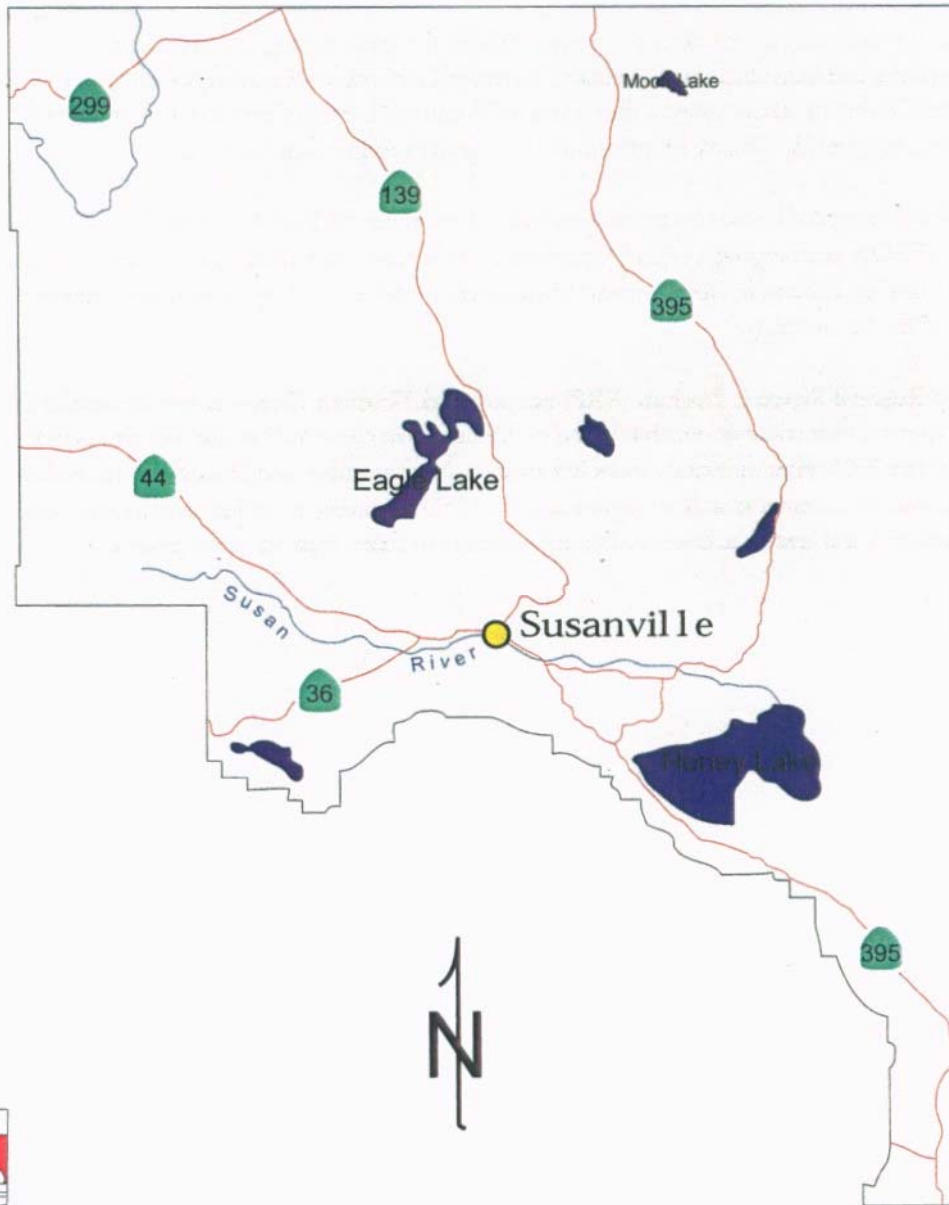


# Lassen County



## Lassen County

With a population of 35,757, 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 17,570 people as of the year 2008, 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 Center of Corrections and the High Desert State Prison. These facilities provide high to medium high security for approximately 10,621 inmates as of 2007.

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 60 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 2008, total population is 35,757, of which 5,429 are aged 60+ and 1,800 are aged 75+
- 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
- 7% total increase in population since 1998
- Roughly 7.8 people per square mile

## TARGETED POPULATIONS

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

## AGRICULTURE - Top Crops

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

## LABOR FORCE

- Total population employment rate in 2007 was 34%
- Total labor force in 2007 was 12,860 members
- Total labor force increased 5% in 2007 over the last year
- Unemployment rate between 1990 and 2007 was lowest for 2001, 2002, & 2007 at 6.7 %, and highest for 1993 at 12.3 %
- The unemployment rate for the year 2007 is 6.7%

## INCOME

- Total personal income was \$742.7 million in 2005, a 4% increase from the previous year
- In 2005, the county's median household income was \$41,423, compared to \$53,627 statewide.
- The per capita income in 2005 was \$21,465, a 4.1% increase over the previous year
- Poverty rate in 2005 was 17% in the county, compared to 13% statewide

## HOUSING

- With total housing units in the year 2007 at 12,979, per capita housing is 36% or approximately 1 housing unit per every 3 people
- In 2007, the number of total housing units was 12,979, an increase of 1%, over the previous year
- Fair market rent prices in the county has been increasing at a slightly slower rate than the Northern California average, but increased 15% between 2007 and 2008.

## 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 steadily decreasing, reaching low points in 2002
- In 2006, 14% of the population in the county was eligible for Medi-Cal programs; whereas only 9% made use of the programs. The comparison statewide indicates 9% was eligible; and 7% made use of the programs.
- Medi-Cal expenditures were \$19,940,659 in 2006
- The highest number of Medi-Cal eligible recipients are Non-Minority, making up 76% 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”