

Lafayette

People and Place

Location

Lafayette is in Contra Costa County, 22 miles northeast of San Francisco and 75 miles southwest of Sacramento. Lafayette covers 15.2 square miles of land. Its geographic coordinates are lat 37°53'60"N, long 122°05'60"W.

Demographic Profile

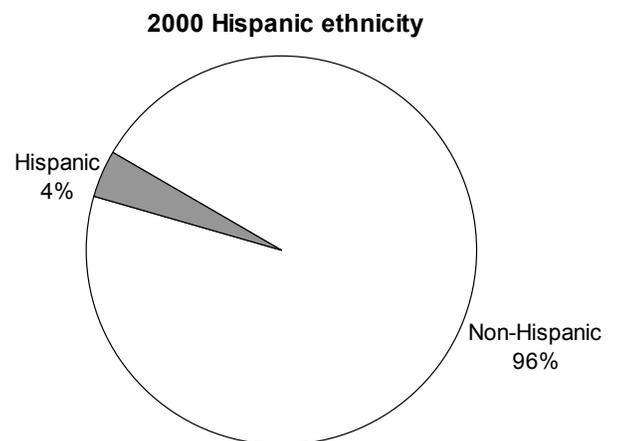
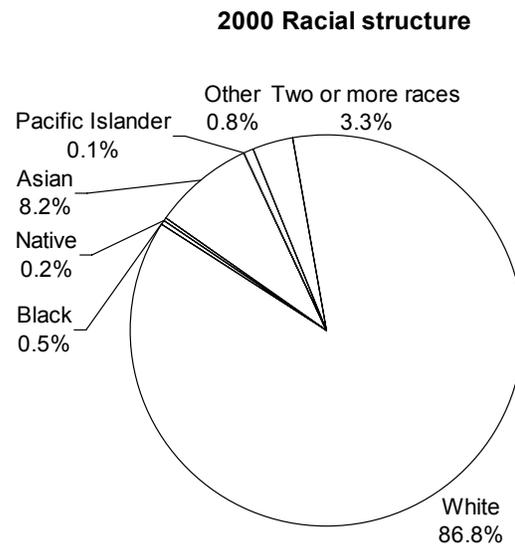
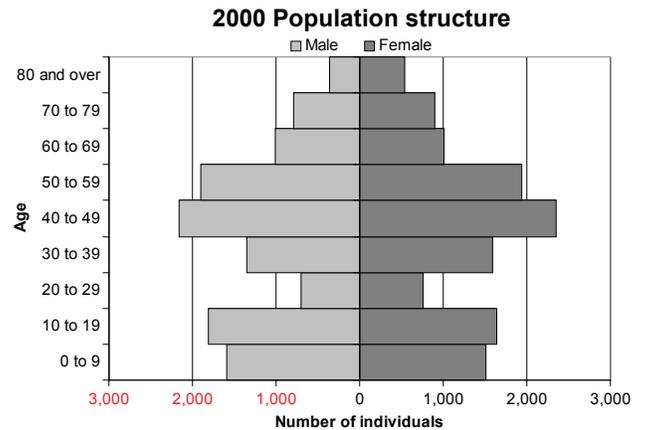
At the time of the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Lafayette was 23,463, an increase of 1.7% from 1990. The gender composition was 51.2% female and 48.8% male. The median age in 2000 was 42.3, higher than the national median of 35.3. Lafayette had education levels significantly higher than the national averages. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 97% had a high school education or higher, 65.7% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 28.4% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the racial structure was white (86.8%), followed by Asian (8.2%), individuals who identified with two or more races (3.3%), individuals who identified with some other race (0.8%), black (0.5%), American Indian and Alaskan Native (0.2%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%). Ethnicity data indicate 4% identified as Hispanic. Of the foreign-born population (10.8%), 17.2% were born in China, 11.8% in the United Kingdom, and 6.8% in Canada.

In 2000 86.4% of the population lived in family households.

History

The first inhabitants of San Francisco Bay Area were the Bay Miwok and Costanoan Indians. The Costanoan Indians, today known as the Ohlone, lived along the coast. Six small Bay Miwok tribes lived along the bay and shared a common language but delineated separate territories based on local watersheds. The Saclan, a subgroup of the Miwok Indians, were indigenous to the Lafayette area. The other tribes were the Chupcan, Tatcan, Julpun, Volvon, and Ompin.¹ The Miwok are known to be the largest "nation" in California and it is said a tribal member could travel from the Cosumnes River to the Fresno River and be understood without difficulty, so uniform was the language.²

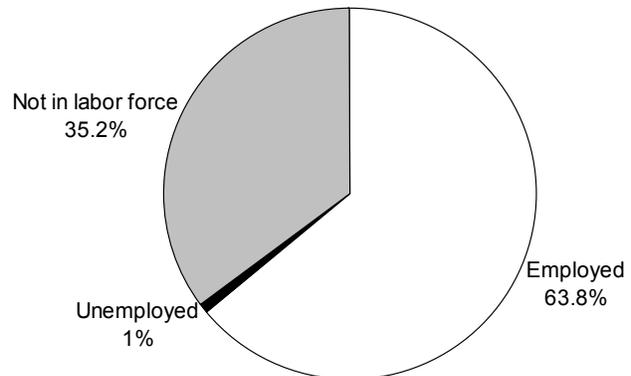


In March 1772 Captain Pedro Fages led the first Spanish expedition into the area to determine if the bay could be circled on land. In 1776 Mission Dolores was founded in what is now San Francisco. In 1795 hundreds of Saclans from the Lafayette area and Tadcans from the Alamo and Danville areas went to Mission Delores. An epidemic swept through the mission shortly after they arrived, killing many of the Indians. Soon afterwards a large number of Saclans left the mission and became part of a major organized Indian resistance in the east bay area.³ Resistance to the Spanish included a number of small battles between 1795 and 1810. One of the most severe conflicts was in 1797 in what is now Lafayette. The Saclans fought a two-hour battle and were defeated by the Spanish soldiers, who marched their prisoners to Mission San Jose.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century, approximately 3,000 Miwok lived in about 40 villages; each village consisted of 75–100 persons.⁴ In 1910 the Miwok population was estimated at less than 700.⁵ The Miwok traveled in boats made from tule reeds around the bay and to Angel Island, the largest island in San Francisco Bay.⁶ The diet of the Bay Miwok consisted primarily of nuts, pinole (a meal made of plant seeds), roots, fruit, jack rabbit, deer, sea lions, seals, sea otters, and several kinds of fish and shellfish including annual salmon runs through Raccoon Strait, just offshore from Angel Island.⁷ Fish were taken by gorge hook (made from bone) and spear, dip nets (bags of netting attached to wooden frames on a handle), and by narcotization. Woven surf nets were used to catch fish along open beaches.^{8, 9}

In 1847 Elam Brown, one of the first Euro-American settlers in Contra Costa County, led a 14-family wagon train through Donner Pass. When Brown arrived, he purchased a 3,329 acre Mexican land grant called Rancho Acalanus, which is now almost all of present-day Lafayette. Brown became a farmer and eventually established a steam powered mill on Lafayette Creek. Once the mill was built, the commercial center of Lafayette began to grow. During the 1850s redwood lumber was harvested in Canyon and Moraga, and Lafayette became an ideal spot for people to rest during their journey to Martinez, where the wood was shipped to San Francisco. Benjamin Shreve came to the area after the gold rush and built and ran Lafayette's first school. In 1857 he became the postmaster and named the town La Fayette. In 1932 it was changed to the current spelling. Lafayette remained a quiet farming village until the post-World War II building boom when many houses were built in the area. For more information on the area see the El Sobrante and San Francisco community profiles.

2000 Employment structure



Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 63.8% of Lafayette's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 1% was unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 1.6% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 35.2% were not in the labor force. The primary employment sectors were management, professional and related occupations (64.3%), sales and office occupations (20.1%), local, state, or federal government (12.5%), and service occupations (7.8%). Natural resource jobs including agriculture, forestry, and fishing employed only 0.2%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in these data.

In 2002 Contra Costa's top five employers were Bio-Rad Laboratories, Bookside Hospital, Chevron, Color Spot Nurseries, and Contra Costa Community College.¹⁰

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Lafayette's per capita income in 1999 was \$54,319, the median household income was \$102,107, and 2.9% lived below the poverty level. In 2000 Lafayette had 9,334 housing units, of which 98.1% were occupied and 1.9% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 76.7% were by owner and 23.3% were by renter. Of the vacant housing, 16.5% were due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Lafayette incorporated in 1968 and operates under a council-manager system where the council appoints the city manager. Residents pay a 8.25% sales and use tax and Contra Costa County levies a 10% transient lodging tax.^{11, 12} See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the

Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fishermen and processors in California.

The National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center has laboratories 78 miles south in Santa Cruz and a NMFS Regional Office is in Long Beach, 390 miles south. The California Department of Fish and Game has a marine field office about 43 miles south in Belmont. The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is 22 miles southwest in San Francisco. Pacific Fishery Management Council meetings are held approximately 41 miles southwest in Foster City. The Lafayette coastal region is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay, one of the largest and busiest marine safety units in the USCG.

Facilities

Lafayette is accessible by land and air. The major roads serving Lafayette are California Highway 24 and Interstate Highway 80 southwest to San Francisco and Interstate Highway 680 south to San Jose. San Francisco International Airport is 22 miles southwest of Lafayette. The Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District provides bus transportation throughout the area. Lafayette also has a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) station providing rail service to San Francisco.

The Lafayette School District has an enrollment of more than 3,500 in kindergarten through eighth grade. The Acalanes Union High School District has four high schools, two of which serve the neighborhoods of Lafayette. One high school is in Lafayette and the other is 5 miles south in Moraga. Diablo Valley College is 5 miles northeast in Pleasant Hill. The East Bay Municipal Utility District provides freshwater and wastewater services and Pacific Gas and Electric supplies electricity. The Lafayette Police Department administers public safety. The nearest hospital, Kaiser Foundation Hospital, is 4 miles northeast in Walnut Creek. Additional local facilities include the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, city parks, and community centers. There are no port facilities located in Lafayette; however, the ports of Oakland and San Francisco are located 14 and 22 miles south respectively.

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

Landings data for Lafayette were recorded as part of the Other San Francisco Bay and San Mateo County Ports group, which includes the communities of Alamo, Albany, Alviso, Antioch Bridge, Antioch, Benicia, Bird Landing, Brentwood, Burlingame, Campbell, China

Camp, Collinsville, Concord, Crockett, Daly City, Danville, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Emeryville, Fairfield, Farallone Island, Fremont, Glen Cove, Hayward, Livermore, Los Altos, Los Gatos, Martinez, Martins Beach, McNears Point, Moss Beach, Mountain View, Napa, Newark, Oakley, Pacifica, Palo Alto, Pescadero, Pigeon Point, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Pleasanton, Point Montara, Point San Pedro, Port Costa, Poster City, Redwood City, Rio Vista, Rockaway Beach, Rodeo, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Francisco area, San Jose, San Leandro, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Suisun City, Sunnyvale, Vacaville, Vallejo, Walnut Creek, and Yountville.

Reported landings for this port group in 2000 were in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represent landings in metric tons/value of said landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic confidential/confidential/1; crab confidential/confidential/1; groundfish 1 t/\$2,112/5; salmon confidential/confidential/3; shrimp 438 t/\$245,851/5; and other species 8 t/\$16,380/12. No fish processors operate in Lafayette. See the San Francisco, El Sobrante, and San Jose community profiles for more information.

Lafayette residents owned three vessels in 2000 that participated in West Coast fisheries, including one vessel that participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery. The number of vessels owned by Lafayette 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 0/1/2, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 0/0/1.¹³

One Lafayette resident held a single federal groundfish fishery permit in 2000. The number of Lafayette residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/0/2, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/1/7, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/2.¹⁴

According to available data, 15 state permits were registered to Lafayette residents in 2000. The number of permits held by these community members in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/0/2, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/1/10, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/2.¹⁵

Sportfishing

Lafayette sport fishermen are involved in both West Coast and Alaska fisheries. There are two sportfishing license agents located in the community.

Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Lafayette 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 in the sportfishing data.

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

14. See note 13.

15. See note 13.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 one Lafayette resident held a single registered state permit, a salmon Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission permit. Two residents held crew member licenses for North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

Sportfishing

Lafayette residents purchased 76 Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. D. Cuff. 2003. Scholars shed light on ancient residents. *Contra Costa Times*, September 20.
2. Access Genealogy. 2004. California Indian tribes. Online at <http://www.accessgenealogy.com/native/tribes/californiatribes.htm> [accessed 21 February 2007].
3. City of San Ramon. No date. The sword and the cross: The Hispanic era in San Ramon Valley from 1772–1830. Online at <http://www.ci.san-ramon.ca.us/srhistory/sword1.html> [accessed 21 February 2007].
4. Rohnert Park Historical Society. 2000. Miwok villages. Online at <http://www.rphist.org/html/miwok.html> [accessed 21 February 2007].
5. E. Curtis. 1924. The Miwok. Online at <http://www.yosemite.ca.us/history/curtis/> [accessed 21 February 2007].
6. Angel Island Association. 2003. Miwok information. Online at <http://www.angelisland.org/miwok.htm> [accessed 21 February 2007].
7. See note 6.
8. See note 5.
9. Miwok Archeological Preserve of Marin. No date. History of the Coast Miwok at Point Reyes. Online at http://www.pointreyesvisions.com/NewFiles/Science_Folder/Coast_Miwok.html [accessed 21 February 2007].
10. California Employment Development Department. 2002. Major employers in Contra Costa County. Online at <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=131> [accessed 21 February 2007].
11. California State Board of Equalization. 2004. California city and county sales and use tax rates. Online at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub71.pdf> [accessed 21 February 2007].
12. California State Board of Equalization. 2001. California counties transient lodging tax revenue, rate and date for the fiscal year 2000-01. Online at <http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locrep/adhoc/county/0001cotranslodgtax.pdf> [accessed 21 February 2007].