

Albion

People and Place

Location

Albion is located in Mendocino County along California Highway 1, also known as the Pacific Coast Highway. The community is approximately 148 miles north of San Francisco and 197 miles northwest of Sacramento, the state capitol. The geographic coordinates of Albion are lat 39°13'25"N, long 123°46'03"W.

Demographic Profile

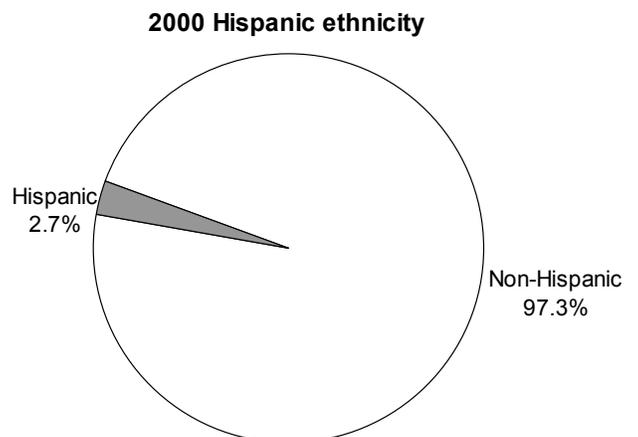
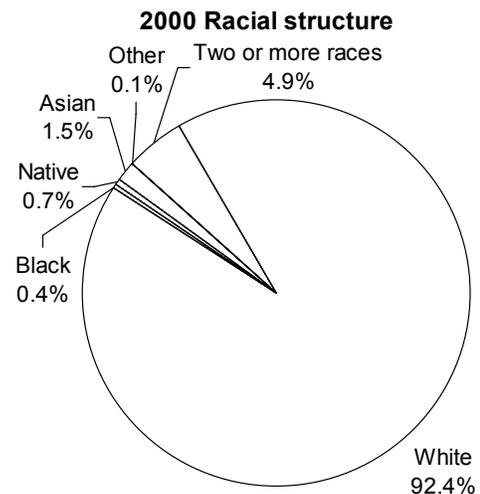
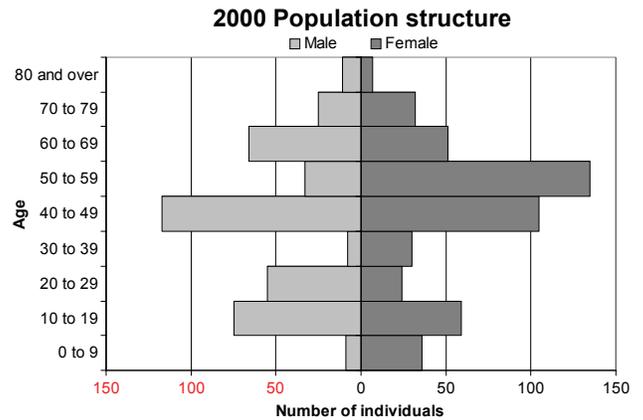
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Albion was 1,035. The gender composition was 52.2% female and 47.8% male. The median age was 47.6, considerably higher than the national median age of 35.3; and 44.3% of the population was between the ages of 40 and 59. Of the population 18 years and older, 93.5% had a high school education or higher, 50.1% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 31.1% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of Albion's racial structure was white (92.4%), followed by people who identified with two or more races (4.9%), Asian (1.5%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (0.7%), and black (0.4%). One person identified with some other race. Ethnicity data indicate 2.7% identified as Hispanic. Approximately 4.6% of the population was foreign-born, of which 55% were born in the former country of Czechoslovakia.

In 2000 68.5% of the population lived in family households.

History

Archaeological findings suggest this area of the north-central California coast has been inhabited by Native American groups for at least 10,000 years. Albion is situated in an area that was home to the Central and Western Pomo Indians and other native groups prior to European contact. The Pomo were known for their expertise in basket making and lived a subsistence lifestyle that centered on marine resources.¹ The name "Mendocino" comes from Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, the famous sixteenth century Spanish navigator, who led a voyage along the Pacific coast in 1542 and named the area in honor of Don Antonio de Mendoza, the first Viceroy of New Spain (Mexico). Even after such early expeditions, this area had no permanent European settlements for almost 300 years after contact.²



Albion is located at the mouth of the Albion River. The origin of its name is somewhat in dispute. The famed English explorer Sir Francis Drake, who sailed his ship *The Golden Hind* around the world from 1577–1580, reportedly landed north of San Francisco, claiming the territory for the English crown and naming it “Nova Albion,” meaning “New England” in Latin. To preserve the fragile peace with Spain, however, Queen Elizabeth I confiscated Drake’s logs, charts, and other writings. Details of his voyage and claim on the west coast of America were not publicized until the 1590s.

The exact location of Drake’s Pacific landing in America is in dispute, and no archaeological evidence exists to provide a definitive answer.³ At a minimum, it seems clear the Albion River, which flows through the area, was named in honor of Drake’s claim to the California coast. Permanent European settlement began in the early nineteenth century when another Englishman, William Anthony Richardson, received a Mexican land grant that surrounded the Albion River, naming his property the “Albion Rancho Desino.” Richardson’s settlement played an important role in the timber industry and in maritime shipping during the nineteenth century.

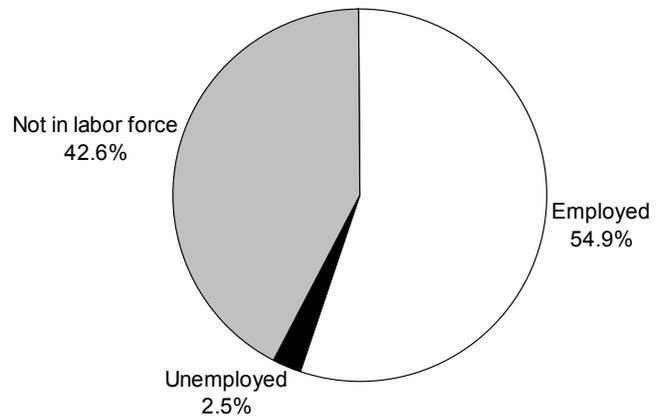
Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 54.9% of the Albion’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 2.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 4.3% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition 42.6% were not in the labor force. The top employment sectors were education, health, and social services (30.7%) of which a large majority worked in health care and social assistance, followed by accommodation and food services (21.7%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting employed approximately 5%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the per capita income in 1999 was \$26,731, the median household income was \$40,491, and 9.8% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 there were 627 housing units in Albion, of which 78% were occupied and 22% were vacant. Of the occupied housing, 65.6% were by owner and 34.4% were by renter. More than three-fourths (76.1%) of the vacant units were for seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

2000 Employment structure



Governance

Albion is an unincorporated town. Its residents are subject to a sales tax of 7.25% based on the standard statewide rate. See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in California.

The nearest National Marine Fisheries Service office is in Ukiah, 54 miles east. For purposes of regulating fishing and hunting activities, Albion is located within Central Coast Region 3 of the California Department of Fish and Game; the regional office is in Yountville, 122 miles southeast. The U.S. Coast Guard has a Surface Operations Station in Bodega Bay, 90 miles to the south, and the nearest office of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is in San Francisco, 148 miles to the south. The nearest meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council are held in Foster City, 169 miles south of Albion. North Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held in Portland, Oregon, approximately 564 miles to the north.

Facilities

Albion is accessible primarily by road; the community is located 3 miles north of California Highway 128 on the Pacific Coast Highway. The nearest airports available for public use are nearby in Little River (Mendocino County Airport) and Gualala (Ocean Ridge Airport). The closest major airport is at San Francisco.

There is one elementary school located in Albion; middle and high school students attend schools in nearby Mendocino.⁴ The Albion Mutual Water Company provides water services, and law enforcement is administered by the Mendocino County Sheriff’s Office, headquartered in Ukiah, the county seat. The Albion-Little River Volunteer Fire Department is a first-response

unit responsible for fire protection within the two communities. The Redwood Coast Fire District, headquartered in Manchester City, provides fire and emergency services.⁵ There are no hospitals or medical clinics in Albion; a regional hospital is located in Ukiah. Lodging accommodations in Albion include one bed and breakfast. A variety of hotels are located in Mendocino and Fort Bragg.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

No seafood processors operated in Albion in 2000. Thirty three commercial vessels delivered landings to Albion in 2000. Landings were made in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels landing): crab confidential/confidential/1; groundfish 7.6 t/\$67,193/18; salmon confidential/confidential/2; and other species 368 t/\$736,177/23.

Residents owned 23 commercial vessels, of which 5 participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Albion residents that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/0/2, groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, salmon 0/1/5, and shellfish NA/0/NA.⁶

In 2000 one federal groundfish permit was held by an Albion resident. The number of residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/2, crab 0/0/2, groundfish 0/0/10, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/1/13, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/23.⁷

In 2000 Albion residents held at least 67 commercial fishing permits, of which 66 were state registered. The number of state permits held by residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: coastal pelagic 0/0/3, crab 0/0/2, groundfish 0/0/12, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/1/20, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/28.⁸

Sportfishing

Several charter vessels operate out of Albion, targeting albacore tuna, rock cod, ling cod, salmon, and other species. In 2002 at least eight charter business served sport fishermen and tourists in Albion. Six operated in 2003.

There is one license agent selling sportfishing licenses in Albion. Available data indicates 8,838 resident sportfishing licenses, 64 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 382 sport salmon punch cards, and 8,864 abalone report cards were sold in Mendocino County in 2000.

The nearest commercial passenger fishing vessels port complex consists of Fort Bragg, Eureka, and Crescent City. In 2000 at this port complex, 15 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 11,574 anglers. The vessels reported 49,983 landings composed of at least nine species. Rockfish (unspecified) and Chinook salmon accounted for 81.2% and 16.1% of the landings respectively.

Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Albion is not discussed in detail in this community profile due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game uses the term “recreational” for fishermen who do not earn revenue from their catch, but fish for pleasure or to provide food for personal consumption. Information on subsistence fishing in California is captured to some degree within the above sportfishing data.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 residents of Albion had no involvement in North Pacific fisheries.

Sportfishing

Four Albion residents purchased Alaskan sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. A. Kroeber. 1953. Handbook of the Indians of California: The Pomo. Berkeley: California Book Company.

2. County of Mendocino. “History of Mendocino County.” Online at <http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/history.htm> [accessed 8 February 2007].

3. Wikipedia.com. No date. Online at <http://www.answers.com/topic/new-albion> [accessed 8 February 2007]. See also R. Bawlf. 2003. The secret voyage of Sir Francis Drake, 1577–1580. Walker and Company, New York.

4. National Center for Education Statistics. Online at <http://nces.ed.gov/globallocator/> [accessed 8 February 2007].

5. Mendocino County, 2002. “Mendocino County grand jury final report: Point Arena city government.” Online at http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/grandjury/01-02/08-Point_Arena_City_Government.pdf [accessed 8 February 2007].

6. NA refers to data that were not available, for example, due to few or no recorded permit numbers, or the partially permitted nature of a fishery in 2000.

7. See note 6.

8. See note 6.