

# Ukiah

## People and Place

### Location

Ukiah is located in Mendocino County on U.S. Highway 101 in the fertile Yokayo Valley north of Santa Rosa. The community is 115 miles north of San Francisco and 146 miles west of Sacramento, the state capitol. Ukiah encompasses 4.73 square miles of land. Its geographic coordinates are lat 39°09'01"N, long 123°12'24"W.

### Demographic Profile

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the population of Ukiah was 15,497, a 6.2% increase from 1990. The gender structure was 52.1% female and 47.9% male. The median age was 35, comparable to the national median of 35.3. Of the population 18 years of age and older, 76.9% had a high school education or higher, 14.4% had a bachelor's degree or higher, and 5.1% had a graduate or professional degree; the national averages were 79.7%, 22.3%, and 7.8% respectively. The highest level of educational attainment for 28.6% of the population was a high school diploma or equivalency.

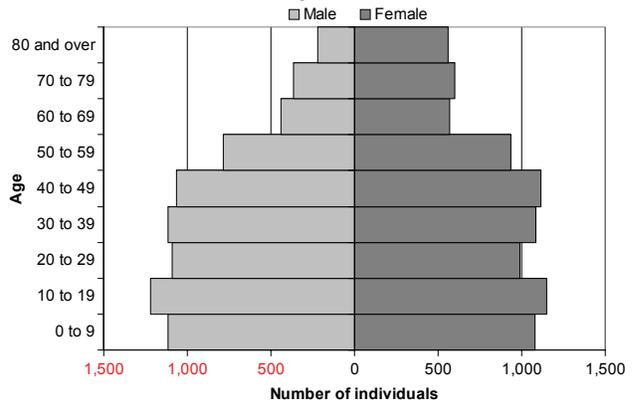
The majority of the racial structure of Ukiah white (79.5%), followed by individuals who identified with some other race (9.7%), individuals who identified with two or more races (4.3%), American Indian and Alaska Native (3.8%), Asian (1.7%), black (1.0%), and Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (0.1%). Ethnicity data indicate 19.3% identified as Hispanic, and about 10.4% were foreign-born. Of the foreign-born, 81.5% were from Mexico.

In 2000 76.8% of the population lived in family households.

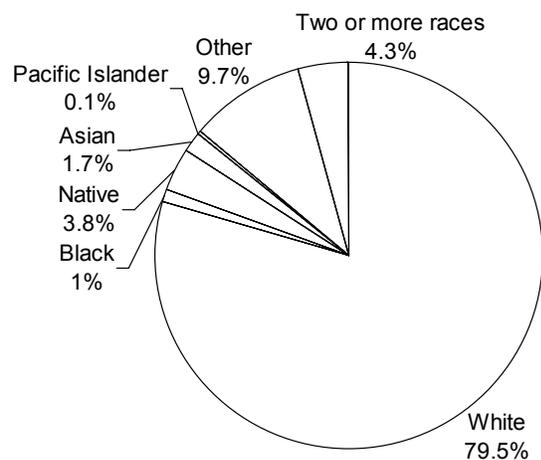
### History

Northern California was originally inhabited by several related groups known today as Pomo Indians. There was no single Pomo Tribe, rather 72 independent groups speaking seven related but distinct languages.<sup>1</sup> The Pomo wove intricate basketry and fashioned clamshell and magnesite beads used as a regional trade currency. The Pomo were hunter-gatherers. Coastal groups relied heavily on salmon, marine shellfish (especially sea mussels), and sea mammals (particularly Stellar sea lions, California sea lions, sea otters, Northern fur seals, and harbor seals).<sup>2</sup> Pomo groups used complex hunting and fishing technologies, and community life often focused on rituals surrounding the first harvests of

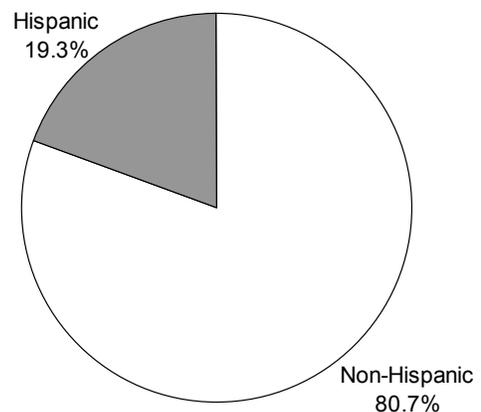
2000 Population structure



2000 Racial structure



2000 Hispanic ethnicity



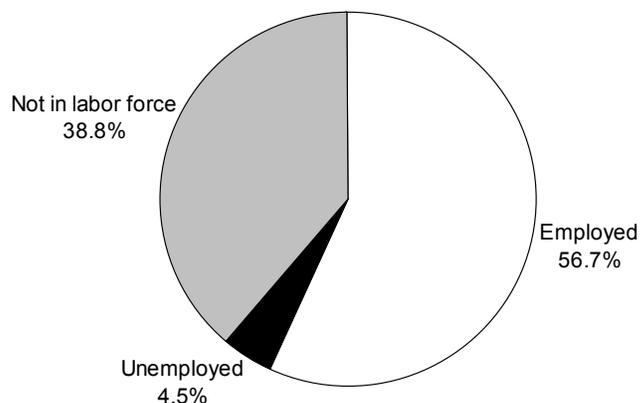
the season and cooperative fishing endeavors. Acorns were also an important food. The Pomo group whose territory included present-day Ukiah called themselves the Yokaya, which means “people of the South or Deep Valley.”<sup>3</sup> Euro-American settlers adopted this name, changing the spelling to Ukiah.

Spanish immigrants were the first Europeans to settle in the area beginning in the mid-1500s. They established two large land grants, the Sanel (or Feliz) Grant and the Yokayo Grant, which encompassed the Ukiah area. After Russian fur traders and then failed Gold Rush miners established settlements in the region in the 1800s, native populations were rapidly decimated by disease and conflict. A commission from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) signed 18 treaties with California tribes between 1851 and 1852. These agreements would have reserved about 8.5 million acres for Indians, but with the Gold Rush in full swing, Congress did not ratify the treaties.<sup>4</sup> Instead, the BIA established a system of smaller reservations and “rancherias.” Survivors later described their forced removal by the military to these reservations as “death marches.”<sup>5</sup> Today many Indians living in the Ukiah area reside on the Redwood Valley Rancheria, 177 acres near the town of Redwood Valley (10 miles). The population of this rancheria is around 265, with a total tribal enrollment of 149.<sup>6</sup>

Ukiah was founded in 1856, when Samuel Lowry built a log cabin in what is now the central part of the town. Like many small communities in the fertile Yokayo Valley, Ukiah attracted settlers who were primarily interested in farming. Some of these early entrepreneurs established vineyards, laying the groundwork for a winegrowing industry that thrives today.<sup>7</sup> In 1859 the community became the seat of Mendocino County, and land prices boomed after the railroad arrived in 1889.

After World War II, Ukiah became a timber town and residents became heavily involved in harvesting redwoods, known on the market as “red gold.” Mendocino Forest Products still operates a sawmill in Ukiah, which annually processes 60 million board feet of redwood.<sup>8</sup> This mill is one of only a handful left in Mendocino County since the decline of the West Coast timber industry. In the 1960s Ukiah experienced an influx of former urbanites following the “back to the land movement.” Ukiah is the largest city in Mendocino County. As the county seat, it plays a central role in providing services and hosts a number of businesses and some light manufacturing. Vineyards, pear orchards, and a growing number of organic farms surround the community, making the area popular with tourists interested in wine tasting and a scenic rural retreat.

**2000 Employment structure**



## Infrastructure

### Current Economy

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 56.7% of Ukiah’s potential labor force 16 years of age and older were employed, 4.5% were unemployed, and the unemployment rate was 7.4% (calculated by dividing the unemployed population by the labor force). In addition, 38.8% were not in the labor force. Major employment sectors are education, health, and social services (23.4%) and retail trade (13.9%). The armed forces accounted for less than 1% of the labor force. Natural resource jobs including agriculture, fishing, forestry, and hunting employed 4.4%, but this percentage may be artificially low because many fishermen are self-employed and are underrepresented in the data.

According to the City of Ukiah, major employers are the city (1,672 employees), Ukiah Unified School District (809), Mendocino College (640), Ukiah Valley Medical Center (570), Fetzer Vineyards (500), and Mendocino Companies, a group of three wood products processors (400).<sup>9</sup> The city reported small manufacturing firms and mail order businesses are on the rise. Surrounding farms and a pear processing plant also provide jobs in the agricultural sector. Although Ukiah is located inland from the California coast, some residents may operate or work on fishing vessels berthed in Fort Bragg’s Noyo Harbor (58 miles).

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Ukiah’s per capita income in 1999 was \$17,601, below the national per capita income of \$21,587. The median household income was about \$32,707, also below the national median household income of \$41,994. About 18.1% lived below the poverty level, greater than the national average of 12.4%. In 2000 Ukiah had 6,137 housing units, of which 97.5% were occupied and 2.5% were

vacant. Of the occupied units, 48.4% were by owner and 51.6% were by renter. This is a lower rate of home ownership than the national average (66.2%). Of the vacant units, 35.5% were for rent and 15.8% were for sale.

## Governance

Ukiah operates under a council-manager government. The four-member council acts as the local legislative body, which sets policy and develops the city budget. The council appoints the mayor, city manager, treasurer, clerk, and members of various commissions that deliberate over local issues. Ukiah levies a 7.25% sales and use tax and Mendocino County has a 10% transient lodging tax.<sup>10, 11</sup> In 1850 Ukiah became the county seat of Mendocino County. See the Governance subsection (page 43) of the Overview section for a more detailed discussion of taxes affecting fisherman and processors in California.

Meetings of the Pacific Fishery Management Council are held in San Francisco. The nearest U.S. Coast Guard station is 83 miles south in Bodega Bay.<sup>12</sup> Ukiah is in California Department of Fish and Game Marine Region 7, which is headquartered 229 miles south in Monterey.<sup>13</sup> The nearest field offices for the National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services are in San Francisco.

## Facilities

Ukiah is located along U.S. Highway 101, which runs along the western edge of California. Ukiah Municipal Airport has a paved airstrip open to the public. The nearest major international airport is at Sacramento.

The Ukiah Unified School District operates a preschool, seven middle schools (in Ukiah, Hopland, and Redwood Valley), two middle schools, two high schools, and an adult education center.<sup>14</sup> The community also supports a number of charter, parochial, and private schools. The Mendocino County Regional Occupational Program, which offers training in agricultural and computer sciences and special education classes, is headquartered in Fort Bragg (58 miles). Mendocino College, a two-year community college, operates a campus in Ukiah.<sup>15</sup>

Ukiah provides electric, water, and wastewater services. Pacific Gas and Electric supplies natural gas. The city's police and fire departments provide law enforcement and emergency services, supplemented by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office, which is also located in Ukiah. The main health care facility is the Ukiah Valley Medial Center, a 78-bed, nonprofit, community hospital. Other health care facilities include the Mendocino Community Health Clinic, a private

nonprofit primary care clinic and pharmacy, and the Consolidated Tribal Health Project, which provides mental, dental, and community services to the eight consortium tribes of Mendocino County and is located in Redwood Valley (10 miles).<sup>16</sup> The city supports a number of hotels, motels, and bed and breakfasts.

The nearest marine facility is Noyo Harbor in Fort Bragg.<sup>17, 18</sup> One of four main harbors between San Francisco and the Oregon border, Noyo Harbor supports a large commercial fishing fleet. The harbor features two public launch ramps, a 10,000 pound hoist with an 8-foot beam, and 265 berths for commercial vessels. These berths are typically at capacity with a waiting list of about 20 vessels, depending on the season. The harbor is maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which periodically dredges and removes silt. The harbor area offers numerous support facilities, such as fuel, ice, restaurants, and lodging. Lake Mendocino, located 5 miles northeast of Ukiah, provides a boat launch and freshwater sportfishing opportunities.

## Involvement in West Coast Fisheries

### Commercial Fishing

Ukiah is part of the Other Mendocino County Ports group, which includes the nearby communities of Almanor, Anchor Bay, Caspa, Elk, Little River, Mendocino, Westport, and Willits. There are no available landings data for this port group in 2000 and no seafood processors operated in Ukiah. Because the community has no port and is located inland from the coast, no vessels delivered landings to Ukiah in 2000. However, residents owned three commercial vessels in 2000, two of which participated in the federally managed groundfish fishery.

The number of vessels owned by Ukiah 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 0/0/2, shellfish NA/0/NA, shrimp NA/0/0, and other species 0/0/2.<sup>19</sup>

In 2000, Ukiah residents held no federal groundfish permits. The number of Ukiah residents holding permits in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/0/1, groundfish 0/0/1, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/0/6, and shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/3.<sup>20</sup>

In 2000 Ukiah residents held at least 14 commercial fishing permits, all state registered. The number of permits held by Ukiah residents in each fishery by state (WA/OR/CA) was: crab 0/0/1, groundfish 0/0/1, highly migratory species NA/0/0, salmon 0/0/9, shellfish 0/0/NA, and other species 0/0/3.<sup>21</sup>

## Sportfishing

A number of charter vessels operate out of the area targeting salmon, albacore tuna, rockfish, rock cod, and other species. In 2002 at least seven charter businesses served sport fishermen and tourists in Ukiah, and eight such businesses operated in 2003. Six license agents sold sportfishing licenses in Ukiah. In 2000 vendors in Mendocino County sold 8,838 resident sportfishing licenses, 64 nonresident sportfishing licenses, 382 sport salmon punch cards, and 8,864 abalone report cards. The nearest commercial passenger fishing vessel port complex consists of Fort Bragg, Eureka, and Crescent City. At this port complex, 15 commercial passenger fishing vessels served 11,574 anglers in 2000 and reported 49,983 landings composed of at least 9 species. Rockfish (unspecified) and Chinook salmon accounted for 81.2% and 16.1% of the landings respectively.

Nearby Lake Mendocino, maintained by the San Francisco District of the Army Corps of Engineers, is stocked with striped bass, large and small mouth bass, bluegill, and catfish. The lake is a popular destination for Ukiah sport fishermen interested in freshwater species.<sup>22</sup>

## Subsistence

Specific information on subsistence fishing in Ukiah is not discussed in detail due to the lack of available data. The California Department of Fish and Game terms “recreational” 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

No Ukiah residents were involved in North Pacific fisheries in 2000.

### Sportfishing

In 2000 53 Ukiah community members purchased Alaska sportfishing licenses.

## Notes

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