



# 2016 – 2017

## NEVADA COUNTY • CALIFORNIA

# DEMOGRAPHIC REPORT



PREPARED BY NEVADA COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE



# Introduction

Incorporated in 1851, Nevada County, California was named after its county seat and mining town, Nevada City. The name Nevada originated from the Spanish word, meaning snowfall, referring to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. With Nevada County's prosperous beginnings in the 1850's, with as many as ten thousand local residents living in Nevada City in hopes to strike it rich with gold, Nevada County has since become a peaceful and historic community. The County is comprised of three unique, historic towns: Truckee, located minutes from world-renowned ski resorts and Lake Tahoe; Nevada City, voted as one of America's Coolest Small Towns in 2014 by *Budget Travel Magazine*; and Grass Valley, home to historic Empire Mine, which produced almost six million ounces of gold in the 1850's. The County attracts tourists with its rich history and beautiful outdoor backdrop of forests, rivers, mountains, and lakes, whereas residents are drawn here by the exceptional quality of life the area offers. The County is well known for its outdoor activities, including hiking, mountain biking, skiing and many more.

Additionally, tourists and locals alike enjoy the vibrant art and cultural scene present in Nevada County. Visitors can partake in local activities such as watching a musical performance at Grass Valley's Center for the Arts, eating at local and well-known restaurants such as Truckee's Jax at the Tracks (which has been featured on Food Network's Diners, Drive-ins, and Dives), enjoying a play in Nevada City at the historic Nevada Theater (with past performances by historic figures such as Mark Twain and Jack London), or touring the local artist studios in any of these three towns. There are countless local activities that continue to create the strong sense of community and add to the quality of life in Nevada County. These include the area's maintained historic architecture, distinctive shops, thriving culinary scene, and street fairs and farmers markets throughout each year.



Truckee's Jax at the Tracks Diner

Beyond the qualities that make Nevada County an attractive place to unwind, it has qualities that make it a highly desirable place in which to work. The economy is well supported by a wide array of industries including manufacturing, retail, technology, agriculture, construction and health services. Nevada County has an above-average high school graduation rate, accessibility to traditional, charter and private schools, and higher-level education at our recently expanded local Sierra College campus. Well-maintained roads make it easy to get around and Nevada County has targeted infrastructure projects such as the broadband initiative and library technology center, offering opportunities for viable expansion while maintaining a small-town feel. Due to Nevada County's effective approach to criminal justice, the County has low crime rates relative to our comparison counties.

The *Nevada County Demographic and Statistical Profile for 2016/2017* includes the following topics: community and society, government, housing, transportation, work and business. We hope that you will enjoy this profile of Nevada County.

**Note on Comparison Data:** Nevada County selected seven counties (Butte, El Dorado, Mendocino, Napa, Placer, Sutter, and Tehama) for comparison purposes on some shared characteristics throughout this report, including rural geography, close to an urban center, demographics, and size. The intent is to provide insight into Nevada County's unique community, social, geographic, and demographic environment.

## Geography

Residents and visitors are taken by Nevada County's historic foothill towns nestled amidst pristine rivers, picturesque forests and the rugged beauty of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Established at the height of the Gold Rush in 1851, Nevada County is home to three incorporated areas (Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee,) and a variety of unincorporated communities and rural areas.



Nevada County offers a rural and small-town lifestyle, while still being located within a convenient distance from urban centers in Sacramento, the Bay Area and Reno. In addition to the beautiful setting, the strong sense of community and high quality of life found here are attractive characteristics to the local residents and visiting tourists.

The weather of Nevada County is another valued feature of the area. Residents enjoy a long, warm sunny season while experiencing color changes in the fall with cool, snowy winters. Rain averages just over ten inches in January and summer temperature are mild with average highs near 85 degrees in July. Our higher elevations receive an average of 206 inches of snow a year, although some years can see significantly more or less snow. In 1906, 76 feet of snow fell during the winter, compared to the historic lows of 4 inches the last couple of years.

City	Direction	Miles
San Francisco	West	157
Reno	Northeast	91
South Lake Tahoe	Southeast	94
Sacramento	Southwest	60

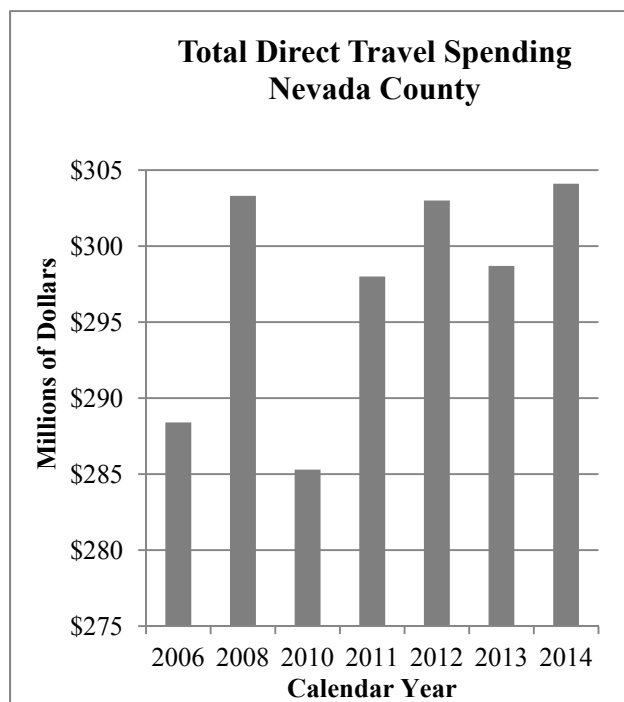


## Recreation

Scenic trails, alpine lakes, the Yuba River and the Sierra Nevada Mountains all support numerous recreation activities, including skiing, biking, hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting and backpacking. The wealth of recreational opportunities contributes to the County's vibrant and healthy community. By day, outdoor adventure opportunities are plentiful in the County. At night, tourists can partake in a vibrant nightlife, a variety of restaurants, state parks, and an abundance of shopping choices. Visitors and locals can experience small-town life without having to forgo indulgence in pleasures more typical of an urban setting. With a calendar packed with street fairs, festivals, art exhibits, local theater and children's activities, the possibilities are endless for those of all age groups and interests.



## Tourism



California Travel Impacts

[http://www.deanrunyan.com/doc\\_library/CAImp.pdf](http://www.deanrunyan.com/doc_library/CAImp.pdf)

Nevada County provides a welcoming and varied experience for visitors. Whether they come to watch the Tour of Nevada City bicycle race, hit the ski slopes in Truckee or enjoy the Cornish Christmas street fair, there's something for everyone. There is a myriad of unique and charming shops, including antiques, clothing, textiles and art available in both historic Grass Valley and Nevada City. While you are visiting, dine at some of the local's favorite restaurants or chocolate specialty stores.

Tourism is a key economic generator in Nevada County. According to a study by Dean Runyon Associates, in 2014 Nevada County benefitted from \$304 million in travel related spending. From 2000-2014, visitor spending in Nevada County increased on average 3.2% annually. Spending by visitors generates sales in lodging,

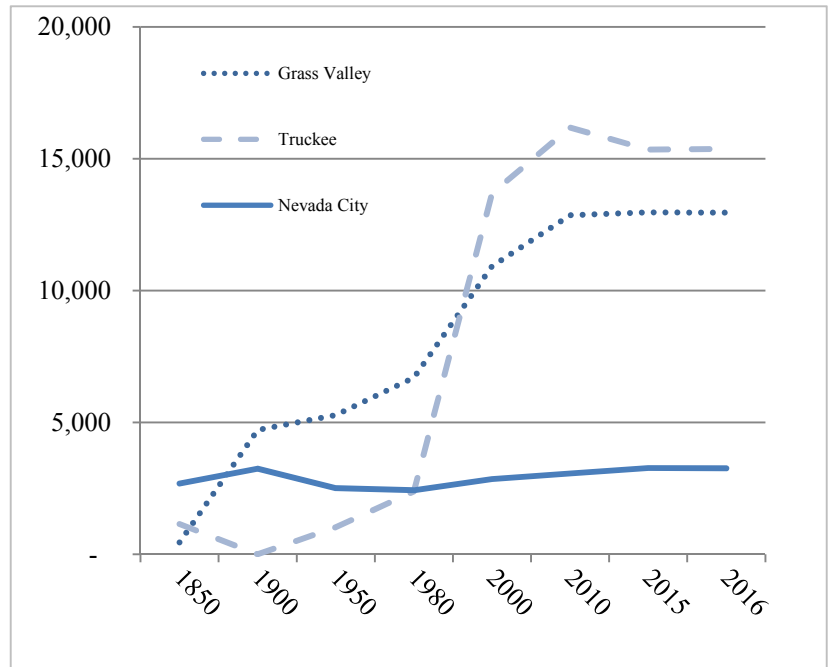
food services, recreation, transportation, and retail businesses. These sales support jobs for County residents and contribute tax revenue to local and state governments.

## Population

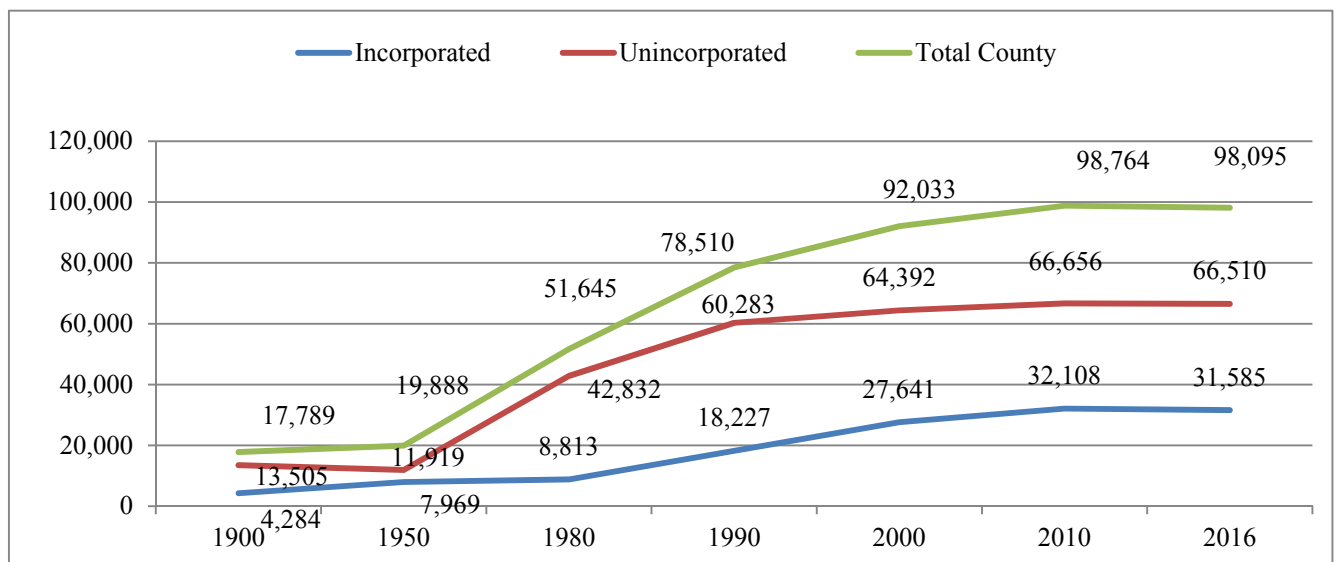
With just under 100,000 residents, Nevada County is the 36th most populous county in California. The population grew from 92,053 in 2000 to 98,764 in 2010, and now totals 98,095 in 2015. Nevada County saw its highest growth between the 1950s and 1990s, increasing by 260% between 1950 and 1980, and another 70% between 1980 and 1990.

Preliminary data indicates that the population is remaining fairly stable. The California Department of finance projections shows Nevada County's estimated population at 101,767 by 2020.

In the last 15 years, more of the growth has been in the unincorporated portion of the county. The incorporated areas of the county are home to 32% of the population, with 16% in Truckee, 13% in Grass Valley, and 3% in Nevada City. The remaining 68% live in outlying unincorporated areas.



Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit E-5 Report  
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports>



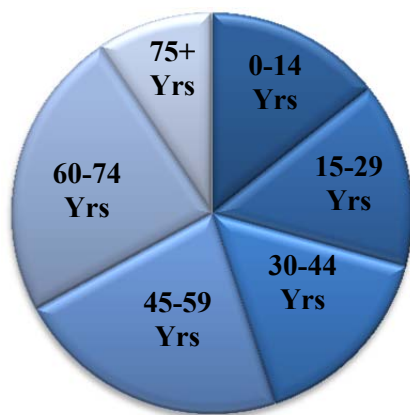
Dept. of Finance, Demographic Research Unit E-5 Report

In the decade from 2000 to 2010, Nevada County population grew by 7%, considerably less than the 40% growth in Placer and 20% in Yuba counties. In the past five years, however, all of the comparison counties have seen significantly less growth than in the previous decade.

Population				Ethnicity					
	Total Pop Estimated 2015	% Pop Change 2010 – 2015	65 Yrs and Older 2014	White	Hispanic Or Latino	Asian	African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Other
Nevada	98,877	0.1%	23%	86%	9%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Butte	225,411	2.5%	17%	74%	16%	5%	2%	2%	1%
El Dorado	184,452	1.9%	18%	79%	13%	4%	1%	1%	2%
Mendocino	87,649	-0.2%	19%	66%	24%	2%	1%	6%	1%
Napa	142,456	4.3%	17%	54%	34%	8%	2%	1%	1%
Placer	375,391	7.7%	18%	74%	14%	7%	2%	1%	2%
Sutter	96,463	1.8%	15%	48%	30%	16%	3%	2%	1%
Tehama	63,308	-0.2	18%	70%	24%	1%	1%	3%	1%
Yuba	74,492	3.2%	11%	57%	27%	7%	4%	3%	2%

<http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/06057,06007>

Compared to its surrounding counties, Nevada County has the highest percentage of residents over 65 years of age, and also has less ethnic variation. There are fewer residents under the age of 30 in Nevada County (29%) than statewide (41%). In years past, the economic downturn accelerated the trend towards an older population as higher unemployment rates, typical of the “Great Recession,” caused younger people with families to seek employment in urban areas. With the recent improvement in the County’s unemployment and economic status, the attractiveness of this area as a great place for young families continues to increase.



Age	Population	% Population
0-14	14,140	14.3%
15-29	14,818	15.0%
30-44	15,459	15.7%
45-59	21,907	22.2%
60-74	23,284	23.5%
75+	9,285	9.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,893</b>	<b>100%</b>

United States Census-Fact Finder – American Fact Finder, July 2014 Data  
<http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmk>



## Education

The well-educated population of Nevada County is correlated to the variety of top-notch schools, and several higher education options either within the county, or within easy commuting distance.

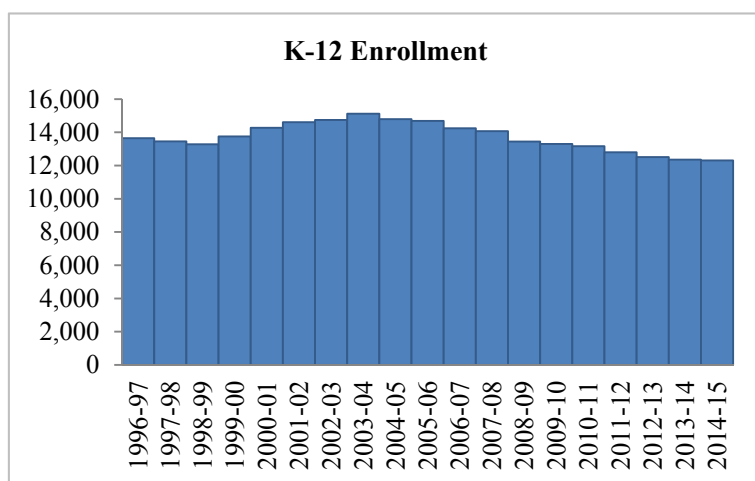
More Nevada County residents have attended college, pursued, or attained degrees (73%), compared to the state average (61%). Furthermore, considerably fewer people living in the county have less than a 9<sup>th</sup> grade level of education (2%), compared to the state overall (10%). This performance is attributed to the consistently high quality of schools in the County.

Education Completed		
(+25Yrs of Age)	Nevada County	Statewide
Less than 9th Grade	2%	10%
9th-12th grade, no diploma	4%	8%
High School diploma/GED	21%	21%
Some College, no degree	30%	22%
Associates degree	11%	8%
Bachelor's degree	21%	20%
Graduate or professional degree	11%	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

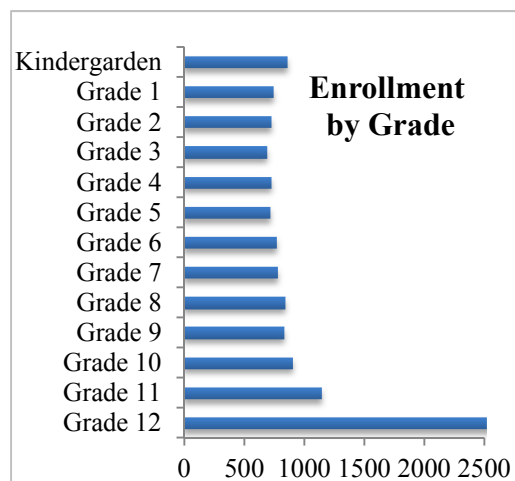
United States Census-Fact Finder – American Fact Finder

Nevada County has a variety of grade K-12 schools, and two Sierra College campuses located in Grass Valley and Truckee. K-12 enrollment peaked in the mid-2000s, and has declined steadily since, with enrollment at 12,305 in 2014-2015. As previously mentioned the economic downturn caused many young families to move to urban areas in search of employment. With the improvement in the economy this trend is predicted to slow or reverse. An additional 3,978 students are enrolled in the 11 Tahoe Truckee schools, which are part of the Placer Office of Education.

Mirroring a national trend, charter school attendance has increased in recent years, with attendance in western Nevada County climbing from 3,298 in 2008/09 to 4,872 in 2014-15. Three charter schools operate in Truckee. With the growing number of charter schools, and the many traditional school options, parents in the County have the choice between different educational experiences that are right for their children.



California Department of Education



Education Data Partnership [www.ed-data.k12.ca.us](http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us)

## Arts and Culture

Nevada County is a creative hotspot in the Sierra Nevada, offering an array of experiences, including concerts, film festivals, street fairs, dance performances, poetry readings, studio tours and galleries. The county also has numerous venues for performing arts, many of which are historic settings.

The arts have a large economic impact on the County. They have become a vital component to life in Nevada County that enhances the quality of life and contributes to the vibrancy of the local economy. The Arts Collaborative of Nevada County helps support local visual, literary, and performing arts and was appointed by the Board of Supervisors as the county's leadership and coordinating agency in 2009. They serve as Nevada County's hub for local art events as well as keeping the local artistic community thriving by helping increase audiences and support for the arts.



Nevada Theater (1865), California's oldest theater building

## Historical Legacy

The extensive Native American, pioneer, railroad and mining history of Nevada County can be explored at various locations throughout the County. Nevada County was at the heart of the California Gold Rush and was settled in 1849, which drew scores of migrants from around the world, reshaping California and the nation. There are many sites throughout Nevada County that are registered with the National Register of Historic Places, including all of the Nevada City Downtown Historic District. Through a modern approach, Nevada County residents and visitors can use the MyNeighborhood interactive map to explore the many registered historical landmarks in the area to appreciate our rich historical legacy.

### Museum and Historic Site Highlights

- \* Bridgeport Covered Bridge
- \* Empire Mine State Park
- \* Donner State Park and Museum
- \* Malakoff Diggins State Park
- \* Searls Historic Library
- \* Nevada County Narrow Gauge Museum
- \* North Star Mining Museum
- \* Saint Joseph's Cultural Center



Empire Mine



## Health and Wellness

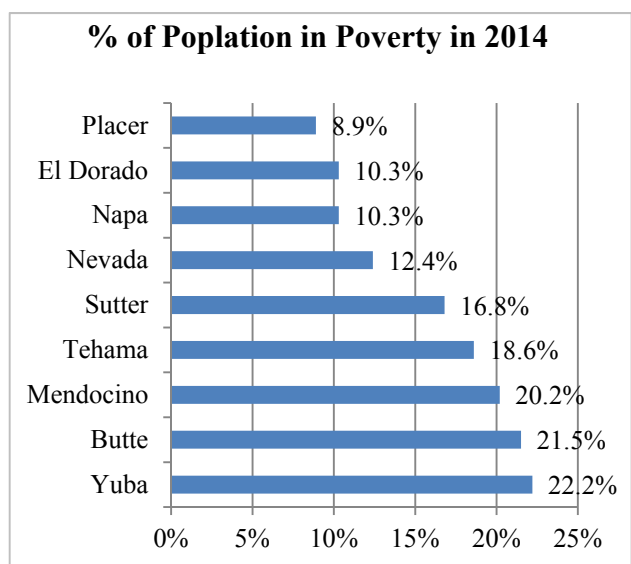
According to an annual study conducted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Nevada County is ranked the seventh healthiest county in California, and fifth in the state for Quality of Life. The rankings consider factors that affect people's health within the four categories of health behavior, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment. Another recent study by the California Budget & Policy Center in partnership with the Women's Foundation of California ranked Nevada County 15<sup>th</sup> in the state for Women's Well-Being. The survey categories included health, personal safety, employment and earnings, political empowerment, and economic security.

Although Nevada County does well in the areas of overall health and physical environment, among comparison counties it has the lowest rate of children being fully immunized prior to kindergarten entrance, in correlation to having the highest rate of parents opting out of vaccinations for personal beliefs. However, the percentage of fully immunized kindergarteners in Nevada County has recently increased by 4.5% from 72.6% in 2014 to 77.1% in 2015. The immunization rate for the state overall was 92.9% in 2015.

Health and Wellness Measures - 2015				
	% Pop Uninsured	Health Outcomes Rank	% Overweight / Obese	Immunization Rates*
Nevada	17%	17	20%	77.1%
Butte	17%	38	25%	90.4%
El Dorado	13%	9	19%	90.4%
Mendocino	22%	40	23%	87.4%
Napa	18%	7	24%	93.4%
Placer	13%	5	23%	88.8%
Sutter	21%	27	28%	90.0%
Tehama	19%	37	29%	94.1%
Yuba	18%	46	26%	94.7%

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/about-project>  
[www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/)

\*Figures reflect kindergarten immunization rate



US Census - <http://factfinder2.census.gov/>

Among the comparison counties, Nevada County ranks fourth lowest in percentage of population in poverty. In 2014 the Federal poverty level for a family of four was \$53,482. For the same period, the median household income for Nevada County was \$56,949, which was slightly lower than the median statewide household income (\$61,489). People living at or below the poverty line tend to have a lower health status, with fewer resources to get sufficient medical care and incur other related expenditures.

Nevada City, Grass Valley, Truckee, and nine unincorporated areas make up Nevada County. The five member Board of Supervisors is the legislative and executive body of county government and serves as the governing body of the Nevada County Sanitation District. In addition, Board members represent the County on numerous intergovernmental bodies.



In its legislative duties the Board adopts ordinances, resolutions and rules and is responsible for seeing that all Federal and State mandated functions are properly discharged. The Board also adopts the County budget. In response to the Great Recession of 2008, the Board employed fiscally conservative policies that helped Nevada County weather the recession, as is evident in the chart below. The County has the second lowest staffing per 1000 residents, and the lowest expense per capita.

<b>Selected Measures of Government</b>			
	<b>Incorporated Cities/Towns</b>	<b>Staff / 1000 Residents</b>	<b>Expense per Capita</b>
Nevada	3	7.9	2,035
Butte	5	10.6	2,182
El Dorado	2	10.0	3,334
Mendocino	4	15.9	3,373
Napa	5	10.1	3,463
Placer	6	6.9	2,646
Sutter	2	10.3	2,869
Tehama	3	13.9	2,968
Yuba	2	12.3	2,259

Source: County Budgets and US Census Data

There are six Elected County Officials; the District Attorney, Sheriff, Assessor, Auditor/Controller, Treasurer/Tax Collector, and the Registrar of Voters/Clerk-Recorder.

The Board appoints a County Executive Officer (CEO) to direct the planning, operations and management of the County, and the CEO appoints department heads over areas in which they have special knowledge, ability, and expertise. Nevada County does not provide direct fire protection or parks and recreation services. These services are provided by special districts within the county.

## Library Services



Doris Foley Historical Library

The Nevada County Library provides public library services from its three branches in Nevada City, Grass Valley, and Truckee, its two stations in Penn Valley and Bear River, and its two kiosks in North San Juan and Cedar Ridge. The nonprofit organization Friends of the Nevada County Libraries also collaborates with the County to manage and help operate the Doris Foley Library for Historical Research. A voter approved sales tax measure in 2002 provides a one-eighth cent

sales tax to fund County libraries. The Friends of the Library and Truckee Friends have been instrumental in raising additional funds for the libraries and they, along with other active participants, have contributed over 9,840 volunteer hours annually. This voter approved revenue and community involvement helps support the robust library programs available here. Of the six comparison counties, Nevada County has the highest circulation per capita (7.96) and the third highest operating expenditure per capita (\$25.60) behind Placer and Mendocino counties.

The services offered by the Nevada County Library reflect the important role of technology in the community. From April 2015 to March 2016, close to 30,000 ebooks and audiobooks were downloaded through free services provided by the Library – a 10% increase over the previous year. More than 34,000 internet sessions were recorded at all of the branches, encompassing use of the Library’s desktop computers and borrowing laptops and Chromebooks for in-library use.

The Collaborative Technology Center, located at the Madelyn Helling Library, offered twenty to thirty free technology and creativity classes per month. Many people come to the Collaborative Technology Center to be certified to use one of the two 3D printers owned by the Library. In addition, the Library embarked on a grant-funded project to create a Mobile Technology Center that will bring internet access, technology, and instruction all over the County later this year.

<b>County</b>	<b>Total Circulation</b>	<b>\$ Spent Per Capita</b>	<b>Open Hours Per Year</b>	<b>Circulation Per Capita</b>	<b>Program Attendance per Capita</b>
Nevada County	733,601	\$25.60	8,609	7.96	0.15
Butte County	980,903	\$13.18	10,788	4.41	0.12
Mendocino County	497,754	\$26.69	11,626	6.12	0.12
Placer County	1,221,323	\$30.67	18,806	6.3	0.18
Sutter County	313,188	\$13.20	4,208	3.27	0.63
Tehama County	137,188	\$8.49	2,853	2.16	0.15
Yuba County	130,123	\$5.70	1,352	1.77	0.05

California State Library - <http://www.library.ca.gov/lds/librarystats.html>

## **Criminal Justice**

Nevada County is a low crime county. In 2014, the County had the lowest felony rate per capita of the comparison counties and the second lowest overall crime rate. This low crime rate is attributed to the innovative and collaborative approach to criminal justice taken by local agencies and community partners. Our public safety agencies, human service agencies and non-profits meet regularly to strategize and coordinate service delivery.



Nevada County Adult and Juvenile Arrests Per 1000 Residents					
All ages, both genders, 2014					
County	Population	Felony	Misdemeanor	Drug*	Total
Nevada	98,893	10.1	22.3	4.0	32.35
Butte	224,241	13.6	33.7	5.1	47.23
El Dorado	183,087	11.3	21.3	4.1	32.59
Mendocino	87,869	16.7	38.1	5.4	54.79
Napa	141,667	14.0	22.8	3.4	36.77
Placer	371,649	11.1	15.1	3.5	26.22
Sutter	95,847	12.7	26.0	2.7	38.74
Tehama	63,067	22.7	37.8	9.3	60.48
Yuba	73,966	19.1	34.7	4.4	53.85

<http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests>

\*Figures reflect only Felony drug charges

## Sheriff

The Nevada County Sheriff's Office plays an important role in interfacing with the community in day-to-day operations that cast a wide and critical footprint. The largest unit in the Sheriff's Office is the uniformed Patrol Division, based in Western Nevada County, with an additional substation in Truckee. The Sheriff's Office has local correctional facilities in Nevada City and Truckee, and assists in court security. In addition, all three incorporated cities have police forces. The Nevada County Sheriff's office operates a centralized Dispatch unit that handles dispatch for the cities and unincorporated area.



## Probation

As an integral part of the criminal justice system, Probation protects our community by promoting responsible behavior and offender accountability; providing objective, accurate information and recommendations to the Court; operating safe secure juvenile facilities and programs; and collaborating with the community to provide direct services to offenders, families and victims. Where Nevada County's overall recidivism rate (the rate of a person's relapse into criminal behavior) for State referred (AB109) probationers is just 28.8% compared to 30% across the state. However, Nevada County's recidivism rate is 6.7%. The low recidivism rate is due to the probation department's mission of implementing

Probation Caseloads 2014			
County	Felony	Misdemeanor	Total
Nevada	394	119	513
Butte	1,106	279	1,385
El Dorado	1,021	110	1,131
Mendocino	674	109	783
Napa	1,020	1,068	2,088
Placer	2,316	776	3,092
Sutter	844	21	865
Tehama	682	57	739
Yuba	607	48	655

<http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/adult-probation>

evidence-based practices to increase public safety within the community. County efforts have helped to stop the “revolving door” of crime and have a direct and positive impact on the crime rate.

## District Attorney

The Nevada County District Attorney has offices in both Nevada City and Truckee. The District Attorney's Office reviews investigations conducted by law enforcement agencies, participates in joint investigations or, when appropriate, conducts their own investigation. The attorneys make filing decisions regarding criminal complaints, as well as handle felony, misdemeanor and juvenile delinquency cases at all stages of prosecution. The District Attorney's office is a major partner in keeping Nevada County's crime rates low, while working closely with the Sheriff, Probation Office and Superior Courts.

<b>Comparison of Selected Crime Levels per 1000 residents, 2014</b>								
<b>Type of Crime</b>	<b>Nevada County</b>	<b>Butte County</b>	<b>El Dorado County</b>	<b>Mendocino County</b>	<b>Placer County</b>	<b>Sutter County</b>	<b>Tehama County</b>	<b>Yuba County</b>
Violent	2.1	2.9	2.5	4.6	1.9	4.1	3.2	5.3
Property	1.7	3.0	1.9	3.1	2.9	3.2	3.9	5.2
Drug	4.0	5.1	4.1	5.4	3.5	2.7	9.3	4.4
Sex Offense	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.4
Other Felony	2.2	2.4	2.7	3.5	2.7	2.6	6.2	3.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>12.7</b>	<b>22.7</b>	<b>19.1</b>

State of CA DOJ <http://oag.ca.gov/crime/cjsc/stats/arrests>

## Superior Court

The Superior court consists of six judges and one commissioner. The primary courthouse is located in Nevada City, but the court maintains a branch in Truckee. Both locations are full-jurisdiction courts that process all case types. Since 1998, the largest funding sources for court operations have been the State Trial Court Trust Fund, state and federal grant funding and a small amount of locally generated revenue. While the Court is an independent state entity, it works closely with county departments to provide civil and criminal justice services in our community. Compared to other similar counties, Nevada County ranks third lowest in number of jury trials but fourth highest of the counties in total criminal filings.

<b>County</b>	<b>Jury Trials</b>	<b>Judicial Positions</b>	<b>Criminal Filings</b>	<b>Civil Filings</b>
Nevada	19 (i)	7.6	22,320	1,566
Butte	76	13	29,436	3,733
El Dorado	54	9	22,004	2,953
Mendocino	33	8.4	19,337	1,687
Napa	147	8	21,664	2,126
Placer	73	14.5	39,694	5,843
Sutter	33	5.3	15,767	1,790
Tehama	7	4.3	18,005	1,348
Yuba	15	5.3	13,225	1,311

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/2015-Court-Statistics-Report.pdf>

(i): incomplete data received

## Health and Wellness Safety Net Programs



Health and Human Service Programs are often called “Safety Net” Programs; they help individuals and families with basic needs such as food, housing, and medical care. These programs include CalWORKs; CalFresh; Medi-Cal; the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; Adult Protective Services, Child Protective Services, Child Support Services and more.

Nevada County continues to be a relatively low Public Assistance aided county compared with most of its central valley and north state counterparts, although the economic downturn has led some residents who were previously self-sufficient to seek support. The largest single factor affecting safety net caseloads in recent years is the Affordable Care Act. All comparison counties show a marked increase in Medi-Cal enrollment this year compared to last year as a direct result of the less restrictive eligibility requirements. An additional positive support in Nevada County includes a high performing Child Support department, which helps to recoup some of the costs associated with safety net programs. It also provides critical income to single-parent homes and avoids the need to apply for services by ensuring both parents are engaged in supporting the family.

Health and Human Services – 2016 Data						
	# of residents enrolled in Medi-Cal	Total Open Cases 1/14 CalFresh	% of Population on CalWORKs	Foster Care Placed Out of Home	Child Support Caseload	Percent of Current Child Support Collected
Nevada	20,469	4,027	1.3%	67	3,333	77.3%
Butte	64,934	15,101	3.3%	587	11,080	69.1%
El Dorado	29,377	6,652	1.2%	297	5,840	69.6%
Mendocino	37,182	6,215	3.2%	279	4,200	68.0%
Napa	28,263	3,290	0.9%	131	3,719	68.9%
Placer	46,431	8,490	0.8%	304	8,444	69.0%
Sutter	32,130	5,059	3.9%	150	4,719	69.7%
Tehama	20,304	4,102	3.9%	239	4,038	67.3%
Yuba	24,639	5,469	5.3%	192	4,160	68.7%

Nevada County Departments of Social Services and Child Support Services



# Housing and Land Use

Nevada County is the 15th smallest county in California, measured in square miles with a total land area of 958 square miles. The population density, or population per square mile, in the County is 103 residents per square mile, putting it among the lowest of comparison counties and well below the overall California population density of 251 people per square mile.

The assessed value of Nevada County real estate increased from \$4.2 billion in 1997, to a high of \$15.7 billion in 2015. As was typical across the nation during the “great recession,” the County saw a precipitous drop in values after the bubble of the mid-2000s. While the recovery has occurred more slowly in California’s rural areas than it has in the coastal cities, a healthy increase in total valuation occurred in Nevada County in 2015. Both assessed value per capita and average home value have increased, reflecting the rebound in the real estate market. State law allows for temporary property tax reductions (Prop 8) when values decline. Prop 8 properties were virtually non-existent before the decline, then spiked to a peak of 31% of all properties in the County in 2010. The percentage has trended downwards from there and will continue to go down as the economy recovers.

County	Square Miles*	Population per Sq. Mile
Nevada	958	103
Butte	1,636	138
El Dorado	1,708	108
Mendocino	3,506	25
Napa	748	190
Placer	1,407	267
Sutter	602	160
Tehama	2,949	21
Yuba	632	118

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic>

Assessed Secured Property Values and Taxes					
Year	Total Assessed Value (\$Bill.)	Assessed Value per Capita \$	Property Tax Per Capita \$	% Parcels in Prop 8 Status	Avg Assessed Value of Home
1997	4.2	46,997	810	12%	144,876
2000	7.7	83,481	873	1%	183,540
2005	10.3	105,176	1,052	0%	285,356
2010	16.6	168,629	1,686	31%	291,927
2011	15.4	155,736	1,557	29%	296,495
2012	15.0	154,420	1,544	26%	292,488
2013	14.8	152,744	1,527	26%	293,636
2014	14.9	153,833	1,538	23%	309,783
2015	15.7	160,103	1,603	23%	335,416

Nevada County CAFR /Nevada County Assessor

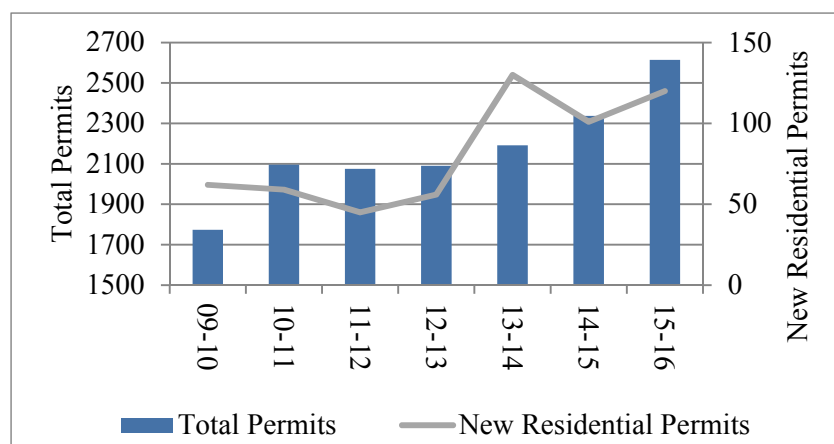
An estimated 84% of county dwellings are single-family units, and 10% are multi-family units. An estimated 60% of all housing is in the unincorporated area of the County, with Truckee representing the most housing units among the incorporated cities/town, at 24 %. According to Counting California Report (2000), 14% of housing units in Nevada County were second homes at that time. Second home ownership is especially prevalent in Truckee, a popular resort community in the Tahoe region.

<b>Nevada County - Types of Housing</b>						
<b>County</b>	<b>Nevada City</b>	<b>Grass Valley</b>	<b>Truckee</b>	<b>Unincorp.</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of Total</b>
Single Family	1,067	3,604	10,926	28,647	44,244	84%
Multi-Family	265	2,924	1,545	575	5,309	10%
Mobile Home	0	370	442	2,053	2,865	5%
Other Housing	0	19	41	184	244	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,332</b>	<b>6,917</b>	<b>12,954</b>	<b>31,459</b>	<b>52,662</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>% of Total</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>100%</b>	

[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

## Building Permits

The number of building permits issued by the county declined dramatically during the economic downturn, mirroring state and nationwide trends. Total permits have recovered significantly since the 2009-2010 low.



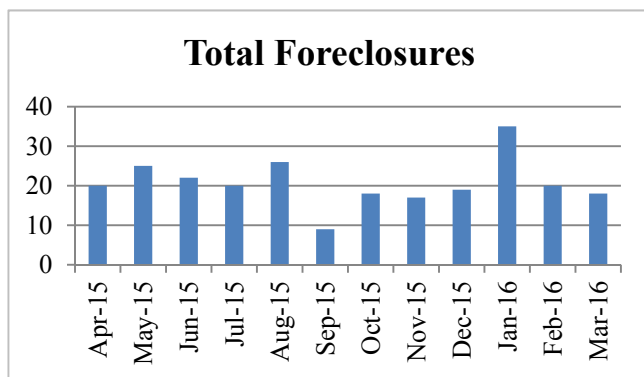
Nevada County Building Department

## Housing

Total housing units is the number of single- and multiple-family dwellings, mobile homes, and other dwelling units situated within a given jurisdiction. A housing unit may be the permanent residence for a household, a seasonal or second home, or vacant pending sale or rental. The total number of housing units in Nevada County was 52,832 units in 2014, with a median sales price of \$339,500, which places Nevada County in the higher value range among comparison counties.

County	Total Housing Units	February 2016 Median Sales Price	Owner Occupied Units est.	Vacancy Rate
Nevada	52,832	339,500	29,617	22.7%
Butte	96,700	219,250	50,593	11.9%
El Dorado	88,496	370,000	49,833	24.0%
Mendocino	40,538	322,000	19,135	16.9%
Napa	55,003	580,750	29,997	9.8
Placer	155,113	385,000	94,577	13.5%
Tehama	27,117	166,750	16,058	13.4%
Sutter	33,991	224,000	18,735	6.7%
Yuba	27,812	216,000	14,360	11.1%

RealtyTrac [http://www.realtytrac.com/statsandtrends/](http://www.realtytrac.com/statsandtrends/markettrends/)  
[http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)



RealtyTrac <http://www.realtytrac.com/statsandtrends/>

Comparing data over the last couple of years, foreclosures in Nevada County are trending lower, indicating a slowdown in distressed properties entering the market. In 2015-16, foreclosures averaged 21 per month compared to 120 per month in 2012-13.

## Nevada County Broadband

Current broadband speeds and availability in the region still lag behind non-rural counties, but are equal to or above average in comparison to similar peer rural Northern California Sierra communities. Local Wireless Internet Service Providers continue to slowly build out their networks and cover more rural homes. Commercial fiber based business services are also slowly expanding from the major providers such as AT&T and Comcast, but are limited to the higher density city centric locations. As part of the Central Valley Next Generation Broadband Initiative's "Middle Mile" project, a high speed fiber optic network was built across 18 California counties, including passing through western Nevada County. The network was installed in key County areas and the infrastructure will be used to provide access in the greater community. Three community anchor institutions were initially connected. The project construction was completed last fall and became operational soon after. The County Public Library now has a 1gigabit per second (Gbs) high speed Internet feed for patrons to utilize.

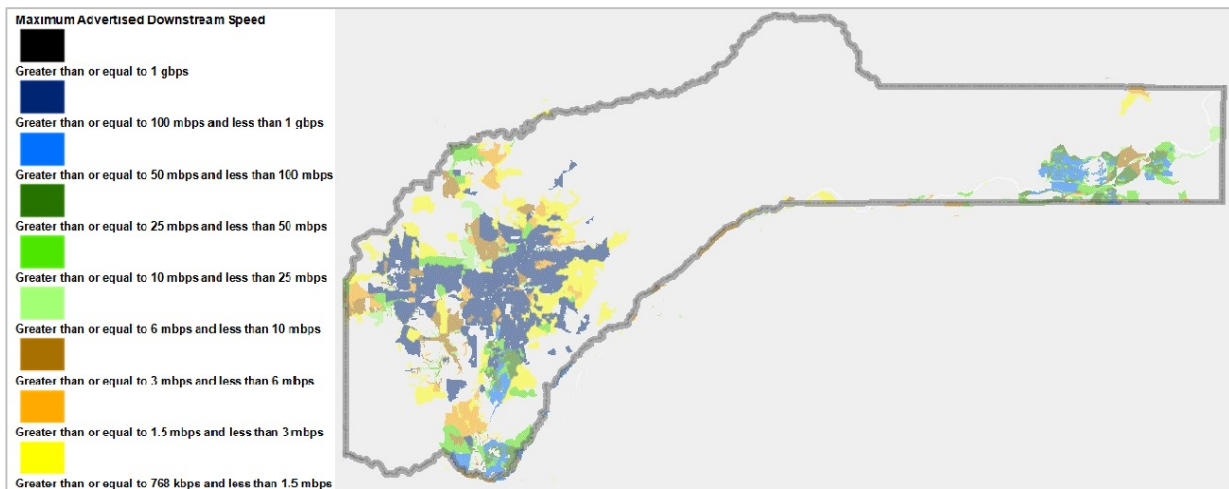


Utilizing a \$15 million California Public utilities Commission grant, a local Internet Service Provider is working to build a 1Gbs fiber network to homes and businesses in western Nevada County. This project is expected to commence in the late summer. The Truckee area's cable TV provider Suddenlink Communications announced plans to update their infrastructure to offer 1Gbs broadband services by end of the year 2016. Donner Summit area residents can now receive 50Mbps Internet service.

In addition to broadband, rural cellular data coverage is slowly expanding with major local providers, Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint, and AT&T, adding new towers and repeaters over the past year. Several other new towers are currently being planned.

County	% of Population with Broadband access*	Statewide Ranking
Nevada	99.3%	38
Butte	99.7%	30
El Dorado	99.6%	34
Mendocino	95.6%	51
Napa	99.9%	24
Placer	99.9%	21
Sutter	100%	9
Tehama	99.7%	32
Yuba	100%	18

\*broadband is defined as download/upload speed >3 Mbs / >.7 Mbs  
<http://www.broadbandmap.gov/rank/>



## Utilities

Nevada County ensures the safe and reliable disposal of solid waste and recycling through a contract with Waste Management and Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal. The Sanitation District provides wastewater treatment in the unincorporated areas. Currently the majority of the outlying unincorporated areas do not have treated wastewater. A pending collaborative project is expected to bring expanded wastewater treatment to the Penn Valley area and is anticipated to begin construction in 2016.

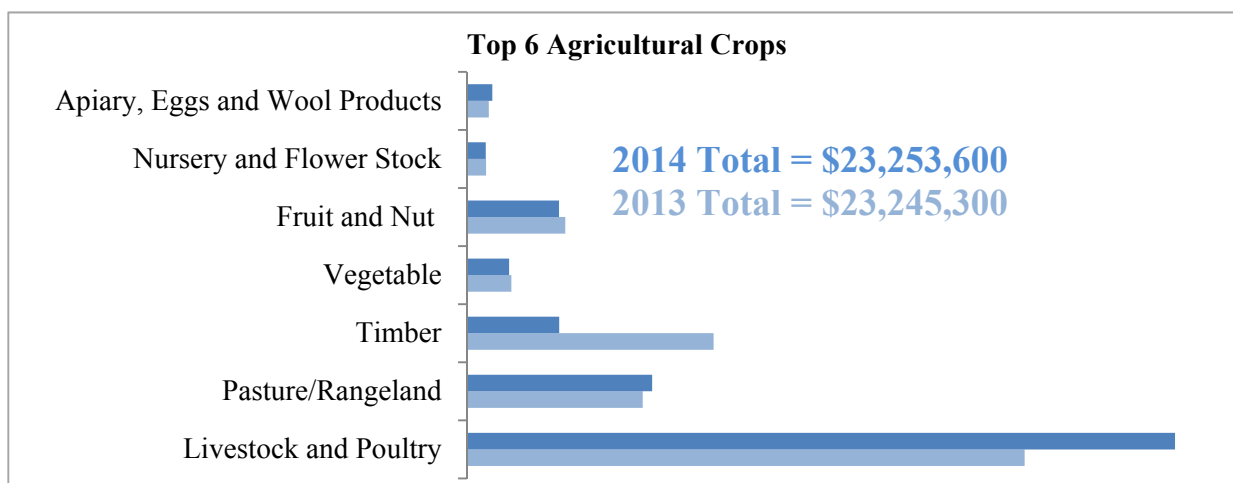
County	% Pop. w/Treated Wastewater	Recycling Target*	Recycling Actual*
Nevada City	99%	11.7	7.1
Grass Valley	100%	7.2	3.2
Truckee	91%	10.7	4.7
Unincorporated	19%	3.0	3.7
*recycling is pounds per day per person			

Nevada County, Grass Valley, Nevada City and Truckee departments of Public Works



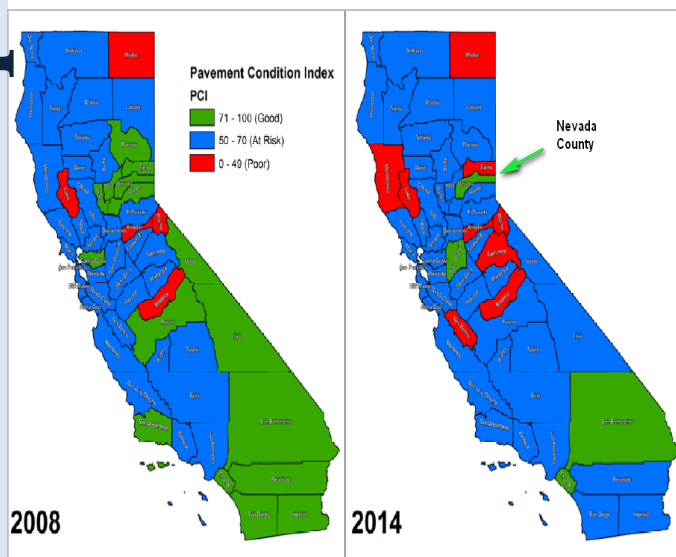
## Agriculture

The total value of Nevada County's 2014 agricultural crop production was \$23,253,600. This amount represents an increase of \$7,800 from the 2013 crop value, with the largest increase in Livestock and Poultry (\$3,004,400). Nursery products show decreased revenue of \$5,400. This decrease is primarily from lower nursery sales, although some of the difference also resulted from lower Christmas tree sales. Retail nursery production was significantly down which growers attributed to the continued downturn in the economy. The total acres harvested and the yield per acre decreased resulting in an increase of \$29.73 in the price per unit.



<http://www.mynevadacounty.com/nc/cda/agcomm/docs/Crop%20Report%202014%20small.pdf>

There are 1,099 miles of roads and highways in Nevada County, including 154 miles of unpaved roads in unincorporated areas. Transportation in and around Nevada County includes highway, rail, air, bus, and increasingly, cycling and pedestrian. In 2015-16, the Nevada County Department of Public Works prepared and chip sealed over 18 miles of roadways and brushed 79 miles in the Vegetation Control Program.



<http://www.savecaliforniastreet.org/read-the-report/>

## Highway Safety Data

Nevada County had 13 fatal accidents in 2013, ranking sixth lowest among the comparison counties. We fare better at fourth when considering vehicle miles travelled. Part of this is normal fluctuation. Due to the small numbers involved, a few accidents can skew the fatality rate drastically year to year.

Roadways in Nevada County		
Maintained by:	Bridges	Road/Hwy Miles
City/Town	20	240
County	77	562
State	47	129
Federal	0	143
Other State Agencies	0	44
Private	0	2,061
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>3,179</b>

CA DOT and Nevada County Department of Public Works

A recent report on California road conditions ranked Nevada County third in the state in terms of pavement condition. Nevada County is one of only four counties with “good” pavement condition, and does significantly better than any other rural county in the State. In large part, this is due to passage of Measure F in 1996, unique to Nevada County, which commits a portion of discretionary revenue to road improvement. This funding stream has allowed Nevada County to be one of the few to maintain good pavement condition despite the recession.

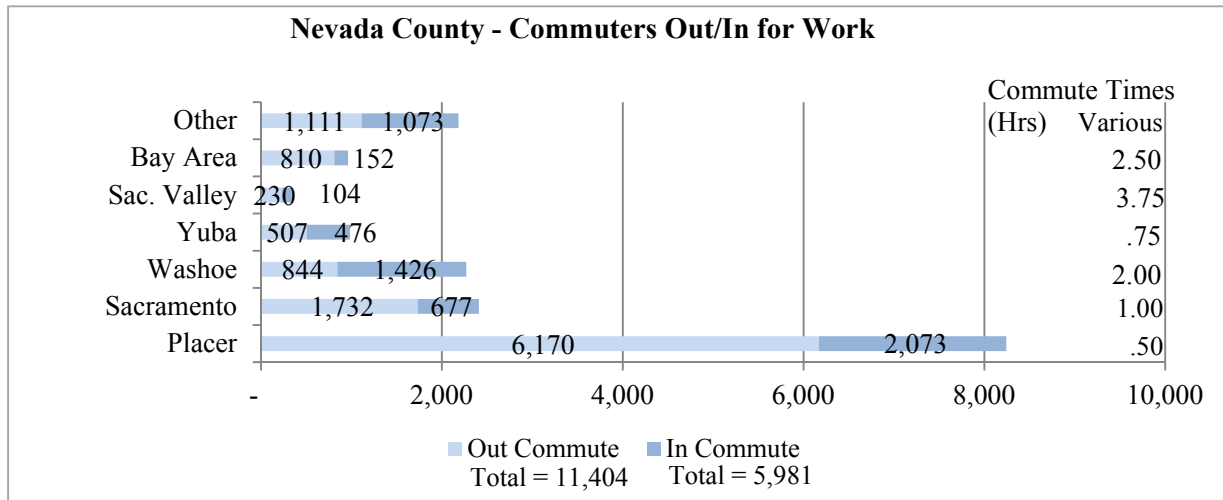
	Fatal Accidents 2013	Vehicle Miles Travelled (millions)	Fatal Accidents/VMT
Nevada	13	3.2	4.1
Butte	19	4.6	4.1
El Dorado	23	4.3	5.3
Mendocino	15	3.1	4.8
Napa	15	3.2	4.7
Placer	19	9.8	1.9
Sutter	5	2.3	2.2
Tehama	6	2.4	2.5
Yuba	8	1.7	4.7

[www.ots.ca.gov/media\\_and\\_research/Rankings/default.asp](http://www.ots.ca.gov/media_and_research/Rankings/default.asp)  
[www.chp.ca.gov/switrs/](http://www.chp.ca.gov/switrs/)



Nevada County has over 11,000 commuters going out of the county for work, and nearly 6,000 coming into the county. The top destination out for work is Placer County (6,170), followed by Sacramento County (1,732), and Washoe County, Nevada (844). Commute times range from 30 minutes to Placer, 2 hours to Washoe, and up to 3.75 hours to parts of the Sacramento Valley.

Commuting has an economic impact on the community because residents may be spending time and money in other locations rather than locally, affecting both family life and local business activity.



<http://www.census.gov/population/metro/data/other.html>

## Income and Sales

Of the comparison counties, Nevada County ranks fourth in per capita income, fourth in median household income, and seventh in taxable sales per capita. These numbers are impacted by the sales tax outflow the county experiences as consumers are drawn to the more urban surrounding counties for many shopping needs.

County	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Sales Tax Rate	Total Taxable Sales (\$Bill.)	Taxable Sales per Capita
Nevada	32,117	56,949	7.63%	1.2	11,810
Butte	24,430	43,165	7.50%	2.9	12,937
El Dorado	35,128	68,507	7.50%	1.9	10,340
Mendocino	23,306	43,469	7.63%	1.3	14,910
Napa	34,795	70,443	8.00%	2.9	20,880
Placer	34,886	72,725	7.50%	7.7	21,028
Sutter	23,602	50,408	7.50%	1.5	15,406
Tehama	20,439	41,924	7.50%	0.8	12,749
Yuba	19,244	44,902	7.50%	0.5	6,863

<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?src=bkmrk> Ca State Board of Equalization, Taxable Sales in California by County, 2013

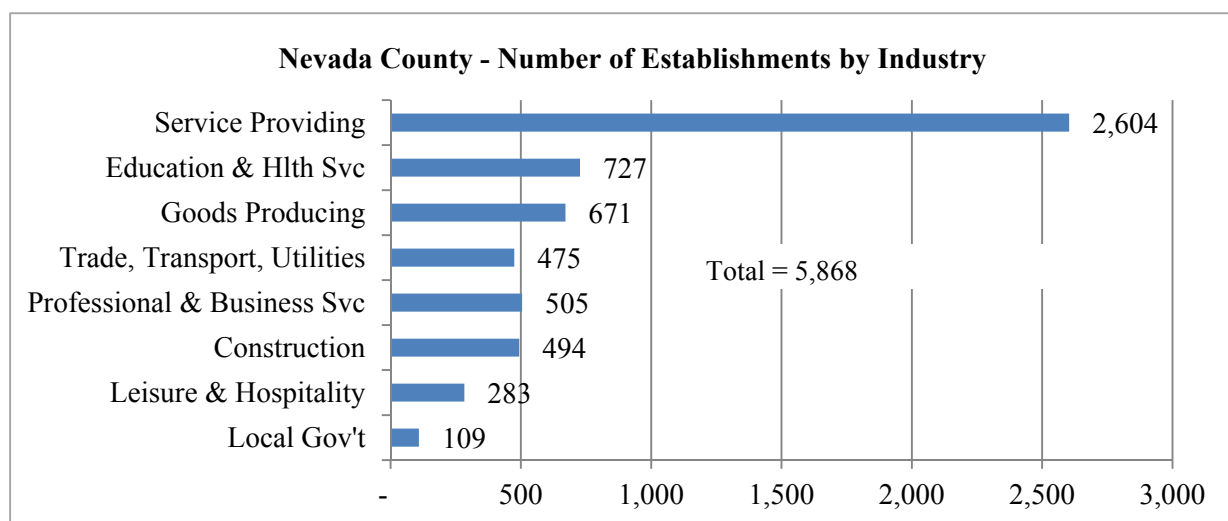
## Employment and Unemployment

Industry	# Employed	% Empl.	Avg Weekly Wage
<b>Goods Producing</b>			
Nat Res/Mining/Construct	2,760	10%	\$935
Manufacturing	1,429	5%	\$1,082
<b>Service-Providing</b>			
Trade, Transport & Utilities	4,615	16%	\$624
Information	294	1%	\$1,022
Financial Activities	1,346	5%	\$1,003
Professional & Business Svc	2,097	7%	\$990
Education and Health Svc	4,800	17%	\$824
Leisure & Hospitality	4,648	16%	\$382
Other - Unclassified	1,619	6%	\$624
<b>Government</b>			
Federal	353	1%	\$1,245
State	127	0%	\$945
Local	4,774	16%	\$1,000
<b>Total/Average</b>	<b>28,862</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$890</b>

CA EDD, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Annual 2014  
<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/qcew/CEW-Select.asp>

Employment by sector paints a picture of economic health by industry in the County overall. The Service-Providing sector leads in the number of people employed (68%), followed by Government (17%), and Goods Producing (15%) sectors. Average weekly wages range from \$382 in Leisure and Hospitality to \$1,245 in Federal Government. This year the number of jobs increased from 26,149 to 28,862. The increase of jobs in the service-providing and government industries led to a slight .8% increase in the Average Weekly Wage.

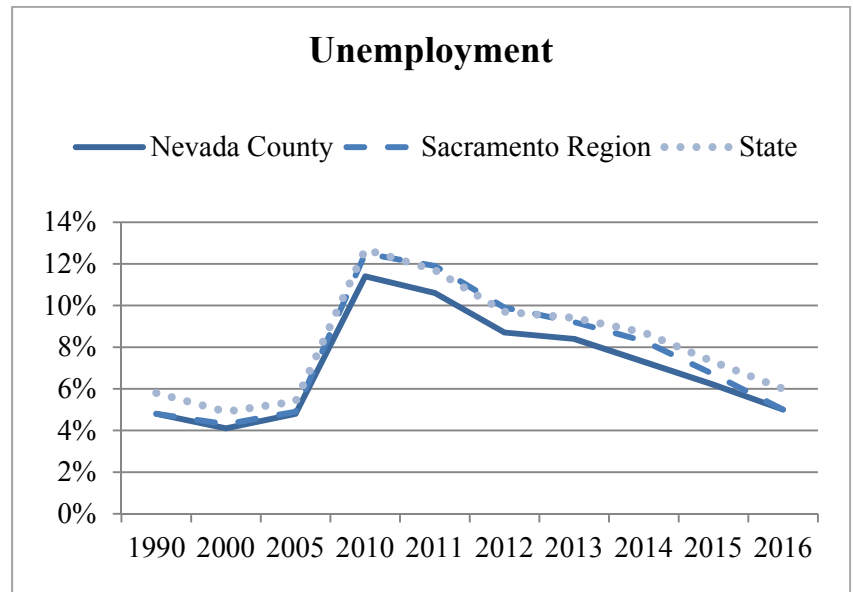
Nevada County's vibrant community, abundant natural beauty, location and natural resources provide a competitive advantage for employee attraction. Nevada County's top businesses include technology, ski-resort and other lodgings, grocery stores, schools, and other service providers.



CA Employment Development Department, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, Annual 2013  
<http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.gov/qcew/CEW-Select.asp>

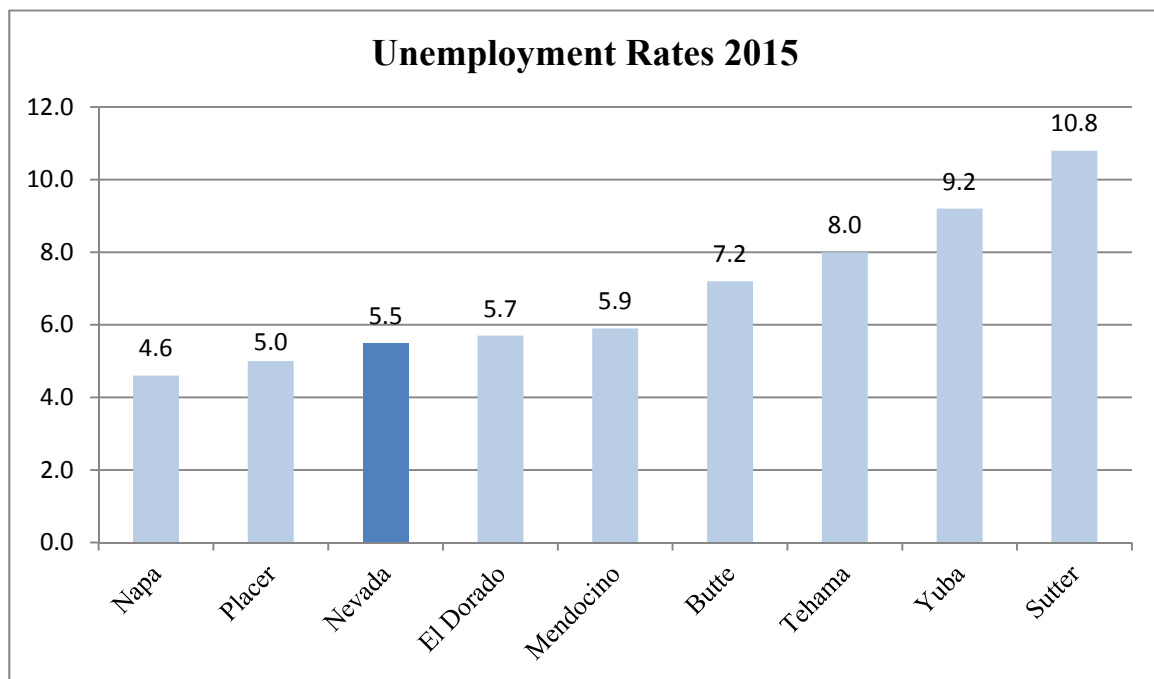
Unemployment is the estimated number of people who are actively seeking work and are not working at least one hour per week for pay, and who are not self-employed. The rate of unemployment reached its peak in 2010 and has steadily declined as the economy rebounds.

In January 2016, an estimated 2,500 workers in Nevada County were unemployed, making up 5.1% of the local labor force.



CA EDD, Labor Market Information, Unemployment Rates

This was an increase from 4.8% in 2005, but a decrease from the 2011 rate of 10.6% and the 2015 rate of 5.5%. Nevada County's unemployment rate tends to be below the rate for the Sacramento Region, and has been consistently lower than the California average since 1990, while generally following statewide trends. Nevada County ranks third lowest in unemployment among the comparison counties.



CA EDD, Labor Market Information, Unemployment

Rates. <http://www.labormarketinfo.edd.ca.gov/cgi/dataanalysis/areaselection.asp?tablename=labforce>