



El Dorado *County*

Economic & Demographic Profile

2009-10



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Introduction

Welcome to the *2009-10 Economic & Demographic Profile* for El Dorado County. This document contains important information concerning the well-being of El Dorado County's residents and their communities. The data here have been compiled to represent trends over the past decade, where data were available, and in some cases includes projections for the next 20 years. This information may be used for many purposes, including small business development, market analysis, and grant writing, among others. It may assist companies and individuals in relocating to Northern California or improving existing conditions. By exploring the structure of El Dorado County in various aspects, the Center for Economic Development and its partners hope to facilitate healthy and effective living and provide valuable information for the improvement of North State residents and communities.



This profile was compiled by the Center for Economic Development (CED) at California State University, Chico. The CED is a community outreach organization of the Research Foundation at CSU, Chico. The CED receives funding from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Small Business Administration, the California Emerging Technologies Fund, and many non-profit and local government organizations operating in areas covered by our 23-county series of economic and demographic profiles.

The CED has provided statistical profiles of Northern California since 1989 and continually seeks to improve their content, readability, and clarity. Based on client surveys and requests, as well as new research, the CED has updated the 2009-10 series to include more accurate and up-to-date information, revised narratives, and improvements in data display. Our new release date in July 2009 enables us to include the most recent city and county data available, most of which is released in May and June. This ensures that the profile you hold will be up-to-date almost until the release of the 2010-11 profile in July 2010. We are very excited about production of the next profile - expect a redesign in preparation for initial releases from the 2010 U.S. Census.

The CED continues to welcome any comments and/or suggestions. We have access to community research and analysis professionals both in-house and within the communities we serve, and will gladly facilitate additional community data research not included in this profile to our fullest capacity upon request. For additional data on this county, please call 530-898-4598.

The CED cordially thanks the following sponsor of the El Dorado County Economic and Demographic Profile 2009-10. The distribution of this profile is free with full sponsorship. For information about sponsoring this profile, additional profiles, or future profiles in our series, please contact us at 530-898-4598.

Profile Series Sponsor: Northern Rural Training Employment Consortium (NoRTEC)

El Dorado County

Location and Demographics

El Dorado County is thirty miles east of Sacramento, and offers many nice suburbs for those who commute to Sacramento during the workweek. As the site of James Marshall's first gold finding in 1848, El Dorado County became the epicenter for the gold rush madness that seized California in the nineteenth century. The gold rush brought visitors from Europe, Mexico, and other states. Their diverse cultural influence is still seen today in El Dorado County. El Dorado County encompasses 1,711 square miles and is home to approximately 179,700 people.

Recreation

For anyone who enjoys nature or outdoor sports and recreation, El Dorado County is one of the most diverse, exciting, and beautiful areas in Northern California. When not enjoying world-class skiing at Lake Tahoe, visitors can enjoy river rafting and kayaking on the South Fork of the American River. For history buffs, the Marshall Gold Discovery State Park Historic Museum celebrates the origins of the gold rush and offers a unique perspective on the past. Several nineteenth century houses in El Dorado County have been converted into bed and breakfast inns, providing visitors with quaint, affordable lodging.

Economy

The Lake Tahoe area and the ski resorts within are excellent sources of revenue for El Dorado County. Skiers from all over the world visit during the winter months. El Dorado County has a largely agricultural economic base during the rest of the year. Apple orchards grow throughout the eastern parts of the county, and apple exports are a reliable source of seasonal income when the hustle and bustle of ski season ceases. The Sierra Nevada range is also in El Dorado County, where logging industries provide additional economic stimulus. Gold is still found in El Dorado County, lending a feeling of excitement to the area's economic environment.

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