

**San Mateo County Community College District
External Environmental Scan**

Fall 2021

The three colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District - Canada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College - serve the more than 767,000 residents who live in San Mateo County and beyond. As the colleges update their long-term educational master plans, they are reviewing the dramatic changes in the context in which they operate. That context is local, regional, national and global. On a global scale, forces related to climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic and California wildfires that are likely related to it are impacting the region in which the colleges operate in new and dramatic ways. The overwhelming success of the Silicon Valley and larger Bay Area economies also impacts the communities the colleges serve in myriad ways. This document seeks to summarize some of these trends and their likely impacts on the colleges and the communities they serve.

Summary of Key Take-Aways

- The cost of living in the region continues to soar making it nearly impossible for low-wage workers to have time to attend school while working.¹
- The pandemic has exacerbated long-term socio-economic trends in the region: worsening income disparities, longer commutes, and a greater incidence of housing insecurity and homelessness in the Bay Area.
- Demographic shifts in the region point to a population that will be older, better educated and wealthier displacing low and moderate income families and communities.
- Low and moderate income earners have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. There has been a disproportionate impact on BIPOC students and families in the region
- Gaps in educational attainment persist and further divide regional residents in terms of economic mobility. Education leads to economic mobility in Silicon Valley.
- School age populations are projected to decline, as are the number of high school graduates who go to college.
- Employment demand in San Mateo County is predicted in occupations that require a bachelor's degree or higher, including jobs in technology, health care, and management services.
- The pandemic has changed higher education in ways that are still being understood in terms of enrollments, technology, and the future of in-person instruction and services.

¹ Indicators of Higher Education Equity in the US 2021: Historical Trend Report.
https://canadacollege.edu/emp/Indicators_of_Higher_Education_Equity_in_the_US_2021_Historical_Trend_Report.pdf

Socio-Economic Trends

Economic Trends

Life in San Mateo County, and Silicon Valley in particular, continues to become more and more expensive. The success of technology companies such as Facebook, Google, and Apple and the wealth they bring to the region drive up the cost of living and exacerbate the already dire trends in the cost of housing in the region.

Cost of Living

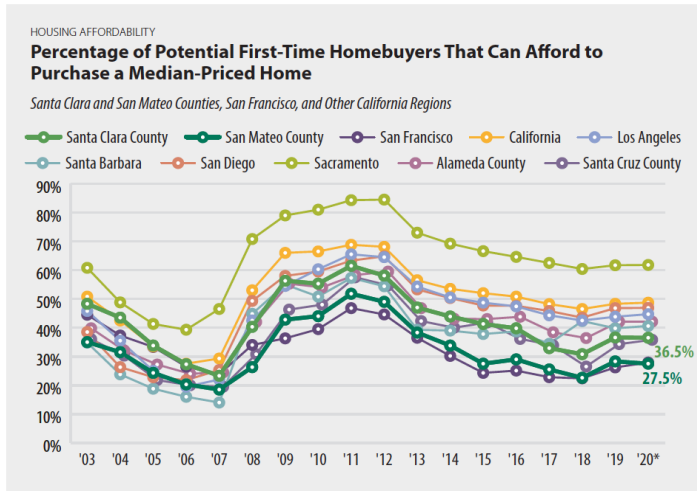
According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and Best Places, the overall cost of living in San Mateo County in 2021 is more than two and half times the national average. The median cost of a home is more than six times the national average.²

Transportation

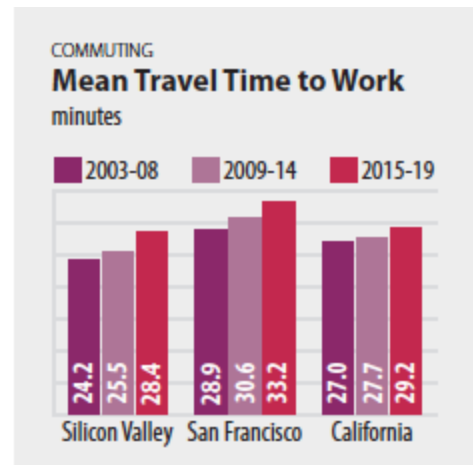
To access the economic opportunities and education in the region, many employees and students move to cities farther away and commute - sometimes many hours per day - to afford a house and keep a reasonable balance between their income and cost of living.

COST OF LIVING	San Mateo	California	USA
Overall	270.6	149.9	100
Grocery	116.7	105.1	100
Health	106.5	92.4	100
Housing	610.2	239.1	100
Median Home Cost	\$1,410,700	\$552,800	\$231,200
Utilities	91.9	102.4	100
Transportation	143.4	133.1	100
Miscellaneous	119.6	103.7	100

² https://www.bestplaces.net/cost_of_living/city/california/san_mateo Bureau of Labor Statistics.



*Includes Q1-3 | Data Source: California Association of Realtors | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies



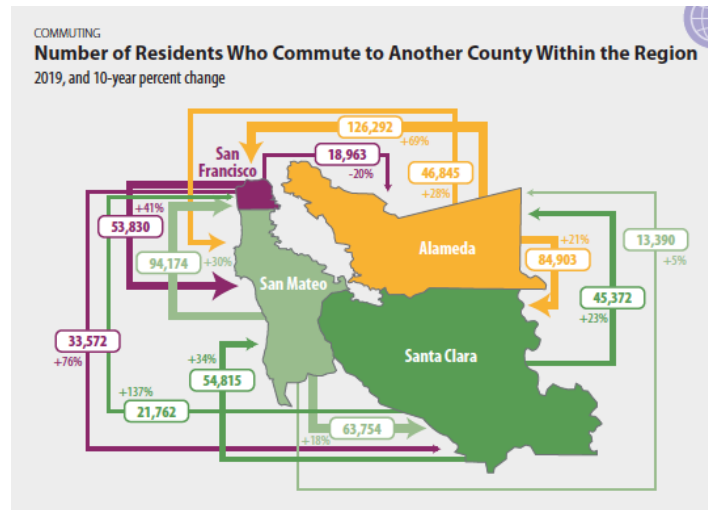
Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

Over time, the increase in the cost of living in San Mateo County has required the SMCCCD to raise salaries to try to attract faculty and staff and yet, in many instances, faculty and staff newer to the region find living and commuting in the region unsustainable.

Income Disparities

The Silicon Valley region is home to some of the greatest disparities in income and wealth in the world. For those living in the region, the gap between rich and poor has worsened over time.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these trends.

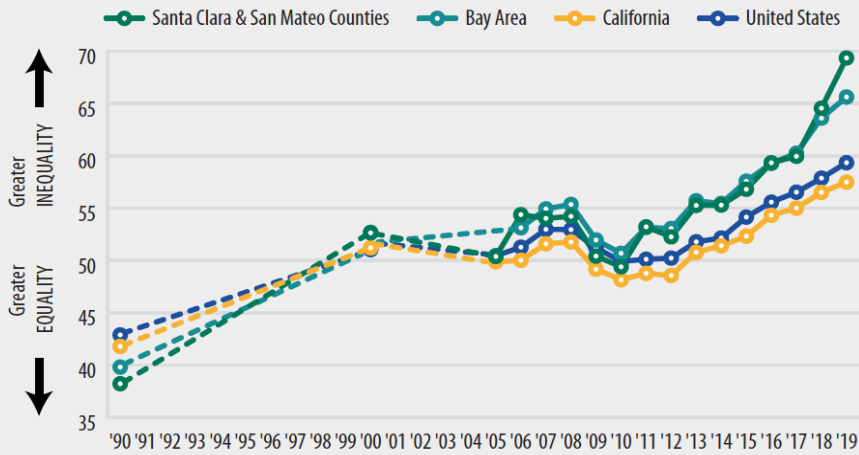


Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey PUMS
 Analysis: Jon Haveman, Marin Economic Consulting; Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Absolute Gini Coefficients of Income Inequality

Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties, Bay Area, California, and the United States



Note: The Absolute Gini is the product of the Relative Gini and the inflation-adjusted mean household income, and has been scaled to equal the Relative Gini in 1990. | Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey | Analysis: Jon Haveman; Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

As of July 2021, 13.7% of San Mateo County rental households were behind on paying rent.

Between January 2020 and July 2021, San Mateo County experienced the largest increase in food stamp enrollment in the State of California, with a 41 percent jump in the number of people here relying on CalFresh.³

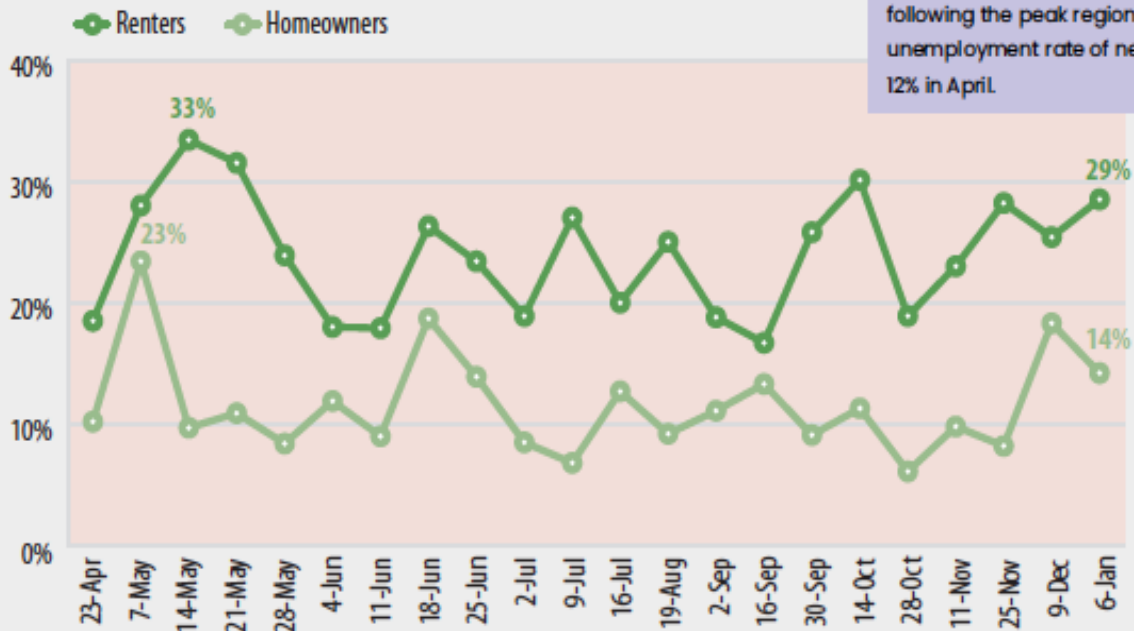
³ Sources: <https://patch.com/california/sanbruno/time-bomb-ticking-see-rental-arrears-san-mateo-county>; <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/10/us/bay-area-hunger-problem.html>

HOUSING INSECURITY

Share of Households that are Housing Insecure, by Tenure

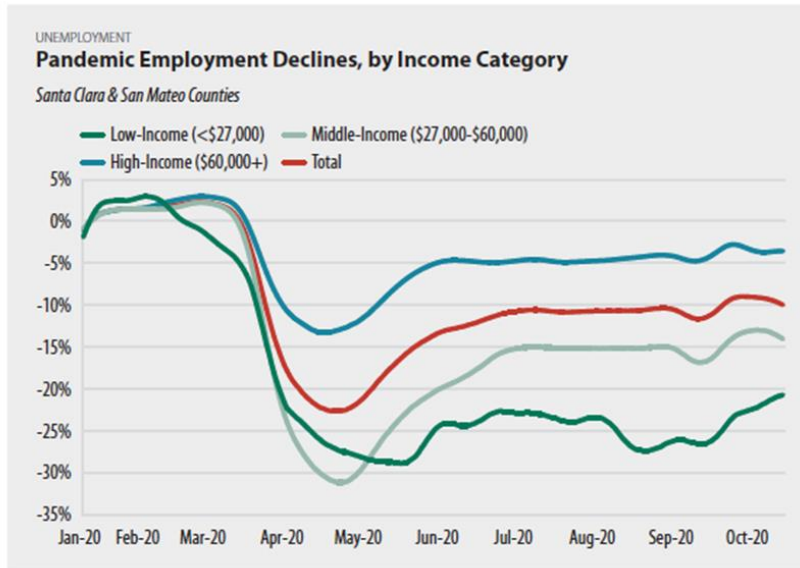
Santa Clara & San Mateo Counties | 2020-2021

Silicon Valley pandemic-related housing insecurity peaked in early- to mid-May (reaching an estimated 26% overall, 33% for renters, and 23% for homeowners) following the peak regional unemployment rate of nearly 12% in April.



Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse & Community Resilience Estimates | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

Lower income workers living in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties saw their wages drop more severely and rebound more slowly due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

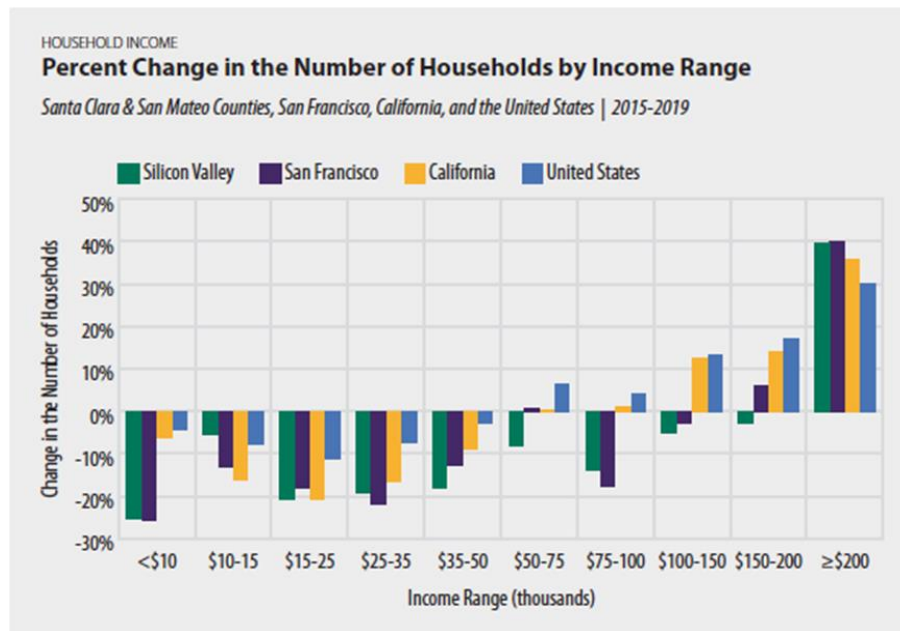


Data Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

Range of Pandemic Employment Declines, by Income Category			
March 15 - October 15, 2020			
	Low	Middle	High
Silicon Valley	5-29%	0-31%	1-13%
San Francisco	4-27%	0-41%	1-23%
California	5-36%	0-25%	0-15%
United States	2-38%	0-24%	0-13%

Pandemic-effects on employment levels varied significantly by worker income category, with low- and middle-income workers (making less than approximately \$60,000 annually) in Silicon Valley experiencing declines of up to 29% and 31%, respectively, compared to a maximum pandemic-decline of 13% in high-income jobs.

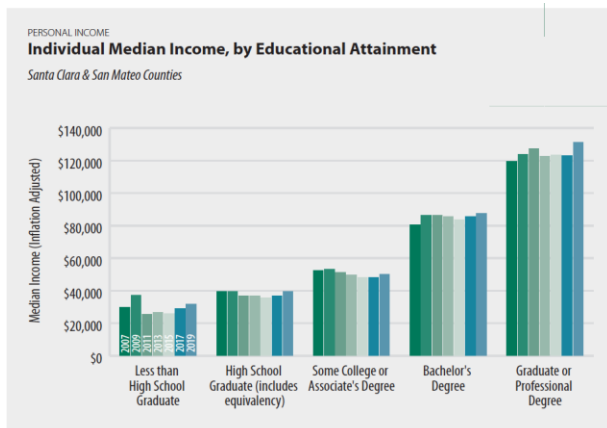
As incomes decline or stagnate and cost of living continues to rise, low and moderate income families are frequently displaced - some forced out of their homes due to evictions or rising rents, others due to the loss of wages or employment. As a result, the region has lost low and moderate income households and gained only upper income households over time.



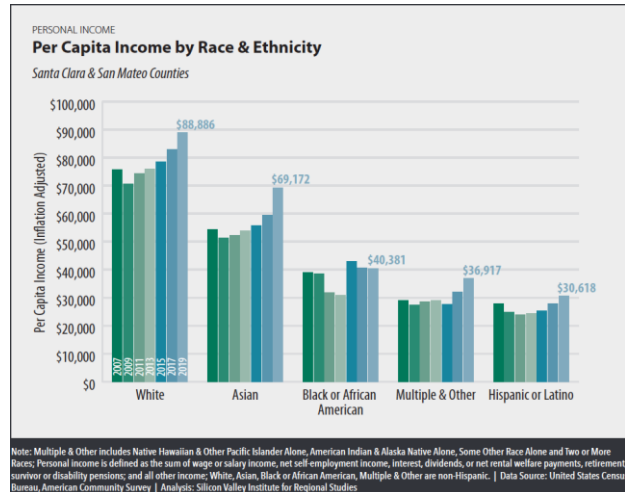
Note: Household income includes wage and salary income, net self-employment income, interest dividends, net rental or royalty income from estates and trusts, Social Security or railroad retirement income, Supplemental Security Income, public assistance or welfare payments, retirement, survivor, or disability pensions, and all other income excluding stock options.
 Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

When incomes are disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the wide gaps in the ability of SMC residents to prosper is evident.

Similarly, as home to the world’s most successful “knowledge economy” the Silicon Valley region is also home to wide gaps between residents by education level.



Note: Some College includes Less than 1 year of college; Some college, 1 or more years, no degree; Associate degree; Professional certification. Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

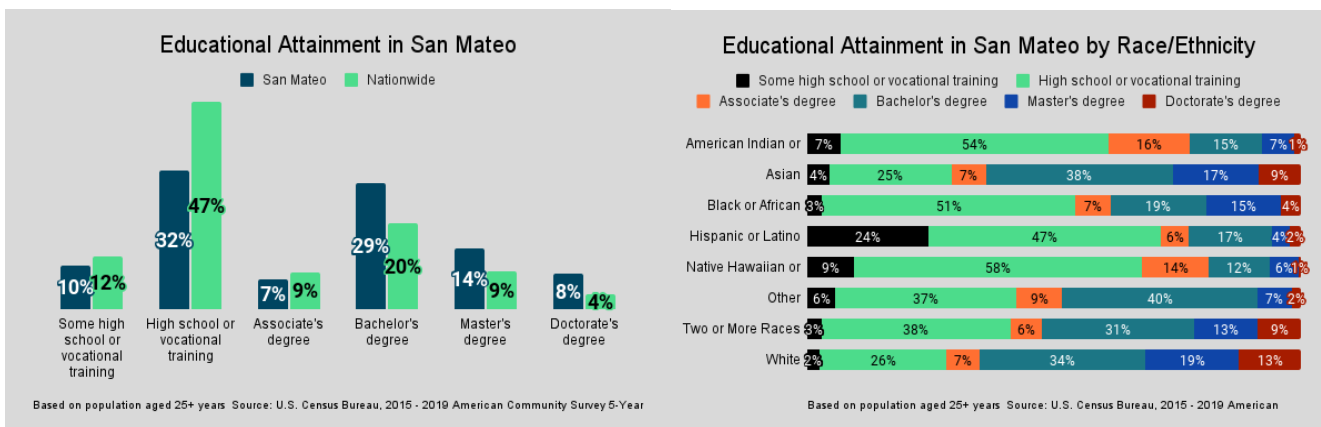


Note: Multiple & Other includes Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander Alone, American Indian & Alaska Native Alone, Some Other Race Alone and Two or More Races; Personal income is defined as the sum of wage or salary income, net self-employment income, interest, dividends, or net rental welfare payments, retirement, survivor or disability pensions and all other income; White, Asian, Black or African American, Multiple & Other are non-Hispanic. | Data Source: United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

The importance of education to survive and thrive in San Mateo County cannot be understated. Education is a key indicator of economic mobility.

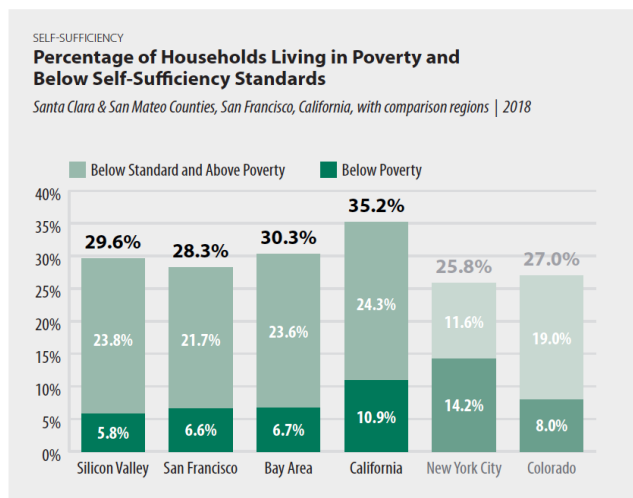
Educational Attainment

There is a clear correlation between an individual’s level of education and income in San Mateo County. A high level of income to afford to live and raise a family in the County. A large percentage of County residents (42%) have a high school education with (or without) some vocational training. When disaggregated by race and ethnicity, the disparities in educational attainment are pronounced with BIPOC residents facing pronounced challenges.

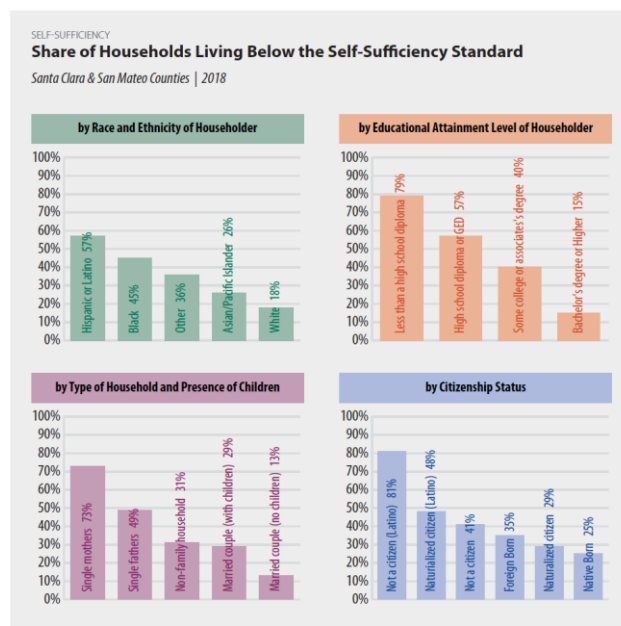


Self Sufficiency and Poverty

Given these income and education disparities, it follows that nearly 30% of San Mateo and Santa Clara County households are living in poverty and below self-sufficiency standards.



Note: The Self-Sufficiency Standard defines the amount of income necessary to meet basic needs without public subsidies or private/informal assistance. | Data Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies



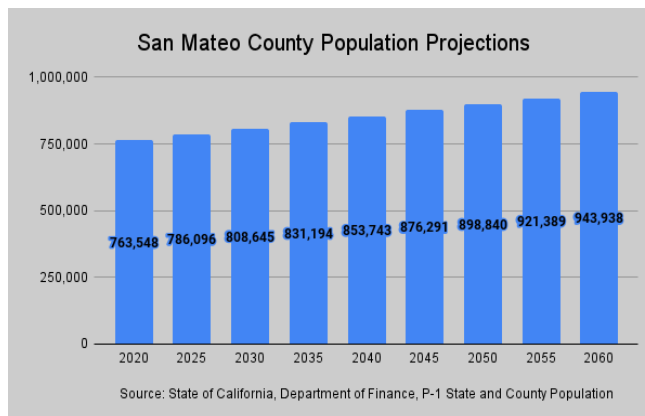
Note: The Self-Sufficiency Standard defines the amount of income necessary to meet basic needs without public subsidies or private/informal assistance. Asian/Pacific Islander, Black, White, and Other are non-Hispanic or Latino. | Data Source: Center for Women's Welfare, University of Washington | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

Population and Demographic Trends

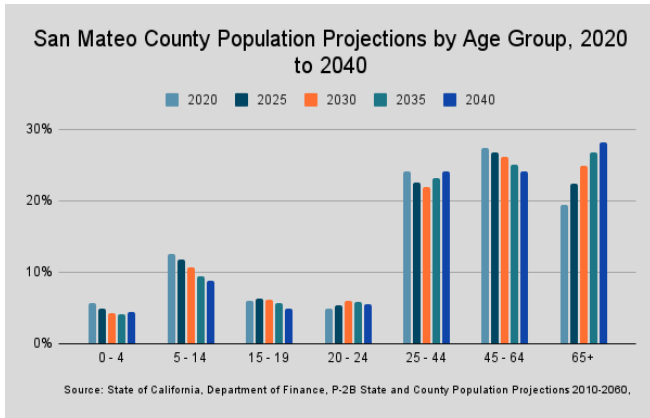
The population of San Mateo County is expected to grow 24% over the next 40 years according to the California Department of Finance.

An Aging Population

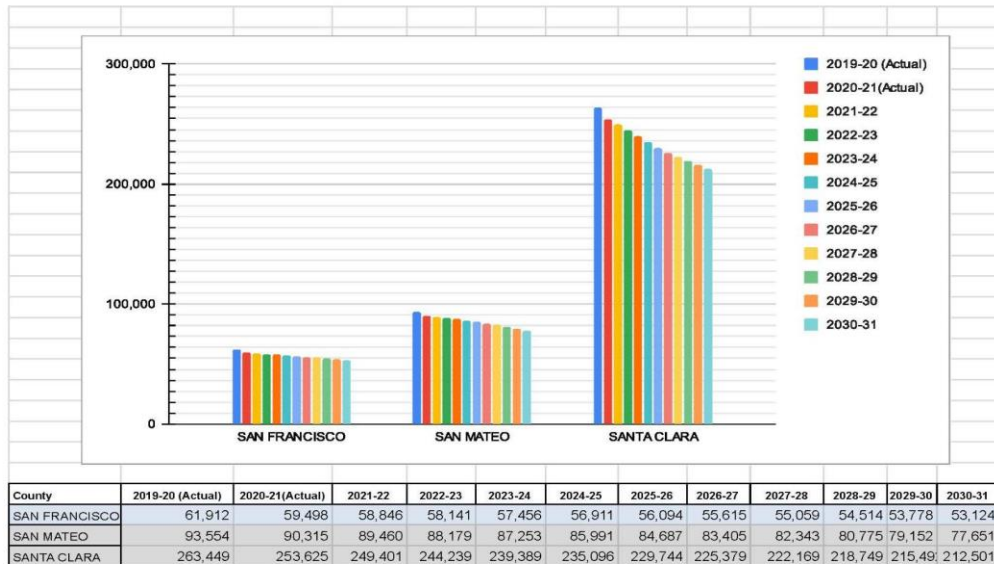
Most of this growth is projected to come from older residents, ages 65 and up, followed by an increase in the number of working age residents: ages 25-44. Younger residents - children, teens and young adults - are expected to decline significantly as a



proportion of the overall population. As a result, the CA Department of Finance is projecting that the total enrollment in grades K-12 in San Mateo County will decrease by 14% by 2030-31 (see below).



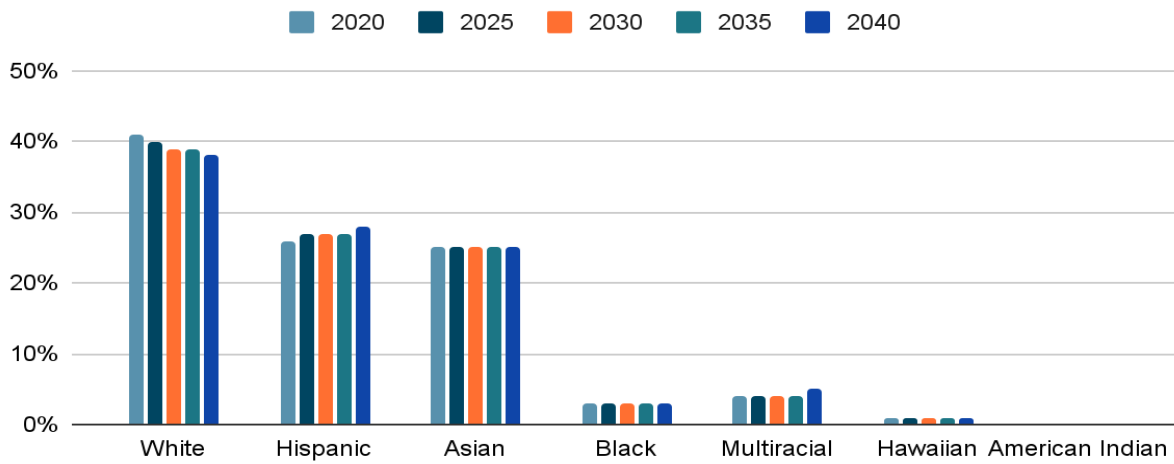
PROJECTED CALIFORNIA PUBLIC K-12 GRADED ENROLLMENT BY COUNTY BY SCHOOL YEAR



State of California, Department of Finance, California Public K-12 Graded Enrollment and High School Graduate Projections by County, 2021 Series. Sacramento, California, June 2021.

When considered by race and ethnicity, the only racial group projected to decline as a share of the total County population is the White population. Hispanic, or Latinx, residents will continue to increase as a share of the total, as they are projected to do statewide. Other groups are expected to remain unchanged.

San Mateo County Population Projections by Ethnicity, 2020-2040



Source: State of California, Department of Finance, P-2D State and County Population Projections 2010-2060, <http://>

Regional Industry and Workforce Trends

In the heart of the Silicon Valley region, San Mateo County is home to or in close proximity to some of the fast-growing and most profitable companies in the world, including Facebook, Genentech, Apple, and Google. The major employers in the County include⁴:

Employer Name	Location	Industry
Bart Daly City Station	Daly City	Transit Lines
Electric Charging Station	Menlo Park	Research Service
Electronic Arts Inc	Redwood City	Game Designers (mfrs)
Facebook Inc	Menlo Park	Social Media
Fisher Investments	San Mateo	Investment Management
Fisher Investments	Woodside	Investment Management
Forced Dump Debris Box Svc	Burlingame	Garbage Collection
Genentech Inc	sSan Francisco	Biotechnology Products & Services
Gilead Sciences Inc	Foster City	Biological Products (mfrs)
Kaiser Permanente Redwood City	Redwood City	Hospitals
Kaiser Permanente South Sn	sSan Francisco	Hospitals
Lsa Global	Redwood City	Training Consultants
Mills-Peninsula Medical Ctr	Burlingame	Hospitals
Motif Inc	San Mateo	Business Services NEC
Oracle Corp	Redwood City	Computer Software-Manufacturers
Palo Alto VA Hosp Med Ctr	Menlo Park	Govt-Specialty Hosp Ex Psychiatric
Plateau Systems	San Mateo	Computer Software
San Francisco Intl Airport-Sfo	San Francisco	Airports

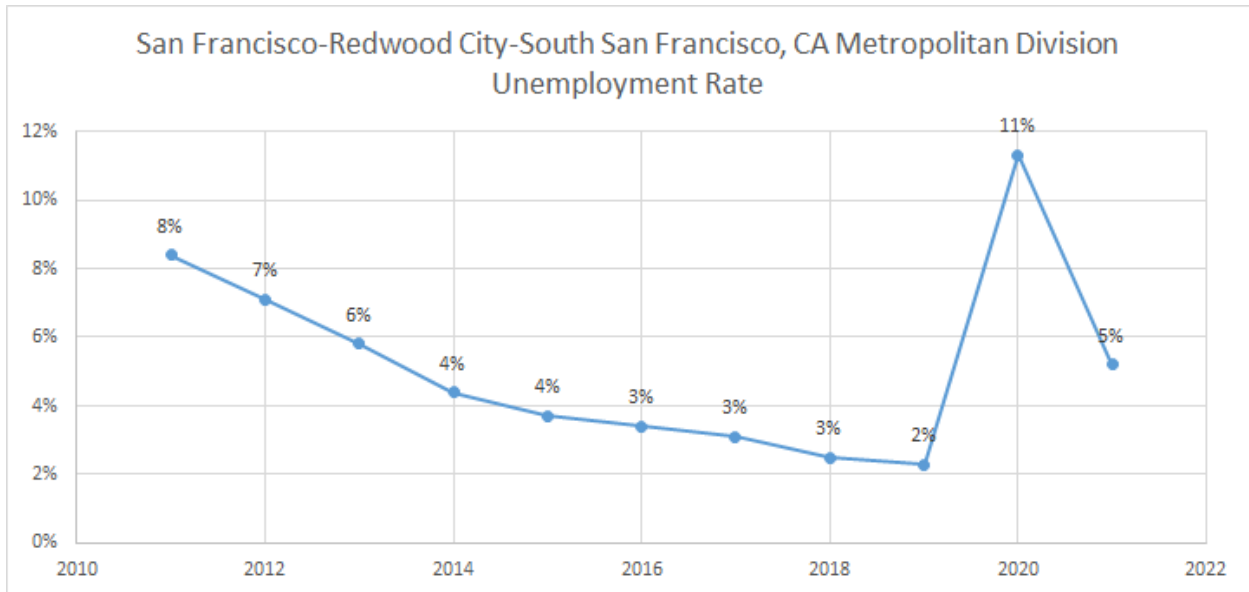
⁴ America's Labor Market Information System (ALMIS) Employer Database, 2021 1st Edition. <https://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/majorer/countymajorer.asp?CountyCode=000081>

[San Mateo County Behavior](#)
[San Mateo County Tax Collector](#)
[San Mateo Medical Ctr](#)
[Sciex LLC](#)
[SRI International](#)
[Visa Inc](#)
[Youtube LLC](#)

San Mateo
 Redwood City
 San Mateo
 Redwood City
 Menlo Park
 Foster City
 San Bruno

Government Offices-County
 Tax Return Preparation & Filing
 Hospitals
 Scientific Apparatus & Instrmnts-Mfrs
 Engineers-Research
 Credit Card & Other Credit Plans
 Online Services

Many of these employers experienced dramatic growth during the COVID-19 pandemic and, as a result, the region's unemployment rate recovered fairly quickly after the initial spike at the beginning of the pandemic:



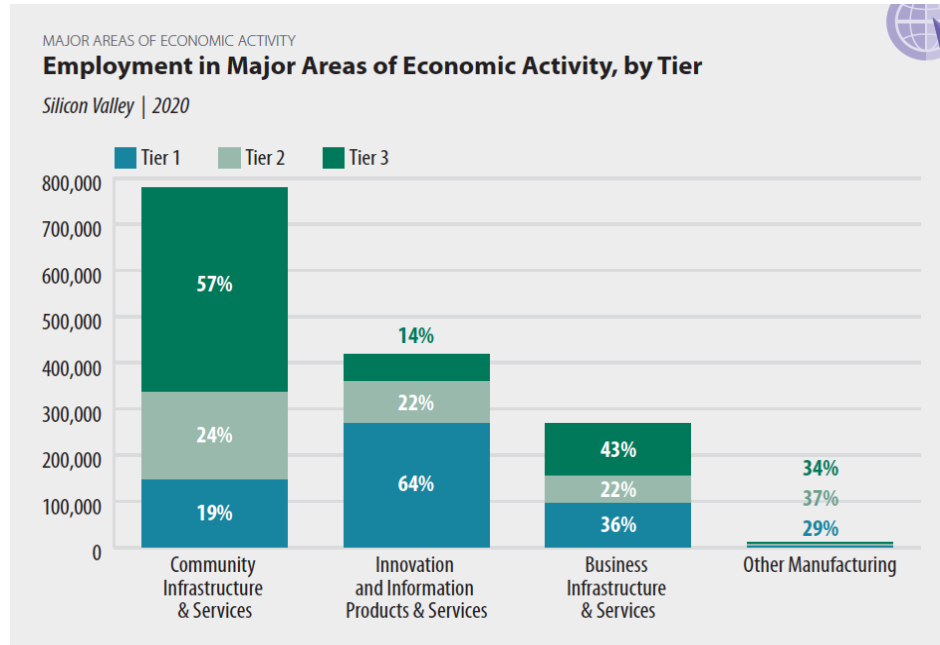
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics: https://www.bls.gov/eag/eag.ca_sanfrancisco_md.htm

Wage Differences

The difference in wages paid in different industries and different employers in the region makes it difficult to analyze regional income trends as a whole.

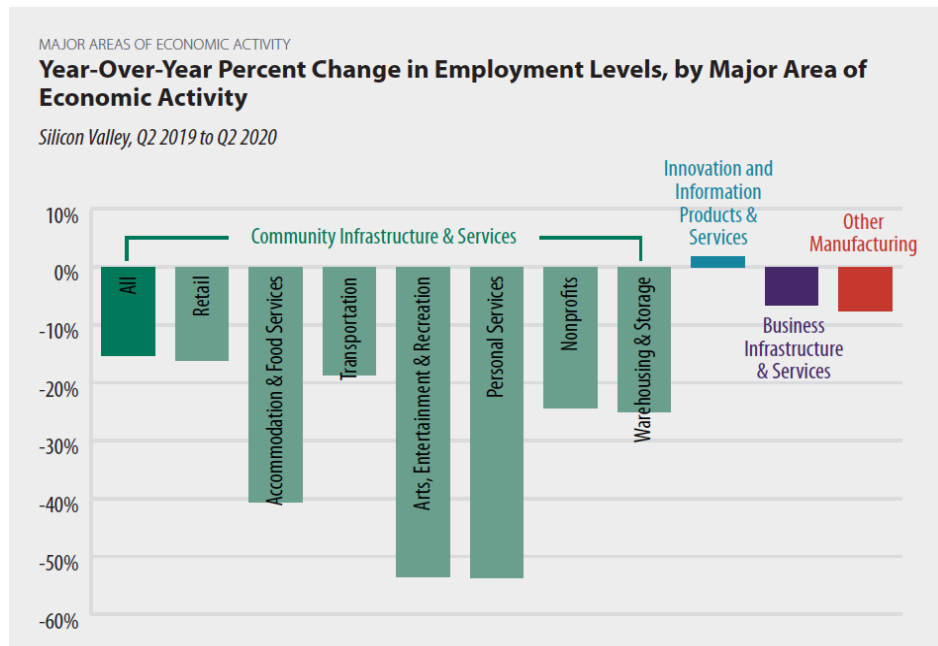
Technology firms clearly play an out-sized role in the Silicon Valley economy. These companies produce many of the region’s “Tier 1” jobs. Tier 1 jobs require a high level of skill or educational attainment and pay a high wage. Yet technology-related companies directly employ slightly less than a third of the regional workforce.

In contrast, the majority of jobs in the region are “Tier 3” jobs which require less skill and pay a much lower wage. Community infrastructure & services and business infrastructure & services activities create more low-skill, low-wage jobs than any other kind of job. Together, they also employ two-thirds of the region’s workforce.



Note: Definitions of the major areas of economic activity, and of Tier 1 (high-skill/high-wage), Tier 2 (mid-skill/mid-wage), and Tier 3 (low-skill/low-wage) jobs are included in Appendix A. | Data Sources: BW Research; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages; California Employment Development Department; EMSI | Analysis: BW Research

Since 2019, however, only the innovation and information products and services sector (high-skill, high-wage jobs) experienced positive job growth. All other sectors experienced negative growth between 2019 and 2020.



During the period between December 1, 2020 and November 30, 2021, occupations with the most job postings and which require at least a bachelor's degree in San Mateo County according to Labor Insight included:

Occupation Title	Number of Job Postings	Risk of Automation ?	Number Employed 2020	% Change in Employment, 2019-2020	Projected National Change in Employment, 2018-2028 ?	Mean Market Salary, last 12 months ?
Software Developers, Applications*	8,044	Low Risk	45,850	-2%	29.0%	\$110,307
Managers, All Other*	7,087	Low Risk	16,590	2%	11.6%	\$90,468
Computer Occupations, All Other*	5,926	Low Risk	20,810	-4%	15.8%	\$99,303
Marketing Managers	5,255	Low Risk	11,350	-2%	12.9%	\$104,663
Registered Nurses	4,715	Low Risk	40,600	5%	16.7%	\$72,499
Operations Research Analysts	3,149	Low Risk	2,040	-17%	28.3%	\$75,069
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	3,054	Medium Risk	16,250	-8%	4.3%	\$58,901
Medical and Health Services Managers	2,818	Low Risk	6,650	20%	23.5%	\$93,703
General and Operations Managers	2,600	Low Risk	43,260	-3%	9.3%	\$94,543
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	2,367	Low Risk	12,040	-10%	-0.4%	\$44,663

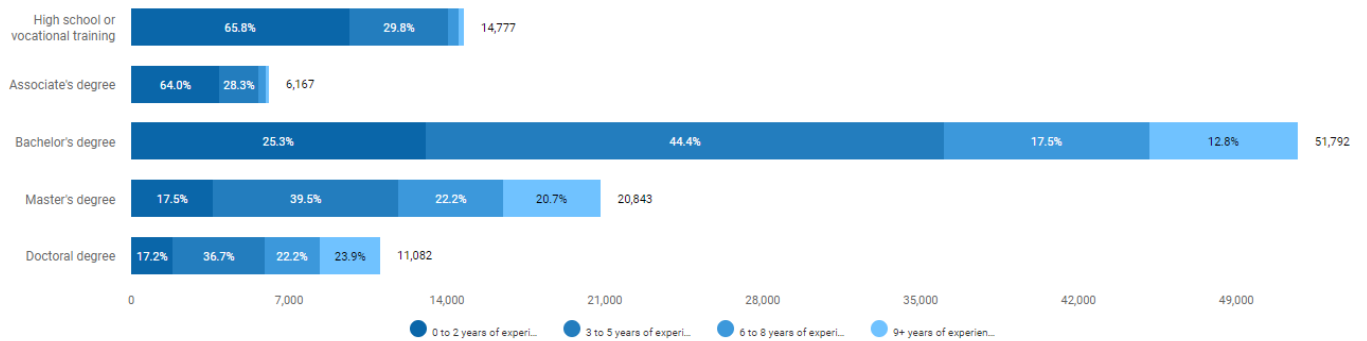
Source: Burning Glass/Labor Insight/EMSI

The occupations with the most job postings during the same period and location that required less than a bachelor's degree include:

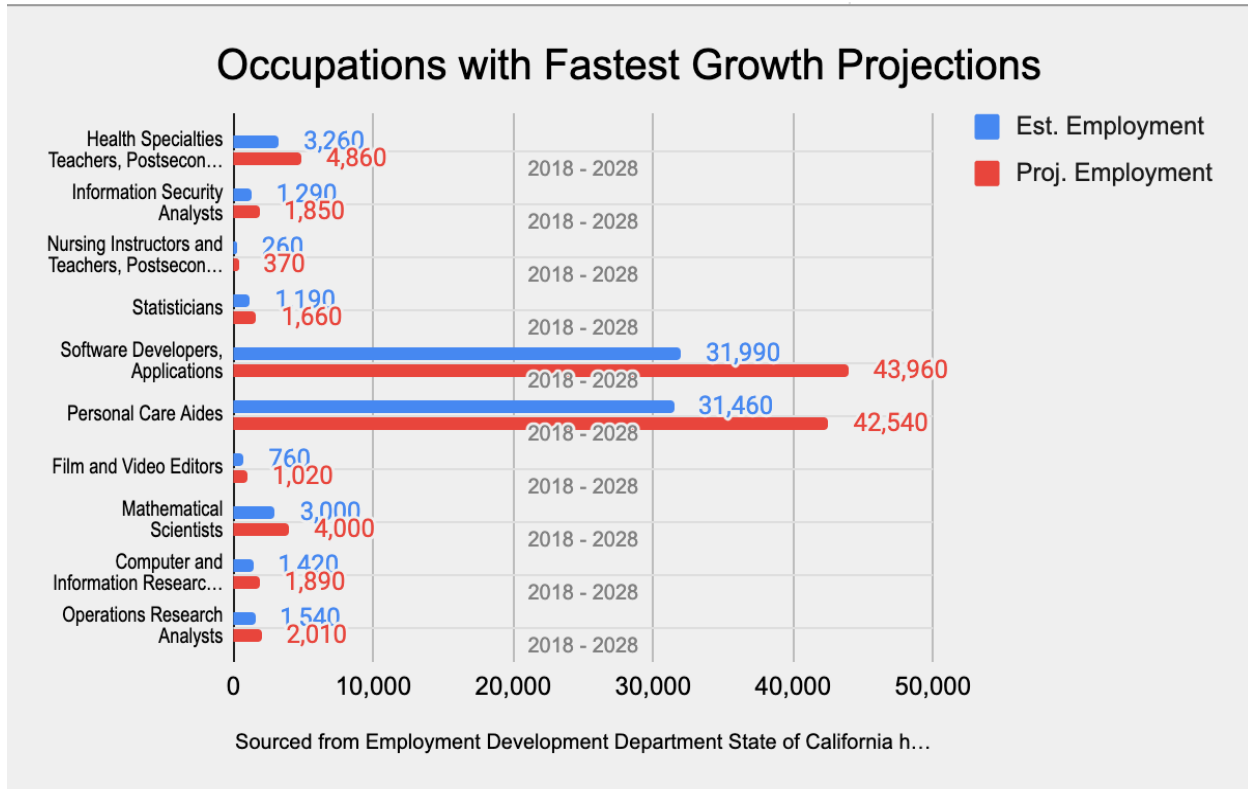
Occupation Title	Number of Job Postings	Risk of Automation ?	Number Employed 2020	% Change in Employment, 2019-2020	Projected National Change in Employment, 2018-2028 ?	Mean Market Salary, last 12 months ?
Registered Nurses	4,683	Low Risk	40,600	5%	16.7%	\$72,209
Retail Salespersons	3,588	High Risk	36,530	-24%	-2.0%	\$35,103
Security Guards	3,081	Medium Risk	21,380	0%	6.6%	\$34,020
Sales Representatives, Wholesale and Manufacturing, Except Technical and Scientific Products	3,054	Medium Risk	16,250	-8%	4.3%	\$58,901
Customer Service Representatives	2,490	Medium Risk	29,130	-7%	-0.9%	\$36,124
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	2,451	Medium Risk	35,720	-9%	15.9%	\$29,771
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	2,367	Low Risk	12,040	-10%	-0.4%	\$44,663
Human Resources Specialists	1,982	Low Risk	14,120	2%	10.4%	\$63,515
Stock Clerks and Order Fillers*	1,678	Medium Risk	26,460	-3%	6.5%	\$30,345
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	1,654	High Risk	26,350	-9%	-7.0%	\$40,124

Source: Burning Glass/Labor Insight/EMSI

In San Mateo County, the vast majority of jobs posted between November 1, 2020 and November 29, 2021 require a Bachelor's Degree or higher plus experience. Of the 173,636 total postings during this timeframe, Burning Glass/Labor Insight report that 88% require at least a Bachelor's Degree.



Looking ahead, the California Employment Development Department projects that the occupations that will continue to grow the fastest in San Mateo County will largely require at least a bachelor’s degree, with the exception of personal care aides⁵:



The role of the community colleges in the region could not be more important. Both for the 47% of local high school students who enroll within one year of completing high school, but also for the many adults who move to the region to pursue economic opportunity as well as the 24% who leave high school and do not enroll in college at all within the first 12-18 months of graduating.

In the larger Bay Area, the SMCCCD colleges are three of 25 public community colleges serving the region. In 2019-20, the SMCCCD colleges served 35,668 students (8% of the Bay Area’s 448,851 community college students) and conferred 3,078 degrees and certificates (6% of the 52,895 degrees awarded to all 2-year Bay Area students).⁶

⁵ The San Francisco-Redwood City-South San Francisco Metropolitan District according the the California Employment Development Department.

⁶ California Community College Chancellor’s Office Data Mart: Outcomes.
https://datamart.cccco.edu/Outcomes/Program_Awards.aspx

Regional Wages and the Cost of Attendance

Numerous studies of the factors that lead to persistence and completion of a students' educational goals have found the close connection between the amount a student must work to live and their ability to persist and complete: "A 2016 study from the Urban Institute on minimum wage and higher education showed that a student working 800 hours a year in the 1960s and 1970s could afford to pay tuition, fees, and generally room and board at a four-year institution. Since 2002, students working 800 hours at minimum wage could only cover 57% of the average tuition and fees alone. By 2017, 800 hours of work at the minimum wage covered barely 28%."⁷

These trends are even more pronounced in the San Mateo County Community College District due to the exorbitant cost of living and the relatively low wages paid by a majority of occupations that do not require a 2 or 4-year degree or certificate. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, the minimum living wage for a single adult with no children in San Mateo County is \$28/hour. With a child to support, that figure doubles to \$56/hour. While San Mateo raised its minimum wage to \$15.62 as of January, 2021, it does not come close to creating an economic environment in which a student can work part-time and afford to attend college at least part-time.

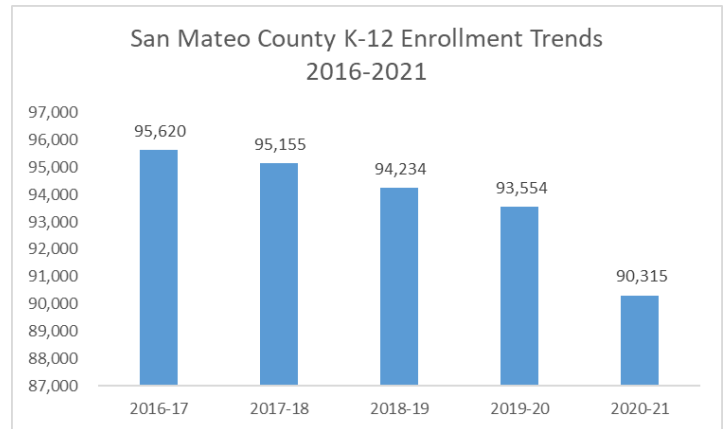
The cost of tuition at the SMCCCD colleges was \$1,439 for the 2020-21 academic, a tiny fraction of that charged by the four California State Universities (CSU) serving the Bay Area (\$7,427) or the two University of California (UC) undergraduate campuses (\$14,100) and an even smaller portion when compared to the \$34,000 tuition bill charged by many private colleges.

The relative cost advantage of attending a public, 2-year college in the Silicon Valley region cannot be considered by itself. The cost of living and supporting oneself (if not a family as well) while attending college, is the critical factor and challenge for the SMCCCD colleges.

⁷ <https://www.diverseeducation.com/institutions/community-colleges/article/15113866/community-college-students-persistence-and-the-minimum-wage>

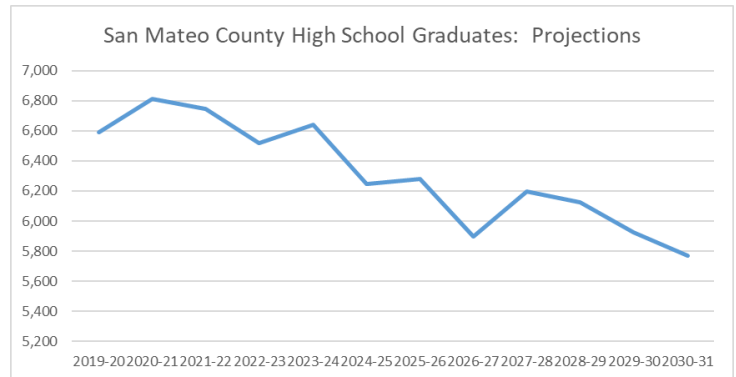
Trends in K-12 Education

Enrollment trends in K-12 education in San Mateo County have declined by 6% over the past five years, and are projected to continue declining by another 14% over the next 10 years by the California Department of Finance.⁸ These are established, statewide trends according to the Public Policy Institute for Higher Education.⁹ The impact of these declines on public, 2-year college enrollments is less clear. Some California Counties may see increases in enrollments while others may see overall declines.



High School Graduations Rates

One of the factors influencing community college enrollments in the future is the percentage of high school students graduating. The California Department of Finance expects the total number of high school graduates statewide to peak in 2023-24 after which they expect them to decline through the end of the projection period (2030-31).



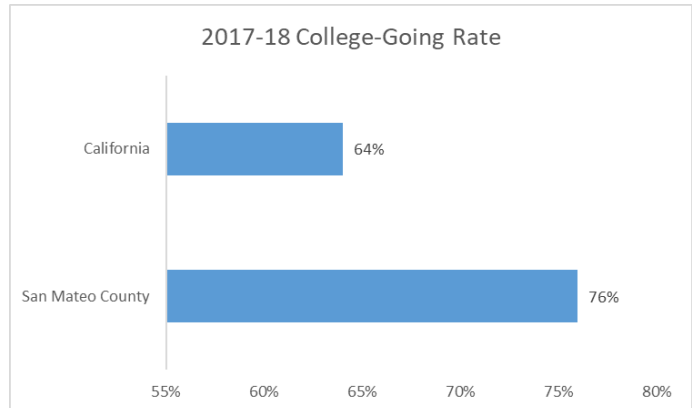
In San Mateo County, the California Department of Finance expects the number of high school graduates to decline from 6,592 in 2019-20 to 5,770 in 2030-31 (-12%). This trends mirrors the expected trend in K-12 enrollments.

⁸ California Department of Education (<https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/dqcensus/EnrGrdYears.aspx?cde=41&aggllevel=county&year=2020-21>) and California Department of Finance (https://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/Public_K-12_Graded_Enrollment/)

⁹ Public Policy Institute of California, <https://www.ppic.org/publication/declining-enrollment-in-california-schools-fiscal-challenges-and-opportunities-in-the-coming-decade/>

College-Going Rates

Of those students who do complete high school in San Mateo County, many of them enroll in college within one year of completing high school. Overall, San Mateo County has the fourth highest percentage of high school completers going to college in the State. Approximately 76% of County high school graduates attend college, nearly one half of whom attend a community college.¹⁰



Combining the 47% of local high school completers who attend community college within one year of graduating high school and the 24% who do not attend any college within 12 or 16 months of completing high school, the local public community colleges are the best positioned to serve more than half of all high school completers in the County - approximately 3,600 students per year. As the K-12 population shrinks, however, this pool of potential SMCCCD students likely also shrinks.

According to the California Department of Education, the college-going trends by high school district in San Mateo County are as follows for 2017-18 (the most recent year data is available):

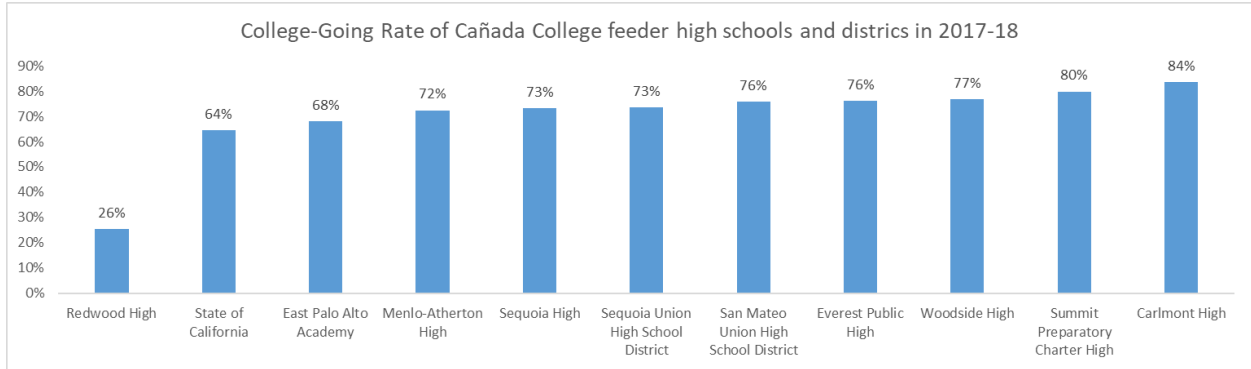
High School District Name	High School Completers	High School Completers Enrolled in College	College-Going Rate	Enrolled In-State				Enrolled Out-Of-State	
				University of California	California State University	California Community College	Private 2- and 4-Year College	4-Year College	2-Year College
								(Public/Private)	(Public/Private)
Cabrillo Unified	258	186	72%	19	21	95	11	39	1
Jefferson Union High	1,059	791	75%	86	134	510	34	23	4
La Honda-Pescadero Unified	27	12	44%	1	2	6	0	3	0
San Mateo County Office of Education	32	11	34%	0	0	11	0	0	0
San Mateo Union High	2,082	1,686	81%	275	274	703	120	308	6
Sequoia Union High	1,974	1,444	73%	226	226	520	124	344	4
South San Francisco Unified	634	466	74%	34	76	316	26	14	0

Source: <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/CGRLevels.aspx?aggllevel=County&cds=41&year=2017-18>

¹⁰ California Department of Education DataQuest for 2017-18 (most recent year available).

<https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/CGRLocLevels.aspx?aggllevel=State&cds=00&year=2017-18>

Some high schools and communities in the region see a lower percentage of high school completers. For Cañada College, the college-going rates of local feeder high schools differ dramatically:

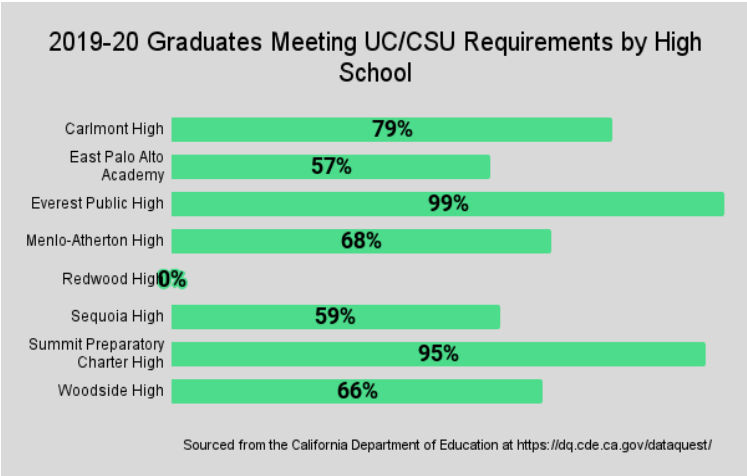


The college-going rate for San Mateo County high school completers also varies widely by the race/ethnicity of the student. In San Mateo County in 2017-18, the gap between the college-going rate of Hispanic/Latins and Asian students was 25 percentage points.

Race / Ethnicity of San Mateo High School Students 2017-18	San Mateo County High School Completers	High School Completers Enrolled In College	College-Going Rate	Enrolled In College (In-State)	Enrolled In College (Out-of-State)	No Record of College Enrollment
African American	118	79	67%	52%	15%	33%
American Indian or Alaska Native	20	12	60%	50%	10%	40%
Asian	990	879	89%	77%	12%	11%
Filipino	713	528	74%	71%	3%	26%
Hispanic or Latino	2,364	1,521	64%	60%	4%	36%
Pacific Islander	127	75	59%	58%	2%	41%
White	1,673	1,406	84%	57%	28%	16%
Two or More Races	353	295	84%	71%	13%	16%
Not Reported	278	229	82%	63%	20%	18%

Source: California Department of Education, <https://dq.cde.ca.gov/dataquest/DQCensus/CGRLoc.aspx?aggllevel=County&cds=41&year=2017-18>

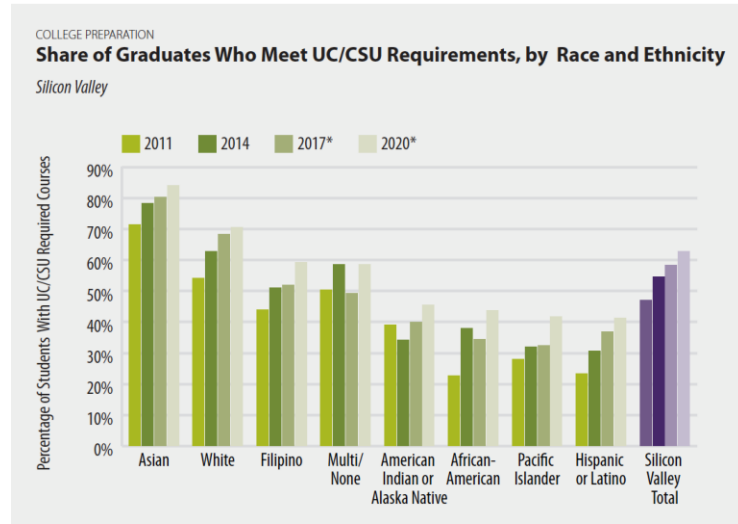
Another factor influencing community college enrollments is the rate at which high school completers in the region complete the requirements for matriculating at the University of California (UC) and/or the California State University (CSU) systems. Critical to a high school graduate’s ability to attend a CSU or UC directly after high school is whether or not they have completed all of the pre-requisites of direct matriculation - commonly referred to as “a-g” requirements due to the 7 items on the list to meet minimum admission requirements for UC (CSU’s are slightly different). To attend a UC after high school, students must complete 15 year- long high school courses with a letter grade of C or better — at least 11 of them prior to their last year of high school.¹¹



While San Mateo County has an impressive overall “college-going rate” of 76%, not all of its high school graduates have completed the “a-g” requirements. When Canada College’s feeder high schools are considered, the percentage of high school completers meeting UC/CSU requirements varies widely.

These trends are exacerbated when a student’s socio-economic status and/or race and ethnicity are considered. Data on a-g performance reveal the lowest rates among the African American and Hispanic

populations, with improvements observed over time.



*Due to changes in the California Department of Education methodology for 2017 and subsequent years, caution should be used in comparing cohort outcome data to prior years. | Note: Multi/None includes students of two or more races, and those who did not report their race. All racial/ethnic groups aside from Hispanic or Latino are non-Hispanic. | Data Source: California Department of Education | Analysis: Silicon Valley Institute for Regional Studies

While the percent of high school students in the Silicon Valley region meeting UC/CSU requirements improved for all groups over the last 9 years, equity gaps between student groups based on race and ethnicity persist. The gap between the share of African American and Asian high school graduates in Silicon Valley leaving high school ready to meet the requirements of the UC/CSU systems is still 40 percentage points. For Hispanic/Latinx students, the gap is even wider.

¹¹ University of California admissions requirements: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/subject-requirement-a-g.html>

SMCCCD High School Take Rate

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the San Mateo County Community Colleges experienced an 10-year decline of 19.8% in the number of County high school graduates enrolling at one of the three SMCCCD colleges, even as the total number of local high school graduates increased by 15.1% over the same period.

San Mateo County Public High School 5-year Take Rates

Enrolling SMCCCD 2015/16 – 2019/20

Summary of San Mateo County Public High School 5-year Take Rates, 2010/11 to 2018/19

High School Graduating Years	Total Public High School Graduates	SMCCCD		Skyline		Cañada		CSM	
		High School Graduate Enrollment	Take Rate	High School Graduate Enrollment	Take Rate	High School Graduate Enrollment	Take Rate	High School Graduate Enrollment	Take Rate
2010/11 – 2014/15	29,747	14,078	47.3	7,082	23.8	4,742	15.9	8,018	27.0
2011/12 – 2015/16	29,951	13,701	45.7	7,142	23.8	4,851	16.2	7,734	25.8
2012/13 – 2016/17	30,313	13,503	44.5	7,271	24.0	4,932	16.3	7,681	25.3
2013/14 – 2017/18	30,900	13,227	42.8	7,343	23.8	5,098	16.5	7,558	24.5
2014/15 – 2018/19	31,253	13,105	41.9	7,396	23.7	5,268	16.9	7,531	24.1

Note: Take Rate = Proportion of total high school graduates enrolling at an SMCCCD college

San Mateo County Public High School Graduates and SMCCCD Unique Headcounts, 2010-2019

Year	San Mateo County Public H.S. Graduates	SMCCCD Unique Headcount			
		District	Skyline	Cañada	CSM
2010	5,580	38,838	16,716	11,215	16,779
2011	5,839	38,275	17,229	10,963	16,149
2012	5,857	37,386	17,180	11,080	15,692
2013	6,051	36,541	17,112	11,129	15,295
2014	6,068	35,704	16,979	11,309	14,861
2015	5,932	34,717	16,725	11,306	14,609
2016	6,043	34,686	16,711	11,290	14,593
2017	6,219	33,198	15,836	10,983	14,602
2018	6,638	32,200	15,251	10,744	14,839
2019	6,421	31,145	15,278	10,594	14,363
Percent Change 2010-2019	+15.1	-19.8	-8.6	-5.5	-14.4

Note: This table compares the total number of SM County public high school graduates with the total unique SMCCCD headcount enrollment in the corresponding academic year (Summer/Fall/Spring terms, combined). SMCCCD Unique Headcount based on end of term enrollment.

Changes in Higher Education

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically changed higher education. The National Student Clearinghouse reports declines in enrollment across segments, but 2-year public colleges are particularly hard hit.¹² Unlike other economic recessions, the pandemic recession saw steep declines in enrollments at the California Community Colleges. Many students who typically rely on community colleges have stopped out or never enrolled due to social, health and/or economic pressures and it is not clear when or how they will return.

The dramatic shift to online education brought on by the pandemic continues to be felt as colleges grapple with the best balance between in-person and online instruction and services. In California, the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) has increased its commitment to the California Virtual Campus (CVC) as a way to improve more equitable access to online courses and degree and certificate programs across the State.¹³ There is renewed interest nationally in providing more degree programs 100% online. Private and public 4-year colleges (including the UC and CSUs) are entering the market for 100% online programs. How will the community colleges create 100% online pathways to 100% online 4-year programs?

These and other questions remain and need further exploration as the San Mateo County Community Colleges consider their external environment in their educational master planning processes.

¹² National Student Clearinghouse: <https://www.studentclearinghouse.org/blog/undergraduate-enrollment-drops-nearly-8-and-community-colleges-decline-15-since-fall-2019/>

¹³ California Virtual Campus: <https://cvc.edu/>