
Population 25 and over	43,566	100.0%
High school graduate	2,428	5.6%
Bachelor's degree	13,658	31.4%
Graduate or professional degree	18,748	43.0%
COMMUTING TO WORK		
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.0	X

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR WORKERS 16 YEARS AND OVER

Total	30,950	100.0%
Car, truck, or van:	24,959	80.6%
Drove alone	23,073	74.5%
Carpooled	1,886	6.1%
Public transportation	1,064	3.4%
Bus or trolley bus	415	1.3%
Streetcar or trolley car	23	0.1%
Subway or elevated	37	0.1%
Railroad	572	1.8%
Ferryboat	0	0.0%
Taxicab	17	0.1%
Motorcycle	76	0.2%
Bicycle	1,742	5.6%
Walked	997	3.2%
Other means	78	0.3%
Worked at home	2,034	6.6%

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Employed civilian population 16 years and over	31,369	100.0%
Management, professional and related	23,839	76.0%
Service	1,493	4.8%
Sales and office	4,638	14.8%
Farming, fishing & forestry	9	0.0%
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	624	2.0%
Production, transportation, and material moving	766	2.4%

CLASS OF WORKER

Self-employed workers	3,126	10.0%
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## IX. 2010

### Census 2010

TOTAL POPULATION	64,403	100.0%
In households	63,820	99.1%
In group quarters	583	0.9%
RACE		
White	41,359	64.2%
Black or African American	1,197	1.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native	121	0.2%
Asian	17,461	27.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	142	0.2%
Some other race	1,426	2.2%
Two or more races	2,697	4.2%
HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	3,974	6.2%
Not Hispanic or Latino	60,429	93.8%
White	39,052	60.6%
Black or African American	1,131	1.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native	65	0.1%
Asian	17,404	27.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	135	0.2%
Some other race	254	0.4%
Two or more races	2,388	3.7%
SEX		
Male	31,490	48.9%
Female	32,913	51.1%
AGE		
Under 5 years	3,506	5.4%
5 to 17 years	11,573	18.0%
18 to 64 years	38,318	59.5%
65 years and over	11,006	17.1%
Median age	41.9	X

## HOUSEHOLDS

Total households	26,493	100.0%
Family households	16,477	62.2%
Families with children under 18	8,359	31.6%
Average household size	2.41	X
Average family size	3.04	X

## HOUSING OCCUPANCY

Total housing units	28,216	100.0%
Occupied housing units	26,493	93.9%
Owner-occupied housing units	14,766	55.7%
Renter-occupied housing units	11,727	44.3%
Vacant housing units	1,723	6.1%

**X. 2010 American Community Survey**

**2006-2010 American Community Survey**

TOTAL POPULATION	62,486	100.0%
<b>HOUSING OCCUPANCY</b>		
Total housing units	26,990	100.0%
Occupied housing units	25,486	94.4%
Owner-occupied housing units	14,777	58.0%
Renter-occupied housing units	10,709	42.0%
Vacant housing units	1,504	5.6%
1 unit, detached housing	15,624	57.9%
Median value owner occupied unit (dollars)	1,000,000+	X
Median gross rent (dollars)	1,654	X
<b>PLACE OF BIRTH BY CITIZENSHIP STATUS</b>		
Native	42,542	68.1%
Foreign born	19,944	31.9%
Naturalized citizen	10,400	16.6%
Not a citizen	9,544	15.3%
<b>INCOME AND POVERTY IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS</b>		
Median household income (dollars)	120,670	X
Median family income (dollars)	161,670	X
Per capita income (dollars)	70,242	X
Individuals in poverty	3,547	5.7%
<b>EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT</b>		
Population 25 and over	44,574	100.0%
High school graduate		5.4%
Bachelor's degree		30.6%
Graduate or professional degree		48.7%
<b>COMMUTING TO WORK</b>		
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	21.8	X

MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR WORKERS 16 YEARS AND OVER

Total	29,186	100.0%
Car, truck, or van:	21,498	73.7%
Drove alone	19,655	67.3%
Carpooled	1,843	6.3%
Public transportation	1,328	4.6%
Bus or trolley bus	544	1.9%
Streetcar or trolley car	28	0.1%
Subway or elevated	43	0.1%
Railroad	713	2.4%
Ferryboat	0	0.0%
Taxicab	13	0.0%
Motorcycle	127	0.4%
Bicycle	1,998	6.8%
Walked	1,555	5.3%
Other means	163	0.6%
Worked at home	2,504	8.6%

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

Employed civilian population 16 years and over	30,047	100.0%
Management, professional and related	23,316	77.6%
Service	1,975	6.6%
Sales and office	3,681	12.3%
Farming, fishing & forestry		Included in following category
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	398	1.3%
Production, transportation, and material moving	677	2.3%

CLASS OF WORKER

Self-employed workers	3,235	10.8%
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## XI. 2020

### Census 2020

TOTAL POPULATION	68,572	100.0%
In households	67,742	98.8%
In group quarters	830	1.2%
RACE		
Population of one race:	62,091	90.5%
White alone	34,191	49.9%
Black or African American alone	1,225	1.8%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	141	0.2%
Asian alone	24,317	35.5%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	157	0.2%
Some Other Race alone	2,060	3.0%
Population of two races	6,023	8.8%
Population of three races	399	0.6%
Population of four races	55	0.1%
Population of five races	4	0.0%
Population of six races	0	0.0%
HISPANIC OR LATINO		
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5,091	7.4%
HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Total housing units	28,904	100.0%
Occupied housing units	26,677	92.3%
Vacant housing units	2,227	7.7%