

Lassen County

With a population of 33,830, Lassen County, located 280 miles northeast of San Francisco, is said to be one of the undiscovered jewels in Northern California. Extending from Lassen Volcanic National Park east to the Nevada border and north to Modoc County, Lassen County, incorporated in 1864, is primarily a mountainous region. Comprised of 4,557 square miles, approximately the size of Connecticut, Lassen County is an outdoor recreation paradise with 91,700 acres of land covered by inland water. Though distinctively rural, Lassen County's terrain encompasses forested plateaus, green mountains, snow-capped peaks and open agricultural valleys.

Much of Lassen County is encompassed by a large volcanic plateau. A portion of Lassen Volcanic National Park lies in the southwest region of the county. This volcanic plateau provides a variety of activities for the outdoor enthusiast. Cool mountain streams, wandering brooks, including the clear blue Eagle Lake, are sprinkled throughout the county offering exceptional fishing opportunities with rainbow and German brown trout, bass and catfish. An abundance of hunting opportunities is also available for the avid hunter.

Home to approximately 17,650 people as of the year 2000, the city of Susanville has been established as the county seat. The city is located at the north end of the Honey Lake Valley, beautifully set amidst some of the most spectacular volcanic surroundings found in California. Susanville is the commercial center for this region which offers a wide variety of businesses, health facilities, restaurants and more.

Approximately eight miles outside the city of Susanville are the California Correctional Center and the High Desert State Prison. These facilities provide high to medium high security for an estimated 8,000 inmates.

Westwood is located just west of Susanville in what is known as timber country. In the 1800's this town was one of the largest company lumber towns in the west. Eagle Lake, the second largest natural lake in California, offers a variety of outdoor activities including fishing and camping. Big Valley, located in the northern region of Lassen County is one of the regions richest game and waterfowl areas.

With its abundance of natural resources, Lassen County is supported by the resource based lumber production activities and recreational tourism. Government is the largest employer (approximately 50 percent of the total non-agricultural employment), while agriculturally, alfalfa hay is the most valuable crop in the area (approximately 25 percent of the total crop value for the county).

DEMOGRAPHICS

- As of the year 2000, total population is 33,830, of which 4,100 are aged 60+ and 1,275 are aged 75+
- Average of 1 senior per square mile
- Population has seen steady growth within the last decade
- Largest increase in population between 1997 and 2000 was 2% and has continued to grow at the same rate annually
- 25% total increase in population since 1991

TARGETED SENIOR POPULATIONS

- 75+ 33%
- Low Income 15%
- Minorities 7%

AGRICULTURE

- Hay - Alfalfa, Grain, Other
- Cattle - Steers, Heifers, Cows
- Nursery Plants, Strawberries

LABOR FORCE

- Total population employment rate in 2000 was 32%
- Total labor force in 2000 was 10,920
- Total labor force increased 7% during 2002
- Despite increase, total labor force had decreased 0.2% annually since 1990
- Unemployment rate between 1990 and 2002 was lowest for 2001 and 2002, at 6.7 %, and highest for 1993 at 12.3 %
- The unemployment rate for the year 2000 is 7.0%
- The projected unemployment rate for the year 2005 is 6.8%

INCOME

- Total personal income rates are increasing steadily with a substantial increase in 1998 at 18.3%
- The per capita annual income in the year 2000 was \$18,158
- Poverty rate increased from 13.3% in 1989 to 14.0% in 1999 (compared with California at 12.5% in 1989 and 14% in 1999)

HOUSING

- With total housing units in the year 2000 being 12,000, per capita housing is 35% or approximately 1 housing unit per every 3 people
- Between 1991 and 2002, the number of total housing units increase was 0.8%, compared to an average annual increase of 4.4%
- Fair market rent has increased at an annual average of 8.5% since 2000

LOW INCOME

- 15% of the 60+ year old population is at 125% or below poverty level.
This is composed of:

87.7%	Non-Minority
0	African American
3.3%	American Indian/Alaskan Native
0	Asian
0	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
1.7%	Other
.7%	Multi-race
6.6%	Hispanic/Latino
- The number of TANF (Temporary Aid to Needy Families) and CalWORKS (California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids) recipients and the number of households receiving food stamps have been decreasing steadily, reaching low points in 2002
- MediCal expenditures are at their highest, nearing 16 million in 2002
- The highest number of Medi-Cal eligible recipients are Non-Minority, making up 75% of the people served by the program

CLIMATE

- Average Maximum Temperature – 90 degrees
- Average Low Temperature – 40 degrees
- Average annual precipitation – ranges from 10” to 15”
- Average annual snowfall – ranges from 22” to 50”