

System
Indicators

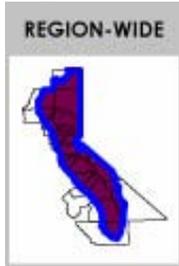
Demographics and Economy



Population and Components of Population Change (2010)

September 2011

Population of the Sierra Nevada Region



People are the driver of the local economy and consumers and stewards of local resources. Understanding the population of the Sierra Nevada Region and its growth trends is important to planning for the present and future needs of the communities and to ascertain the impacts of regional growth on sustaining and protecting the resources of the Region.

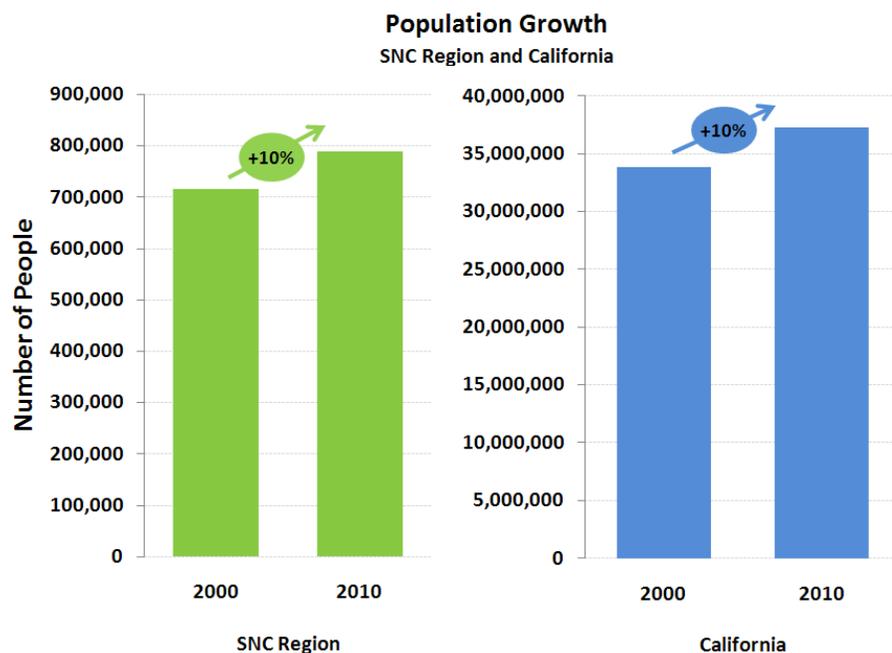
Between 2000 and 2010, the population within the Sierra Nevada grew by 10 percent – nearly exactly the same rate as California as a whole. The number of people in the Region increased by 72,000 – from 716,000 to 788,000. In 2010, 2.1 percent of Californians lived within the boundary of the SNC Region.

Population growth has not been constant over the past decade however. The *rate* of growth has been gradually slowing throughout this period. Growth has also been uneven throughout the Region. The twelve counties defined as entirely within the SNC Region, in aggregate, have actually been losing people each year since 2007, and at an increasing rate. Placer and El Dorado Counties (including those portions outside the SNC Region) have

maintained more robust growth, though the growth rate has been slowing since 2003. (See the next Indicator – Components of Population Change.)

The California Department of Finance (DOF) has released new post-census projections for population change from 2010 to 2020. This assessment predicts slower population growth than the 2007 pre-recession estimates. These figures don't allow correlation with the SNC boundary, but interestingly, the DOF predicts that growth for the aggregate of the counties entirely within the SNC Region will be 11.4 percent, almost exactly the same rate of growth estimate as for the state as a whole – 11.5 percent growth over the next ten years.

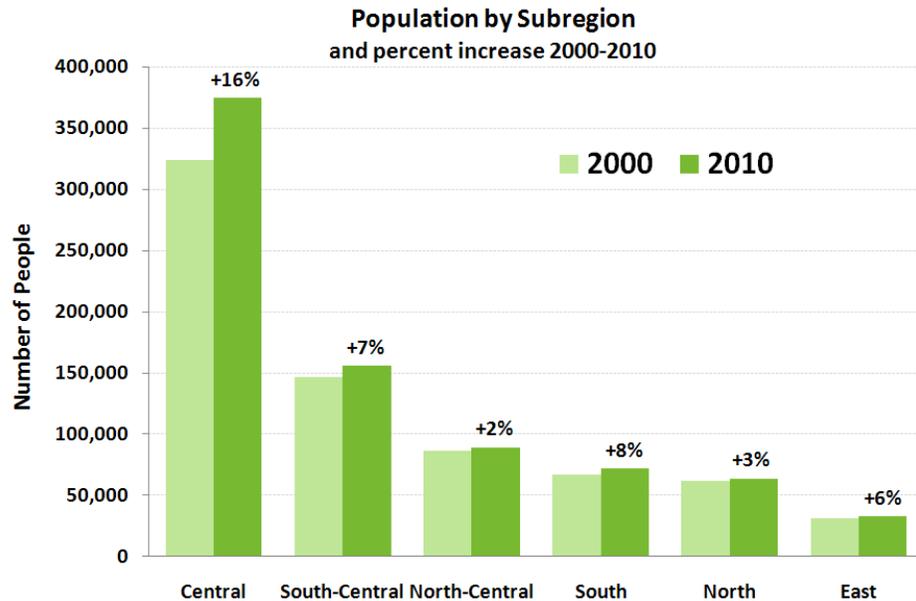
The majority of the population growth over the past ten years occurred in the Central Subregion, which has the largest population (375,000 in 2010) and grew at the fastest rate (16% over the past ten years). In fact, this one Subregion added 51,500 people and accounted for



Geographic Definition: Census Block
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing

72% of overall regional growth. (The portion of El Dorado County within the SNC Region grew by 23 percent.) The South-Central Subregion added about 10,000 people, and the South 5,000. The other Subregions grew by a bit less than 2,000 people each. Alpine, Sierra, and Plumas Counties, as well as the portion of Tehama County within the SNC Region, all lost population.

As of 2010, the Central Subregion accounted for 47.6 percent of the Sierra Nevada Region’s population. About 20 percent of the Sierra Nevada’s population lives in the South-Central Subregion. The East Subregion’s 33,000 people represent just four percent of the total regional population.



Geographic Definition: Census Block
Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing.

For most of the nine counties that

straddle the SNC western boundary, the majority of the population lives outside of the Sierra Nevada, largely in cities such Bakersfield, Fresno, Chico, and Redding. Some of these counties have a very small proportion of residents living inside the SNC Region: just 1.9 percent for Fresno County, 2.0 percent for Tulare, and 2.1 percent for Kern. In the northern counties, with

Share of Total SNC Region Population by Subregion 2010	
Central	47.6%
South-Central	19.8%
North-Central	11.3%
South	9.1%
North	8.0%
East	4.2%

smaller Valley population centers, the proportion of people living in the Sierra Nevada is larger, though still small: 29 percent for Butte County and 11 percent for Shasta, though only 3 percent for Tehama.

Placer and El Dorado Counties are a somewhat different case. Both counties have significant population centers in the Lake Tahoe basin that are outside the SNC Region. Additionally, a large portion of Placer County’s residents live west of the SNC boundary. The ratios of people living inside the Region to the

overall population of these counties are also changing. In 2000, 40 percent of Placer County residents lived in the SNC Region, but that percentage dropped to 33 by 2010 as most of the growth was in communities such as Roseville and Lincoln. (Lincoln was the fastest growing city in the United States over the past decade.) However, the proportion of El Dorado residents residing in the SNC Region actually increased slightly over the decade to nearly 83 percent in 2010.

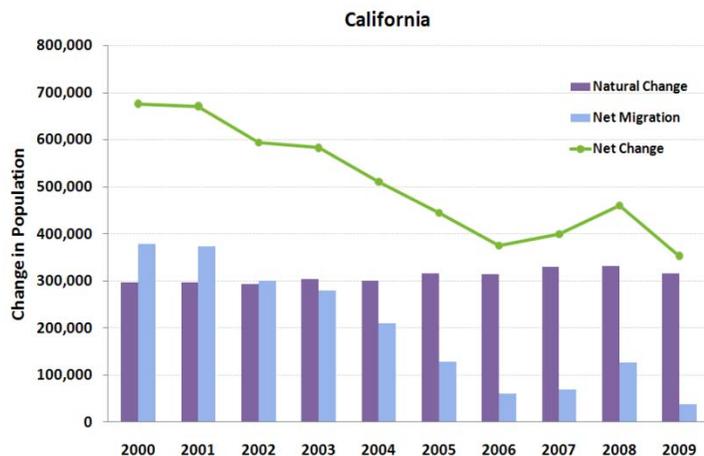
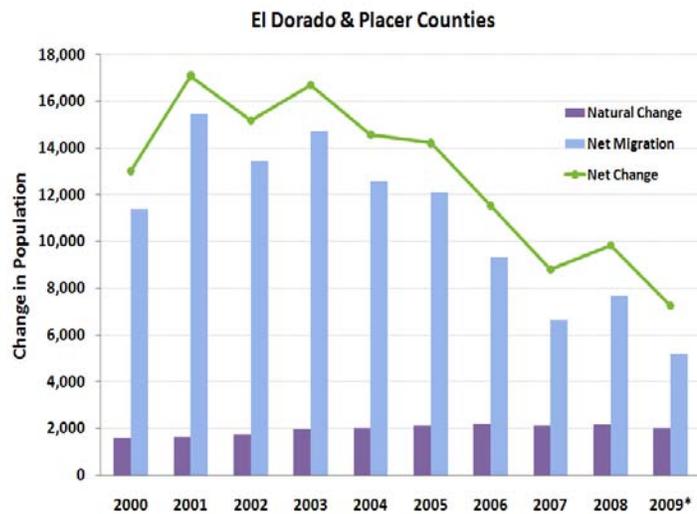
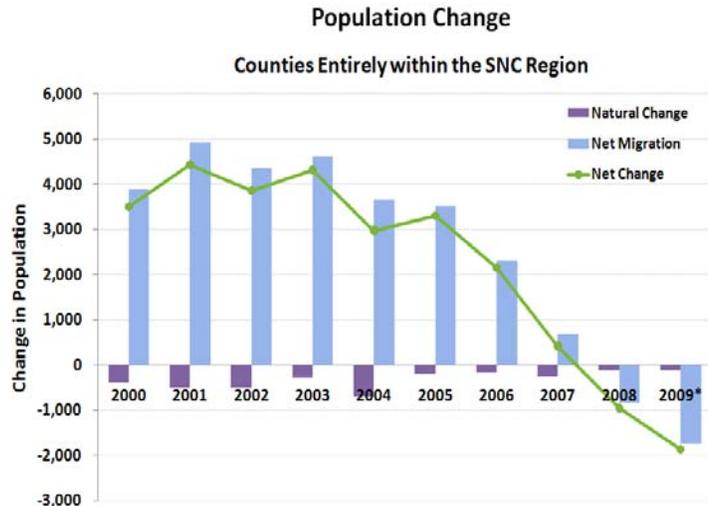
Components of Population Change (for a Portion of the Region)



To plan for the Region's and for communities' needs, we would like to know not only whether the population is growing or shrinking, but what

factors are creating the change. Are local families thriving and expanding or are children leaving the area? Are people moving into the area from other parts of California and the U.S., or from other countries? These determinations contribute to our understanding of the overall demographic trends in the Region. For the counties defined as entirely within the SNC Region, population growth has been slowing since 2001 and the population has actually been declining since 2007. Since at least 2000, death rates have exceeded birth rates in these counties, leading to a negative 'natural' population change. Therefore, between 2000 and 2006, people moving into these counties accounted for all the population growth. In 2008 and 2009, however, more people emigrated from these counties than immigrated, accounting for the recent population decline.

Because 48 percent of Sierra residents live in the SNC portion of El Dorado and Placer counties, it is interesting to note that the growth rates in these two counties have also slowed since 2001, although they have maintained a substantial net growth through 2009 as a result of positive net migration and a consistent natural growth rate by way of higher birth rates due to a younger population. However, since

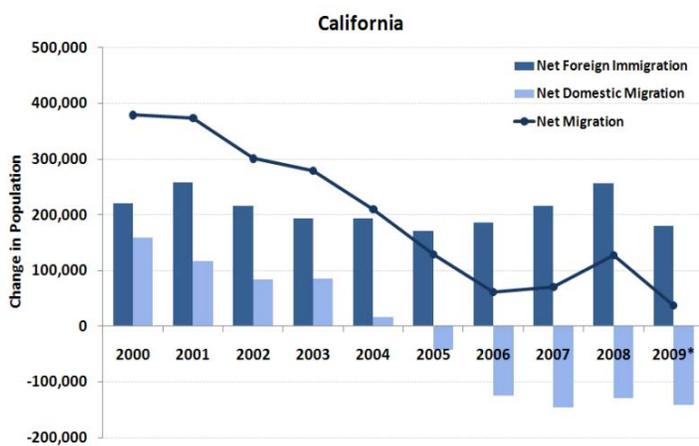
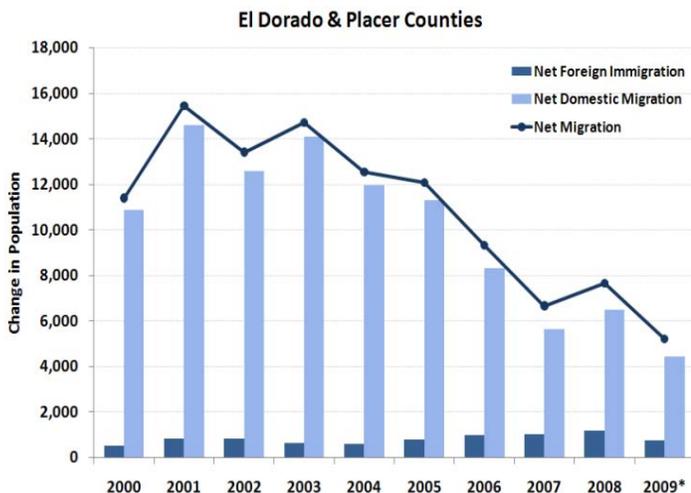
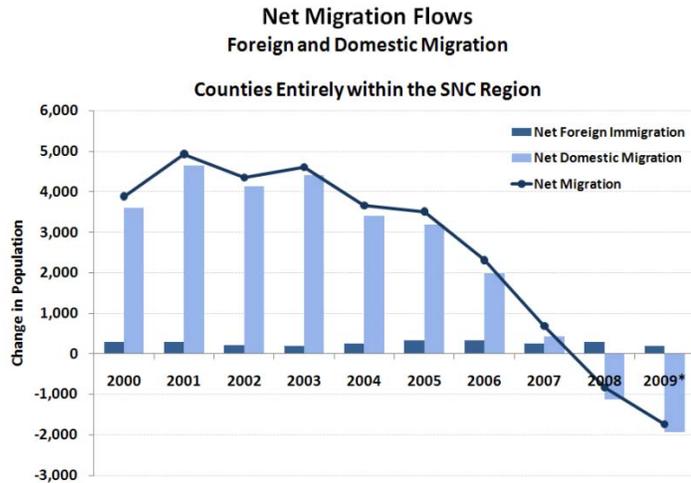


*Preliminary population estimates for 2009
Data Source: California Department of Finance
Analysis: Collaborative Economics

exactly half of El Dorado and Placer County’s combined population reside outside the Region, with much of the growth occurring west of the SNC boundary, what is specifically occurring in the SNC portion of these counties is unclear.

California’s overall growth rate has also slowed during the decade, falling from nearly 700,000 per year in 2000 to about 350,000 per year in 2009. This decline was entirely due to a decline in net migration³. However, a review of the sixth chart shows that foreign immigration has remained consistently strong through all the years. In contrast, while 150,000 more Americans moved to California than moved out of the state in 2000, since 2005 that trend has reversed and now many more Californians leave the state each year.

Since 2001, net migration has been on a downward slope both in the counties entirely within the SNC Region and El Dorado and Placer Counties, as well as for California. However in 2008, the net migration trend in the counties entirely within the SNC Region diverged from the California and El Dorado and Placer Counties. It marked the first year in which more people left the core of the Sierra Nevada than entered the Region. This is due to declining domestic migration, as the region has continued to attract a small number of foreign immigrants. El Dorado and Placer Counties continue



*Preliminary population estimates for 2009
 Data Source: California Department of Finance
 Analysis: Collaborative Economics

³ Net migration includes all legal foreign immigrants, residents who left the region to live abroad, and domestic migration, the balance of people moving to and from the region from within the United States. It does not include illegal immigration.

Net Migration 2009-2009			
	Counties Entirely Within the SNC Region	El Dorado & Placer Counties	California
Domestic	-1,937	4,447	-141,865
Foreign	194	770	179,493

to experience positive domestic migration, though whether that is true for the portions of the counties within the SNC Region is unknown.