

Princeton

People and Place

Location

Princeton, also known as Princeton-by-the-Sea, is one of several unincorporated coastal communities south of San Francisco. It is 25 miles south of San Francisco and 44 miles northwest of San Jose. The geographic coordinates of Princeton are lat 37°30'18"N, long 122°29'09"W.

Demographic Profile

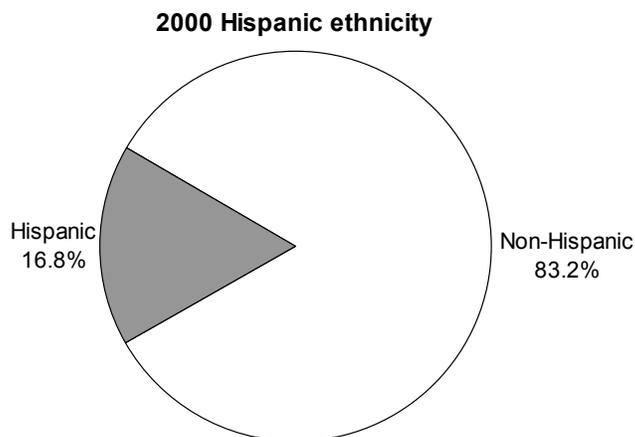
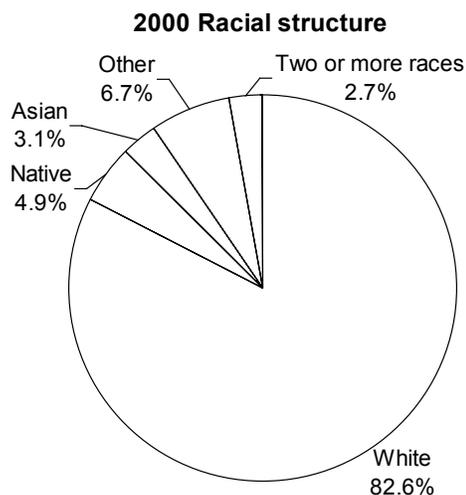
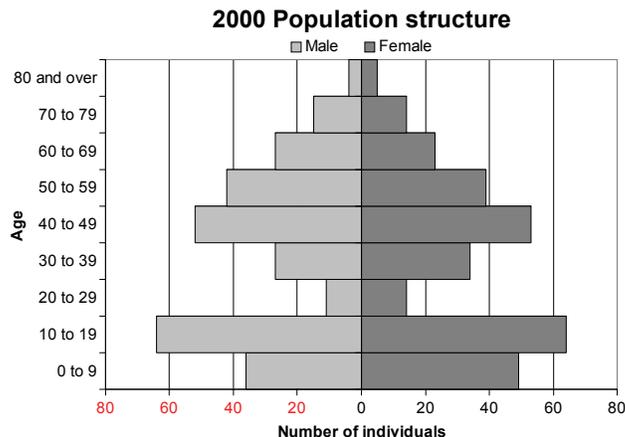
According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Princeton was 489. The gender composition was 50.1% female and 49.9% male. The median age was 38.6, higher than the national median age of 35.3. In 2000 approximately 41.3% of the population was between the ages of 25 and 59. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 78.2% had a high school education, 15.3% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 1.9% had a graduate or professional degree. The national averages were higher: 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively.

The majority of the racial composition was white (82.6%), followed by individuals who identified with some other race (6.7%), American Indian and Alaska Native (4.9%), Asian (3.1%), and individuals who identified with two or more races (2.7%). According to the 2000 U.S. Census, no blacks or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders lived in Princeton. Ethnicity data indicate 16.8% identified as Hispanic. About 9.6% of the population was foreign-born, of which 78.2% were from Mexico and 18.2% from Korea.

In 2000 88.1% of the population lived in family households.

History

In 1769 Gaspar de Portola, captain of a Spanish exploration team, found San Francisco Bay while looking for Monterey Bay. At the time of his arrival, more than 10,000 Indians lived in the California coastal area between Big Sur and San Francisco Bay. This group consisted of approximately 40 tribal groups ranging in size from 100 to 250 members. The Spanish referred to the tribal groups collectively as Costenos, meaning "coastal people." The name was eventually changed to Costanoan. Native Americans in the San Francisco Bay area were referred to as Costanoans for years until descendants chose to call themselves Ohlones, meaning the abalone people.¹



The Ohlones utilized hunting and gathering technology, taking advantage of the area's natural resources. Adults hunted big game animals including deer, elk, bear, whale, sea lion, otter, and seal. Freshwater and saltwater fish were important in the Ohlone diet, including steelhead trout, salmon, sturgeon, and lamprey. Shellfish were also important. Residents of the Monterey and San Francisco bays gathered mussels, abalone, clams, oysters, and hornshell from local tidelands.²

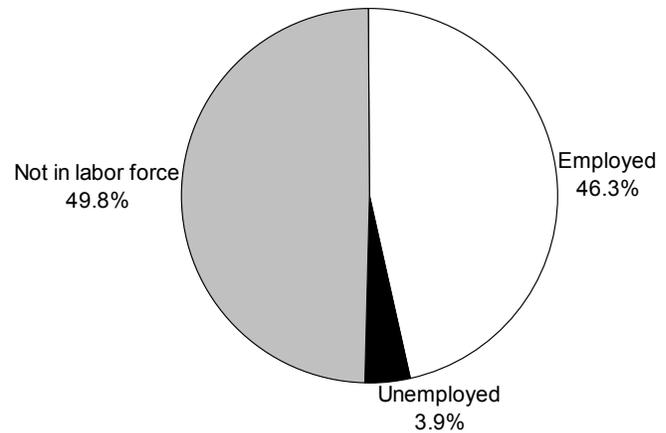
The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe, one of several Ohlone groups, is comprised of lineages aboriginal to the San Francisco Bay region who trace their ancestry through the Dolores, Santa Clara, and San Jose missions. The aboriginal homeland of the Muwekma Tribe encompasses several counties, including San Mateo County. The Muwekma Tribal Council organized between 1982 and 1984 and tribal members are working for federal recognition.³

During 23 years of Mexican rule, San Mateo County became the site of 17 large ranchos. Two years after the Mexicans were defeated by the Americans in 1846, gold was discovered in the area and the population of the San Francisco peninsula grew rapidly. Many influential persons purchased land in San Mateo County, building large mansions on the old Mexican land grants. San Mateo County, which to this point had been part of San Francisco County, was created in 1856.

Princeton, as with other coastal communities in the area, was established between 1906 and 1909 during the real estate boom that followed construction of the Ocean Shore Railroad. The Princeton Inn, constructed in 1908 as a seaside resort hotel, attracted numerous San Francisco tourists. When the railroad failed, the tourist atmosphere faded, but the hotel became popular again during the 1920s as a brothel and haven for rumrunners.

Originally envisioned as an ocean resort, Princeton is now known principally for its harbor, Pillar Point. The land adjacent to Pillar Point is primarily industrial for boatbuilding and other marine-related industries. Johnson Pier, built in the 1960s, is a popular spot among local anglers and outdoor enthusiasts. A trail heading north from the pier leads to another public fishing pier on the inner breakwater. Presently, increased commercial development is occurring along Capistrano Road at the harbor's entrance, the site of a number of seafood restaurants. Harbor Day, held the last Saturday of September, is sponsored by the Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association. For additional information on the area see the El Granada, Half Moon Bay, and San Francisco community profiles.

2000 Employment structure



Infrastructure

Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 46.3% of Princeton's potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 3.9% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 7.8% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 49.8% were not in the labor force, higher than the national average of 36.1%. The primary employment sectors were agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining (35.1%), local, state, or federal government (25.5%), education, health, and social services (19.7%), and transportation, warehousing, and utilities (14.3%). The percentage employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the per capita income of Princeton in 1999 was \$17,481, the median household income was \$40,417, and 21.8% lived below the poverty line. In 2000 Princeton had 219 housing units, of which 82.6% were occupied and 17.4% were vacant. Of the occupied units, 68.5% were by owner and 31.5% were by renter. Of the vacant housing, 60.5% were due to seasonal, recreational, or occasional use.

Governance

Princeton is not incorporated. Residents pay a 8.25% sales and use tax and San Mateo County levies a 10% transient lodging tax.^{4,5} See the Governance subsection (page 43) in the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in California.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southwest Fisheries Science Center has laboratories 65

miles southeast in Santa Cruz and NMFS has a regional office approximately 405 miles south in Long Beach. The California Department of Fish and Game has a marine field office 16 miles east in Belmont. The nearest U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office is in San Francisco. The Pacific Fishery Management Council holds meetings 19 miles northeast in Foster City. Princeton falls within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office San Francisco Bay, one of the largest and busiest marine safety units in the USCG.

Facilities

Princeton is accessible by land and air. The major roads connecting Princeton to neighboring cities are California Highway 1 north to San Francisco and south to Santa Cruz, and California Highway 92 and Interstate Highway 280 east to San Jose. The closest public use airport is at Half Moon Bay, just outside of Princeton. San Francisco International Airport is the nearest international airport. The San Mateo County Transit District provides SamTrans bus service throughout the county and into parts of San Francisco and Palo Alto.

Children in Princeton attend school in Half Moon Bay. The College of San Mateo, with an enrollment of more than 5,000, is 17 miles northeast in San Mateo. The nearest San Mateo County library is 5 miles south in Half Moon Bay. The Coastside County Water District provides water for Princeton residents and the Granada Sanitary District provides wastewater services. Pacific Gas and Electric supplies electricity and natural gas. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office administers public safety.

Pillar Point is a working fishing harbor with 369 berths. The harbor was constructed in 1961 and the inner breakwater was added in 1982. Pillar Point offers a modern fish dock, six-lane boat launch ramp, ice-making facility, and serves as a fish-buying hub for local commercial vessels. About 40 families live aboard their vessels in a floating community near the north end of the harbor. The Half Moon Bay Yacht Club is located at the harbor and Pillar Point's Search and Rescue service, averaging 110 rescues annually, maintains a 32-foot fiberglass boat there.

Pillar Point Harbor is home to other marine-related businesses, including California Canoe and Kayak, Essex Marine Electronics, Half Moon Bay Surf Company, Half Moon Bay Diving Company, Harbor Fuel Dock, and others. Internet resources indicate several restaurants at the harbor such as the Fresh Fish House, Ship-to-Shore Fish Market and Barbeque, and Barbara's Fish Trap. The San Mateo County Harbor District operates Oyster Point Marina in the City of South San Francisco, a 600-berth recreational boating marina.

The San Mateo County Harbor District supports the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries, a group of fishermen from the four harbors that adjoin or lie within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: Monterey, Moss Landing, Pillar Point, and Santa Cruz. Pillar Point fishermen actively participate in alliance activities including hearings regarding the Marine Life Protection Act, Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings, conferences, and other meetings regarding area fishing.⁶

Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 no vessels owned by Princeton residents participated in West Coast fisheries, however, 336 commercial fishing vessels made landings at the Princeton/Half Moon Bay port group. Landings data for Princeton include records from Half Moon Bay and were made in the following West Coast fisheries (data shown represents landings in metric tons/value of landings/number of vessels landing): coastal pelagic 319 t/\$53,582/30; crab 165 t/\$879,522/72; groundfish 699 t/\$766,728/89; highly migratory species 16.3 t/\$36,204/22; salmon 350 t/\$1,465,453/231; shrimp confidential/confidential/2; and other species 52 t/\$276,978/57. See the Half Moon Bay community profile for additional information.

The number of vessels owned by Princeton residents that participated in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: groundfish 0/0/NA, highly migratory species NA/0/NA, shellfish NA/0/NA, and shrimp NA/0/0.⁷ According to available data, no Princeton residents held commercial fishing permits in 2000.

One fish processor operated at Pillar Point Harbor: Exclusive Freshness Inc., founded in 1984. The company processes more than 25 species of fish and employs approximately 30.⁸ Fishermen are allowed to sell fresh caught fish "off-the-boat" directly to the public at Pillar Point Harbor.

Sportfishing

No sportfishing license vendors worked in Princeton and there were no commercial passenger fishing vessels licensed to Princeton residents in 2002 and 2003. Available data indicates at least four sportfishing businesses moor at Pillar Point Harbor: Queen of Hearts, Riptide Sportfishing, Huck Finn, and Captain John's Sportfishing. They offer sportfishing, whale watching, ecotourism, and specialty trips.

Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Princeton is not discussed in detail in this 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.

Involvement in North Pacific Fisheries

Commercial Fishing

In 2000 Princeton residents were not involved in North Pacific commercial fisheries.

Sportfishing

Princeton residents purchased three Alaska sportfishing licenses in 2000.

Notes

1. National Park Service. No date. An “unvanishing” history. Online at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/seac/sfprehis.htm> [accessed 7 March 2007].

2. Santa Cruz Public Libraries. 1991. An Overview of Ohlone culture. Online at <http://www.santacruzpl.org/history/spanish/ohlone.shtml> [accessed 7 March 2007].

3. The Muwekma Ohlone Tribe. No date. Mewekma Ohlone Tribe: A brief history and the federal recognition process. Online at <http://www.muwekma.org/history/tribe.html> [accessed 7 March 2007].

4. California Board of Equalization. 2004. California city and county sales and use tax rates. Online at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/pdf/pub71.pdf> [accessed 7 March 2007].

5. California Board of Equalization. 2001. California counties transient lodging tax revenue, rate and date for the fiscal year 2000–2001. Online at <http://www.sco.ca.gov/ard/local/locrep/adhoc/county/0001cotranslodgtax.pdf> [accessed 7 March 2007].

6. San Mateo County Harbor District. 2003. Pillar Point Harbor. Online at <http://www.smharbor.com/pillarpoint/index.htm> [accessed 7 March 2007].

7. 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.

8. Field notes, Exclusive Freshness Inc., Pillar Point Harbor, Princeton, CA, 19 January 2005.