Portola Valley, California

Indicators Report

by
The National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

January 27, 2025

Exploring the economics, demographics, and well-being of Portola Valley and its residents through indicators.

This report was produced by the:

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Executive Summary

Assessing the City with Indicators

About this Report

This report provides background or summary information for the city of Portola Valley (the City) in the form of indicators.

Using this Report

Indicators are measures of various aspects of a regional economy. They help to provide an indication of the quality of life in a region and progress toward improving conditions in the local economy. This report focuses on indicators for changing demographics, incomes, housing markets, commute patterns, and employment in Portola Valley. These indicators are compared to San Mateo County (the County) as a whole, a broader region where one is well defined, California, and the United States.

This report is vital for understanding trends in the underlying economy. It does not provide forecasts, but Rob Eyler and Jon Haveman at Economic Forensics and Analytics are available to provide them if that is of interest.

Topics Covered:

- **Demographics:** A detailed snopshot of Portola Valley demographics is presented. This provides evidence on the size, age and sex, income and poverty status, race and ethnicity, housing status, living arrangements, education, health, and transportation choices of the population. Beyond the current population level, data on trends in local population growth, in comparison with other broader regions is presented, in both tabular and graphical form.
- **Employment Report:** Here, we provide a brief snapshot or employment and unemployment in Portola Valley and how the City's experience differs from broader regions.
- **Income and Earnings:** Vital to understanding the prosperity of a city relative to its surrounding area is information on income and earnings. We provide a ranking of the City's income relative to all cities in California as well as growth relative to local regions. Inequality and poverty status are also important indicators for the level of equity in the community. We provide evidence of trends in both, not only for all residents, but also for children separately.
- **Housing:** This section provides evidence on the cost and availability of housing. Both median home values and rental costs are included, along with detailed information on home ownership, by age and income, in particular. Further, evidence is provided on the housing burden in the City, again, in comparison with other broader regions. We also provide evidence on the rate at which new buildings and units are permitted along with a broader housing picture. Finally, we provide evidence on the age of the housing stock in Portola Valley, along with information on how long the City's residents have been in place.
- **Transportation:** Increasingly important, in the wake of the pandemic, is an understanding of the transportation patterns and choices of local residents. We provide detailed evidence on the proprotion of residents who work from home and on the various transportation choices of those who head to the office. This information is also provided for those who work in Portola Valley, but do not necessarily live in Portola Valley.
- **Migration:** Population changes comes primarily through organic causes: births and deaths. Migration between regions also plays a significant role in population growth. A final section of the report provides evidence on migration into and out of the City.

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Contents

Executive Summary **1**
Assessing the City with Indicators 1

Demographics **3**
A Demographic Snapshot 3
Current Population 4

Employment Report **8**
Citywide Employment and Unemployment 8
County Employment by Industry 11
Some Employee Detail 12

Income and Earnings **18**
Per Capita Personal Income Growth 18
Poverty and Inequality 22

Housing **24**
Housing Costs and Affordability 24
Housing Picture 28
Vintage of Residential Housing 30
Occupation of Residential Housing 32
Residential Permitting 34

Commute Patterns **37**
Mode of Transportation 37
Commute Times for Employed Residents 39
Commute Times for Those Employed in the City 40
Place of Work 41
Commute Mode by Income 43
Commute Mode by Poverty Status 44

Migration **45**
Overall Migration Flows 45
Demographics of Migration Flows 47

References and Sources **49**

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Demographics

Definition:

Data on the demographics of a city indicate the nature of the population, with a focus on age, gender, race and ethnicity, as well as household compositon.

Why is it important?

The characteristics and growth of Portola Valley's population are fundamental indicators of the city's growth potential.

A Demographic Snapshot

Statistic	2023	2019
POPULATION		
Population Estimate (#, 5yr)	4,329.0	4,592.0
Veterans (#, 5yr)	155.0	
Foreign born persons (%, 5yr)	14.1	14.0
Population age 25+ (#, 5yr)	3,318.0	
AGE AND SEX		
Persons under 5 years (%, 5yr)	5.6	2.3
Persons under 18 years (%, 5yr)	18.5	22.9
Persons 65 years and over (%, 5yr)	42.4	28.5
Female persons (%, 5yr)	54.2	55.2
INCOME AND POVERTY		
Median household income ($, 5yr)	250,001.0	224,554.0
Per capita income in past 12 months ($, 5yr)	192,605.0	124,281.0
Persons in poverty (%, 5yr)	5.3	1.8
Children age less than 18 in poverty (#, 5yr)	0.0	0.0
Children age less than 18 in poverty (%, 5yr)	0.0	0.0
RACE AND ETHNICITY		
White alone (%, 5yr)	79.6	86.7
African American alone (%, 5yr)	0.2	0.4
American Indian or Alaska Native alone (%, 5yr)	0.0	0.1
Asian alone (%, 5yr)	9.4	7.0
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (%, 5yr)	0.0	0.0
Two or More Races (%, 5yr)	9.9	4.5
Hispanic or Latino (%, 5yr)	9.5	6.7
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino (%, 5yr)	75.5	82.3
HOUSING		
Housing units (#, 5yr)	1,840.0	1,826.0
Owner-occupied housing units (%, 5yr)	83.7	77.4
Median value of owner-occupied housing units ($, 5yr)	2,000,001.0	2,000,001.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage ($, 5yr)	4,001.0	4,001.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage ($, 5yr)	1,501.0	1,501.0
Median gross rent ($, 5yr)	3,501.0	2,986.0
FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		
Households (#, 5yr)	1,730.0	1,685.0
Persons per household (#, 5yr)	2.5	2.7
Living in same house 1 year ago, % of persons age 1+ (5yr)	96.3	90.9
EDUCATION		
High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	98.6	
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	82.8	
HEALTH		
With a disability, under age 65 years (#, 5yr)	185.0	
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years (%, 5yr)	1.6	1.8
LABOR FORCE		
In civilian labor force, persons age 16+ (%, 5yr)	39.8	
In civilian labor force, women age 16+ (%, 5yr)	26.2	
Employed, persons age 16+ (%, 5yr)	37.2	
Self employed (%, 5yr)	27.1	
TRANSPORTATION		
Mean travel time to work, workers age 16+ (Mins., 5yr)	14.1	
Drive alone in private vehicle (%, 5yr)	41.3	
Using public transportation (%, 5yr)	0.0	
Worked from home (%, 5yr)	53.5	

Source: American Community Survey, Summary Files
Note: Data are from the 1-year files unless indicated by the notation 5yr.

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Current Population

The data in these two tables and the following two graphs are from the CA Department of Finance (DOF). The DOF produces population estimates for geographies around California twice a year: January and July. As estimates for cities are only available in January, these two tables are based on the January data. The remaining figures are from the American Community Survey (ACS), provided annually by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Table 1. Population Change by Region
(Thousands, January to January)

Region	2024 Population	% Change 1 Year	% Change 3 Year	% Change 5 Year
City				
Portola Valley	4,249	−0.79	−2.43	−8.09
County and Broader Regions				
San Mateo County	741,565	−0.50	−1.33	−4.22
Bay Area	7,588,780	−0.14	−0.98	−2.38
California	39,128,162	0.17	−0.45	−1.43

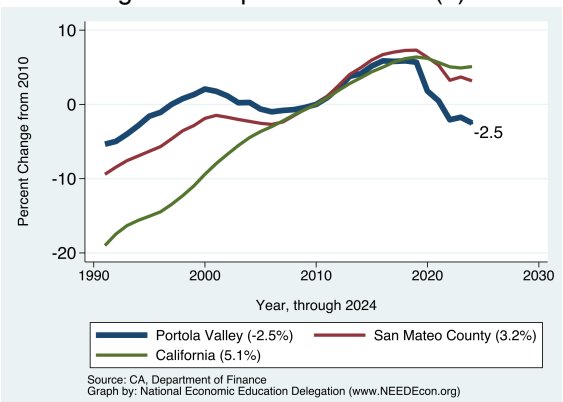
Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

Table 2. County Population Change by City
(Thousands, January to January)

City	2023	2024	% Change Local	% Change Bay Area	% Change California
San Mateo County	745.3	741.6	−0.50	−0.14	0.17
San Mateo	104.2	103.4	−0.79		
Daly City	102.5	101.5	−1.03		
Redwood City	82.1	81.9	−0.34		
South San Francisco	64.8	64.6	−0.25		
San Bruno	42.5	42.2	−0.94		
Pacifica	37.4	37.1	−0.89		
Menlo Park	32.9	33.1	0.60		
Foster City	32.9	32.6	−1.03		
Burlingame	30.4	30.5	0.34		
San Carlos	29.7	29.4	−0.94		
East Palo Alto	29.0	29.1	0.42		
Belmont	27.2	26.9	−0.92		
Millbrae	22.7	23.1	1.79		
Half Moon Bay	11.3	11.2	−0.79		
Hillsborough	11.1	11.1	−0.19		
Atherton	7.0	7.0	0.06		
Woodside	5.2	5.1	−0.83		
Brisbane	4.7	4.7	−0.72		
Portola Valley	4.3	4.2	−0.79		
Colma	1.4	1.4	−1.12		

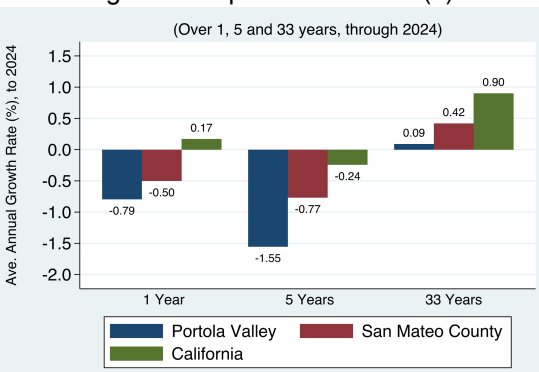
Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 1: Population Growth (1)



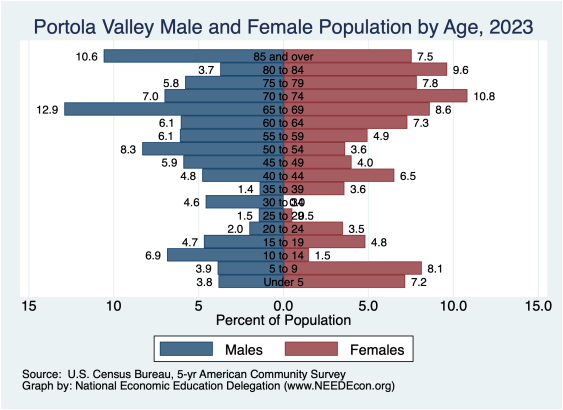
Source: CA, Department of Finance
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 2: Population Growth (2)

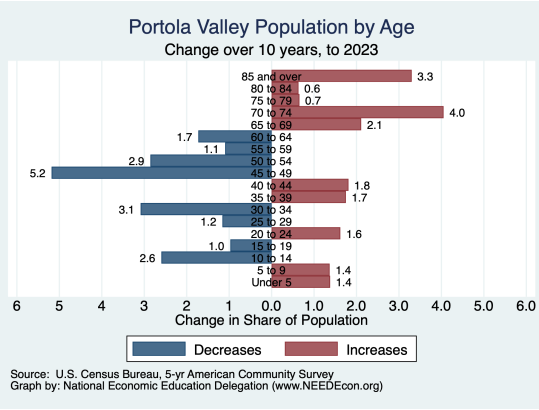


Source: California Department of Finance, Report Series E-4.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 3: Population by Age - Detailed Age Categories

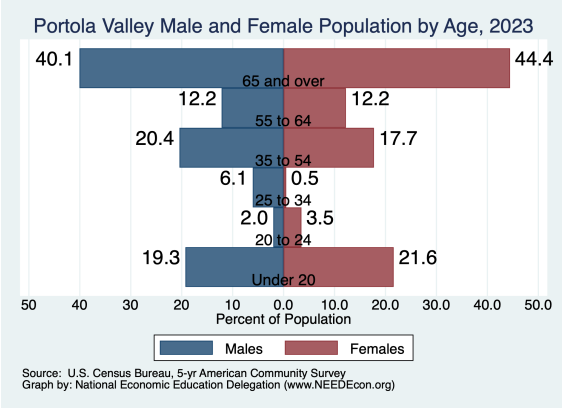


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

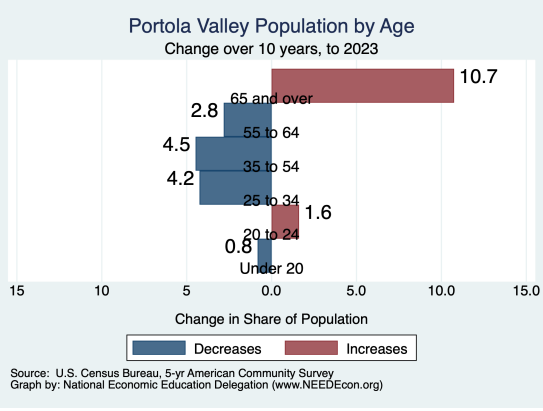


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 4: Population by Age - Broad Age Categories



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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Figure 5: Population by Educational Attainment

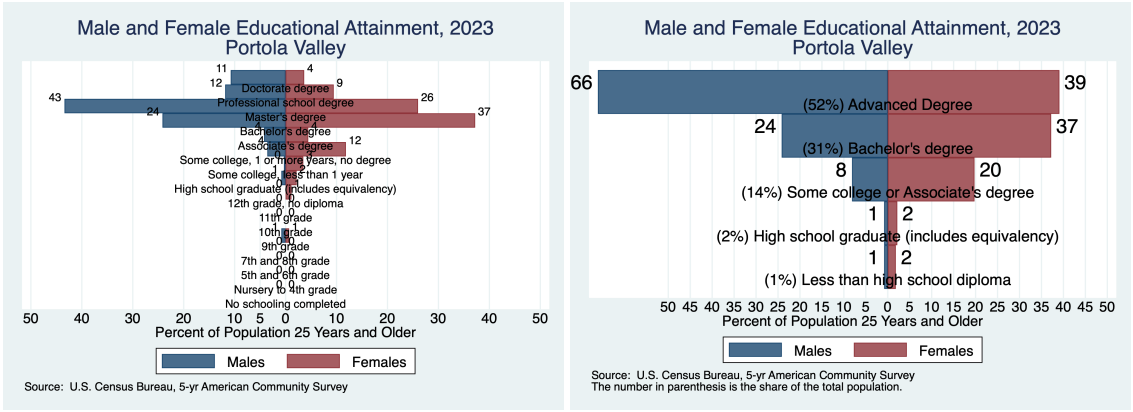

Figure 6: Population by Race/Ethnicity

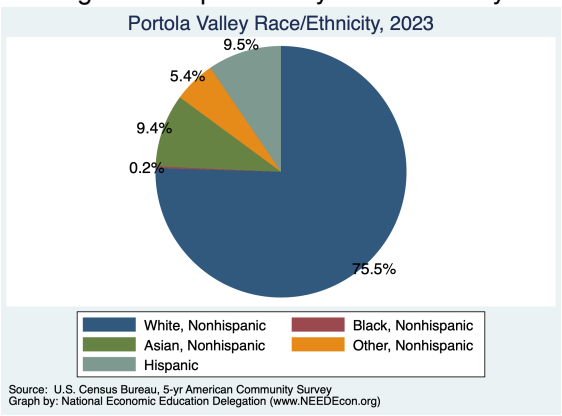

Figure 7: Population by Race/Ethnicity Over Time

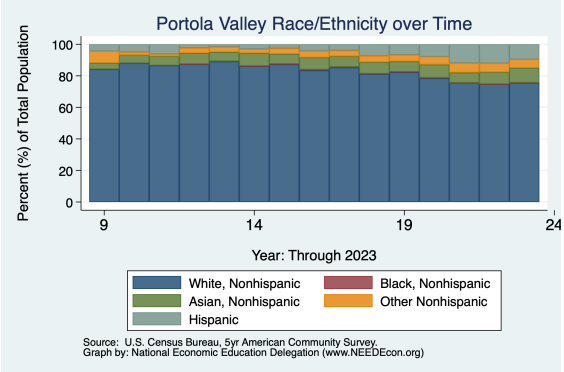

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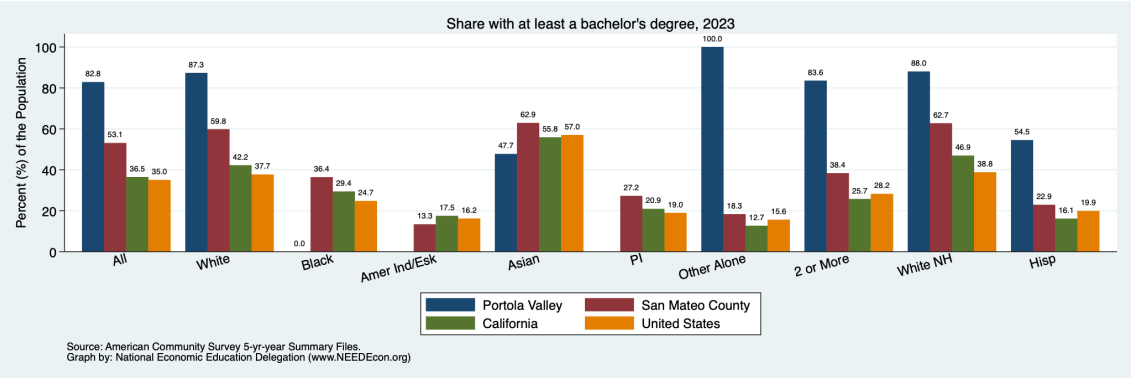
Figure 8: Education by Race/Ethnicity



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Employment Report

Citywide Employment and Unemployment

Definition:

Each month, California's Employment Development Division (EDD) publishes an update on employment in California and in MSAs, counties, and cities all across the state. The report focuses primarily on non-farm employment, providing estimates of changes in employment by industry as well as unemployment in each region. Data for cities is limited to aggregate employment, labor force, and unemployment data. Those are reported below.

Why is it important?

Employment growth is a fundamental indicator of the health of an economy.

Table 3. Portola Valley Summary for November, 2024

Category	Current Value	Change From: Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year
NA				
NA				

Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 9: Historical Employment and Unemployment

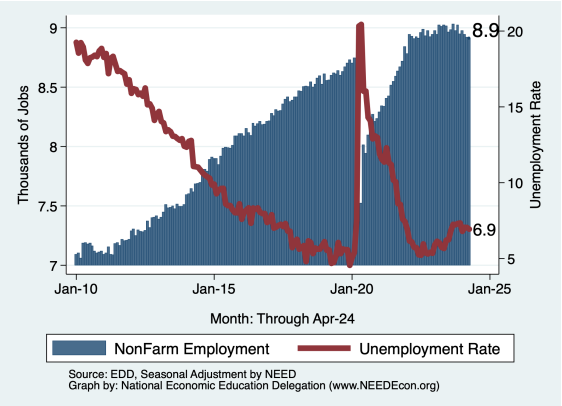

Figure 10: Employment and Unemployment - Last 12 Months

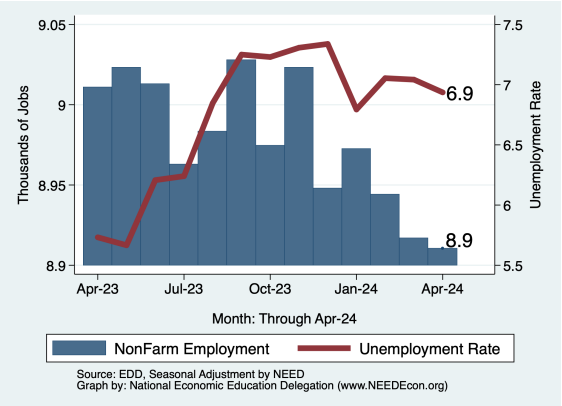

Figure 11: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2010

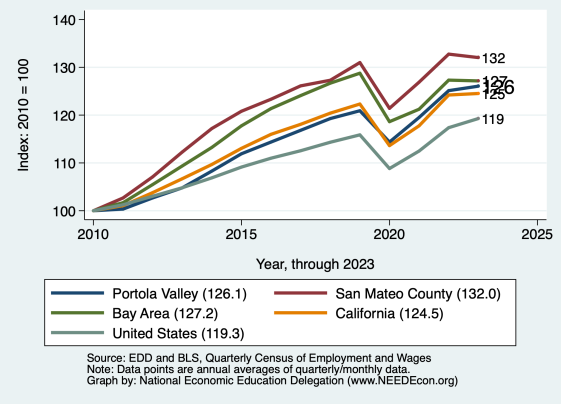

Figure 12: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2019

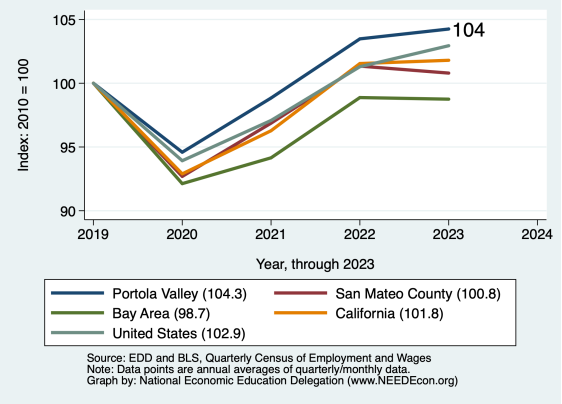

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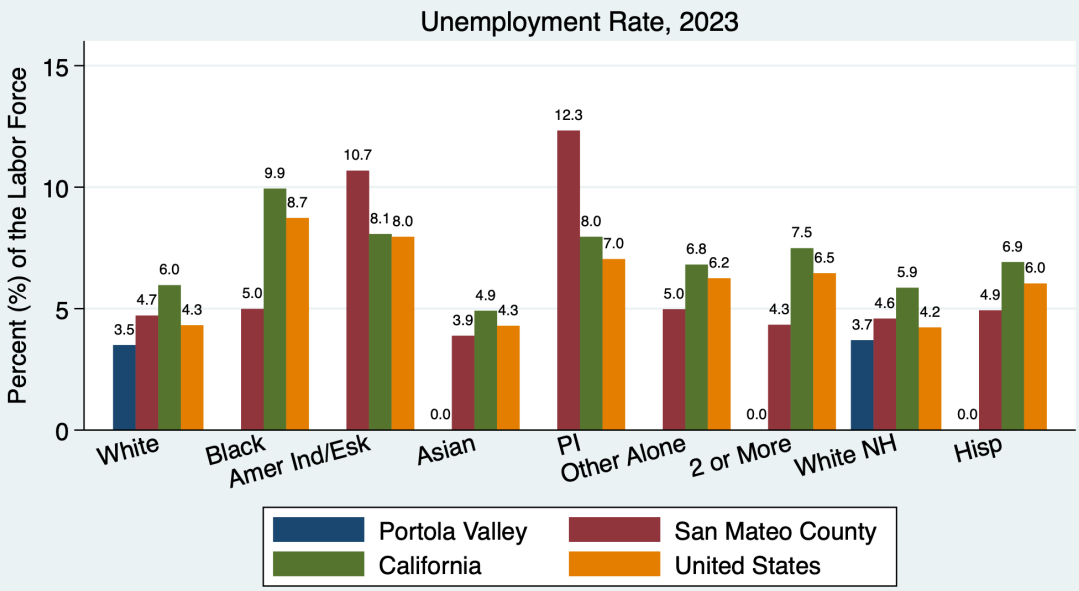
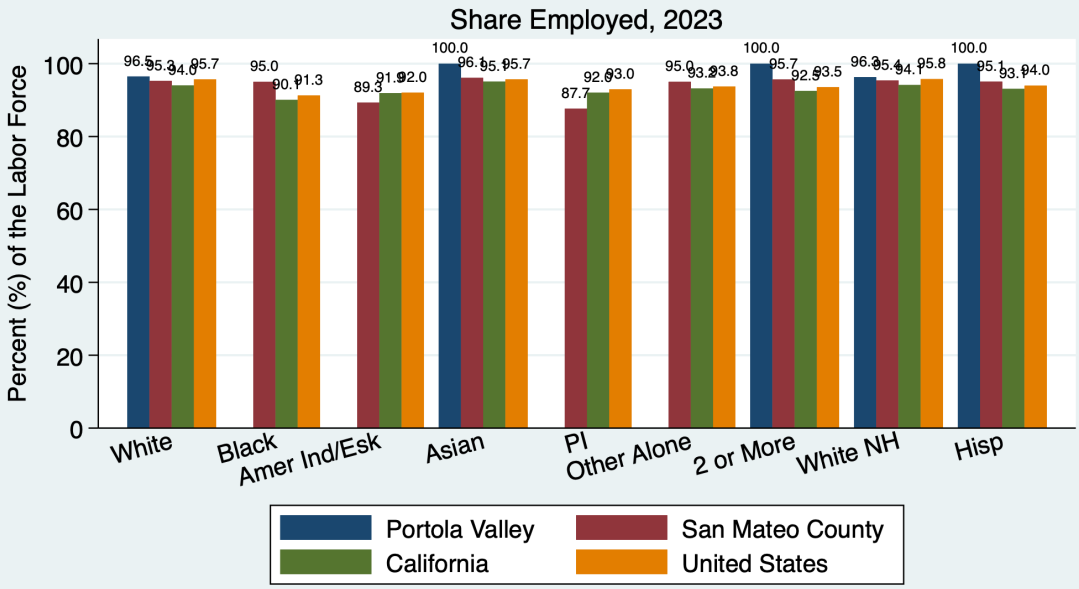
Figure 13: Unemployment Rate by Race



Source: American Community Survey 5-yr-year Summary Files.
The labor force is individuals aged 16-64 who are either employed or looking for work.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 14: Employment Rate by Race



Source: American Community Survey 5-yr-year Summary Files.
The labor force is individuals aged 16-64 who are either employed or looking for work.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

County Employment by Industry

California's Employment Development Division (EDD) does not regularly produce data on employment by industry for cities. However, we are able to report indsutry-level employment data for San Mateo County. The following table provides the latest data for the County.

Table 4. Employment Growth by Industry in San Mateo County for November, 2024

Industry	Employment	Share	Empl Growth	% Growth - Annualized Rate					
				Month	Qtr	6mo	1yr	3yr	5yr
Total Nonfarm	419,041	100.0	−494.0	−1.4	−0.6	−0.9	0.0	0.5	−0.0
Goods Producing	38,303	9.1	−167.2	−5.1	−7.0	−5.5	−4.2	−4.4	−3.6
Mining, Logging and Construction	16,863	4.0	−92.6	−6.4	−10.2	−4.8	−5.0	−3.8	−4.2
Manufacturing	21,672	5.2	−98.7	−5.3	−6.5	−7.4	−4.6	−4.9	−3.1
Durable Goods	9,318	2.2	39.9	5.3	−1.2	−3.0	−1.7	−3.2	−3.4
Non-Durable Goods	12,198	2.9	−175.0	−15.7	−11.4	−10.0	−7.5	−6.3	−3.0
Service Providing	379,858	90.6	−133.5	−0.4	0.8	−0.5	0.2	1.0	0.4
Trade, Trans & Utilities	65,972	15.7	−57.0	−1.0	4.8	1.5	2.9	1.0	−1.2
Wholesale Trade	12,965	3.1	−103.7	−9.1	0.9	0.6	−1.1	6.0	2.9
Retail Trade	29,950	7.1	103.8	4.3	4.7	2.1	3.5	0.0	−1.4
Information	48,514	11.6	−241.7	−5.8	−0.9	−4.9	−5.8	−4.8	0.6
Financial Activities	22,415	5.3	−103.7	−5.4	1.6	1.0	1.3	−0.7	−1.5
Finance & Insurance	16,137	3.9	−25.1	−1.9	2.4	3.0	2.5	−0.4	−0.8
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	6,170	1.5	−88.9	−15.8	−0.4	−3.9	−3.9	−2.2	−3.5
Professional & Business Srvcs	93,522	22.3	−302.5	−3.8	−0.7	−0.6	−0.9	0.1	1.6
Prof, Sci, & Tech	66,102	15.8	37.1	0.7	3.4	0.4	−1.1	1.6	2.5
Educational & Health Srvcs	59,187	14.1	117.1	2.4	1.9	1.1	1.5	3.8	2.3
Education Srvcs	12,381	3.0	38.3	3.8	−0.8	1.7	3.1	4.4	1.8
Health Care & Social Assistance	46,895	11.2	51.7	1.3	2.2	0.7	1.5	3.7	2.4
Leisure & Hospitality	43,527	10.4	24.3	0.7	−3.5	−1.4	0.9	6.2	−1.1
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	6,195	1.5	46.7	9.5	7.8	1.8	1.8	8.7	0.5
Accommodation & Food Srvcs	37,168	8.9	43.1	1.4	−4.9	−1.8	0.3	5.6	−1.5
Other Srvcs	14,919	3.6	−48.6	−3.8	−2.2	2.9	4.4	10.0	2.3
Government	31,421	7.5	−12.6	−0.5	0.1	0.0	0.9	1.4	−0.2
Federal	2,550	0.6	0.0	0.0	−1.8	−2.7	−1.9	−7.6	−5.0
State	597	0.1	−2.7	−5.2	−1.5	−1.3	−0.5	−0.2	−0.1
Local	28,687	6.8	15.3	0.6	4.0	2.9	2.4	3.0	0.6

Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

Some Employee Detail

Employed in Portola Valley

Figure 15: Employment by Occupation

Figure 16: Employment by Industry

Figure 17: Language Spoken at Home

Figure 18: Citizenship

Employed Residents of Portola Valley

Figure 19: Employment by Occupation

Figure 20: Employment by Industry

Figure 21: Language Spoken at Home

Figure 22: Citizenship

Employed Residents vs Workers in Portola Valley

Figure 23: Employment by Occupation

Figure 24: Employment by Industry

Figure 25: Language Spoken at Home

Figure 26: Citizenship

Income and Earnings

Per Capita Income Growth

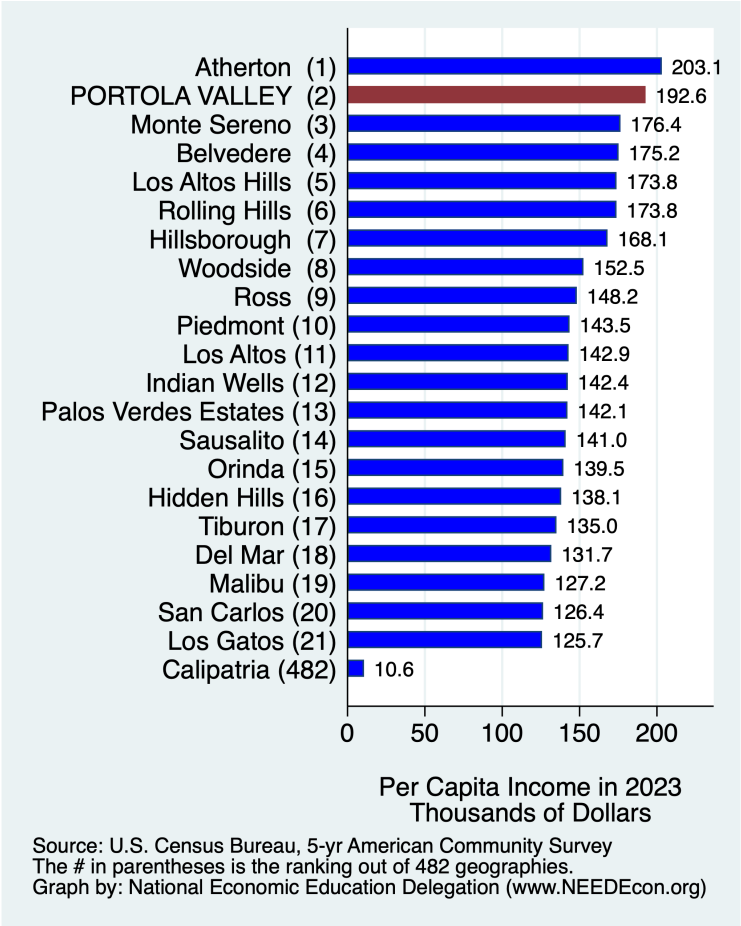
Definition:

Per capita income is the average income per person in Portola Valley. Personal income is the income received by, or on behalf of, all persons from all sources: from participation as laborers in production, from owning a home or unincorporated business, from the ownership of financial assets, and from government and business in the form of transfer receipts. Non-cash government benefits are not included.

Why is it important?

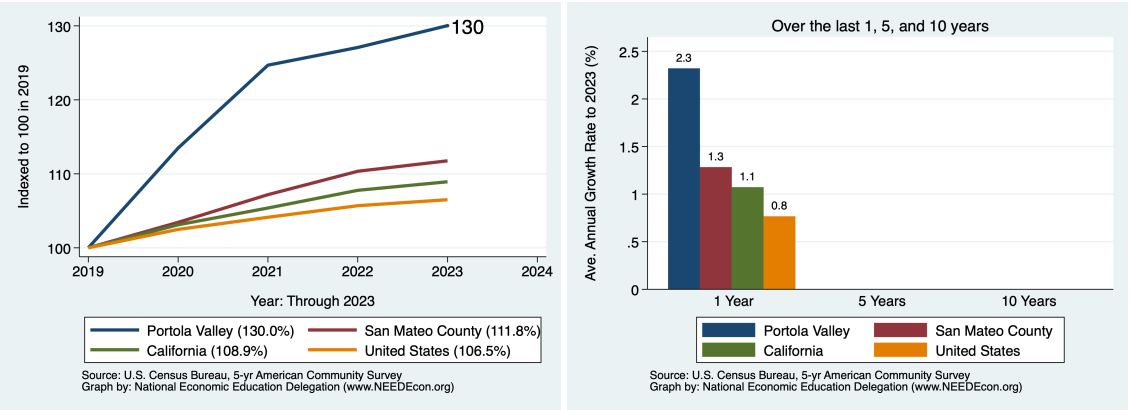
Income is the money that is available to persons for consumption expenditures, taxes, interest payments, transfer payments to governments and the rest of the world, or for saving. As such, it is an important indicator of economic well-being in a community.

Figure 27: Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among California Cities



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 482 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 28: Regional Comparison of Growth over Time



Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among California Cities - w/Comparable Populations

Figure 29: Income Levels

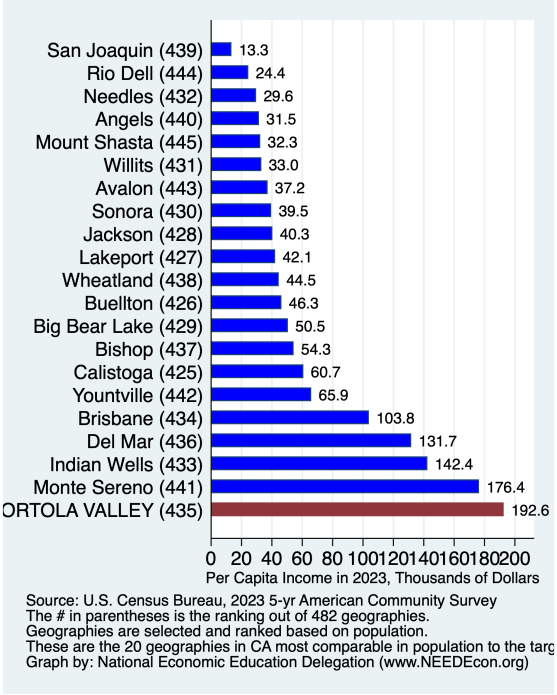
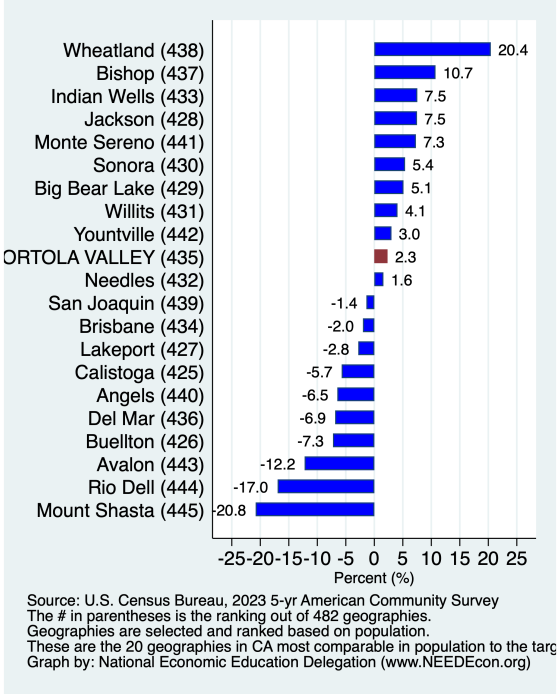


Figure 30: Growth over Time



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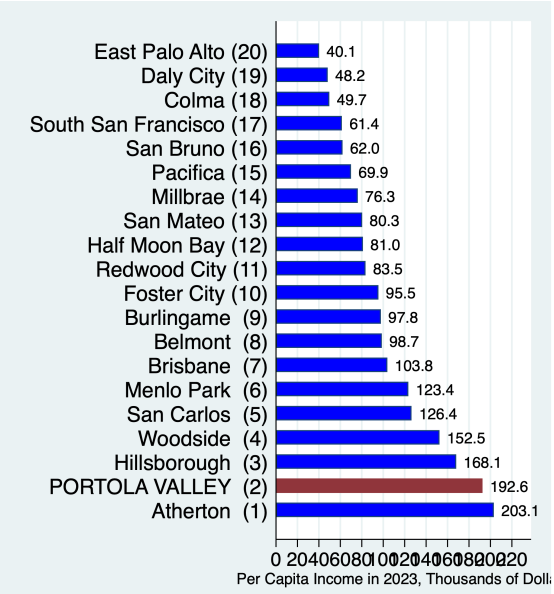
Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among Cities in San Mateo County

Figure 31: Income Levels

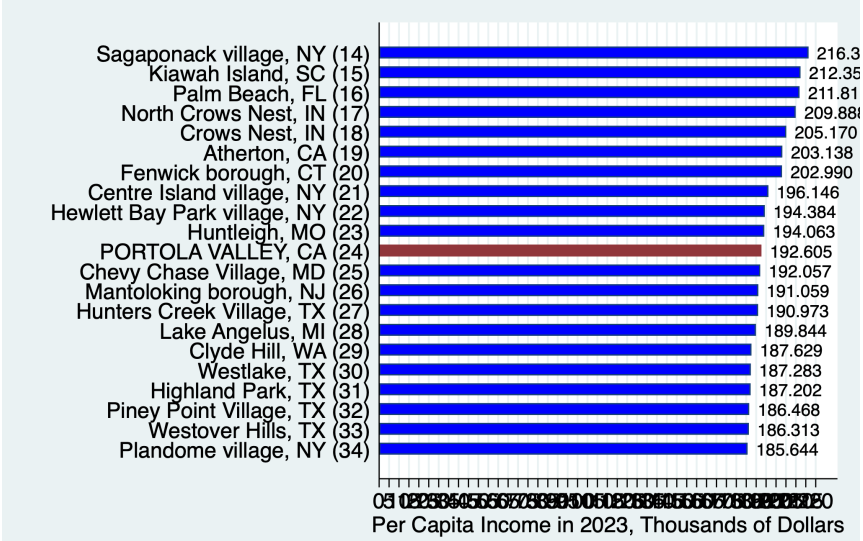


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 20 geographies.
Geographies are selected and ranked based on population.
These are the cities in the same county as the target city.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 32: Growth over Time

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 20 geographies.
Geographies are selected and ranked based on population.
These are the cities in the same county as the target city.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 33: Comparison with All Cities Nationwide



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 19,680 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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Figure 34: Per Capita Income by Race

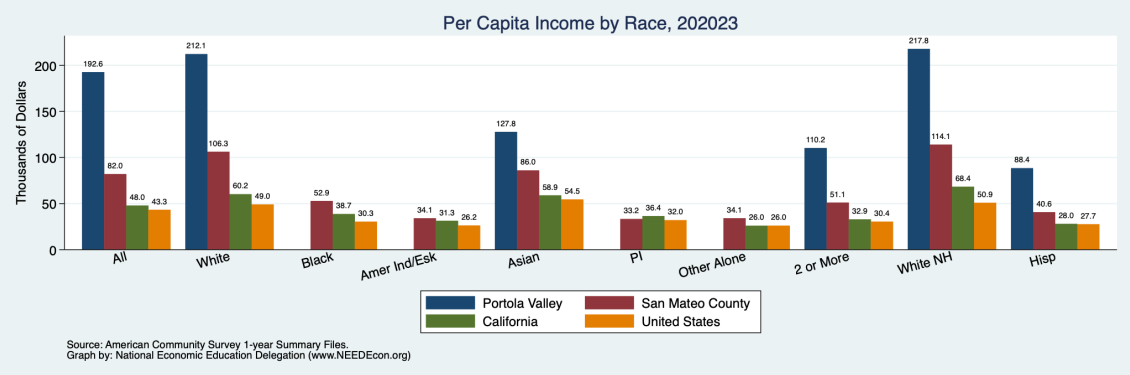
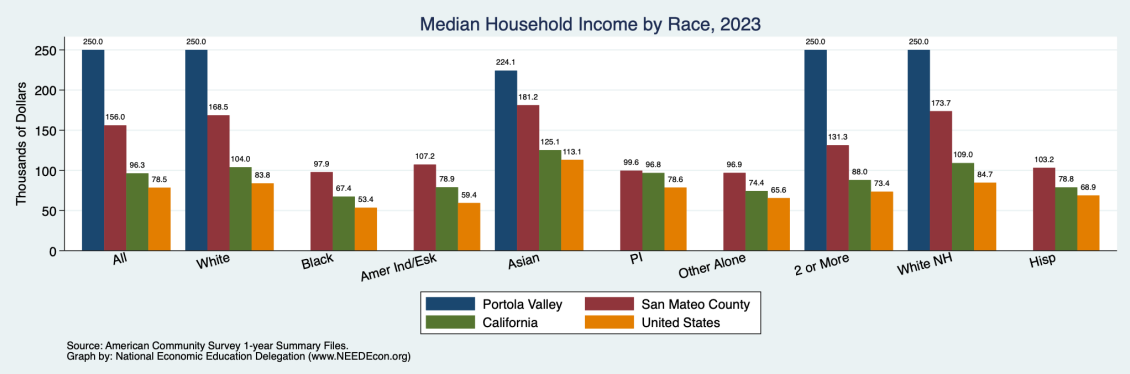


Figure 35: Median Household Income by Race



Poverty and Inequality

Definition:

The local poverty rate provides an indication of the well-being of those at the bottom of the income distribution. The federal poverty rate measures the proportion of households in the region that are classified as living in poverty. Also included are measures of the extent to which the City's children are impoverished. Measures of the income distribution provide further evidence on disparities in income in the region and how those disparities have changed over time.

Why is it important?

It is important to track measures of poverty and inequality to assess the extent of income disparities in the region, with an eye toward understanding how well the local economy is performing for all of its citizens.

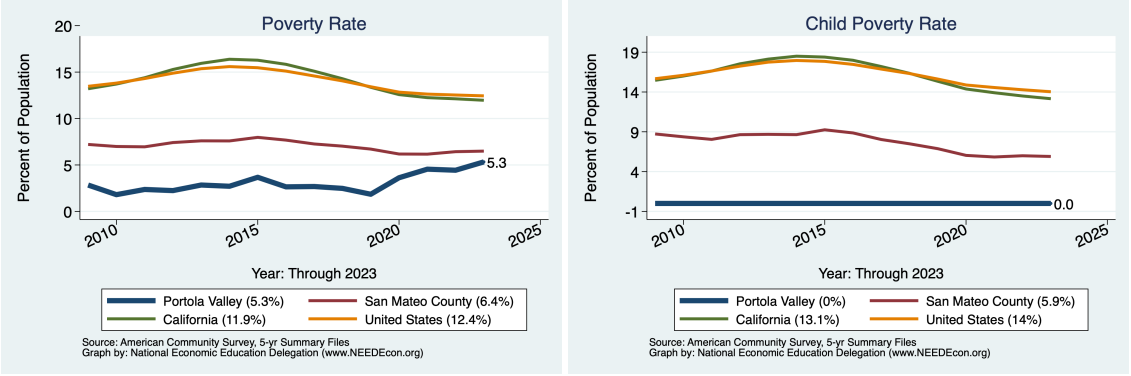


Figure 36: Inequality

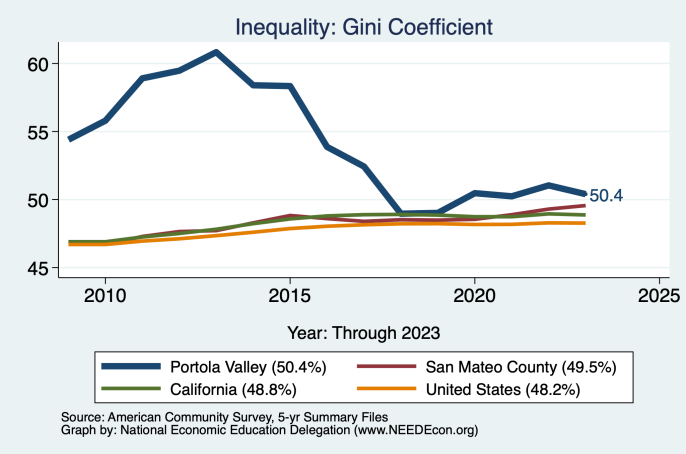
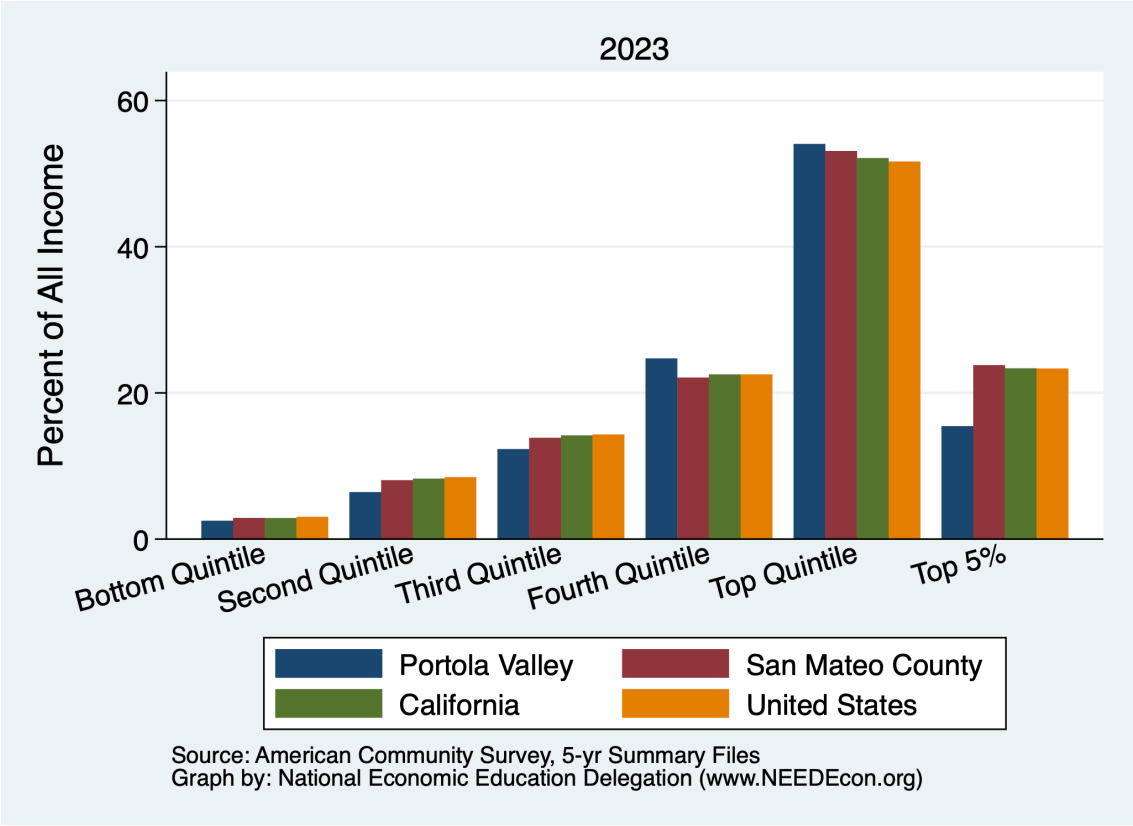
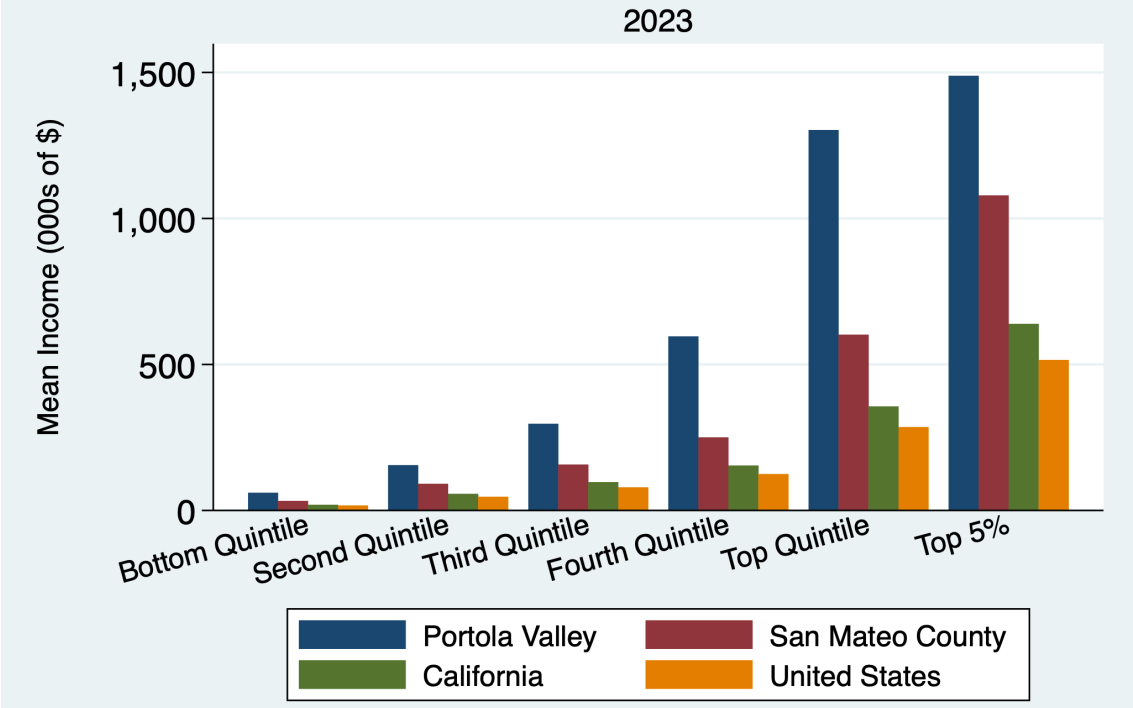


Figure 37: Shares Across the Income Distribution



Source: American Community Survey, 5-yr Summary Files
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 38: Means Across the Income Distribution



Source: American Community Survey, 5-yr Summary Files
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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Housing

Housing Costs and Affordability

Definition:

Housing costs are measured in several different ways. First, we provide evidence on the evolution of median home prices, median rental price, and finally through evidence on the housing burden in the city and comparison regions. Housing burden is defined as a household needing to commit more than 30% of their household income toward housing costs. The median value is the amount in the middle. Fifty percent of units are above the median and 50 percent are below.

Why is it important?

Housing is one of three fundamental necessities, along with food and clothing. A measure of the cost of housing is an integral part of the measurement of the cost of living in a specific community. This is particularly true in cities and regions throughout the Bay Area, where housing costs are high relative to income.

Cost of Housing in Portola Valley and Broader Regions

Figure 39: Median Home Prices

Figure 40: Median Rents

Housing Ownership in Portola Valley and Broader Regions

Figure 41: Home Ownership Rates

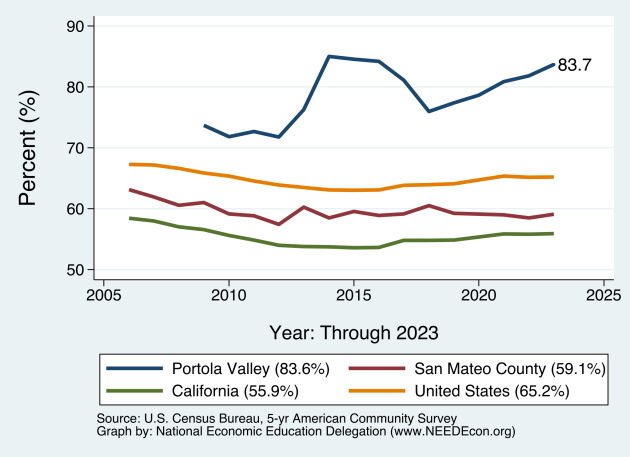

Figure 42: Home Ownership by Age

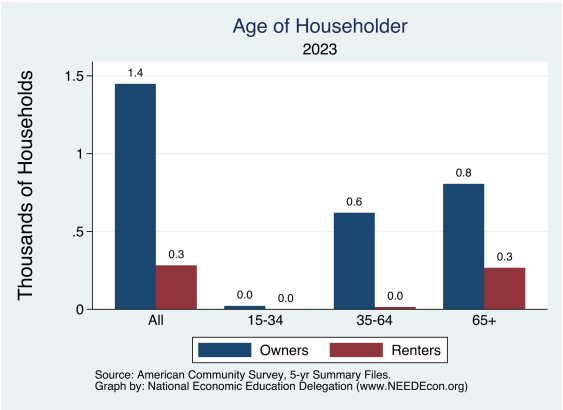

Figure 43: Income by Tenure

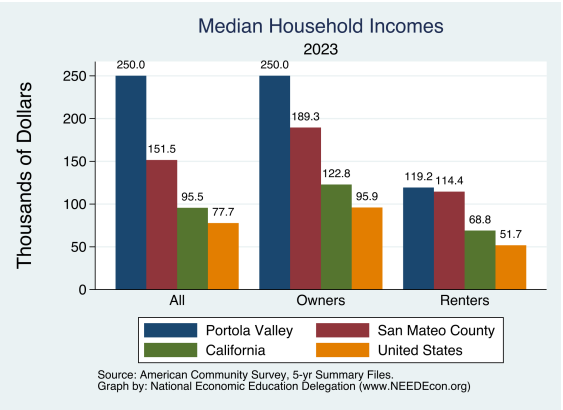

Figure 44: Home Ownership by Race

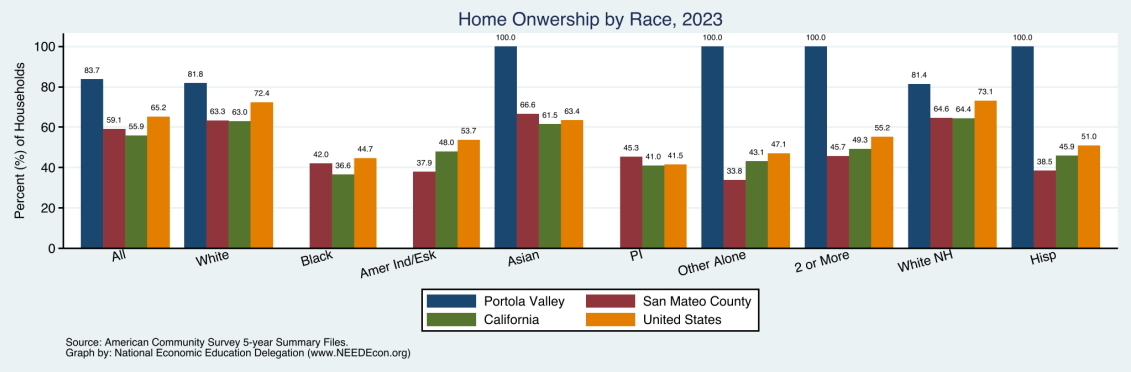

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Figure 45: Income Distribution by Tenure

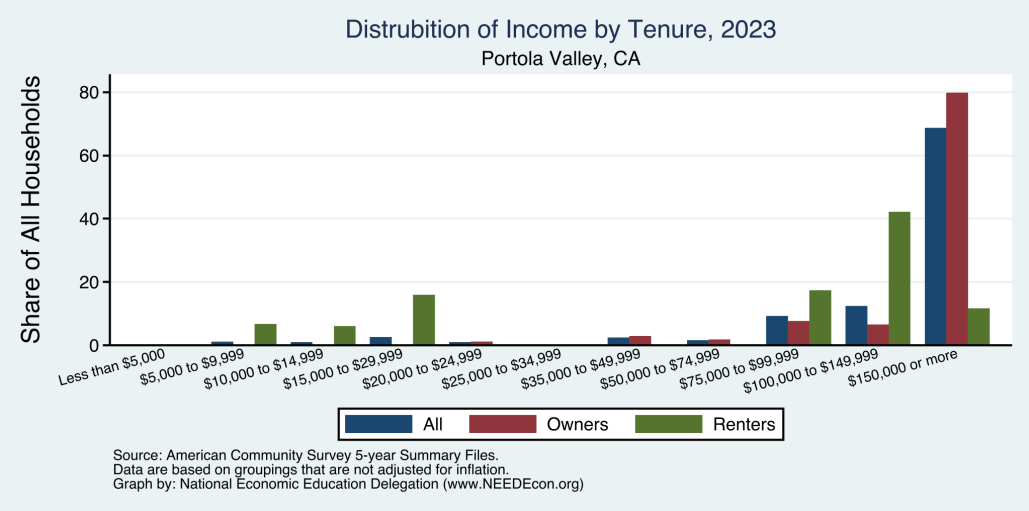


Figure 46: Income Distribution of Home Owners

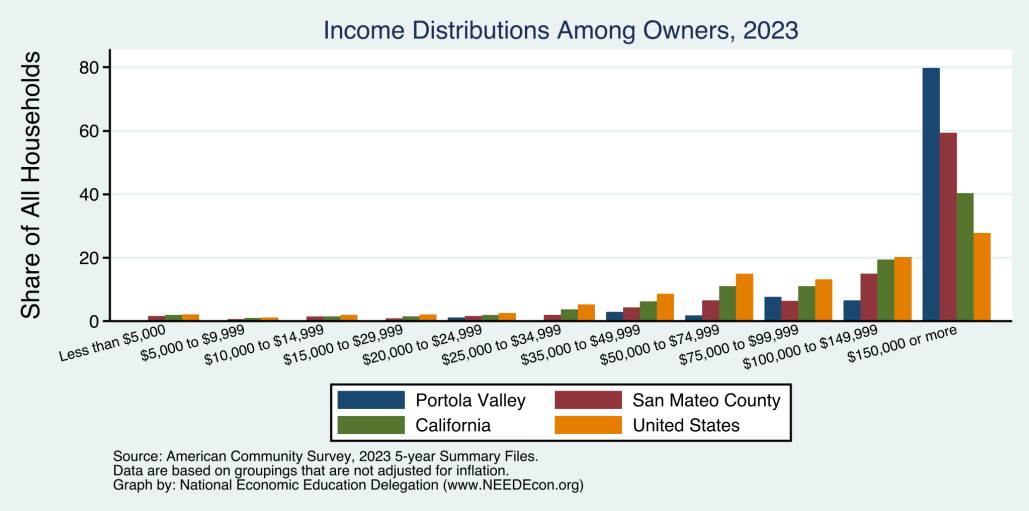
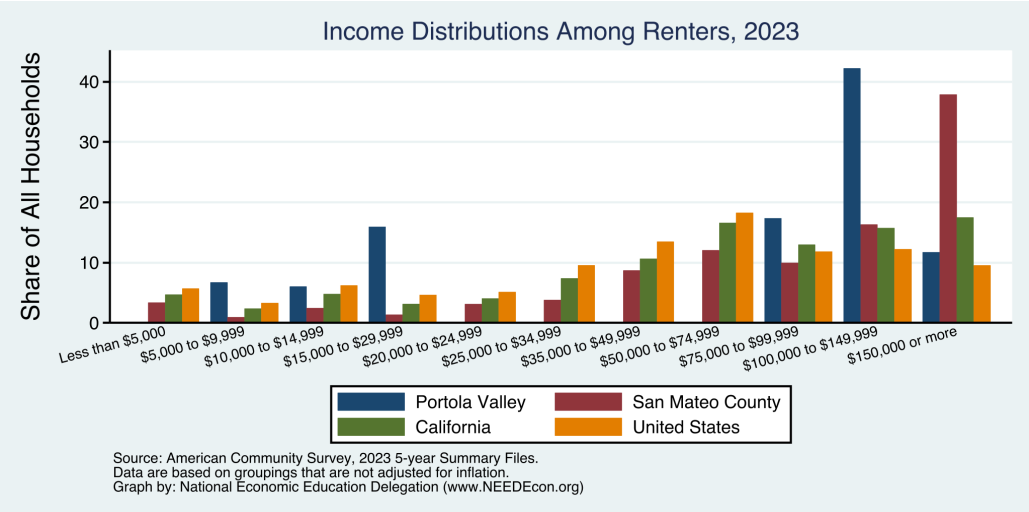


Figure 47: Income Distribution of Renters



Housing Burden in Portola Valley and Broader Regions

Figure 48: Home Owners w/ A Mortgage

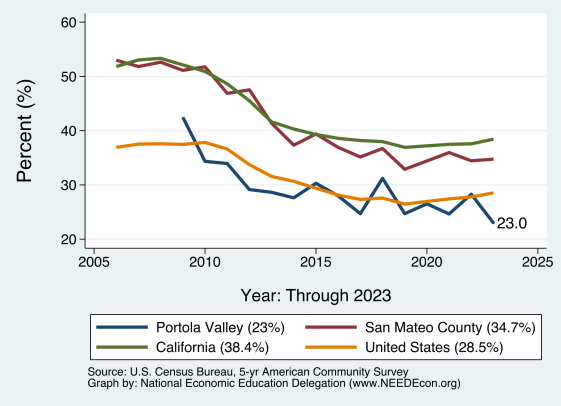


Figure 49: Home Owners w/o A Mortgage

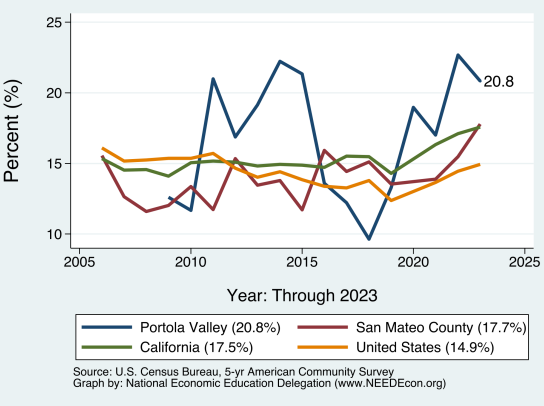


Figure 50: Renters

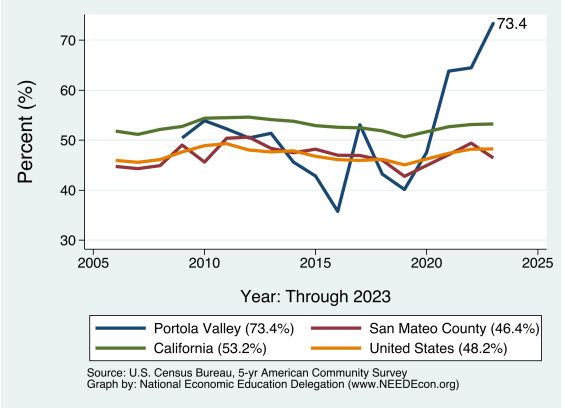


Figure 51: Homeowner Housing Burden by Age

N/A

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Housing Picture

Definition:

Housing costs are measured in several different ways. First, we provide evidence on the evolution of median home prices, median rental price, and finally through evidence on the housing burden in the city and comparison regions. The median value is the amount in the middle. Fifty percent of units are above the median and 50 percent are below.

Why is it important?

In areas where the rate of population growth exceeds the rate of housing growth, this is likely to reflect a tightening housing market. A tightening housing market will also likely be reflected in lower vacancy rates and higher occupancy rates. It may also be reflected in higher numbers of people per household.

Table 5. Housing Market Indicators

Indicator	2024	2019	2010	% Change from 2019	% Change from 2010
Total Population	4,249.0	4,623.0	4,353.0	-8.1	-2.4
Total # of Homes	1,931.0	1,919.0	1,895.0	0.6	1.9
# Occupied Units	1,766.0	1,762.0	1,746.0	0.2	1.1
Persons per Household	2.4	2.6	2.5	-8.4	-3.5
Vacancy Rate (%)	8.5	8.2	7.9	4.4	8.7

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by the National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 52: Housing Growth

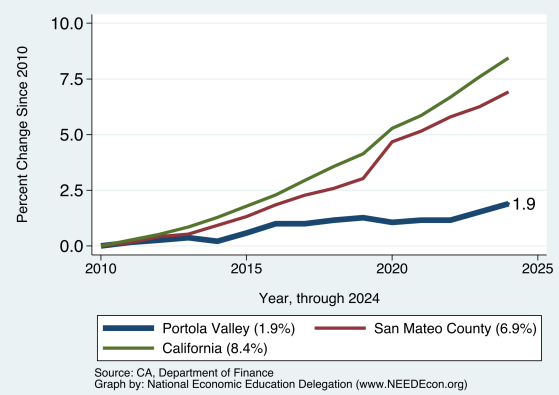


Figure 53: Persons per Household

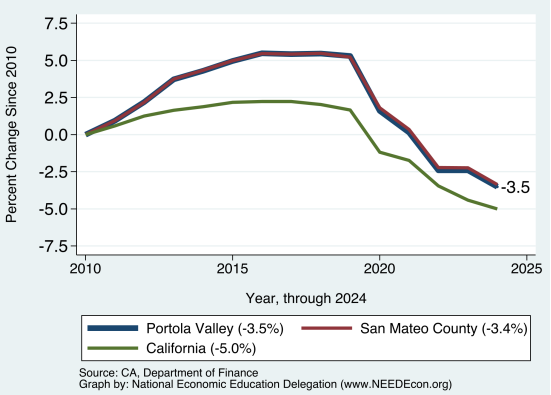


Figure 54: Vacancy Rates

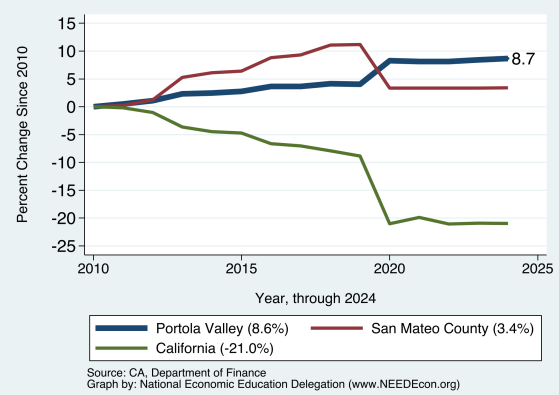
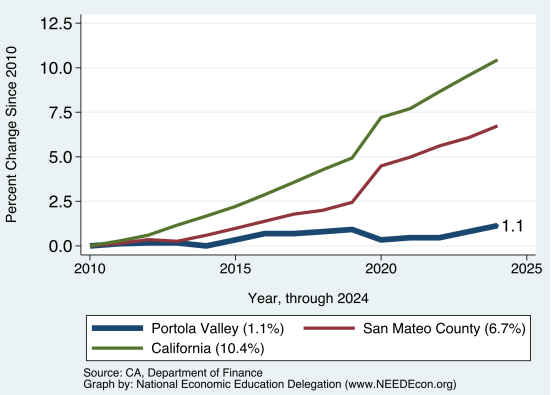


Figure 55: Number of Occupanied Units



Trends in the Growth of Housing by Housing Type

Figure 56: Single Detached Homes

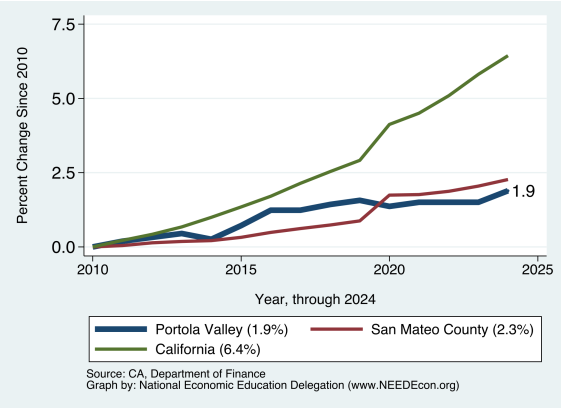


Figure 57: Single Attached Homes

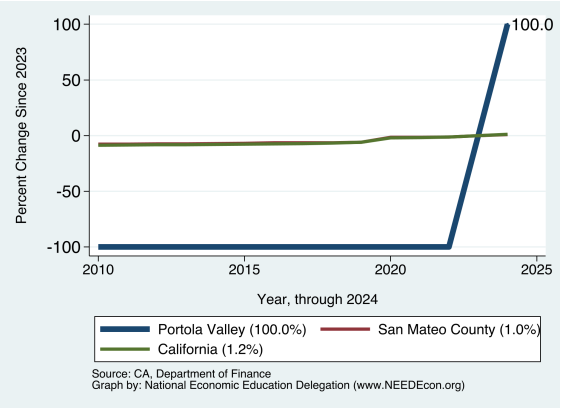


Figure 58: Housing in Buildings with Two to Four Units

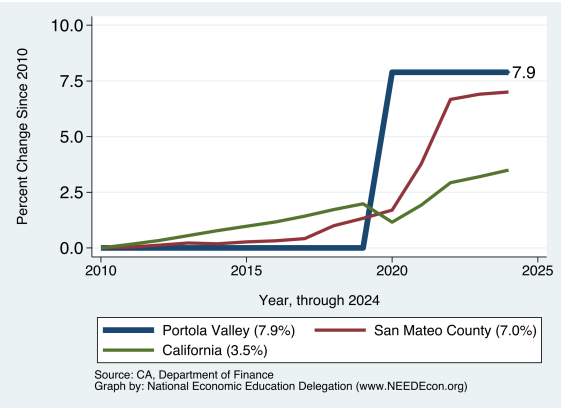
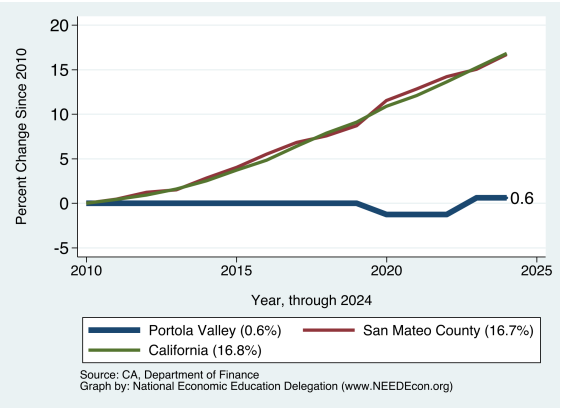


Figure 59: Housing in Buildings with Five or More Units



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Vintage of Residential Housing

Why is it important?

This section provides evidence on the year in which residential housing in Portola Valley was built. We break it down into owned versus rented residences and provide a comparison across San Mateo County and broader regions. A sense of the age of housing in a region provides an indication of the urgency with which a region might pursue additional housing. As the housing stock ages, an urgency with which renovations and rebuilds are permitted might result. All things equal, more recently constructed housing will be more likely to meet current codes and standards. Remodeling of existing units will be more desirable when existing units are, on average, older.

Figure 60: Distribution of Housing Construction

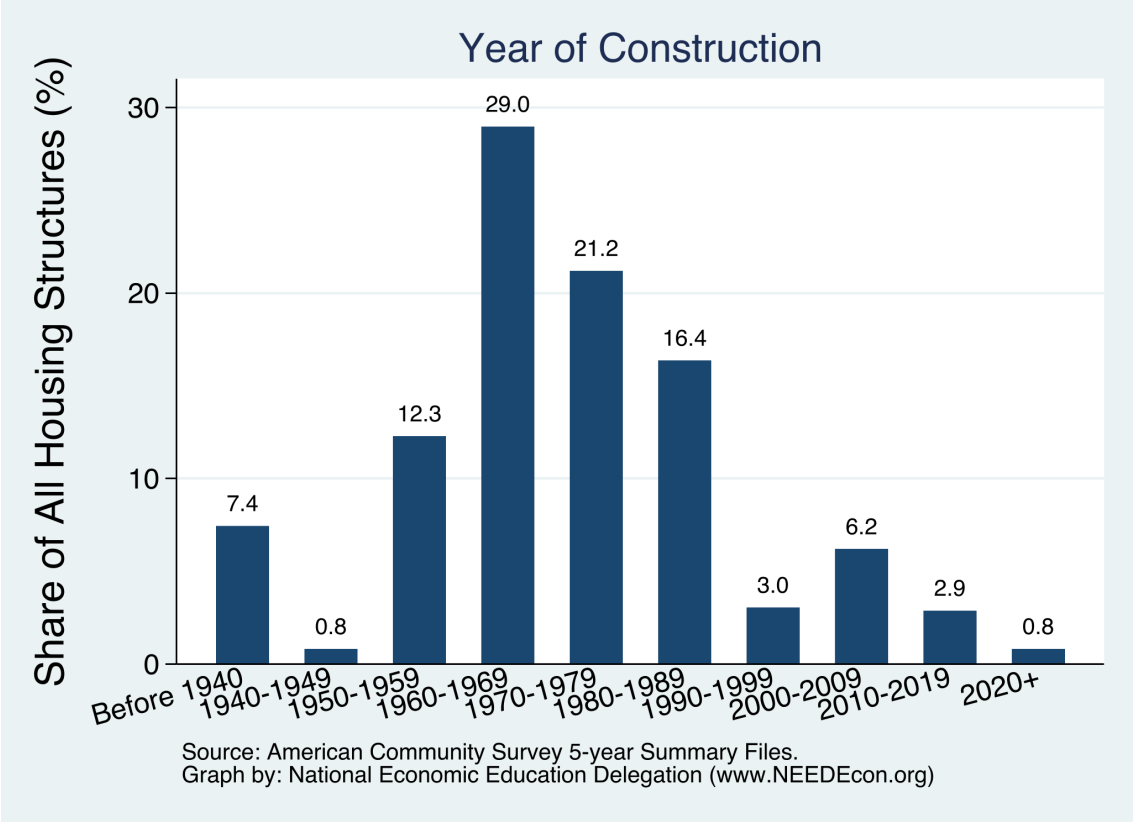


Figure 61: Housing Vintage across Regions

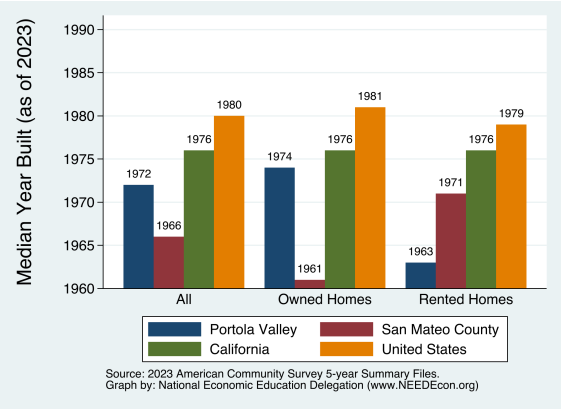


Figure 62: Housing Vintage by Tenure

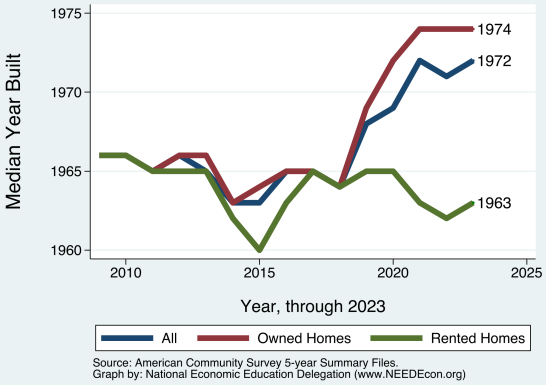


Figure 63: Vintage of Owned Residences

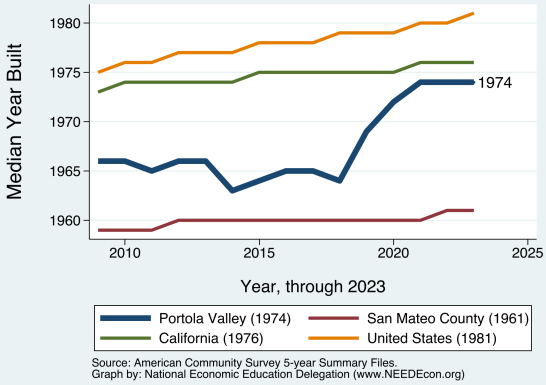


Figure 64: Vintage of Rented Residences

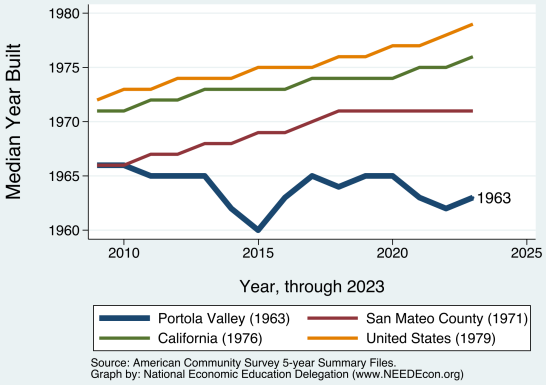
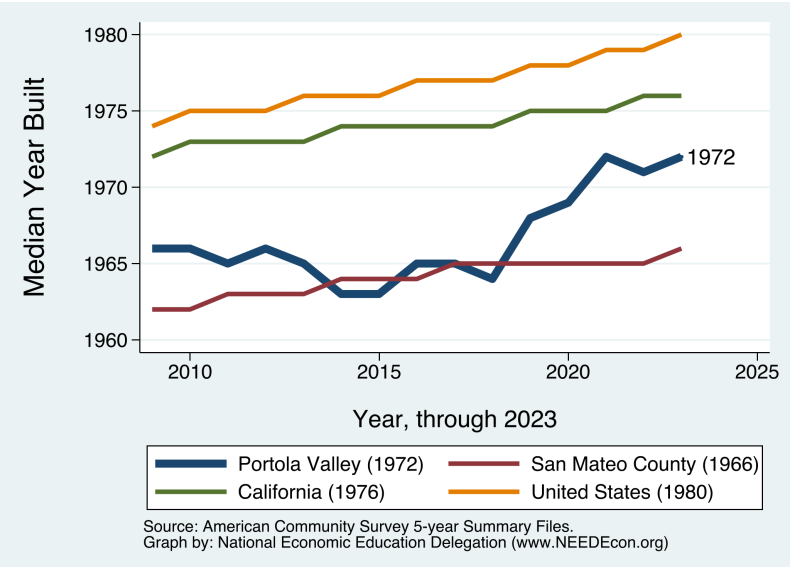


Figure 65: Vintage of All Residences



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Occupation of Residential Housing

Why is it important?

The duration of residence in a city is important for developing future policies regarding growing the local population. If a region is highly mobile, evidenced by most residences having been recently occupied, a city might propose policies to reduce that mobility, or ask why the mobility happens. Policies could be put in place to either reduce or increase migration.

Figure 66: Year Current Occupant Moved In

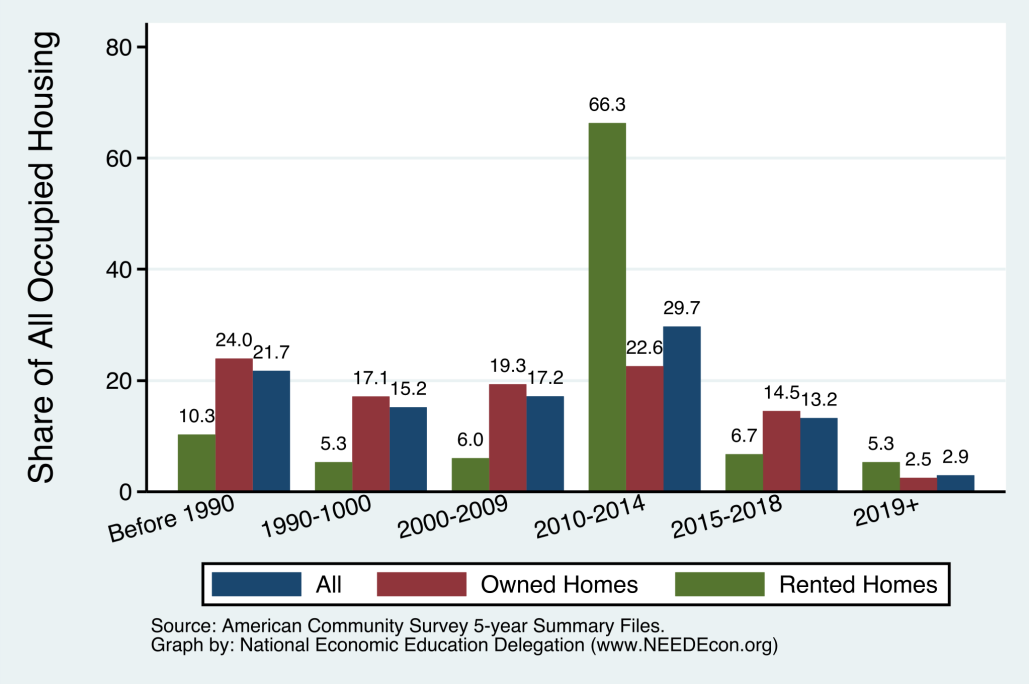

Figure 67: Year Occupied by Current Residents across Regions

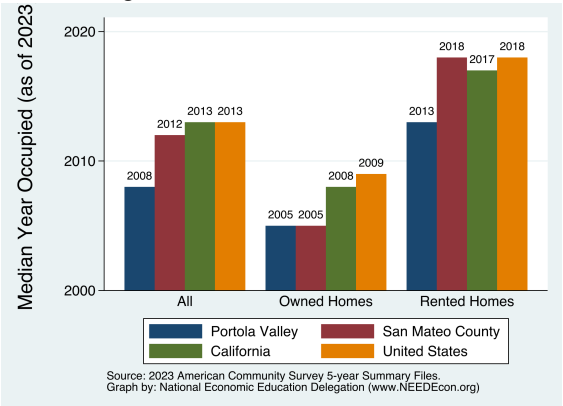

Figure 68: Year Occupied by Current Residents by Tenure

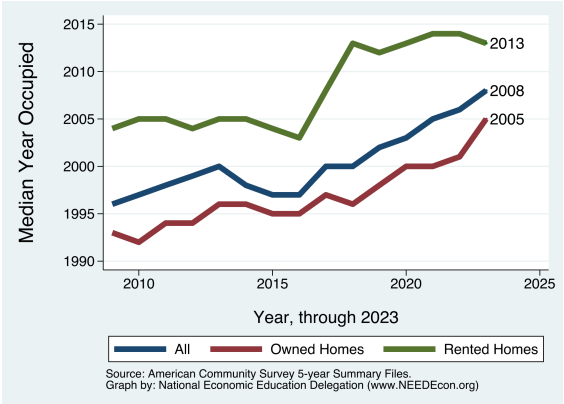

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Figure 69: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Owned Housing

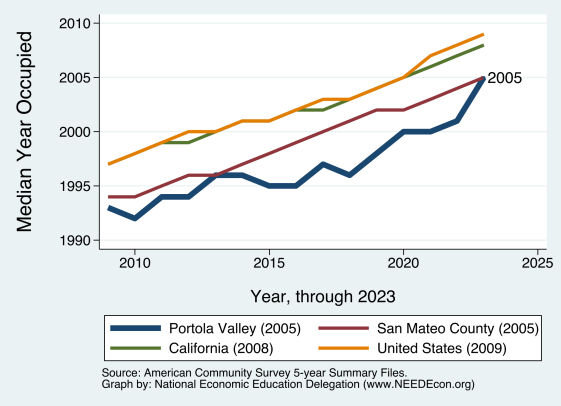


Figure 70: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Rented Housing

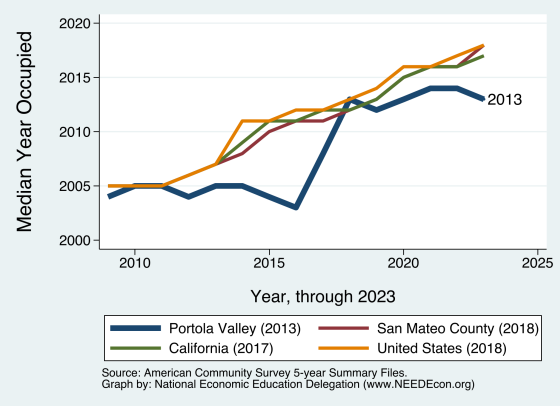
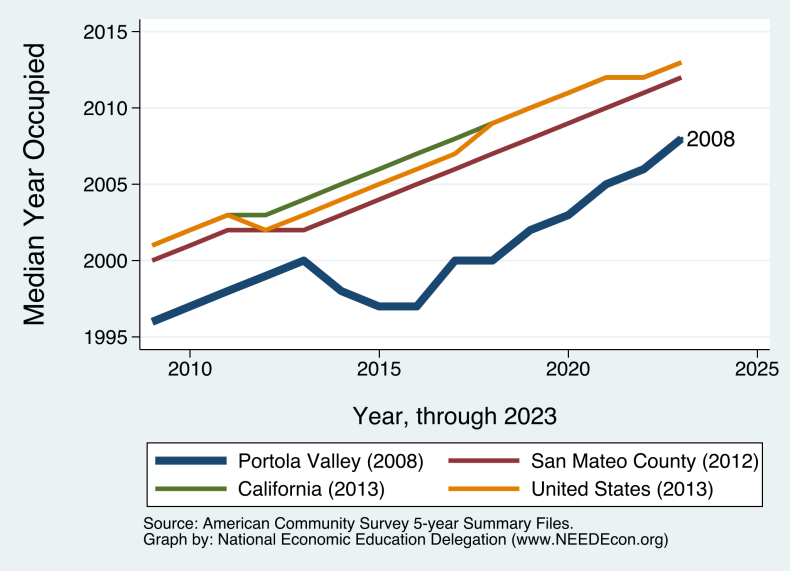


Figure 71: Year Occupied by Current Residents for All Housing



Residential Permitting

Definition:

This indicator provides evidence on the number of residential buildings that are permitted for construction each year. Permit data for Portola Valley is compared with data from San Mateo County as a whole and broader regions. The statistic provided scales the number of permits by population. This is done to facilitate comparisons across regions.

Why is it important?

Building permits are the best indicator available of new units coming on the market. In order for a region's population to grow and flourish, new residential properties must be added to the existing stock. Building, both in the City and in the County more generally, is an indication of the extent to which new residences accommodate new residents or are affecting prices through increased supply.

Portola Valley - Ranking Among Comparables

Figure 72: Number of Units Permitted - Nationwide Comparables (Rank)

Figure 73: Number of Units Permitted - California Comparables (Rank)

Figure 74: Number of Units Permitted - Cities in San Mateo County (Rank)

Portola Valley - Permitting Activity

Annual Units Permitted - Per Capita in Portola Valley

Figure 75: Units Permitted Each Year

N/A

Figure 76: Average Annual Growth in Units Permitted

N/A

Annual Number of Buildings Permitted - Per Capita in Portola Valley

Figure 77: Units Permitted Each Year

N/A

Figure 78: Average Annual Growth in Buildings Permitted

N/A

Annual Value of Property Permitted - Per Capita in Portola Valley

Figure 79: Value Permitted Each Year

N/A

Figure 80: Average Annual Growth in Value Permitted

N/A

Commute Patterns

During the recovery from the Great Recession, the period from 2010 to 2019, the Bay Area economy, and Silicon Valley in particular, has been growing at a pace roughly double that of the state as a whole and triple that of the nation. This growth has precipitated a tight housing market and also brought about some significant changes in commute patterns, many of which have been reversed by the pandemic. Recent years have seen significant changes in both the mode of transportation and commute times.

Mode of Transportation

Figure 81: Percent of Workers Commuting by Car Alone

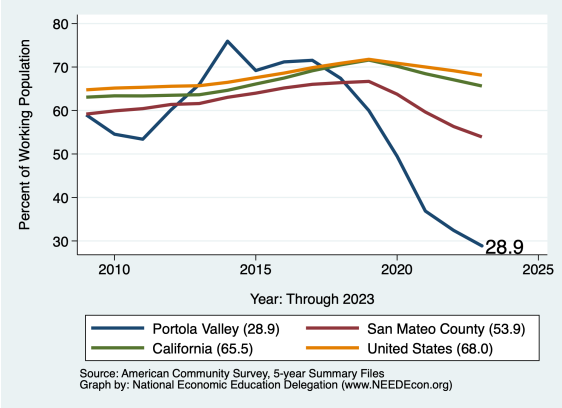


Figure 82: Percent of Workers Commuting by Carpool

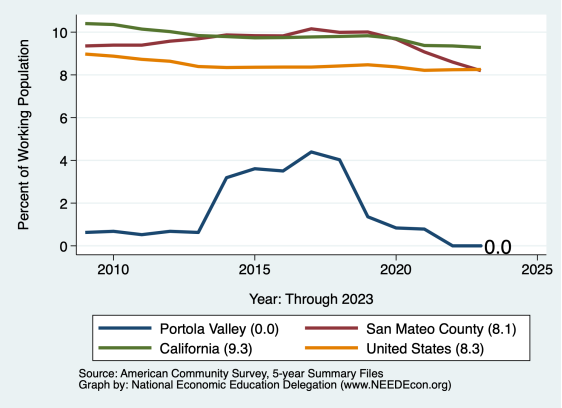


Figure 83: Percent of Workers using Public Transportation

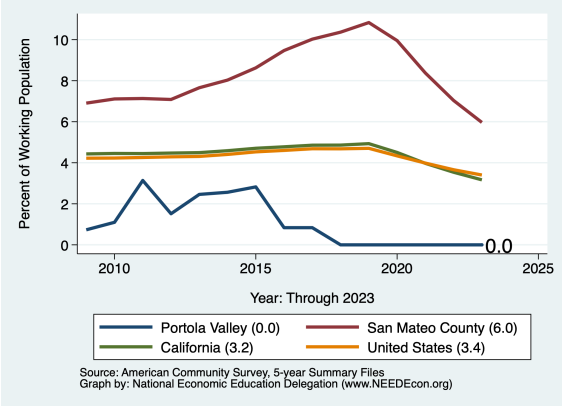
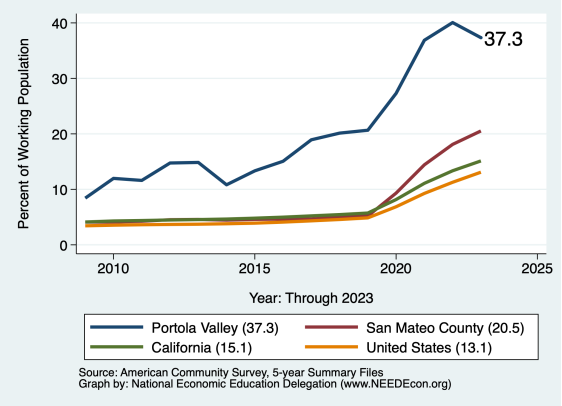


Figure 84: Percent of Workers Who Work From Home



The first table on this page presents data for those who LIVE in Portola Valley. The second provides data on those who work, but do not necessarily live in Portola Valley. The final two columns provide for a comparison of commute mode choices of people locally with those in California more broadly.

Table 6. SEX OF WORKERS BY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van:	322	29.8	230	26.3	552	28.9	76.6
Drove Alone	322	29.8	230	26.3	552	28.9	67.1
Carpooled:	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9.5
In 2-person carpool	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6.8
In 3-person carpool	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.6
In 4-or-more-person carpool	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3.2
Bus or Trolley Bus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2.1
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.6
Subway or Elevated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.3
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2
Ferryboat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	82	7.6	0	0.0	82	4.3	0.7
Walked	15	1.4	22	2.5	37	1.9	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	13	1.2	0	0.0	13	0.7	1.7
Worked at Home	479	44.3	235	26.8	714	37.3	15.5
Total:	911	84.3	487	55.6	1,398	73.1	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 7. SEX OF WORKERS BY MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van:	551	49.4	697	62.2	1,248	57.8	76.6
Drove Alone	469	42.1	649	57.9	1,118	51.8	67.1
Carpooled:	82	7.4	48	4.3	130	6.0	9.5
In 2-person carpool	56	5.0	48	4.3	104	4.8	6.8
In 3-person carpool	21	1.9	0	0.0	21	1.0	1.6
In 4-or-more-person carpool	5	0.4	0	0.0	5	0.2	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	3.2
Bus or Trolley Bus	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2.1
Streetcar or Trolley Car	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.6
Subway or Elevated	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.3
Railroad	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.2
Ferryboat	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.1
Bicycle	18	1.6	0	0.0	18	0.8	0.7
Walked	15	1.3	15	1.3	30	1.4	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	37	3.3	37	1.7	1.7
Worked at Home	479	43.0	235	21.0	714	33.1	15.4
Total:	1,063	95.3	984	87.8	2,047	94.8	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File
The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Commute Times for Employed Residents

Table 8. SEX OF WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Less than 5 minutes	14	1.5	22	3.2	36	2.2	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	15	1.6	0	0.0	15	0.9	7.6
10 to 14 minutes	30	3.2	43	6.2	73	4.4	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	56	5.9	18	2.6	74	4.5	15.1
20 to 24 minutes	111	11.7	76	11.0	187	11.4	14.5
25 to 29 minutes	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	6.4
30 to 34 minutes	50	5.3	47	6.8	97	5.9	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	119	12.5	0	0.0	119	7.2	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	0	0.0	20	2.9	20	1.2	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	13	1.4	0	0.0	13	0.8	8.5
60 to 89 minutes	11	1.2	26	3.8	37	2.3	7.6
90 or more minutes	13	1.4	0	0.0	13	0.8	3.9
Total:	432	45.4	252	36.5	684	41.7	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 85: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes

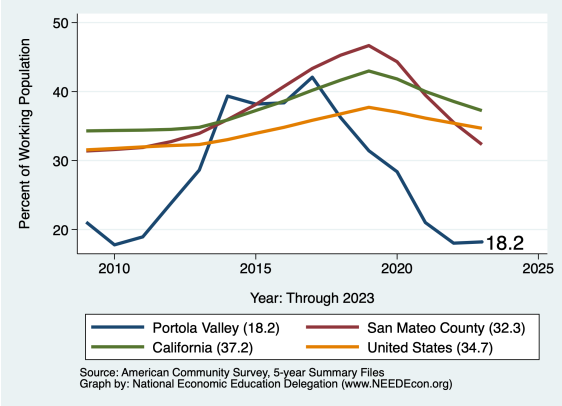


Figure 86: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

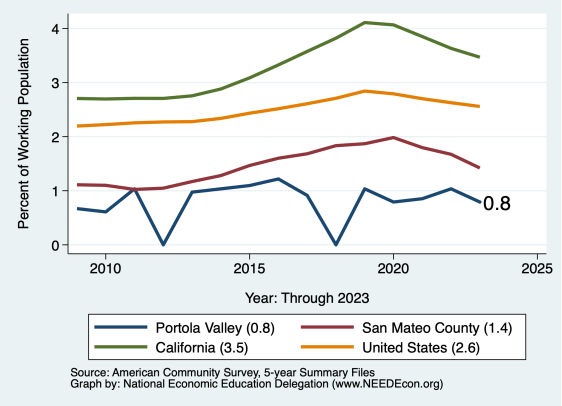
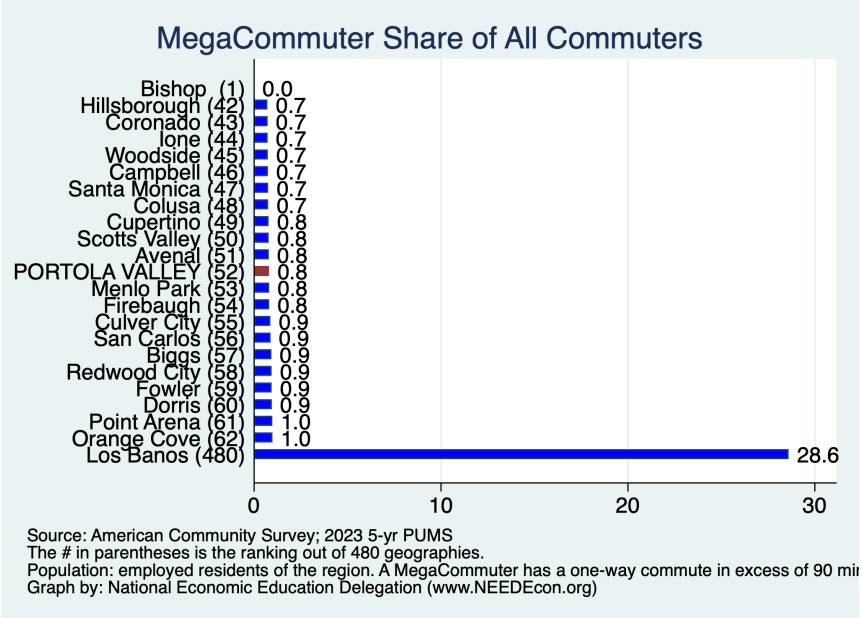


Figure 87: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Commute Times for Those Employed in the City

Table 9. SEX OF WORKERS BY TRAVEL TIME TO WORK FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Less than 5 minutes	14	1.7	60	7.4	74	5.1	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	78	9.2	0	0.0	78	5.4	7.6
10 to 14 minutes	51	6.0	35	4.3	86	5.9	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	39	4.6	189	23.3	228	15.6	15.1
20 to 24 minutes	45	5.3	23	2.8	68	4.7	14.5
25 to 29 minutes	17	2.0	32	4.0	49	3.4	6.4
30 to 34 minutes	81	9.6	162	20.0	243	16.7	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	21	2.5	62	7.7	83	5.7	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	0	0.0	33	4.1	33	2.3	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	145	17.1	90	11.1	235	16.1	8.5
60 to 89 minutes	76	9.0	26	3.2	102	7.0	7.6
90 or more minutes	17	2.0	37	4.6	54	3.7	3.9
Total:	584	69.0	749	92.5	1,333	91.5	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File
The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Figure 88: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes

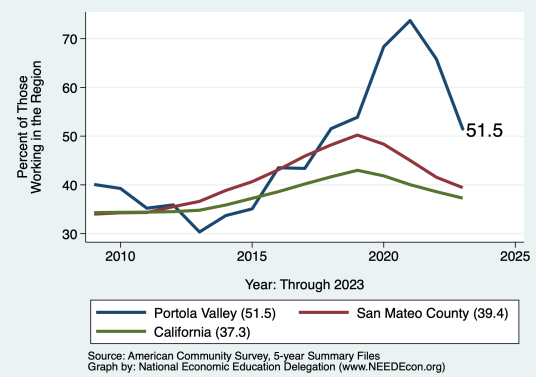


Figure 89: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

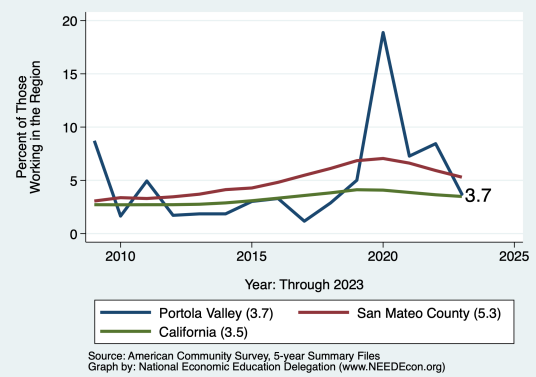
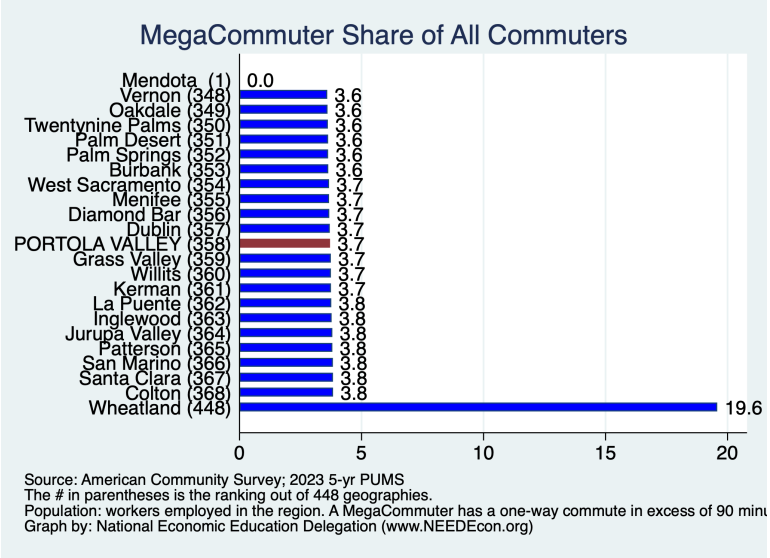


Figure 90: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Place of Work

This section provides evidence on where workers living in Portola Valley work. As evidenced in the first table, some of Portola Valley's employed workers work in the City, but many do not. The first table and graph pair provide evidence at the county level while the second provide evidence with regard to working outside of the Portola Valley city boundary.

Table 10. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK–STATE AND COUNTY LEVEL

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Place of Work	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Worked in state of residence:	911	84.3	487	55.6	1,398	73.1	99.6
Worked in county of residence	644	59.6	303	34.6	947	49.5	84.6
worked outside of county of residence	267	24.7	184	21.0	451	23.6	15.0
Worked outside state of residence	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.4
Total:	911	84.3	487	55.6	1,398	73.1	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 91: Percent of Workers Employed Outside of Their County of Residence

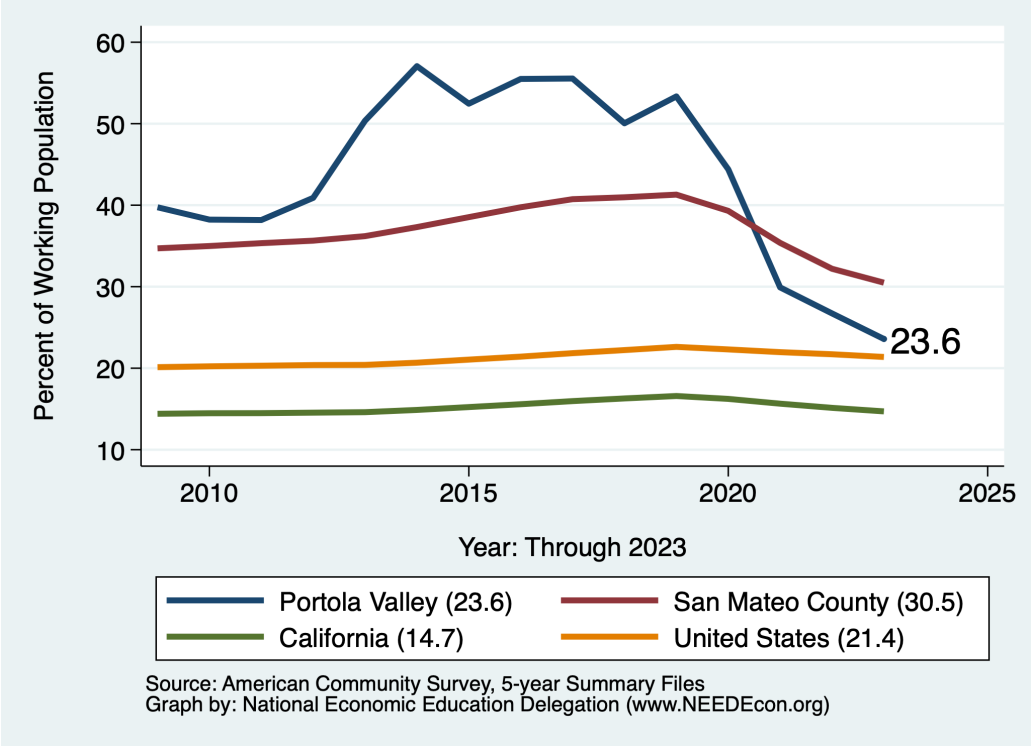
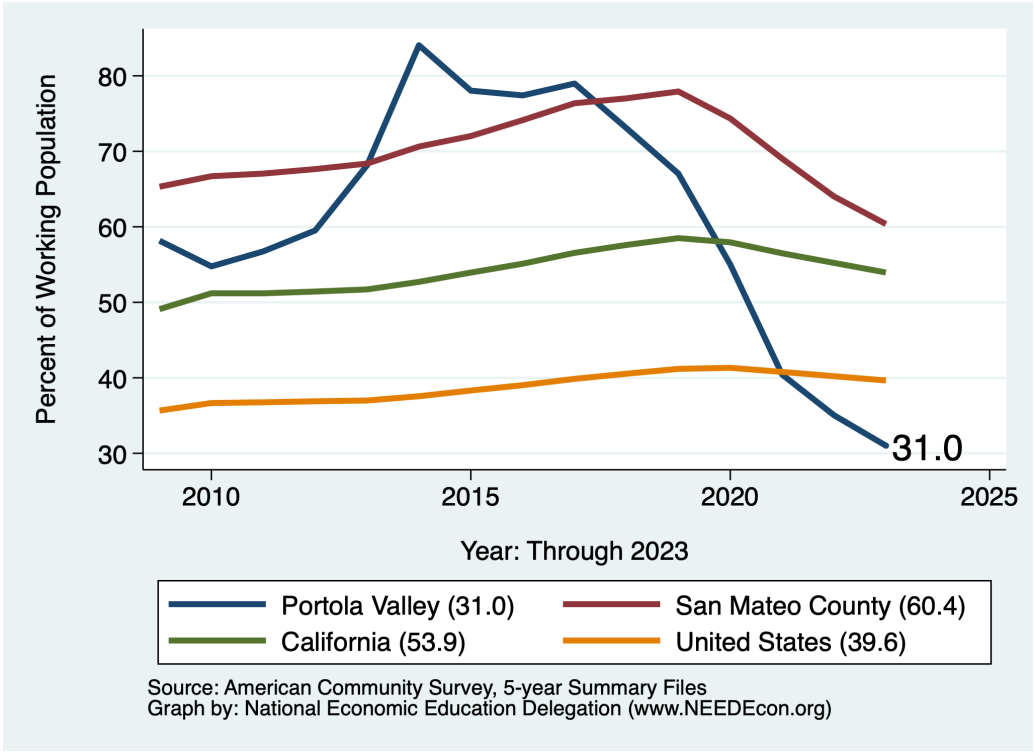


Table 11. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK–PLACE LEVEL

Place of Work	Male #	Male (%)	Female #	Female (%)	All Workers #	All Workers (%)	All of CA (%)
Living in a place:	911	84.3	487	55.6	1,398	73.1	95.9
Worked in place of residence	560	51.8	245	28.0	805	42.1	40.8
Worked outside place of residence	351	32.5	242	27.6	593	31.0	55.1
Not living in a place	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4.1
Total:	911	84.3	487	55.6	1,398	73.1	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 92: Percent of Workers Employed Outside of Their Place of Residence



Commute Mode by Income

Table 12. MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS BY MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK

	City	California		United States	
	Median	*Median*	*Ratio*	*Median*	*Ratio*
Car, truck, or van - drove alone	250,001	50,877	120.7	48,079	119.7
Car, truck, or van - carpooled		37,998		36,165	
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)		40,820		46,264	
Walked	91,771	30,831	73.1	28,707	73.6
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	250,001	41,875	146.6	38,017	151.4
Worked from home	109,125	81,088	33.0	71,072	35.3
Total:	210,223	51,620	407.3	48,394	434.4

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Notes: 1) Ratio = the ratio of the regional median to either the CA or US median, relative to the Total ratio.
Values above 100 imply a high local median. Values below 100 imply a low local median.
For example, a value of 200 means that the local mean is 2x higher than would be expected.
For "Total:", ratio is simply the ratio of the medians.
2) For regions with more than one geography, the medians are averages weighted by working population.

Table 13. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY WORKERS' EARNINGS

	< $25,000		$25,000-$74,999		$75,000+		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	26	8.6	54	14.4	472	38.8	552	29.1	
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Walked	10	3.3	0	0.0	27	2.2	37	1.9	
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	26	6.9	69	5.7	95	5.0	
Worked at Home	144	47.4	99	26.3	439	36.1	714	37.6	
Total:	180	59.2	179	47.6	1,007	82.7	1,398	73.6	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 14. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY WORKERS' EARNINGS FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	< $25,000		$25,000-$74,999		$75,000+		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	162	30.9	485	62.1	421	47.3	1,118	51.8	
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	55	10.5	42	5.4	16	1.8	130	6.0	
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Walked	10	1.9	5	0.6	15	1.7	30	1.4	
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	37	7.1	14	1.8	0	0.0	55	2.5	
Worked at Home	144	27.5	99	12.7	439	49.3	714	33.1	
Total:	408	77.9	645	82.6	891		2,047	94.8	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Commute Mode by Poverty Status

Table 15. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY POVERTY STATUS

	In Poverty		100-149% of Pov		>150% of Pov		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	0	0.0	0	0.0	552	29.7	552	28.9	
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Walked	0	0.0	0	0.0	37	2.0	37	1.9	
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	0	0.0	95	5.1	95	5.0	
Worked at Home	0	0.0	0	0.0	714	38.4	714	37.3	
Total:	0	0.0	0	0.0	1,398	75.2	1,398	73.1	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 16. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK BY POVERTY STATUS FOR WORKPLACE GEOGRAPHY

	In Poverty		100-149% of Pov		>150% of Pov		All		All of CA
Mode of Transit	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Car, Truck, or Van: Drove Alone	16	14.4	0	0.0	1,102	51.8	1,118	51.8	
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	15	13.5	16	15.0	99	4.7	130	6.0	
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	
Walked	0	0.0	0	0.0	30	1.4	30	1.4	
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	0	0.0	0	0.0	55	2.6	55	2.5	
Worked at Home	0	0.0	0	0.0	714	33.5	714	33.1	
Total:	31	27.9	16	15.0	2,000	93.9	2,047	94.8	

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File
The results in this table are for those who work in the region, regardless of the location of their residence.

Migration

Overall Migration Flows

Definition:

The United States is a country with an increasingly mobile population. People move, migrate, from one place to another with increasing frequency.

Why is it important?

Having a handle on whether or not Portola Valley is a net recipient (migration inflows) or donor (migration outflows) of population is very important for understanding trends in the City's development. This section outlines migration patterns by age, education, income, marital status, and housing tenure. Understanding recent trends is very important for making policy, investment, and other decisions about the future. Also, understanding the extent to which the population is stable, or experiences significant turnover each year is helpful for planning purposes.

Figure 93: Overall Movements of Residents

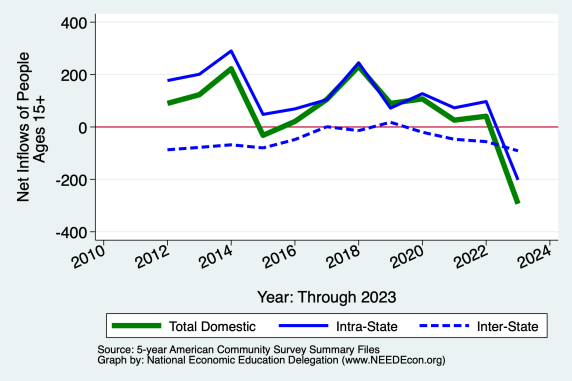


Table 17: Migration by Income

		Net Inflows				
			Same State			
Category	Population	All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
No income	512	−84	−18	−35	−31	0
With income	3,134	−209	−40	−109	−60	0
$1 to $9,999 or loss	175	−117	0	−53	−64	0
$10,000 to $14,999	416	−14	0	−14	0	0
$15,000 to $24,999	167	0	11	0	−11	0
$25,000 to $34,999	119	−26	−16	−10	0	0
$35,000 to $49,999	163	−6	0	−11	5	0
$50,000 to $64,999	170	−5	0	0	−5	0
$65,000 to $74,999	23	0	0	0	0	0
$75,000 or more	1,901	−41	−35	−21	15	0
All:	3,646	−293	−58	−144	−91	0

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File
Note: The data in this and other tables in this section are limited in that there is no information on the City's population that has moved abroad.
The "From Abroad" column is gross movements into the City from abroad.

Figure 94: Overall Movements of Low Income Residents

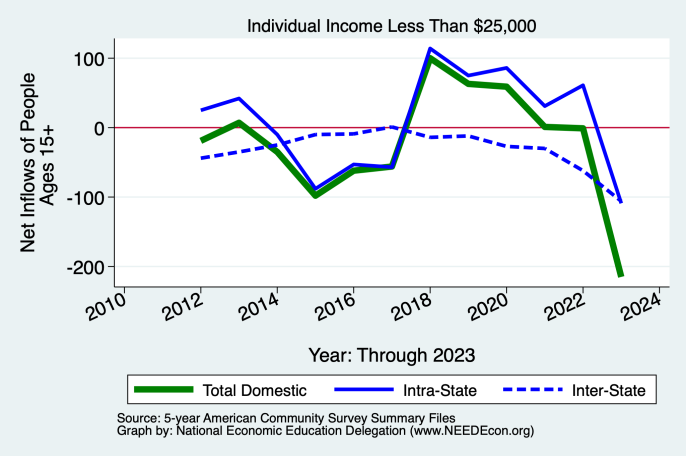


Figure 95: Overall Movements of Middle Income Residents

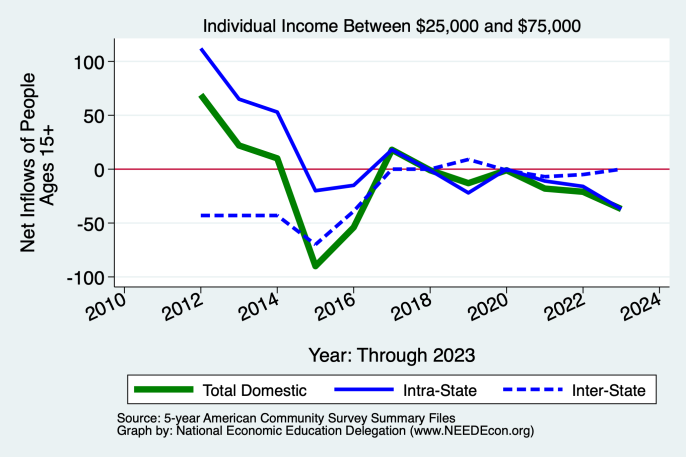
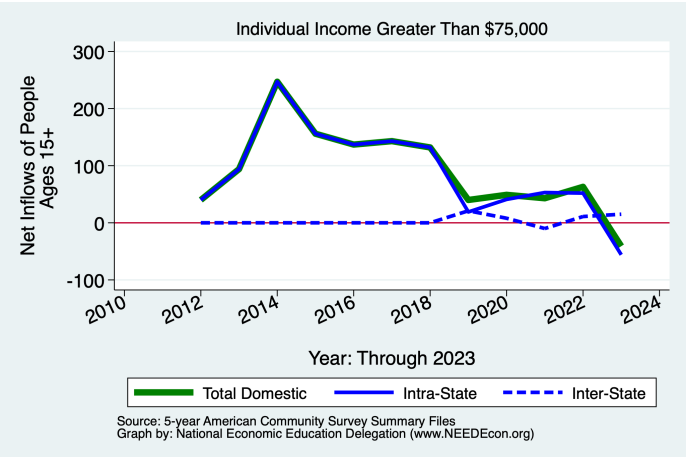


Figure 96: Overall Movements of High Income Residents



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Demographics of Migration Flows

Table 18: Migration by Marital Status

Category	Population	Net Inflows: All Migration	Same State: W/in County	Same State: Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Never married	630	−146	−24	−61	−61	0
Now married, except separated	2,429	−76	−18	−39	−19	0
Divorced	344	−32	0	−21	−11	0
Separated	0	−23	0	−23	0	0
Widowed	243	−16	−16	0	0	0
Total:	3,646	−293	−58	−144	−91	0

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 19: Migration by Tenure

Category	Population	Net Inflows: All Migration	Same State: W/in County	Same State: Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Householder lived in owner-occupied housing units	3,807	−25	49	−64	−10	0
Householder lived in renter-occupied housing units	477	−141	−63	−67	−11	0
Total:	4,284	−166	−14	−131	−21	0

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 97: Domestic Movements of Residents by Tenure

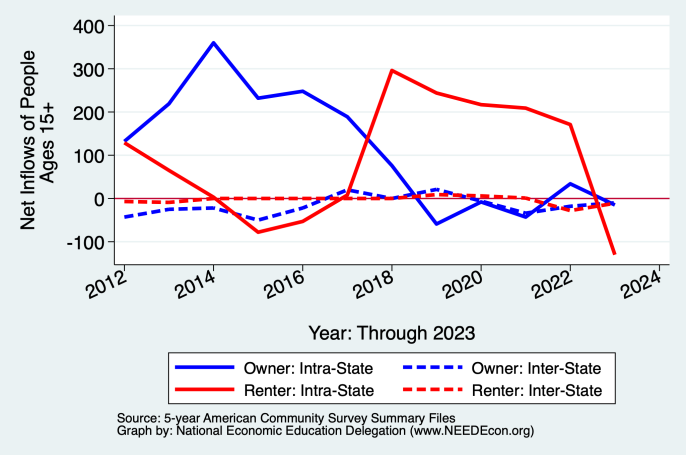

Table 20: Migration by Age

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
1 to 4 years	244	39	28	18	−7	0
5 to 17 years	556	−76	−18	−58	0	0
18 and 19 years	89	−99	0	−22	−77	0
20 to 24 years	122	−23	0	0	−23	0
25 to 29 years	41	−12	−12	0	0	0
30 to 34 years	91	31	−8	0	39	0
35 to 39 years	112	50	29	21	0	0
40 to 44 years	248	−3	0	0	−3	0
45 to 49 years	211	0	0	0	0	0
50 to 54 years	250	−33	0	−33	0	0
55 to 59 years	237	−50	−16	−34	0	0
60 to 64 years	291	−20	−17	−3	0	0
65 to 69 years	458	0	0	0	0	0
70 to 74 years	393	−13	0	−2	−11	0
75 years and over	986	−68	−16	−36	−16	0
Total Population:	4,329	−277	−30	−149	−98	0

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 21: Migration by Educational Attainment

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Less than high school graduate	45	0	0	0	0	0
High school graduate (includes equiv)	51	−19	0	−8	−11	0
Some college or assoc. degree	474	−23	−16	−7	0	0
Bachelor's degree	1,031	6	−3	−3	12	0
Graduate or professional degree	1,717	−82	−21	−69	8	0
Total:	3,318	−118	−40	−87	9	0

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 22: Median Income of Migration Flows

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	123,208	123,208
Moved Within Same County	21,944	90,417
Moved to Different County, Same State	0	0
Moved Between States	99,375	0
Moved from Abroad	0	
Total Population:	114,527	110,089

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 23: Median Age of Migration Flows

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	60.6	60.6
Moved Within Same County	34.5	33.9
Moved to Different County, Same State	35.1	51.7
Moved Between States	34.4	19.3
Moved from Abroad	0.0	
Total Population:	58.0	58.0

Source: 2023 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

References and Sources

The majority of the data presented in this report are from the American Community Survey (ACS). For larger geographies, the 1-year Summary Files provide the data. For smaller communities, roughly those with less than 65,000 in population in 2021, the 5-year Summary Files provide the data.

The ACS data are supplemented by building permit data from the U.S. Census Bureau, population and housing data from the California Department of Finance, and home price and rental rates from Zillow.

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