Atwater, California

Indicators Report

by
The National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

April 20, 2024

Exploring the economics, demographics, and well-being of Atwater 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 Atwater (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 Atwater. These indicators are compared to Merced County (the County) as a whole, a broader region where one is well defined, California, and the United Sates.

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 Atwater 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 Atwater 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 Atwater, 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 Atwater, but do not necessarily live in Atwater.
- **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

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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 Atwater's population are fundamental indicators of the city's growth potential.

A Demographic Snapshot

Statistic	2022	2019
POPULATION		
Population Estimate (#, 5yr)	31,841.0	29,296.0
Veterans (#, 5yr)	1,404.0	1,387.0
Foreign born persons (%, 5yr)	22.2	22.3
Population age 25+ (#, 5yr)	19,896.0	17,707.0
AGE AND SEX		
Persons under 5 years (%, 5yr)	6.4	8.1
Persons under 18 years (%, 5yr)	28.6	29.8
Persons 65 years and over (%, 5yr)	12.5	11.5
Female persons (%, 5yr)	50.0	50.7
INCOME AND POVERTY		
Median household income ($, 5yr)	64,195.0	55,674.0
Per capita income in past 12 months ($, 5yr)	28,943.0	22,157.0
Persons in poverty (%, 5yr)	17.5	20.7
Children age less than 18 in poverty (#, 5yr)	1,931.0	2,480.0
Children age less than 18 in poverty (%, 5yr)	22.0	29.2
RACE AND ETHNICITY		
White alone (%, 5yr)	45.5	57.9
African American alone (%, 5yr)	4.5	3.8
American Indian or Alaska Native alone (%, 5yr)	1.2	1.0
Asian alone (%, 5yr)	5.2	4.5
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone (%, 5yr)	1.1	0.2
Two or More Races (%, 5yr)	8.1	5.0
Hispanic or Latino (%, 5yr)	56.6	56.5
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino (%, 5yr)	30.2	32.5
HOUSING		
Housing units (#, 5yr)	10,499.0	9,577.0
Owner-occupied housing units (%, 5yr)	53.9	52.6
Median value of owner-occupied housing units ($, 5yr)	315,200.0	229,400.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-with a mortgage ($, 5yr)	1,687.0	1,427.0
Median selected monthly owner costs-without a mortgage ($, 5yr)	498.0	455.0
Median gross rent ($, 5yr)	1,182.0	998.0
FAMILIES AND LIVING ARRANGEMENTS		
Households (#, 5yr)	10,248.0	9,161.0
Persons per household (#, 5yr)	3.1	3.2
Living in same house 1 year ago, % of persons age 1+ (5yr)	88.3	80.8
EDUCATION		
High school graduate or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	72.4	73.2
Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons age 25+ (5yr)	14.7	14.0
HEALTH		
With a disability, under age 65 years (#, 5yr)	2,638.0	2,340.0
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years (%, 5yr)	9.6	7.3
LABOR FORCE		
In civilian labor force, persons age 16+ (%, 5yr)	63.6	63.4
In civilian labor force, women age 16+ (%, 5yr)	55.7	55.2
Employed, persons age 16+ (%, 5yr)	54.3	54.9
Self employed (%, 5yr)	7.2	6.0
TRANSPORTATION		
Mean travel time to work, workers age 16+ (Mins., 5yr)	27.5	27.6
Using public transportation (%, 5yr)	0.6	1.2
Drive alone in private vehicle (%, 5yr)	83.3	82.5

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	2023 Population	% Change 1 Year	% Change 3 Year	% Change 5 Year
City				
Atwater	31,418	−0.67	−0.73	1.41
County and Broader Regions				
Merced County	285,337	0.42	0.70	2.12
South Central Valley	3,534,481	0.01	−0.90	0.05
California	38,940,231	−0.35	−1.79	−2.01

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

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

City	2022	2023	% Change Local	% Change South Central Valley	% Change California
Merced County	284.1	285.3	0.42	0.01	−0.35
Merced	88.7	90.1	1.65		
Los Banos	46.8	47.3	1.11		
Atwater	31.6	31.4	−0.67		
Livingston	14.4	14.3	−0.66		
Gustine	6.0	5.9	−0.67		
Dos Palos	5.7	5.6	−1.00		

Source: CA DOF; Calculations by National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 1: Population Growth (1)

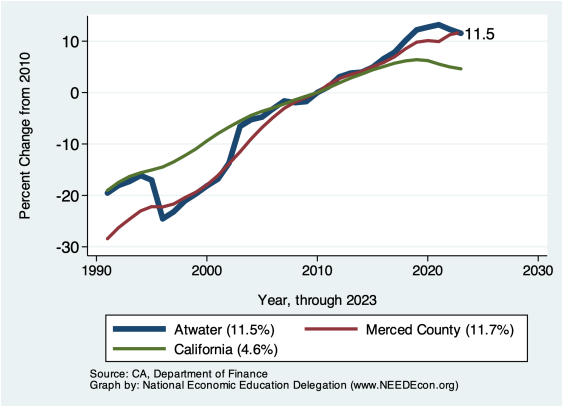

Figure 2: Population Growth (2)

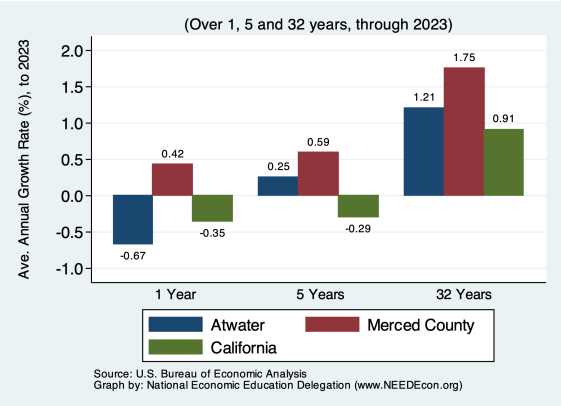

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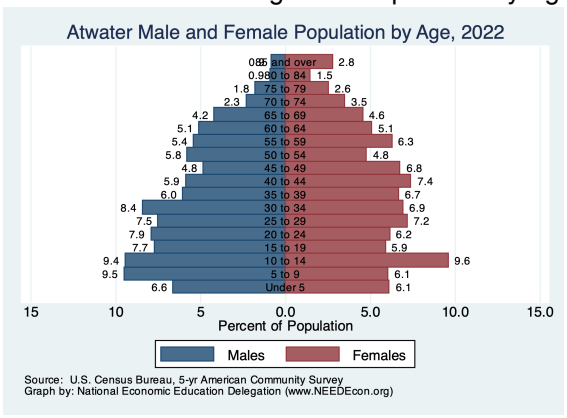
Figure 3: Population by Age - Detailed Age Categories



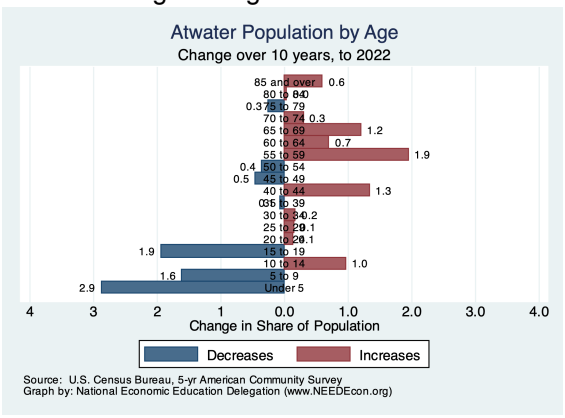
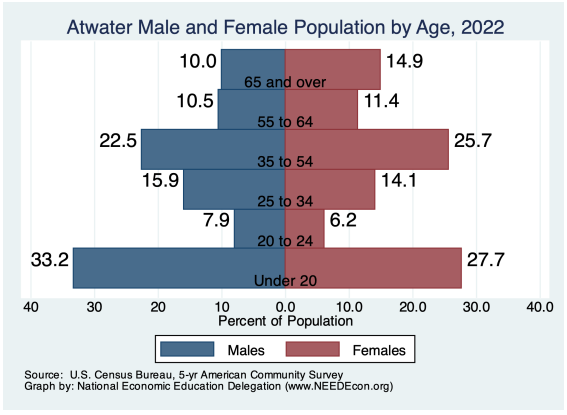


Figure 4: Population by Age - Broad Age Categories



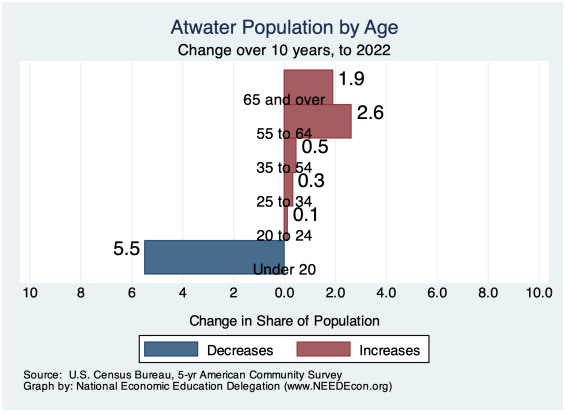
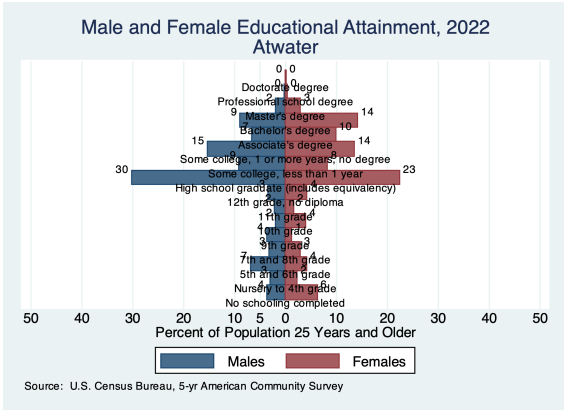


Figure 5: Population by Educational Attainment



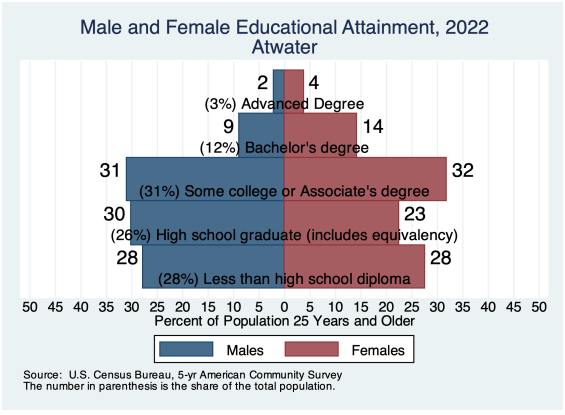


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Figure 6: Population by Race/Ethnicity

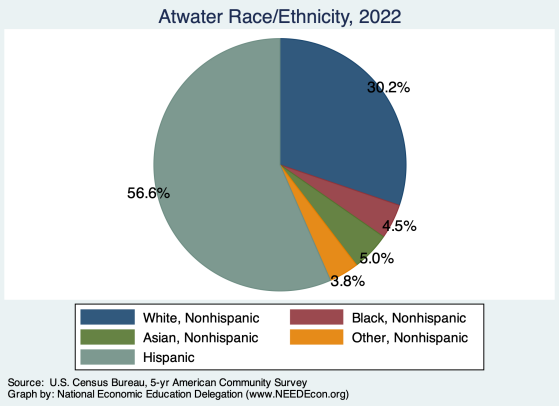
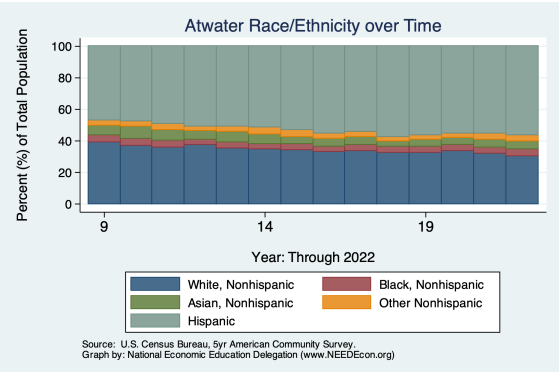


Figure 7: Population by Race/Ethnicity Over Time



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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. Atwater Summary for March, 2024

Category	Current Value	Change From: Last Month	2 Months Ago	Last Year
Employment	8,924	-30	−53	-103
Labor Force	9,644	9	15	96
Number Unemployed	678	-4	21	97
Unemployment Rate	7.0	-0.0	0.2	0.9

Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation

Figure 8: Historical Employment and Unemployment

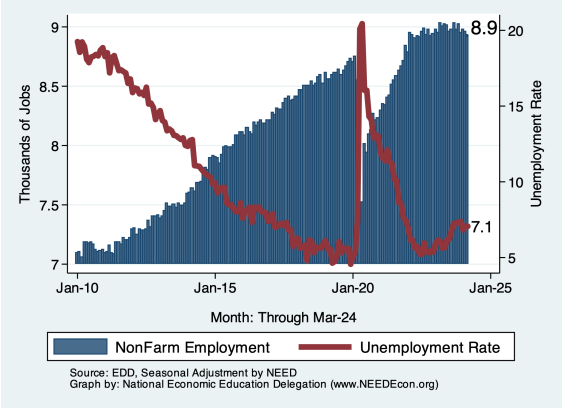


Figure 9: Employment and Unemployment - Last 12 Months

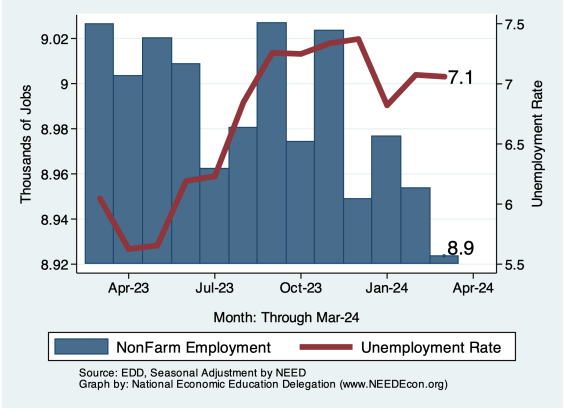


Figure 10: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2010

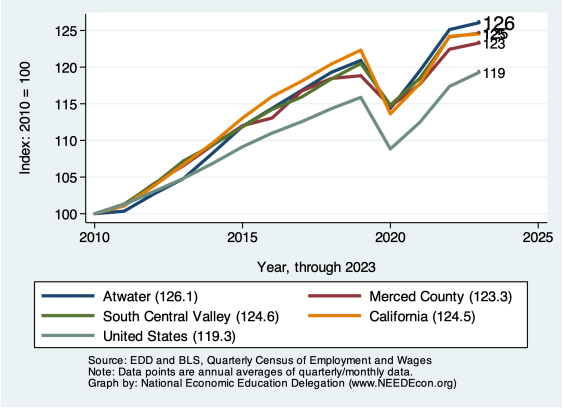
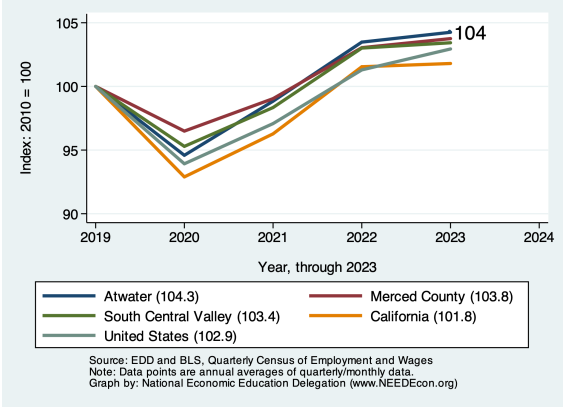


Figure 11: Relative Employment Growth Across Regions - since 2019



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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 Merced County. The following table provides the latest data for the County.

Table 4. Employment Growth by Industry in Merced County for March, 2024

			Empl	% Growth - Annualized Rate					
Industry	**Employment**	**Share**	**Growth**	**Month**	**Qtr**	**6mo**	**1yr**	**3yr**	**5yr**
Total Nonfarm	76,042	100.0	203.6	3.3	3.1	6.4	5.1	4.1	1.5
Total Private	56,696	74.6	183.9	4.0	2.1	7.5	6.1	4.6	2.2
Goods Producing	14,504	19.1	−11.4	−0.9	0.3	14.5	9.8	5.3	2.7
Mining, Logging and Construction	3,581	4.7	−28.4	−9.0	6.0	2.8	9.2	5.5	4.1
Manufacturing	10,886	14.3	5.9	0.7	−2.0	17.6	9.1	4.7	2.0
Non-Durable Goods	9,367	12.3	42.5	5.6	6.2	24.7	14.8	6.1	2.1
Service Providing	61,995	81.5	444.5	9.0	7.6	8.4	4.1	3.9	1.4
Trade, Trans & Utilities	14,038	18.5	43.7	3.8	−2.2	2.2	2.9	0.9	0.3
Wholesale Trade	1,900	2.5	0.0	0.0	−18.5	−9.8	0.0	1.9	2.4
Retail Trade	8,763	11.5	95.1	14.0	1.8	0.1	1.1	0.3	0.8
Information	300	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	16.7	0.0
Financial Activities	1,800	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	−1.8	−1.1
Professional & Business Srvcs	3,738	4.9	57.4	20.4	8.9	8.0	3.0	−0.4	−0.9
Educational & Health Srvcs	12,600	16.6	75.7	7.5	6.6	7.9	9.6	6.7	4.0
Leisure & Hospitality	7,243	9.5	−8.3	−1.4	−1.0	2.4	2.9	11.2	4.1
Other Srvcs	2,400	3.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	9.1	13.7	10.0
Government	19,435	25.6	65.1	4.1	6.2	4.2	2.1	2.8	−0.2
Federal	700	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
State	3,030	4.0	14.6	6.0	3.4	−2.3	−3.0	−7.2	−5.1
Local	15,789	20.8	49.7	3.9	6.7	5.3	3.2	5.7	1.1

Source: EDD, National Economic Education Delegation (NEED)

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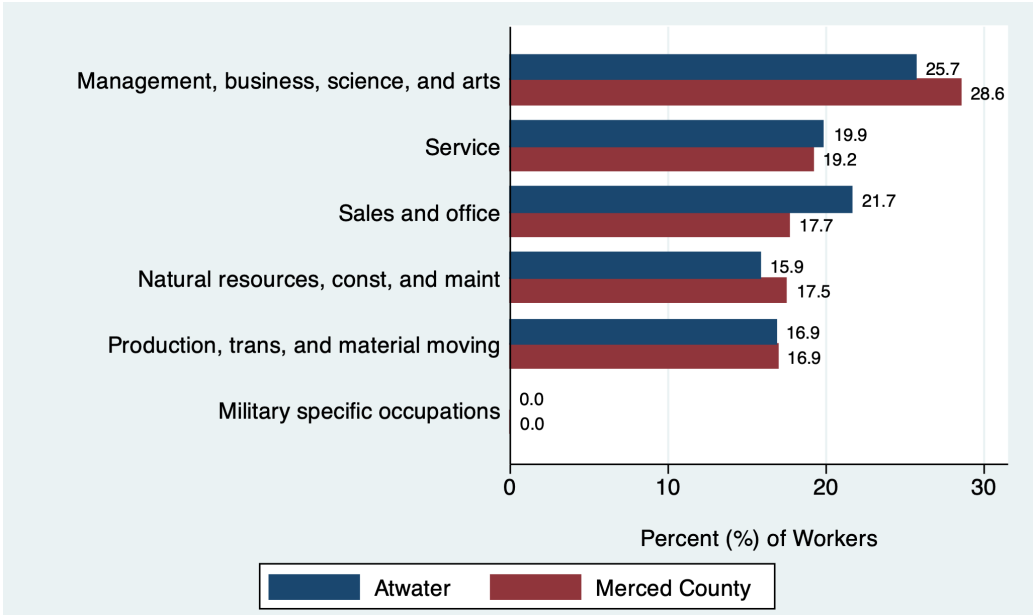
Some Employee Detail

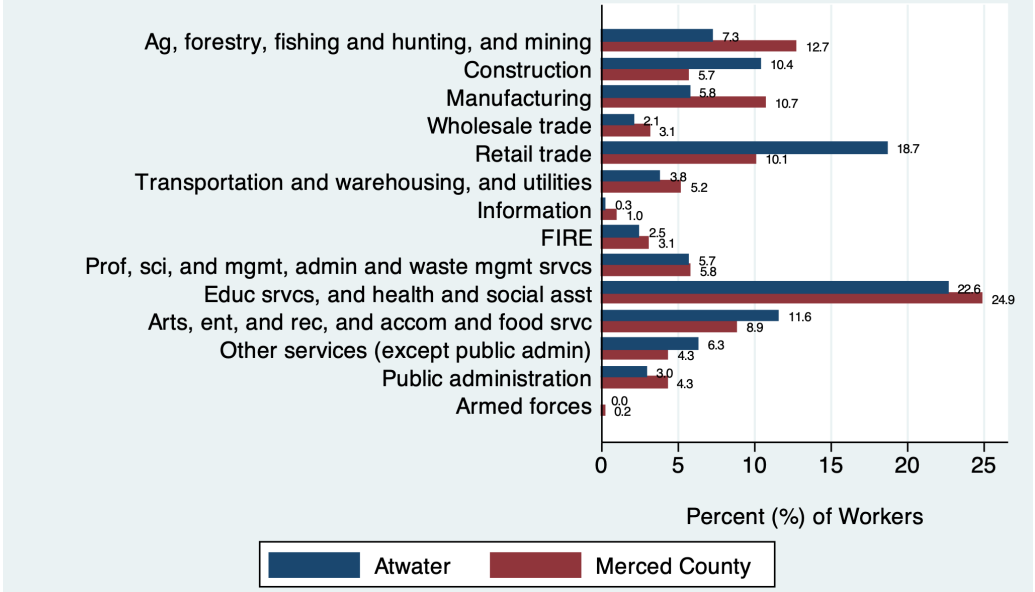
Employed in Atwater

Figure 12: Employment by Occupation



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 13: Employment by Industry



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
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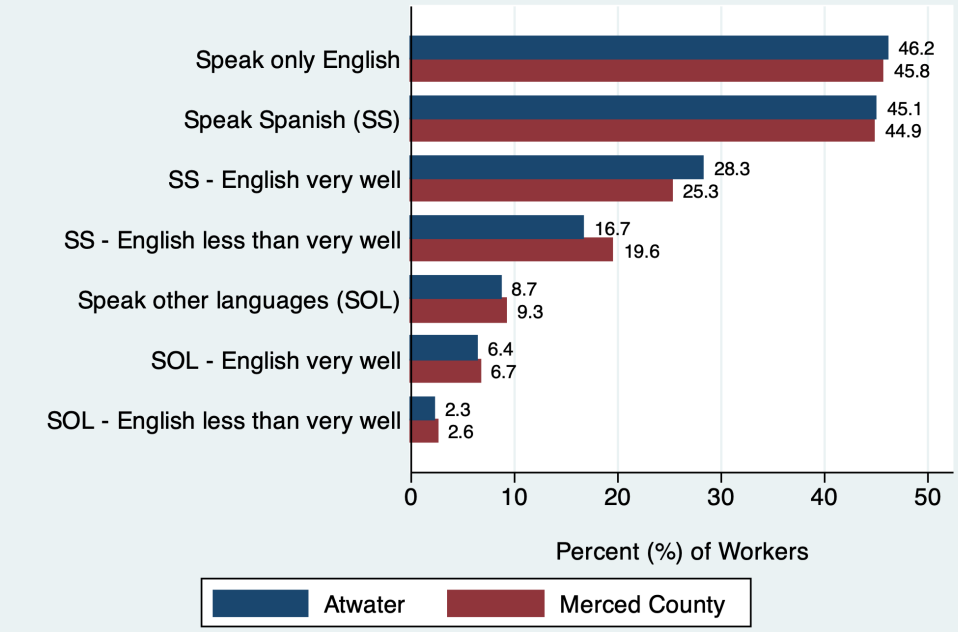
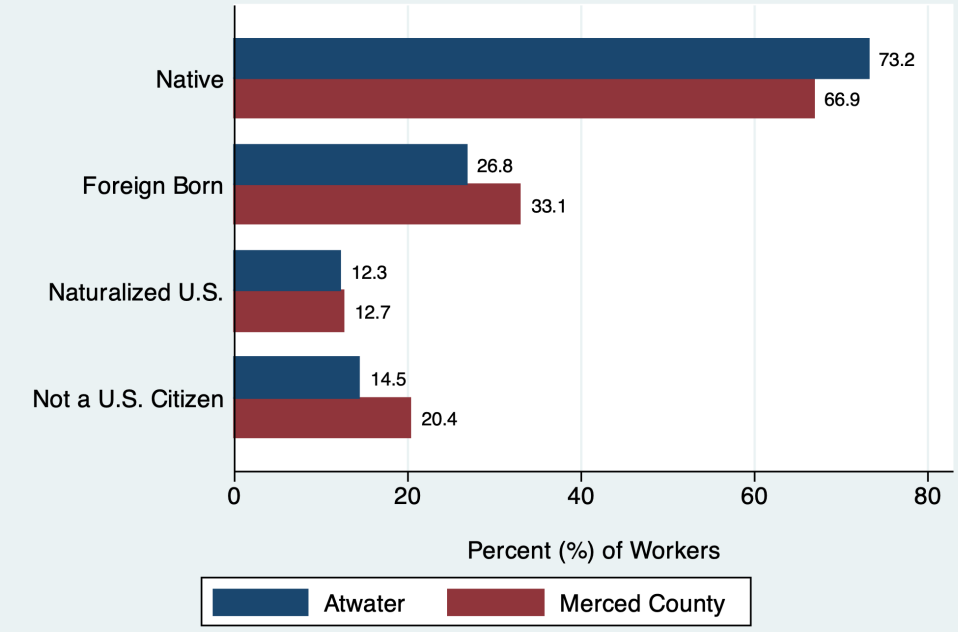
Figure 14: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

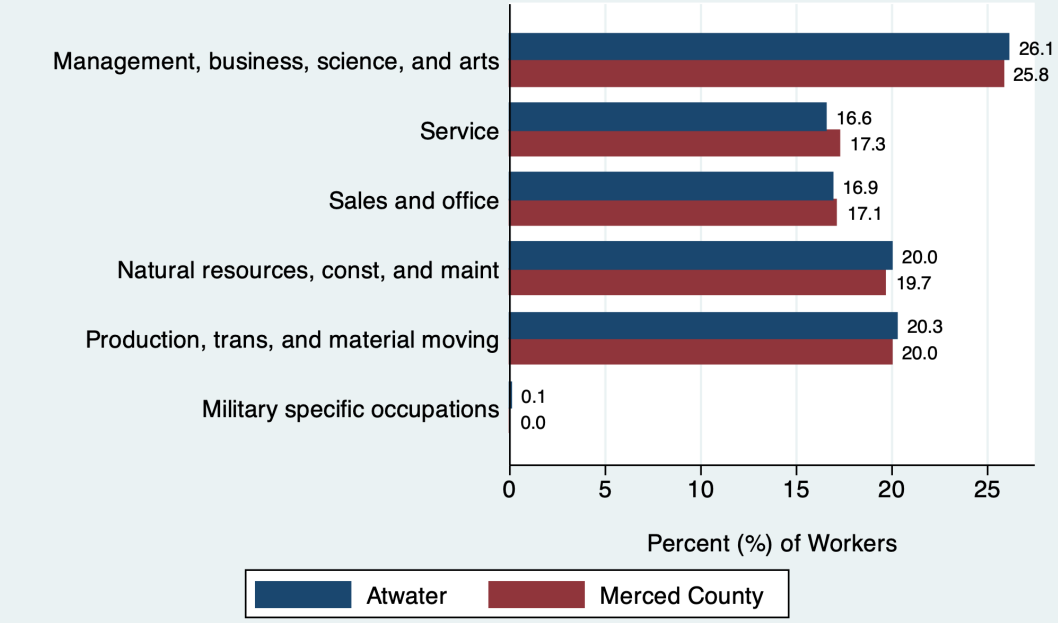
Figure 15: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

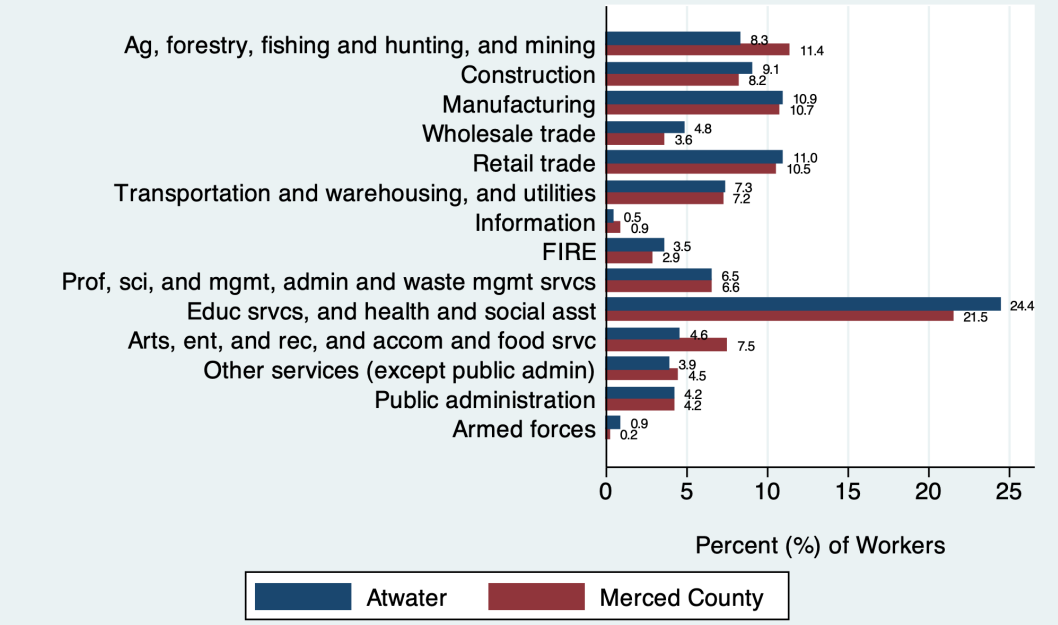
Employed Residents of Atwater

Figure 16: Employment by Occupation



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 17: Employment by Industry



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 18: Language Spoken at Home

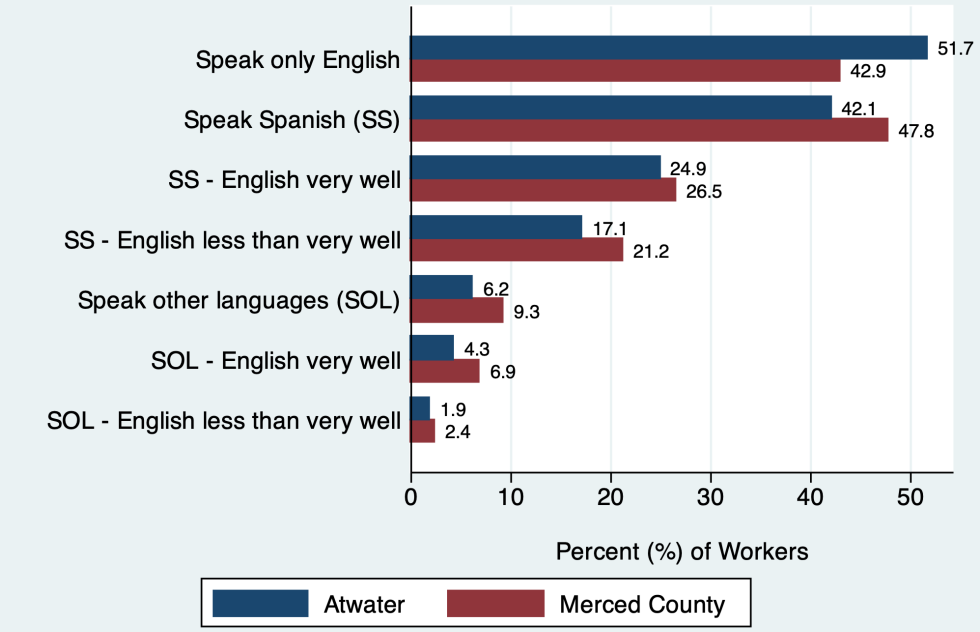


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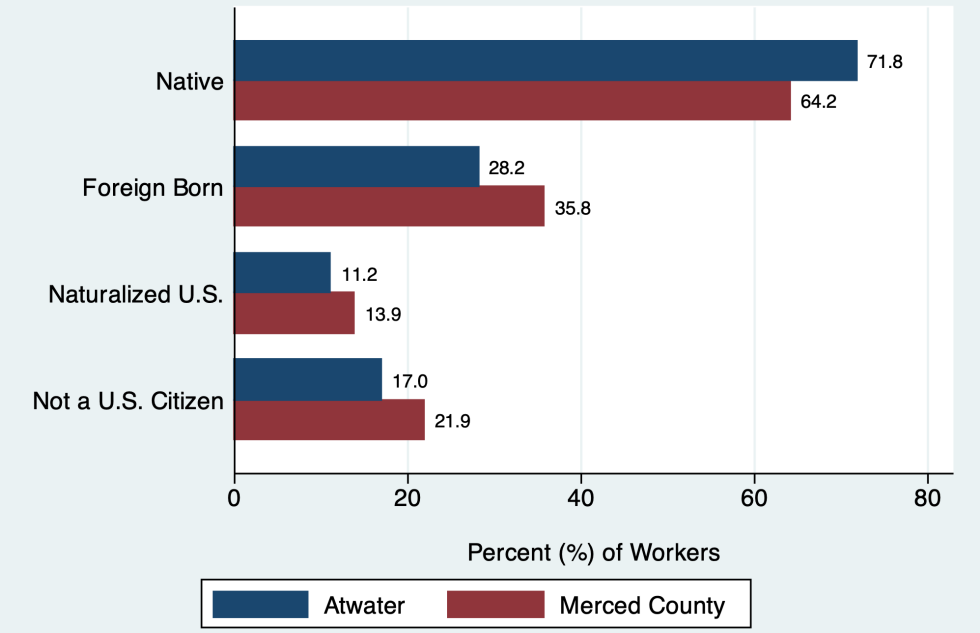
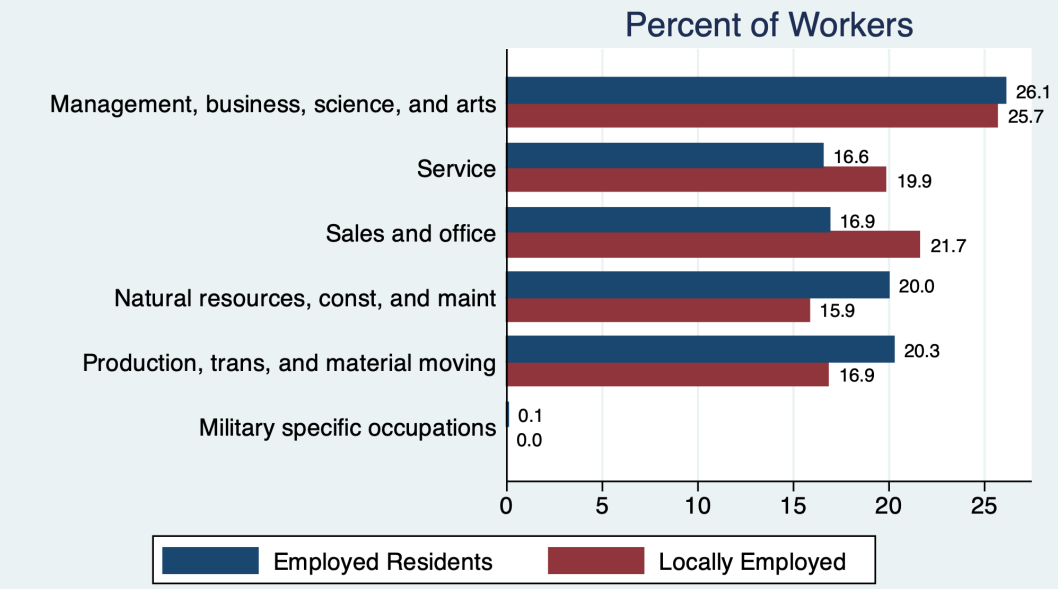
Figure 19: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

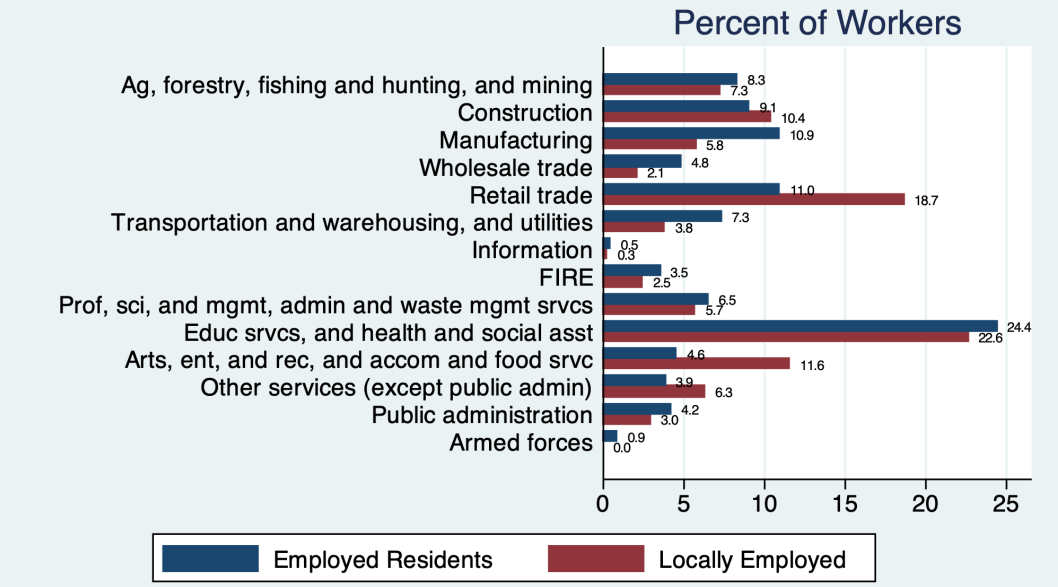
Employed Residents vs Workers in Atwater

Figure 20: Employment by Occupation



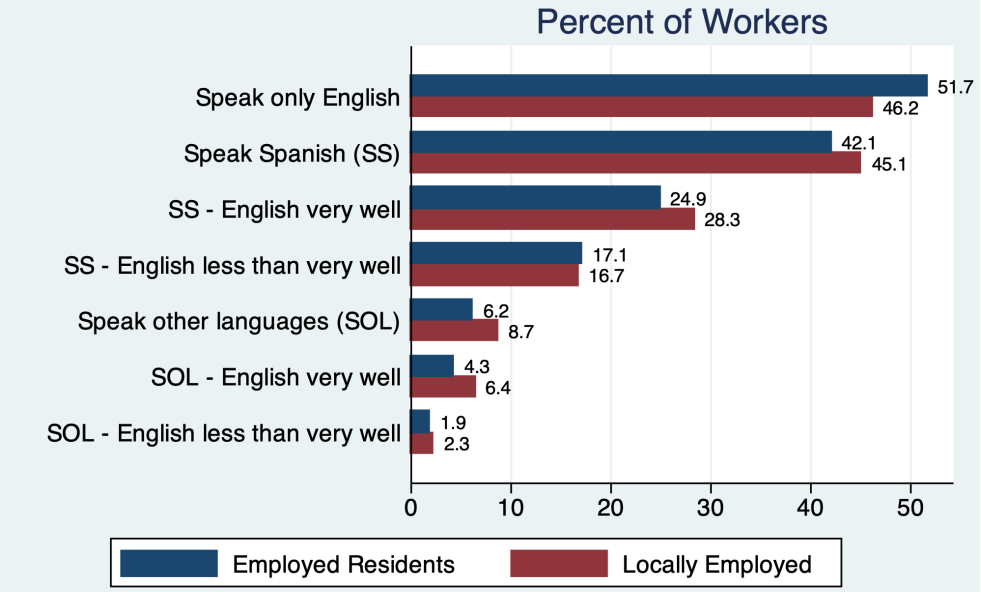
Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 21: Employment by Industry



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Figure 22: Language Spoken at Home



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
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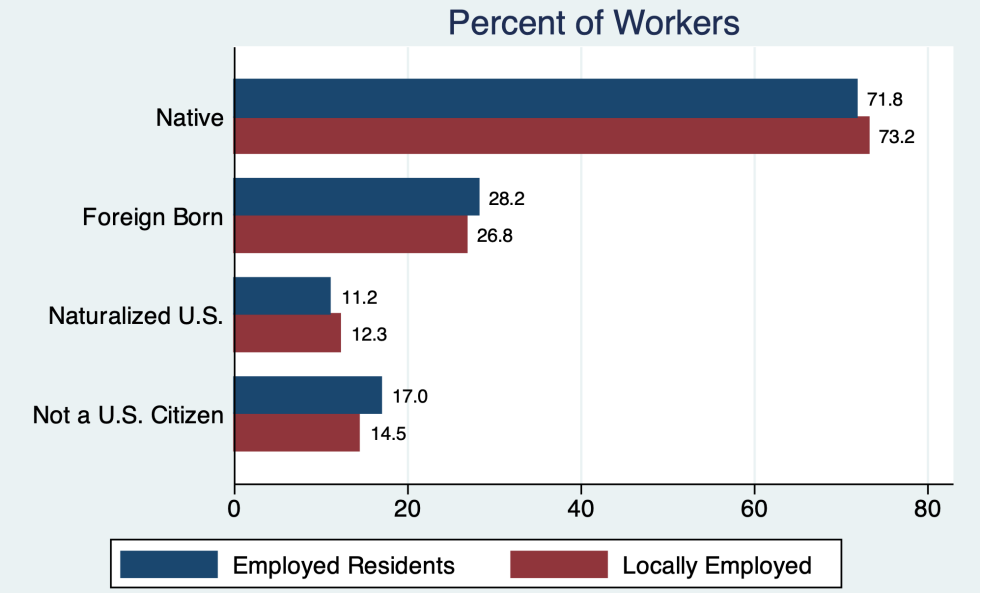
Figure 23: Citizenship



Source: American Community Survey, 2022 5-yr Summary Files.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org).

Income and Earnings

Per Capita Income Growth

Definition:

Per capita income is the average income per person in Atwater. 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. Noncash 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 24: Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among California Cities

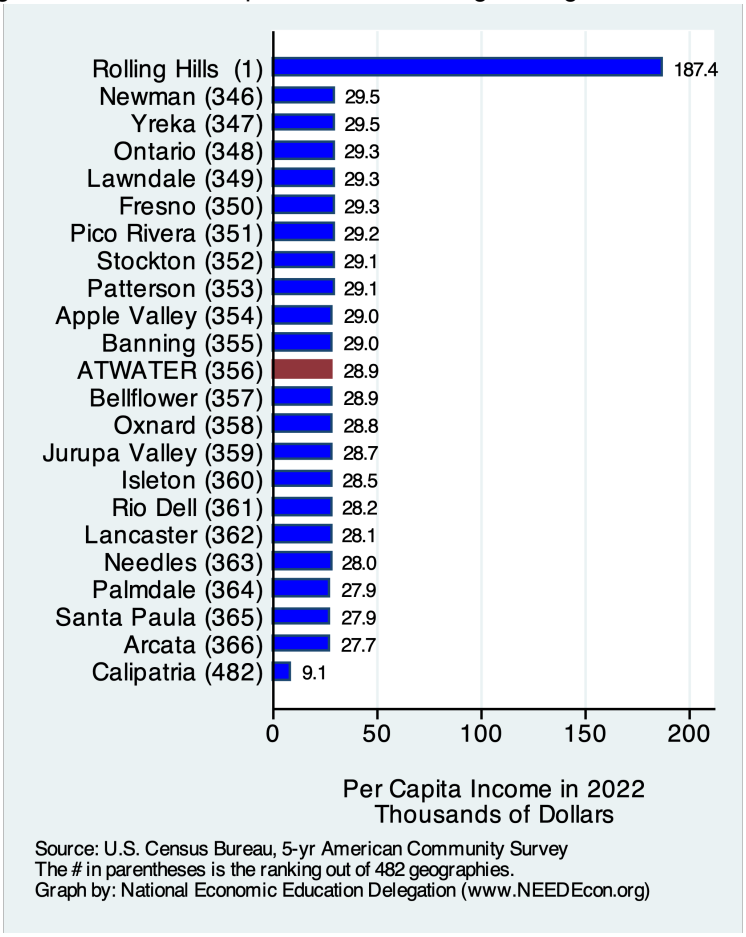
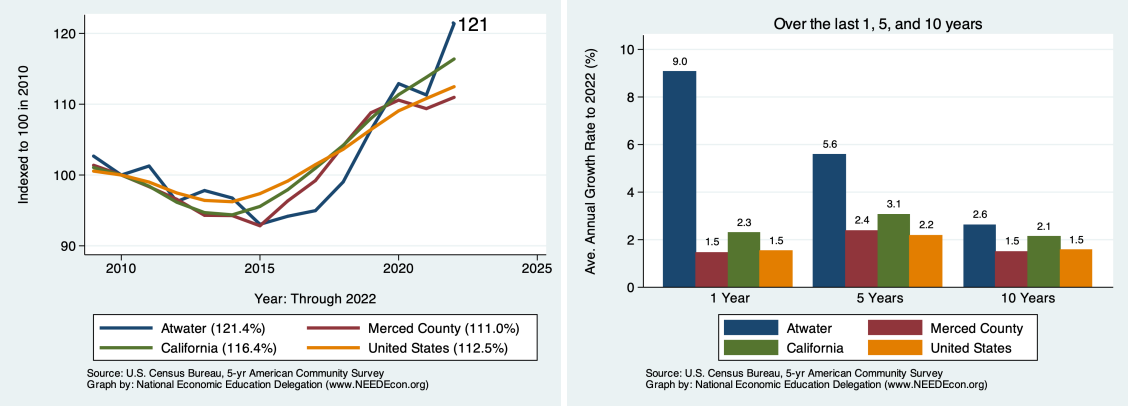


Figure 25: Regional Comparison of Growth over Time



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

Figure 26: Income Levels

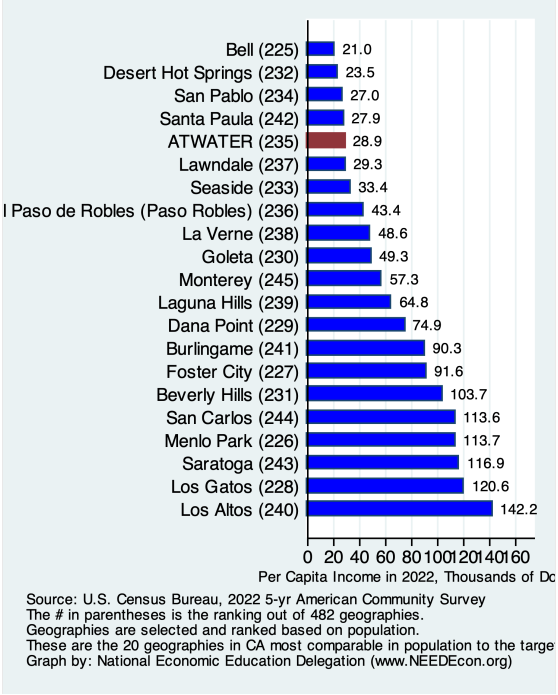
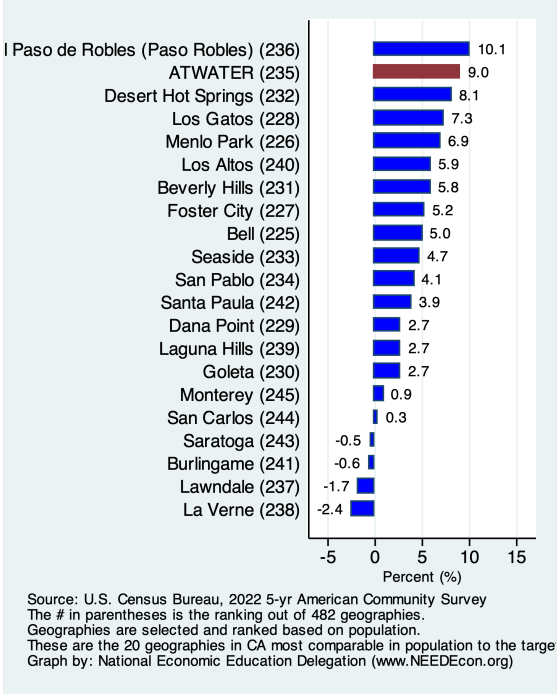


Figure 27: Growth over Time



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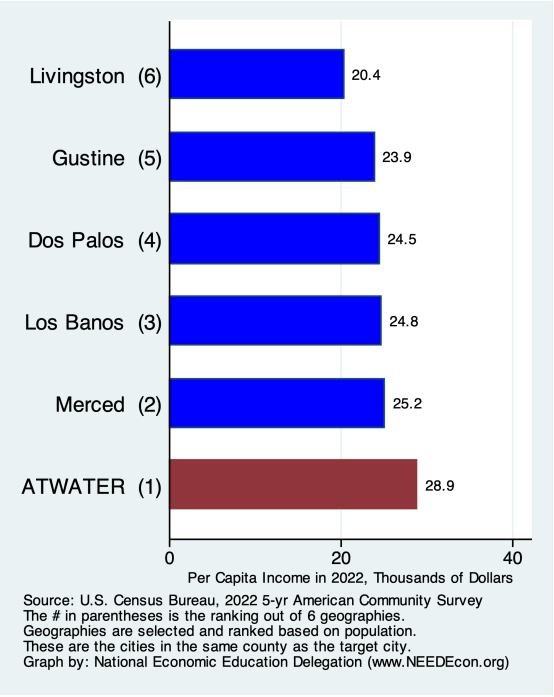
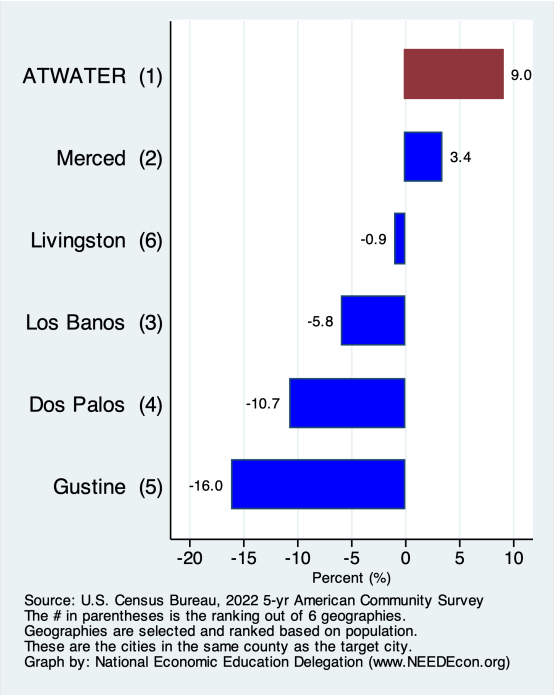
Real Per Capita Income Ranking Among Cities in Merced County

Figure 28: Income Levels



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 6 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 29: Growth over Time



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2022 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 6 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 30: Comparison with All Cities Nationwide

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 5-yr American Community Survey
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 19,695 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

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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.

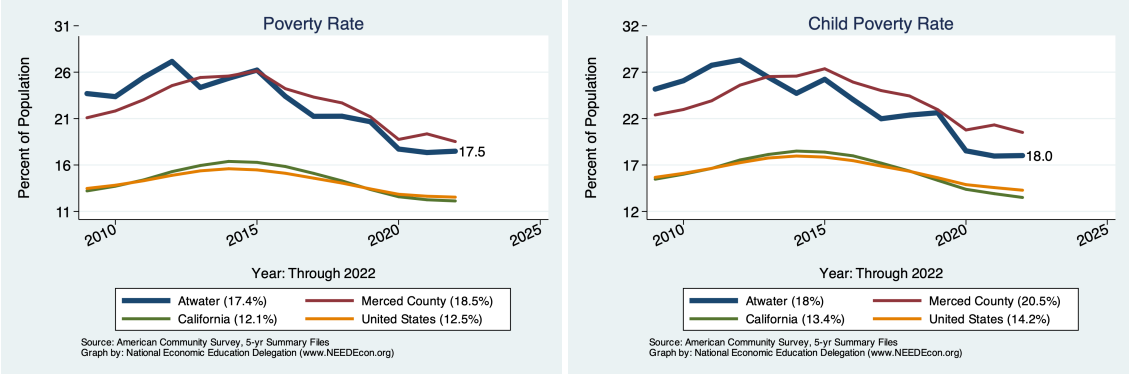


Figure 31: Inequality

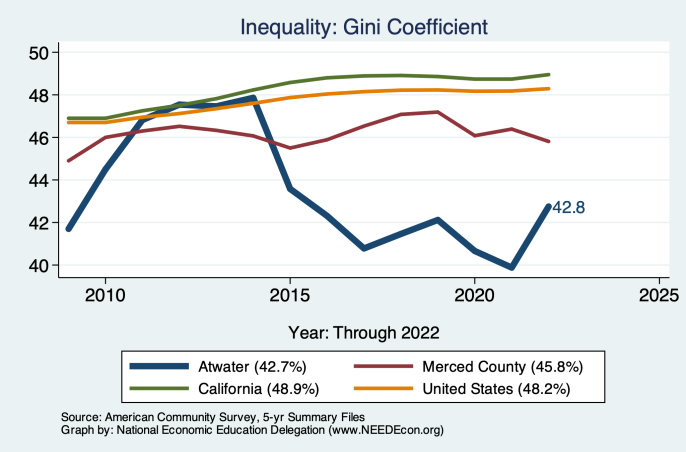
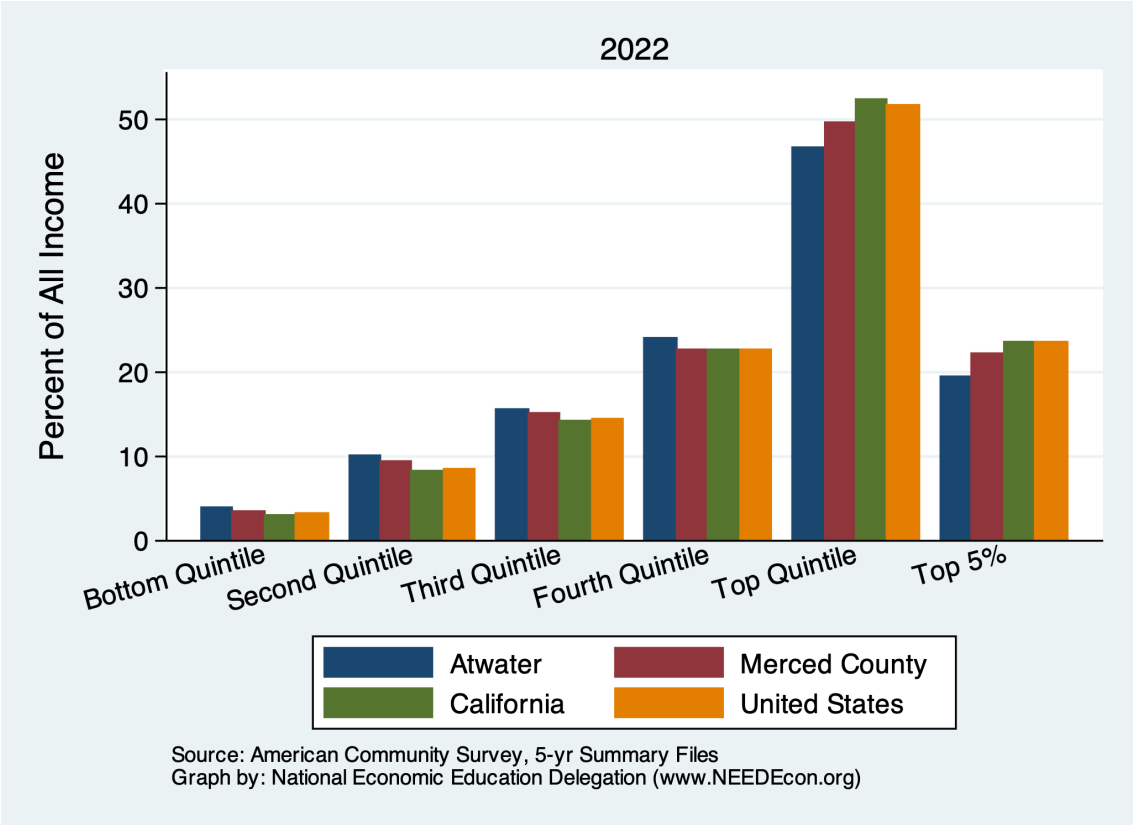
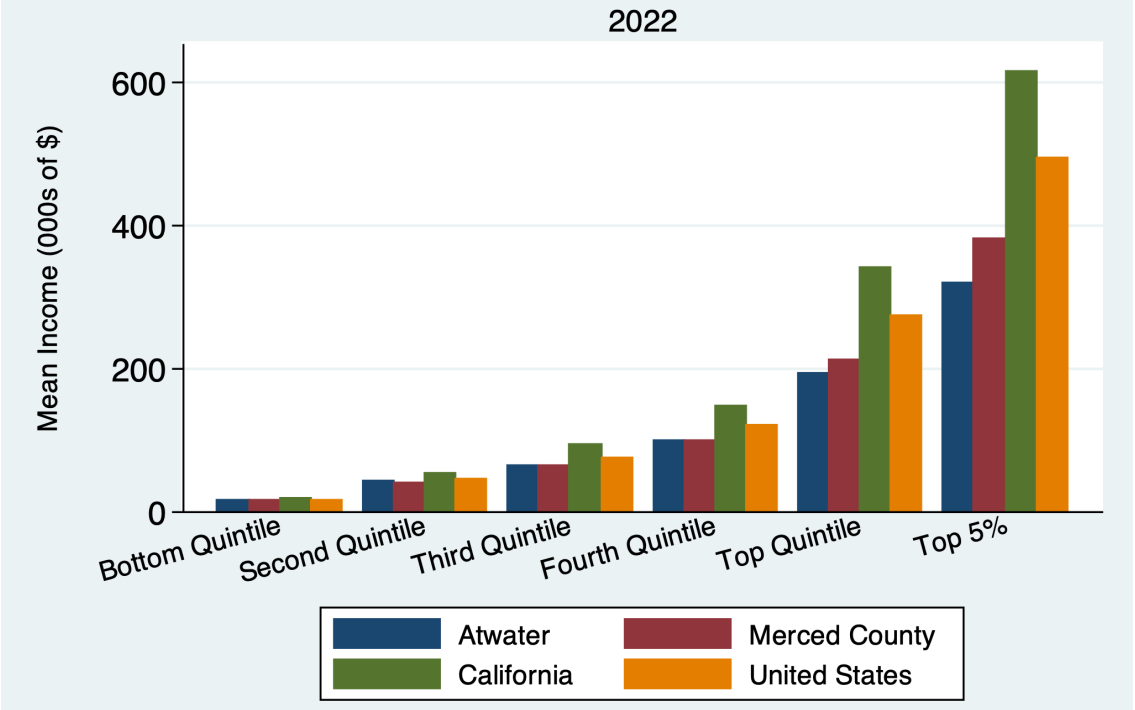


Figure 32: Shares Across the Income Distribution



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

Figure 33: 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 Atwater and Broader Regions

Figure 34: Median Home Prices

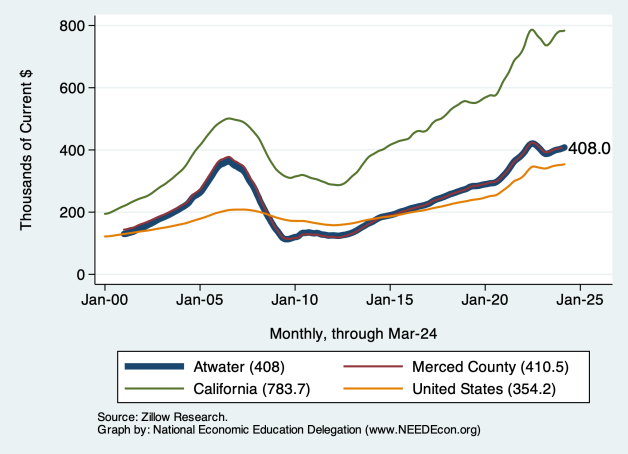
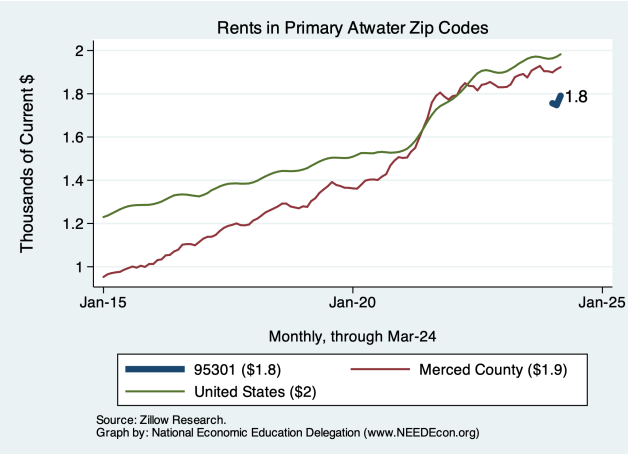


Figure 35: Median Rents



Housing Ownership in Atwater and Broader Regions

Figure 36: Home Ownership Rates

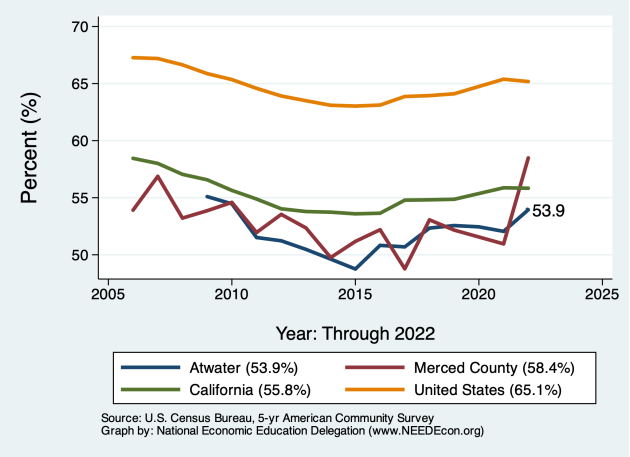


Figure 37: Home Ownership by Age

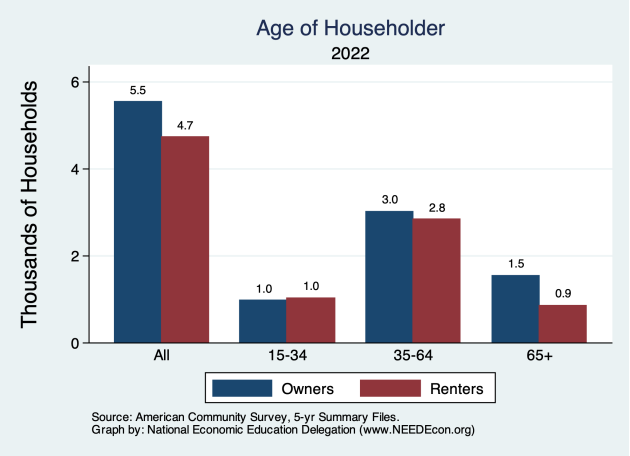


Figure 38: Income by Tenure

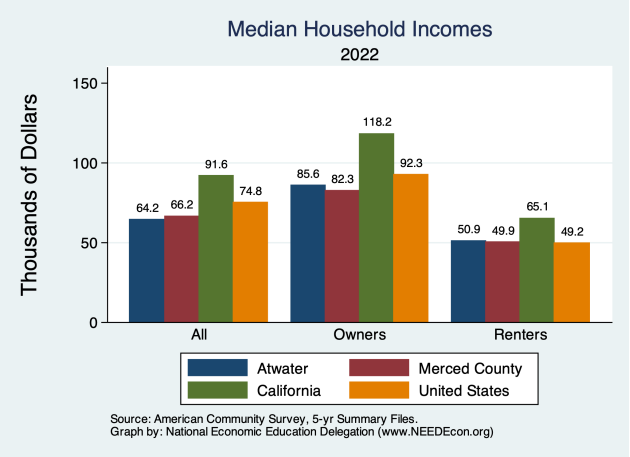


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Figure 39: Income Distribution by Tenure

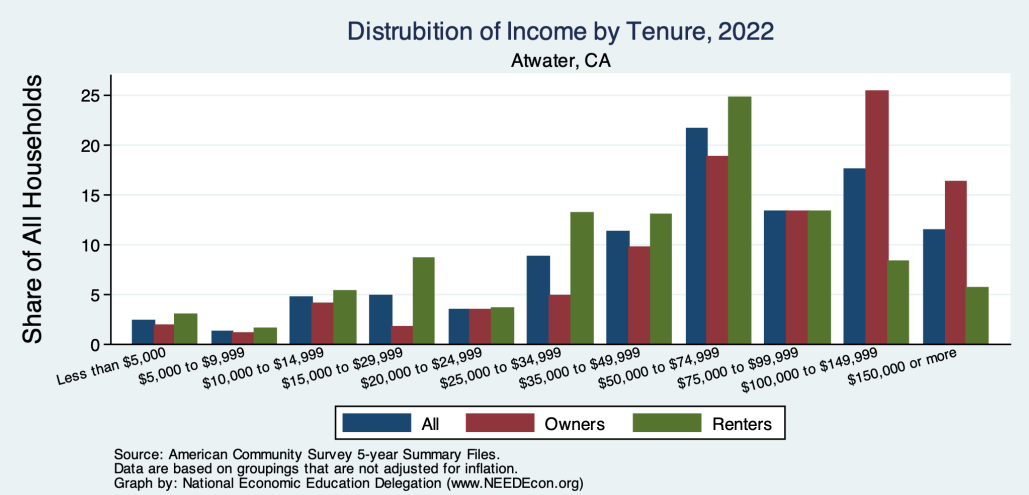


Figure 40: Income Distribution of Home Owners

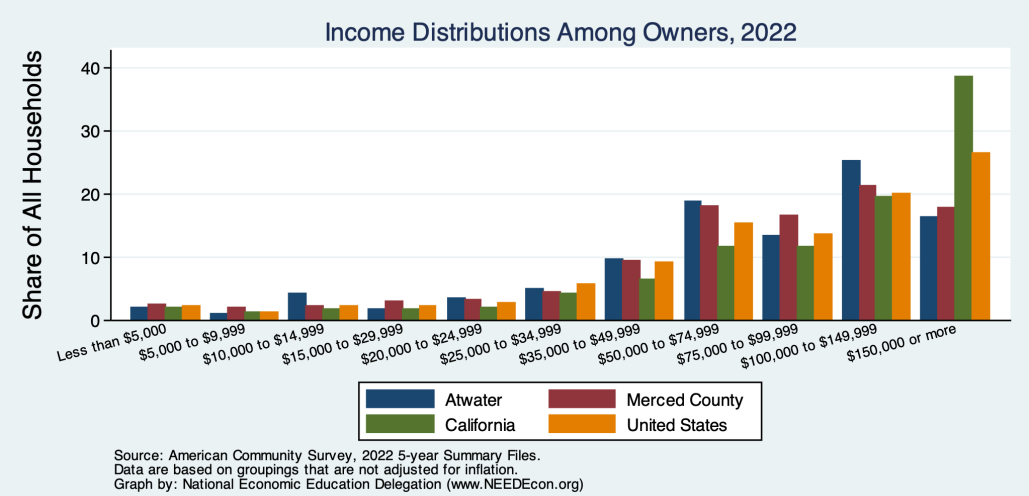
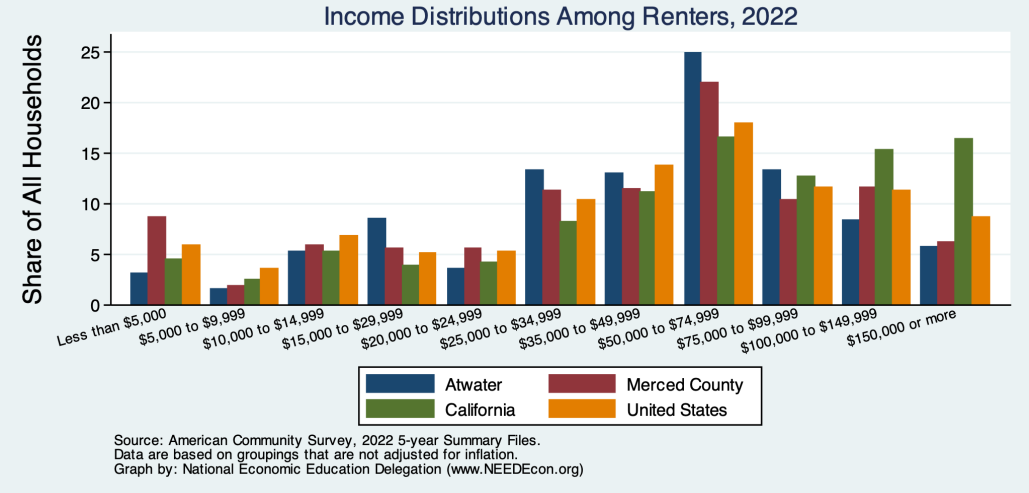


Figure 41: Income Distribution of Renters



Housing Burden in Atwater and Broader Regions

Figure 42: Home Owners w/ A Mortgage

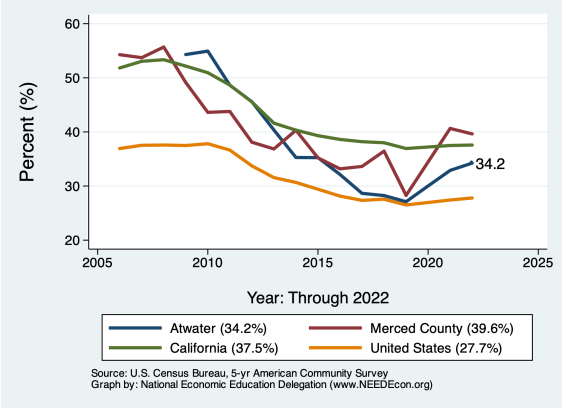


Figure 43: Home Owners w/o A Mortgage

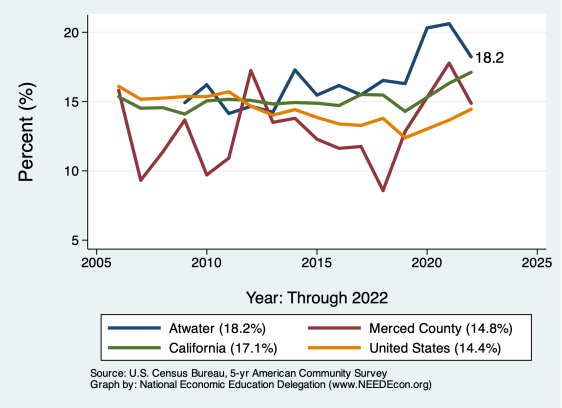


Figure 44: Renters

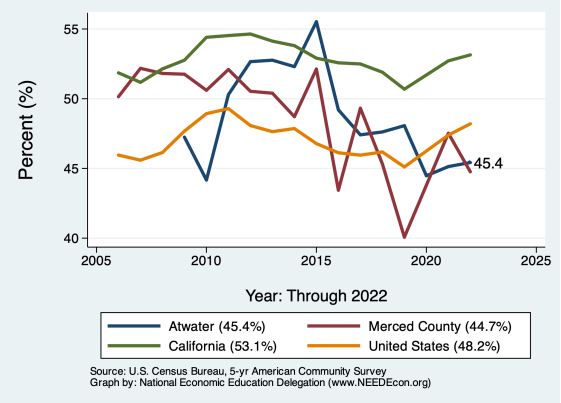
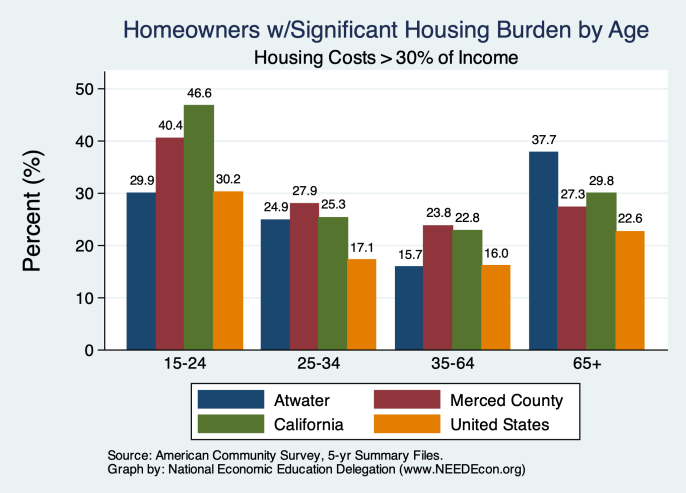


Figure 45: Homeowner Housing Burden by Age



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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	2023	2019	2010	% Change from 2019	% Change from 2010
Total Population	31,418.0	31,370.0	28,168.0	0.2	11.5
Total # of Homes	10,468.0	10,297.0	9,771.0	1.7	7.1
# Occupied Units	10,136.0	9,650.0	8,838.0	5.0	14.7
Persons per Household	3.1	3.2	3.2	-4.6	-2.7
Vacancy Rate (%)	3.2	6.3	9.5	-49.5	-66.8

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

Figure 46: Housing Growth

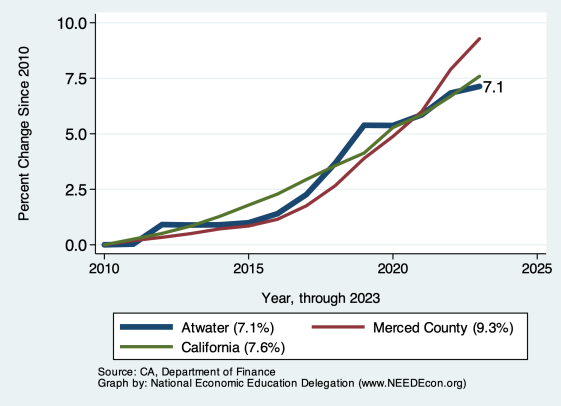


Figure 47: Persons per Household

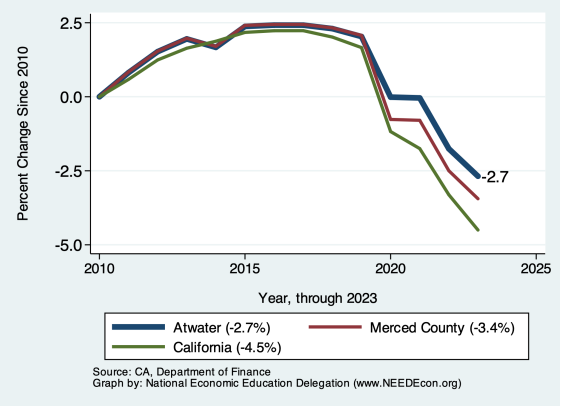


Figure 48: Vacancy Rates

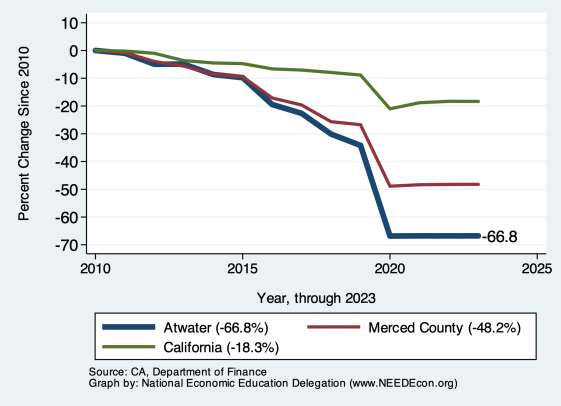
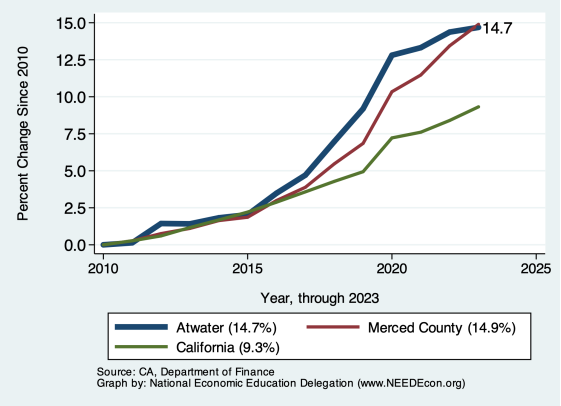


Figure 49: Number of Occupanied Units



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Trends in the Growth of Housing by Housing Type

Figure 50: Single Detached Homes

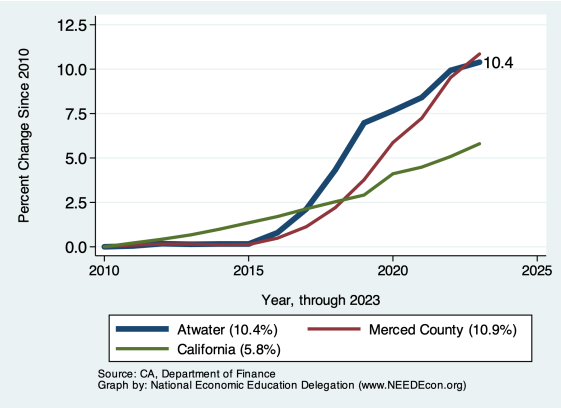


Figure 51: Single Attached Homes

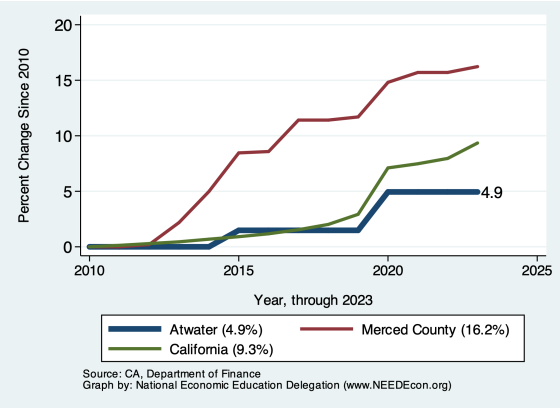


Figure 52: Housing in Buildings with Two to Four Units

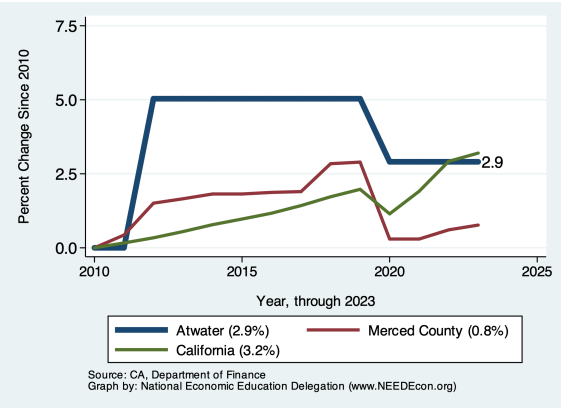
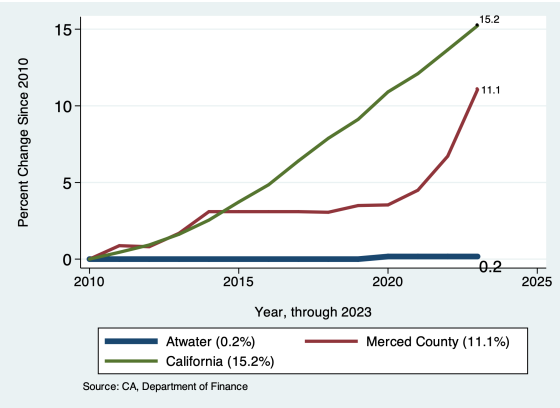


Figure 53: Housing in Buildings with Five or More Units



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Vintage of Residential Housing

Why is it important?

This section provides evidence on the year in which residential housing in Atwater was built. We break it down into owned versus rented residences and provide a comparison across Merced 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 54: Distribution of Housing Construction

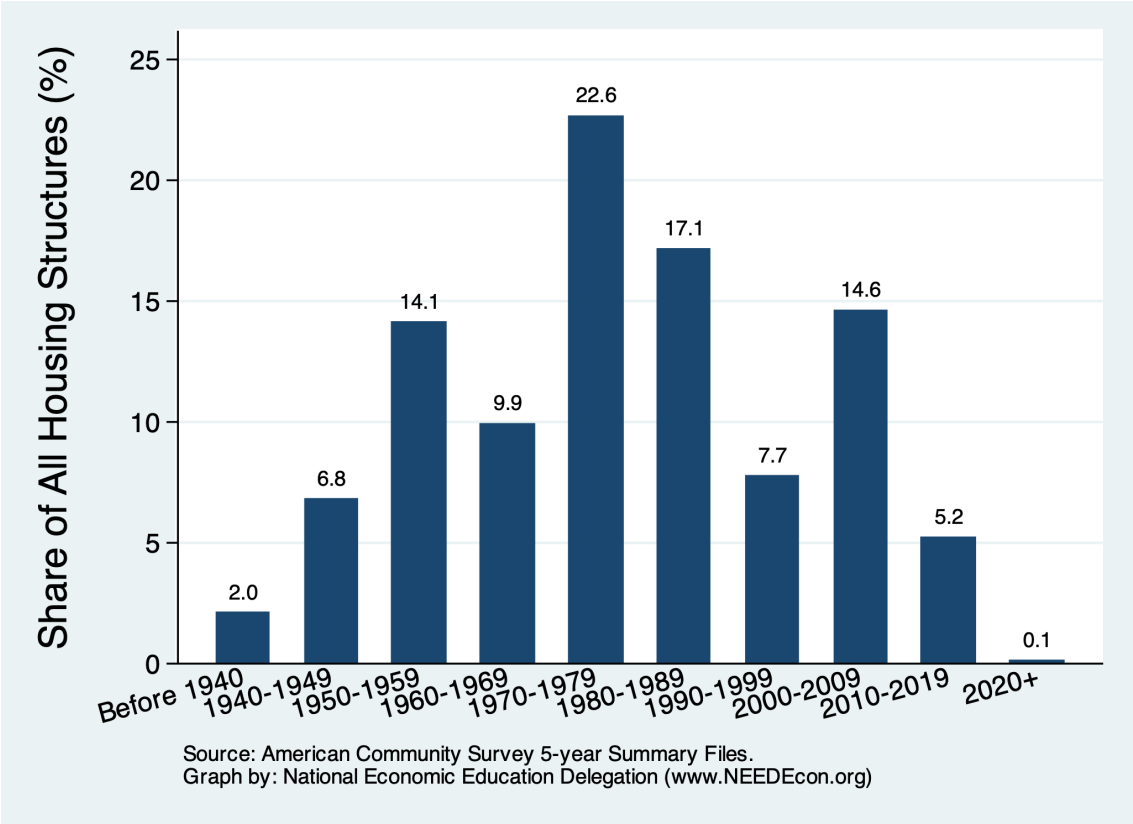


Figure 55: Housing Vintage across Regions

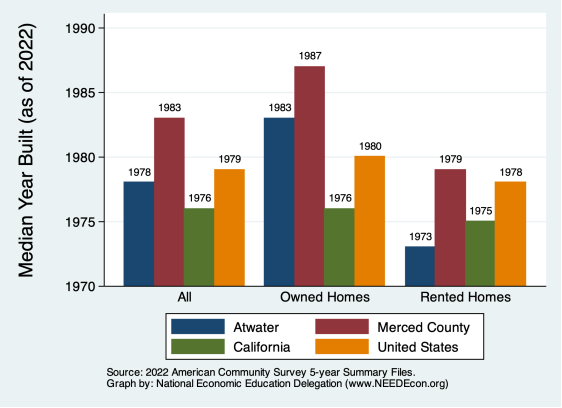


Figure 56: Housing Vintage by Tenure

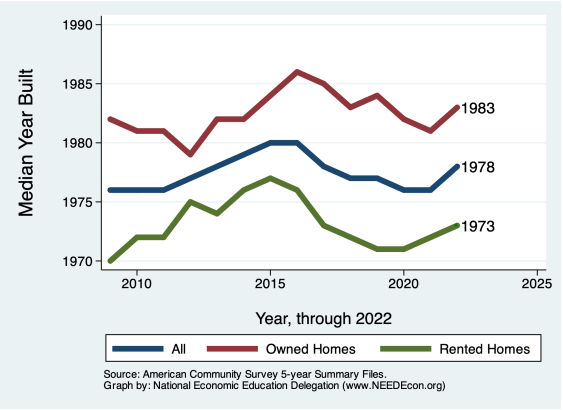


Figure 57: Vintage of Owned Residences

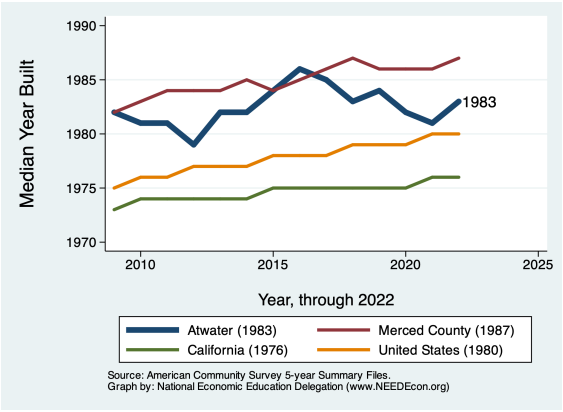


Figure 58: Vintage of Rented Residences

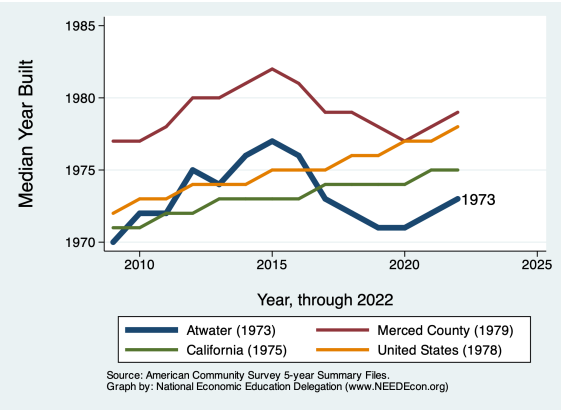
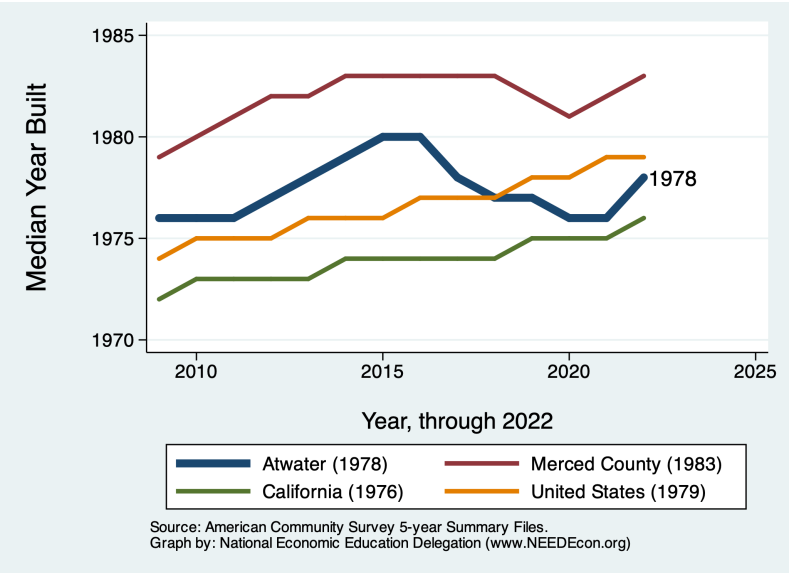


Figure 59: Vintage of All Residences



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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 60: Year Current Occupant Moved In

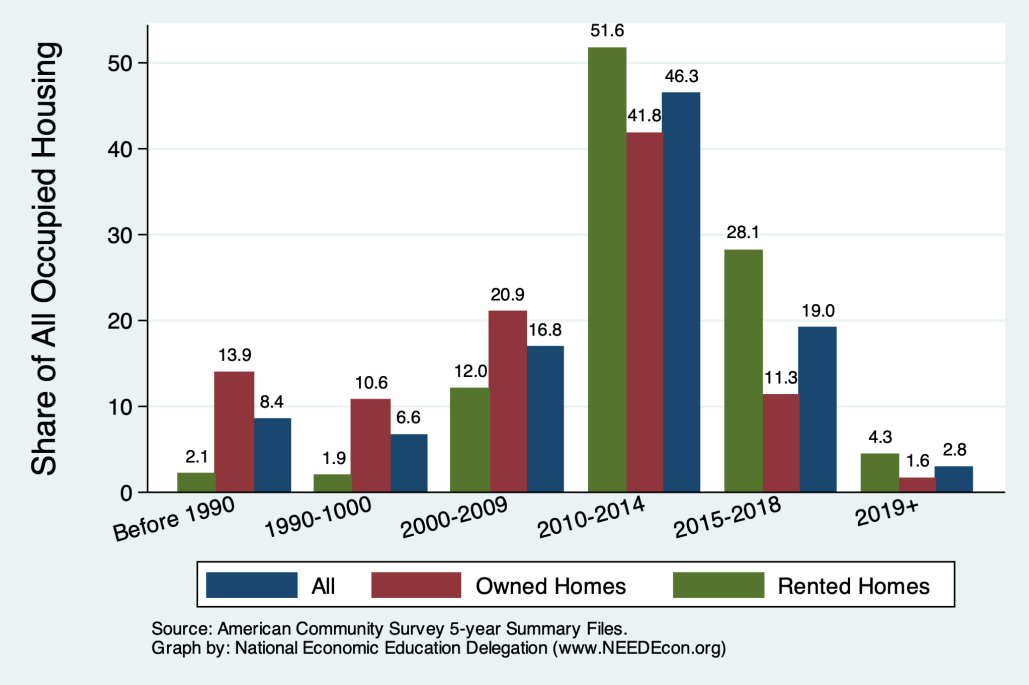

Figure 61: Year Occupied by Current Residents across Regions

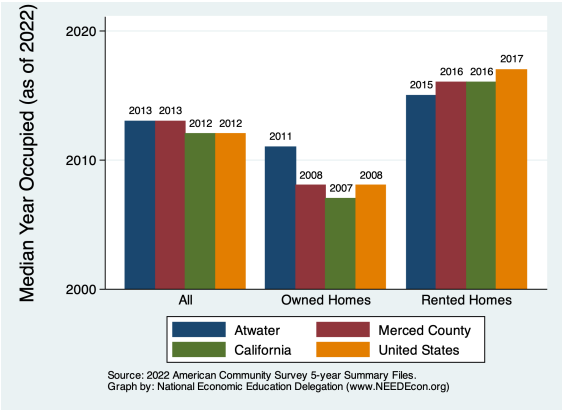

Figure 62: Year Occupied by Current Residents by Tenure

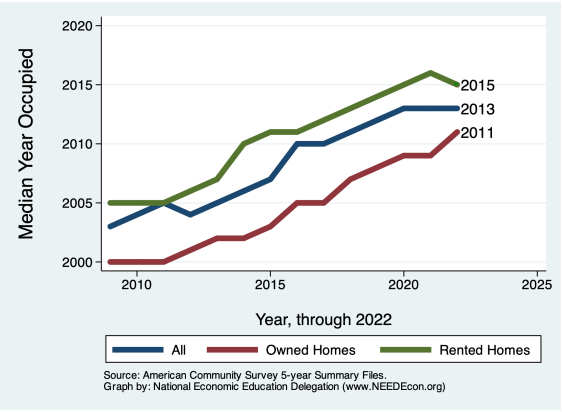

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Figure 63: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Owned Housing

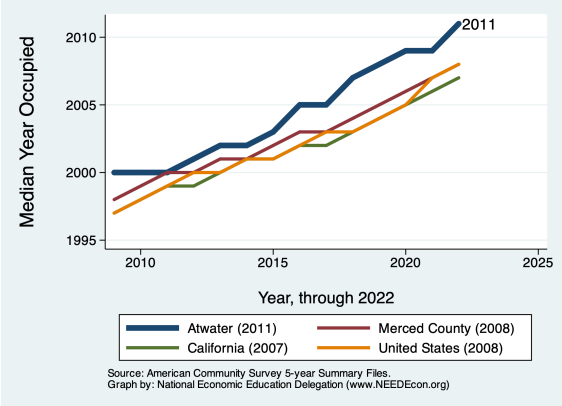


Figure 64: Year Occupied by Current Residents for Rented Housing

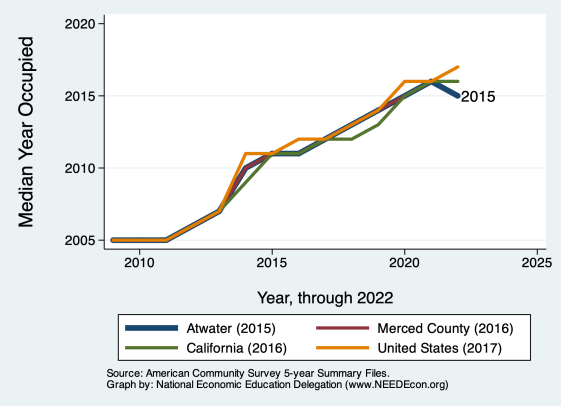
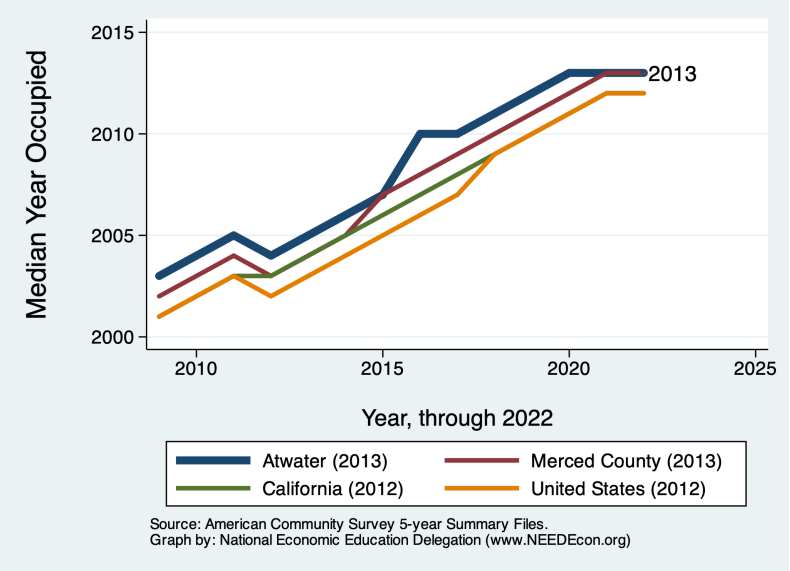


Figure 65: Year Occupied by Current Residents for All Housing



Residential Permitting

Definition:

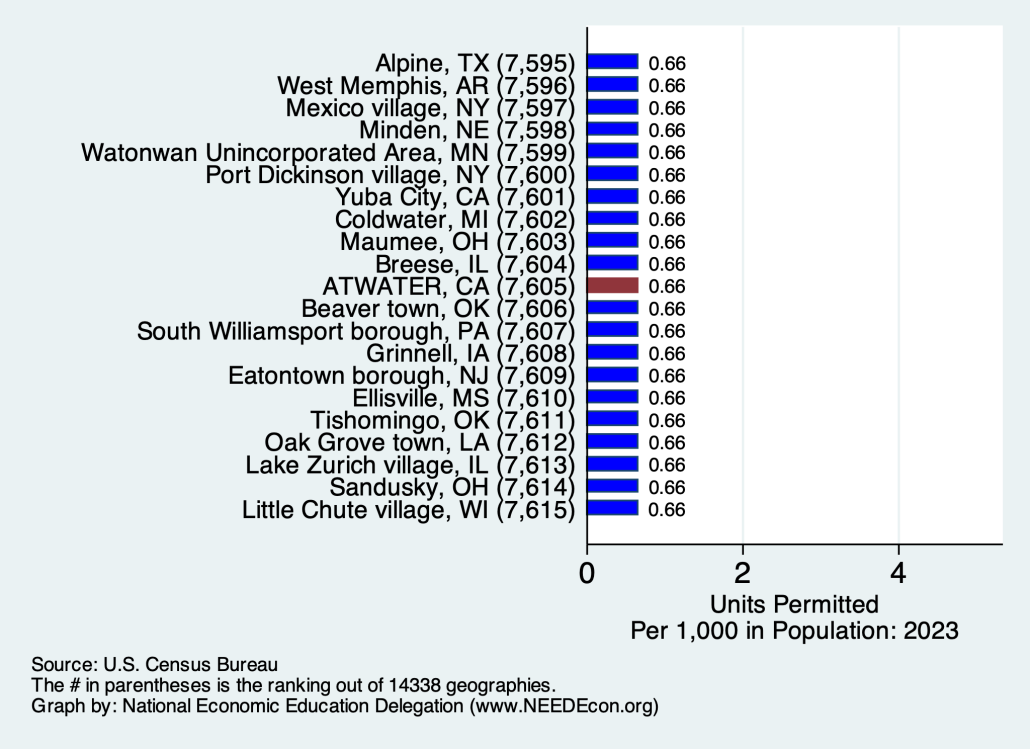
This indicator provides evidence on the number of residential buildings that are permitted for construction each year. Permit data for Atwater is compared with data from Merced County as a whole and broader regions. The statistic provided scales the number of permits by population. This is done to facilitate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

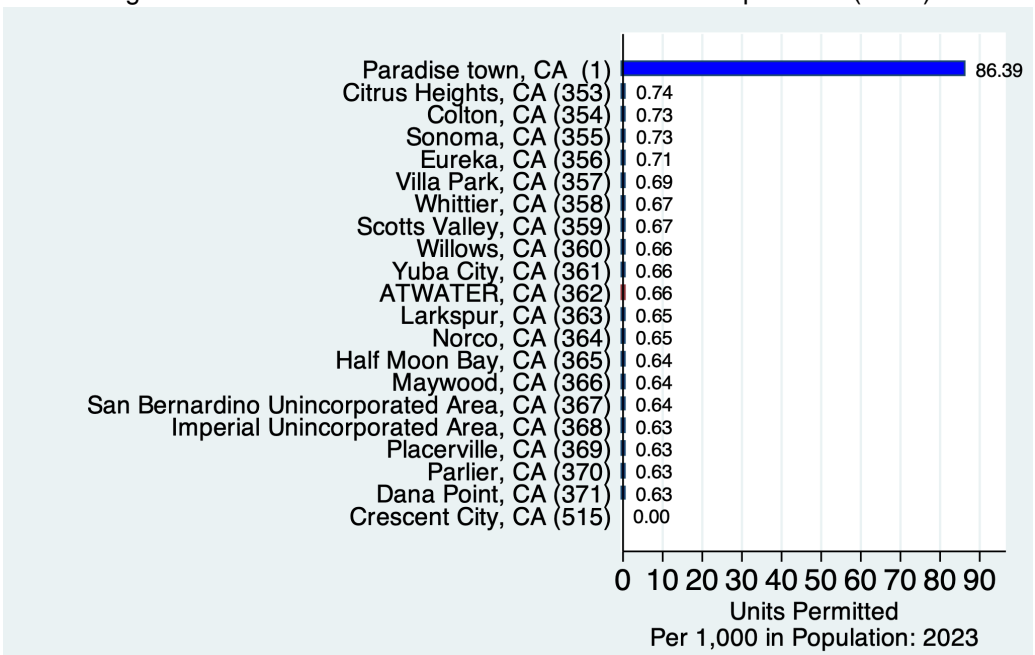
Atwater - Ranking Among Comparables

Figure 66: Number of Units Permitted - Nationwide Comparables (Rank)



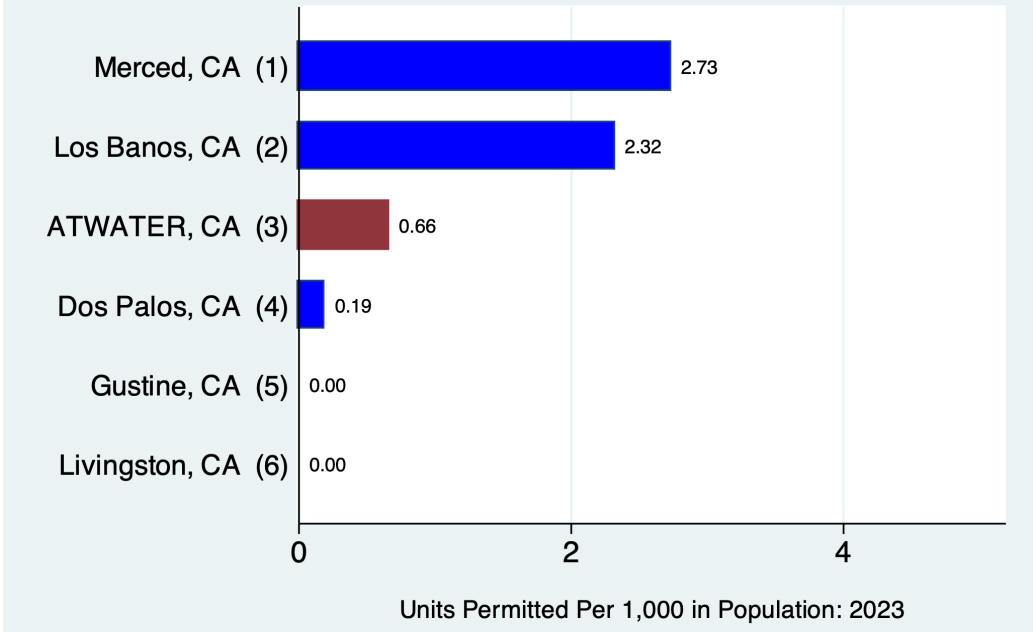
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 14338 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 67: Number of Units Permitted - California Comparables (Rank)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 515 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Figure 68: Number of Units Permitted - Cities in Merced County (Rank)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
The # in parentheses is the ranking out of 6 geographies.
Graph by: National Economic Education Delegation (www.NEEDEcon.org)

Atwater - Permitting Activity

Annual Units Permitted - Per Capita in Atwater

Figure 69: Units Permitted Each Year

Figure 70: Average Annual Growth in Units Permitted

Annual Number of Buildings Permitted - Per Capita in Atwater

Figure 71: Units Permitted Each Year

Figure 72: Average Annual Growth in Buildings Permitted

Annual Value of Property Permitted - Per Capita in Atwater

Figure 73: Value Permitted Each Year

Figure 74: Average Annual Growth in Value Permitted

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 75: Percent of Workers Commuting by Car Alone

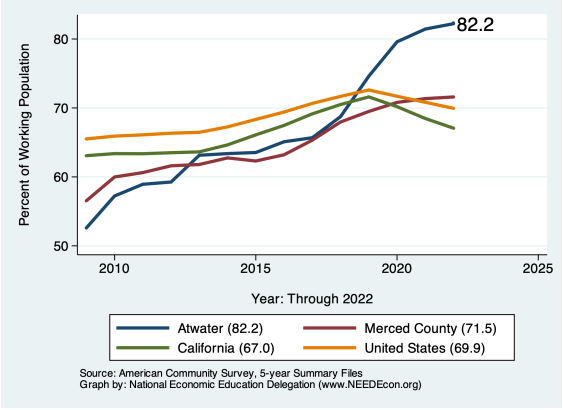


Figure 76: Percent of Workers Commuting by Carpool

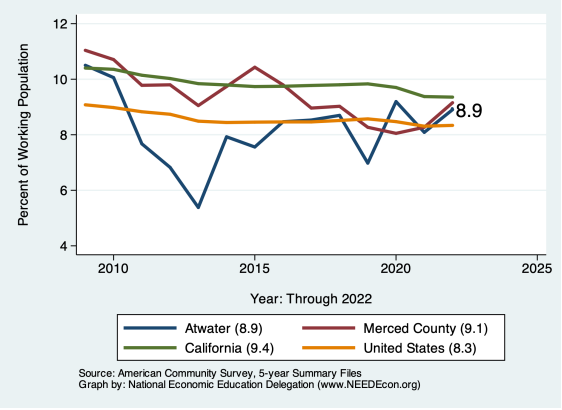


Figure 77: Percent of Workers using Public Transportation

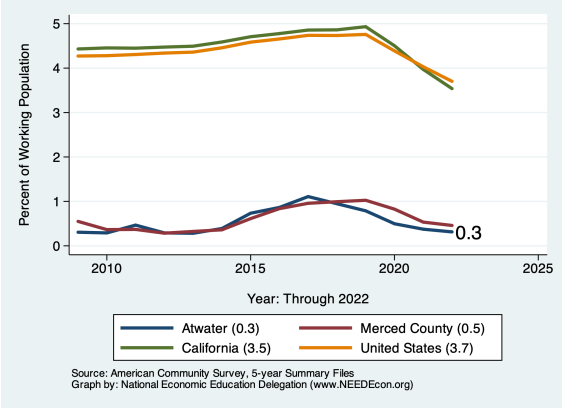
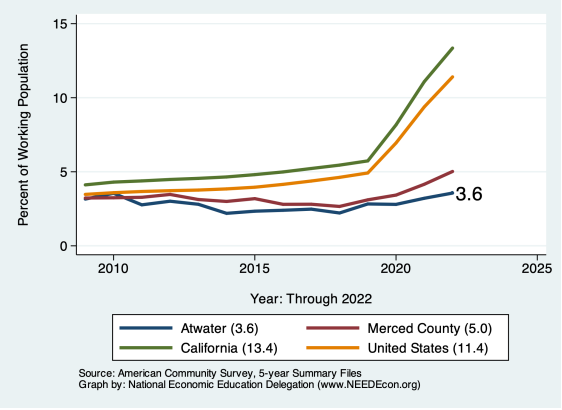


Figure 78: Percent of Workers Who Work From Home



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The first table on this page presents data for those who LIVE in Atwater. The second provides data on those who work, but do not necessarily live in Atwater. 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:	6,809	93.5	5,114	87.1	11,923	91.1	78.0
Drove Alone	6,201	85.1	4,557	77.6	10,758	82.2	68.4
Carpooled:	608	8.3	557	9.5	1,165	8.9	9.5
In 2-person carpool	372	5.1	271	4.6	643	4.9	6.9
In 3-person carpool	99	1.4	74	1.3	173	1.3	1.5
In 4-or-more-person carpool	137	1.9	212	3.6	349	2.7	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	31	0.4	10	0.2	41	0.3	3.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	13	0.2	10	0.2	23	0.2	2.3
Streetcar or Trolley Car	18	0.2	0	0.0	18	0.1	0.8
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	27	0.4	10	0.2	37	0.3	0.7
Walked	105	1.4	37	0.6	142	1.1	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	154	2.1	321	5.5	475	3.6	1.7
Worked at Home	157	2.2	309	5.3	466	3.6	13.6
Total:	7,283	100.0	5,801	98.8	13,084	100.0	

Source: 2022 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:	3,260	84.3	2,843	83.4	6,103	83.9	78.0
Drove Alone	2,936	75.9	2,630	77.1	5,566	76.5	68.5
Carpooled:	324	8.4	213	6.2	537	7.4	9.5
In 2-person carpool	209	5.4	151	4.4	360	4.9	6.9
In 3-person carpool	98	2.5	51	1.5	149	2.0	1.5
In 4-or-more-person carpool	17	0.4	11	0.3	28	0.4	1.1
Public Transportation (excl Taxi):	15	0.4	20	0.6	35	0.5	3.6
Bus or Trolley Bus	13	0.3	20	0.6	33	0.5	2.3
Streetcar or Trolley Car	2	0.1	0	0.0	2	0.0	0.8
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	26	0.7	10	0.3	36	0.5	0.7
Walked	97	2.5	43	1.3	140	1.9	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	313	8.1	185	5.4	498	6.8	1.7
Worked at Home	157	4.1	309	9.1	466	6.4	13.6
Total:	3,868	100.0	3,410	100.0	7,278	100.0	

Source: 2022 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	209	2.9	162	2.9	371	2.9	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	713	10.0	721	12.9	1,434	11.4	7.5
10 to 14 minutes	1,122	15.7	934	16.7	2,056	16.3	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	755	10.6	990	17.7	1,745	13.8	15.0
20 to 24 minutes	1,206	16.9	926	16.6	2,132	16.9	14.3
25 to 29 minutes	340	4.8	305	5.5	645	5.1	6.3
30 to 34 minutes	986	13.8	661	11.8	1,647	13.1	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	37	0.5	47	0.8	84	0.7	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	231	3.2	137	2.4	368	2.9	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	442	6.2	369	6.6	811	6.4	8.6
60 to 89 minutes	431	6.0	130	2.3	561	4.4	7.9
90 or more minutes	654	9.2	110	2.0	764	6.1	4.0
Total:	7,126	100.0	5,492	98.2	12,618	100.0	

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 79: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes

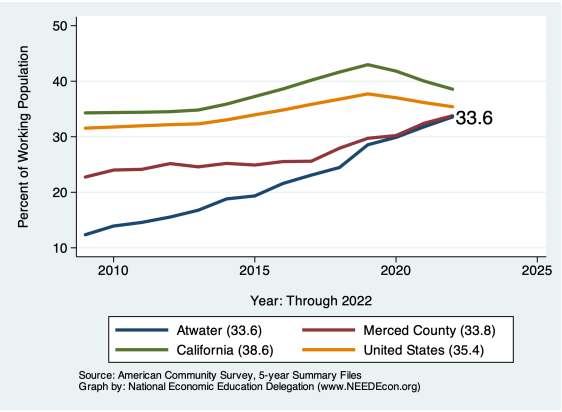


Figure 80: Percent of Employed Population With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

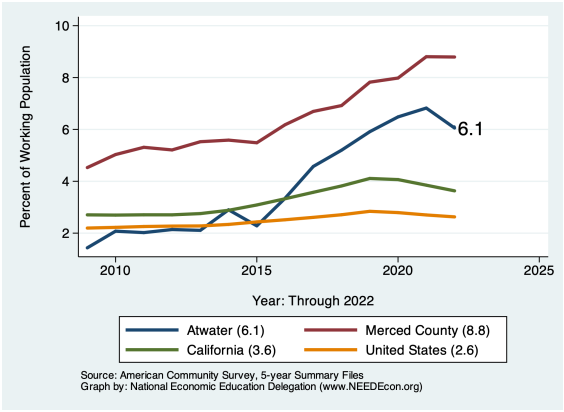
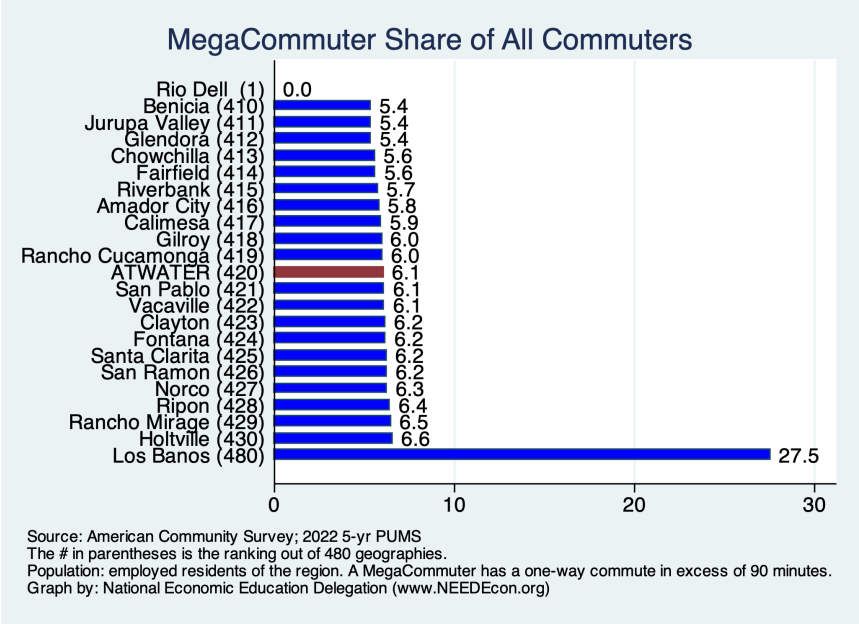


Figure 81: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



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	188	5.1	162	5.2	350	5.1	2.0
5 to 9 minutes	569	15.3	763	24.6	1,332	19.6	7.5
10 to 14 minutes	728	19.6	647	20.9	1,375	20.2	12.2
15 to 19 minutes	581	15.7	560	18.1	1,141	16.7	15.0
20 to 24 minutes	444	12.0	334	10.8	778	11.4	14.3
25 to 29 minutes	273	7.4	178	5.7	451	6.6	6.3
30 to 34 minutes	215	5.8	251	8.1	466	6.8	15.0
35 to 39 minutes	49	1.3	4	0.1	53	0.8	2.9
40 to 44 minutes	92	2.5	12	0.4	104	1.5	4.3
45 to 59 minutes	193	5.2	89	2.9	282	4.1	8.6
60 to 89 minutes	280	7.5	82	2.6	362	5.3	7.9
90 or more minutes	99	2.7	19	0.6	118	1.7	4.0
Total:	3,711	100.0	3,101	100.0	6,812	100.0	

Source: 2022 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 82: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 30 Minutes

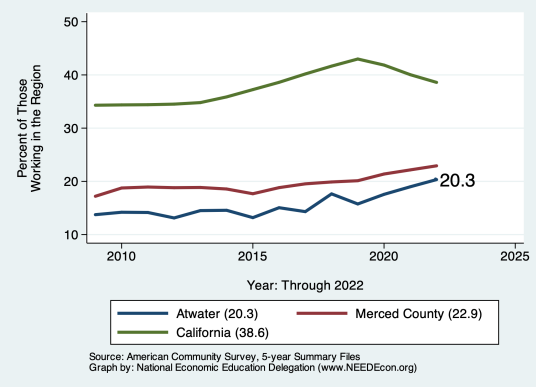


Figure 83: Percent of Local Employees With Commutes of More than 90 Minutes

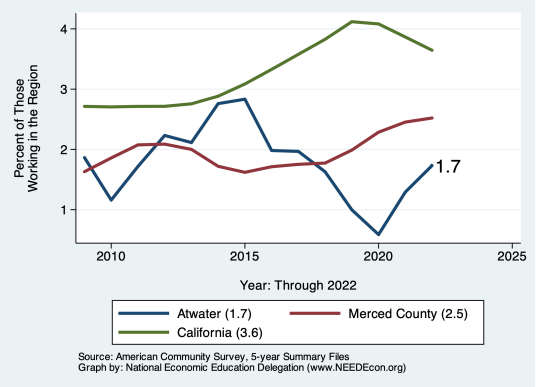
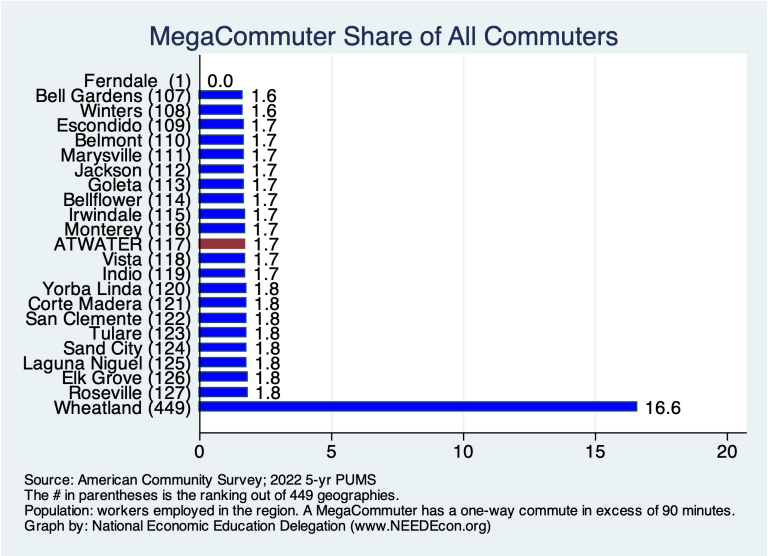


Figure 84: Rank: Share of MegaCommuters Across Similar Geographies



Place of Work

This section provides evidence on where workers living in Atwater work. As evidenced in the first table, some of Atwater'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 Atwater 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:	7,283	100.0	5,801	98.8	13,084	100.0	99.6
Worked in county of residence	4,878	67.0	4,797	81.7	9,675	73.9	84.1
worked outside of county of residence	2,405	33.0	1,004	17.1	3,409	26.1	15.4
Worked outside state of residence	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0.4
Total:	7,283	100.0	5,801	98.8	13,084	100.0	

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 85: Percent of Workers Employed Outside of Their County of Residence

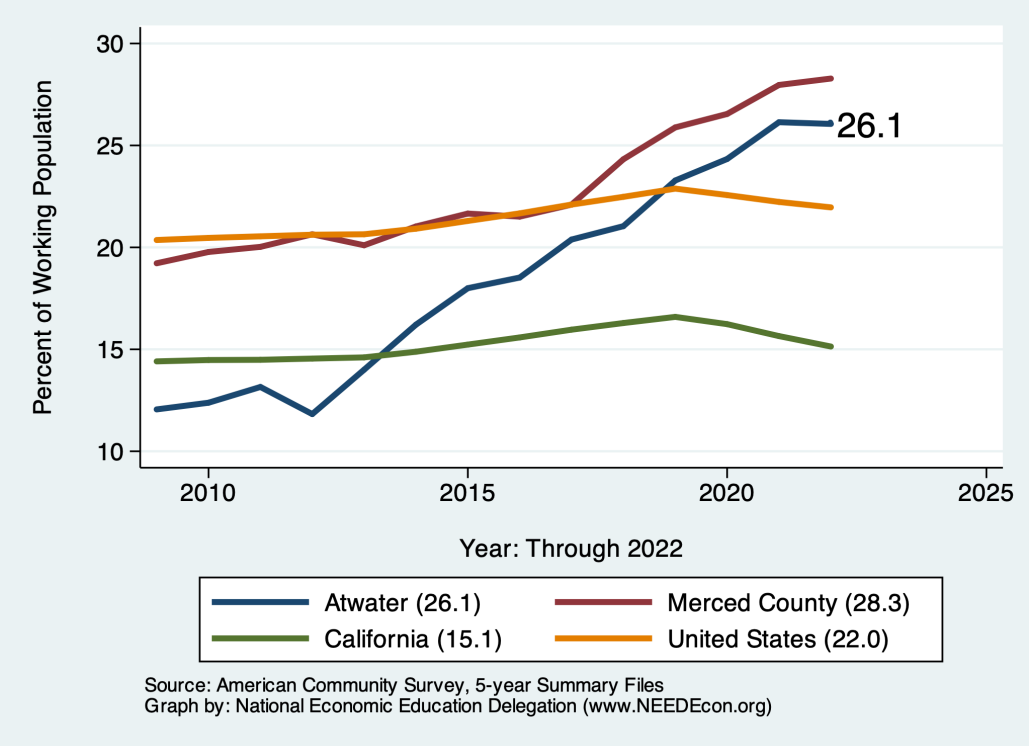
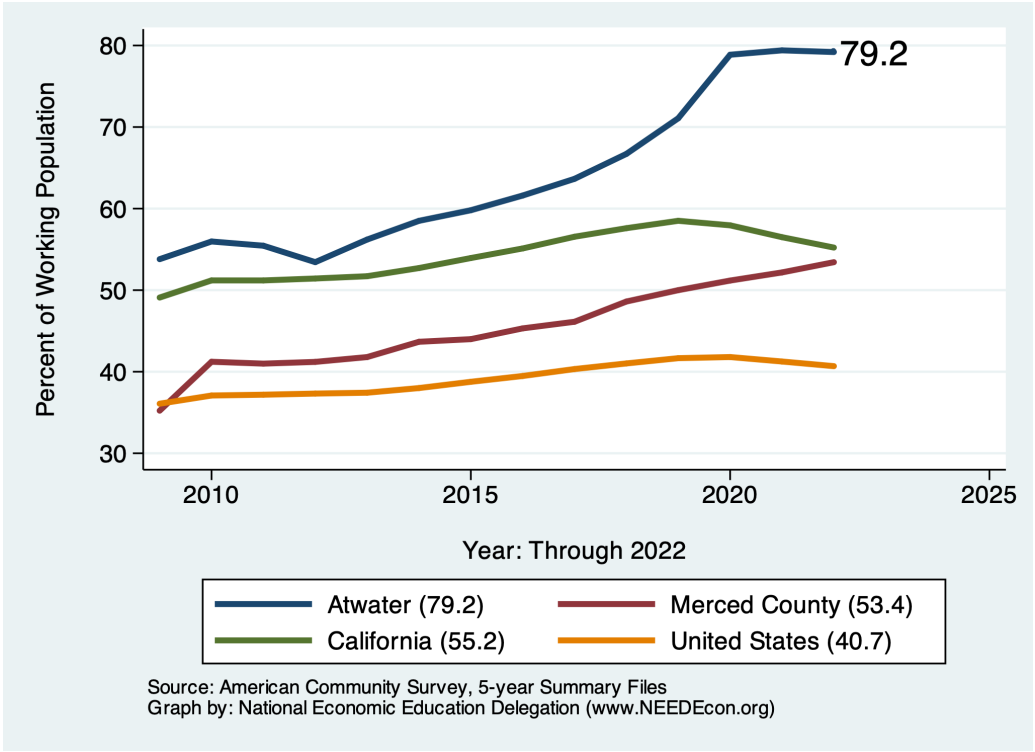


Table 11. SEX OF WORKERS BY PLACE OF WORK–PLACE LEVEL

	Male		Female		All Workers		All of CA
Place of Work	#	(%)	#	(%)	#	(%)	(%)
Living in a place:	7,283	100.0	5,801	98.8	13,084	100.0	95.9
Worked in place of residence	1,310	18.0	1,412	24.0	2,722	20.8	39.5
Worked outside place of residence	5,973	82.0	4,389	74.7	10,362	79.2	56.4
Not living in a place	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4.1
Total:	7,283	100.0	5,801	98.8	13,084	100.0	

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 86: 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	41,980	48,566	103.7	46,171	103.2
Car, truck, or van - carpooled	30,474	36,463	100.3	34,487	100.3
Public transportation (excluding taxicab)		40,179		45,100	
Walked	21,635	29,366	88.4	27,142	90.4
Taxicab, motorcycle, bicycle, or other means	22,569	40,433	67.0	36,140	70.9
Worked from home	32,083	75,153	51.2	67,180	54.2
Total:	40,626	48,747	83.3	46,099	88.1

Source: 2022 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	2,243	49.0	4,867	88.5	1,724	83.2	10,758	82.2	68.4
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	383	8.4	369	6.7	164	7.9	1,165	8.9	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	15	0.3	10	0.2	16	0.8	41	0.3	3.6
Walked	80	1.7	0	0.0	38	1.8	142	1.1	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	291	6.4	138	2.5	58	2.8	512	3.9	2.4
Worked at Home	201	4.4	115	2.1	71	3.4	466	3.6	13.6
Total:	3,213	70.1	5,499		2,071		13,084		100.0

Source: 2022 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	1,839	56.3	1,940	78.4	1,142	84.9	5,566	76.5	68.5
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	164	5.0	194	7.8	94	7.0	537	7.4	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	25	0.8	10	0.4	0	0.0	35	0.5	3.6
Walked	86	2.6	0	0.0	38	2.8	140	1.9	2.4
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	178	5.5	215	8.7	0	0.0	534	7.3	2.4
Worked at Home	201	6.2	115	4.6	71	5.3	466	6.4	13.6
Total:	2,493	76.4	2,474		1,345		7,278		

Source: 2022 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	571	44.1	581	48.8	9,606	83.4	10,758	82.2	68.7
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	70	5.4	95	8.0	1,000	8.7	1,165	8.9	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	9	0.7	6	0.5	26	0.2	41	0.3	3.6
Walked	9	0.7	50	4.2	83	0.7	142	1.1	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	60	4.6	45	3.8	407	3.5	512	3.9	2.4
Worked at Home	54	4.2	13	1.1	399	3.5	466	3.6	13.6
Total:	773	59.7	790	66.3	11,521		13,084		

Source: 2022 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	434	52.0	223	22.1	4,909	77.2	5,566	76.5	68.7
Car, Truck, or Van: Carpooled	14	1.7	52	5.2	471	7.4	537	7.4	9.5
Public Transportation (excl Taxi)	9	1.1	6	0.6	20	0.3	35	0.5	3.6
Walked	12	1.4	50	5.0	78	1.2	140	1.9	2.1
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or other	38	4.6	13	1.3	483	7.6	534	7.3	2.4
Worked at Home	54	6.5	13	1.3	399	6.3	466	6.4	13.6
Total:	561	67.3	357	35.4	6,360		7,278		

Source: 2022 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 Atwater 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 87: Overall Movements of Residents

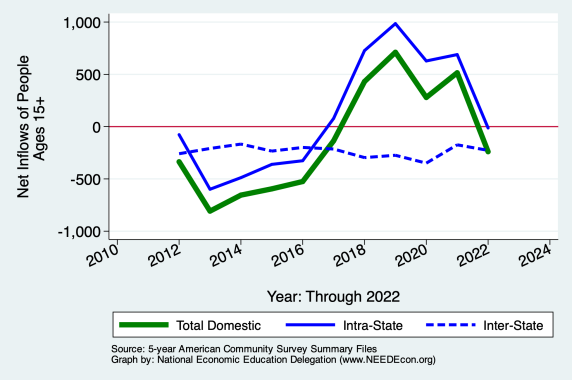


Table 17: Migration by Income

		Net Inflows				
			Same State			
Category	Population	All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
No income	4,186	89	39	−9	−26	85
With income	20,119	−186	249	−292	−201	58
$1 to $9,999 or loss	2,448	18	149	−8	−132	9
$10,000 to $14,999	1,920	28	55	−24	−3	0
$15,000 to $24,999	3,213	72	83	−32	21	0
$25,000 to $34,999	3,023	−2	21	−43	−28	48
$35,000 to $49,999	3,306	−39	−31	−3	−6	1
$50,000 to $64,999	2,456	−144	−6	−87	−51	0
$65,000 to $74,999	928	−20	−45	25	0	0
$75,000 or more	2,825	−99	23	−120	−2	0
All:	24,305	−97	288	−301	−227	143

Source: 2022 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 88: Overall Movements of Low Income Residents

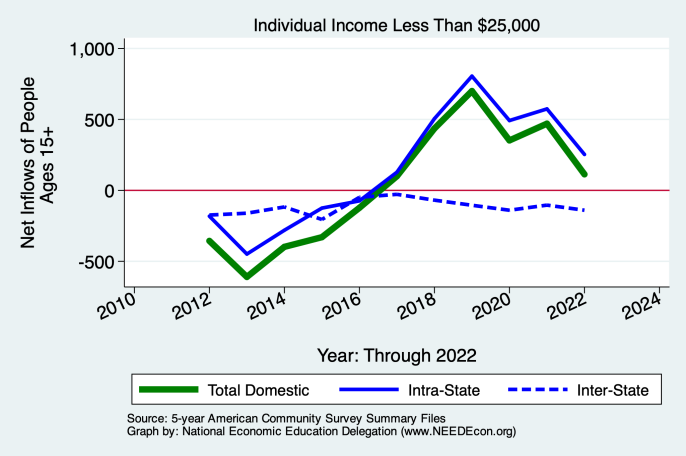


Figure 89: Overall Movements of Middle Income Residents

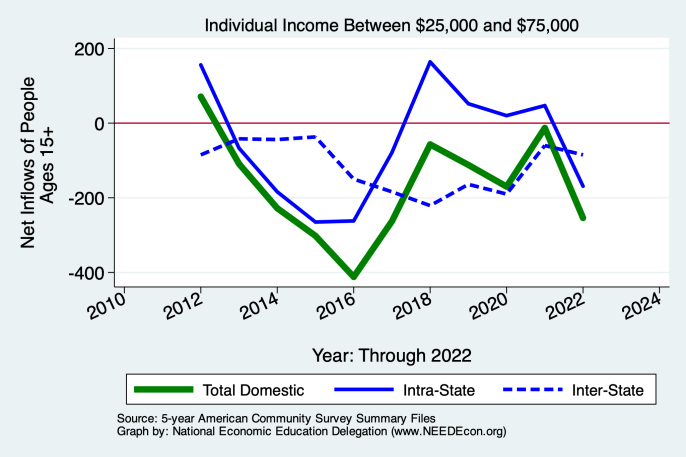
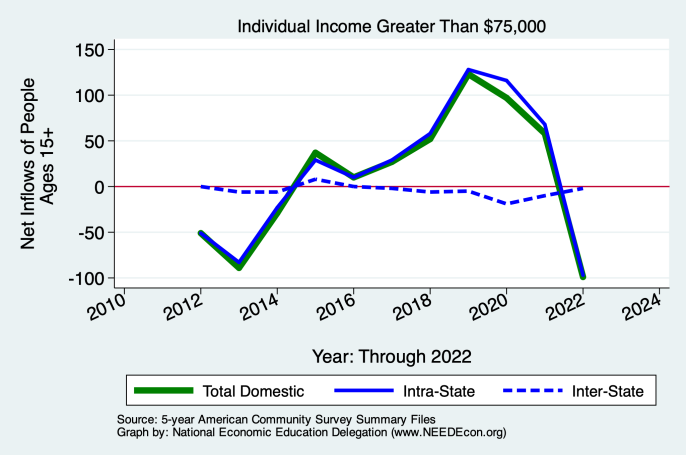


Figure 90: Overall Movements of High Income Residents



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Demographics of Migration Flows

Table 18: Migration by Marital Status

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Never married	8,525	−2	27	−114	12	73
Now married, except separated	11,051	−182	104	−123	−224	61
Divorced	2,280	−49	52	−109	8	0
Separated	837	134	105	43	−14	0
Widowed	1,612	2	0	2	−9	9
Total:	24,305	−97	288	−301	−227	143

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 19: Migration by Tenure

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
Householder lived in owner-occupied housing units	17,035	−89	87	−151	−70	45
Householder lived in renter-occupied housing units	14,198	132	459	−258	−229	160
Total:	31,233	43	546	−409	−299	205

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Figure 91: Domestic Movements of Residents by Tenure

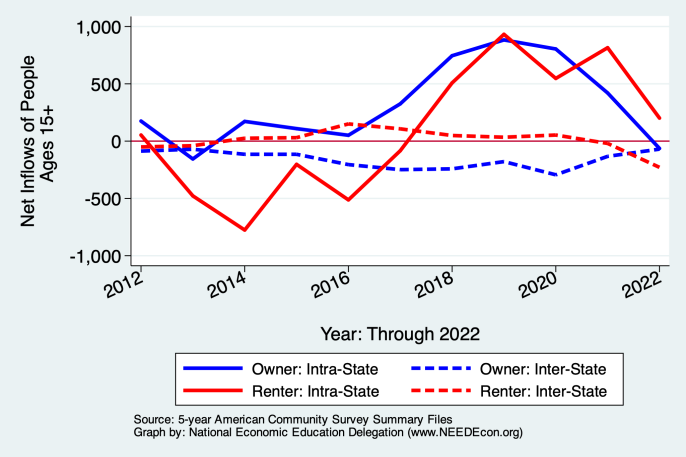

Table 20: Migration by Age

Category	Population	Net Inflows				
			Same State			
		All Migration	W/in County	Between Counties	Across States	From Abroad
1 to 4 years	1,600	−185	−32	−109	−44	0
5 to 17 years	7,082	277	268	−6	−61	76
18 and 19 years	595	−78	54	−73	−63	4
20 to 24 years	2,240	59	72	−96	17	66
25 to 29 years	2,336	−73	−69	−36	32	0
30 to 34 years	2,444	−86	52	−105	−75	42
35 to 39 years	2,025	−127	−24	−58	−51	6
40 to 44 years	2,115	−5	62	−36	−31	0
45 to 49 years	1,847	68	35	32	0	1
50 to 54 years	1,683	13	8	53	−48	0
55 to 59 years	1,859	20	7	−2	15	0
60 to 64 years	1,621	48	35	6	−2	9
65 to 69 years	1,392	22	17	10	−5	0
70 to 74 years	930	38	35	9	−6	0
75 years and over	1,644	−28	−2	−26	−10	10
Total Population:	31,413	−37	518	−437	−332	214

Source: 2022 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	5,501	197	110	48	−8	47
High school graduate (includes equiv)	5,201	−71	47	−41	−98	21
Some college or assoc. degree	6,265	−200	−44	−100	−56	0
Bachelor's degree	2,332	−76	43	−100	−19	0
Graduate or professional degree	597	40	0	40	0	0
Total:	19,896	−110	156	−153	−181	68

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 22: Median Income of Migration Flows

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	33,498	33,498
Moved Within Same County	21,115	31,118
Moved to Different County, Same State	40,444	44,133
Moved Between States	23,833	9,890
Moved from Abroad	26,563	
Total Population:	32,681	33,546

Source: 2022 5-year American Community Survey, Summary File

Table 23: Median Age of Migration Flows

Flow	In-Migration	Out-Migration
Same House 1 Year Ago	34.9	34.9
Moved Within Same County	25.7	28.1
Moved to Different County, Same State	31.4	25.9
Moved Between States	29.5	30.7
Moved from Abroad	20.7	
Total Population:	33.8	33.7

Source: 2022 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.

U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 1-year and 5-year Summary Files. https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/data/data-via-ftp.html. The 1-year data are released in September each year and the 5-year data are relased in January.

Zillow Research Data https://www.zillow.com/research/data/

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